



**Sunday, December 7, 2025**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day*

*when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshipping.** Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion.** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

**Coffee Hour.** We hope that you will join us for coffee and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

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ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801  
Church Office: Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Church Office: 516.931.0710

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President (*email ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com*)

Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator (*email office@ststephenshicksville.com*)

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Church Website [www.ststephenshicksville.com](http://www.ststephenshicksville.com)

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## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.      C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.      C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

P Gracious God,      C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.      C Amen.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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.**

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of life, for you promise your gift of peace to us. Please beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. Help us to live in harmony and safety until we reach the fullness of your kingdom. As we light the first candle on this wreath, help us to remain awake for the day of the Lord's coming.

### SUNG RESPONSE TO LIGHTING OF WREATH

*Sung to the tune of "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service"*

*Come and find the quiet center, in the crowded life we lead.  
 Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed.  
 Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we may see  
 all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

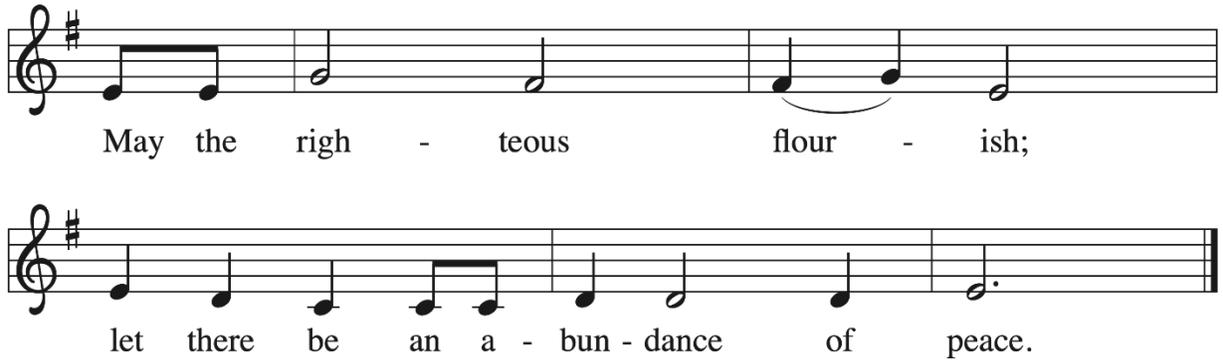
<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. ...The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**



<sup>1</sup> Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the  
 oppressor. R**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the  
 earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the | righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the  
 moon shall | be no more.  
<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel; you alone do | wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your  
 glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

**SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by  
 steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the  
 God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
 in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the  
 God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of  
 God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the  
 truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that  
 the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess  
 you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice,  
 O gentiles, with his people", <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the  
 peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who  
 rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you  
 with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the  
 Holy Spirit. ...The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
<sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ...The gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: AWAKE, AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN'G (W 07 055)



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

**C 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 INTERCESSION

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C Amen.**

**PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+ MEAL +**

**OFFERING SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER (ELW 277)**



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

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

**DIALOGUE**

P The Lord be with you.                   C **And also with you.**  
 P Lift up your hearts.                   C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE:**

P 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**LORD S TRATER**

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

**C 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**

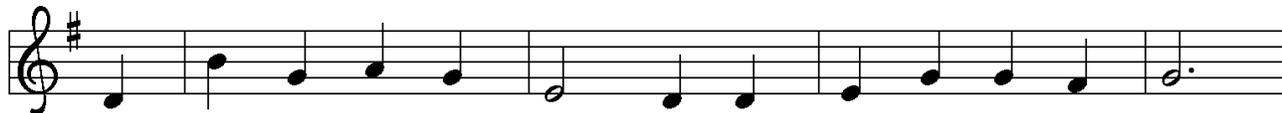
P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,  
 2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,  
 3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.  
 a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.  
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.  
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
 oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996, based on Luke 1:68–79

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**BLESSING**

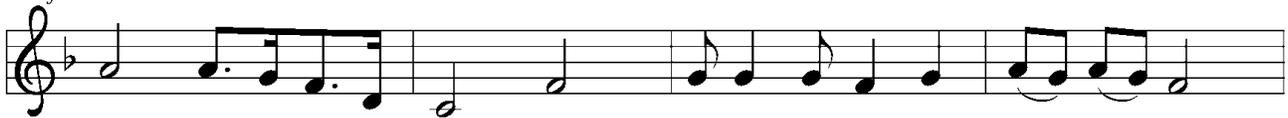
P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.   **C Amen.**

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.   **C Amen.**

P The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.                   **C Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (ELW 290)**

*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!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Share the good news.                   **C Thanks be to God.**

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

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

**Lucy, martyr, died 304**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

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

**Announcements for the week of  
December 7, 2025**

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*Sanctuary Lamp Candle for November is given to the glory of God and*

♥ *in loving memory of Sophie & Frank O'Brien by Maureen O'Brien*

♥ *in loving memory of Jack & Jean Riolo by Christine Carlson*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and*

✿ *in honor of Kate Lenzo's Birthday by Barbara Barcavage*

✿ *in loving memory & in honor of The Abbattista & Sacco Families by Louis & Marian Sacco*

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*Barbara Engert - Dec 3*

*Brianna Feeney - Dec 4*

*Kate Lenzo - Dec 7*

*Bob Maurer - Dec 18*

*Laureen Aiello - Dec 27*

*Christine Goetzger-Sedlak - Dec 30*

*Barbara & Kevin Barcavage - Dec 13*

✿ **Christmas Altar Plants & Greens**

Christmas is drawing near, and our sanctuary will soon be filled with the beauty of poinsettias! If you'd like to order one in honor or memory of someone special, the form is available on the table in the Narthex. Please return your order/dedication by Sunday, December 14th.

✿ **Christmas Cookie Decorating Class**

This year's event with Paige will be held on December 14th following our Sunday service. You will learn how to decorate 4 different Christmas themed cookies. The cost is \$50 per person - for more information, please see the form on the table in the Narthex.

## Evangelism Committee - TODAY!

Please join us today Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship for a time of conversation and planning as we explore meaningful ways to reach out to new members of our community. Together we'll look at how we can share the welcoming spirit of St. Stephen's with new residents in Hicksville—inviting them not only to worship with us, but also to become part of our church family through fellowship, service, and faith. Everyone is welcome—your ideas, energy, and prayers can make a real difference as we continue to live out Christ's call to “welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you.” For more see Barbara Barcavage

 Fellowship Discussion: “The Chosen” takes an intimate look at the real and authentic lives of Jesus and all those around him through this historical drama. “The Chosen” brings the Bible to life. At each meeting we'll watch an episode followed by a deep-dive discussion about the scripture that inspired that episode. **We will meet every other Wednesday in the Pastor's Lounge at 2:00. Our next meeting is Wednesday - December 17<sup>th</sup> - Join us!**



## Christmas Giving Program

As always, we'll be sharing the joy of the season by donating gifts to local families through our Christmas Giving Program. This year's program will follow last year's successful format. In the Narthex you'll find a manger filled with gift tags - each one representing a wish from a child in need. We invite you to take one (or more!) tags, shop for the requested gift, & return it wrapped with the tag attached. **Please be sure to sign the form next to the tag number that you've chosen.** Through your generosity we can help make Christmas a little brighter for our neighbors in need.



## Sharing the Joy of the Season

As we prepare for the holiday season, we are once again gathering gifts of food to support our neighbors through Lutheran Life Services. We're beginning a little earlier this year to ensure that every item reaches those who need it most in time for Christmas. You can help by bringing nonperishable food items, pantry staples, or grocery gift cards to church over the next few weeks. Your generosity helps fill tables, hearts, and homes with the warmth and hope of Christ's love. Thank you for being part of this ministry of caring and compassion. Together, we can make a meaningful difference for families in our community this season.

## Planting Fields Guided Holiday House Tour

Join us on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at noon as we step into the Main House, a 65-room house-museum, where holiday magic meets historic charm. Delight in seasonal décor crafted from the estate's natural treasures, each room brimming with story and surprise. The cost of the guided tour is \$25 per person. We each have to purchase our own tickets and will meet at 11:00 to carpool from the church parking lot. Please let us know if you plan to attend. Speak to Barbara or Lauren for more information.

**🎬 Movie of the Month: "Silent Night" - Sun. Dec. 28 at 2:00**

Don't be fooled by the title. Germany, 1944. Christmas Eve. It's the closing days of WW11, when 12-year-old Fritz Vincken is ushered off to shelter by his mother Elisabeth who is determined not to let the war invade their refuge. Based on an incredible true story, Silent Night is a tale of nobility and courage that inspires, restores faith and offers a lesson in the true spirit and meaning of Christmas. DON'T MISS IT!



**☕ Coffee Hour Sign-Up**

The January/February sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please consider hosting by providing treats for a given Sunday.

**🎵 Do you love to sing?**

Come add your voice to our church choir! No experience is necessary—just a willing heart and a love for music. Choir is a wonderful way to share your gifts and be part of something that uplifts the whole congregation in worship. All are welcome—join us and help fill our sanctuary with song!

**🕯️ Altar Flowers & Sanctuary Candle**

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial or in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored or memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516-931-0710.

**🏛️ Altar Guild Needs You**

Our numbers are few, and the Guild would welcome your help. We're a small team that prepares the sanctuary for Sunday Communion, festive services, & Services of Word & Light. Don't be overwhelmed—seasonal changes & tasks are handled in pairs, as a group, or with help from the Property Committee. It's a meaningful act of service to the Lord. If you're interested or have questions, speak with Lauren, Bill, Beth, or Jane.

***Parish Calendar This Week (December 7<sup>th</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>)***

Day	Event	Time
<b>Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion 9:00 am</b>
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Evangelism Committee Mtng	Following worship
Tuesday, Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	N.A.	7:00 pm
<b>Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion 9:00 am</b>

**Serving at Worship Today** - Sunday, 9:00 AM

**Assisting Minister**.....Barbara Engert   **Usher**.....Tyler LaVorgna  
**Lector**.....Jaclyn Shurmann   **Greeter**.....Maureen O'Brien  
**Acolyte**.....AJ Mangiaracina   **Audio/Visual**.....Tyler LaVorgna  
**Music Director**.....Mason Griffin   **Altar Guild**.....All Hands On Deck!

**Parish Prayer List**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

**Pray For Our Congregation**

Bill Artus  
Dottie Eberhardt  
Richard Engert  
Judi Meinhardt  
Jan Mosebach  
Rick Mosebach  
Ilona Riggers  
Joe Shurman  
June Waller  
Ilse Zeeck

**Pray For Our Families**

Fred Barrell (brother-in-law of Paul and Susan Portz)  
Peter Denning (son-in-law of Lois Angstadt)  
Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)  
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)  
Mrs. Feeney (Mother of John Feeney)  
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)  
Amanda Hanzich (daughter of Laureen Aiello)  
Margie (Pastor Moira's mother in law)  
Andrew Ojeda (son of Pastor Moira Ahearne)  
Bernd Pfeiffer (brother of Christel LaVorgna)  
Laura Panaro (mother of Laureen Aiello)  
Eddie Piazza (brother-in-law of John Musi)  
Linda Pisano (cousin of Lauren Artus & John Langbehn)  
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)  
Deacon Fred von Voigt (uncle of Muller/Shurman family)

## **For Our Friends**

Sadie & Jennifer Amiruddin (friends of Maureen O'Brien)  
Alice Brahs (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Angela Capo (friend of Lauren Aiello)  
Sue Eletti (friend of Christel LaVorgna)  
Ellen Grace (high school friend of Joan Hagner)  
Mary Griffin (friend of Lauren Artus)  
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)  
Mark Kravitz (friend of John Langbehn)  
Diane Litterer (friend of Joan Hagner)  
Jenn Logan and her Mother (friends of Janet Muller)  
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Natalie (daughter-in-law to friend of Lauren Aiello)  
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)  
Sadie (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Bill Schlatter (friend of the Hesse Family)  
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)  
Mark Trommsdorff (friend of Dave & Laura Staton)