

"And there will be signs
in the sun,
the moon,
and the stars.



Luke 21:25-26 & 28, ESV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 1, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Worship! Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord’s table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Walter Baughman for directing and accompanying the choir this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Prelude

“There’s a Song in the Air” Karl P. Harrington, arr. by Carolyne M. Taylor
Arr. ©1993 by Lillenas Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

ELW 244

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

Music: Swedish folk tune Public Domain

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 sufferings 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!

Greeting

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Advent Prayer

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen.

(Light the first candle in the Advent wreath as we sing.)

Advent Hymn

“*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*” (vs. 1)
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW 240

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah.

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a

righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-10 (Read responsively)

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and

drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly,
³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert
at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take
place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

“Jesus Loves Me”

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

ELW 266

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications,
5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in
haste!

2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Prayers of the people: Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering

“We Wait” Words/Music by Ruth Elain Schram

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Please stand

Offertory

“Glorify Thy Name”

Text: Graham Kendrick Music: Graham Kendrick ©1996 Make Way Music, admin. Integrity Music. Inc.

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, we love you, we wor - ship and a - dore you,
3 Spir - it,

glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth;

glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy thy name,

glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

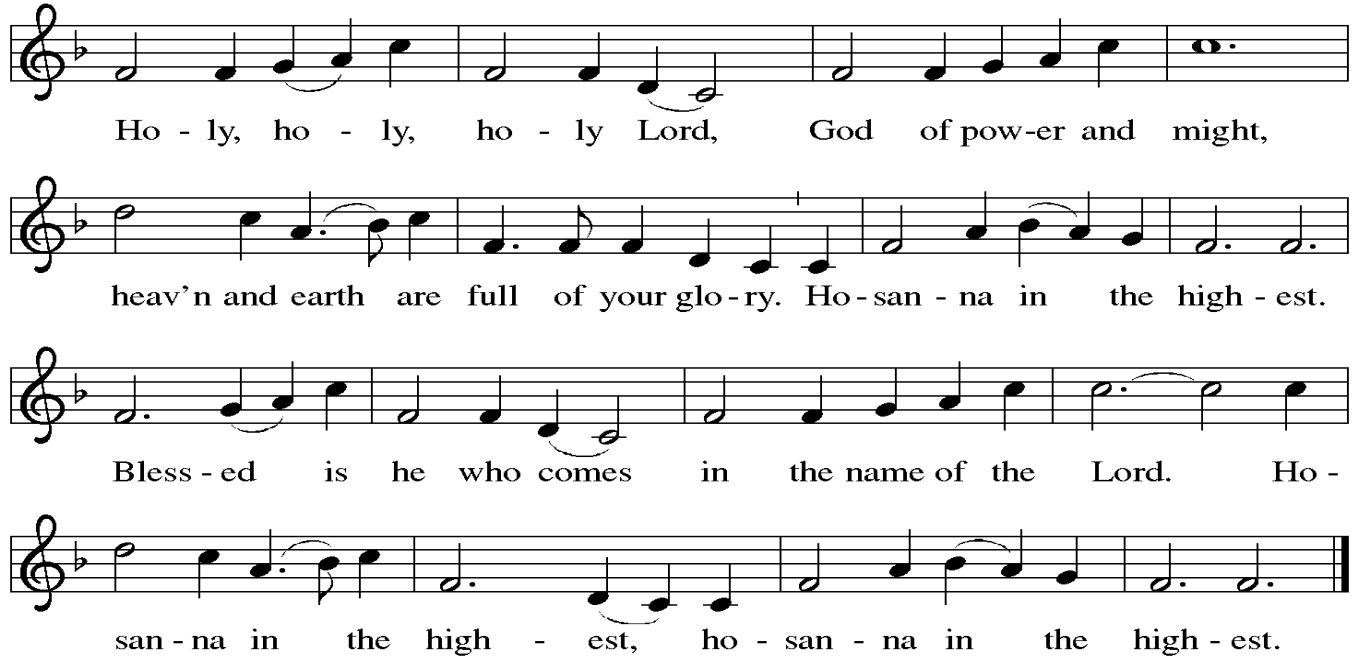
Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn:

“Christ, Be Our Light”

ELW 715

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1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain

Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. Refrain

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain

Distribution Hymn:

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 496

Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. Refrain

2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. Refrain

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. Refrain

Distribution Hymn:

“Wait For The Lord” (Sing 4 times)

ELW 262

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Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Please stand

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His grace.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry
will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim
the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

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

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929 Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Refrain
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929 Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

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St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”

And a congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN’S, MINISTERS

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Lay Reader: Lisa Fryer & Noel Samsa

Ushers: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Pastor Katie Suggitt

Audio/Visual Tech.: Jason Shupe

Att.: Nov. 24 – 48

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Like us on Facebook: St John’s Lutheran Church Sandusky

2024 the Year of Story Memory Verse.

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

The altar flowers are given to God in loving memory of Ruth Deehr by Bill and Connie Deehr.

Council asks the congregation to pray in this season of Hope, to pray that all people are united in sharing, giving, and loving.

We are excited to worship with our sisters and brothers from Zion. If you are placing an offering in your church's envelope, it will go to your congregation. If you give a cash offering, we will be donating it to the Helping Hands food pantry in Huron and Victory Kitchen in Sandusky.

St. John's Audio Visual Team is looking for two or three people who would like to help with streaming worship. Team will mentor you! Please contact Melinda Zorn, 412-639-5477, Jon Baaske, 440-915-5071, or Ann Voigt, 419-357-8483.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Dec. 8 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman	Cleanup – Paula Hoffman Laws
Dec. 15 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Elizabeth Libben (Youth Program)
Dec. 22 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender	Cleanup – Sandy Thompson
Dec. 24 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman	Cleanup –

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Members of St. John's: We are blessed to have an opportunity to learn how to play handbells and develop a bell choir ministry here at St. John's. Sue Schlessman, handbell director, will have the handbells on display and you will have an opportunity to ring the bells on **Sunday, December 1st**. This will be part of our Advent party fellowship. If you have any questions or interest in being part of this ministry, please see Sue or Lynn Schlessman.

The Giving Tree is up! St. John's will help with the needs of families in Erie County! Please take a tag and have your gifts and supplies back by Dec. 8th.

Handbell Equipment: As we begin our handbell ministry, a few items will be needed to make this ministry happen. If you, the members of St. John's, would like to help donate a monetary gift to help purchase these items, your support would be greatly appreciated. Place your donation in the offering plate and write on memo line for handbell equipment.

Needed equipment:

- 2 - six-foot tables - \$60.00 each
- 2 - foam pieces to cover tables - \$50.00 each
- 5 - Music binders - \$20.00 each
- 7 - pairs of gloves - \$5.00 each

Christmas Worship Opportunities:

Youth Christmas Program: Our youth will share the Christmas story “The Nazareth Evening News” on Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 am. This year’s program and worship will be held back at the barn at Zorn Acres 604 Scheid Rd. Don’t miss this special worship opportunity!

Christmas Eve: Two opportunities to worship on Tuesday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with worship service at **2:00 pm and 5:00 pm**. The two services will be essentially the same, featuring both Holy Communion and candlelight. The 2:00 pm service will be live streamed to Facebook. Spread the word; invite family and friends to come for Christmas Eve worship!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD!

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 1st THRU DECEMBER 15th

Sunday, December 1	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Joint Choir Practice Youth Play Practice Joint Worship with Zion Huron Pasta Bar luncheon/Advent Youth party and fellowship Handbell Display and playing
Tuesday, December 3	11:00 am 1:00 am	Martin Luther Study Faith Life
Wednesday, December 4	12:00 noon	Scripture and Prayer at Parkview
Sunday, December 8	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Youth Play Practice Worship
Tuesday, December 10	10:00 am	Book Discussion chapters 5 & 6
Sunday, December 15	9:00 am 10:30 am	Youth Practice Youth play and worship

Weekly Verse: So, God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation – Genesis 2:3

- Dec. 1 – Do something you love today.
2 – Decorate a space in your house.
3 – Thank someone for the work they do.
4 – Share a blessing with someone today.
5 – Tomorrow is St. Nick’s Day. Fill someone’s shoes with a treat.
6 – Take a run or walk with someone else.
7 – Spend time outside today.

Community Christmas Program Opportunities:

“Christmas Carols & Candlelight”: The Firelands Chorus Inc, will be presenting their 66th annual Christmas program titled, *“Christmas Carols & Candlelight”* on Friday, December 14th and Saturday, December 15th at Zion Lutheran Church, 503 Columbus Ave. Sandusky. Doors open at 7:00 pm with the program beginning at 7:30 pm. Both concerts are free and a Freewill Offering will be collected. Be sure to attend and start your Holiday Season with the chorus.

“Breath of Heaven”: Please join the members of St. Matthew, Bethany and Grace Lutheran Churches as we share our 27th presentation of “Breath of Heaven.” It is our honor to share a portrayal of that Holy Night when Jesus was born. Our Shepherd tour guides will take you through the city, where you will meet the residents of Bethlehem, and the Holy Family surrounded by live animals. The presentation is free to the public. Please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food banks. Performances by the Firelands High School Select choir.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church 15617 Mason Rd. It will be held on Saturday, December 14th and Sunday December 15th 4:00 PM through 8:00 PM. Walk-trough presentations approximately every 15 minutes.