

**SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**4856 WAYNE ROAD**  
**CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202**  
**(717) 267-2266**

EMAIL: [info@solomonslutheran.org](mailto:info@solomonslutheran.org)  
WEB SITE: [www.solomonslutheran.org](http://www.solomonslutheran.org)  
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."*

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**December 24, 2023**  
Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRISTMAS**

**GATHERING SONG *O Come, All Ye Faithful***



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

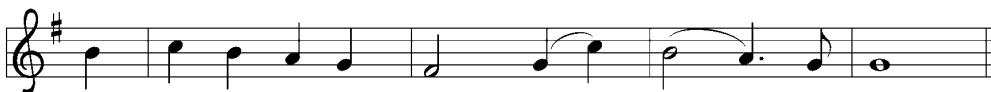


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**      *An Echo Carol of Praise*

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;

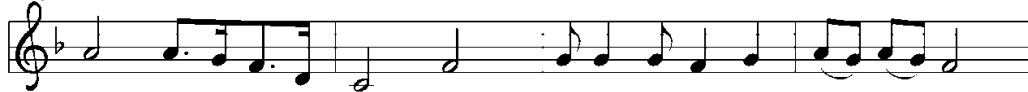
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### 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 2:1-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for

see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**SERMON** *Utter Nonsense?*

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*



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

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

## **CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**  
 Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.  
**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**  
 Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.  
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**  
 Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to  
 all the world.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERTORY (*intro*)

### In the Bleak Midwinter



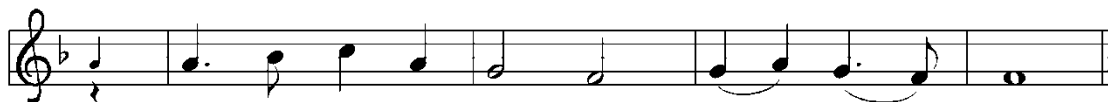
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



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

God of abundance,  
 Receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
 Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
 And gather us at your table of celebration.  
 Strengthen us to share with all the world  
 The abundance of your grace upon grace,  
 Poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
**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** – *Sung to the 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** *(sung)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray in song 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**

Glory to God in the highest!  
Come to the table of peace.

## **COMMUNION**

*Continuous - Please continue down center aisle at the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## **COMMUNION CAROLS**

*We will sing 1<sup>st</sup> verse of familiar carols*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

*The minister lights a candle from the white candle of the Advent Wreath, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The acolytes light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted but is always held upright when giving light to another. Extinguish candles following the Blessing. The first verse of Silent Night will be sung in the original language of German. The congregation joins in the following 3 verses.*

### Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh,  
peace,  
born!  
birth,  
schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## 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.**

## Congregation extinguishes their candle

### SENDING SONG *Joy to the World*

#### Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES  
CHOIR BENEDICTION**

*May the light of Christ*

**POSTLUDE**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from  
ONELICENSE with license #A-719004. All rights reserved.

**SERVING TODAY**

Interim Pastor .....	Pastor Michael Allwein
Cell Phone Number .....	717-357-3814
Email Address .....	mallwein211@gmail.com
Church Office Email Address .....	<a href="mailto:office@solomonslutheran.org">office@solomonslutheran.org</a>
Organist .....	Doug Mummert
Head Usher .....	Janice McEntire
Acolyte .....	Sarah & Rebekah Aldrich
Lector.....	Wayne Norman
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Ron Coldsmith
Communion Set-Up.....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Clean-Up .....	Peggi & Wayne Norman
Communion Bread .....	Peggi Norman
Communion Assist.....	Peggi Norman & Ilona Laney

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The altar flowers** this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin and Nellie Hess given by Susie, Sally and 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:** *Tim Tweedy, Missy Moreui, Becky Ensinger, Ron Bunting, Rose Wishard, Bobby Seilhamer, Sam Mull, Lilly Chiado, Bernie Harris, Phyllis Brehm, Catherine Plummer, Bonnie Hudson, Marty Wenger, Virginia Detwiler, Callie Mummert, Matthew, Lexi and Brooke Bowen, Jim & Carole Darr, Beth Floyd, Sarge and Barb Weaver, Tina Smith, Patricia Yetter, Nancy Marshall, Darrell Veilleux, Linda Wepking, Bill and Jane Brindle, Esther Gift, Jean Jackson, Marjorie McMullin, Joe Mock, Ina Shreiner, Genny Grant, Frances Kramer, Linda Russ, Carol Locke, Betty Amt, Ukrainian Nation, Peace for the World.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Please Be Aware:** *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.*

**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.

**“Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are visiting in the congregations of this church.”** (from the ELCA’s sacramental practices statement) As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God, signs that Christ is fully present among us. It is through the words and the elements that we experience the real presence of Christ. If you are unable to receive either of the elements, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. If you believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Savior, you are welcome to come to the Table and be fed and nurtured with us.

We ask that you please **silence your cell phones** during the worship service.

*The Christmas Poinsettias in  
Memory and Honor of Family and Friends  
have been donated by:*

*Pastor Mike and Lois Allwein  
In honor of our children and grandchildren*

*Roxy Bothe  
In memory of Paul Skelly  
In honor of Joyce Skelly*

*Ron, Bonney, Kevin, and Brian Coldsmith  
In memory of Bill and Loise Coldsmith  
In memory of Jack and Bea White*

*Donald and Virginia Detwiler  
In memory of Rose and Henry Lempe, Virginia's parents  
In memory of Don's parents  
In honor of Logan Heisey, grandson of Detwiler's*

*Mark and Sally Gayman  
In memory of our parents  
In honor of our children and grandchildren*

*Bernie and Edna Harris  
In honor of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild*

*Glenn and Susie Henicle  
In memory of Mrs. Jackie Henicle  
In memory of Austin and Nellie Hess*

*Richard and Janice McEntire  
In memory of our parents, Richard and Wanda McEntire  
and Daniel and Betty Bingaman  
In honor of our sons Mike, Craig and David, and their families*

*Sam and Becky Mull  
In memory of our parents and son  
In honor of our children and grandchildren*

*Wayne and Peggi Norman*

*In memory of Rebecca Marie and Emily Ruth Norman*

*In memory of Wayne and Ellen Norman*

*In memory of Richard Plummer, Sr. and Rich Plummer*

*Rosemary Wishard*

*In memory of Donald Wishard*

*Appreciation for your dedication to Solomon's Lutheran Church*

*In honor of Kimberly Wiley*

**DECEMBER 24-25, 2023**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY**



*God's plan for hope, peace, joy, and love.*

### **CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas observances.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b> <b>Psalm 96</b>	<b>The reign of the coming king</b> <b>Sing a new song</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-14</b> <b>Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>God's kindness and the new life</b> <b>The birth of Jesus</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **Luke 2:19-20 (NRSV)***

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for Christmas:**

Almighty and merciful God, we give you thanks and praise for the birth of Jesus, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the seas roar, and all that fills it. Amen. (Psalm 96:11)

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

May the birth of Jesus the Messiah give you joy. (Luke 2:11)

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- When you think of the Christmas story, what do you wonder about?
- Who (angel, shepherd, Mary, Joseph) would you be in the Christmas story? Why?



## HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*



## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 2:1-20.

Christmas tells a surprising story of God's saving work. God joins our world as a vulnerable baby. This child was born to a couple who were forced to leave home because of a new census registration law. Jesus' birth and the humble beginnings do not fit our usual perceptions of divine power and glory. And yet, angels come with a message of good news for all, a message not seen as favorable to rulers of the empire. The angelic messengers even give lowly shepherds front row seats to a cosmic chorus signaling that the world is being turned upside down. Every Christmas we are invited to join angels, shepherds, Mary, and Joseph and let loose with joy at the news that the world of compassion and vulnerability is blessed by God. Life as God wants it is coming to fruition. It leads us to ponder with Mary what it all means and to give shouts of praise to God with shepherds and all those looking for God's amazing power for peace, acceptance, and hope.

*Discuss:* How does the Christmas story encourage you to give thanks and praise to God?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, give us hearts and minds to cherish Jesus' birth and the message of the angels that brings peace and joy for all. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for Christmas, how can you share the joy of Jesus' birth with someone?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The scripture readings during Advent all pointed to Jesus. Place a white candle in the center of the four candles on the Advent wreath. The white candle represents Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Psalm 96 is a song of praise to God. For Christians that includes Jesus, our Lord: *"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice."* Gather around the Advent wreath. Light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, the third candle of joy and the fourth candle of love. Take a moment to reflect on the Advent journey before lighting the white candle that represents Jesus Christ. As you light the white candle, say: ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*** (John 1:5)