

Wilson Lutheran Church
401 310th Street
Wilson WI 54027
Address Service Requested

Mission Statement

Wilson Lutheran Church serves
to provide all people the opportunity to
become disciples of Jesus Christ, encourage
faith and obedience to Christ and, through
diverse opportunities for evangelism, serve
God's people in our communities, nation,
and throughout the world.

*December 2021, Newsletter for
Wilson Lutheran Church*



Wilson Lutheran Church
401 310th Street, Wilson, WI 54027
Phone: 715-772-3150
Office Email: wiluth@wwt.net
Web Site: wilsonimmanuel.org
Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm
Pastor Email: PastorBob@wwt.net



Psalm 137:4 *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees¹ who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace. Bishop Laurie

¹ For more information about helping Afghan refugees

Volunteering at Fort McCoy contact Wisconsin Council of Churches volunteer@wichurches.org.

Resettling families contact LSSWI [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(lsswi.org\)](https://lsswi.org). Sarah Halstad

Donations contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

December 2021 – Seasons of Advent and Christmas

Sunday, December 5 – Advent 2

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-6: John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

Sunday, December 12 – Advent 3

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18: John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Sunday, December 19 – Advent 4

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-55: Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

"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." (*Sundays and Seasons – Year C 2022, Augsburg Fortress*)

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20: 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.

Sunday, December 26 – Christmas 1

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 2:41-52: *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.*

MISSION STATEMENT

Wilson Lutheran Church serves to provide all people the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus Christ, encourage faith and obedience to Christ and, through diverse opportunities for evangelism, serve God's people in our communities, nation, and throughout the world.

Pastor's Office Hours: Pastor Bob may be reached at the church office, 715-772-3150, Wednesday through Friday, and Saturday morning. In the event of an emergency or hospitalization, he can be reached at 715-235-4900 (home), 612-270-3838 (cell), or by email at PastorBob@wwt.net.

Wilson WELCA: WELCA meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Wilson Council: The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, December 9. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

November 11, 2021 Council Meeting Highlights: *(Complete minutes are available in the church office.)*

- Feed My Starving Children Event went well and there will be plans on doing it again in the near future
- Sharon said WELCA women's group will cover the costs of the battery-operated candles for Christmas Eve services
- On Tuesday November 19th 5:00PM Waggoners will measure the pews for the new cushions. Council picked out "Jewel of the Saviour" fabrics. A down payment of \$2000.00 was made
- Becky Stahl washed and restocked the children's bags at a cost of \$65.00
- There will be no changes to the current COVID precautions
- The changes to the speaker system settings are working well. It was suggested taking a picture of those settings in case they accidentally get changed
- The Lamb Family will be donating a 10-foot Pre-Lit Christmas Tree with new decorations in memory of Chuck
- The Children's Christmas Program will be adapted as there isn't many older children participating in Sunday School
- Pastor Bob is meeting with the Sunday School children on Sundays and giving them a Children's Sermon at that time
- It was agreed to do the Virtual Christmas Poinsettias again this year. Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 PM
- Barb Lamb made a motion to go through the mailing list of those receiving offering envelopes, second by Barb Knopps. Motion carried
- Pastor Bob will be having an eye procedure on November 30th

COVID PRECAUTIONS

Due to the continuing increase in COVID cases in St. Croix, Dunn, and Pierce counties, council has decided to continue observing certain precautions during our worship:

- The Offering Plate is located at the top of the stairs and will not be passed during the service.
- Adult and children's masks are available in the narthex for those wishing to use them.
- Unless otherwise noted or announced, we will sing two verses of the Sending Song at the close of worship. Other hymn titles and numbers are listed in the service folder so you may follow along in silence.
- Communion will be served by continuous serving. Tell the usher if you would like to receive in the pew.

Tuesday Community Supper: Peace Lutheran Church will be handing out supper from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7th in the Gethsemane Lutheran Church parking lot. Drive by to pick up a meal of Shepherd's Pie, Bun and Christmas Cookies.

The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food.

Food Pantry Support: Thank you for your continuing support of our Food Pantry program, serving the five area food pantries: Baldwin, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Spring Valley, and Woodville. Your October and November donations again filled the Food Pantry box, with those contributions going to Baldwin and Glenwood City food shelves. December's contributions will go to Elmwood.

We all know food items are in high demand, especially during this time of year, but there are other items not often thought of when we make donations. In addition to food items, consider the following:

- **Spices** - Think about it. People who rely on the food bank eat a lot of canned food, rice, oatmeal, white bread, etc. They also love spices, i.e. seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, oregano, basil, and so on.
- **Feminine Products** - Can you imagine being worried about affording these? Pads, tampons, panty liners, etc.
- **Chocolate** - People don't need it, but think about being in their shoes and how nice it would be to be given a chocolate bar or brownie mix along with your essentials.
- **Toiletries** - Grocery stores are great about donating surplus or unsold food, but they have no reason to donate toilet paper, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc., and food stamps often don't cover these items.
- **Canned Meats and Jerky** - This isn't true of all food banks, but some struggle to give users enough protein.
- **Crackers and Tortillas** - They don't spoil and everybody likes them.
- **Baby Toiletries** - Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, baby shampoo, baby soap, baby food, bottles, etc.
- **Soup Packets** - Sometimes you look at rice, beans, instant potatoes, and cans of vegetables and think, "What do I make with this"? Hearty soup is a complete meal.
- **Socks** - From a former homeless person: "Socks mean the world to you. They keep you warm, make you feel like you have something new, and just comfort you!"
- **Canned Fruit Other Than Pineapple** - Food banks get a lot of pineapple donated. Their clients love it when other kinds of fruit are available.

People continue to seek help from food pantries, so your contributions are especially welcomed. Bring your donations when you come for Sunday worship, or drop them off at church during the week. Thank you for supporting your neighbors in need.

Thank You for all the love, kind words, and cards my family received on the death of my mother, Suzanne Pax. Jennifer Eidem.

Thank You to Becky Stahl for cleaning and replacing all the small children's activities in the children's bags used during worship. (Now Pastor has new toys to play with during the week too 😊)

Congratulations to Evan Peterson on his election to the National Honor Society at Baldwin High School. Well done, Evan!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA

Zion Lutheran Church, Woodville, invites you to attend their Annual Zion Senior Choir Christmas Concert and Candlein Kaffe Kallas on /Sunday December 12, beginning at 4:00 p.m. All the favorite Norwegian dishes are planned, including pickled herring, lefse, rommegrot, julekage, rosettes, Norwegian sandwiches, sot suppe, krumkake, kringela, flat brod, krokanor, sandbakkels, sweet breads, cheese and crackers, cookies, rice pudding, fresh fruit and more are on the menu.

WAITING FOR THE LIGHT - SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, join us for *Waiting for the Light - A Service of Healing and Hope*, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 15th.

The Church's ministry of healing emphasizes caring for the sick in the widest possible understanding of the term. The need for healing is not limited to those desiring help for a specific illness or injury. The Christian assembly at worship embraces the gift of healing for emotional, spiritual, relational, and physical needs; whatever troubles your body, mind, heart, and spirit.

The stress and pressures of the last year, combined with those of the holiday season, highlight our need for healing. Likewise, Advent's themes of waiting, repentance, reflection, and preparation may reveal hurts and brokenness that cry out for mending. With all creation we look for reconciliation, restoration, and wholeness as we wait in hope for the coming of the Christ child, the source of our hope and the light of the world.

Join us for a time of solemn meditation, reflection, prayer, candle light worship, corporate and individual confession and absolution, and Holy Communion as we come together as God's people to received God's healing word of hope.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Not having been able to gather on Christmas Eve last year, we're excited to welcome all this year. Join us for our Christmas Eve worship, at 3:00 p.m., Friday, December 24.



Christmas Tree

Thank you to the Lamb Family for the new Christmas tree given in memory of Chuck.

The tree is pre-lighted with white lights and has all new decorations. You should see it when it's lit. A very nice addition to our worship space.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER 2021

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Dec 2	Trenton Faber	Dec 20	Kent Butler	Dec. 4	Sandy & Terry Thorsen
Dec 5	Dalton Faber	Dec 20	Nicole Spielman		
Dec 5	Arlan Hague	Dec 21	Dave Powers		
Dec 15	Gary Peterson	Dec 21	Braden Gregg		
Dec 15	Curt Gregg	Dec 30	Joni Finder		
Dec 19	Barbara Knopps	Dec 30	Bradyn Lamb		
		Dec 31	DeeAnn Rambo		

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Month	Altar Care	Communion Assistant	Ushers	Sundays
December	Barb Kronholm	Doug Faber	Barb and Roger Kronholm	4 Sundays Christmas Eve
January	Rex and Janet Brandt	Linda Powers	Dennis and Barb Blegen	5 Sundays

ACOLYTE and READER SCHEDULE

Month	Date	Acolyte	Reader
December	5	Ryan Peterson	Barb Knopps
	12	Billy Gray	Linda Powere
	19	Cade Lamb	Sherry Ellefson
	24	Charlie Lamb / Ryan Peterson	Jes Lamb
	26	Billy Gray	Don Hogenson
January	2	Cade Lamb	Ginny Overland
	9	Charlie Lamb	Tracy Davis
	16	Ryan Peterson	Dean Rambo
	23	Billy Gray	Doug Faber
	30	Cade Lamb	Janet Brandt

HOLY HUMOR

A German Shepherd, Doberman, and a cat died. All three are faced with God, who wants to know what they believe in. The German Shepherd says, "I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master." "Good," says God, "then sit down on my right side." "Doberman, what do you believe in?", asks God. The Doberman answers, "I believe in the love, care and protection of my master." "Aha" said God, "you may sit to me left." The he looks at the cat and ask, "and what do you believe in?" The cat answers, "I believe you're sitting in my seat."

The story is told about a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast. "Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable. Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits Amen."

VIRTUAL POINSETTIAS

Each year it has been a Christmas tradition to invite folks to purchase poinsettias in the memory or honor of our loved ones. Until last year, that meant live plants decorating the chancel area on Christmas Eve.

When COVID prevented us from worshipping in person last year, live poinsettias became "Virtual Poinsettias" that decolorated the windows of our church building. The proceeds of those purchases were dedicated to the five area food shelves Wilson Lutheran supports.

This was a new thing, and we weren't quite sure how well it would be received, but your response was nothing short of outstanding. A total of 62 virtual poinsettias were purchased, resulting in more than \$110 being donated to each of the food shelves at Baldwin, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Spring Valley and Wilson.

Because it was so successful last year, council decided to repeat the Virtual Poinsettia program this year. To participate, complete the order form below and return it to the church office with a check, in the amount of \$9.00 per plant, made payable to Wilson Lutheran Church. An order envelope will also be included in each Sunday's service folder. Please have your orders in to the church office by Wednesday, December 22.

Those in whose name the gift is given will have a Virtual Poinsettia, like the one below, placed in the front windows of the church building. The names of the giver and those honored will be included on each "plant". They will also be listed in the Christmas Eve service folder and the January newsletter.

Let's share the beauty of this year's poinsettias with all who pass by our windows. "God's Work. Our Hands." make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

VIRTUAL POINSETTIA ORDER

_____ Poinsettias @ \$9.00 each

Given by:

In Honor of

In Memory of

_____ **(#) To the Glory of God**

Make checks payable to Wilson Lutheran Church. Please order by December 22.



Revised Common Lectionary
Daily Readings – Year C
December 2021

Date	Day	Psalm / Daily Reading	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
1	Wednesday	Psalm 90	Isaiah 1:24-31		Luke 11:29-32
2	Thursday	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:5-12	Philippians 1:12-18a	
3	Friday	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:13-18	Philippians 1:18b-26	
4	Saturday	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 4:1-6		Luke 9:1-6
5	Sunday	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:1-4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
6	Monday	Psalm 126	Isaiah 40:1-11	Romans 8:22-25	
7	Tuesday	Psalm 126	Isaiah 19:18-25	2 Peter 1:2-15	
8	Wednesday	Psalm 126	Isaiah 35:3-7		Luke 7:18-30
9	Thursday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 6:1-8	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	
10	Friday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 8:4-12	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	
11	Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 9:8-15		Luke 1:57-66
12	Sunday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
13	Monday	Isaiah 11:1-9	Numbers 16:1-19	Hebrews 13:7-17	
14	Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-9	Numbers 16:20-35	Acts 28:23-31	
15	Wednesday	Isaiah 11:1-9	Micah 4:8-13		Luke 7:31-35
16	Thursday	Psalm 80:1-7	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 10:10-18	
17	Friday	Psalm 80:1-7	Isaiah 42:10-18	Hebrews 10:32-39	
18	Saturday	Psalm 80:1-7	Isaiah 66:7-11		Luke 13:31-35
19	Sunday	Psalm 80:1-7	Micah 5:2-5a	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55
20	Monday	Psalm 113	Genesis 25:19-28	Colossians 1:15-20	
21	Tuesday	Psalm 113	Genesis 30:1-24	Romans 8:18-30	
22	Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Micah 4:1-5	Ephesians 2:11-22	Luke 1:46b-55
23	Thursday	Luke 1:46b-55	Micah 4:6-8	2 Peter 1:16-21	Luke 1:46b-55
24	Friday	Psalm 96	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
25	Saturday	Psalm 98	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
26	Sunday	Psalm 148	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52
27	Monday	Psalm 148	Proverbs 8:32-36		John 21:19b-24
28	Tuesday	Psalm 148	Isaiah 54:1-13	Revelation 21:1-7	
29	Wednesday	Psalm 147:12-20	1 Chronicles 28:1-10	1 Corinthians 3:10-17	
30	Thursday	Psalm 147:12-20	2 Chronicles 1:7-13		Mark 13:32-37
31	Friday	Psalm 147:12-20	1 Kings 3:5-14		John 8:12-19

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Prayer Ventures
December 2021

1 *World AIDS Day* Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.

2 Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.

3 *International Day of Persons with Disabilities* Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person — abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.

4 "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.

5 Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.

6 Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners — close to home and around the world.

7 Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.

8 Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.

9 Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.

10 Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.

11 Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ — God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.

12 Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.

13 Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.

14 Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.

15 Pray that we will be filled with "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

16 Las Posadas ("The Inns"), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuary and hope.

17 Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: "I will give thanks to you, O

Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:1-2).

18 *International Migrants Day* Pray for our siblings who are refugees and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

19 Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

20 *Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552)* Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

21 *Winter solstice* As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

22 Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer — spoken or silent, individual or communal — and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

23 Let our prayers echo Mary's song of praise for God's power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 *Christmas Eve* What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby — the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14)!

25 *Christmas Day* Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God's saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, "Glory to God in the highest!"

26 Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God's word and ways, face the challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

27 Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

28 Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

29 Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

30 In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 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. Above all, clothe yourselves with love" (Colossians 3:12-14).

31 *New Year's Eve* Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world.

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00 p.m. 7 th and 8 th Grade Confirmation Orientation	2 9:30 a.m. St. Croix Conference Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 6:00 p.m. 7 th and 8 th Grade Confirmation	9 12:30 Council Meeting	10	11
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School New Member Sunday	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 7:00 p.m. Waiting for the Light: Service of Healing and Hope	16	17	18
19 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 Pastor's Day Off	22	23	24 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion	25 Merry Christmas 
26 9:00 Worship	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30	31 New Years Eve	January 1, 2022 