

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

This is the Third Sunday in the season Advent. In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The blue paraments are used to remind us that Jesus will come again in the sky; therefore repent & prepare, as John the Baptist reminds us.

WORSHIP FOCUS: The Lord is coming. Rejoice!

Liturgy: Service of the Word & Sacrament

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are open. They are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

- **HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT** is available as part of our sound system. Individual handheld units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.
- **VISITORS** are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

For most of you, putting on perfume, cologne, or aftershave before coming to church is just routine. But for a growing number of us in the congregation, those smells will lead to nausea, headaches, shortness of breath, and migraines. We are asking if you could please re-evaluate your use of fragrances before you come to church, especially during the winter months when the enclosed heated space will magnify the effects of the fragrances. If you could wait until you get home from church to spritz on the smells, it would be greatly appreciated!

December 15, 2024

СW рд. 26

ADVENT **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers** 7 be - liev And 1 Re joice, re - joice, _ ers, let your 2 moun -The watch - ers on the tain Pro claim the pa - tience Your cross and 3 You saints, who here in 4 A rise, De - sire of na tions; O Je - sus, đ ing, lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc ap - proach -for - ev -Go forth, Bride-groom near; as he es, suf - f'rings bore, Shall live and reign er now The Hope and Ex - pec - ta ap - pear, tion 0 And dark - er night is The Bride - groom near. With al - le - lu ias clear. The mar - riage When sor - row is no more. А round the ev - 'ry Chris - tian With Of here. hearts and is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up, feast is wait - ing; The gates wide 0 pen stand. A throne of glo - ry hands up - lift - ed Lamb you shall The be - hold; In We plead, O Lord, to see The and watch and wres - tle; At prav mid - night comes the cry. The Bride-groom is rise, O heirs of glo - ry; at hand. him Your shin - ing crowns of gold. tri - umph lay be - fore of earth's re-demp-tion That sets your peo-ple free. day

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

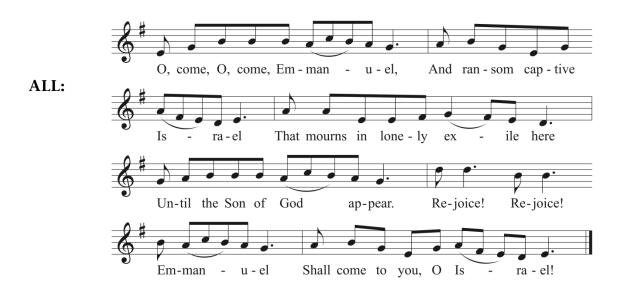
C: Amen.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

- P: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.
- C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.
- P: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

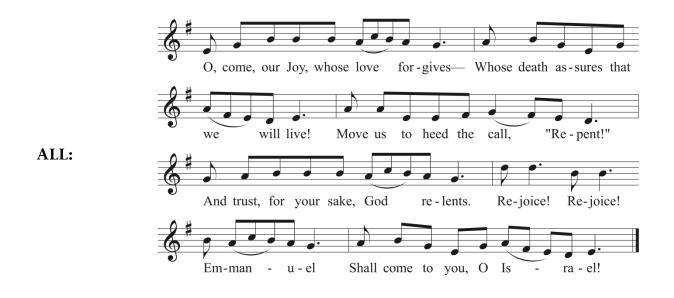
Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23



- P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the joy candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.
- C: And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious *joy*, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

Galatians 4:4,5; 1 Peter 1:8,9

Advent Candle is lighted



- P: In the joy of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
- C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

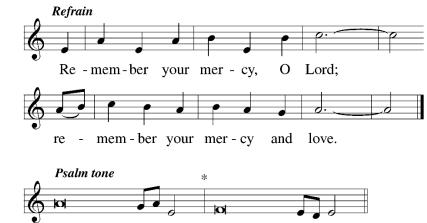
First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ The Lord has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the Lord, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶ In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing." (EHV)

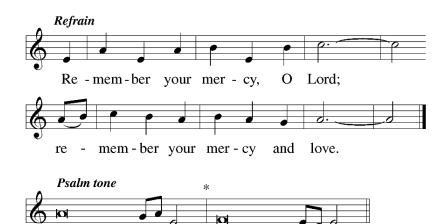
Psalm 130

CW pg. 114



- Out of the depths I cry to <u>you</u>, O LORD;* O Lord, <u>hear</u> my voice.
- Let your ears be at<u>ten</u>tive* to my cry for <u>mer</u>cy.
- If you, O LORD, kept a rec<u>ord</u> of sins,* O Lord, <u>who</u> could stand?
- But with you there is for<u>giveness</u>;* therefore <u>you</u> are feared.

Refrain



I wait for the LORD and in his Word I <u>put</u> my hope.* My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the <u>morning</u>.

O Israel, put your hope <u>in</u> the LORD,* for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re<u>demp</u>tion.

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Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son*
and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,
as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,*
is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.
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Refrain

Refrain Tune: Michael Joncas. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

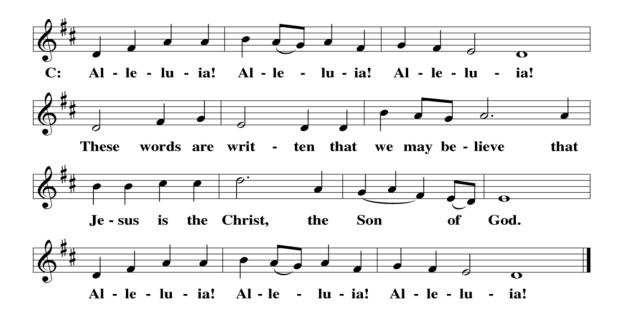
Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)



GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers," who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹Even now the ax is ready to strike^[a] the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?" ¹¹He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to." ¹⁴ Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?" He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people. (EHV)

ADVENT



Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.
Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

SERMON TEXT AND THEME: Philippians 4:4-7

Produce the Fruits of Advent

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING: (Sunday only) The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

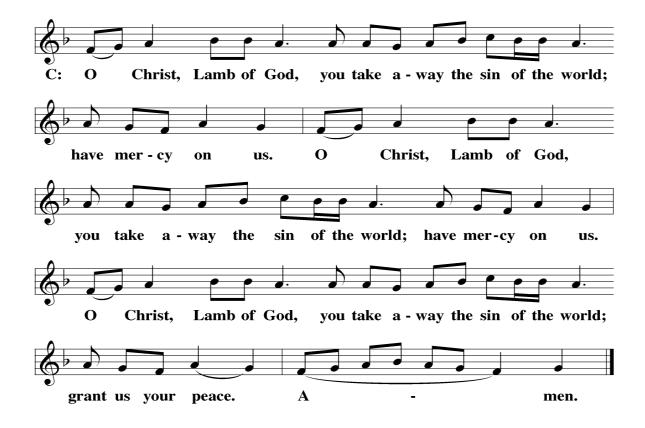
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



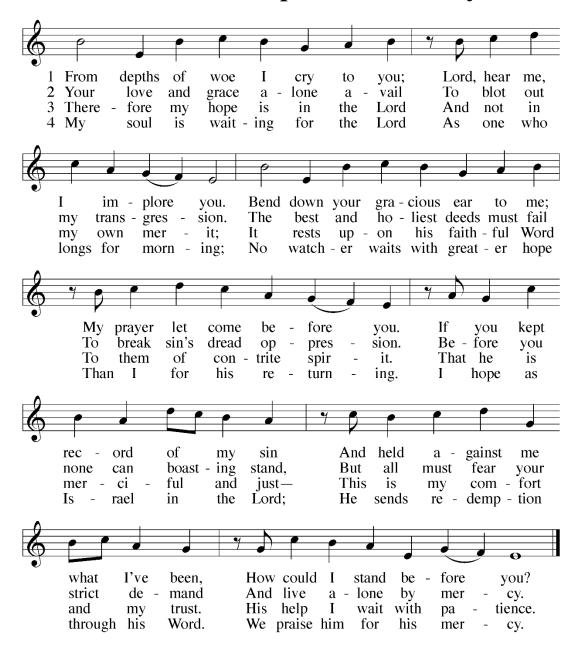
BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

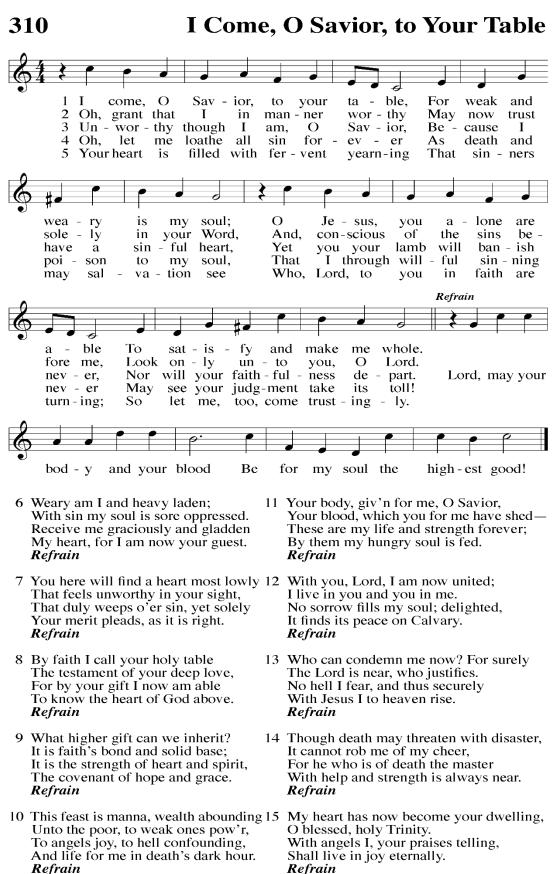
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: CW 305 CW 310 "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You" "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"



From the Depths of Woe I Cry to You



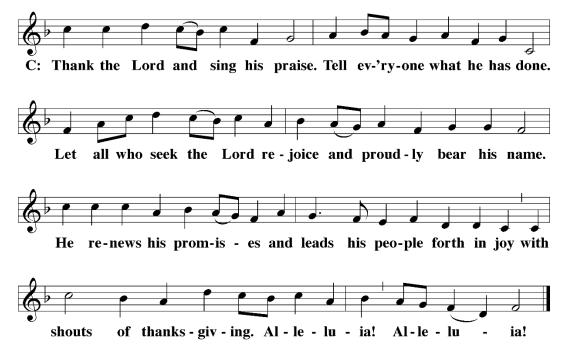
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 4. St. 4 © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
 Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT (87 87 887) Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.



Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677–1754, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: ICH STERBE TÄGLICH (98 98 88) *Emskirchner Choralbuch*, Leipzig, 1756, alt.

STAND

THANK THE LORD



P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (**1**) give you peace.



CLOSE OF SERVICE



Officiants Accompanist: Deanna Schneck Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman *ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; <u>gsitzman@zionmonroe.org</u> Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; <u>bschneck@zionmonroe.org</u>

CALL UPDATE—The Members of Zion and St. Paul extended a call to Pastor John Moll. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates his call.

STEWARDSHIP GIFT OF TIME OPPORTUNITY: Zion is in need of members who would be willing to input the attendance information into Church 360 following the service each week. Training will be provided and this is something that can be done from home. We hope that if we get five or six people to help it would have to be done once every month to month and a half. If interested, please reach out to Rob Krueger at 734-770-1149.

PAULA'S HOUSE: Once again this year Zion Church and School is supporting the women and children who are staying at Paula's House. The giving tree is in the school hallway with gift tags. Please have the gift wrapped with only the tag from the tree on the package. Please have the gift returned to the school by **Monday, December 16th**. If you would like to come help us sort the gifts for delivery, we are planning on sorting Tuesday, December 17th after morning coffee at the Oasis (in the Zion gym). Thank you in advance for all the support.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: on Sunday, December 22nd at 10:15 a.m. we are planning on going out to 2 nursing homes and do some Christmas caroling. There will be coffee and donuts before going out. We expect to be gone only an hour or so.

CHURCH ENVELOPES OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025 are available in the west foyer. The envelopes will be in alphabetic order. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the office.

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS - The financial secretary will close the books for 2024 on December 31, 2024. To receive credit for 2024, all contributions must be received by that date.

ALTAR GUILD FOR 2025 — There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer for Altar Guild volunteers for 2025. We really do appreciate all the help we get through the year with this service of love. If you haven't ever done Altar Guild, please consider helping out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: In the East foyer Friends in Faith is now selling greeting cards for \$1.00 each. There are different occasion cards available. The money raised from the sales is going towards future Friends in Faith projects, such as the Kleenex box ministry project and other shut in projects they do throughout the year.

NEWS FROM MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY:

MLS Christmas Concert – Join us at MLS on Friday, December 20th at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas concert, "Worship Christ, the Newborn King." The choirs and instrumentalists will share new and familiar carols that will surely enrich your Christmas celebration.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Third Advent Worship Service (IC/CC)					
	10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Class, Youth Group and Sunday School					
	1:00 p.m. Jesus Cares Worship Service					
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study					
	1:30 p.m. Worship Service (IC) 5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting					
Wednesday	6:30 p.m. Zion School Worship Service					
Friday	11:00 a.m. Zion School begins Christmas Break					
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Fourth Advent Worship Service					
	10:15 a.m. Christmas Caroling					
Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service					
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. Festival Christmas Service					
	NO Evening Service					
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship Service					
-						

December volunteers							
	Nov. 28 & Dec.1	Dec. 4 & 8	Dec. 11 & 15	Dec. 18 & Dec. 22	Dec. 24, 25, & 29		
Altar Guild		Linda Selvidge	& Diane Affholter				
Live Stream	Nov. 28 – Rob	Steve Sordahl	Ryan Roth	Dec. 18- Steve	Dec. 24 – Steve Sordahl		
Helpers	Krueger		-	Sordahl	Dec. 29 – Erich Freiny		
-	Dec. 1 – Ryan Roth			Dec. 22 – William			
				Robinson			
Ushers	<u>Nov. 28</u>	<u>Dec. 4</u>	<u>Dec. 11</u>	<u>Dec. 18</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>		
	Dave Benge	Ray Chandonnet	Jake Burke	Tony Affholter	Mark Kipf		
	Alan Bober	Erich Freiny	Rich Heusman	Jeff Douglas	Keith McBee		
	Matthew Hill	Rob Krueger	Jeff Heusman	Mark Fuerstenberg	Joe Schmeling		
	Joe Koch	Matthew Loos	Juergen Koenig	Ray Palmatier			
	Jeremy Robinson	Zach Turner	Matt McCormick		<u>Dec. 25</u>		
	Jacob Robinson		Zach McCormick	<u>Dec. 22</u>	Mark Kipf		
	William Robinson	<u>Dec. 8</u>		Tony Affholter	Keith McBee		
		Ray Chandonnet	<u>Dec. 15</u>	Jeff Douglas	Joe Schmeling		
	<u>Dec. 1</u>	Erich Freiny	Jake Burke	Mark Fuerstenberg			
	Dave Benge	Rob Krueger	Rich Heusman	Ray Palmatier	<u>Dec. 29</u>		
	Alan Bober	Matthew Loos	Jeff Heusman		Mark Kipf		
	Matthew Hill	Zach Turner	Juergen Koenig		Keith McBee		
	Joe Koch		Matt McCormick		Joe Schmeling		
	Jeremy Robinson		Zach McCormick				
	Jacob Robinson						
	William Robinson						
Communion	<u>Dec. 1</u>		<u>Dec. 11</u>				
Helpers	Jake Burke		Ken Vagt				
	Mark Kipf						
			<u>Dec. 15</u>				
			Erich Freiny				
			Jeff Heusman				

December Volunteers