Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

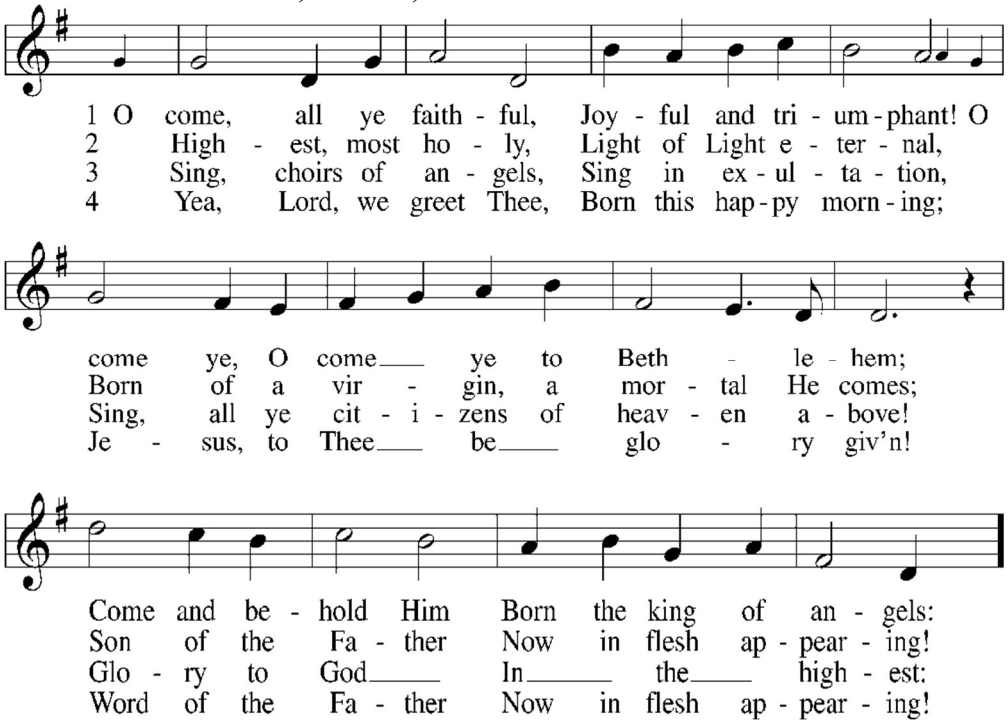
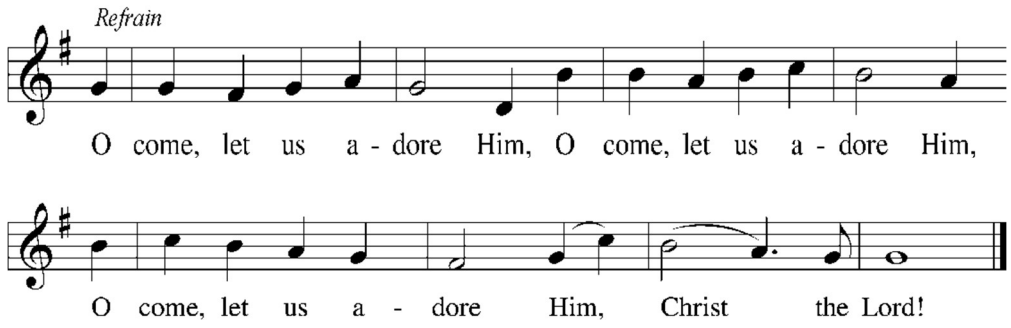
Welcome to the Family!

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE – 5PM

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Words of Welcome

Entrance Hymn Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" *LSB 379 Sts.1-4*



Text and Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness,

C: and illumine Your Church.

RESPONSIVE READING PSALM 96:1–13

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

C: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations, 'His marvelous works among all the peoples!

C: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

P: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

P: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts!

P: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!

C: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

P: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

C: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for He comes to judge the earth.

P: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

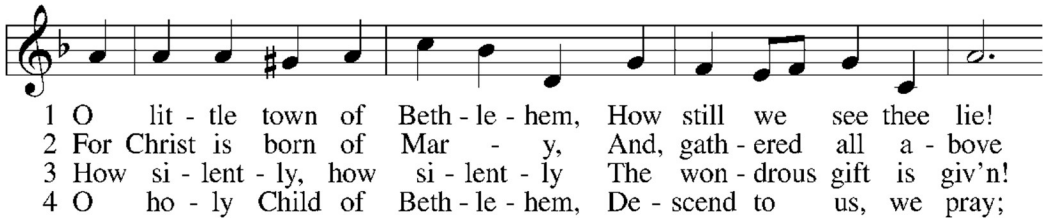
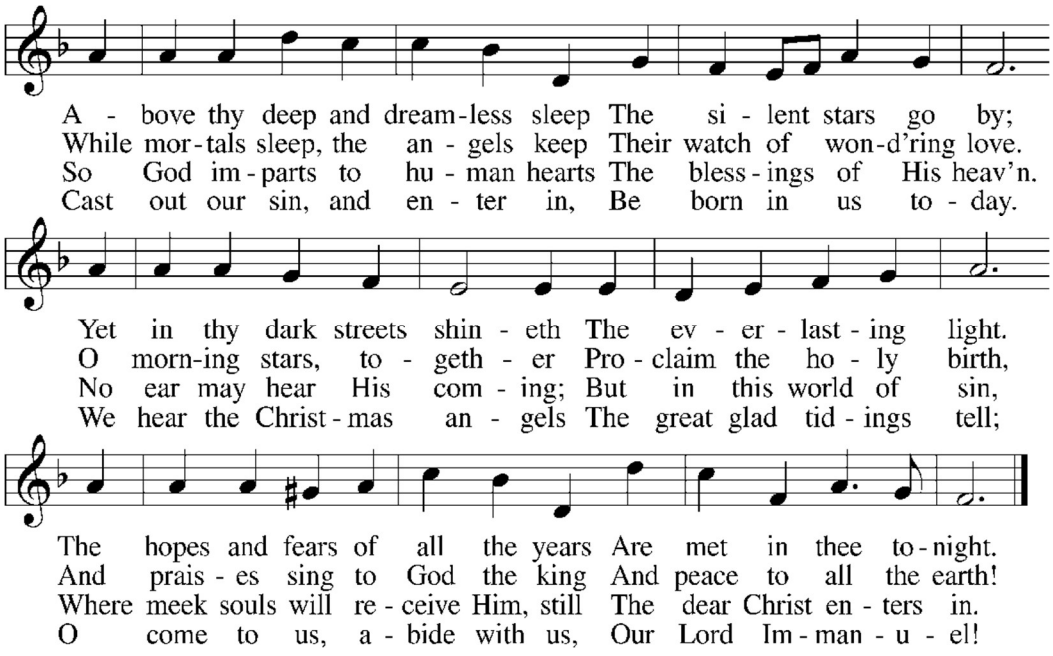
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING FROM ISAIAH 9:2–7

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!!

HYMN O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM *LSB 361*



Text and Tune Public domain

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 2:1-20

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this

child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

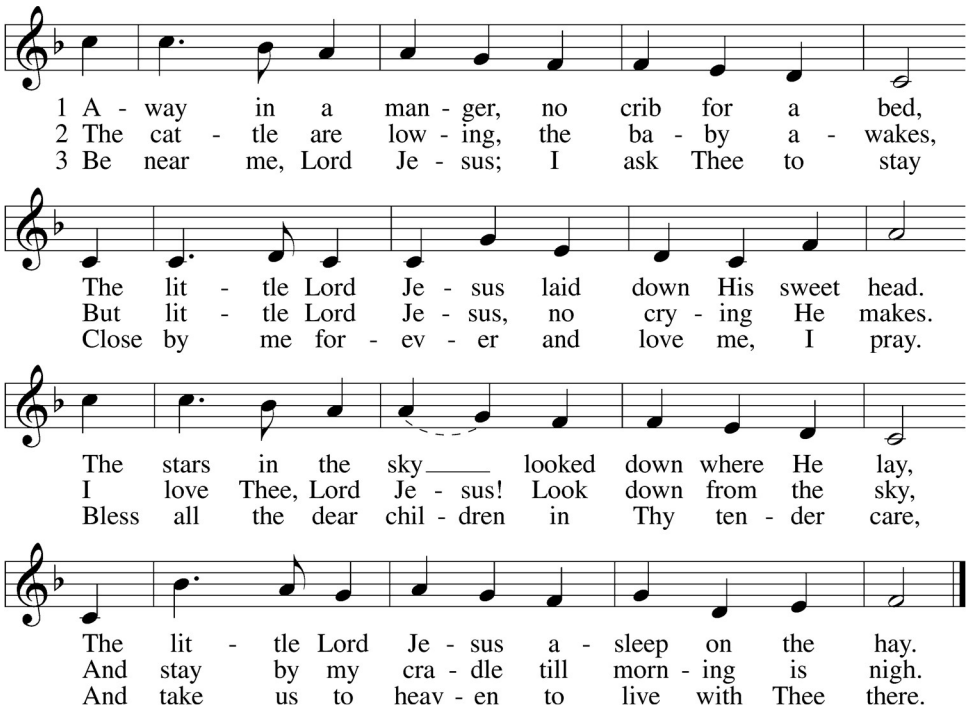
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

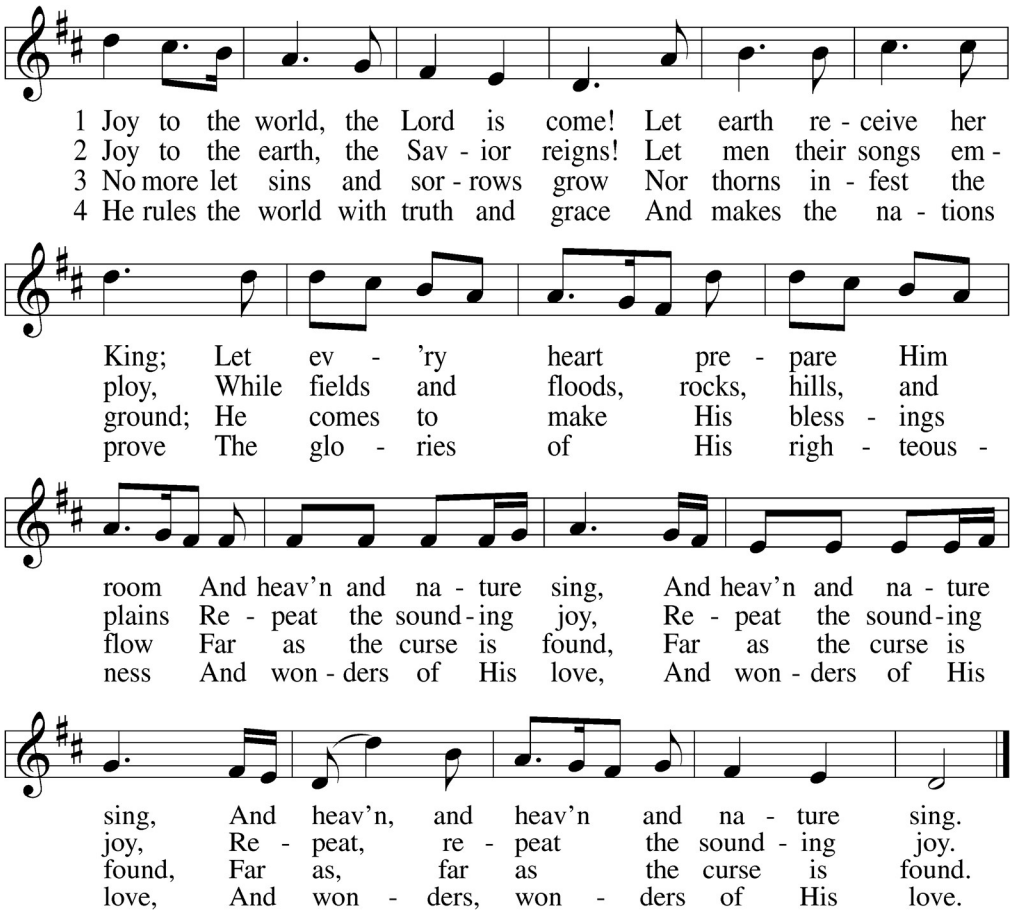
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

HYMN AWAY IN A MANGER *LSB 364 STS.1-3*



Tune and text: Public domain

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY PASTOR FRED GERLACH

HYMN **JOY TO THE WORLD** ***LBS 387 STS.1-4***

Tune and text: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the lives of all faithful and just people; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: In Your mercy strengthen all Christian congregations and support them in challenging times. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially our President and Vice President, our President-Elect, our Congress and Senate, our Governor, and our Justices. Bless all who serve a public office that they would serve the greater good. Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Bless the schools of the Church and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sanctify our homes with Your presence and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: Let Your blessing remain upon the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially: **Gerri, Inge, Angela, Richard and Victoria, Lisa, Rev Wirtz, Rev Paul Frank and his wife Cathy, Carrie, Tony (Don's son-in-law)** and all those we name in our hearts _____.

Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws

near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, especially Dave and Pastor Spallek, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: Amen.

Collect for Peace and The Lord's Prayer

P: O God, from who comes all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, we ask you to hear our prayer as we pray the prayer Your beloved Son taught us:

C: 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.

Benedicamus *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

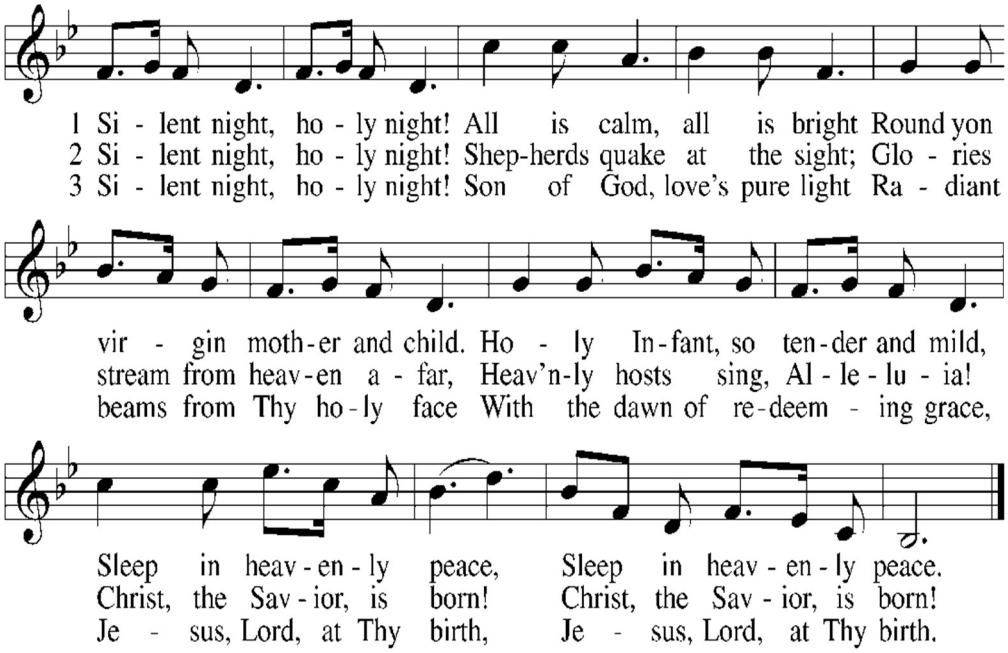
C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN **SILENT NIGHT** ***LSB 363 STS.1-4***



Text and Tune: Public domain

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

3501 E Chandler Blvd; Phoenix, AZ 85048

480-759-4047

www.FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Office Administrator

Betty Knight

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

12/24– 12/31

Thursday, December 24th

5:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00PM Christmas Eve Service of the Light

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

No Bible Study this Sunday

Thursday

No Confirmation Class

PLEASE NOTE: *Due to current area circumstances, we are offering services only via Zoom. In-person meetings will resume when safe and will follow all CDC-recommended protocols.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer