

TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Service time: 9:30am

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-2:00pm

TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am

Service of the Word - Holy Communion Setting 3 - ELW Year A

INTRODUCTION

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

PRELUDE

Announcements are on pages 15-18.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A very warm welcome to all who worship here this morning, we thank God for sending you to Tabor.

ADVENT HYMN:

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240

Sing Verse 3 Only

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 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!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

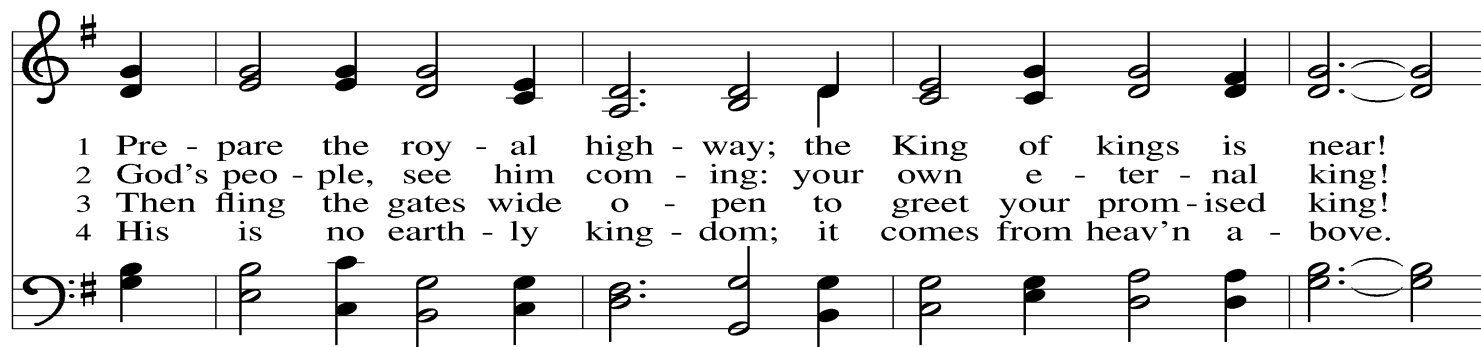
God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
☩ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING

GATHERING SONG

ELW 264

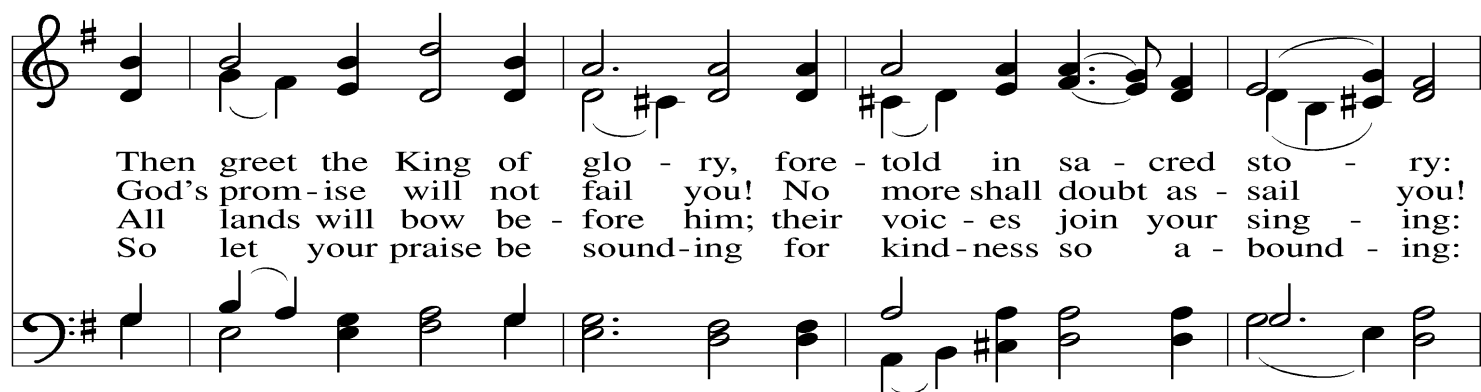
Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



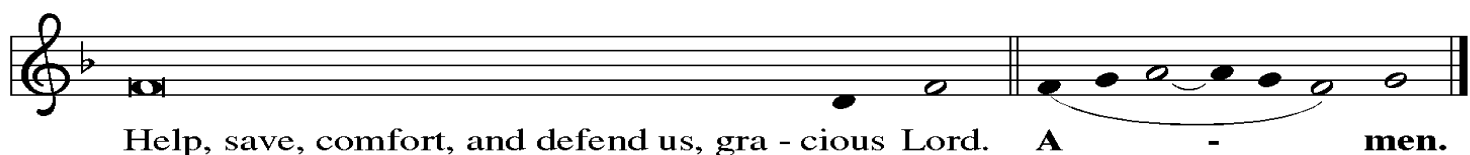
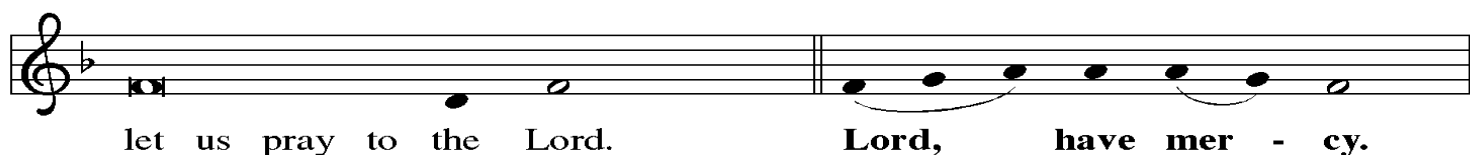
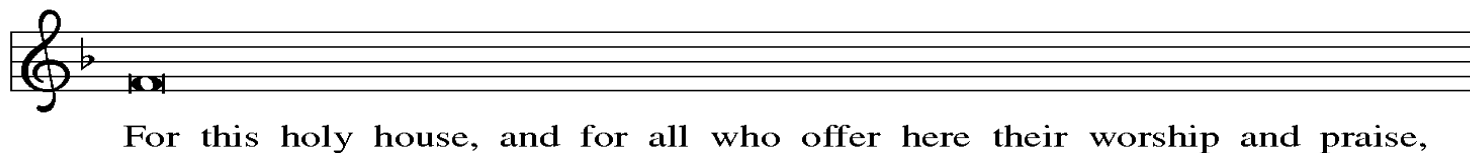
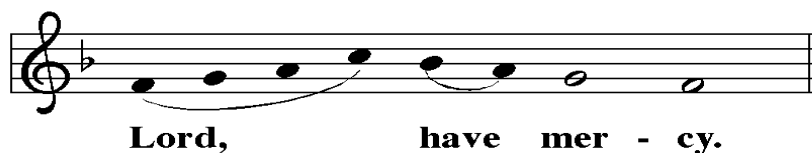
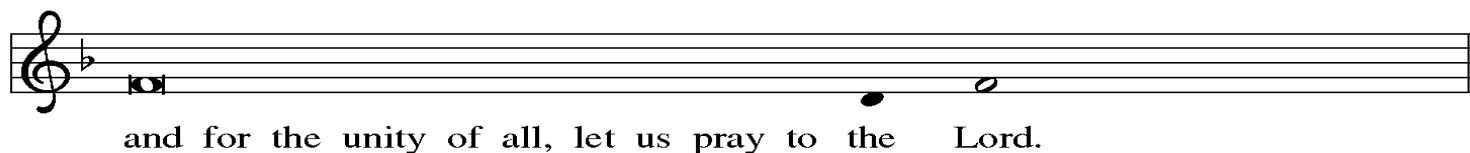
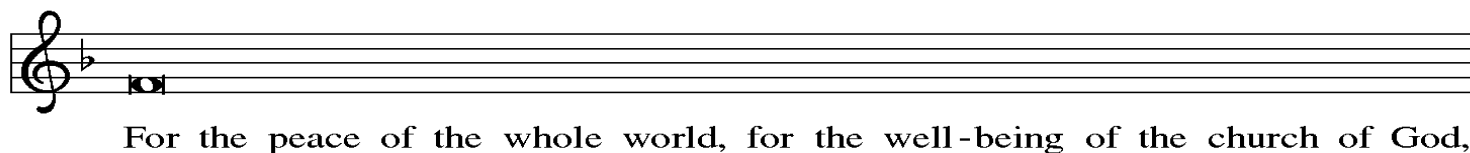
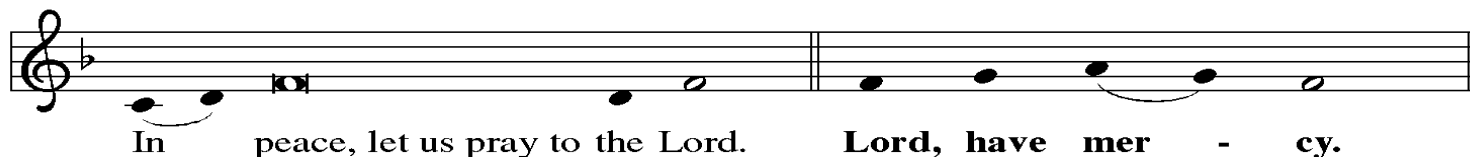
Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

KYRIE

ELW Setting 3



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW Setting 3



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A Dramatization of the Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The First Noel Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Matthew 2:1-11

Away in a Manger All Verses

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there



WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm: 146:5-10

Read responsively

- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob [|] for their help,
whose hope is in the [|] LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them;**
who keeps promis- [|] es forever;
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to [|] those who hunger.
The LORD sets the [|] captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who [|] are**
bowe^d down; the LORD [|] loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way [|] of the
wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD shall [|] reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

The word of the Lord.

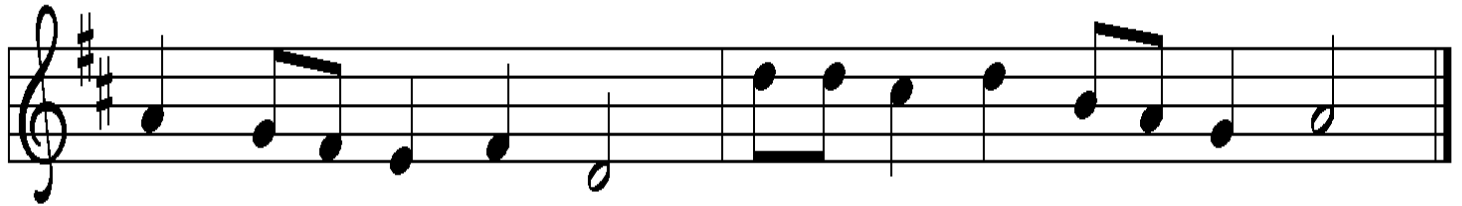
Thanks be to God!

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter.
Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Please stand if you are able

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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 man.**

**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 worshiped and glorified.
He 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**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Each petition ends:

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Prayers conclude with:

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say:

Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND MUSIC

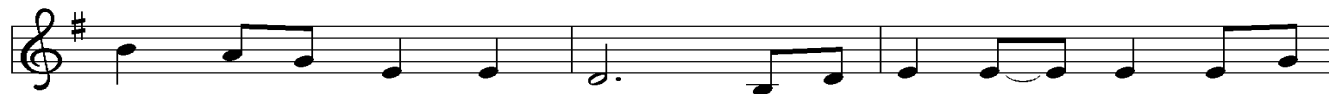
Special Piano Music

Please stand if you are able.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

ELW 248

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course and the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as the sun and the moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

<u>Disciples Serving:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Presider/Supply	Cyrisse Cooley	Riley Dunton
Assisting Minister:	Riley Dunton	Ryan Kessinger
Pianist:	Dr. J. Michael Beck	Dr. J. Michael Beck
Altar Guild:	Kathy Lambert/Linda Johnson	Kathy Lambert/Linda Johnson
Ushers/Greeters:	Jerry Vargues	Jerry Vargues
Counters/Posters:	Karen Dunton/Leanne Neu	Lynn Truxell/Charlotte Vargues
JAM:	Christmas Program	Connie Wisthoff/Derek Truxell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- † Today is the last day to purchase a Poinsettia plant. The cost is \$12 each plant. Please fill out an order form (available in the Narthex) for **each** plant ordered and place in the Poinsettia envelope and turn in with your offering, welcome slip or to the church office. Plants may be taken home after Christmas Eve service.
- † If any child would like to sing in the Children's Choir on Christmas Eve, please contact Denise Tristano at 719-251-9920
- † Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 24th.

BIRTHDAYS

December 15	Gary Ayala - Zapien
December 20	Jordan Wisthoff

PRAYERS

<u>Members, Friends and Relatives</u>	<u>Added by Members</u>
Doris Ask	People of Tabor
Shirley Bass	People of Tabor
Michael Beck	People of Tabor
Robert Bogusch	Nephew of Kathy Lambert
Pam Cardinal	Sister of Clay Kashner
Devin Caveza	Grandson of Tony Martinet
John Centa	Bowens Family
Sandy, Tyler and Tori English	Friends of Emily Briggs
Virgie Giannetto	Lynn Truxell
Vicki Granato	Michelle Vargues
Larry Hall	Bowens Family
Brian & Geri Helm	Bowens Family
Nina Jesmain	People of Tabor
Etta Kay Johnson	Sister-in-law of Linda Johnson
Linda Johnson	People of Tabor
Clay Kashner	People of Tabor
Sue Kastelic	People of Tabor
Kathy Lambert	People of Tabor
Kathy Laney & Family	Connie Wisthoff
Stefanie Montes	Bowens Family
DJ Nichols	Truxell Family
Will Nichols	Truxell & Vargues Families
Evelyn Omev	Twin sister of Shirley Bass
Andrea Pitre	Friend of Emily Briggs
Kenzie Roberts	Granddaughter of Gwen Hedding
Kimberly Roberts	Daughter of Gwen Hedding
Pam Salas	People of Tabor
Family of Cheryl Salay	People of Tabor
Starcher Family	Friends of Emily Briggs
Caitlan Thorne & Family	Granddaughter of Kathy Lambert
Justin, Harper & Hazel Tolan	Grandson/Great-granddaughters of Denise Tristano
Marvin Truxell	Truxell & Vargues Families
Charlotte Vargues	People of Tabor
Linda Wagner	Lynn Truxell
Sandra Zupan	Sister of Ruth Valencia



THE GOOD NEWS

TABOR TIDBITS WEEKLY UPDATE

December 11, 2025



The Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 14th during worship.



Sunday, December 14th is the last day to purchase a Poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. The cost will be \$12 each plant. Please fill out an order form (available in the Narthex) for **each** plant ordered and place in the Poinsettia envelope and turn in with your offering, welcome slip or to the church office. Plants may be taken home after Christmas Eve service.



If any child would like to sing in the Children's Choir on Christmas Eve, please contact Denise Fistano at 719-251-9920.

Rehearsal will be right after church on December 14 and December 21. Adult Christmas Choir will practice right after the kids' practice (after coffee fellowship).



The Lay Pastors want to thank the congregation for the wonderful potluck and the memorial committee for the albs and crosses.

Birthdays

Dec 15	Gary Ayala-Zapfen
Dec 20	Jordan Wisthoff



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service is December 24th at 6:00pm celebrated with Pastor Karen Matuska and our Lay Pastors.

Please bring your families and friends and join us for worship. No services will be held on Christmas day.

Disciples Serving:

Sunday December 14

Presider/Supply	Cyrisse Cooley
Assisting Minister:	Riley Dunton
Pianist:	Dr. J. Michael Beck
Altar Guild:	Kathy Lambert/Linda Johnson
Ushers/Greeters:	Jerry Vargues
Counters/Posters:	Karen Dunton/Leanne Neu
JAM:	Christmas Program

Sunday December 21

Riley Dunton
Ryan Kessinger
Dr. J. Michael Beck
Kathy Lambert/Linda Johnson
Jerry Vargues
Lynn Truxell/Charlotte Vargues
Connie Wisthoff/Derek Truxell



We are putting together a new **Member Directory** in-house and need you to fill out the information on the backside of the Welcome Slip. We will use the information to verify with what we have in our database and to print it in the new directory. Please fill out all applicable information. *You only need to fill out this form one time.*



The lay Pastors are beginning to form a *Care Team* that will go visit and take communion to our shut-ins. Pastor Bill will have a training session. If you are interested in helping, please see Cyrisse.



Please remember to bring your food items to fill the little Red Wagon in the Narthex. In addition to non-perishable food items, the PCC Food Pantry also accepts toiletries and personal hygiene items.



The Noisy offering collections from July-December 2025 will go to Meal on Wheels.



We are in need of Volunteers!

- Worship Assistants
- JAM Teachers and Helpers
- Care Team Members
- Altar Guild

Please pray about it and decide if you would be interested in helping in any or all of these areas and let Cyrisse know.



Church Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of every month after worship.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2025
All Members are welcome to attend