Lord’s Day, December 3, 2023

1st 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. 1:13, 16 ESV

*“But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John…. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God…’.”*

Welcome/Announcements Sue Milligan

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Berean Class

Prelude

Call to Worship Isa. 66:1-2

Prayer of Invocation

 \*Praise Songs  *Praise His Name*

 *Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel*

The Confession of Faith: *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Lord’s Day 49

Q.124. What does the third request mean?

**A. *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* means, Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.**

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 #194 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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 *Mary, Did You Know?*  Gloria Coleman

Scripture Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11 pp. 2, 72

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

Sermon “God Created a Rhythm of Rest”

\*Hymn #214 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

\*Benediction

\* Please stand if you are able.

**Church Office Hours - week of December 4th – December 8th**

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**

12/3 Jean Bender and John Selby

12/10 Suzanne Maddox and Cindy Walshe

12/17 Danielle Breneman

12/24 Kristen Nichols and Karl Mangels

**UPCOMING TECH TEAM**

 12/10 Zach and Patrick

12/17 Robbie and Sam

12/24 (morning) Ethan and Carol

12/24 (evening) Alan and Jeff

12/31 Gina and Brian

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)

**AED LOCATIONS**

An AED is an Automated External Defibrillator that is a device used to send a shock to someone’s heart if that person’s heart should stop beating. LRPC has two AED devices: one on the wall in the Narthex and one on the wall in the lower level. Each has a device for an adult and a child. If anyone should collapse without a heartbeat, call 911, open the AED, and follow the written and recorded verbal instructions found inside the case.

**WORSHIP, GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Monday, December 4, 2023**

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

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

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

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

5:45 p.m. **The Gathering**

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

7:45 p.m. **Missions Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023**

9:30 a.m. **Women’s Bible Study**

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

**Friday, December 8, 2023**

6:00 p.m. **Annual Congregational Budget Meeting**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**\*2nd Sunday of Advent\***

9:30 a.m. **Missions Presentation by Tess Selby (Butz)**

**Adult Classes**

All Adult Sunday School: *Respect the Image* Sanctuary

(classes below resuming in December)

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

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

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

**Missions Prayer Emphasis**

**CHINA OUTREACH MINISTRIES – MINISTRY TO CHINESE STUDENTS WHO ARE FAR FROM HOME**

PRAY for the COM missionaries as they seek opportunities to share Christ with students from China, the largest group of international students on US campuses. COM workers are ministering in more than 60 university communities across the country. PRAISE THE LORD that one of the COM missionaries recently shared that “…since the beginning of the fall semester, I’m happy to see God bringing more students to our fellowship. What makes me even happier is that their hearts are more serious and open to God. I feel the many prayers and the seeds sown in the past three years are producing new lives in God’s hands.” PRAY that the Holy Spirit will continue to move in the hearts of the students. PRAY that many will have the opportunity to understand the reason for the season and commit to following Christ.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CCC**

On December 10, at 6:45 p.m., we will be hosting Tom Homans and some of the young people who participate in the activities at the Christian Community Center. Our program will include Christmas carol singing, a report from Tom on what is happening at the Center, and a talent show; CCC kids and LRPC kids will be sharing their talents. We encourage you to bring gifts (unwrapped) for CCC. Tom has provided a list of desired items. Print copies are also available on the table in front of the Activities Board in the Narthex.

**Church News**​

**CHRISTMAS SEASON CHORAL OPPORTUNITY**

Would you like to sing in a choral ensemble this Christmas season? We will be rehearsing an arrangement of the hymn “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” with four-part harmony. We will rehearse right after the church service for half an hour from Nov. 19th- Dec. 17th and then perform on December 24th. There are five after-church rehearsals but if you miss one or two you can still participate and there is also an audio track to help rehearse at home. If you are interested, please let Rachel Stenger (praiseteamlrpc@gmail.com) know so we have enough sheet music for everyone, and stay after this Sunday for rehearsal!

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER & LRPC TALENT SHOW!**

SIGN UP NOW to share your talents at the Christmas Talent Show on Sunday December 10th at 6:45pm.  All ages welcome!  Contact Brea with questions.  Please use the link below to register to perform:

<https://forms.gle/oAUWbeSjGqxEDqbX7>

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING**

The Session has called a Congregational Budget Meeting for Friday, December 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  The purpose is to present the proposed church operating budget for the 2024 calendar year, as approved by the Session and in cooperation with other church boards and committees. No other business is normally conducted at this meeting.

**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.

**OUR PRAYER TREE IS BACK!**

The children have put their ornaments on the tree! Our shut-ins all have an ornament. As the children pass ornaments and pens, please take one per couple/family, and write your name on the back. At the end of the service, you will have a chance to put your ornament on the tree or drop it in one of the gift boxes at the doors and we will hang it for you. After Christmas you may each claim an ornament and pray for that family. Visitors are welcome to participate.