Lord’s Day, December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

*Please complete the Attendance Registration sheet and pass it down the row to your left. Visitor cards and prayer cards are in the Attendance Register. Please place visitor cards and prayer request cards in the offering plate. We welcome your prayer requests.*

Verse to Meditate On Mt. 1:21-23 ESV

*“…’She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”*

Welcome/Announcements Tom Feazell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Prayer Group

Prelude

Call to Worship Isa. 25:6-9

Prayer of Invocation

 \*Praise Songs  *Emmanuel Hallowed Manger Ground*

 *The First Noel (Born is the King)*

The Confession of Faith: *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Lord’s Day 51

Q.126. What does the fifth request mean?

**A. *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors* means, Because of Christ’s blood, do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are, any of the sins we do or the evil that constantly clings to us. Forgive us just as we are fully determined, as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.**

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

\*Hymn #200 “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Worship through the Giving of Tithes and Offerings/Prayer

\*Offertory Response #731 “Doxology”

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise him, all creatures here below;**

**praise him above, ye heav’nly host:**

**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Special Music Ruth Oskamp

Scripture Dt. 5:12-15; Mt. 11:28-30 pp. 177, 970

*Children’s Church is available for children from grades Pre-K-3. Please exit to the narthex.*

Sermon “Rest Redeemed for Body and Soul”

\*Hymn #195 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

\*Benediction

\* Please stand if you are able.

**Church Office Hours - week of December 18th – December 22nd**

Monday: Church Office closed

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

12/17 Danielle Breneman

12/24 Kristen Nichols and Karl Mangels

12/31 Susan Bowen and Sue Milligan

**UPCOMING TECH TEAM**

 12/24 (morning) Ethan and Carol

12/24 (evening) Alan and Jeff

12/31 Gina and Brian

1/7 Alan and Jeff

1/14 Zach and Patrick

Direct website links to church information:

* Prayer / Praise - [www.lochravenpca.org/praise-prayer-form/](http://www.lochravenpca.org/praise-prayer-form/)
* Giving - [www.lochravenpca.org/giving/](http://www.lochravenpca.org/giving/)
* Calendar / Events - [www.lochravenpca.org/our-activities/](http://www.lochravenpca.org/our-activities/)
* Resources - [www.lochravenpca.org/resources/](http://www.lochravenpca.org/resources/)
* Visitor Feedback - [www.lochravenpca.org/visitor-feedback/](http://www.lochravenpca.org/visitor-feedback/)

Guest Wi-Fi network: LRPC@9318-Guest

Guest Wi-Fi Password: ac@lrpcgc

Church Website: [www.lochravenpca.org](http://www.lochravenpca.org)

**ESOL SNACK SIGN-UP**

It's that time of year again when we need you to sign up to donate snacks for our ESOL Program. The items we need are cheese (pre sliced), vegetables & dip or fruit & dip, or baked goods. Please, we only need these items. If you cannot purchase or make something but still want to contribute, please make a monetary donation and mark it for ESOL Snacks (also put $$ on sign-up sheet). The sign-up sheet is on a clipboard on the board marked GIVE in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Patty De Rosa at 410-805-2805.

**WORSHIP, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

12:45 p.m. **Stepping Stones Group**

**Monday, December 18, 2023**

12:00 p.m. **ROMEO Group**

6:30 p.m. **Deacons’ Meeting**

7:00 p.m. **Trustees’ Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

1:00 p.m. **Prayer Meeting**

5:30 p.m. **TOPS**

**NO GATHERING**

7:00 p.m. **ESOL**

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE\***

7:00 p.m. **Hannah Circle**

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

7:00 p.m. **Praise Team**

**Friday, December 22, 2023**

7:00 p.m. **Knitting Group**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**\*4th Sunday of Advent\***

**Adult Classes**

(The below classes are (not meeting on the 24th)

Men’s Class: *Moses, God’s First Super Hero* Room 201

Berean Class (Women): *John’s Letters* Room 202

Elective Class Room 203

7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Service**

**\*Please have any announcements or schedule changes in to the church office no later than noon on Tuesday this coming week because of the holiday. \***

**Missions Prayer Emphasis**

**FRONTIERS: JONAH OF NINEVEH**

Pray for Jonah as he prepares his Bible lessons; his teaching is extending to other countries. Besides Zoom he has opened a YouTube channel. He is reaching 350 people with his messages. PTL! He was invited to go to the studio to record material for his YouTube channel and appreciated the professional help he received. He requests prayer for his granddaughter Ella, a 14-year-old who has been having seizures regularly. Last month she had brain surgery, but afterward she was still experiencing seizures. The doctors have talked of a second surgery, but there is a possibility of loss of memory. Pray for wisdom for Ella’s parents as they make decisions about her medical treatment.

Pray for Jonah as he continues to deal with the loss of Jennifer, his wife of 46 years. PTL that the ladies at his church have been making sure that he is getting meals and that he is taking his medications.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CCC.**

The Missions Committee appreciates your generous gifts for the children at CCC. They will be distributed by the Center at their Christmas party. We also thank all who gave of their time and talent for last Sunday’s program. Brea Duty did a wonderful job of organizing the program. Thank you also to those who helped with preparing and serving food for the CCC kids and the LRPC kids who were involved, as well as for the cookies (baked by the women for the Christmas Tea) and beverages for everyone who attended.

**Church News**​

**END OF YEAR RECEIPTS/PURCHASES**

If you have made approved purchases for the church and need reimbursement please have your request, along with receipts, to me by Friday, Dec 29, 2023, so they can be included in our expenses for 2023. You can send them to me by email at treasurerlrpc@gmail.com or to my phone at 410-805-2805. Please make sure the receipt states what was purchased, and I also need to know what it was used for. You can also use the request form that is in the Treasurer's mailbox in the office. If you have any questions, please contact me, Patty De Rosa. (Note: I will be out of the country 1/2/24-1/16/24.)

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS** If you would like to show your appreciation for the efforts of the staff of LRPC this year, you may do so by making a contribution for staff Christmas gifts. Make all checks payable to LRPC; however, please CLEARLY note on the envelope and check that it is designated for the staff Christmas gift. This gift is not tax deductible. You may place your gift in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or give it to an elder by Sunday, December 24. Thank you for your consideration.

**MEN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The Men’s Sunday School Class will resume meeting on January 7, 2024, in room 201. We are studying the book of Exodus, and God’s first great hero, Moses. The class is open to all men – please come and join us!

**UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The Session has called a Congregational Business Meeting for Friday, January 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose is (1) To Present and Review the 2023 Annual Report; (2) The Election of Officers; (3) and To Elect five members of the congregation to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee.

A request for additional business to be transacted at such meeting may be submitted in writing to the Session. Such a request should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the scheduled meeting for the Session to review and make the required public notices. As specified in BCO 25-2, no business shall be transacted at such meeting except what is stated in the notice.

The slate of officer nominees will be presented 30 days before the meeting.

We are asking that all reports be submitted to the office in time for them to be digitally distributed at least one week in advance, and printed for the night of the meeting. We are asking everyone’s cooperation to get your reports in early. We are asking that these reports NOT be read at the meeting, but rather be BRIEFY summarized at the meeting.

**The church office is requesting that all reports for the Annual Meeting be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 5.**

**CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE**

The annual LRPC Christmas Card Exchange is underway! To raise money for the youth of LRPC, please consider donating what you would have spent on postage. As you prepare cards, please only send cards to folks who regularly attend. There will be a box in the lobby for you to drop off the cards beginning Sunday December 10. Our youth will be organizing them for you to take home each week.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2024 offering envelopes are now available on a table in the hallway between the lobby and the Narthex. ​Please be aware that some numbers have changed, so make sure you ​p​ick up the right ​box(es).

**FLOWERS THIS MORNING**

the flowers in the front of the church are presented by Bob and Kathy Fagan with thankfulness to God for the life of their mother, Kathryn, on what would have been her 100th birthday today, December 17.

**BEREAN CLASS RESUMING**

The Berean class will not be meeting on Sunday, December 24. They will resume meeting on Sunday, December 31, and will continue in their studies of *John’s Letters*, starting with chapter 2.