# + Fourth Sunday in Advent +

Dec 22, Year of Our Lord 2024 | DS4

# + Confession and Absolution +

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

#### Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13

- $\mathbf{P}$  In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## Exhortation

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- 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.

## **Confession of Sins**

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

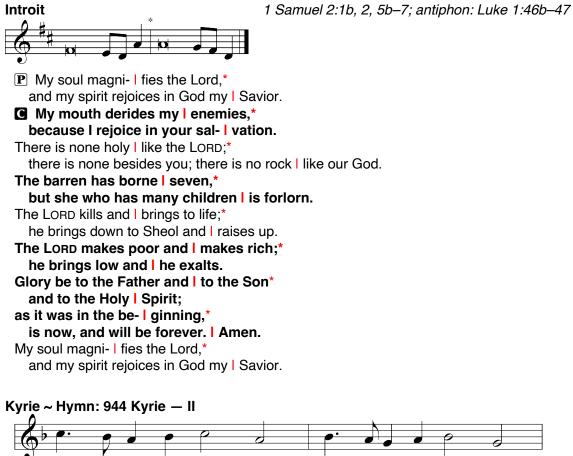
#### Absolution

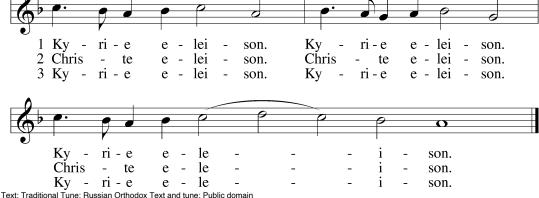
[John 20:19–23]

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



# + Service of the Word +





The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted in Advent as a practice of repentance and restrained joy as we await Christ's coming. The angels at Christmas will usher in the Gloria once again.

Brief silence to remember what the world would be like without Jesus Christ.

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you. C And with your spirit.

▶ Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
 Behold, your king is coming to you;\* righteous and having salvation.
 Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.\* From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Choral Anthem: Oh, Blest Is He That Came (11:00 a.m. service only)

4

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

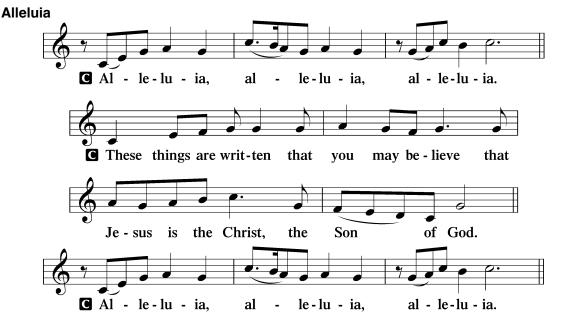
**C** Thanks be to God.

#### Verse of the Day

Epistle

Matthew 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.



#### Luke 1:39-45

#### Holy Gospel

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."



- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (8:30 a.m. Service)

**G** 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.

#### Rite of Holy Baptism for Sunday Honey Smith (11:00 a.m. Service)

Born: October 2, 2024

Parents: Cole and Tamia Smith



Hymn of the Day: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1-6)

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

#### + Sermon +

#### Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

+ Prayer +



World: For **Hurricanes Milton and Helene flood relief** and recovery in the Southeast. For **Camp Linn Haven** (North Carolina) flood cleanout and reconstruction. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**.

Vocation: For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For Baptism of **Sunday H. Smith**, daughter of Cole and Tamia, born 10/2. For recent Baptism of **Rowan Blankenbeckler** (baptized 12/15). Birth of

Autumn Lea (granddaughter to Rick & Lisa Gift). For Joshua Arguien and Adelaide Yoder who were married on 9/20. For veterans and our military (including Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith and William Smolter). For those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters. For teachers in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet, Vicar Daniel Bueckman, and Vicar Alex Ogden. For those who are engaged: Turner Gough to Mandy Haynes. For Elijah Miessler to Faith Kropp (upcoming blessing of their marriage). For children and families dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife. Birth of Hudson Hamby, born 12/12 (Great-grandson of Becky Hamby).

Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Pete Gay** (Catherine Boute's bother in-law). For the family of **Curtis** (Joshua Buslovich's brother in Virginia) who passed away. For the family of **Phyllis Strege** who passed away 9/18 and whose memorial service was held at Praise on 9/26. For the family of **Nancy Vesper** (Jim's mother) who passed away 9/9. Family of **Brad Barnett** (Phil & Carol's son) who passed away and whose memorial service was 9/3. For many remembering loved ones who passed away.

Health: For **Sharon Yoder** health and hospice care at home. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rebab. For **Will Wade** knee surgery rehab. For **Brian Strege** knee replacement rehab. Pastor **Kent Dockery** knee surgery recovery. For **Sandy Bagley** knee pain and stroke recovery. For **Barbara McGillick** nerve root pain in back. For **Emma Lu Kerekes** health and hospice care (in Oak Ridge). For **Linda Davis** anemia treatments prior heart valve procedure next year. For **Marty Smith** strength and comfort for dealing with cancer (Tyler and Megan Smith's father[-in-law]). For Katie Felt's uncle, **Tim** in Florida, final months. For **Neil Gulas** upcoming open heart surgery (Suzanne Nunnink's father). **Ted Frazier** recovering from an

infection requiring hospitalization. For **Catherine Boute** post-surgery recovery (now home from hospital). For Blake (Debbie Johnston's brother) and for Jack Wittkopp (Tom's brother) both recovering from total knee replacements. For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For Ed McGillick persistent dizziness and tendencies to fall. For Bill **Frazho** (Paul Ruble's brother-in-law) lung and overall health. For **Don Hammond** having heart problems (Joan Large's son). For **Steve Pierce** recovery from bladder cancer surgery on Friday (uncle of Seth and Tina Pierce). For Bill who has started chemo for cancer (friend of Seth and Tina Pierce). For Ron Williams (back at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For Barbara Moyers recovery from back surgery (now home). For Carole Vitzthum (and George taking care of her). For Garrison with ALS (student of Amy Mohr's daughter, Coleen Williams). For Dominic Steer (Steve Kaiser's brother-in-law) health. For Jerry & Jennifer Kropps's mothers: Louise Kropp and Marie Guinn (both turning 90 and recently diagnosed with lung mass [Louise] and cancer [Marie]). For Linda McMichael (hamstring and knee fractures healing). For **Dana** (Ed & Sandy's) niece recovering from tongue and throat cancer surgery. For **Bradley Happel** (Becky Hamby's brother) open heart surgery/quadruple bypass recovery. For Mary (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. Bill & Diane's son Luke Miller (a Lutheran pastor in the WELS) treatment after onset of seizures. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For Edward Faberzak (son of friends of Jim Vesper, former Navy serviceman) fighting cancer. For Pastor Ed Maanum kidney acceptance. For Fred Goddard (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For Steve Greene (friend of Jim Vesper) dealing with multiple cancers. For Andrew (son of a friend of Laura Bisconte) treatment for a mass in the base of his brain. For Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter and son-in-law's health and cancer treatments. For Carol (Alex Hick's aunt) recent diagnosis of frontal lobe dementia. For **Tim Smith** heart health. For **Tom** Williams maintenance chemo treatments. For Janeen Meier healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts' Aunt). For Marty Smith (Tyler [and Megan] Smith's father) rapidly advancing cancer treatment. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. Bob McDermott dealing with Parkinson's symptoms. Pastor Neil Vanderbush at Immanuel, Memphis, recurrent multiple myeloma treatment. For Alan Stremsterfer's mother health issues. For Lisa Stremsterfer's father health and stability. Aurora Stevens back and shoulder pain treatments. For Kathy Bigger (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar's Aunt Kara (health).

**Birthdays:** Steve L 12/22, Tina P 12/25, Jeff B 12/26, Janice K 12/26, Tim N 12/26, Judy T 12/27, Rose B 12/30, Ole J 12/31, Nylah G 1/3, Audrey F 1/4, Theresa L 1/4

Anniversaries: William & Kimberly S 12/30, David & Kenna C 1/4

Benediction for those worshiping on the livestream.

# + Service of the Sacrament +

## A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

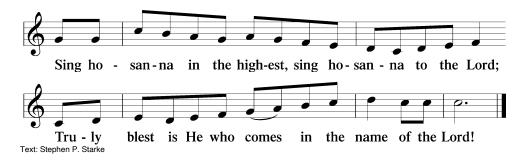
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord's Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord's Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

#### Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

- P The Lord be with you.
- **G** And with your spirit.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

p. 161 or 178

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, ... now and forever.
- C Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

 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 Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### Pax Domini

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{P}}$  The peace of the Lord be with you always.  $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  Amen.

#### Agnus Dei, p. 210

(sung) 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

> 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, pray. Text: Stephen P. Starke
>  2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, And grant us peace, O Lord, we
>  3 And grant us peace, O Lord, we

#### Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 933 My Soul Rejoices

Distribution Hymn: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Distribution Hymn: 670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Nunc Dimittis, p. 211

Luke 2:29–32

- (sung) 1 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
  - 2 All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
    All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
    For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
    God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

#### **Post-Communion Collect**

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

#### Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

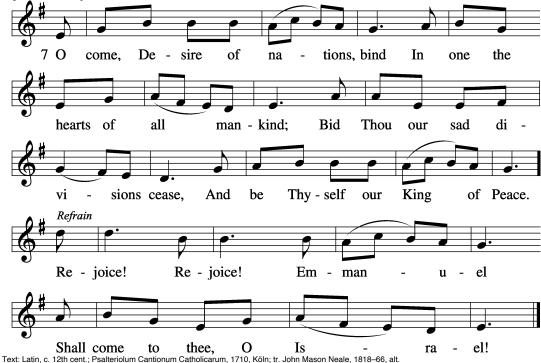
- A Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Benediction**

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.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

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#### Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Address: 315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 Phone: (865) 977-5810; Website: **praiselutheran.com** Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue "Give" button) Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/ Staffed Office Hours: Monday through Thurs. 9:00 to Noon, Thurs. also: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Office Administration: Tina Pierce, tina@praiselutheran.com Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays) DCE: Shelli Haynes, shelli@praiselutheran.com, cell: (909) 226-3179 Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink Prayer requests: if possible, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman Choir Director: Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events

# Moved? Changed your email address? Changed cell phone or home phone? Please let the church office know.

**Two Large Print Hymnals** are available. Please ask those who are helping as ushers to locate a large print hymnal for you.

Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see our build completion video!

Building Fund	2023 Receipts	2024 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$345,752	\$190,461	\$1,161,993
Pledged	\$277,877	\$179,106	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$67,875 [over]	\$11,355 [over]	\$96,723 [over]

Build Project total cost estimate: ~ 2.8 million (approximately 38% funded). Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (through at least the extended end of the Capital Campaign in December 2025). Please prayerfully (continue to) give gifts.

**Shop at Kroger?** \$128.64 was raised this last quarter! Link your account to Praise Lutheran Church in the "Community Rewards" area from your digital account for Praise Lutheran to receive community funds from Kroger. Please reach out to the church office for help: (865) 977-5810 or tina@praiselutheran.com

**Subscribe to our newsletter** at praiselutheran.com, homepage, right hand side, blue box. Need help? Contact tina@praiseluteran.com

PLEASE NOTE: New phone numbers for Pastor Roberts and his family:

Pastor Derek Roberts cell: (865) 421-9988Gretchen Roberts cell: (865) 336-6265Kate Bohnet cell (formerly Roberts, now married to<br/>Sophia Roberts cell: (865) 336-6121Gretchen Roberts cell: (865) 336-6265Jonathan Roberts cell: (865) 324-9434

#### Youth and Families

**Sunday School** (weekly on Sundays) for 2 year olds - 12th grade kids will meet during the Education hour from 9:45 - 10:45. Please see Shelli Haynes or Linda McMichael with questions on specific meeting places for each group.

**The LCMS Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025!** Praise will send a group of 12 to the gathering! Our students are raising money for this camp and invite you to mark your calendars for a special Mardi Gras themed Gala February 22 here at Praise! Please see Linda McMichael or April Torres with any questions.

- **Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers** available now. Secure their BEST car wash (normally a \$30 wash) for \$12, or 2 vouchers for \$20. Purchase from our Youth.
- **BJ's** If you haven't signed up for BJs warehouse yet and are thinking of getting a membership, please consider calling, (800) 313-8887, and giving them this **reference promo code: 814025**. This will allow our students to receive \$10 from each membership! All proceeds will support our group going to the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July! Secure a 12-month membership for only \$20 *regularly \$55*. Offer expires Dec. 31. Pick-up membership at the temporary office 139 Foothills Mall Dr.
- **The popular Swig dirty soda shop** has partnered with Praise to offer \$10 gift cards perfect for the Swig Fans on your Christmas list! These cards will be available until Christmas so stop by our youth table and buy yours this morning!

**Campfirmation** (yearly event for middleschoolers and highschoolers) at Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina from July 7-11, 2025. Theme for 2025: *The Sacraments: Signed, Sealed, and Delivered.* Designated fundraising events will take place throughout the year.

**Preparing teams to help restore Camp Linn Haven** (LCMS camp and church near Grandfather Mountain in NC). Please see Pastor Roberts if you'd like to go help in the recovery efforts at our beloved place for Campfirmation every summer.

**Middle and High School Midweek Youth** will resume **Jan 8** (6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Middle School and 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. High School).

**Children's Handbell Choir:** Thank you to the children and to Kris Smith and helpers who shared the gift of handbell music with us last Wed and this morning! We are blessed!

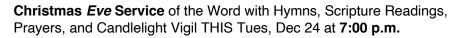
Youth Catechesis with Pastor Roberts resumes Sun, Jan 5 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

# Today

Rite of Holy Baptism for Sunday Honey Smith at the 11:00 a.m. Service.

Choir Sings How blest is He that Came at the 11:00 a.m. Service.

# This Week is: The Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Week of Christmas)



Christmas Day Divine Service THIS Wed, Dec 25 at 10:00 a.m.

**Office Hours** this week: Mon, Dec 23: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon; Tues – Friday: closed.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Choir Rehearsal** resumes Wed, Jan 8 (only Bass, Tenors, Director, and Pianist are required for this rehearsal as just the men will be singing for the Epiphany Service, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*).

Men's Bible Study resumes Wed, Jan 8

Ladies Bible Study resumes Thurs, Jan 9

Middle and High School Midweek Youth will resume Wed, Jan 8 (6-7pm Middle School and 8-9pm High School)



The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord (observed) on Sun, Jan 6

Bridal Shower on Jan 12 (Sun) after 11:00 a.m. service for Faith (Kropp) Miessler.

Registered at Walmart.com under Faith Kropp & Elijah Miessler.

Men's Lunch meets Wed, Jan 15

**Baby Shower on Jan 19** (Sun) after 11:00 a.m. service for Cole and Tamia Smith's baby girl, Sunday. Registered at Target.com under Tamia & Cole's Baby Registry.

