

## Prayer Concerns

- Lynette – pray for complete healing – cancer surgery – 12/08/13
- Mim – lift spirits over upcoming surgical procedures – 12/6/13
- Pauline – foot surgery – pray for speedy recovery – 12/5/13
- Alan – infection & surgery – pray for full recovery – 12/01/13
- Miss V – pray for speedy and full healing of ankle – 12/01/13
- Butch – pray recently discovered tumors not cancerous – 12/01/13
- Mike – on donor list for liver – pray for success – 11/24/13
- Harvey – needs heart-valve surgery–pray for resolution – 11/24/13
- Drea – strength and healing from lung surgery – 11/17/13
- Jim – cancer returned- pray for strength and healing – 11/15/13
- People of the Philippines – pray of strength and resolve – 11/10/13
- Joyellyn – pray for relief from chronic pain – 11/10/13
- Betty – lung cancer – pray for strength and healing – 11/10/13
- Wayne – numerous surgeries, pray for strength & healing – 11/4/13
- Chuck & Anne - pray for healing and Hope – 11/4/13
- Margaret – numerous recurring medical issues – 11/2/13
- Family of Eric – numerous medical concerns – 10/16/13
- Carol – recuperating, pray for full recovery – 10/10/13
- Pr. Rob’s extended family – various things – 10/6/13
- Cole – optic nerve issues, pray for recovery – 10/6/13
- Bill – new treatments give a better quality of life – 09/26/13
- Justin – and his Marine air squadron on deployment

*Prayer Concerns will be kept for 90 days . Entries may be updated prior to that time. Contact Jerry Youngquist – 651-237-1003 (press 1)*

## Quote-ables:

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.”

—Corrie ten Boom



## Grin-ables:

**Bloopers** - Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our Church and community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say “Hell” to someone who doesn’t care much about you.

**Bloopers** - The Scripture reading today is from the Gospel according to Luck.

**Bloopers** - The men’s group will hear a car talk at noon.

**Bloopers** - Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

## Responsive Reading: based on Psalm 146

- Lector:** Praise the LORD!
- All:** Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- Lector:** Blessed is the one whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- Anyone:** The Lord made heaven and earth...  
**Anyone:** The Lord made the sea, and all that is in it.
- All:** The Lord keeps faith forever.  
Praise the Lord!
- Lector:** What does the Lord do for His people?
- Anyone:** The Lord executes justice for the oppressed.  
**Anyone:** The Lord gives food to the hungry...  
**Anyone:** The LORD sets the prisoners free...  
**Anyone:** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind...  
**Anyone:** The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.
- All:** The Lord takes care of His own.  
Praise the Lord!
- Lector:** Who are the people of the Lord?
- Anyone:** The LORD loves the righteous.  
**Anyone:** The LORD watches over the sojourners.  
**Anyone:** The Lord upholds the widow and the orphan.  
**Anyone:** The Lord takes care of His children.
- All:** The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
- Lector:** Praise the LORD!

## **Lesson –** Isaiah 35:1-8a

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness.

## **Gospel –** Matthew 11:2-15

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

## **Just what is Advent about?**

Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of time. The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance. For denominations that celebrate Advent, it marks the beginning of the church year.

When Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is the last, or fourth Sunday of Advent. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Advent began being celebrated sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany, and not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the wise men and, in some traditions, the Baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

## **The Third Advent Sunday -**

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

## **Christmas Eve Service - December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm!!!!!!**

### **Calendar –**

- ✓ Sunday school program – December 22, 2013
- ✓ Next council meeting – 6:30pm, January 7, 2014
- ✓ Next communion – January 19, 2014