

**Welcome to Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church  
December 7, 2025  
Second Sunday of Advent**



*At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## ***PRELUDE***

### ***Gathering***

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#### ***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS***

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.  
† You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

- 1    O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
      and ransom captive Israel,  
      that mourns in lonely exile here  
      until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 4    O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
      your own from Satan's tyranny;  
      from depths of hell your people save,  
      and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

- 5    O come, O 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*

***GREETING***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**and also with you.**

*All are seated*

# ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

## Light One Candle

## Verses 1 and 2



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

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### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be  
glorious.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19**

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no  
more.  
<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**  
<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

- <sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the

scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

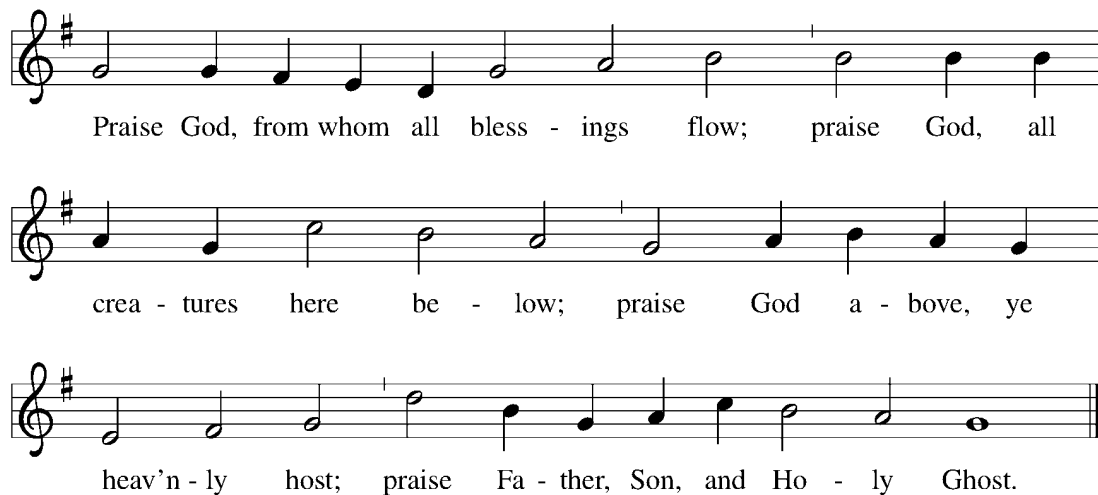
<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*



**Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)**

### ***THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12***

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
 make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have



Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All are seated*

***SERMON***                      ***Unquenchable Fire***                      ***Pastor Adam Dowd***

***HYMN OF THE DAY***                      ***Soul on Fire***                      ***Third Day***

***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

***THE NICENE CREED***

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using 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,  
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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

*All are seated.*

## ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease especially for Art, Aimee, Donna, Marla, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith especially Cor. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.  
**Amen.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Nourishing God,  
 you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
 Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
 that we may rejoice and be for the world  
 signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen.**

## *Meal*

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

*join their unending hymn*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.  
....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us “*SING*” the pray that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

### ***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

## ***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

## ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

May God who comes among us,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the shadows,  
and good news to share today and always.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen**

## ***SENDING HYMN***

## ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

***ELW 244***

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,



and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

## ***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

**Presiding Minister**

**Assisting Minister**

Lector

Organist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Raymond Silhan III

Judy Padera

Rosita Yao

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Davis Solorzano

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Alice Tangorra

Alex Kerfin and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements 12-7-2025**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Kevin Glover** in memory of his father, **Brian Glover**.

**Flowers** today are provided by the **Kardatzkes** in celebration of **Art's** birthday.

**Christmas Poinsettias** - Our **2025 Poinsettias** this year will come in a foiled 6-1/2" sized pot with 5 or more flowers on the plant. ***The cost is \$17.00 per plant.*** Please mark the color you prefer (red or white), how many plants you are ordering and the amount enclosed. Please place your order envelope in the collection plate or give it to the church office by **December 14th** at the very latest! Thank you!

**Christmas Meal Boxes** The Children and Hunger Committee is collecting food to put together Christmas meals in partnership with Mt. Carmel food pantry. Sign up today!

**Holden Evening Prayer** On **December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM** we will have our Holden Evening Prayer Service.

**International Christmas Celebration** Our annual International Christmas Celebration is **tonight from 4:00 to 7:00**. We are having a Christmas raffle and are looking for items to raffle off, with all proceeds going to the ministry fund. Ticket Prices: \$15 for adults, \$7 (5-11 years), under 5 free, Family max \$45.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at Longhorn, 708 Janes Avenue, Bolingbrook, on **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Senior Spirits** – We will meet on **Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup> at noon**, this is a week earlier. We will continue with our Potluck Luncheon. If you would like to participate in the gift card exchange please bring a \$10.00 gift card to Senior Spirits. Everyone is welcome at Seniors! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at 1 (630) 927-9996 Marilynn.

**Blues Christmas/Longest Night Service** Feeling blue this holiday season? Know someone who is struggling with finding joy this Christmas? You and your loved ones are invited to the Blues Christmas Service at **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm**. The service is a collaboration between Christ Lutheran of Clarendon Hills, Lord of Life Lutheran of Darien, and Prince of Peace Lutheran of Woodridge.

This special service is designed for those experiencing loss, grief, or hardship during the season. It is open for all who need comforting. Come as you are, and allow the peace, hope, love of Christ to renew your spirit, while listening to some great American Blues music. All are welcome.

**Final Donations for 2025** All **cash** and **check donations** for 2025 need to be in the Church office by 10:00 AM on **Wednesday, December 31st** to be included in the final count for 2025. All **electronic donations** for 2025 need to be submitted by **Sunday, December 14th** to be included in the final count. Thank you!

**Please pray for members:**

Art Sejnost	Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes
Marla Suda	Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima
Kerry Spitznagle	Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera
Linda Matta	Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy
Jim Eckwall	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving – \$6556.00**

**Electronic Donation for the month of November- \$844.16**

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	12/7	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
		<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>International Christmas</b>
Tuesday	12/9	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch</b>
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	12/10	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>

		<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Soup Supper</b>
		<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holden Evening Prayer</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	12/11	<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Senior Spirits</b>
		5:00 PM	Dance Academy
Friday	12/12	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	12/13	9:00 AM	SDA
		12:30 PM	SDA Luncheon
		3:00 PM	Karaoke & Krafts
Sunday	12/14	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word