



THE COMPANION

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

The store displays and advertisements have been urging us to get ready for months. I still can't get used to seeing Christmas merchandise on shelves in September. But now that Thanksgiving is over and it's December...we can, in earnest, start thinking about getting ready for Christmas. There's cards to send, gifts to buy, decorations to put up, gatherings to plan, meals to prepare.



Jesus talks about **being ready**. But in a much different way and for a much different occasion. In the Advent season, we often think about His first advent, his coming to Bethlehem in the manger. But Jesus talks about his second advent, his coming in glory at the end of time.

And this is more than getting ready with cards and parties and shopping and decorations. **Getting ready for the last day is to look to the first coming of Christ and to see that as a reminder that he comes to us today in Word and Sacraments and to trust that this prepares us for His coming at the end of the age.**

Jesus' disciples ask him about the end of age. And Jesus calls them and us, his church, to live in constant readiness...because his coming will be at an hour when we do not expect him. Jesus says: "Be vigilant. Be ready."

Now, if you ask people if they're **ready for Christmas**, you'll get a lot of different answers. But what if someone asked you about meeting the Lord when he returns? "Jesus is coming back...What if that's today? Are you ready?" Do your daily activities and decisions and priorities show that you are ready? We're tempted to think..."Come on, What's the big rush? Jesus said he would come back to take us to be with him, but that was 2000 years ago, and he hasn't come yet. So what's the hurry? We've got plenty of time, right?"

Well, Let's not be so sure of that. We love to procrastinate, don't we? We put things off until its convenient or it's absolutely necessary to give it our attention. Well, it's one thing to procrastinate on paying a bill or making a doctor's appointment. It's quite another to procrastinate when it comes to God. You and I today, are called to constant vigilance. Jesus says to us: "The time to be ready is now. Keep watch." There is no time to put off our preparation.

But how do you prepare for the unexpected? How do you get ready for something you can't predict? Well, first and foremost, we prepare by listening to the words of Jesus. We don't look to the future with fear, because we know that each day is a new day for us to listen to Jesus. When John the Baptist prepared people for the first advent of Christ he said, "Repent, be baptized, turn from your sin. Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Trust him and his saving work"

That's also the best preparation for us. The best way to prepare for Christmas and for Christ's second coming...To believe that Jesus came to live and die for us. And that in him we are safe and secure. Jesus is your gracious Lord and Savior. And He is the one who is coming for you. It was your gracious Lord and Savior who was born as a baby in Bethlehem for you. It was your gracious Lord and savior who took on human flesh to pay the penalty for your sin.


In Jesus, God has fulfilled his promise to send a savior. And you and I share in the deliverance brought to us by the birth of the Christ-Child so many years ago. You are the reason Christmas happened in the first place. Christmas is for you and for your salvation. Consider this Advent season how blessed we are. Blessed beyond imagination. Blessed with forgiveness of sin, blessed with victory over satan, blessed with hope of eternal life. Hold on to these blessings won by Jesus upon the cross.

The best way to prepare for Christmas and for Christ's second coming is believing that Jesus came to live and die for you.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we wait in eager, joyful expectation for the celebration of Christ's nativity. His coming as a child to the manger. But this celebration is also a reminder that Jesus will also come again someday. The call goes out: "Watch. Be ready." This is a call to put out lives, our hope, our faith into God's hands. Because our Lord who will return someday is also our gracious Lord and Savior. In him we are made ready by his shed blood and his triumphant resurrection. Because of this we may confidently pray: "Come quickly Lord Jesus."

*In the name of Jesus.
Amen,
Pastor Darren Harbaugh*

❁ DECEMBER SERVANT LIST ❁

	DECEMBER 3RD	DECEMBER 10TH	DECEMBER 17TH	DECEMBER 24TH	DECEMBER 31ST
LECTORS	SHAWN LEONARD	JEFF VAN DER HOOF	HALEY JENNINGS	PASTOR HARBAUGH	MARJIE KEATING
FLOWERS	THE RUEDIGERS	POINSETTIAS	POINSETTIAS	POINSETTIAS	POINSETTIAS
COFFEE HOUR	THE IRMES	NO ONE SIGNED UP	THIRD SUNDAYS BIRTHDAYS	NO ONE SIGNED UP	NO ONE SIGNED UP
ALTAR GUILD	RUTH NUTT	JULI REYNOLDS	BECKY PEARSON	BECCA HARBAUGH	BECKY & RUTH

❁ JANUARY SERVANT LIST ❁

	JANUARY 7TH	JANUARY 14TH	JANUARY 21ST	JANUARY 28TH
LECTORS	TIM RUEDIGER	HALEY JENNINGS	MARJIE KEATING	JEFF VAN DER HOOF
FLOWERS	PLEASE SIGN UP			
COFFEE HOUR	PLEASE SIGN-UP	PLEASE SIGN-UP	THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS	PLEASE SIGN-UP
ALTAR GUILD	RUTH NUTT	JULI REYNOLDS	BECCA HARBAUGH	BECKY PEARSON

❁ FEBRUARY SERVANT LIST ❁

February	FEBRUARY 4TH	FEBRUARY 11TH	FEBRUARY 18TH	FEBRUARY 25TH
LECTORS	HALEY JENNINGS	SHAWN LEONARD	MARJIE KEATING	TIM RUEDIGER
FLOWERS	PLEASE SIGN UP			
COFFEE HOUR	PLEASE SIGN UP	PLEASE SIGN UP	THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS	PLEASE SIGN UP
ALTAR GUILD	RUTH NUTT	JULI REYNOLDS	BECKY PEARSON	BECCA HARBAUGH



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS! NAJOO RUEDIGER - 12/2

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!
ZOEY REYNOLDS - 01/01 ~*~ MARTHA LADEN - 01/05
NATASHA NUTT - 01/27 ~*~ BILLY REYNOLDS - 01/31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!
BECKY PEARSON - 02/02 ~*~ HOWARD PEARSON - 02/23
CLAUDE GAU - 02/26

If you want your birthday in the Newsletter, please contact Martha in the office at: {831} 394-1312 -or- at office@faithseaside.org

**The Deadline for the SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER is:
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024 AT 10 AM.**

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>REMEMBER TO TAKE PICTURES, PLEASE. DECORATING THE CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP - ETC.</p> <p><i>Thank you.</i></p>					1	2
3  FIRST SUNDAY OF <i>Advent</i>	4  NATIONAL COOKIE DAY <small>DECEMBER 4</small>	5	6	7 PEARL HARBOR  REMEMBRANCE DAY	8	9
10  SECOND SUNDAY OF <i>Advent</i>	11	12	13  Happy National Cocoa Day!	14	15	16
17  <small>Third Sunday of Advent</small> THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS	18	19	20	21  WINTER SOLSTICE	22	23
24  <small>FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent</small> Christmas Eve	25  CHRISTMAS	26  BOXING DAY <small>December 26</small>	27	28	29	30  GOODBYE DECEMBER
31  NEW YEAR'S EVE	 <p>ANNOUNCEMENTS DEC. 3RD - ADVENT BEGINS DEC. 4TH - NATIONAL COOKIE DAY DEC. 7TH - PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY DEC. 13TH - NATIONAL COCOA DAY DEC. 21ST - WINTER SOLSTICE DEC. 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE DEC. 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY DEC. 26TH - BOXING DAY DEC. 31ST - NEW YEAR'S EVE</p>					

JANUARY

2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 HELLO JANUARY	1 New Year's Day  OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4 	5	6  EPIPHANY BEGINS
7  EPIPHANY SUNDAY	8	9  NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY <small>January 9</small>	10	11  NATIONAL MILK DAY <small>JANUARY 11</small>	12	13
14	15  MLK DAY <small>MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.</small> OFFICE CLOSED	16  APPRECIATE A DRAGON DAY	17	18  Happy Winnie the Pooh Day!	19  NATIONAL POPCORN DAY <small>JANUARY 19th</small>	20
21  THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS	22	23  NATIONAL PIE DAY <small>January 23</small>	24  NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER DAY <small>JAN 24</small>	25	26	27  INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
28	29	30  NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY <small>Jan 30</small>	31  BYE JANUARY!	<h2>UPCOMING EVENTS</h2>		

JAN. 1ST - NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED
JAN. 4TH - NATIONAL SPAGHETTI DAY
JAN. 6TH - EPIPHANY BEGINS
JAN. 7TH - EPIPHANY SUNDAY
JAN. 9TH - NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY
JAN. 11TH - NATIONAL MILK DAY
JAN. 15TH - MLK DAY - OFFICE CLOSED
JAN. 16TH - APPRECIATE A DRAGON DAY
JAN. 18TH - WINNIE THE POOH DAY
JAN. 19TH - NATIONAL POPCORN DAY
JAN. 20TH - THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 23RD - NATIONAL PIE DAY
JAN. 24TH - NATIONAL PEANUT BUTTER DAY
JAN. 27TH - INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
JAN. 30TH - NATIONAL CROISSANT DAY

February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>FEB. 02ND - GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 05TH - NTL. WEATHERPERSON'S DAY FEB. 09TH - PIZZA DAY FEB. 10TH - CHINESE NEW YEAR FEB. 12TH - ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY- OFFICE CLOSED FEB. 13TH - SHROVE TUESDAY & MARDI GRAS FEB. 14TH - ASH WEDNESDAY & ST. VALENTINE'S DAY FEB. 18TH - THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS FEB. 19TH - GEO. WASHINGTON'S B-DAY - OFFICE CLOSED FEB. 22ND - NATIONAL MARGARITA DAY FEB. 29TH - LEAP DAY</p> 				1	2	3	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							 CHINESE NEW YEAR!
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	 OFFICE CLOSED		 Happy Valentine's Day!				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
 THIRD SUNDAY BIRTHDAYS	 OFFICE CLOSED						
25	26	27	28	29			

REMEMBER

TO TAKE PICTURES AROUND THE CHURCH, DURING EVENTS.

NEED TO PUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWSLETTER?

E-MAIL ME OR CALL ME - I HAVEN'T BITTEN ANYONE IN YEARS!

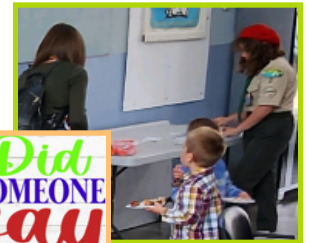


Photographs From Around Faith

[from around Faith for the last couple of months!]



Mingling around Faith



Photos were taken
between August 2023
and November 2023.

*Sending Special Thanks
out to our troop of
Fabulous Photographers:*

**Don Wallich,
Marjie Keating,
Carol Leonard**

WORKING AROUND FAITH



Please continue to take
photographs around
Faith... Thank You.