



### **Are you ready to craft?**

Our Children's Christmas Craft Fair will be Saturday, December 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come for crafts, face painting, snacks, and pictures with Santa.

### **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 10, immediately following worship. If you are a voting member of the congregation please make plans to attend as we will be electing new council members.

### **Advent Vespers**

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Advent in preparation for the coming of Christ. Services will be held on December 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00 pm.

### **Pastor Robb's Potluck**

Please join us for Pastor Robb's final potluck at St. Luke on December 17 immediately following service. Please bring a side dish to share. Please contact Debbie Lundell for more details.

### **Jesse Tree**

The Jesse Tree is up! We are sponsoring a local family who are in need this Christmas. Please take a tag and purchase the item(s) listed. Gifts will be gathered at the church and distributed to the family in time for Christmas.

### **The Gathering (And St. Luke Guys)**

The December meeting is on Friday the 15th at 11 am. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. St Luke Guys will meet at 11:30 at El Jalisco, the new Mexican Restaurant near SAM'S.

# Please pray for:

Carolyn Crawford

Annette Schlicht

Anita Martin

John Shaw

John Ellis

Barbara Carroll

Lenore LeFranque

Ron and Chong Brauer

Joyce Smalley

Angelina DeWent

Freddie Clark

Steven Pridemore

The Joyners

Layla Kemp

Louise Harrison

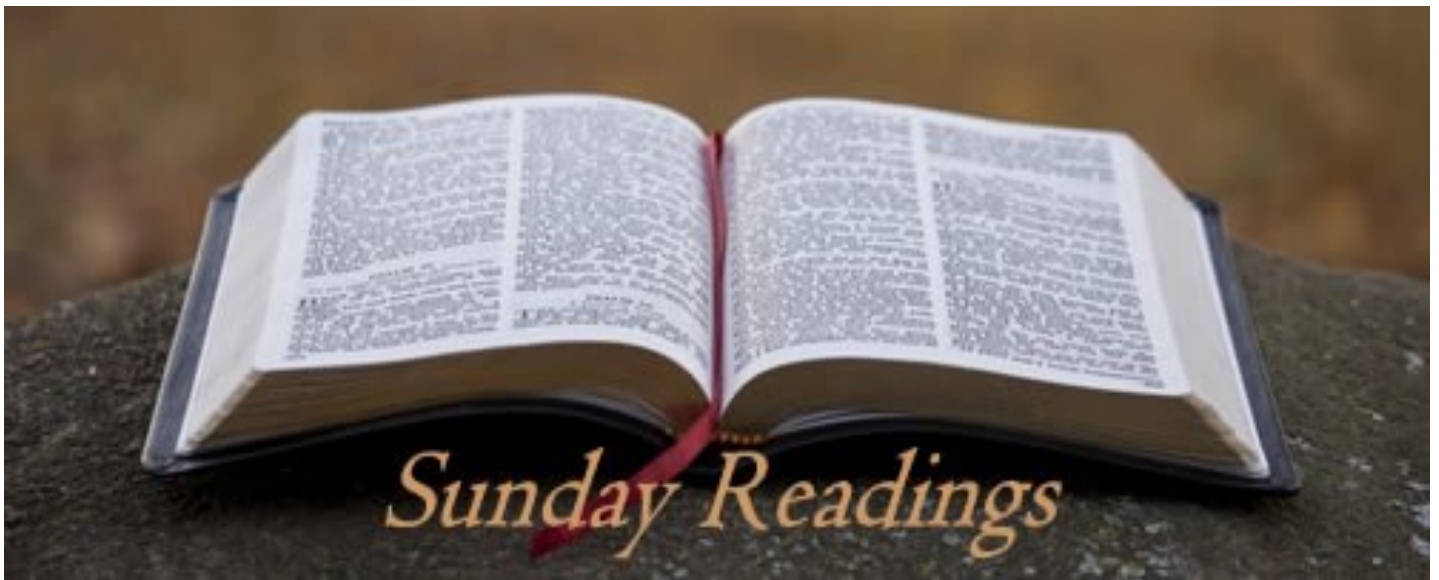
Nancy Voss

Hiltunen and Johnston families

Rose Denzin

Judy Jenkins

Rodney and Paula Royal



## **December 3**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

## **December 10**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

## **December 17**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **December 24**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

## **December 31**

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **December 3 Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552**

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

### **December 4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749**

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

### **December 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

### **December 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

### **December 13 Lucy, martyr, died 304**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

### **December 14 John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

### **December 16 Las Posadas (LLC)**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

### **December 20 Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

### **December 26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

### **December 27 John, Apostle and Evangelist**

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

### **December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

## December 2023 Sunday Servants

### December 3

Assistant: Kelly Glow  
Lector: Dave Barkdoll  
Ushers: Preston Foster and Larry Egas  
Counters: Judy Barkdoll and Vickie Pace  
Cleaners: Susan Sparrow

### December 10

Assistant: Debbie Lundell  
Lector: Shelia Kelley  
Ushers: John Shaw and Tony Kelly  
Counters: Paul Egas and Barbara Little  
Cleaners: The Egas Family

### December 17

Assistant: Mark Rettig  
Lector: Conrad Busch  
Ushers: Dave Barkdoll and Ed Joyner  
Counters: Beverly and Mark Rettig  
Cleaners: The Kelley Family and Barbara Little

### December 24

Assistant: Mary Shulak  
Lector: David Ludley  
Ushers: Mark and Beverly Rettig  
Counters: Judy Barkdoll and Vickie Pace  
Cleaners: The Barkdolls and Vickie Pace

### December 31

Assistant: Barbara Little  
Lector: Judy Owen  
Ushers: Ed and Judy Joyner  
Counters: Paul Egas and Barbara Little  
Cleaning: The Joyners and the Sparrows

## January 2024 Sunday Servants

### January 7

Assistant: Kelly Glow  
Lector: Dave Barkdoll  
Ushers: Preston Foster and Larry Egas  
Counters: Beverly and Mark Rettig  
Cleaners: Susan Sparrow

### January 14

Assistant: Debbie Lundell  
Lector: Shelia Kelley  
Ushers: John Shaw and Tony Kelly  
Counters: Judy Barkdoll and Vickie Pace  
Cleaners: The Egas Family

### January 21

Assistant: Mark Rettig  
Lector: Conrad Busch  
Ushers: Dave Barkdoll and Ed Joyner  
Counters: Paul Egas and Barbara Little  
Cleaners: The Kelley Family and Barbara Little

### January 28

Assistant: Mary Shulak  
Lector: David Ludley  
Ushers: Mark and Beverly Rettig  
Counters: Beverly and Mark Rettig  
Cleaners: The Barkdolls and Vickie Pace

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	27 Al-Anon 12 pm	28 Online Devotions 9:30am	29	30 Online Devotions 9:30am	1	2 AA 9 am
3 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am	4 Al-Anon 12 pm	5 Online Devotions 9:30am	6 Advent Vespers 7 pm	7 Online Devotions 9:30am	8	9 AA 9 am Christmas Craft Fair 11am -1pm
10 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am  Annual Meeting after service	11 Al-Anon 12 pm	12	13 Advent Vespers 7 pm	14	15 Gathering 11 am	16 AA 9 am
17 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 11 am Potluck after service Last day of Jesse tree	18 Al-Anon 12 pm Deadline for newsletter submissions	19	20 Advent Vespers 7 pm	21	22	23 AA 9 am
24 Worship 11 am Christmas Eve Service 5 pm 31 Worship 11 am	25 Al-Anon 12 pm	26	27	28	29	30