

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

December 17, 2023

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005

Worship Service:
Sunday, 9:30 am

www.standrewlutheran.com ■ Telephone: 503-646-0629

Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA?

In the ELCA, do black churches really matter? What are some of the struggles they face? Pastor Lenny Duncan spoke to bishops, church leaders, and members across the country for two videos titled "Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA." This week, Sister India welcomes Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia to discuss this issue as it applies to the Oregon Synod. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11am. This is the third session of this class.

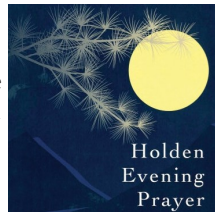
The Season of Advent

We are in the season of Advent. It is here that God's church is called to light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. As the Christian new year begins, we join hands and enter the darkness, actively waiting, singing, and praying anew for God's light to overwhelm the world.

Mid-week Advent worship services will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, with meditations by members of the congregation on the themes of:

December 20: Ponder (LuAnn Staul)

The 30-minute worship service will begin at 7:00 pm in the Chapel and will also be available via Zoom.



Advent Devotional: The Dawn Chorus

The congregation is invited to enrich the season of Advent with a new devotional from SALT. Pick up "The Dawn Chorus" at the entrance to the Sanctuary and initiate a weekly devotion as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. The devotional comes in two parts: a booklet and a sheet of ornaments to cut out and decorate.



Week three of Advent
Sparrow of Joy
Luke 1:26-38

Once again, the creators at SALT give us a new perspective on an age-old tradition. What can we learn from our fellow creatures who begin their day by bravely singing into the dark? The cardinal, bluebird, sparrow, hen, and dove each represent one of the themes of Advent and remind us that we're all God's creatures.

St. Andrew's Wednesday Book Group

Wednesday Book Group with Sister India will be discussing the book *Watching Myself Be Borderline: A Smart Sufferer Says How It Started and How She Survives* by our very own Janet Vorvick. The group meets in the St. Andrew Room on Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm.



Andy's Room: St. Andrew's First Podcast

The first episode of St. Andrew's brand new podcast, Andy's Room, is now live! Andy's Room is created especially for the people of St. Andrew, hosted and created by our Director of Next Generational Ministry, Kyler Vogt. A focal point of this podcast is amplifying the voices of younger members of our congregation. In this debut episode, Kyler has a conversation with Andy and Rachel Roberts about how they became Lutherans, their journey to St. Andrew, and what sounds like Good News to them. You can access Andy's Room on Spotify by searching Andy's Room Podcast, or you can use the link below.

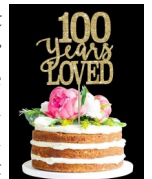


For those curious about the title: aside from being somewhat of a homonym with St. Andrew, Andy's Room is a reference to the Toy Story movie series. While the movies follow the stories of the toys, their stories shed light on the transitions going on in the life of Andy, the child to whom they belong: leaving his childhood home, growing up, going off to college, etc. The hope for this podcast is in the same vein—that through hearing the thoughts/stories of individuals we learn more about who we are as a whole and where God is calling us to go. I hope you enjoy it!

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/kyler-vogt>

Celebrating Her 100th Birthday

Loretta Stroud celebrates her first three-digit birthday on **Wednesday, December 20**, and her family is planning a get-together to celebrate the event. The party will be held in Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 pm, so if you're planning to attend Wednesday Evening Prayer in the Chapel that evening, you're just steps away from stopping by to wish Loretta a Happy 100th Birthday! Loretta request that you don't bring any gifts, just come and say hi and happy birthday.



Save the date – MACG game gathering!

The MACG Core Team is organizing another game gathering, on **Sunday, January 21**, from **1-3 pm**. You can bring your own lunch and stay here after worship and Education Hour or return at 1:00 pm. Join us as we play board games, card games, or whatever type of games you like. We will have some games here for you to choose from, but please feel free to bring a favorite game from home. You can also bring a snack to share. Whether you are newer to our community or a charter member, this is a great way to connect with others in a low-pressure and fun atmosphere. Any questions? Contact any member of the MACG Core Team: Gretchen Bancroft, Larry Bliesner, Pat Christiansen, Lynn Santelmann, or Jan Smith



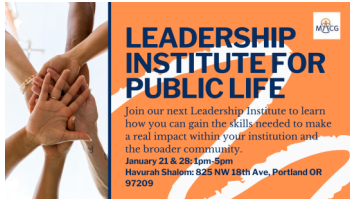
MACG

Leadership Training Institute

Register [HERE](#):

<http://tinyurl.com/3ww6e8by>

St. Andrew is experiencing a critical time as we make the transition to a new pastoral leadership. We are blessed to have a solid base of strong lay leaders, but we can accomplish more when we have more people to guide our various ministries. This IAF-based Leadership Training is designed to empower leaders like you and create new leaders with the skills and



knowledge needed to make a real impact within St. Andrew and the broader community. The skills you will learn will be valuable in your life both inside and outside of the church community.

Please join us for two sessions, both on Sunday afternoons: **January 21 and January 28**, from 1-5 pm, at Havurah Shalom in NW Portland. This institute is free to us because we are members of MACG. For more information, click on this link

<http://tinyurl.com/387eht9c>

Questions? Talk with any member of the MACG Core Team: Gretchen Bancroft, Larry Bliesner, Pat Christiansen, Lynn Santelmann, or Jan Smith.

Havurah Shalom

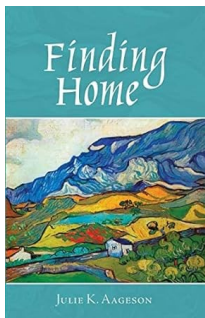
825 NW 18th, Portland OR 97209

Wonderful Book from Julie Aageson

On Sunday Dec 10, Pastor Laurie mentioned Julie's new book *Finding Home*. "Home is where we find again and again who we are..." If you are interested in purchasing this book you can next Sunday, Julie will bring a few copies to the worship service. Prices are \$19/softcover and \$38/ hardback

Amazon description:

For all who know the security of home—in all its iterations—and for those who don't, finding home is complicated. Home always is characterized by joy and sorrow, grief and gladness, the realities of complicated lives. What is it like to flee the horrors of war as a refugee in search of home? When daily life is unbearable, what exactly does home mean? How do we learn to be at home in our bodies, at home with ourselves? What does it mean to be made in the likeness of the Holy One? Can we find home in the company of strangers and how do we reclaim our earth home? So many images swim just below the surface of my memory, all the houses where I came to know home. It takes little to retrieve them—a shared story, the pungent smell of tide flats, the sound of rain on a tin roof. But home, of course, is much more than houses. These reflections invite readers to explore identity, the importance of rootedness, discovering home away from home, what it means to be home for one another. Finding home—literally and metaphorically—is challenging.



Brass Quintet

The brass quintet will be playing Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary this Sunday **December 17** following the worship service until the start of the Education Hour.



Advent and Christmas Schedule



Wednesday Evening Advent Services

7:00 pm, Sanctuary

December 20: Ponder

Christmas Eve Intergenerational Worship, **December 24**

9:30 am, Sanctuary

Cookie Decorating after Christmas Eve Worship, **December 24**

10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, **December 24**

9:00 pm, Sanctuary



Christmas Day Worship, **December 25**

Pre-recorded on YouTube and available starting at 11:00 am



New Year's Eve Pinochle Party Is BACK!

After a COVID-induced hiatus of three years, St Andrew pinochle enthusiasts will be meeting once again at the home of Don and Mickey Nearhood on...wait for it!...**Sunday, December 31!** We'll gather at 7:00 pm to greet and eat and begin playing promptly at 7:30 pm. The cost is minimal (\$1.00 per person) and you have the chance of going home the winner of BIG BUCKS!

With only 24 slots on the registration board in the Narthex, it's important that people sign up ASAP! Only one name per line and indicate if you will be bringing finger foods or dessert. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. You may bring your own if you have a particular favorite. (Champagne and sparkling cider for the New Year's toast will be provided by your hosts.) You'll find the Nearhoods at 11045 SW Berkshire St; call them at 503-644-0972 if you need directions or you have questions. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to Mickey's seafood allergies, please do not bring any food containing fish or shellfish.** Thank you!

Nurturing Conversations

Start off 2024 right by taking a moment now to reserve your place at the table Monday evenings in January. Tira Nesset, Parish Nurse, will host "Nourishing Conversations," dinners and conversation rooted in St. Andrew's core values of Self-Care, Earth Care and Community Care.

Beginning **Monday, January 8**, and continuing through **Monday, January 29**, individuals and families, young and old, are invited to gather in the St. Andrew kitchen starting around **5:00 pm** to begin food prep. Tira will discuss the benefits of plant-based, whole food eating patterns for our health, the health of our planet, and social justice. She will share recipes that can easily be incorporated into our individual meal planning. After working together to create our dinner, we will sit down at table together about 6:00 pm to eat and strengthen our relationships through conversation with one another.

Watch for more details to be revealed in the newsletter in the coming weeks. This course is sponsored by the Adult Education, Earth Care, Health Ministries, and Social Justice teams.

Call Committee

St Andrew Mission Site Profile Demographics

The Mission Site Profile (MSP) provides key information for the synod and prospective pastors about St. Andrew and our community. In the first part of the MSP specific questions are asked about St. Andrew's demographics and to describe the community in terms of socio-economic status, demographics, primary areas of employment, and lifestyle. We hope you learn as much as we did from this report.



St. Andrew member gender comparison:

Female: 58% Male: 42%

St. Andrew member age distribution:

19 years or younger:	5%
20-34:	15%
35-49:	10%
50-65:	15%
Over 65:	50%

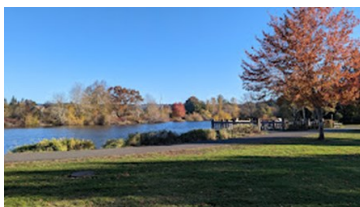
Distance members live from the church facilities:

1/2 mile or less:	10%
1/2 to 1 mile:	10%
1 - 3 miles:	10%
More than 3 miles:	70%



St. Andrew is in Beaverton, Oregon, a suburban residential community west of Portland, Oregon. Beaverton is located between the Portland West Hills and Tualatin Valley farmlands. St Andrew members primarily live in Beaverton and the surrounding suburban communities of Bethany, Aloha, Hillsboro, and Tigard. The area includes wineries, historic landmarks, international restaurants, shops, the Reser Center for the Arts, as well as professional sports, and museums in the City of Portland.

Beaverton is home to Oregon's largest employer, Nike, and its global headquarters, as well as several tech companies, including Intel. Many congregation members are/were employed with local healthcare services, university and k-12 teaching positions, the technology industry, and government services. An active outdoor lifestyle is supported by the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, which is the largest special park district in Oregon, with 90 park sites, 60 miles of hard and soft-paved trails for walking and biking, and more than 15,000 acres of natural area. One of the three lakes in the park district, Commonwealth Park, is located within a block of St. Andrew. Additional opportunities for outdoor activities are available on Mt Hood, in the Columbia Gorge, and at the Pacific Ocean, all within 90 minutes of Beaverton.



Median house prices in Beaverton, OR are \$443,182. The more expensive areas tend to be in the north and south parts, while more affordable homes are in the west regions. Of the 40,537 occupied housing units in Beaverton, 49.64% are owner-occupied.

Beaverton School District is ranked in the top 5% of Oregon schools, with 39,253 students, in 55 schools in grades PK, and K-12. The student-teacher ratio is 18 to 1. Minority enrollment is 57% of the student body, the majority is Hispanic. The school district is diverse which is evident in the 97 languages spoken by district school students.

In Beaverton, 98.3% of adults have a high school diploma, and 46.97% have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. The congregational members have a high level of education similar to or slightly higher than the community.

Despite the homogeneous nature of our congregation and community, both the members of St. Andrew and the community are diverse in race, religion, gender, gender identity, and cultural differences. We are a Reconciling in Christ Church (RIC) with a history of female and LGBTQ pastoral and congregational leadership.

Look for more details from the MSP in the coming weeks.

Luann Stual

Wrestling with God: Encountering the Divine in the Hebrew Scriptures

Sister India is one of the instructors offering an eight-week Zoom course beginning January 4, 2024 through the Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology. Like Jacob wrestling with the Divine, class participants will grapple with texts.

What wisdom can we wrestle from these texts to help us live more faithfully? What might we learn, and what might we need to unlearn? We'll explore names and images for God, including female imagery for the Divine, and offer ways to use this imagery in our spiritual practices. This course will provide opportunities for relationship-building, critical thinking, and spiritual practice.



Presented by Sister India Jensen Kerr (St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton), Pr. Jesse Christopherson (Milwaukie Lutheran) and Pr. Emerson Remy Remmers (Grace, Corvallis). **Eight Thursdays, January 4-February 22, 6:30-8:00 pm on Zoom.**

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/v7cr9sw9>.

New Paraments

During the Christmas Day worship, Pastor Laurie will bless the beautiful new paraments commissioned by the Altar Guild for St. Andrew. Portland liturgical artist Bryan Paatz designed and stitched the pieces, which are made of silk and decorated with gold threads applied by hand. Now located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Paatz developed his career as a liturgical artist out of his love of sewing, a talent cultivated by his mother and grandmother. Textile art suits him because it combines art, sculpture, religious symbolism, and history.

The pieces echo the colors at the very top of Eleanor van de Water's iconic tapestry, providing a lovely transition between the Sanctuary carpet and her work. As a side note, Bryan knew Eleanor so it's appropriate that this project brings their artistry together in one place.



Climate Corner: Tips for a Sustainable Holiday Meal

Adapted from an article in Earth911, November 22, 2022 by Erin Levine



The gathering of family and friends for holiday meals is a joyous part of this season. You can have fun and be considerate of the environment. Avoiding waste and being considerate of Mother Nature is simple if you remember some easy tips while planning and during a celebration.

Decorating: Consider using natural materials such as leaves, fruits, or tree pruning's to make your home feel festive. Using nature as an inspiration for the centerpiece at your table for example, is a wise way to eliminate the need to purchase wasteful, single-use items. Using nature's vibrant color palette can also be stunning and complement your food and drinks. I just pruned one of my trees and used the branches I cut off to make a Christmas swag for my front door. New Seasons has locally-made wreaths that are 100% compostable; they are not held together with a wire frame.



Meal planning: Once you know your guest list, make a meal plan and create your shopping list from that plan. Don't forget to shop your cupboards and refrigerator first so you don't buy more of what you already have. Try not to fix more than people will eat, unless left-overs are part of the plan.

Shop locally and seasonally: Try to buy from local farms and the Pacific Northwest rather than from Mexico or Peru to reduce the distance your food travels from farm to plate. Buy what is in season such as greens, carrots, root vegetables, pears and apples. While the Beaverton Farmer's Market is closed for the season, the Portland State Farmer's Market is open all year long.



Consider less meat and more plant-based menu options: Meats that come from factory farms are massive contributors to greenhouse gasses, especially beef. Replacing meat with plant based options will reduce our carbon footprint. Or look for local farms that practice regenerative farming. Check out the Meat Market at 11900 SW Canyon Rd.

Prevent/reduce food waste: Set the tone for a no-waste get-together by asking your guests to bring their own reusable containers so you can send them home with leftovers. You want to avoid throwing food into the trash at all costs as it is a huge contributor of methane gas. Get creative with food scraps and leftovers. Try to use all your ingredients. For example, you can make stock out of leftover turkey bones or vegetable peelings. Try to make new dishes out of your leftovers so you don't get bored with the same meals. Make turkey enchiladas or scrambled eggs with some leftover veggies. Freeze leftovers so you can eat them later.



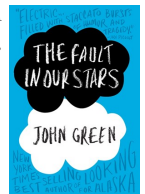
Compost the undesirable food scraps: Again, you want to keep food scraps out of the trash. Food waste is the third largest contributor to methane greenhouse gas. If you don't have a compost pile and if you can't add food waste to your yard waste can (check with your garbage hauling company), you can donate your food scraps to a local farmer. You can freeze the leftover peelings and food scraps until you have the time to take it to a farmer.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

New Books in the Library

Fiction

Piper Huguley - *By Her Own Design*. - A novel of Ann Lowe, fashion designer to the social register
Jennifer Chiaverini - *Switchboard Soldiers* - A novel of the Heroic Women who served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War I.
John Green - *The Fault in Our Stars*
Jeannette Walls - *Half Broke Horses*
Terry Hayes - *I Am Pilgrim*



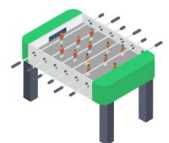
Non-fiction

Gordon B. Dodds and Cathy Croghan Alzner - *Serving Justice*. - A History of the Oregon State Bar, 1890 - 2000
Annie Dillard - *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Richard Rohr - *Falling Upward* - A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life
Anne Lamott - *Dusk, Night, Dawn* - on revival and courage
Anne Lamott - *Help, Thanks, Wow* - The three essential prayers
Gerald S. Snyder - *In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark*



Free to Good Home

Interested in a unassembled foosball table. Linda Swan has one free to anyone who wants or needs one. Please contact Linda at lindaswan28@gmail.com
This is a great Christmas gift.



Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am	In-Person Worship with Communion (also livestreamed and via Zoom) with Brass Playing Carols to follow	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service.....	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
11:00 am	The Roots	Children's Commons, Children's Library, LL Classrooms
11:00 am	Adult Ed: Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA?.....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Confirmation for Middle School Youth.....	Library
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room

Monday, December 18—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 19

7:00 am	Men's Gathering and Bible Study	Elmer's Restaurant on 158th (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)
7:00 am	Sunrise Women	Elmer's Restaurant on 158th (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)
10:00 am	Tai Chi.....	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Worship Planners Meeting.....	Library
12:00 pm	Bridge Group	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 20 **Weekly News deadline 4:00 pm**; submit material to charker@standrewlutheran.com & office@standrewlutheran.com

1:00 pm	Wednesday Book Group with India.....	St. Andrew Room
5:30 pm	Loretta Stroud 100th Birthday Party	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Bells of Grace Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Wednesday Evening Advent Service	Chapel and via Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party	Youth Room
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 21

9:30 am	Seekers of the Heart of God Bible Study	St. Andrew Room
10:00 am	Strength and Stability with Susanne.....	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Team Ministry Meeting.....	Chapel, Library
6:00 pm	Council Christmas Party.....	Off-site
6:30 pm	Wing Chun Class	Children's Commons

Friday, December 22 — Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 23

Sunday, December 24

9:30 am	In-Person Worship with Communion (also livestreamed and via Zoom)	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service.....	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
10:45 am	Cookie Decorating	Narthex, Coffee Bar
9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service.....	Sanctuary



Worship at St. Andrew or Connect to Virtual Worship



9:30 am: Worship in the Sanctuary, watch the livestream of worship on YouTube, or participate in worship via Zoom. *Links for remote worship will be sent to you via email and the church app.*



People participating in worship via Zoom are invited to join worship at 9:30 am. To participate via Zoom you can use a computer, smartphone, tablet, or a telephone. Please note that Zoom worship is only available at 9:30 am. Anyone using YouTube for livestream worship may access the service at 9:30 am or any time after the livestream ends.

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Carol Hogan	Healing and comfort	Sister India
Elizabeth (friend)	Healing and recovery from cancer	Lee Anne Knapp
Jessica Garrison (stepdaughter)	Healing, comfort, and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Jennifer Trom Weiss	Healing and comfort from fall	Gretchen Bancroft
Family of Claris & Corky Poppert	Comfort and strength at their death	Pastor Laurie Newman
Sabrina (Jessica's mother)	Comfort and strength	Lee Anne Knapp
Shaw/Shreve family	Comfort and strength through transition	Lee Anne Knapp
Doris Larson	Healing and comfort from breathing concerns	Sherry Myers
James Vogt (father)	Healing and comfort from recent back injury	Kyler Vogt
Aubrey (Lydia's friend)	Comfort and peace	Martha Ragan
Mary Brocker and Family	Comfort and peace	Staff
Anne Newell	Smooth transition and the support she needs	Sister India
Nel Brown	Protection and safety while traveling	Mary Brown
Scott Taylor	Safe travels and a smooth transition	Staff
Individual friends and loved ones	Whatever they most need	Staff
People in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine	Protection, safety, and comfort	Staff
Victims of Domestic Violence	Comfort, strength, and the support they need	Rebecca Uecker
Those confined to their homes	Assurance of God's presence	Staff
	Dave Bumgardner, Jean Fredrickson, Tara Harper, Marlene Maxwell Dorothy Moore, Ethel Ritchey, Helen Rogers, Sharon Roth	
All who are imprisoned	Peace and strength	Staff
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Blessings on their work	Staff
Holy Trinity Catholic Church	Blessings on their work	Staff
Atonement (Newport)	Serving with us in the Oregon Synod	Staff
Faith (North Bend)		
Ecumenical and interfaith partners in ministry	Blessings on their work	Staff

If you know someone in need of prayers, please contact the church office by phone at 503-646-0629, email office@standrewlutheran.com, or fill out the prayer request form on the church website.

EcoFaith Recovery Matching Grant Opportunity

EcoFaith Recovery works to support climate justice and is excited to announce that a generous donor is offering a \$6,000 matching grant on new and increased donations to the organization before the end of the year. If you'd like to donate to raise the final \$22,031.52 needed, please go to: <https://ecofaithrecovery.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate2023>.

EcoFaith Recovery

For the Recovery of Life and the Healing of Creation

Matthew 1:23:

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Your St. Andrew Staff

Council President Liz Hardy president@standrewlutheran.com, 360-632-4900
 Interim Pastor Laurie Newman.....laurienewman@standrewlutheran.com
 Sister India Jensen Kerr india@standrewlutheran.com
 Deacon Susan Reiser, Parish Musician and
 Interim Minister of Music.....srwerner.reiser@standrewlutheran.com
 Dir. of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt.....kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Manager Carol Harker.....charker@standrewlutheran.com
 Administrative Assistant Rhonda Powelloffice@standrewlutheran.com
 Bookkeeper Karen Mallaribookkeeper@standrewlutheran.com
 Housekeeper Carol Hogan..... 503-646-0629
 Evening Facility Caretaker Scott Taylor 503-646-0629
 Parish Nurses Diane Reiner 503-201-4222
 Tira Nessel..... 503-866-5099

Preparing for Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 24 9:30 am

Isaiah 60:1-2
 Isaiah 9:2,4,6,7
 Isaiah 11:6-9
 Luke 1:26-38
 Matthew 1:18-24
 Luke 2:1-20
 John 1:5-14

Sunday, December 24 9:00 pm

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Luke 2:1-20

Monday, December 25 11:00 am

Prerecorded
 Isaiah 52:7-10
 John 1:1-14