



*Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017*



1615 N. 18th St. Bismarck, ND 58501
701-255-1039 † www.oursaviourwels.org
Pastor Thomas M. Moldenhauer
pastor.moldenhauer@gmail.com † 920-285-2881

WELCOME

God welcomes you no matter who you are – and so do we. Thank you for joining us in God’s house today. Whether you are a first-time guest, a friend or relative of a member, or a curious observer from a different religious background, we are delighted to be with you in worship.

A NOTE ABOUT WORSHIP

We believe that Jesus is the Savior of all. By his life, death, and resurrection Jesus saves all sinners simply because he loves us. That is called the gospel, and it’s the good news on every page of God’s Word. Therefore, the Bible is not just information about God or rules from God, but the saving power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts and restore our lives. Lutheran worship places this good news at the center of the worship service with an order called *liturgy*. In both the Word and sacrament (Means of Grace), in specifically selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted and often ancient songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news of Jesus from start to finish.

Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out entirely. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red hymnal located in front of you. Parts marked **L** are spoken or sung by the worship leader, and the parts marked **C** and printed in bold are spoken or sung by the congregation.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- **Quiet Bags** are for any parents with small children. They are on a stand in the back of church.
- **Weekly News & Notes** are printed in the back of this worship folder.
- **Restrooms** are to the left as you walk out the back of church or in the basement.
- **Website:** oursaviourwels.org

OUR CHURCH BODY

Our Saviour’s proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (wels.net). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod, as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

This is a time of anticipation and preparation. Advent means “coming.” This first season of the Church Year helps the Church prepare for the threefold coming of Christ: his coming in the flesh at Christmas; his return on the Last Day; his daily coming in Word and Sacrament.

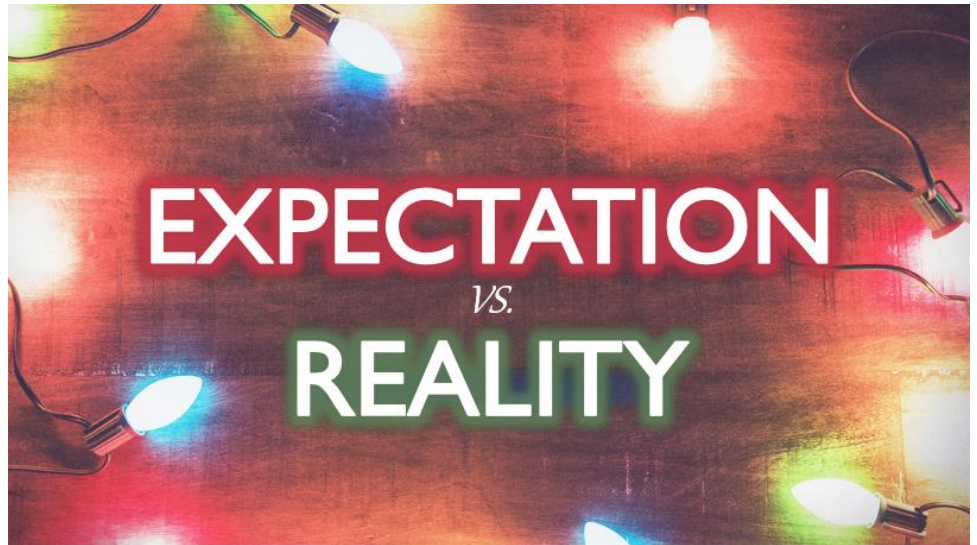
WORSHIP SERIES:

Dec 3 – The End

Dec 10 – Repentance

Dec 17 – Happiness

Dec 24 – Readiness



What people want this time of year and what actually happens are often drastically different. Some want peace and get stress. Some want happiness and get grief. Some want togetherness and they feel more alone than ever. What’s wrong? Our expectations are wrapped up in our earthly reality, our sinful reality. This Advent, as we get ready for Christmas, God wants us to know the reality he has given us makes the difference for our expectations both now on earth and for Christ’s second coming and our home in heaven. When it comes to happiness, we all want more of it. How is it possible? This week, God’s Word helps us see that the real, lasting happiness comes from what he gives us in Jesus and not what we make for ourselves. This Christmas, you have happiness in God’s Son, your Savior, and you have him every day for eternity. You can raise your expectations and your happiness through Christ.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

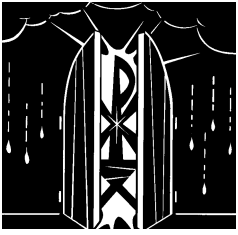
Presiding & Preaching *Pastor Tom Moldenhauer*

Organist *Deb Selland*

Ushers *Lee Roy Binder – Elder, Bill Rambough – Leader, Larry Rutscke, Joel Moos, Don Martin*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PASTOR'S WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People | # 14 v 1-3

Please remain seated.

GATHERING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C (spoken) **And also with you.**

CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

L Dear friends, we are expecting the day when Christ will come again in glory.

Psalms 130:6

C **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

L The hour has come for us to wake up from our slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Romans 13:11

C **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.**

L So you also must be ready,

Matthew 24:44

C **because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**

L If we are honest, our preparation is not living up to God's holy standard. But now is not the time for guilt to weigh you down and despair to set in. God has his ears open to hear the cries of his people, and he has an answer to cheer us. Let us confess our sins to him and listen to his answer.

C **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

L What God promised long ago through his prophets he has fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The long-expected Savior came. By his perfect life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection, he provided eternal salvation. God’s answer is grace and mercy. Through faith this is your reality now and forever. Christ now comes to you with peace and forgiveness:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

HYMN

Arise, O Christian People | # 14 v 4

**4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.**

HOLY BAPTISM

Ezra Kane Kinnischtzke

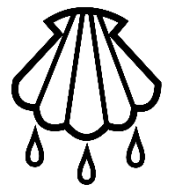
After the baptism at Pastor’s invitation, please stand for prayer.

L Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord gives grace to his church and wants us to teach all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Ezra may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C Yes, as God gives me strength.

L We pray: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of Christ’s righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Ezra and grant him a rich measure of your Spirit that he may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.



Baptism is not something we do for God, showing our dedication or acceptance of him. But it is God’s grace working miraculously through simple water and his saving Word to bring forgiveness and new life.



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

L We now light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of man. He came to share our humanity and save us from our deadly peril.

C **We remember Jesus, who is our Savior. He came to rescue his people from sin and death.**

L We hear his call to prepare our hearts with happiness.

C **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our fearless hope and joy.**

L Come, Lord Jesus, as you have promised.

C **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

While the candles are lit, the congregation sings:

HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | # 7 v 1, 4

**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.**

**4 Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

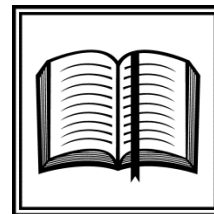
L Let us pray.

Pastor says the Prayer of the Day (at the bottom of page 3).

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD



FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-6

Happiness is for the ones who wait expectantly for Jesus' coming.

“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the Lord Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³ Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty.

⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 71

Psalms have been used in worship since the Old Testament.

L ¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

C ⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

L ⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.

C ¹⁴ **As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.**

L ¹⁶ I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

C ¹⁷ **Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.**

L ¹⁸ Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God,

C **till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.**

We rejoice only because of the coming and eternal deliverance of God.

L ¹⁹ Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things.

C **Who is like you, God?**

L ²⁰ Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter,

C **you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up.**

L ²¹ You will increase my honor

C **and comfort me once more.**

*In Christ,
constant joy is
ours forever.*

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

*As John the
Baptist preached,
our happiness can
only come from
the Light, Jesus,
and not the glitz
and glamour of
our own making.*

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light...

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | #23

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

There is only one way to be happy... ALWAYS.

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

C 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

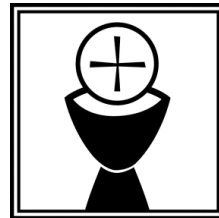
THANK OFFERING

1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The members of Our Saviour's Lutheran join together to do the Lord's work in Bismarck and throughout the world in our church body, the WELS. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Help us be a friendly church by taking a moment to fill out the Friendship Register located at the end of the pew.

THE SACRAMENT



This familiar and ancient worship greeting begins the Sacrament section with the joyful assurance of our Lord's powerful presence.

PREFACE

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- L** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who makes us glad with his gift of forgiveness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus



Recorded for us in Isaiah 6:4, angels sing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty," in the presence of the Triune God. The Church sings the same song in preparation for His Supper, faithfully confessing the Lord's true presence in the Sacrament.

Pastor offers a prayer in a similar way that Jesus did when he took bread and gave thanks before instituting this holy Supper.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks
that your eternal Son, Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us,
that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law,
that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross,
that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13

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.**

Pastor speaks these words of Jesus to set apart the bread and wine for the Lord's miraculous meal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

L Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

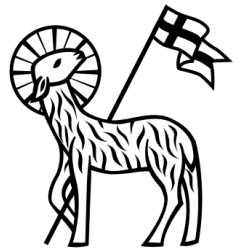
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

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

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

John the Baptist saw Jesus and said, "Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

God tells us in the Bible that his Supper is for sinners who are accurately instructed in his word, who examine themselves by living in repentance, and who recognize the miraculous real presence of Jesus' body and blood. It is our joy and honor to trust God's Holy Word. Therefore, we ask that only current members (WELS/ ELS) come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor before taking part in the sacrament. He welcomes the chance to study what God says with you. And thanks so much for honoring God's Word in this manner.



✓ One option for preparation is available in the red hymnal on page 156.

During the distribution the congregation is invited to sing the following hymn:

HYMN **Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes** | #12

HYMN **Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness** | #311

After the distribution please stand.

Psalm 118:1

L Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C **His mercy endures forever.**

1 Corinthians
11:26

L Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

L We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with the saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

This is the blessing God has bestowed on his people since the time of Moses (for over 3,500 years). These are the final words in worship as we depart with God's peace and power.

THE LORD'S BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C (spoken) **Amen.**



NEWS & NOTES

SERMONS

Copies of the sermon are available in the entryway.

CHURCH CLEANER

The cleaner position is open. Those interested can talk to Amber Kemmet about the duties or contact Scott Overson (527-4869).

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Thanks for all who helped make this event a great way to give the good news of Christmas with our community.

BIRTHDAYS

Paige Danner – December 19
Amber Kemmet – December 19
Maycee Kershaw – December 20

MEALS FOR LENT

Sign up if you would be willing to organize a meal on Wednesdays in Lent (Feb 14-March 21). A meal would need to feed about 40-60 people.

BIBLE BASICS

A new Bible Basics class begins on Monday, January 8 at 6:30pm. The class takes about 3 months. This is our path to membership at Our Saviour's or an opportunity for people looking to grow in Biblical teaching. Contact Pastor if interested. If childcare is needed, we can work on helping with that. Everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

All are invited on Dec 17th after worship. Sign up at the bulletin board to bring a dish.

GIFT BAGS

We will be putting together gift bags for the shut-ins after brunch. If you can, stick around to help.

THIS WEEK

Today Choir @ 8am
 Worship @ 9am (Lord's Supper)
 Christmas Potluck @ 10:15am
 Sunday School Christmas Practice
 10:30-noon
Monday Men's Faith & Fellowship @ 6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Night @ 6pm
 (Catechism, Women's, Adult bible
 studies, and child care @ Redeemer)
Saturday Children's Christmas Service practice
 10am
Sunday Choir @ 8am
 Worship @ 9am
 Christmas Eve Candlelight @ 7pm

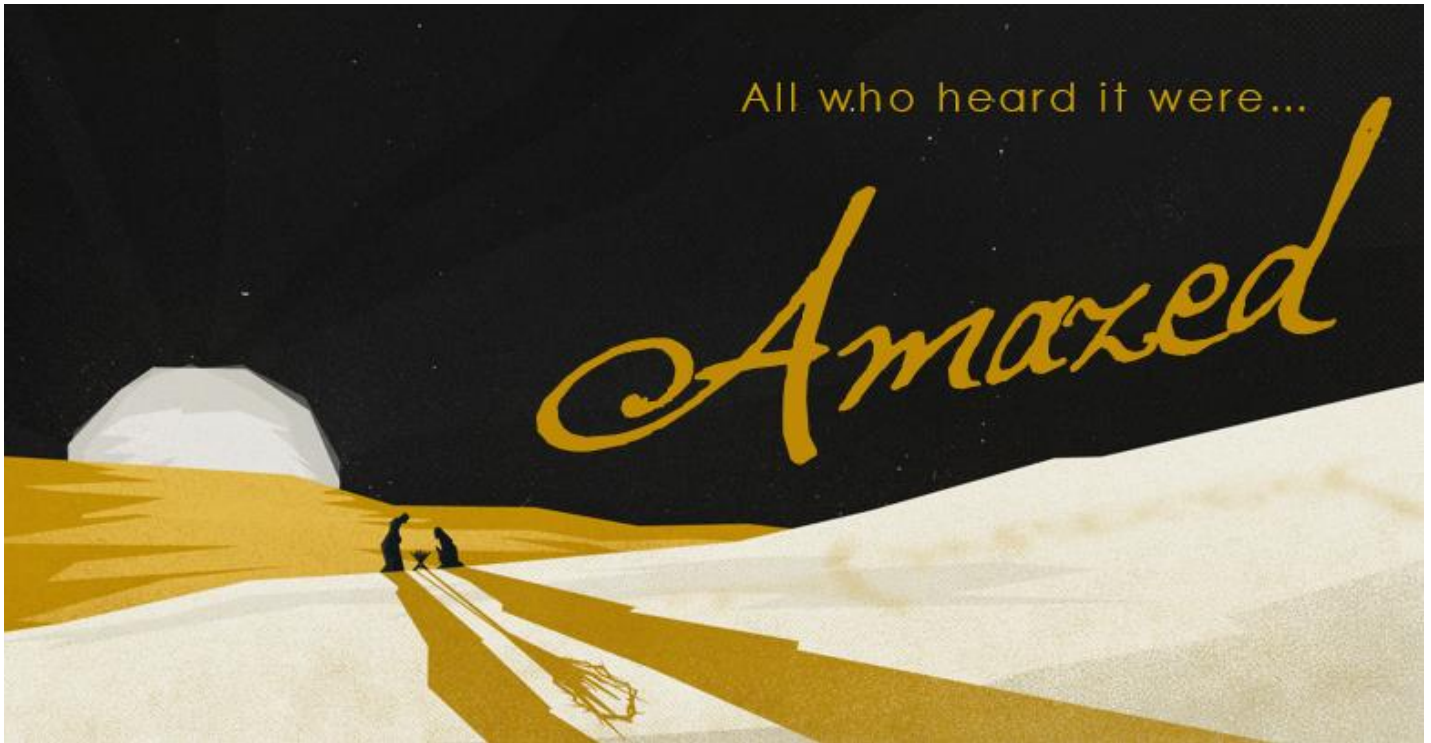
A/V HELPERS

With the upgrade to our audio/visual equipment scheduled to be done before Christmas, we will need a few people to be trained on how to use the equipment so that our services can be recorded and archived online. Sign up on the bulletin board if you are willing to serve this way.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Grab some business cards invites for our Christmas services and find some friends or family to invite to our services. We will have the Sunday School Christmas Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. Christmas Day worship is at 10am. God grant you peace and joy as you share "the good news of great joy that is for all people."

CHRISTMAS AT OUR SAVIOUR'S



If you want to see something truly amazing this Christmas, you are going to need more than the best TV on the market or the latest viral video. If you want to hear something truly amazing this Christmas, you will want something better than a top of the line surround sound system or headphones. You are going to need a message from God! And you have that from God in this “good news of great joy that is for all people.” It is God’s amazing fulfillment of prophecy and promise. It’s an amazing proclamation first given by angels. It’s an amazing little baby wrapped up and lying in a manger. This gift is yours and always will be yours. This Christmas, God’s message is the only thing that is truly AMAZING!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US...

Christmas Eve 7pm – Candlelight Children’s Service
Amazing prophecies, events and celebrations

Christmas Day 10am – The Festival of Lessons and Carols
Amazing Child: God in flesh

New Year’s Eve 9am – Sunday worship
Amazing Results: Lives are changed forever