

WORSHIP FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday in Advent

- Communion
- Bring cash donations for local Christmas Cheer Board and/or items to be donated to Bear Clan in Brandon, a list will be provided.

Sunday, December 3rd

Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

- We will host a short community candlelight service for all churches.
- Refreshments and a time of visiting following the service.

Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday in Advent

- Handbell Choir
- Baptism for Angus Rosengren and Evelyn Rosengren, children of Julia (Comrie) Rosengren and Luke Rosengren

Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday in Advent

- Our Choir will offer some special music.
- Heidi Hislop and Kathryn Yanchycki will offer a Christmas song.
- Sunday School will be sharing a gift with people who are here (Surprise!)

Thursday, December 21st

Longest Night 7:00 p.m.

- A quiet, reflective service where people are invited to light a candle in memory of someone they are missing; or in recognition of a significant loss in their lives; or as a prayer for peace in our very wounded world.
- Refreshments will be offered after the service.

Sunday, December 24th

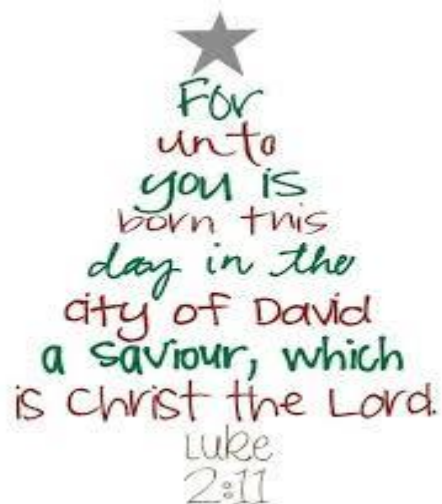
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Christmas Eve

- **One service, at 4:00 p.m. (No morning service this week)**
- An interactive all-ages service – laughter & love will abound!
- Candle-lighting to lead us into the rest of our evening.

NO service on December 31st.

**Come back and worship with us again
on January 7, 2024!**



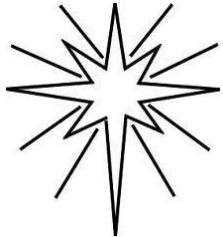
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11

A MESSAGE FROM INCOMING COUNCIL CHAIR: FRANCES ERVEN

My hope for everyone is that we can all enjoy a relaxing Christmas season this year. I also hope that we allow ourselves to enjoy community, family, and friendships as we celebrate Christmas and the beauty of the winter season.

Stay warm and cozy! Blessings Fran

Kathy's Advent Ponderings...



There is an old Swedish Prayer that goes like this:

Fear less, hope more;
Eat less, chew more;
Whine less, breathe more;
Talk less, say more;
Hate less, love more;
And all good things are yours.

(Taken from: *A forgiving heart*, edited by Lyn Klug, ©2003, p. 54)

One of the things that I like about that prayer is that it reminds us that we have choices – even when everything is caving in around us, we have choices...

- will we whine or will we breathe?
- Will we fear, or will we hope?
- When we find ourselves in situations of conflict, will we talk and talk and talk, or will we pause and find the words that really need to be said?
- Will we be consumed by rage/cynicism/pessimism, or will we dig down deep to find the heart that still has the capacity to love?

The Christmas season is full of many occasions where we need to look at our choices. If you could cast aside all the regular obligations and things that happen because You Should do them, what is it that you would do to soothe your soul or to make your heart sing?

My hope and my prayer for this Christmas season is that we can clear our eyes and calm our minds to truly experience the words of the angels:

“Don’t be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.”

- Where will the joy be for you this season?
- Where will the joy be for us as a community of faith?
- And how will that joy make a difference in how we make our choices and how we speak about the Christmas season with one another?

May God grace us with the courage to walk into this season with open hearts, and open arms – a community of faithful believers! (See over...)