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**December 21, 2025**

**Today's Theme:**  
**Imminent Arrival of the Emmanuel**

**Welcome, guests!** God's love welcomes you—no matter who you are or where you come from— and so do we. We believe that Jesus Christ is the true Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection he saves all sinners even without our help. Jesus Christ makes us special people, right with God and ready for life! We learn this from the Bible, God's authentic message of grace and guidance for us. Whether you are a first-time guest or a curious observer with little religious background, we are delighted to share our worship with you. Please come back and worship with us again.

If you would like to know more about Lamb of God or want to livestream a service, visit our website [www.lambofgodlafayette.com](http://www.lambofgodlafayette.com), like us on Facebook, Instagram and/or YouTube. Lamb of God is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod WELS ([www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)) est.1850. WELS is a group of nearly 360,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations united by a common faith in Christ's saving love.

**Parents with little ones:** If your child becomes restless during the service, that's okay... we're glad they're here, and Jesus is pleased when they are brought to hear his Word, "Let the little children come to me." If your child becomes distracting to other worshipers, you may take your child to our fellowship hall which is located to the right at the back of the sanctuary and through the doors.

**Children's "My Worship Notes"** are included in another document. They can be used by children of any age to keep notes during the service.


**Imminent Arrival of the Emmanuel** - Emmanuel is an important person. "Emmanuel" means "God with us." It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining God.

God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship. He is so near to us that the thrill of anticipation is almost unbearable. Let it wash over you as you celebrate Christmas this week.

# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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## Invocation

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

Amen.

## Opening Hymn

## CW 360 | Behold, a Branch Is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Advent Confession**

Dear friends, the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

**The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.**

*Romans 13:11,12*

During this Advent season we hear again our Savior's assurance, "I am coming soon! My reward is with me." So let us put aside the deeds of darkness by confessing our sins:

*Revelation 22:12*

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you,

**Not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

*2 Peter 3:9*

## Hymn

## CW325 | My Soul in Stillness Waits (sts. Ref-1)

*\*Soloist will lead the congregation in the refrain and verse.*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.

## Advent Absolution

*[The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners (The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?) See John 20:21-23]*

Our Lord Jesus came into this world to save sinners according to God's promise. He has appeared once at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;

*1 Timothy 1:15*

**And he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

*Hebrews 9:26-28*

As we wait for Christ's return, he comes to us now through the words he has given his messengers to speak. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son  $\dagger$  and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

## CW325 | My Soul in Stillness Waits (sts. Ref-2)

*\*Soloist will lead the congregation in the refrain and verse.*

- Ref For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;  
truly my hope is in you.
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;  
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word;  
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

## Lighting of the Candles

*\*The Acolyte will light the candles.*

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary.  
He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## Hymn

## CW325 | My Soul in Stillness Waits (sts. Ref-3)

*\*Soloist will lead the congregation in the refrain and verse.*

- Ref For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;  
truly my hope is in you.
- 3 O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
and in your advent draw us all to you,  
our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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# THE WORD

*[Like Mary, we sit at the feet of Jesus to hear his Word (Luke 10:39).]*

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading

***Isaiah 7:10-14***

*[Isaiah prophesies that a virgin would give birth to God in the flesh.]*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

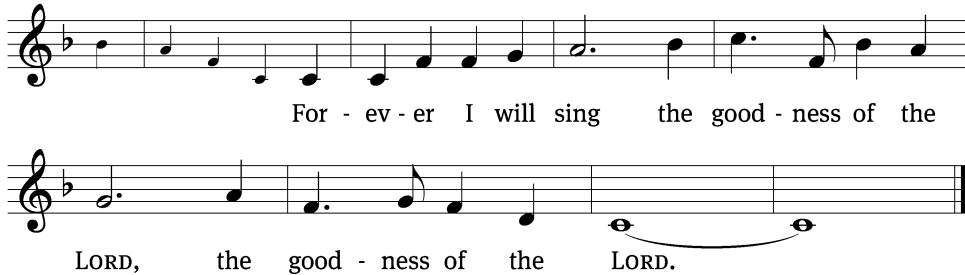
## Psalm of the Day

## 89A | Forever I Will Sing

\*Soloist will introduce the refrain. Congregation will repeat the refrain.

Soloist will sing the verses. Congregation will sing the refrain and bolded text.

### Refrain



### Tone



I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all gener- / ations.  
I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,  
that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n itself.  
The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,  
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy ones. *Refrain*

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?  
You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- / rounds you.  
Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,  
who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.  
They rejoice in your name / all day long;  
they celebrate your / righteousness.



**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Marty Haugen

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## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 1:1-7**

*[After thousands of years of God's promises, Paul looks back and sees every one of them kept when God became man.]*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup>And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*[It has been a tradition in the Christian church to stand for the reading of the gospel for the past 2,000 years. Just as subjects rise when a king speaks, we rise out of respect for the words of our King.]*

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

## Matthew 1:23

*\*Congregation will sing the refrain. Soloist will sing the verses.*



## Refrain



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel.

## Refrain

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## Gospel

## Matthew 1:18-25

*[Joseph knew full well that Mary would give birth to a son who would be Emmanuel, God with us.]*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Sermon

*Children are invited to sit in the front of the sanctuary.*

**Hymn of the Day**      **CW 316 | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (sts 1,Ref,2-4,Ref)**

*[The Hymn of the Day is chosen because of its strong connection to the Gospel reading.]*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that

ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

# Sermon

**based on Isaiah 7:10-14**

## “A Surprising Sign from the Savior”

# CONFESSION OF FAITH

*+Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.*

## 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 truly 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.

## Prayer of the Church

*[The Prayer for the Church includes prayers for our brothers and sisters in our congregation. Since we belong to something bigger than ourselves, the Christian Church, we pray for the needs and struggles of all God's people on earth.]*

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## Offering

If you wish to give an offering:

- place it in the offering plate
- scan this QR code
- text any dollar amount to **84321**
- mail a check to the church—1893 E 600 North, West Lafayette, IN 47906
- go to the church website [www.lambofgodlafayette.com](http://www.lambofgodlafayette.com) and click **GIVE** in the upper right corner.



## THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Sanctus

CW 167 | Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, 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.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

## Words of Institution

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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**



## Agnus Dei

## CW 169 | O Christ, Lamb of God

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

## Distribution

## Distribution Hymn

## CW320 | As Angels Joys with One Accord

1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the  
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that  
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned  
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we

ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly  
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he  
not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in  
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel

praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.  
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.  
grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.  
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

- 5 He comes in water to the child  
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.  
This washing seals his pard'ning grace  
and shows the Father's kindly face.
- 6 He comes to us in bread and wine  
to give himself and gifts divine.  
O praise him for this sacrament,  
redeeming love's great testament!

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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Tune: Public domain

## Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

*[The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).]*

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  $\text{||}$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

### CW320 | As Angels Joys with One Accord (sts. 7)

7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall van - ish

when he comes a - gain. Where we shall see him

face to face, there joy a - lone shall have a place.

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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### **Serving at Worship (12/21)**

Pastor: Andrew Ewings

Pianist: Liz Schmidt

Usher/Greeter: Holmes family

Acolyte: Dax Graves

Livestream: Bednarski family

Refreshments: Carrie May Ray

### **Serving Christmas Eve (12/24)**

Guest Pastor: Andrew Ewings

Pianist: Liz Schmidt

Acolyte: Dax Graves

Livestream: Graves family

### **Serving at Worship (12/28)**

Pastor: Andrew Ewings

Pianist: TBD

Usher/Greeter: Bednarski family

Acolyte: Mitchell Becker

Livestream: Bednarski family

Refreshments: Volunteer needed

## This Week's Activities

- Sun, Dec 21 • Sunday School and Adult Bible Study – 9:15am  
• Worship service – 10:30am
- Tue, Dec 23 • Exercise Night at LoG – 6pm
- Wed, Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Service – 7pm
- Thu, Dec 25 • Christmas Day

## Save the Date (More info in 'Announcement' section or via the weekly e-newsletter)

- Thu, Jan 15 • Mornings with Mommy – 9:15-11am

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** - "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:15). Those are the words the shepherds spoke after hearing the angel's announcement of our Savior's birth, and they are also the words of our hearts as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. We will have extra opportunities to prepare for Jesus' coming this Advent season, as we make visits to Bethlehem to see salvation history play out.

The next **Mornings with Mommy (MwM)** will be on **Thursday, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** from **9:45-11am**. To register, scan the QR code or visit the Lamb of God website at <https://lambofgodlafayette.com/ministry/mornings-with-mommy/>.



- Jan 15 – Winter Days: Snowflakes, Hats and Mittens
- Feb 5 – Red, Hearts and Valentines
- Feb 19 – All About Me!

**Would you like to receive the weekly e-newsletter from Lamb of God?** If so, please provide your contact information in the Friendship Register on your row or contact the church office at [loginlafayette@gmail.com](mailto:loginlafayette@gmail.com).

**Join us in reading the Bible** – Lamb of God has made it a goal to read through the entire Bible in 2025. But even if you are behind, it's never too late to join us on our reading plan. Scan the QR code to join on the Holy Bible app or use the information below to read along with your own Bible.



### **Lamb of God's Reading Plan**

Dec 21 – Galatians 1-3

Dec 24 – Ephesians 4-6

Dec 27 – 1 Thessalonians 1-5

Dec 22 – Galatians 4-6

Dec 25 – Philippians 1-3

Dec 28 – 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Dec 23 – Ephesians 1-3

Dec 26 – Colossians 1-4

Dec 29 – 1 Timothy 1-6

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

For all those in our midst who continue to deal with physical ailments or are home bound, including Bryant and Linda Monk, Mike Beights, Jim Holmes, Joan Bonnet, and Chelsea (Dawn's friend diagnosed with breast cancer). We give you praise for the positive news Tom Schroeder (Liz's brother-in-law) received this week!

For all those who are suffering from abuse in the home, that they might seek help.

For teachers, staff and students and their respective classrooms.