

NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Phone: 412-487-1071 e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net

Web site: www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

Caring, Witnessing, Serving

Baptism of Our Lord 10:15 a.m. January 9, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING I

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INTRODUCTION

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

P: = Pastor W: = Worship Assistant A: = All in Attendance

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE *Swiss Noel, with Variations* - Louis Claude Daquin

Please remember that our Organ Preludes provide times for silent personal reflection and prayer. Please refrain from talking during these times to be respectful of those around you.

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(time for silent reflection)

PRELUDE *Song of Peace* – Jean Langlais

Congregation turn to face the Baptismal Font at back of the Sanctuary

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

A: Amen.

(During the procession and recession continue to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN** ELW #311 Stanzas 1 & 4 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” *Freut Euch, Ihr Lieben*

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.

4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

*Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



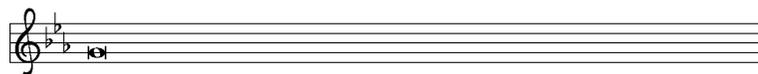
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

W: ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

A: ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

W: ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

A: ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

W: ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

A: ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

W: ⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

A: ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

W: ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

A: ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for evermore.

W: ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

A: Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved,* with whom I am well pleased.” *Alleluia.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW #800 Stanzas 1 & 4 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart” *Morecambe*

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

***THE NICENE CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**A: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

W: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

W: By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

W: You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood.

God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

W: Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

W: You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need especially *Ken Kilbert, Andy Halcoussis, Marilyn Veselack, and the family and friends of June Tabor.* God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

W: We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

W: You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

A: Hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

We do not pass around the offering plate during worship due to Covid safety reasons. The plate is on a table near the organ to place your offering in before the service.

***OFFERTORY** ELW #182 “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

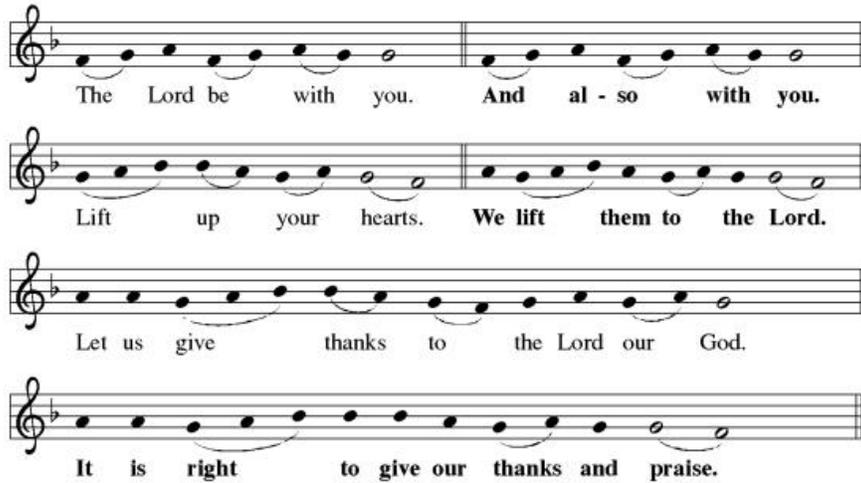
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together:

**A: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

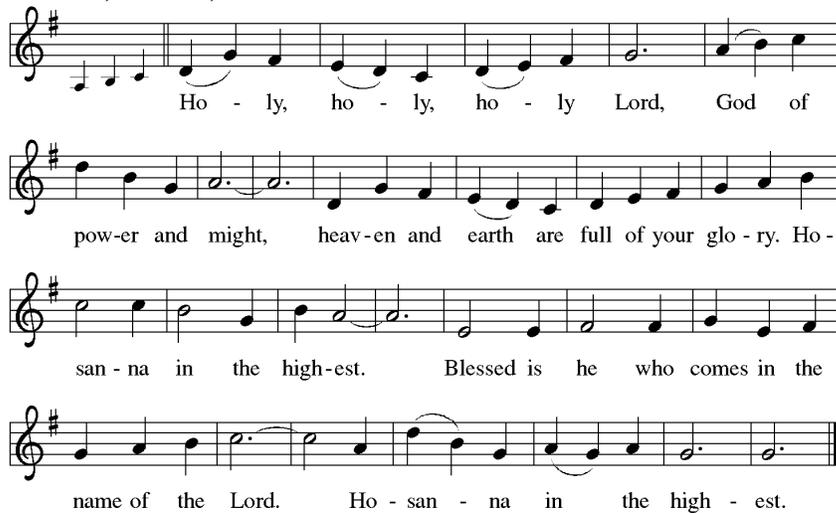


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THE PREFACE**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**A: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

A: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

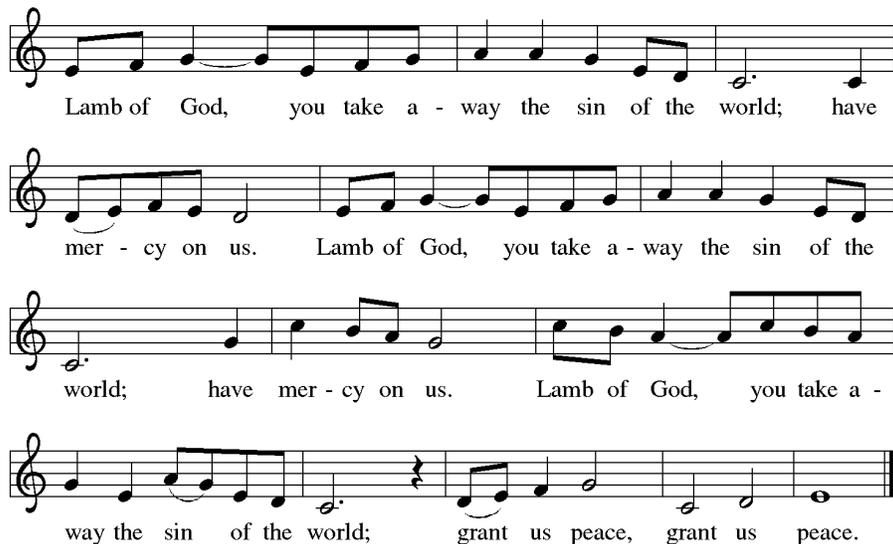
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**A: 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.**

***THE PRESENTATION:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

*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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

(Please inform Pastor at the Communion rail if you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer for Holy Communion. If you wish to commune in your seat, please inform the Usher when your row is dismissed)

***TABLE HYMN:** ELW #396 Stanzas 1 & 4 “Spirit of Gentleness” *Spirit*

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Text © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

*THE BLESSING

P: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

A: Amen.

***THE BENEDICTION**

P: 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.

A: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** ELW #304 Stanzas 1 & 4

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" *Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen*

1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.

4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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***DISMISSAL**

W: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

A: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

[Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen] - Johann Gottfried Walther

Feel free to remain seated for the playing of the postlude. We are all so excited to talk to each other, so at the postlude's conclusion just move to the Narthex for conversation.



The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor
The Rev. Cyril Hurnyak, Kantor

Worship Assistant: Tom Beecher
Greeter: Judy Beecher
Usher: Kim Brandt
Lector: Ken Saunders
Videographer: Heather Johnson
Crucifer: Quentin Romero Lauro
Altar Guild: Carol Banks and Charlene Ott
Offering Tellers: Jean Chantz & Charlie Brandt

~**~**~**~**~**~

The Altar flowers this week are given by: The Kiefer Family, In Loving Memory of Jim’s Mother, Mildred E. Kiefer

~**~**~**~**~**~

Pastor Jennifer Office Hours for January 10 - 15.

Tuesday, Jan 11 3pm – 6pm
Wednesday, Jan 12 11 am – 2pm
Thursday, Jan 13 10am – 2pm

Dottie Zaffuto Office Hours for January 10-15

Monday 9am – 3pm
Tuesday 9am – 3pm
Wednesday 9am – 12pm

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Sunday, January 2, 2022 Attendance: 31 Offering: \$1,896

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What’s happening at Nativity for the Week of January 9 - January 15:

- MONDAY - AA meeting – 8:00 p.m.
- TUESDAY - WELCA mtg 10:00a.m. – Business Mtg
- Church Council mtg 7:00p.m.
- WEDNESDAY - Harmony Line Chorus 7:00 p.m.
- FRIDAY - NA meeting – 8:00p.m.

**** *Announcements* ****

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers for your special Sundays in 2022, please sign the flower chart on the bulletin board across from the nursery.

Directory Changes

We will be updating the Membership Directory. Let Dottie know of any new addresses, cell phone numbers or email addresses. You can email us at NativityLC@Verizon.net, leave a phone message (412-487-1071) or just write a note for Dottie and leave on the secretary’s door.

Please remember we are in need of Worship Service helpers each week that includes Usher, Greeter, Lector, Crucifer & Videographers. Please sign up on our website under “Serving this Month” or let the church office know how and when you’d like to participate.

Reverse Advent Grocery Collection Results:

Members of the congregation donated 37 bags and 6 cases of groceries for the Reverse Advent Collection. This was the largest amount of groceries ever for one month. Thanks for your generosity.