First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2026
11:00 A.M.



✠ Rise in body or in spirit. The congregation speaks/ sings the text in **bold** type.

For information about the ministries, mission, and activities of Duluth First UMC, please visit **duluthumc.org**.

Children are welcome in worship!

Children's activity sheets & crayons are available at the main entrance to help guide them in active participation of worship.

Children newborn through Pre-K are invited to go to ***Childcare Corner***, near the Gathering Room.

Listening devices are available during all worship services. Please see an usher or greeter for assistance.

ENTRANCE

Chiming the Trinity

✠ Welcome, Greeting One Another — Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, *Associate Pastor*

Attendance Registration, Announcements

Voluntary | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – arr. David Buckley
Brian Batson, *Vocalist*; Seoyoung Lee, *Organist*

✠ Hymn 196 | *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* – HYRFRYDOL

Lighting of the First Advent Candle — Kerry & Wendy Armstrong

The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him". Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.

When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.

Sung Response

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves and offer our confessions to God so that we may be shown Christmas's true meaning.

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world.
We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness.
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us.
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.
Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.
Amen.

The Light shines in the darkness; and the darkness has never been able to overcome it. Good news of great joy—we are forgiven! Amen.

✠ Affirmation of Faith | *Apostles' Creed*

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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

✠ Response 70 | *Glory Be to the Father* – MEINEKE

THANKSGIVING

Your giving is the sole support of the ministries of Duluth First UMC.

For online giving, go to duluthumc.org/online-giving, or scan the QR code with your mobile device.

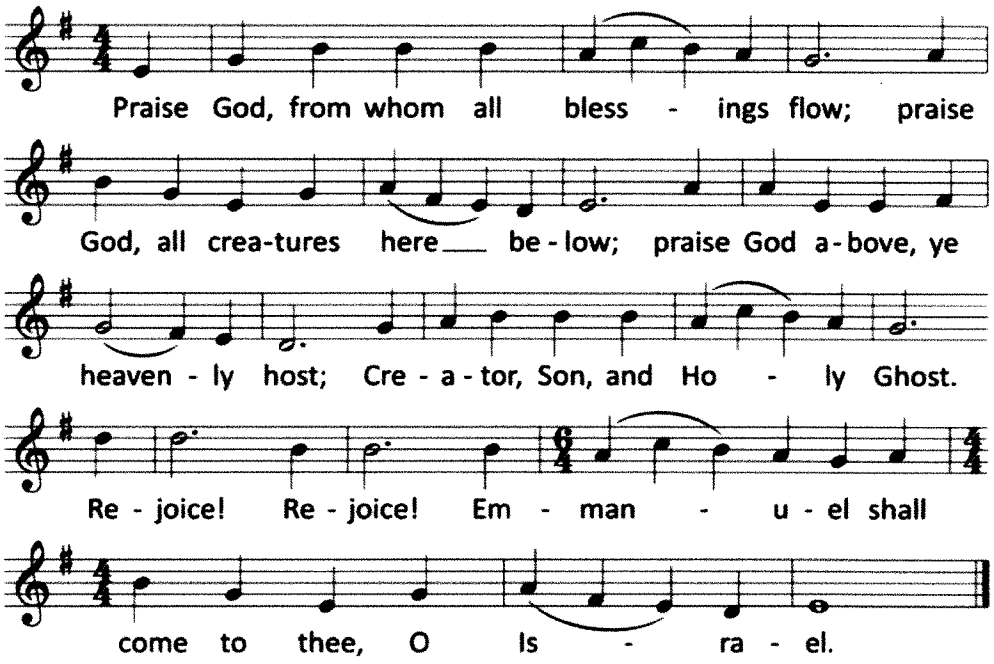
Ministry Moment | *Long-Term Facilities Maintenance* Trustees

Receiving God's Tithe & Our Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

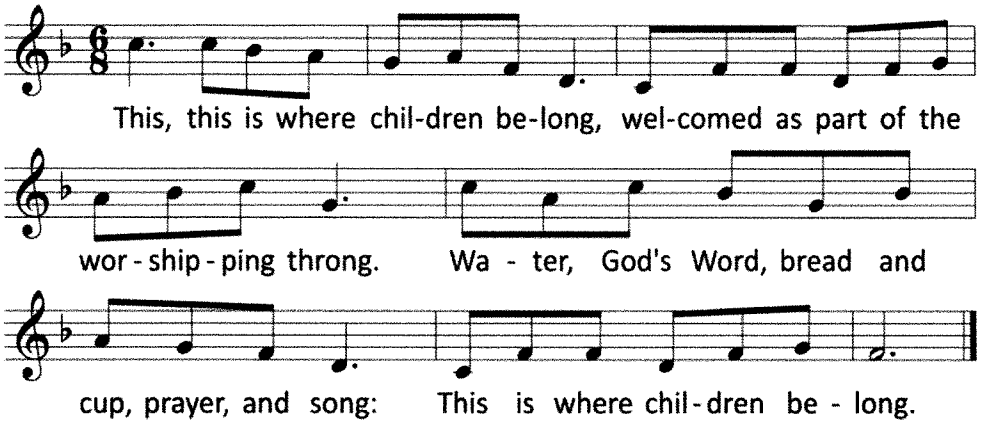
Offertory | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir; Susan Johnson, *Pianist*

✠ Doxology | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* – VENI EMMANUEL



PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Hymn | Where Children Belong - RITCHIE



Children's Message — Leslie Yokeley

✠ Scripture | Mark 13:32-37 — Rev. Terry Tippens, *Senior Pastor*

New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in
heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you
do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a
journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with
his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the
house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at
dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon | *Keep Awake*

Anthem | *Keep Your Lamps* – André Thomas — Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People

The 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. Amen.

Those who wish to join the church today are invited to come forward as we sing the final hymn.

For questions regarding membership, contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles – arawles@duluthumc.org or 770.476.3776, x. 128.

Invitation to Christian Discipleship & Church Membership

SENDING FORTH

✠ Hymn 213 | *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* – TRURO

Reception of New Members (as applicable) Hymnal, pgs. 34, 38

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude Seoyoung Lee, *Organist*

ALSO SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Acolyte & Cross Bearer:
Grace Saxelby

Audio/Visual Team:
Joseph Lee
Frank Loose
Bryan Johnson

Usher Captains:
David Burleson
Charlie Doerlich



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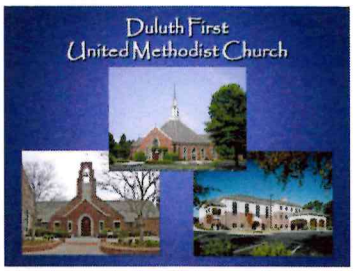
DULUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Office Phone: 770-476-3776
Website: www.duluthumc.org
YouTube: DuluthFirstUMCWorship
Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

The Sunday Supplement

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Welcome to Duluth First United Methodist Church!

We are glad that you came to worship with us today. The mission of Duluth First United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. If you are looking for more information about Duluth First United Methodist Church and its ministries, Bible studies, and other programs and events, please be sure to visit our church's website at **www.duluthumc.org**.



To join Duluth First United Methodist Church, please come forward as we sing the song that follows the Invitation to Church Membership.

If you have any questions regarding membership or you are visiting and would like additional information, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at **arawles@duluthumc.org**, or call 770-476-3776, ext. 128.



Prayer Concerns

• David Baker • Joyce Boothe • Sara Brewer • Marie Brown
• Larry Bunten • Jena Cornell • Lorraine Day • Angie Doerlich
• Ann Fleming • Brian French • Margaret Gaskins • Jim Green
• Shamain Hallett • John Hammons • Bryan Johnson • Pam Jorgensen
• Elizabeth Marcus • Dottie Moor • Ann Reifert • Marilyn Scheiwe
• Bill Swisher • Pam Tuggle • Betty Worthington



Want someone to talk to?

Stephen Ministers are there for you.

For more information or to request the support and care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Rev. Dr. C. Kay Fuino by e-mail at ckfuino@duluthumc.org.

Sweets with Santa: Saturday, December 5th

Mark your calendars, save the date, and invite your family and friends to **Sweets with Santa** on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Dorothy L. Rainey Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy breakfast pastries, Christmas crafts, and a chance to meet Santa! Bring your friends, family, neighbors, and children of all ages! **This is a free event!!**

To sign up online, please scan the QR code located to the left with your smart phone or tablet. If you would like to make a financial donation to help assist in the cost of the event, you may do that by scanning the QR code as well. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles by e-mail at **arawles@duluthumc.org**.



Advent Devotional Calendar

A wonderful group of volunteers - Amy Burk, Laurie Fowler, Annette Pierce, and Megan Saxelby - in our church library, **The Louise McDaniel Memorial Library**, have put together an **Advent Devotional Calendar** for everyone to use during their journey this Advent season. The **Advent Devotional Calendar** will be:

- In worship handouts on Sundays, November 29th and December 6th;
- Available for download on the **Advent and Christmas Eve** page on the church's website - **duluthumc.org**;
- At the Information tables located in the Narthex (the main entrance to the Sanctuary) and in the back of Hinton Hall on Sunday mornings.

OVER

Youth Ministry Sunday Night Gatherings for November and December

Students in the 6th through 12th grades are invited to join us on Sunday nights for ***Sunday Night Gatherings*** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank"), located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. ***Sunday Night Gatherings*** include great dinners, fun games, amazing worship, inspirational and relevant messages and life-changing small groups.



The *Sunday Night Gathering* schedule for November is:

- **Sunday, November 29th: *Sunday Night Gathering*** at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank").

The *Sunday Night Gathering* schedule for December is:

- **Sunday, December 6th:** Sunday Night Gathering at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank");
- **Sunday, December 13th:** Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall;
- **Sunday, December 20th:** Sing-along at The Parc (3315 Peachtree Industrial Blvd, Duluth) from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Drop off and pick up at The Parc;
- **Sunday, December 27th:** No ***Sunday Night Gathering***.

Please visit the **Youth Ministry's** website at **https://dfumcstudents.org** for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Min Lee, Director of Youth Ministries, by e-mail at **mlee@duluthumc.org**.

Advent Devotional Videos: Beginning Wednesday, December 2nd

The season of Advent is underway, and the students of the **Youth Ministry** are excited to share their Advent devotional videos with you! Every Wednesday during Advent, we will post a short devotional video shared by one of our students on our **Youth Ministry's** YouTube channel **(dfumcstudents)**.

We'd love for you to journey through the season of Advent with us by watching and sharing these videos with others, starting Wednesday, December 2nd! And if you haven't already, be sure to hit the subscribe button so you can receive notifications whenever we post new content.

Packing "Christmas for a Soldier" Care Packages: Wednesday, December 2nd

You are invited to join members of the **Hugs for Soldiers** ministry and as they come together and pack the **"Christmas for a Soldier"** care packages on **Wednesday, December 2nd, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** in room F147, located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center **(please note change in day and location).** Monetary donations are always appreciated to help purchase items not received and for postage. Checks are made payable to **Duluth First UMC** with ***Hugs for Soldiers*** written in the memo section, or go to the **ONLINE GIVING** page on the church's website – **duluthumc.org** – click on **MISCELLANEOUS GIFT** and specify **"Support Our Troops/Hugs for Soldiers."**



For further information, please contact: Angie Doerlich by e-mail at **hugsforsoldiers@gmail.com** or call 404-316-8183. Thank you for your support!

Wednesday Night Dinner in Hinton Hall: December 2nd

Join us for a time of food and fellowship around the table with family and friends at our Wednesday Night Dinners from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, located on the 2nd floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Chef Kenny Lewis, our Food Ministry Manager, along with our very talented and dedicated Dinner Belles and Beaus volunteers, prepare excellent meals at very reasonable prices.



The menu for December 2nd is beef lasagna, Italian mixed vegetables, sautéed yellow squash, breadsticks, and dessert. For the kids – pizza. Dinners are served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Hinton Hall, with to-go boxes available from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The prices for Wednesday Night Dinners are: $10.00 for adults (including seniors and from 11 years up); $7.00 for children 10 years and younger; $30.00 for family meals (nuclear family members and their children under 18 years); $7.00 for salad bar only, which includes the salad bar, a choice of baked potato or sweet potato, dessert and a drink.

Credit/debit card payments, as well as cash and checks, are accepted. Please note - menus are subject to change. Please visit the church's website - **duluthumc.org** - to view upcoming menus.

Wednesday Night Food Drive: December 2nd

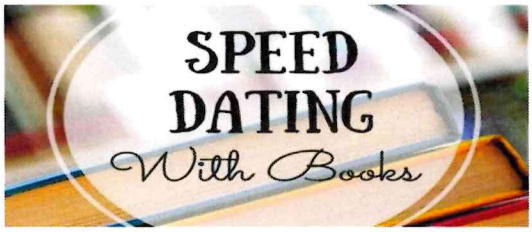
The **Wednesday Night Food Drive** at Duluth First UMC for the **Hands of Christ Duluth Co-op** is our weekly mission project, combined with the many Wednesday evening activities offered at the church. **On Wednesday, December 2nd, we ask you to bring tuna fish.** Please leave your donated food items on the **Food Drive** table located outside of the main entrance to Hinton Hall.



Join us for a delicious dinner and fellowship in Hinton Hall, pick up a to-go dinner for your family, join us for any of our Wednesday evening activities, and drop off food items to help other families in need. We thank you for your support!

Speed Dating with Books: Monday, December 7th

You are invited to join the Duluth First UMC **Library Book Club** on Monday, December 7th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the Youth Center ("The Fish Tank"), located on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center, for **Speed Dating with Books**! Be a part of the **Library Book Club** and help select the books for next year's reading list. Bring a friend, participate in Speed Dating, and then enjoy a refreshment or two as you discuss which books you would like a second date with.



Please Contact Amy Burk, Volunteer Librarian, by e-mail at **amycburk@yahoo.com** if you have any questions.

Senior Adult Coffee Hour: Wednesday, December 16th

Senior adults are invited to come together on Wednesday, December 16th, for a time of coffee, conversations, and fellowship. Bring a game, something you want to discuss, or just show up to enjoy time together!



We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the cul-da-sac area outside of the offices on the 1st floor of the Sheldon Family Life Center. Coffee is provided by Break Coffee Roasters. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. AnnaKate Rawles, Associate Pastor, by e-mail at **arawles@duluthumc.org**. We look forward to seeing you there!

College Care Packages

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing gift cards for our college student care packages! **Because of your support, we were able to send out 35 care packages!** A special thank-you to Laura Cox for leading this ministry and to the Christian Fellowship Sunday School class for writing encouraging notes, helping assemble the packages, and praying together for our students!

Church, thank you for the many ways you love and care for our college students!

Youth Fall Retreat



Students from our **Youth Ministry** had an incredible weekend at **Glisson Camp and Retreat Center** for our annual **Youth Fall Retreat**, joining so many other youth groups from across our conference! We're so grateful for the time we spent growing in faith as we connected with God and one another.

Throughout the weekend, we focused on how the Holy Spirit meets us right where we are, roots us in faith, grows hope within us, and empowers us to practice love in ways that transform our communities.

A big thank-you to Cherie Fuino and Keenan Klayman for joining us on the retreat and pouring into our students throughout the weekend! And thank you, Church, for your continued prayers and support for our young people!

OVER

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias: Now Through December 13th

The Worship Committee invites you to remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia this Christmas season. The poinsettias will be used to adorn the Sanctuary and Hinton Hall on Sunday, December 20th, and on Christmas Eve. **The cost per plant is $20. You may pick up your poinsettia/poinsettias following the worship services on Christmas Eve.** Printed copies of the poinsettia Remembrance/Honor listings will be available at the worship services on Sunday, December 20th, and at the three worship services on Christmas Eve.

All proceeds go to **Seeds of Hope**, whose funds are used to help meet the needs of God's people living in Duluth and Suwanee--often strangers, widows, orphans, homeless, those who are lost, and those who are without hope--who come to Duluth First United Methodist Church seeking assistance. **In 2026 the number of assistance requests has been much higher than in the past. If you would like to contribute extra above/beyond the cost of your poinsettia(s), we thank you for your additional support of Seeds of Hope.**

You can place your order for poinsettias online with a credit/debit card payment. Anyone wishing to pay by credit/debit card must complete their order form online. To order online, please go to the church's website - **www.duluthumc.org** - and then click on the **Poinsettias slide** on the homepage. **If you wish to pay by check or cash, order forms will be available:**

- At the Welcome/Information Centers;
- Online for download at the church's website - **www.duluthumc.org** - click on the **Poinsettias slide** on the homepage.
- In Sunday worship service materials on December 6th and 13th.

Please place your form/forms, along with a check made payable to ***Duluth First United Methodist Church*** and marked ***Poinsettias*** in the memo section, in the Church Staff Drop Box located in the Atrium. **NOTE: All poinsettia orders must be received by Sunday, December 13th, at 5:00 p.m.**

Duluth First United Methodist Church

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Website: www.duluthumc.org
Facebook: DuluthFirstUMC • Instagram: duluthfirstumc

Church Staff Directory

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Louise McDaniel Memorial Church Library
library@duluthumc.org

Christian Beginnings Preschool & Kindergarten
Office Phone: 770-497-1743

Duluth First United Methodist Church Advent Calendar

DECEMBER 2026



Merry Christmas from The Duluth First UMC Volunteer Church Librarians wishing you and your family hope, peace, joy and love as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Amy Burk, Laurie Fowler, Annette Pierce, and Megan Saxelby

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 29th First Sunday in Advent: HOPE "But as for me, I watch in HOPE for the Lord, I wait for God, my Savior; my God will hear me." (Micah 7:7)	November 30th "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 62: 5-6)	December 1 "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more." (Psalm 71:14)	2 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)	3 "For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope." (Galatians 5:5)	4 "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." (Psalm 25:5)	5 "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (I Corinthians 13:6-7)
6 Second Sunday in Advent: PEACE "The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord bless His people with PEACE." (Psalm 29:11)	7 "Peace I leave With You; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)	8 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)	9 "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)	10 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)	11 "Now may the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." (2 Thessalonians 3:16)	12 "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)
13 Third Sunday in Advent: JOY "You have made known to me the paths of life, you will fill me with JOY in your presence." (Acts 2:28)	14 "Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." (Isaiah 51:11)	15 "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (I Peter 1:8-9)	16 "But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I will bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)	17 "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)	18 "...Surely the Lord, the Lord Himself is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12: 2-3)	19 "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfector of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)
20 Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE "We LOVE because He first LOVED us." (I John 4:19)	21 "So we have come to know and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in him." (I John 4:16)	22 "And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:2)	23 "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." (John 14:12)	24 "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love, But the greatest of these is love." (I Corinthians 13:13)	25 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)	