Lord’s Day, December 24, 2023

4th 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 Lk. 2:10-11 ESV

*“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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’.”*

Welcome/Announcements Tom Feazell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Stepping Stones Group

Prelude

Call to Worship Isa. 52:7-10

Prayer of Invocation

 \*Praise Songs  *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

 *How Great Our Joy*

The Confession of Faith:

 *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Lord’s Day 52 (Question 127 only)

Q.127. What does the sixth request mean?

**A. *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one* means, By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies – the devil, the world, and our own flesh – never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.**

Special Music *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Bethany Oskamp

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 #201 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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 *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Choir

Scripture Mic. 5:2-5a; Lk. 2:25-32 pp. 926, 1019

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

Sermon “The One Who Gives Rest”

\*Hymn #196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

\*Benediction

\* Please stand if you are able.

**Church Office Hours - week of December 25th – December 29th**

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. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday: (Nancy B. off, Nancy S. working)

**UPCOMING NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

12/24 John Selby

12/31 Susan Bowen and Danielle Breneman

1/7 Carol Williams and Debbie Sisson

1/14 Carol Bronakoski

**UPCOMING TECH TEAM**

12/24 (evening) Alan and Jeff

12/31 Gina and Brian

1/7 Alan and Jeff

1/14 Zach and Patrick

1/21 Robbie and Sam

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 24, 2023**

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

**Monday, December 25, 2023**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023**

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

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

**NO GATHERING**

**NO ESOL**

**Thursday, December 28, 2023**

7:00 p.m. **Prayer Conference Line**

**Friday, December 29, 2023**

5:45 p.m. **Ladies’ Group**

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

**No Children’s Sunday School**

**Adult Classes**

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

(The below classes are (not meeting on the 31st)

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

Elective Class: Officer Training (starts January 7) Room 203

**\*Please have any announcements or schedule changes in to the church office no later than noon on Wednesday.**

**Missions Prayer Emphasis**

**ALL MISSIONARIES WHO ARE UNABLE TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH THEIR FAMILIES**

Please pray for all those missionaries who are currently serving in places where they will not be able to be home with their families. Pray that they will be able to share with their colleagues as well as with the people to whom they minister. Pray that God will bless them with the knowledge that they are faithfully serving Him in the place to which He called them.

**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.

**PRAYER TREE IN THE NARTHEX**

Our Prayer Tree in the Narthex looks lovely. If you did not have an opportunity to sign an ornament and place it on the tree, extra ornaments are available at the usher's table in the narthex. Just write your name on the back and hang the ornament on the tree. After Christmas, we will have an opportunity to take an ornament and pray for that person throughout the year.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDILE FOR NEW YEAR**

Berean Class – resumes December 31, continuing with chapter 2 of *John’s Letters*

Men’s Class – resumes January 7 on Moses study

Elective Class – resumes on January 7 with new class on officer training

**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).

**2024 CHURCH NURSERY NEEDS YOU!**

The church nursery team is looking for two new members to serve during 11:00 Worship in the nursery. You would be serving one Sunday about every other month. New nursery team members are LRPC members who have passed a background check and completed an application to serve. The service is live streamed to the nursery so you can somewhat participate in Worship with the children. Please contact Brea ASAP to apply. The schedule for January-June 2024 will be available as soon as possible.