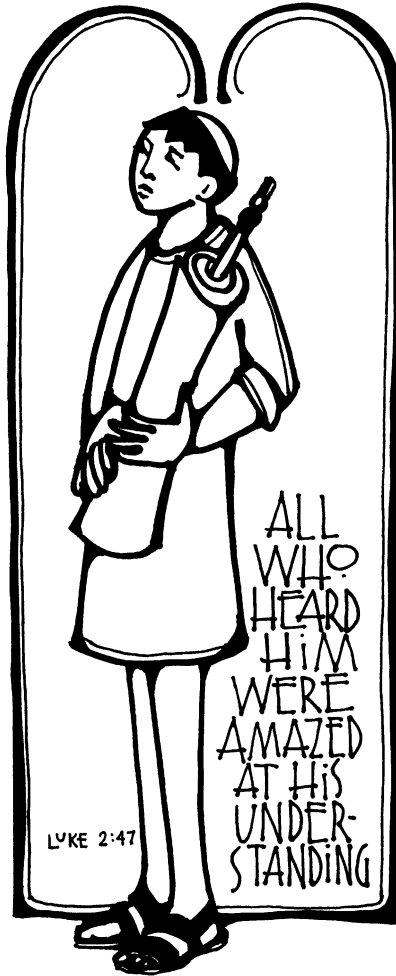


**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
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FACEBOOK SEARCH: Solomon's Lutheran Facebook



*"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**DECEMBER 26, 2021**

**December 26, 2021**  
First Sunday of Christmas

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who sends the word with angels,  
who is made flesh among all peoples,  
and who breathes peace on all the earth.  
**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Holy God,  
**we confess our sin before you.**  
**We replace compassion with competition.**  
**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**  
**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**  
**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**  
**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**  
**Swaddle our hearts with your peace,**  
**that all we do, in word or deed,**  
**may reflect your love born among us.**  
**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:  
God has come among us  
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.  
✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven  
and you are clothed in peace.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG (verses 1&3)

### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

# CHRISTMAS CANTICLE

## Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

## FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from 1 Samuel.

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 148

*(Read responsively between lector and congregation, beginning with the lector)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God<sup>1</sup> in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav-<sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a-<sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they<sup>1</sup> were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev-<sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not<sup>1</sup> pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters<sup>1</sup> and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail,<sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do-<sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains<sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees<sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts<sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and<sup>1</sup> flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth<sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers<sup>1</sup> of the world;

<sup>12</sup>young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

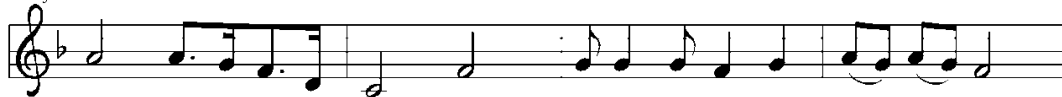
<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (intro)

### Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

## **GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BILL**

## HYMN OF THE DAY (All verses)

### Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

## INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

### INTRODUCTION

The following people have been *elected* [by the congregation] to be council members.

*Barbara Aldrich, Linda Berberich, Kathy Bowen, Ronald Coldsmith, Wayne Dale, Carole Darr, Alan Johnson, Phil Johnson, Wayne Norman and Frances Reichard.*

We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

*A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)



You have been *elected* to and trust in this congregation as council members in 2022.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this community of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:  
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the office  
of council member of Solomon's Lutheran Church  
to which you have been *elected*?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders,  
and will you share in the mutual ministry  
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

I now declare you installed *council members* of this congregation.  
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,  
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Amen.**

Let us welcome our new council members.

You may return to your seats.

## **Liturgy of Closure of Pastoral Ministry**

**Margie Dale:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Margie:** Hear the Word of God from Ephesians concerning pastoral ministry:

“The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

**Margie:** Pastor Bill, on February 1, 2011, you became the pastor of this congregation. During this time, you have faithfully carried out the duties and responsibilities placed in your care. For your years of service and loyalty to God and this parish we are most grateful, and we thank God for calling you to serve at Solomon’s Lutheran Church. As we gather here today, we recognize that this ministry is coming to an end.

Pastor Bill, do you now say “Amen” to this ministry here as you begin your new calling to retirement, and will you continue to pray for this congregation and for their new pastor as they begin their life together? If this is your sincere desire, answer, “Yes, by the grace of God.”

**Pastor Bill:** Yes, by the grace of God.

**Margie:** Pastor Bill, I declare you as of December 31, 2021, to be free from all duties and responsibilities in this church. Go in peace with the full assurance that God will be with you and your family to bless your life and service. “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (applause)

**Margie:** Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen**

*Please stand if you are able.*

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please respond.)*

*P: Merciful God.... C: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY (*intro*)

### In the Bleak Midwinter



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,  
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,  
prepare us to receive the grace and truth  
you offer at this table  
and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY - Tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.  
O how blest is he who comes in the holy name of God.  
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher, maintaining your distance. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Return to your seat.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

# POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – LET THERE BE PRAISE

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm<sup>2</sup> Gm C

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm/F E♭M<sup>9</sup> E♭ Csus<sup>2</sup> C

Sing to the Lord, give God the glo - ry. glo - ry. ...

F C/E F Dm Dm/F Gm Gm<sup>2</sup> Gm C

Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.

Am Am<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm/F Gm F/A B♭ F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

For - év - er - more let his love fill the air, and let there be praise.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (verses 1&4)

### *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the •e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.  
**Thanks be to God.**



## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

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### SERVING TODAY

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Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Kathy Bowen
Acolyte .....	Katy Nienstedt
Lector.....	Martha Veilleux
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Communion Set-Up.....	Becky & Sam Mull
Communion Clean-Up .....	Becky & Sam Mull
Bread Cubes .....	Frances Reichard
Communion Assist.....	Becky Mull
Attendance last Sunday .....	47

**Stewardship Thought** - Dec. 26, 2021 (1st Sunday after Christmas) Colossians 3:12, 14 – As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. We all know that stewardship is about how we live so that we love God thoroughly and our neighbor as ourselves. This remarkable passage gives us a vivid image to help us get there. Wake each day and clothe ourselves in Christian character and love.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin & Nellie Hess given by Susie, Sally & Randy and their families.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**Prayer requests** for the following *Jane Winters, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Ann Grapes, Bonnie Hudson, Jean Jackson, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Anne English, Millie Kulkusky*. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

**Installation of 2022 Congregation Council:** Today in worship we will install the 2022 Council members. Please welcome *Barbara Aldrich, Linda Berberich, Kathy Bowen, Ronald Coldsmith, Wayne Dale, Carole Darr, Alan Johnson, Phil Johnson, Wayne Norman and Frances Reichard*. We give thanks to God for their dedication and service to Solomon's Lutheran Church

**2021 Offerings** – If you desire to have your contributions allocated to the 2021 tax year, they need to be received in the office by **December 29**. Contributions received after this date may be allocated to 2022.

**Every January a new church directory** listing the names, phone numbers, and addresses of all Solomon's members is published by the church office. If your contact information has changed since publication of the 2021 directory, please let Kimberly know by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**The December edition of the LivingLutheran** is available in the pamphlet rack.

**A card shower is being planned for Gertie Reichard.** Her birthday is January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Card Shower for Bud Armstrong:** We are calling on folks to send a card to Bud Armstrong for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 2, 2022. Bud is a lifelong member of Solomon's Lutheran Church. His address is:

**Lutheran Disaster Response:** On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery. **Your gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.** You may make your donation to Solomon's Lutheran Church marked "US Tornadoes" Thank you.

**Youth Game Night with Trinity Lutheran:** Saturday January 15, 2022, 6 – 8 in the Solomon's Fellowship Center. We will be hosting a youth game night between our church youth and the youth from Trinity Lutheran. We will have board games, card games, twister, and room to run and play ball. We will be making Soft Pretzels and Ice-Cream Sundaes. We will have a sign-up sheet on the Sunday School Bulletin Board.

**Communion Cards** – in order to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

**2022 Altar Flower Chart is posted** in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. Knowing the cost increased, if you would like to share the cost, by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly. Should there be a Sunday that flowers are not donated, the flower vases will be removed.

**Power Pack Meals for New Franklin School:** We received this message from Cindy Holmquist, the Power Pack coordinator: “We have been packing for seven children weekly since September. We can always use individual size vegetables, preferably in cups but cans will do & meal items such as Ramen noodles, Cup of noodles, or Chef Boyardee. Juice pouches, 8oz water bottles & Yoo-hoo or Nestle's drinks are always needed. Snack items would be next on the list and fruit & applesauce are still in abundance on our shelves.” You may drop off donations to Power Packs at the collection box in the Sunday School Room.

**Christian Education Committee** will have a meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

**Bible Study** - Join Pastor Bill in the conference room on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for an informal Bible Study. We will be studying the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be featured in the lectionary readings for Year B, beginning in Advent. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

**Adult Sunday School** - Pastor Bill will lead a discussion of the Sunday lectionary texts at 9:00 a.m., in the Sunday School Room. All are welcome. You can prepare by reading the Old Testament lesson, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel texts appointed for the day.

**Youth Sunday School Classes** starting at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

**Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes** are available in the library for anyone to read.

**DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

*Jesus grew in divine and human approval.*

**taking†**  
**faith**  
**home**

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:41-52</b>	<b>The boy Jesus at the temple</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26</b>	<b>Samuel at Shiloh</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Colossians 3:12-17</b>	<b>The new life in Christ</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Galatians 1:10-24</b>	<b>How Paul became an apostle</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Exodus 24:1-8</b>	<b>The people agree to obey God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 4:1-5</b>	<b>Ministry of the apostles</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 148</b>	<b>Let all things praise the Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 1:1-18</b>	<b>The Word became flesh</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. Luke 2:52 (NRSV)*

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of your grace. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise the Lord! We thank you for all your goodness and mercy, including the gift of this food. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you grow in grace to know the joy and peace of God's love for you in Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about a time you received a compliment for something you did well.
- Think or talk about a time when you felt the divine presence of God in your life.

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:41-52.

Growth is a part of life. That growth can be physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. What was it like for Jesus to grow up both human and divine? Amazingly, in the four New Testament Gospels, only this childhood story from Jesus' life exists. It says quite a bit: Jesus lived in a community of care with parents and other adults; he grew up as a Jew, going with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover; he experienced tensions with his parents as he explored his faith with elders in the temple; Jesus was obedient to his parents; his mother observed Jesus' development with awe; and, Jesus grew and gained wisdom and the approval of God and humans alike. God's unfathomable entry into our world brings divine acceptance of us through a baby, then a child, and finally an adult who brings God's saving work for all.

*Discuss:* What questions do you have about what it was like for Jesus to be fully human yet fully divine?

*Pray:* **Awesome God, for what we understand and what we cannot understand about all that you have done for us in love, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what ways can you reflect the love of Jesus to others?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christmas is a season of twelve days. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He is also known for his love of animals and birds and felt they should be remembered during Christmas because they were present at the birth of Jesus. Consider decorating a tree or bush outside with popcorn or pinecones rolled in peanut butter and bird seed. Enjoy watching God's creatures around you.

*Pray:* **Dear Lord, we praise you for all creation. We praise you for mountains and hills, for fruit trees and cedars, for wild animals and cattle, for creeping things, and flying birds. Amen. (Psalm 148)**