

# Living Word Lutheran Church



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018



John  
answered  
them all,  
saying, “I  
baptize you  
with water,  
but he who is  
mightier than I  
is coming...”

*Luke 3:16*

**PASTOR:** The Rev. Eric Hullstrom

**Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9 am at the Meridian Habitat & Community Center**  
(Children’s Sunday School and Adult Bible Study available during the school year)

14422 Meridian East Puyallup, WA 98374

**LWLC Office:** 11707 101<sup>st</sup> Ave E, Bldg B 253-445-4292 Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm, M-F

**Mailing address:** PO Box 732005 Puyallup, WA 98373

[www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com](http://www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com)

**Mission Statement:** “We, God’s people of Living Word Lutheran Church, grounded in Holy Scripture, are called to follow and share the inspired Word of God in Christ, to live as faithful and obedient servants, reaching out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ.”

**Motto:** “Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone.”

Affiliated with LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/December 9-15, 2018

This week's activities:

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am  6:00 pm	Worship Service Coffee Hour Adult Sunday School Children's Sunday School Acts 2 Church meet at the home of Pastor Eric and Connie.
<b>Monday</b>	6:30 pm	Busy Women's Bible Study at Sharlene Parker's home
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	Women's Ministry Board meeting at the LWLC Office
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 am 6:45 pm	LWLC Prayer for Guidance at the LWLC Office Adult Bible Study at the LWLC Office
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 am 10:30 am 7:30 pm	Men's Devotional Bible Study at the LWLC Office Midweek Bible Study at the LWLC Office Choir Practice at the LWLC Office

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Don & Carol Brennan  
thanking God for our many blessings and this wonderful season!*

### Today's Worship Assistants

**Set up/Tear Down (Team 2)**-Al Auge, Ron Heilman, Gary Gjerstad, Joe Burdick, Jim Gronhovd, Daryl Olson, Ron Johnson, Larry Vollmer **Ushers**- Al & Lydia Auge; **Acolyte**-Lydia Auge; **Lector**-Dan Owen; **Communion Set-up/takedown**-Nancy Martin, Valerie Claiborne; **Communion Assistants**-Lorraine Stargel, Dave Ostendorf, Sharon Johnson; **Comm. Bread**-Gayla Fenimore; **Sound System**-Ron Heilman; **Tellers** -Gary Gjerstad, Al Auge; **Coffee Hour**-Carol Brennan, Rosie Heintz; **Altar Setup/Take Down**- Yvonne Olson, Sue Fields; **Julian Estates Worship Leaders**-Ron Heilman, Sharlene Parker; **Parking Lot**-Dave Ostendorf

### Next week's Scriptures:

Zephaniah 3:14-20      Psalm 85  
Luke 7:18-23

### **Poinsettias**

This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus, the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.



**Poinsettias.** The holiday season is here! It's wonderful to have beautiful poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas '**in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration.** After the Christmas Eve Service, your poinsettia will go home and share your Christmas Day! Please sign up at the visitor's table for your poinsettia and a \$10.00 donation.



### **Paradise, California**

Harold and Clarice Liemohn have relatives affected by the Camp fire. Several people have asked if they knew of a reliable charity serving the Paradise victims. Their cousins have suggested North Valley Community Foundation, [www.nvcg.org](http://www.nvcg.org). An organization in which 1% goes to overhead and the rest to the entire community of Paradise and surrounding areas affected by the Camp Fire. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Camp Fire Relief Fund to assist the many community organizations serving evacuees and first responders. Send checks to NVCF Camp Fire Relief, 240 Main St. Ste 260, Chico, CA 95928.

*Please silence all electronic devices, including cell phones, upon entering the sanctuary.*

## Living Word Lutheran Church

Order for Worship

When you hear the bell, please be seated for the announcements.

### Announcements

Please sign the attendance register and pass it down the row.

*Our worship begins with the prelude. "Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe." (Hebrews 12:28)*

### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

#### "In Christ Alone"

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my  
 2 In Christ a - lone, Who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less  
 3 There in the ground His bo - dy lay, light of the world by dark - ness  
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in

song, this cor - ner-stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the fier - cest drought and  
 babe: this gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to  
 slain. Then, burst - ing forth in glor - ious day, up from the grave He rose a -  
 me. From life's first cry to fin - al breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
 save, till on that Cross, as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
 gain. And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 ny. No pow'r of Hell, no scheme of man can ev - er pluck me from His

cease! My Com - for - ter, my All - in - All; here in the love of Christ I'll stand.  
 fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I'll live.  
 me, for I am His and He is mine, bought with the prec - ious blood of Christ.  
 hand. Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Words and music by Steve Getty and Stuart Townend ©2001 Thankyou Music

### We Worship with Confession.

Pastor: Remembering our baptism into Christ Jesus, we gather as we are to live in the name of the Father, and of the (✠)  
 Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen.

P: Beloved in the LORD, let us draw near with faithful hearts and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the  
 name of our LORD Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD. **C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my sins unto the LORD. **C: May God forgive the offense of my sin.**

P: (facing altar which symbolizes God's presence): *Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, C: we confess to You that we are by nature sinners and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, pleading for and seeking Your grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.*

(Silence for personal reflection and self-examination.)

*P: Most merciful God... C: You have given Your only begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us, and for Jesus' sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.*

P: (facing the congregation declares God's grace): Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for Jesus' sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on Jesus' Name, He gives power to become children of God and bestows on them His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O LORD, unto us all. **C: Amen.**

**All: Praise the LORD!**

We are sent to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19). We begin by sharing the peace of the LORD with one another.

**Cantors sing verses 1-3, Congregation sings responsively the refrain.**

**Cantors: Vs 1-** In our arrogance and pride We come to You. In our weakness and our guilt, We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

**Cantors: Vs 2-** In our trouble and our pain We come to You. In our darkness and our grief, We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

**Cantors: Vs 3-** Mighty God of love and power We come to You. You are here, and You are now. We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

P: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### Glory to God

**Congregation:** (Refrain)

**Glory to God in the highest, Sing! Glory to God!  
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth!**

**Verse 1:** *Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father;  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory!* **C:** (Refrain)

**Verse 2:** *Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer!* **C:** (Refrain)

**Verse 3: Women: For You alone are the Holy One,  
Men: You alone are the Lord, the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
**All:** with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father! **C:** (Refrain)**

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P (spoken): *The LORD be with you.*

**C:** (spoken): **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (All pray):

**God of grace and truth, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

***We Hear and Read God's Word***

**A Liturgy of Light**

**P:** Advent calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All around us people are preparing – for parties, dinners and presents. Yet, these activities often distract us from what is really important in our preparation. But, on the other hand, behind these distractions you might hear the echo of the voice crying in a wilderness of materialism: “Prepare for what is really important.” “Prepare ye the Way of the LORD!”

**All:** **Rather than get lost in this wilderness of distractions, may the music and the candles make us attentive to the voice that is even now calling us to prepare. We will listen for the Word in the words of Scripture.**

***“Ancient Words”***

**This reading is from the Book of Malachi the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.** (ESV)

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup> “For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup> From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

(Here ends this reading.)

**LWLC Choir** ***“You are Holy” (Prince of Peace)***

by: Marc Imboden, Tammi Rhoton, arr. Dave Williamson

**This reading is from the Book of Psalms, Psalm 66** (ESV)

(to be read responsively)

Reader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; <sup>2</sup> sing the glory of his name;

**Congregation: give to him glorious praise!**

R: <sup>3</sup> Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

**C: So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.**

R: <sup>4</sup> All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;

**C: they sing praises to your name.”**

R: <sup>5</sup> Come and see what God has done:

**C: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.**

R: <sup>6</sup> He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

**C: There did we rejoice in him,**

R: <sup>7</sup> who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations

**C: let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

R: <sup>8</sup> Bless our God, O peoples;

**C: let the sound of his praise be heard,**

R: <sup>9</sup> who has kept our soul among the living

**C: and has not let our feet slip.**

R: <sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have tested us;

**C: you have tried us as silver is tried.**

R: <sup>11</sup> You brought us into the net;

**C: you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

R: <sup>12</sup> you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;

**C: yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**



**Peace, peace, peace, the gift of Christ is peace.**

**We walk with God, our past forgiven.**

**All in Him is life and heaven.**

**Peace, peace, peace, the gift of Christ is peace.**

P: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the second candle as an act of preparation, and we call it "**Peace**".  
(The Hymn follows, please stand)

***These Candles Shine with Glorious Light***

Tune: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry."- LBW#36 Text: © 2006 Thomas F. Fischer and CreativeMusic.com.  
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**These candles shine with glorious light,  
Gives *peace* and hope to those in night,  
They brightly shine in night's dark day,  
Gives *peace* and hope for us today.**

**Give *peace*, O LORD, to us this day,  
Make in our hearts a ready way.  
That Christ, our King of *Peace*, may come  
Into our hearts and make His home**

**Children's Time with Lydia Auge** -As the young children gather in the chancel; children of all ages are encouraged to listen in.

**Hymn of the Day**

**"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

**LBW #26**

**The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter (ESV). **C:** *Glory to You, O LORD.***

<sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?<sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even

now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is

to do likewise.”<sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to

untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

(The Gospel of the LORD.)

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

### ***We Worship by Confessing Our Faith in the Words of the 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made 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. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He 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

**Sermon**

**Pastor Eric Hullstrom**

### ***We Worship In Thanksgiving By Offering Our Gifts***

**Offertory**

*The offering is received*

As the congregation stands, the ushers bring the offering forward.

***“With Grateful Joy”***

With grateful joy for you the source of all life  
We raise one voice to you from whom all blessings flow.  
You are the Giver of Life; you are the Lover of life,  
the Good Sustainer of Life. We live in you. We live in you.

*We pray together the offering prayer: P: Merciful Father...*

**C:** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our LORD.

**Amen**

### The Prayers of the church

(Each petition concludes with “LORD, in your mercy”, to which the congregation responds: “hear our prayer”)

## ***We Worship by Receiving Our LORD in His Holy Meal***

### ***The Great Thanksgiving (Spoken)***

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.*

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface:)*

**C:**     *Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest.*

### **The Words of Institution and The LORD’S Prayer (congregation sings)**

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Holy Communion:** Lutherans believe the LORD’s Supper is a holy sacrament in which Christ comes to us with His grace, love, compassion, and forgiveness. The crucified and risen Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine – He promises: “This is my body... This is my blood”. Therefore, the Apostle Paul says we should examine ourselves lest we eat or drink in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27ff.). Martin Luther wrote, “Anyone who does not believe these words (‘this is My body given for you this is My blood shed for you.’), is neither prepared nor worthy; for the words, ‘FOR YOU’ requires simply a believing heart.” Therefore, all (including children who have received instruction) who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD and who see His presence in the sacrament are welcome to commune with us.

As you come forward for communion, you are invited to dip your fingers in the water of the baptismal font and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead as a reminder of Christ’s claim upon you through your baptism.

(For those with gluten allergies, we now have gluten-free wafers available for Communion on the Baptismal Font.)

The congregation sings: **“Lamb of God”**

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.***

**Communion Hymns:****"Song of Confession"**

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, Ho - ly and lov - ing, For - give, for - give.

Fa - ther, Fa - ther, I am un - wor - thy, For - give, for - give. *3rd time only* 1. You  
2. Cre

know ate my in thoughts, My anx - ious - ness and pride. You  
me A heart that's clean and new. Re -

hear store my words, So care - less and un - kind.  
my love, And let me walk with You.

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**"When Peace, like a River"****LBW #346****"Emmanuel" (Sing twice)**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,  
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.**

**Post-Communion Prayer and Canticle**

Thank God and sing praise! Raise our voic-es high - er! Pro - claim

Christ's Way! Thank God and sing praise! Make the cir-cle wid - er!

All who know the taste of grace! God's peop - le gath - ered all

ov - er the world, led on in prom - ise, sent forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing all ov - er the world, sing Hal - le - lu - jah!

*[2]* *[2]* *Fine* *D.C. al Fine*

The Benediction (Pastor)

The congregation sings 3-fold "Amen"

**On Our Way Rejoicing**

## Closing Hymn

## "Christ is Coming Lift Your Eyes"

1. Christ is com - ing! Lift your eyes! Sweep your hearts, pre - pare your lives.  
 2. Wash your hearts, con - fess your sin. See your heav - en now be - gin.

Spread your wel - come. He is near. Soon Mes - si - ah will ap - pear!  
 Look be - yond your fear and pride. See His King - dom o - pen wide.

He is life and peace pro - found. Trust His love and turn a - round!  
 Meet the Lord of sky and sea, God in full re - al - i - ty!

Christ is com - ing! Don't de - lay! He is Lord! Pre - pare His way!  
 Christ is com - ing! Don't de - lay! He is Lord! Pre - pare His way!

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**We Worship By How We Live During the Week**

P: Go in Peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Musician: Mary Kaye Owen

Choir Director: Dan Owen

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**Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!**

*If you are a visitor, we are blessed that you have joined us for worship. We encourage you to pick up a 'Welcome' packet at the Visitor's table to introduce you to our church. Coffee hour will follow the worship service. Please join us.*

**NEXT WEEK's (Dec 16) Worship Assistants**

**Set up/Tear Down (Team 1)**- Bill Zavadii, Andy Anderson, Skip Whelan, Dennis Krumwiede, Rick Fields, Alex Burdick, Gary Heintz  
**Ushers**- Jim & Sue Gronhovd; **Acolyte**- Kailan Burdick; **Lector**- TBD; **Communion Set-up/takedown**- Lorraine Stargel, Nancy Martin; **Communion Assistants**- Gary & Barbara Gjerstad, Sharon Johnson; **Comm. Bread**-Gayla Fenimore; **Sound System**-Ron Johnson; **Tellers** – Sharon Johnson, Judy Krumwiede; **Coffee Hour**-Barbara Gjerstad, Clarice Liemohn; **Altar Setup/Take Down**- Yvonne Olson, Valerie Claiborne; **Parking Lot Duty**-Al Auge; **Flowers**- Ron & Gaye Anderson;  
**Julian Estates Worship Leaders**-Mike & Debbie Stankovich

**If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 2Chronicles 7:14**

Jepsen, Chase, Seth Heard, Powell, Evan Gregory Blodgett, Ken Solbrack, Michael Elliott, Chris Berentson, Cole Lufkin (Gjerstad's grandson), Brady Woodman (Relma Burmeister's grandson), Devlin Durkin; Curtis & Riley McKenzie, Jacob Ramsey (Fenimore's grandson), Richy (Larry and Mary Vollmer's grandson). *Our prayers for all those in harm's way are urgently needed during this time of turmoil and strife in this country.*

**Prayers for those with cancer or long-term illness.** Roger (Gary Gjerstad's brother), Dixie (Sharlene Parker's sister). Don Minnick (Harold & Clarice Liemohn), Bob Lungberg (Bob & Nancy Martin), Aunt Glenda (Lorraine Stargel), Cousin Sandy (Lorraine Stargel), Snookie Pankrantz, Taressa (Dennis & Judy Krumwiede's daughter-in-law). Tony Home (Bob Martin, Hal Martin, Lonna & Tom Groce), Robert Hawthorne (Jim & Mei Barker), Wanee (Sharlene Parker), Mary Anne Horiskey (Bonnie DeBord), Dave & Judy's Ostendorf's daughter-in-law. Baby Eli and his parents (Jim & Sue Gronhovd). Rich Bogle, (Sharon Edward's cousin's husband) 5-year-old Lucas Bride (Heidi Sturdivant), Donna (friend of Harold & Clarice Liemohn). **Amy Roberts**, 41-year-old of good friend in Virginia (Ruth Anderson) who has been recently diagnosed with colon cancer.

**Prayers for healing and strength for those with health concerns and those facing or recovering from surgery.** Continued prayers for **Ron & Sharon Johnson's son & daughter in law** 's new son Elijah, pray for growth and healing without complications. Daughter **Jeanette** (Al & Darlene Luberts) having emotional problems and prayers for **Suzy** improving in a home for brain injured people. Pray for continued healthy pregnancy for **Sarah DeBord**. **Jill West** (Tom & Denise Alvord's daughter), prayers for doctor's discernment, strength and healing. **Tom DeBord** (Jeff DeBord's cousin) who is in stage 3 heart failure, pray for healing and comfort. Prayers for **son Jason and wife Cristi** (Dave & Judy Ostendorf) who are both experiencing medical issues. Prayers for **Cindy & Tim** for blessings, guidance and strength.

Prayers for **all the people** in Paradise, California who are affected by the fires. God's comfort and help for victims and families of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. God's healing and guidance for our nation in this troubled time.

**"The 12 Days of Christmas"**

**A song with a message?** According to folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith. Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

**The partridge in a pear tree** is Jesus Christ.  
**Two turtle doves** are the Old and New Testaments.  
**Three French hens** stand for faith, hope and love.  
**The four calling birds** are the four gospels.  
**The five golden rings** are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.  
**The six geese a-laying** represent the six days of creation.  
**Seven swans a-swimming** represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

**The eight maids a-milking** are Jesus' eight Beatitudes.  
**Nine ladies dancing** are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
**The 10 lords a-leaping** are the Ten Commandments.  
**The 11 pipers** piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.  
**The 12 drummers drumming** symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec 9	The Tapestry Singers present <b>Christmas Around the World</b> -Christmas Concert and Silent Auction at 3 pm at the United Methodist Church, 1919 W. Pioneer. Suggested Donation: \$5-\$10. Complimentary Reception following the Concert.
Dec 16	 <b>Children's Christmas Program during worship service.</b>
Dec 24	 <b>Christmas Eve 'Candlelight' Service at 5:00 pm</b>

**My Christmas Eve** By Bob Welsh

The hours late, should go to bed  
Near midnight I believe  
But memories keep me wide awake  
This snowy Christmas Eve

Yes, memories of my kids moved on  
Each has their separate life  
And how the holidays have changed  
Since angels took my wife

The toys, the food, the Christmas cheer  
My wife would bear the load  
Because I work most holidays  
State Trooper on the road

Just sitting in my easy chair  
So many years retired  
I reminisce of times gone by  
And all that has transpired

Of all the many happenings  
That seem to come to light  
A multitude of them occurred  
Right on this very night

A drunken woman in a wreck  
Died on Christmas eve  
Leaves memories of a tragic case  
Most people won't believe

I had to drive to where she lived  
To tell her next of kin  
And found the rundown mobile home  
She had been living in

The person answering the door  
I still recall today  
A little girl about four years old  
She said "I'm Sue McKay"

I asked her if her dad was home  
And felt the longest pause  
She said "My daddy ran away"  
"You must be Santa Claus"

"My mommy said you'd come tonight"  
"If I just stayed in bed"  
"And bring a pretty doll for me"  
"That's what my mommy said"

I broke the law that Christmas Eve  
Did not call child's care  
They'd merely put her in a room  
And that I could not bear

I picked her up and took her home  
My wife tucked her in bed  
And wrapped a pretty doll for her  
Just like her mommy said

Adopted by a loving home  
And soon they moved away  
I won't forget that Christmas Eve  
And little Sue McKay

Another bitter Christmas Eve  
A blizzard to behold  
Had left a family in a ditch  
Just trapped there in the cold

By grace of God I spotted them  
All cold and gaunt with fright  
I drove them to a motel room  
To safely spend the night

One Christmas Eve a homeless man  
Shivering and wet  
Was trying hard to get a ride  
I'm sure he'd never get

I picked him up and drove him  
To a diner on the hill  
To warm his bones I left him with  
a five dollar bill

Strange how when you are all alone  
What memories you recall  
You think of everything you've done  
And was it worth it all

I think about my God, my job  
My children and my wife  
Would I do it all the same  
Could I re-live my life

Then comes a knock upon my door  
This late who could it be  
A neighbor or has Santa Claus  
Come to visit me?

The figure standing in the cold  
Gives me a sudden fright  
A trooper with that solemn look  
Dear God, who has died tonight?

I'm flashing back to bygone years  
How I'd often stood  
On someone's porch to bring them news  
And it was never good

Is this how life gets back at me  
For misery I've induced  
Where pain I've caused some other folks  
Has now come home to roost

But looking in the troopers eyes  
My mind is in a whirl  
I see a pleasant countenance  
The trooper is a girl

She reached and smiled to shake my hand  
And silence wasn't broke  
Until a tear rolled down her cheek  
And then she softly spoke

"I'm sure you don't remember me"  
"But thought I'd stop and say"  
"God bless you on this Christmas Eve"  
"I'm Trooper Sue McKay"

