

The Beacon

December 2024

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

320 N 28th St E
Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

Divine Worship
Services
Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Sunday
School
Sunday - 10 a.m.



“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” (Isaiah 9:6,7)

You probably remember this passage from all those years of hearing it spoken at the Children’s Christmas Worship service. Maybe you even recited it yourself. It’s from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the book that is often thought of as the first Gospel because it has so many clear prophecies about Jesus, the Messiah, being born into our flesh. Through Isaiah spoke many dire warnings to his people because they had so often turned away from him to other idols, to dishonesty, corruption, and the oppression of those with whom they dealt in business. God called his people to repent. When they didn’t, Isaiah warned them that God would allow other nations to attack Israel and take them into exile. Yet, God also reminded them of his love for them. When they were powerless God acted in power. When they were in gloomy circumstances God comforted them with prophecies like this one.

Of course, those words still speak to us today. If we think we’re good or honest or somehow better than them, we need to think again because we are sinners too. While we also don’t deserve God’s love and mercy, he still promised he would give us his Son. And Jesus is wonderful, he is a wise counselor and a mighty God. He is indeed the Prince of Peace that we need in a scary, dangerous warring world. Any of our governments are far from perfect and certainly do not last forever. But Jesus rules in perfect righteousness. His kingdom will never fail nor fade. His peace is indeed one that surpasses all human understanding. His zeal for us to be with him in heaven forever is an amazing reality.

What a gracious God we have! I pray that, whatever your circumstances-joyful or challenging-you will always remember that Immanuel (meaning God is with us) is with you; he will never leave you or forsake you.

A blessed Merry Christmas to you!

In Christ, Pastor Schield

The Season of Advent is Here!

Start the New Year with spiritual preparation for our dear Lord's imminent return in glory! Join us during Advent!

*"Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
Turn not from me aside,
And grant that I receive Thee
This blessed Advent tide.
From stall and manger low
Come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee
And forth Thy glory show."
-THL 75:4*

Happy New Year! The new church year began December 1, the First Sunday in Advent. Spiritually enriching and challenging Divine Services are planned for each Sunday and Wednesday in Advent. Start the New Year right by preparing for our dear Lord's imminent return in glory! Join us during Advent!

Mid-Week Advent Services

Join us for our upcoming Midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays, beginning December 4. Services are offered at 12:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Come and join us over those Wednesdays as we hear of the comfort that would come to God's people.

December 4 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

"The Song of Zechariah" Luke 1:67-80

December 11 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

"The Song of Elizabeth" Luke 1:39-45

December 18 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

"The Song of Mary" Luke 1:46-56

Soup & Sandwich Suppers

Please join us once again for food and fellowship as we bring back the soup and sandwich suppers during Advent. They start **December 4 at 5:30 p.m.** The Board of Deacons is hosting this first supper.

Poinsettia Time

It is time to order poinsettias to beautify the altar during Christmas. The price this year is \$14.00. You will find order forms in various locations in the narthex & in the church office. Please fill out an order form and turn it in WITH the money to the office. **The deadline for ordering is December 8.**

Parent's Night Out Dec. 7

Christ Lutheran is having a Parents Night Out on Saturday, December 7. The event is being held by the Youth Group, along with adults. This is a chance to leave children ages 4-12 for an evening of fun, while their parents enjoy a date night or doing some Christmas shopping or whatever.

Parents **MUST** pre-register their children, there is a sign up sheet on the office door or you may contact the church office by December 6. Family & friends are welcome so please share the information.

Parents can drop off the children starting at 4:45 p.m. Parents must come in to sign in their children and to fill out/sign the registration form.

Gift Wrapping at Twin Ports Health Services

On December 8 at 1:30 p.m. the Sunday School families will be going to be at Twin Ports Health Services for a gift-wrapping event for the residents. They will be bringing items that the residents can choose from so they can have gifts to give to their family and then they will wrap them up for them. If you would like to help wrap gifts you are welcome! Kids younger than 6th grade will need to have a parent/guardian accompany them. We will meet at Twin Ports Health Services @ 1:15 p.m.

To that end the Sunday school could use small gifts for the residents to choose from if you would like to donate small new item such as dish rags, candles, puzzles, frames, 2025 calendars, slipper socks, holiday towels, word search books, adult coloring books, etc. There will be a box in the narthex that you can place the unwrapped items in. Thank you for your support. We do **NOT** need wrapping paper, or gift bags.

Christmas Cheer Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, December 14, at 1 p.m. let us come together for a heartwarming gathering filled with delicious food and good company. It is time to share the joy of the Christmas season.

Free Family style dinner provided by the Youth Group (this is not a potluck, no need to bring anything). Check out and bid on silent auction items to help with the youth's upcoming National Youth Gathering trip.

Bring a friend or two!



Mitten Tree

A Mitten Tree has been set up in the fellowship hall. We are collecting new hats, mittens, and scarves for those in need. Just put the items on the tree in the fellowship hall. You may also give them to Kathy Field or Marilyn Pingel.

Children's Christmas Program

Please join us for the Sunday School's Christmas program on Sunday, December 15 during the 9 a.m. service.

Christmas Schedule

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger."

-Luke 2:7



December 24 – The Nativity of Our Lord

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Nativity)

"The Song of the Angels", Luke 2:1-20

Guardian Angel Program 2025

We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 12, 2025, following the Sunday service, for the Annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch to be held in the fellowship hall.

If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel drawing, please fill out a form located on the table next to the office in the Narthex, and submit the form "no later than" Sunday, January 5, 2025. You will select a name at the January 12 Brunch.

What do you do? We remember the person on special dates throughout the year, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, by praying for them, or giving cards or small gifts to the person, signed only **"From Your Guardian Angel."** Use the mailboxes in the Narthex to deliver your surprises. **We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year, at the 2026 Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch.**

A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast will be provided and served by the Board of Stewardship & Evangelism. Additionally, please let us know if you're planning to attend the breakfast by signing up on the office door. This attendance list will be

used to determine breakfast supplies needed for the event.

God Bless and Thank You!

If you can't get to the church right now to obtain and fill out a form, feel free to contact Roni Hauser @ 715-398-3680, and she will take the information needed to fill out a form, you can also email clcoffice320@gmail.com your information.

2024 Offerings & 2025 Offering Envelopes

2025 offering envelopes are here, you will find them in your mailbox by December 15. If you don't have a mailbox they will be on the counter. If you did not have envelopes in 2024 and would like them in 2025, please contact Roni in the office.

If you have any questions, please contact Roni in the church office.

Reminder: please throw away any unused 2024 envelopes as of January 1. Please do not use 2024 envelopes in 2025 because the number may not be the same and your contribution will not get credited to you.

Your offerings for 2024 must be **to the church no later than December 31**. Contribution statements will be available in the narthex by January 31.

Christ's Men

Christ's Men's first Tuesday lunches have returned. They will meet on December 3, 11:30 AM, at Superior Family Restaurant, it is on the first floor, alley side of the Androy Hotel, at 1213 Tower Ave. Hope to see as many as possible there.

Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML)

Join thousands of other Lutheran women who focus on missions and God's Word. Our Christ Lutheran LWML will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 1:00 PM. Our emphasis is on Bible Study, mission projects, sharing faith and friendship with our "sisters-in-Christ". Pastor Bernecker will lead our Bible Study. If you have received a fall Quarterly, please bring it with you.

Church Council Minutes

November 14, 2024 – No Meeting

Voters Meeting

November 17, 2024 – Not Available at time of printing

Stewardship

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting
cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who

dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

Blessing of Advent Wreath at Home

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

Matthew 28:19b

Response: Amen.

Leader: As we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” *Isaiah 9:2*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Response: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in our home/school throughout this holy season of Advent.

Response: Amen.

Rite of the Christmas Tree

This order may be used with family or friends as you decorate your Christmas tree.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the (+)
Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth
be glad!

**All: Let the sea roar and the fullness
thereof! Let the fields be joyful
and all that is therein!
Then shall all the trees of the wood
rejoice before the lord. For he cometh,
for he cometh to judge the earth. He
shall judge the world with
righteousness and the people with his
truth.**

Leader: Jesus on the Tree of the Cross didst give
salvation unto mankind

**All: That whence death arose, thence life
might rise again.**

Leader: And that he who by a tree once
overcame

**All: Might likewise by a tree be overcome
through Christ our Lord.**

Leader: The Lord God planted a garden
eastward in Eden and there he put the
man whom he had formed. And out of
the ground made the Lord God to grow
every tree that is pleasant to the sight
and good for food; the tree of life also in
the midst of the garden, and the tree of
knowledge of good and evil. Praise be to
Jesus who in his own self bore our sins
in his own body on the tree, that we
being dead to sins, should live unto
righteousness

Let us pray. ..

O Lord Jesus who didst bear on thine
own sacred Body the sins of us and all
mankind on the Tree of the Cross; bless
this tree and let it be a reminder to us of
the joy of thy birthday and of the glorious
hope which thou has obtained for us.

All: Amen

Did You Know

Advent Devotionals

Advent devotionals are available for your family,
free of charge, in the church narthex. There are a
couple of different devotions available to choose
from, take the one that works best for you or take
both. You will find them in various locations around
the narthex.

Christmas Is One of Two Times during the year
when people without a church are especially open

to invitations to come and worship. Use this
opportunity to invite and bring your neighbors to our
Advent and Christmas services. God bless your
missionary work!

Youth Upcoming Events

All 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to attend any or
all events! We study God's Word in a variety of
ways – music videos with today's current Christian
artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that
relate to the youth! Join us! Bring a friend!

Come to the Youth Bible Study during the Christian
education hour from 10 to 11 each Sunday, it
promises to be good and there may even be food!

Remember our Service Personnel

Please keep our military members in your prayers.
If you want someone listed, please contact the
church office.

Captain Nick Kirchoff, Army, Germany, son of
Chris & Amy Kirchoff;

The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please
double check that all doors are locked, all lights are
turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats
are turned down before your group leaves the
church. Thank you!

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS
Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran
Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex
Marriage, Reformation *Solus*, Depression, Radical
Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and
more. Listen to what you want when you want at
www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need
to bring in your donations of non-perishable food
items for the local food shelf. You may put your
items under the table in the narthex. This is given to
those in need and then to the local food pantry

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If
not, you are missing important and timely
information from your church. We will not flood your
inbox or share your email address (addresses are
always hidden when sent from church). Please help
us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-
3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

My Savior Lives Northland

LCMS Service of Worship – Every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on My 9 Channel 6.3

"My Savior Lives Northland" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. MSL Northland is broadcast every Saturday & Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Central time on My 9 Channel 6.3 and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations. Please check your local listings.

Please send contributions c/o:

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
2012 East Superior St., Duluth, MN 55812
Checks should be made to: MSL Northland

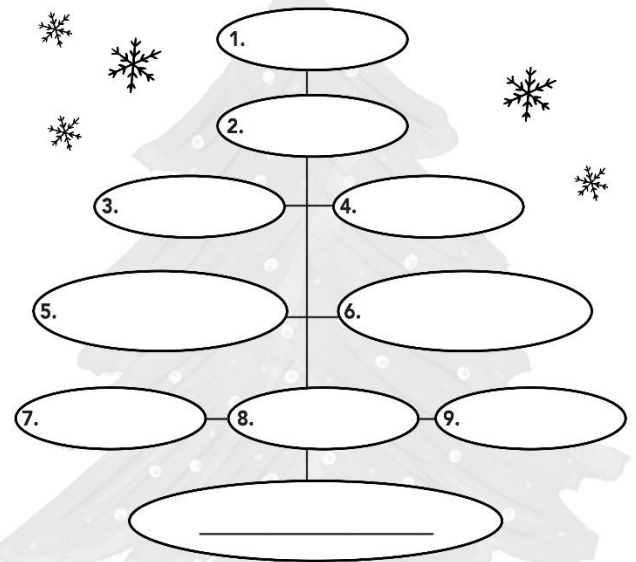


December Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Louise Busse |
| 3 | Beth Erdman
Linda Byrka |
| 4 | Audrey Kidd |
| 10 | Bud Brand |
| 12 | James Lemmerman
Ken Ormsby |
| 13 | Leo Fonger |
| 16 | Nell Loughren
Marie Haire
Mark Deniswicz |
| 21 | Alyssa Isackson |
| 22 | Sharon Makela |
| 23 | Sharyn Vengrin |
| 26 | Lawrence Lehto
Bonnie Pahlen |
| 27 | Adair Piper |
| 28 | Lloyd Lehto
Scott Stenroos |
| 31 | Brett Austin |

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch

We would like to invite you to join us for the annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch, to be held in the fellowship hall, on **Sunday, January 12, 2025, following the service**. A delicious pancake and sausage breakfast will be prepared and served by the Board of Stewardship & Evangelism.

What are Guardian Angels?

As a Guardian Angel, you remember the person you select on special dates throughout the year, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, through “prayer” or by giving cards or small gifts to this person, signed only **“From Your Guardian Angel.”** Use the mailboxes in the Narthex to deliver your surprises. **We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year, at the Guardian Angel Program of 2026.** If you are interested in participating in the Guardian Angel Program, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and place it in the Guardian Angel basket on the desk by the office door in the Narthex.

Please have forms submitted “no later than” Sunday, January 5, 2025.

When: January 14, 2024 following the Sunday Service

Guardian Angel Drawing-January 12, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Anniversary: _____

Favorite Color: _____

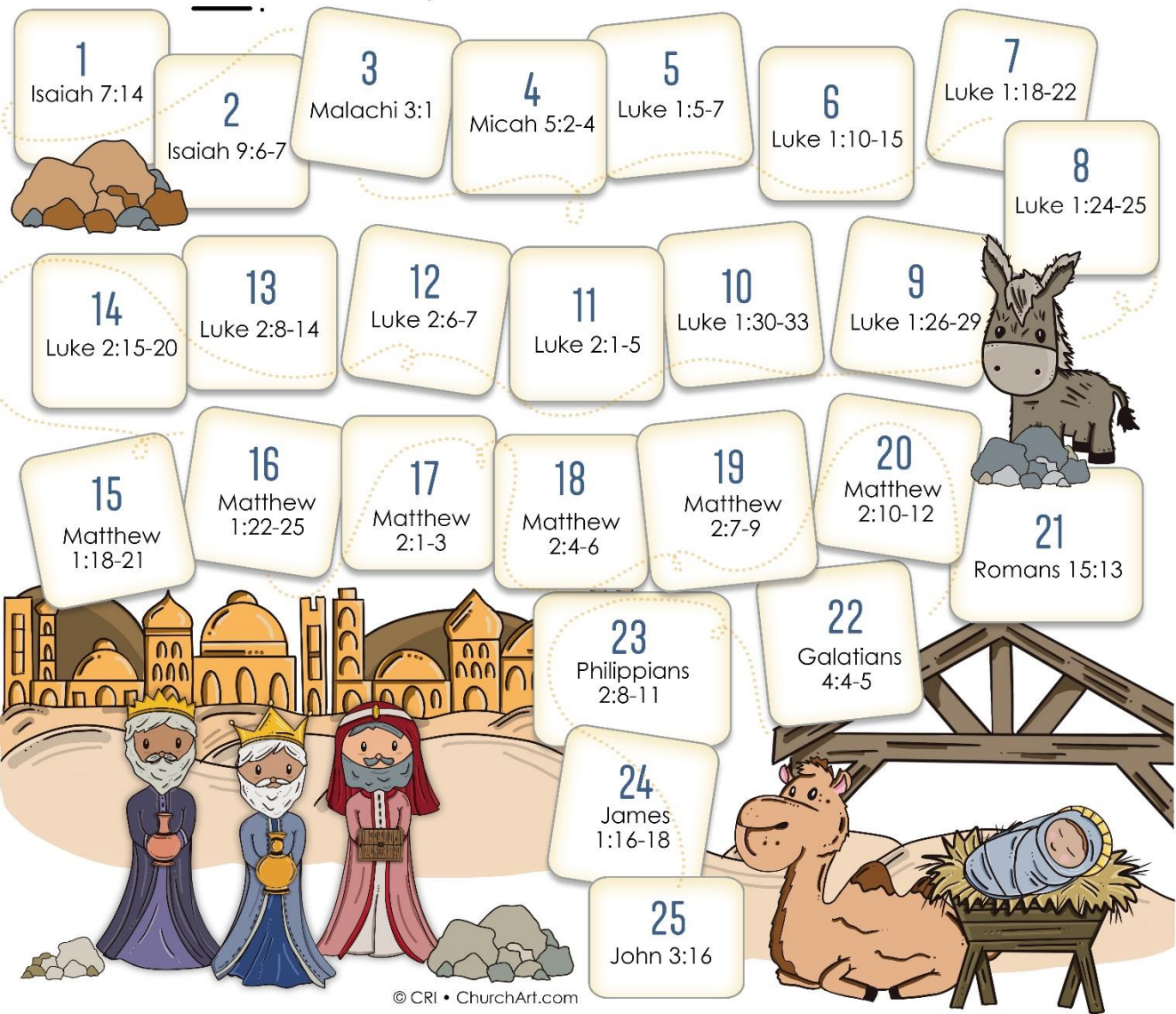
Favorite Candy or Treat: _____

Hobbies/Interests: _____



A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**



1 Isaiah 7:14	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22
14 Luke 2:15-20	13 Luke 2:8-14	12 Luke 2:6-7	11 Luke 2:1-5	10 Luke 1:30-33	9 Luke 1:26-29	8 Luke 1:24-25
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13
			23 Philippians 2:8-11		22 Galatians 4:4-5	
			24 James 1:16-18			
			25 John 3:16			