

# Welcome to worship at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2022



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.



# Word

The Gospel speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

The Reading                  Romans 15:4-13

<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 patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order 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.

Gospel Reading          Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**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 the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>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; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; 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.”

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Song of the Day      *What Child Is This?*      ELW # 296  
Diana and John Hazel, Josh Young and Emily Gates

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God.,  
**Your mercy is great.**

Offertory

Anthem                      *Creator of the Stars at Night*                      Hal H. Hopson  
Chancel Choir

*“Creator of the Stars at Night” Words and music by Hal H. Hopson © 2002 Birnamwood Publications. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.*

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us.                      Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.                      Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## 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.

## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Today we celebrate Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Table, open to everyone.*

The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.  
(The response is "Amen", then eat the bread).

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Take and drink.  
(The response is, "Amen", then drink the cup).

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Sending

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

### Announcements

Sending Hymn     *Joy to the World*

ELW #267

### 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.**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

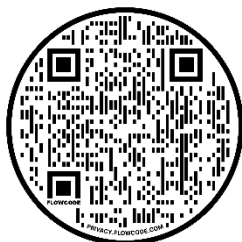
Go get'em!!!

Postlude     *Fantasia on "Iste Confessor"*

Lani Smith

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# Announcements



**Sound and video assistants needed** for worship broadcast and live stream video. Training will be provided. For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Scott at [pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org) or (610) 326-1335 ext. 1.

**Sponsors are needed.** Suggested donation for the bulletin is \$20 and flowers is \$35. Or, sponsor the *Word in Season* for \$35 a month. Contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at (610) 326-1335 for available dates and to sign up.

**Help avoid conflicts.** Since activities at the church are back to normal, check in with staff before scheduling an event to be held at the church.

## Today

**The flowers** are presented to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthdays of their children, Janine and Allen, Jr., by Sue and Allan Care.

**Serving Today** Head Usher: Barbara Repa; Ushers: Bill Allen and Bryce Manthorne; Lector: Sue Care; Children's Sermon: Ariel Hansley, Acolyte: Bryce Manthorne

**Next Sunday** Head Usher: Scott Geiser; Ushers: Georgann Geiser and Brian Flack; Lector: Kayleigh Urbassik; Children's Sermon: Lindsey Waltermyer, Acolyte: Camryn Urbassik

**Altar Guild Serving this Month** Deb Solazzo, Barb Eisenhart, Marsha Staub



## Calendar

**Worship Service** – Today, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

**Food Drop Off** – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Today, 10:00 AM, portico

**J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)** – Today, 10:05 – 11:05 AM, room 1

**Adult Forum: Politics & Religion** – Today, 10:15 – 11:05 AM,  
room 33

**Prayer Ministry** – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

**Cub Scouts** – Monday, 6:30 PM, room 1, 21-31, 33, 37

**Christian Education** – Monday, 6:30 PM, room 33

**Boy Scouts** – Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, room 1

**Book Club** – Tuesday, 6:30 PM, offsite (@ The Grind)

**God and Me** – Tuesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, nursery

**Food Drop Off** – Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Wednesday, 2:00 PM, portico

**12 Step** – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, room 32

**Informational Budget Meeting** – Wednesday, 6:30 PM, room 1

**Children's Choir** – Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:00 PM, room 15

**Chancel Choir** – Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:15 PM, room 15

**Troop 367 Committee** – Wednesday, 7:00 PM, room 33

**Property** – Wednesday, 7:00 PM

**Thursdays at Ten** – Thursday, 10:00 AM, room 33

**Bell Choir** – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:30 PM, room 15

**Worship Service** – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM sanctuary and online

**Food Drop Off** – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

**Food Delivery Pickup** – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, portico

**J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)** – Next Sunday, 10:05 – 11:05 AM, room  
1 (fellowship hall)

**Adult Forum: Politics & Religion** – Next Sunday, 10:15 – 11:05  
AM, room 33

**Paint Day** – next Sunday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, offsite

## Upcoming Events

**Constant Contact** is a weekly email offering events and worship news. Did you get an email from Constant Contact this week? If not, don't miss out! Sign up by calling the church at (610) 326 1335 or emailing [cc-admin@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:cc-admin@newhanoverlutheran.org).

**Politics and Religion Bible Study - Sundays at 10:15 AM in room 33.** Now that I got your attention. Join me for a weekly public forum of how we as a people can share the wisdom of the Bible to create an atmosphere where listening, loving and helping one another is a priority, and power and dominance are not a platform for public forums and discussions. The Readings and discussions will be posted on our website, and printed copies will be available each Sunday in Room 33 at 10:15 AM.

**Choir Rehearsals: Chancel Choir** rehearses Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:15 PM in the choir room (room 15). **Children’s Choir** rehearses Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:00 PM in the choir room. Interested in joining the Chancel Choir or Children’s Choir? Contact Director of Music Ministry Patricia Nyce for more information. **Bell Choir** rehearses on Thursdays, 6:15 – 7:30 PM in the choir room. For more information about the bell choir program, contact Bell Choir Director Barb Eisenhart.

**Thursdays at Ten**, our midweek adult faith formation gathering, meets each Thursday from 10 - 11:30 AM in room 33. This informal discussion/study group will explore “**Fierce Women of the Bible.**” There were some sassy women back then! Both women and men are invited to journey back to biblical times to learn more about these “lasses” and how some things haven’t changed. Look for more course details in the newsletter. Contact Deacon Carol with any questions. And feel free to bring a friend! Newcomers always welcome! **Please note:** there will be no class on Thursday December 15 (come out to the luncheon instead at noon!) or December 29. Classes will meet December 1, 8 and 22.

**The church book club** will be meeting **Tuesday, December 6th** at 6:30 PM at The Grind to discuss The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. All are welcome to attend! To stay up to date with what’s happening, join the group’s Facebook page, NHELCC Book Club. If you aren’t on Facebook, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com for information.

**Informational Meeting for the 2023 Budget** Should you have any questions about the proposed budget, an informational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall.

**Special Congregation Meeting** There will be a special meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, December 11, 2022** immediately after the morning worship service (in the sanctuary) to discuss and approve the 2023 Proposed Budget. The Congregation Council reviewed this budget at its November meeting and recommends its approval. A copy of the budget can be obtained for review prior to the meeting beginning November 27 in the following ways:

- a. On the church website: [www.newhanoverlutheran.org](http://www.newhanoverlutheran.org)
- b. In the box outside of the Sunday School / Office door (under the portico)
- c. In the Welcome Center

**Paint Day – DATE CHANGE** Back by popular demand another Paint Day Party. Please join us on **Sunday, December 11th** from 6-8 pm. This time we are going to go to Amy’s studio – Amy’s Art Shack, 2210 Hendricks Road, Pennsburg. If you are interested we will meet at PC Pub/Pizza Como at 4:15 for dinner and fellowship before. RSVP to Nikki Young or on the sign up genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eafac2caaf4c16-christmas> This event is \$35/person. (Dinner is on your own) Save the date!

**Seniors Ministry Christmas Luncheon and Program** – Thursday, December 15, 12 noon. Celebrate the season with “**The Carols of Christmas**”. Joining us will be our former Director of Music Priscilla Landis to lead us in a festive time of carol singing and a sharing of the background of some of our beloved Christmas carols. We’ll begin with a delicious lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches prepared by Chef Chris. We’re asking folks to bring a Christmas treat to share for dessert. To help with meal planning **please RSVP by Friday, December 9**. A sign-up sheet is on the desk in the Welcome Center or you can contact Deacon Carol at [carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org) or leave a message on the church phone. And invite a friend or two!

## Handbell Dedication

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.*

*~ Psalm 100: 1-2 (NIV)*

On December 18, 2022, at the 9:00 AM worship service, new handbells will be dedicated. The handbells were acquired with contributions to the Memorial Fund given in memory of Charles and Catharine Renninger. The bells purchased are small bells in the upper fifth octave range. They serve to add high sounds to counterbalance the sound of the very low bells already in use by the choir. We thank Jayne McHugh for designating her parents' memorial gifts to be used to purchase these handbells. It is a fitting memorial as her mother, Catharine, was a member of the Handbell Choir when the congregation first purchased handbells in the late 1970s-early 1980s. These and all handbells and handchimes will be used to ring praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Also being dedicated on December 18 are two handbell cases. The new cases will be used to store the very large bells in the lower fifth octave. They have rollers which will make transporting these heavy bells easier and safer. A portion of the Memorial Fund contributions given in memory of Nancy Moser were designated for the cases. In addition, a charitable donation earmarked for Handbell Choir use was given to New Hanover Lutheran Church by Merck in response to Ben Fowler volunteering 80 hours of service to the church.

Growth in the Handbell Choir necessitated the need for the additional bells and cases. It is with appreciation to the Renninger/McHugh family, Moser/Kehs family, and to Merck and Ben Fowler that these monies could be used to support the music ministry at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Barbara Eisenhart  
Handbell Choir Director

## You Can Help

**Looking for volunteers** to help during the church service : Ushers, Lectors, Children's Sermons, and Acolytes. Please contact Faye Weidner if you are interested in serving at [omiweidner@gmail.com](mailto:omiweidner@gmail.com) or 484-929-5958

**A Capital Funds Campaign** is underway. Help NHELCC raise \$247,500 for the HVAC and AVEL systems. Specially marked envelopes are available on the desk in the welcome center for your contribution. For more information, contact the church office at (610) 326-1335.

**Christmas Flea Market 2023** Harvesting Hope Fair preparation begins now!! During December and January your Christmas treasures you no longer need can be placed in the red and green tubs located in the Fellowship Hall and the Sunday School wing. Your treasures will be sure to make others happy and turn into donations for our garden and food ministry! Your Mission Service Committee folks are thankful for you and your willingness to share. Any questions call Vicki 484-363-0639

## **Food Ministry**

**More than 100,000 meals have been delivered!** NHELCC's Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays between 1 – 2 PM and Sundays between 9 – 10 AM. Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs. 2) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards, place monetary donations in the offering plate or mail to the church. 3) Deliver meals. Sign up at <https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/>.

## **Spiritual Renewal**

Do you know someone who could use a **prayer shawl** to help bring comfort, healing and good thoughts? If so contact Deacon Carol or Pastor Scott and they'll see that one is made available. And...**please prayerfully consider:** the requests for our prayer shawls keep coming in. To make sure we will always have a shawl available when needed we could use some additional knitters to help with this important ministry. Please contact Deacon Carol if interested in doing this. Supplies and instructions are available in the library located off of Fellowship Hall, in a bookcase close to the door.

Need a prayer lifted up? The **NHELC Prayer Chain Ministry** is here for you. All information remains confidential. To request a prayer, contact Deacon Carol at cdetweiler01@comcast.net or call the church office (610-326-1335) to leave her a voice mail. Your prayers will be delivered! Also, you can contact Deacon Carol to update circumstances or have a name removed from the Prayer Chain.

**Prayer Warriors Wanted** You are invited to join the warriors on Monday at 1:15 PM in the sanctuary. Participants join in a brief devotion and then pray together. They give thanks and then lift up in prayers neighbors both near and far. See Donna Kehs or Marsha Staub if you have any questions.

A **Seniors Suggestion Box** is now available on the desk in the Welcome Center. NHELC Seniors (folks in their 60's on up) are invited to use the slips provided and write down any ideas, concerns, needs they may have for our Senior's Ministry. Can be anything ranging from speakers/topics, fun events, faith formation needs, etc. We want to hear from you!

## **Thank You**

Dear Pastor Scott, my name is Joe & on behalf of my 12 roommates we thank you & your staff for the food donations! Your chef, your wife, yourself & volunteers put a lot of thought & care in making our lives easier! It's nice to have a home cooked meal & not worry where our next meal is coming from. Thank you we all appreciate it. God bless you & your family.

## **Remember in your prayers**

### **Requests**

Trevor Martin, Toni Rath, Katy Mahon-Miller, Matt Hall, Luann Hanley, Scot Smale, Carol Estes, William Trotter, Kathy Kane, Phil Underkoffler, Maxwell Girard, Pat Fryer, Jean Renninger, Kathy Campos, Richard Norris, Pr. Kork Moyer, Betty Lou Shadle, Julia Hauck, Tony Mancini, Raul Castro, Amy LeVan, Jeffrey Kunsch, Braydon Kline, Edwin Sugita, Wilma Lahr, Robert Tadley, Jim Price, Melissa, Bernadette Phillips, Mary Lou, Doug Weaver, Joan Wagner, Jaden Mahlbauer, Robert Ganovsky, Dorothy Bingaman, Emily Ocelus, Gates family, Eric and Wendy Hess, Sue Care,

Herman Richard, Deb Matthews, Marceline, Anne Eshleman, Daniel Johnson, Gwen Grant, Chris Fatzinger, Hank Droneberg, Pena family, Kim Frain, Ken Jacob, Jen Perez, Frank D., Pam Helfrich, Barb and Tom Faust, Andy Van Dyke, Janet, Jerry Dotterer, Feryl Stein, Laurie Scoggins, Pam Abbott, Holli Muffler, Louise Karns, Mary Van Dyke, Pr. Jennifer Phelps, Jessica Trout, Denny Smith, Verdi Smith, Mabel Gaugler

Peace for the violence in our area and nationally

### Long-term

Sarah Bowman, Keeley Staples, Logan Conley, Sally Kohl, Tina Farrell, Carol Buchholtz Yost

### Shut-in

Penny Frymoyer

### Grieving

Family and friends of Marcia Renninger-Dey, Wayne Sloan, George Freyer (Lynn & Ron Fegley) Leon Houp, Francis Wilson (Pastor Scott & Marsha), Laura Wise (Jeff & Sharon Wise)

### Military

Shawn Dietz, Michael McHugh, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Megan Fricker, Kyle Woods

## **New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2941 Lutheran Road

Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

**Call for an appointment. (610) 326-1335**

### **Contact Information**

**Pastor, The Rev. Scott Staub**

[pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry, Nikki Young**

[nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall**

[susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce**

[patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Food Ministry Director, Chris Fatzinger**

[Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com](mailto:Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com)

**Director of Senior Faith Formation, Deacon Carol N. Detweiler**

[carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org](mailto:carol.detweiler@newhanoverlutheran.org)

**Bell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart**

eisenbarb@aol.com

**Bookkeeper, Maria Boyer**

mariaboyer@comcast.net

**Cemetery**

Bill Bauer, rwbauer7@gmail.com

Norm Hunsberger, namron29@comcast.net

## Financial Record

	Oct 2022 Contributions	Jan-Oct 2022 Total Contributions	Approved Budget through Oct 2022	% of Budget through Oct 2022
<b>OFFERING</b>				
Envelope Offering	\$15,335	\$143,042	\$143,333	100%
Simply Giving Offering	\$9,482	\$100,270	\$111,250	90%
Loose Offering Offering	\$660	\$3,588	\$4,167	86%
<i>Total Offerings</i>	<i>\$25,477</i>	<i>\$246,900</i>	<i>\$258,750</i>	<i>95%</i>
<b>DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				
Fuel Oil Contributions	\$425	\$4,462	\$7,500	59%
Bulletin Contributions	\$60	\$305	\$1,000	31%
Flower Contributions	\$285	\$2,293	\$2,500	92%
Food Ministry/Garden of Hope Contributions	\$7,316	\$51,294	\$45,833	112%
Peer Support Ministry Contributions	\$1,224	\$11,421	\$3,333	343%
<b>GRANTS</b>				
Peer Support Ministry Grants	\$0	\$0	\$6,250	0%
Food Ministry/Garden of Hope Grants	\$0	\$43,930	\$12,500	351%
<b>CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS</b>				
HVAC Project Contributions	\$1,438	\$66,316	\$167,500	40%
AVEL(1) Project Contributions	\$2,263	\$28,283	\$80,000	35%

(1) AVEL = Audio-Visual, Electric & Lighting project

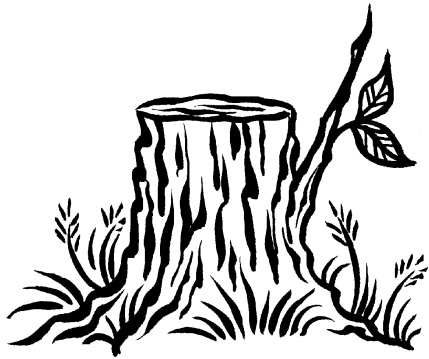


# Send

**Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

What can we do to serve the Lord during the week? Our faith keeps growing as we help others, pray, and read Bible stories. Let your faith grow each day!

Did you know about Jesus' family tree? Jesus is called a shoot, or new plant, growing from the stump of Jesse. Jesus comes from the family of King David, the son of Jesse.



**Draw more leaves and branches on the small shoot coming out of the trunk.**



*Give us care and what we need to grow, Lord. Amen*

## This week

Do the plants at your home or church need care? Give them water, fertilizer, and sun.



## gather

**Welcome to worship.**

Do you see an Advent wreath in your church?

How many candles are there? \_\_\_\_\_

How many candles are lit today? \_\_\_\_\_

Evergreen branches are often used on an Advent wreath. The branches never change from their green color. They remind us that God's love for us never changes.



**Draw more evergreen branches on this wreath.  
Draw flames on two of the candles.**

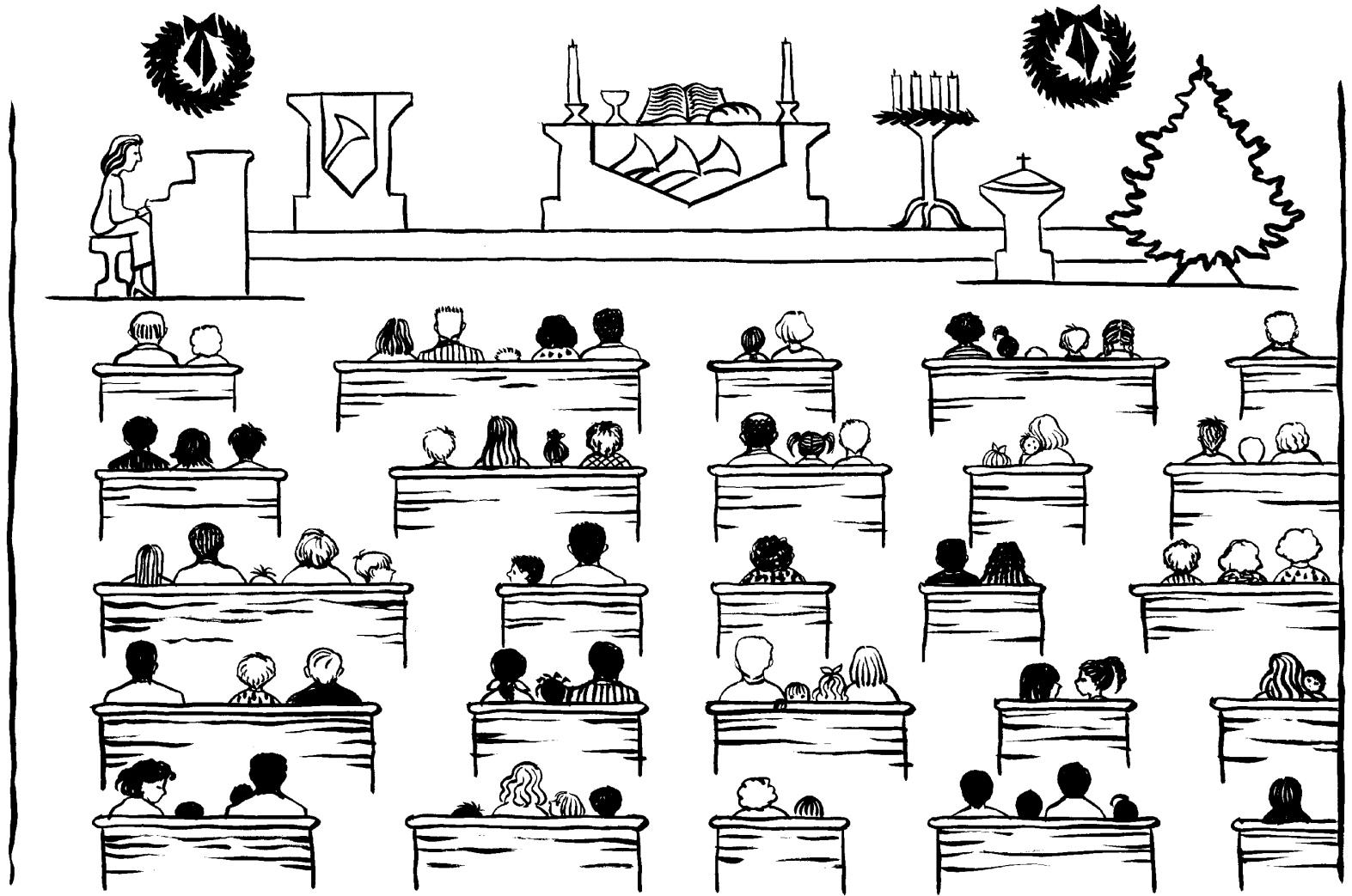
## Advent signs

Matthew 3:1-12

Listen today for the story of John the Baptist. He appeared to people who lived during Jesus' time. John said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3).

Which Bible book contains John's story? Listen as the Bible is read today or look up the three choices in your Bible.

- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Romans 15:4-13
- Matthew 3:1-12



What Advent reminders do you see in your own sanctuary?

**There are many ways to move to the front of this church. Draw a line on the straight path. Circle the Advent images in the picture.**