LUTHERAN CHAPEL

1st Sunday of *Advent*



HEBREWS 11:1-16 AND MARK 13:24-37

"Be Alert"

ANTE COMMUNION
1st Sunday of Advent
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION

BOLD *indicates congregational responses -* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE *"Nun kimm' der Heiden Heiland"* JS Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION *1 John 1:8-9*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS *Exodus 20:1-17*

1. **I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery; you shall have no other gods.**
2. **You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
3. **Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
4. **Honor your father and mother.**
5. **You shall not murder.**
6. **You shall not commit adultery.**
7. **You shall not steal.**
8. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
9. **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT *Mark 12:28-31*

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *"The King Shall Come"* **ELW # 260**

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING** *2 Corinthians 13:13*

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

C: And also with you.

THE KYRIE *Mark 10:47, ELW pg. 138*

AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

***GLORY TO GOD** *Luke 2:14, John 1:29, ELW pg. 139*

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

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** *(In Unison)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING *"Light a Candle for all to See"*

LEADER Alex Berghello

Light a Candle for All to See

Congregation ~ Hope

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson

(Please sing when directed, sing the echo)

Light a candle for all to see. **(Light a candle for all to see.)**

The King shall come for you and me. **(The King shall come for you and me.)**

Endless hope: Emmanual. **(Endless hope: Emmanual.)**

And with us He shall ever dwell. (**And with us He shall ever dwell.)**

(All Sing)

Emmanuel: God with us, King of kings and Lord of lords!

Come fill our hearts with Your hope and reign forevermore.

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love, and with Him is full redemption. *Psalm 130:7*

Blessed is the one whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth – the Lord, who remains faithful forever. *Psalm 146:5-6*

FIRST LESSON **ISAIAH 64:1-9**

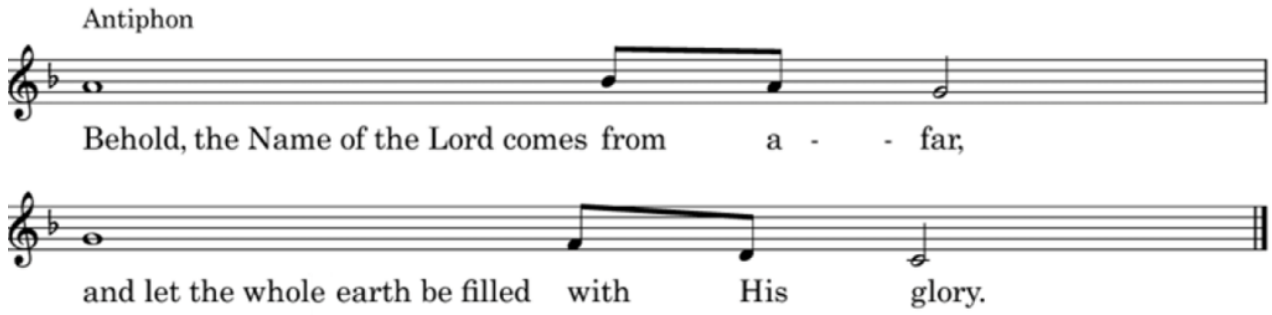
1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

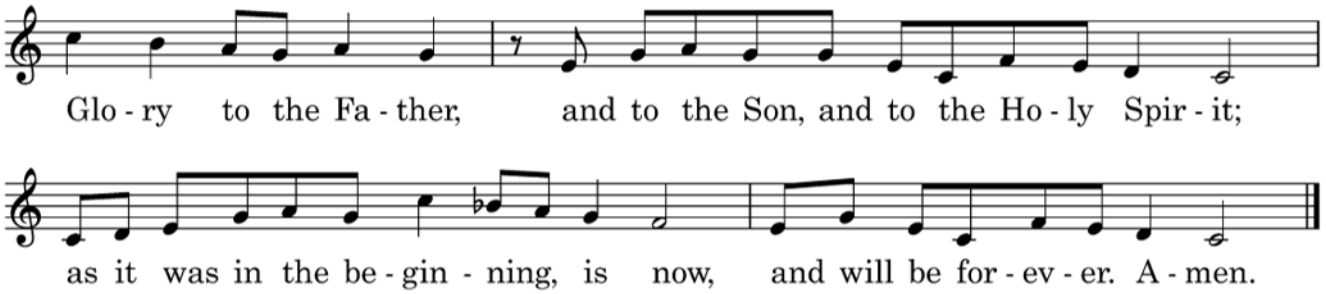
PSALM 80:1-7,17-19

Antiphon *(sung at beginning and end)* *Isaiah 30:27, Psalm 72:19*



1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
   You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
2. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
   stir up your might and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God;
   let your face shine, that we may be saved!
4 O Lord God of hosts,
   how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears
   and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
   and our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
   let your face shine, that we may be saved!
17 But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
   the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
18 Then we shall not turn back from you;
   give us life, and we will call upon your name!
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts!
   Let your face shine, that we may be saved!



SECOND LESSON **HEBREWS 11:1-16**

[1] Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. [2] Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. [3] By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

[4] By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he

still speaks. [5] By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death, and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." [6] And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would approach God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. [7] By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

[8] By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. [9] By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. [10] For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. [11] By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. [12] Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

[13] All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, [14] for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. [15] If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.

*Creation : Fall : Promise : Exodus : Conquest : Judges : Kings and Prophets : Exile : Restoration : 2nd Temple : JESUS : +**Apostles** : Last Day : New Creation*

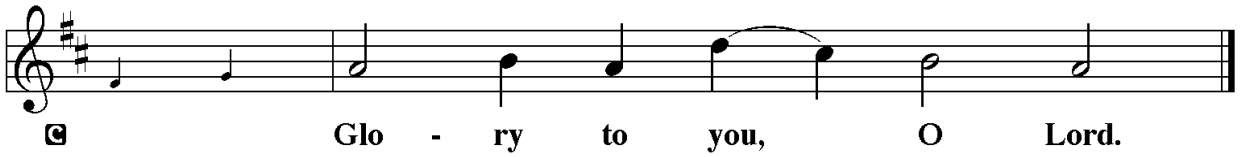
***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *John 6:68*

Alleluia. Lord to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL** **MARK 13:24-37**

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:



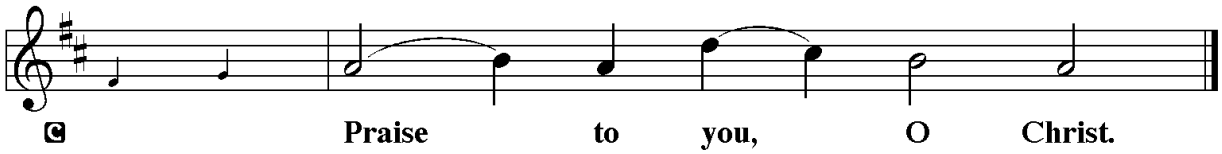
[Jesus said:] [24] "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
[25] and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

[26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. [27] Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

[28] "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30] Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32] "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35] Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, [36] or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE *"Be Alert"*

The Great Cloud of Witnesses
Living Aware of My and the Creation's Mortality

The Law *is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power:* I am spiritually asleep and think each day will be the same. I am wrong.

The Gospel *is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power:* Our Lord Jesus calls us to be alert and promises all things will be right ultimately.

So What?/Plain Sense*:* Do I have my affairs in order? Do I live like I am dying?

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"* **ELW #240**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and
sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE** *Philippians 4:7*

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

MUSICAL OFFERING *"A Classic Advent Flourish"* Arr. by Jon Paige

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER** (*In Unison)*

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, *and the congregation may respond* **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

AM: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** *"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"* **ELW #435**

***DISMISSAL**
P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Partita on "People Look East"* Joseph Bertolozzi

† † † † † † †



Ministers……..People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor…….Michael Comer
Activities Director…….……..Brit Borders
Administrative Assistant……...Susan Hibsch
Director of Music Ministries…….……....Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist…….……..……Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister…….……..….....Sylvia Fogle
Acolyte…….....Cameron Bell
Lector…….……....Norman Overcash
Crucifer……...……..……..…Maddie Potter
Head Ushers…….Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR…….……...…….....…..Crown Hoffman
Council Members of the Month……..…….....Rob Andrews & Zac Lentz

GENERAL INFORMATION

If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE

This QR code links to the My Amplify (formerly Easy Tithe) web page that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.

Upcoming EVENTS

ANGEL TREE DONATIONS | *Due TODAY*
Please drop off your gifts at the church placed in a bag with its angel tag securely attached. We will do the wrapping.

CHRISTMAS DINNER PLANNING MEETING | Monday, November 30th | 7 pm
Meet in the Educational Building.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/COMMITMENT SUNDAY | Sunday, December 6
Budget approval for 2027 and nominations of the new Church Council members.

CAROLING | *Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8 | 4:00 PM*
Spread some joy by caroling this holiday season. Participants should meet at the church. Dinner to follow Caroling.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PARTY | *Friday, December 11th | 4:30 - 6:30 PM*
The Outreach Committee will be hosting the annual Boys and Girls Club of Bessemer City Christmas party.

CHRISTMAS DINNER | *Saturday, December 12 | 6:00 PM*
Please plan to attend this year's Christmas Dinner, an event not to be missed! Gramma Hoyt's catered dinner, vocalist Marty Sale and door prizes. Tickets available from Steve Clark, Rick Peak, Terry Ratchford or Charles Edwards. Sponsored by the men of the church.

CANTATA & JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION | *Sunday, December 13 | 11:00 AM*
The Christian Ed, Youth & Family and Worship & Music committees would like to invite everyone to stay for a lunch and birthday celebration for Jesus immediately following the Cantata Worship Service. Plan to join your Lutheran Chapel family as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

ALTAR FLOWERS | *2027*
If you would like to place flowers in the church, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451. Dates left are April 11, June 6, and July 4.

STAFF GIFT | *Due December 13th | Presentation December 20th*
Traditionally, we present our dedicated Church Staff with a monetary "thank you" gift during the holiday season. If you feel so inclined to participate, you can give your gift in several ways: drop it in the offering plate, mail it, or drop it off at the Church office. Please note "Staff Gift" with your contribution. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as we honor and remember our staff members who work so diligently to serve Christ and our congregation.



NOVEMBER'S LOVE OFFERING CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

They have served thousands of women, men, and their families. Their mission is to affirm the value of life by compassionately sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and providing the following services: pregnancy counseling, abstinence education, limited ultrasounds and various other medical services, adolescent parenting programs, abortion education- procedures, risks, and alternatives, and post-abortion counseling to women, men, and families affected by crisis pregnancy situations, with the hope of changing lives.

Weekly CALENDAR

Sunday, November 29	8:00 am	Morning Prayer Service (Chapel)
	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:00 am	**Finance Team Budget Questions**
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, November 30	8:30 am	Preschool
Tuesday, December 1	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
Wednesday, December 2	8:30 am	Preschool
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Advent Vespers (Sanctuary)
Thursday, December 3	8:30 am	Preschool
Friday, December 4		Office closed
	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study
Saturday, December 5	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, December 6	8:00 am	Morning Prayer Service (Chapel)
	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship/**Congregational Meeting** (Sanctuary)
	11:00 am	**Confirmation (Youth Room)**
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Life in Christ (Fellowship Hall, Chapel)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)





DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME

Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer *(Psalm 1, 55:17). May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

PRAYER LIST

Fellowship: Miles Carpenter, Renee Dockery, Deborah Gault, Baker Hampton, Larry Hoover, Susan Jackson, Lee Ann Lindler, Leon Moretz, Sean & McKenzie Rankin, Baby Arthur Rankin, Pat Robinson and Natalie Salois.

Friends of the Church: Bill Fisher, Christy Hensley, Vince Quinn, Lee Weaver and Linda Young.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - READ THE WHOLE BIBLE

11/29 Morning Reading: 2 Peter 1—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 35, 36
11/30 Morning Reading: 2 Peter 2—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 37, 38, 39
12/01 Morning Reading: 2 Peter 3—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 40, 41
12/02 Morning Reading: 1 John 1—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 42, 43, 44
12/03 Morning Reading: 1 John 2—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 45, 46
12/04 Morning Reading: 1 John 3—Evening Reading: Ezekiel 47, 48
12/05 Morning Reading: 1 John 4—Evening Reading: Daniel 1, 2
12/06 Morning Reading: 1 John 5—Evening Reading: Daniel 3, 4

THE PSALMS - Pray the Prayer book the HOLY SPIRIT gives!

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	95, 8	95, 19	95, 24	95, 42	95, 96	95, 110	95, 122
Evening	6	21	25	93	98	111	143

Advent is the time to watch for the coming of Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.
Invitatory for Advent: Behold, the King comes: O come let us worship Him.
Antiphon for Advent: Behold the Name of the LORD comes from far and let the whole earth be filled with His glory (Isaiah 30:27, Psalm 72:19).

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LITTLE CHURCH - STUDY GOD'S WORD WITH OTHERS

Wednesday, December 2

Vespers - Psalm 119:137-144 *"Tsadhe"*

Sunday, December 6

Morning Prayer - Mark 13:1-13 "*Endurance"*
Bible Study -
Chapel Class – Isaiah
Fellowship Class – Ruth
Joy Class – 1 Samuel
Story of Salvation (Church Facebook Page) Hebrews 11
Worship - 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Mark 1:1-8 *"The Challenge of John the Baptist"*