

The First Sunday in Advent



Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

November 27, 2022

Welcome!

"How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us!" (1 John 3:1).

We are thankful that you are joining in the worship with the people of God this day. We are glad to assist you at any time. To better your experience while at St. John:

- Please check that cell phones are silenced.
- Restrooms are located on the right in the lobby and down the bell tower hallway to the right towards the fellowship hall.
- Prayer requests may be written on the white cards in the pew rack and given to an usher before worship begins, or as you leave.
- A self-staffed nursery is available to parents as needed, past the double wooden doors on the left.
- Activity bags to help keep young children occupied during the message are provided in the back right corner of the sanctuary.
- If this is your first visit, please sign our Guest Book located in the lobby near the Sanctuary.

Notice to Worshipers: Today's service is livestreamed and recorded. It is available for public viewing and playback at www.SaintJohnHattiesburg.com by clicking on the 'Watch Live' button.

About the Offering

An offering is gathered at the entrance of the Sanctuary. Here the people of God bring their tithes and sacrificial offerings as an expression of their discipleship, and for the continuation of Jesus' mission work, both in this community and to the ends of the earth. Guests are not expected to bring financial gifts, but are welcome to join the congregation in offering their prayers and praises.

About Holy Communion

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. In this, we remember that the divine is united with the created as one in the person of Jesus.

This altar is the Lord's table. Here all are welcome who acknowledge their need for a Savior, and look to Jesus. We believe what he simply says about the bread – "This is my body, given for you." – and about the wine – "This is my blood, shed for you." Thus, the Lord Jesus is truly present for his redeemed people in this holy meal. In this we retain the divine mystery in the midst of his ordinary creation. From the many seeds of wheat come one loaf. From the many grapes are pressed one cup. His many diverse people constitute one body and community of faith.

Young children are welcome to this altar to receive a blessing, as are those who have not been instructed in the Christian faith. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest or by simply asking for a blessing.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

We are imperfect people and we live in an imperfect world. We are all in this together. So when we believe or act wrongly towards someone, or when we feel that another has wronged us, we commit ourselves to the humble teaching and forgiving pattern of Jesus in Matthew 18.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Order of Worship

Advent is the four-week season that begins the Church's liturgical year. This penitential season prepares us both for Christmas, the first coming of the Messiah in human flesh, and for the Second Coming of our Lord in glory. Advent's somber side reflects this message of repentance: Prepare to meet your Maker! Advent's joyful side reflects its message of grace: Prepare to receive God's gift...Himself! This Advent, let God speak to you and satisfy your needs for deeply-felt repentance and joy.

Our preparation for worship follows an ancient custom of the Church. We turn our backs to the Lord's altar to match symbolically what we have done to the Lord spiritually in our sinning. Once forgiven by the Lord, we then turn to him with joyful singing.

+ GATHERING +

Prayer as We Begin — *Please stand.*

☩ Heavenly Father, as we come before you this morning in Jesus' name, we pray all that we say and do in our worship will give you glory. Help us, Lord, to focus our thoughts on you, so your Word will find fertile ground in our minds and hearts. May the worship service today accomplish in us the purpose you desire. Amen.

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

☩ who made heaven and earth.

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

☩ But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

L Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

☩ Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☩ Amen.

Chant – Prepare the Way of the Lord (sing 3 times) — *Turn to face the altar.*

The image shows three staves of musical notation for a chant. The first staff begins with the tempo marking 'Calmly' and a circled letter 'A' above a repeat sign. The lyrics under the first staff are 'Pre - pare the way of the Lord, pre -'. The second staff has a circled letter 'B' at the beginning and a circled letter 'C' above the word 'and'. The lyrics under the second staff are 'pare the way of the Lord, and all peo-ple will'. The third staff has a circled letter 'D' above the word 'sal-'. The lyrics under the third staff are 'see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre -'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a 6/8 time signature.

Kyrie

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect Prayer

- L** The LORD be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** We pray together...
- C** **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle

L The first week of Advent is all about hope.

Think about hope as you hear Lamentations 3: 21-24:

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in the Lord.”

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — *Lighting of the wreath candle.*

LSB 357

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

L We Pray Together

G God of history and of the future, we praise you that from long before the time of King David's father Jesse, you planned a way of salvation for us. We rejoice that you have a plan and a purpose for our lives and provide much needed Hope. We pray that we may enter into this Advent season, humbly expecting to find a new awareness of the way you have taken action throughout history, to accomplish your deliverance in the world. Give us open hearts and willing hands, that we may faithfully carry on the work you would have us do. We pray through Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

L *The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday in Advent is from Isaiah, Chapter Two, Verses 1-5. The prophet foresees a day when the way and word of the Lord will be lifted up before all people, when warfare will fade in favor of peace, and darkness of heart and human intention will fade in the light of the Lord.*

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

Epistle

Romans 13:8-14

L *The Epistle is from Romans, Chapter 13, Verses 8-14. Saint Paul calls the people of God to be done with dark thoughts and patterns of behavior and rather to live in the light of the Messiah.*

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the LORD.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat (sing 3 times) — *Please stand. "Magnify the Lord, O My Soul!"*

Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num.
Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat, Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

L The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the Twenty-Fourth Chapter.

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

Jesus says: ³⁶“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

L This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

P The holy Church throughout the world confesses this faith:

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.</p> | <p>6 All glory to the Son
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever on
 Through all eternity.</p> |
|--|---|

The Message — Rev. Gary Weier

The Prayers of the Church — Please stand.

+ MEAL +

This is Christ's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast which he has prepared. In this meal we truly receive the body and blood of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a great and divine mystery! Here we are joined with God and all the saints, and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Young children and those who would prefer to receive a blessing are welcome to come forward.

The individual communion cups in the center of the tray have white grape juice for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request. Gluten-free wafers are available at distribution upon request.

The Preface and Hymn of Praise — *Please stand.*

P The LORD be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

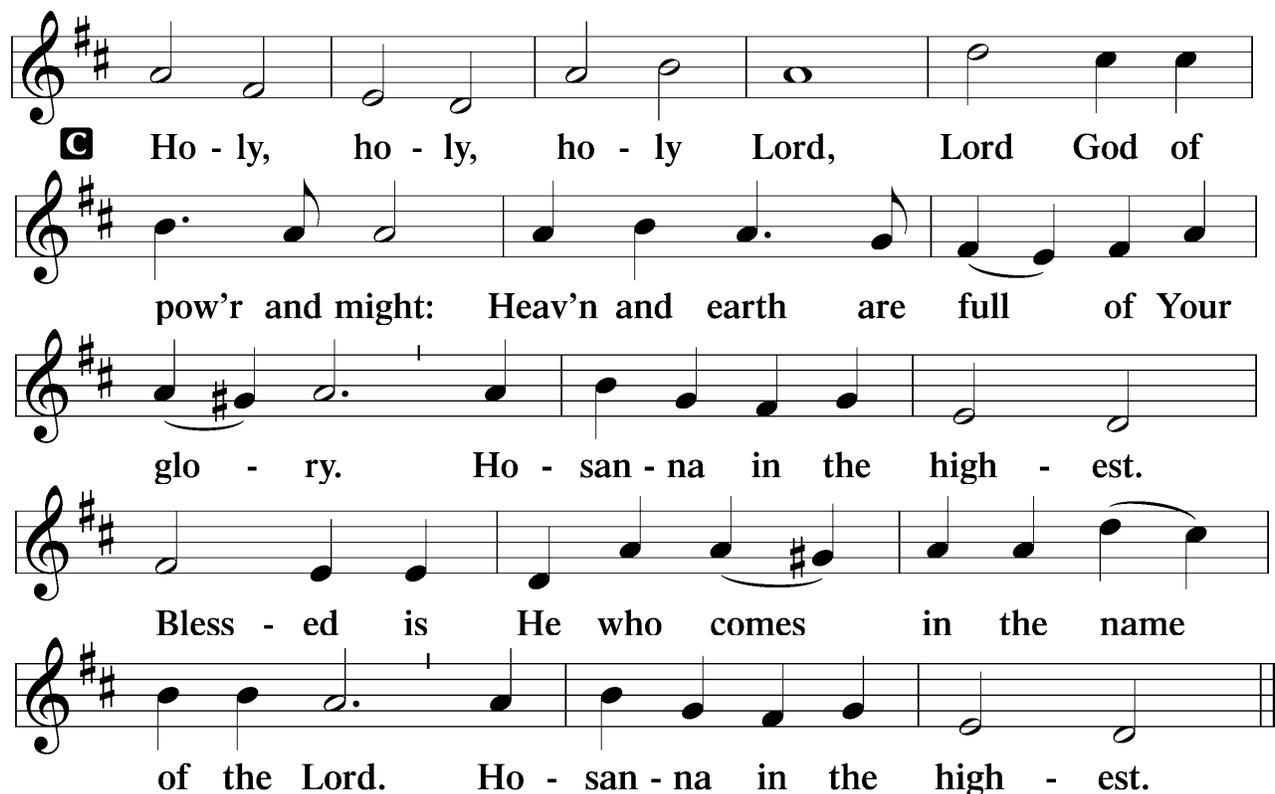
C **We lift them to the LORD.**

P Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus

LSB 178



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Our Father

☐ 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.

The Words of Institution

Agnus Dei

LSB 180

☐ 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.

Please be seated.



Distribution Hymns

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Oh, What Their Joy

LSB 675



1 Oh, what their joy and their glo - ry must be,
2 In new Je - ru - sa - lem joy shall be found,
3 We, where no trou - ble dis - trac - tion can bring,
△ 4 Now let us wor - ship our Lord and our King,



Those end - less Sab - baths the bless - ed ones see!
Bless - ings of peace shall for - ev - er a - bound;
Safe - ly the an - thems of Zi - on shall sing;
Joy, fit to raise our voices as to sing



Crowns for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest;
Wish and ful - fill - ment are not sev - ered there,
While for Your grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise
Praise to the Fa - ther, and praise to the Son,





God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.
 Nor the things prayed for come short of the prayer.
 Your bless - ed peo - ple shall ev - er - more raise.
 Praise to the Spir - it, to God, Three in One.

+ SENDING +

Concluding Prayer, Benedicamus, and Blessing

L Let us bless the LORD.

G **Thanks be to God.**

L We speak the Romans 15 blessing to one another:

**May the God of HOPE
 fill you with all JOY and PEACE
 as you TRUST in him,
 so that YOU may overflow with HOPE
 by the POWER of the Holy Spirit.**

L The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G **Amen**

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come





truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule



Sundays in Advent, 10:30am

November 27, December 4, 11, 18

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 10:30am

Saturday, December 24

The Christ Mass,

No Sunday services December 25

THIS WEEK

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	12pm AA	8am Pancake Breakfast 9am Hanging of the Greens 10am AA

The Avenues Study Group — (Even Week Wednesdays) Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10am at Saint John. They are studying Be Still & Know: A Study of Rest and Refuge. The next meeting will be December 14th.

Take Home Announcements — Sunday, November 27, 2022

Serving the Lord Today

Today's Theme

Behold, the Messiah comes to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, and it shall be proclaimed in all of Jerusalem: "This is the prophet Jesus!" From Mount Sinai to Calvary, the Lord reveals His edicts, His decrees, and Jesus is the very fulfillment of them all. Christ is faithful in the midst of faithlessness; humble in the midst of arrogance. He alone is the rightful Prophet, Priest, and King. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor	Rev. Gary Weier 228.256.2791 garyweier@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Sheila Curry and Christina Keiper
Organist	Jason Sims
Lector	Lillian Smith

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:00am-12:00pm
Altar Flowers: Pat Davenport in memory of Great-grandson, Waylon Blake McKinney
Eternal Candle: Damian & Pat Potesta for Ethan's Birthday

Birthdays

Judy Wastvedt 12/1

Baptisms

Mark Keyl 12/3

Scriptures Next Sunday:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Live Streaming of Worship Services — www.saintjohnhattiesburg.com.

Online Giving — Online giving is available to members and friends of Saint John via the 'Give' tab on our webpage. Thank you for supporting our work together in Jesus' name.

Upcoming — December 3rd: New this year: combined Men's Breakfast, Kiwanis Club Pancake Day, and the Hanging of the Greens. Details will soon be emailed to all and available on the Church Mission Group Facebook page.

Annual Congregational Meeting — On December 4th after worship service, the Board will present the budget and conduct an election for Board vacancies.

ATTENTION ALL LADIES — You are invited to the LWML Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4, after the worship service and Congregational Meeting. What to bring? A friend, a gift for the "Dirty Santa Game" (optional), and "finger" food to share. All ladies and friends are WELCOME!!! Any questions — call Brenda @ 601-270-9460 or Shirley @ 228-324-6697. Please make plans to come and enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship.

Poinsettia Forms — Order forms are available. Please have your forms and payments turned in by December 18th. Poinsettias are a traditional part of our decorations and a lovely way to honor and remember loved ones and events.

Reminder — No Sunday services will be held on December 25th this year.

Angel Tree Ministry — Angels are available in the Lobby. Please select an Angel and have your wrapped gift(s) turned in to the church by December 14th. Attach Angel to package. Contact Chris Keiper for more information.



Prayers Needed			
Chris Thiel	Serving Stateside (FL)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	10/1/16
Kelly Thiel	Serving Stateside (NC)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/16
Cory Thiel	Serving Overseas (Germany)	Son of Norbert and Trenia Thiel	11/20/22
Matt Geroux	Serving Stateside (TX)	Son of Kerry and Debbie Geroux	04.09.2022
Scott Chaney	Serving Stateside	Member	5/6/18
Bailey Walters	Serving Overseas	Member	10/31/18
Darrin Torrey	Serving Stateside	SIL of Jerry & Helga Herrington	10/31/18
Bill Lowry	Serving Overseas	Member	4/15/19
John Krahlung	Recurring Cancer	Son of Joyce Coll	7/15/18
Dennis Smith	Cancer; Chemotherapy	Member	10/6/19
Eric Martin	Cancer	Member	10/6/19
Kenneth Johnson	Prostate Cancer	Brother of Wayland Johnson	10/18/20
Richard Radavich	Continued Prayers, holding his own	Member	24/21
Lisa Case	Health and Strength	Member	12/1/18
Warner Boortz	Health and Strength	Member	3/24/21
DuWayne Lemke	Lung Cancer	Brother of Shirley Thone	1/26/22
Doug Taylor, Bo Cleveland, Judy Lacey	Seriously ill	Friends of Don Shields	10/19/22
Faye Hill	Health and Strength	Mother of Chris Keiper	4/20/22
Campus Mission	For its advance and increase	For all students and educators	7/26/20
Pastoral Leadership	For wisdom, discernment, and courage	Transition and Calling of Next Pastor	7/26/20
Caregivers	Strength, Support, Encouragement	All those in need	6/29/22
Yvonne Lee	Health and Strength	Mother of Patrice Lovdahl	9/11/22
Josephine Nwachuku	Prayers for Health and Strength	Member	10/9/22
Ian VanWinkle	Crohn's Disease	Nephew of Terry & Patrice Lovdahl	11/15/22