

2012



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

# St. John Eagle

## Special Events and Worship in December

- Saturday 1st - Ladies' Aid Christmas Potluck (Noon)
- Sunday 2nd - F.B. Christmas Practice (11:00—Noon)
- Wednesday 5th - Advent Services (12:30 & 7:00)
- Sunday 9th - F.B. Christmas Practice (11:00—Noon)
- CFS Christmas Party (6:00)
- Wednesday 12th - Advent Services (12:30 & 7:00)
- Sunday 16th - F.B. Christmas Practice (10:45—Noon)
- Banana Bunch Christmas Caroling (4:30)
- Wednesday 19th - Advent Services (12:30 & 7:00)
- Sunday 23rd - F.B. Christmas Practice (10:45—Noon)

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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.**

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**PASTOR:**

**Rev. Bruce Lesemann**

**Home: 712-732-0161**



**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

**Suzanne Winterhof**

**SECRETARY:**

**Celeste Cummins**

**STAFF**

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**MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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**Saturday Services**

*of each month*

9:00 a.m. on 2nd Sunday

**6:00 p.m.**

of each month

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**Sunday Services**

KAYL 101.7FM.

*Holy Communion*

**9:00 a.m.**

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*1st and 3rd Weekend*

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**Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Radio Broadcasts...

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**SUNDAY MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE CLASSES**

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**Faithbuilders**, for ages 3 years thru 8th grade, and the **High School Bible Class** both meet at 10:15 a.m. on the 2nd Floor.

**Adult Bible Classes** meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (led by V. Winterhof) and in the Library (led by Pastor Lesemann).



*Be in the Word*

# Message from Pastor Lesemann

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## Reliving the Past

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*

Revelation 22:13

Do you have a favorite holiday memory? One of my favorite is after church as a family going to Grandpa and Grandma's for dinner. There, along with Uncles, Aunts and cousins, we'd gather around a few big tables, pray, eat, visit, and play pinochle all afternoon and after a light supper, until evening. The laughs, stories and love that were shared are so memorable. Wouldn't it be great able to relive those moments? It is true, "You can't go back and relive the past." Still, there is nothing wrong with remembering AND looking forward to what is to come!

That is especially true for the season of Advent and Christmas where the past and the future play such a big part of our celebration of these seasons. It is a wonderfully exciting time of great joy as we think of Christ's coming to us as that little baby born in a stable, and as we remember the Old Testament prophecies which foretell of this event. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, "Word made flesh" who dwelt among us to be our hope and atonement, rescuing us from the punishment of our sin. The New Testament then expands on the fulfillment of God's promises through Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection. But amazingly it all doesn't stop there with just memories! It continues in our present day with Christ coming into our lives and into our hearts through His Word and Sacraments. And now we look forward to a future where He will come again with great power and glory to bring us to His new Kingdom.

So, it is true you can't actually relive the past, but it is also so true that you won't be able to fully enjoy the present and the future without knowing Jesus. Why? Because without knowing Jesus there will be no participation in the heavenly future God has promised and thus no future reunion in heaven! I so greatly look forward to sitting at a table with Jesus and fellow believers (including our past earthly family and friends) participating in that great heavenly feast! Oh the joys that will be shared, the renewing of old relationships and the stories of God's love given in Christ. It will be like a wonderful Christmas celebration that will last forever!

May your Christmas celebration this year be a joyous one, celebrating Jesus with loved ones and looking forward to an eternal celebration in heaven.

In His grace,

Pastor Lesemann



Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was based on Luke 16:22 and entitled "Help from Above." You've experienced strangers who helped in an emergency? They may have been angels sent by God to constantly watch over us.

Board of Trustees - Dave Dose

The trustees are working on their 2013 budget.

Kevin Jesse will have installed the railing along the west entrance next week.

Memorial money from the estate of Renae Jesse has purchased 2 of the 3 windows and an air conditioner in the north office.

A column of the church has been leaking rainwater. Mike Overmohle discovered that a brick high on it had cracked and that moisture was collecting behind it. He has repaired it.

Board of Lay Ministers - Harlan Matasovsky

The lay ministers are still working on their 2013 budget.

Board of Stewardship - Karen Fletcher

This board sponsored Loyalty Sunday in this weekend's services.

The 2013 offering envelopes—down 25 from last year—cost \$400 and include a special offering choice for capital improvement. Kristin Matasovsky is our special mission project.

Treasurer's Report - Karen Fletcher

The 2013 Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) amount of \$8000 has been prefunded, thanks in part to memorial monies from Renae Jesse and Ruth Mohr and to the St John tax return.

Approximately \$3000 remains in the treasury to pay current expenses, a situation as good as we've ever been in. The capital improvement fund stands at \$42,489.

Board of Evangelism - Audrey Gutz

The final 2012 monthly social was fun. They will continue in January.  
Special St John pens have been ordered to give to visitors.

Pastor Lesemann

Pastor extended thanks for prayers while he was in the Philippines. He and Todd Roeske, a missionary to the Philippines and to China and a pastor in Alaska, considered their visit very successful.

Nine hundred memorial dollars have been received from the estate of Gladys Johnson.

Executive Director - Henry Hardt

Directors of church boards are asked to submit their 2013 budgets to Karen Fletcher by December 2. The budget will be included in the worship folder on December 8 & 9. The next parish planning meeting will be Sunday, December 16, at 11:15 am. The first agenda item is a congregational budget-information meeting in the Fireside Room. All St John members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Members who cannot attend this meeting should submit questions or concerns to Hardt. The next voters' meeting will be Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 11:15 am.

Hardt adjourned the meeting at 11:55. We closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.





## **Ladies' Aid**

Fifteen Ladies' Aid members were present for the November 7 meeting of the organization. Janet Glasgow was the hostess. Each member answered roll call by recalling a Bible verse which speaks of thanksgiving. Following that theme, Florence Goldsmith led devotions reminding us of the blessings that God has given, and how we respond in thanksgiving.

Joanne Lussman presented the topic. She recounted the history of study Bibles from the time of Martin Luther to the present day. With the arrival of the new study Bibles for the Bible class, she also introduced this Bible and made us aware of the many special features of this edition.

Special Ministries Chair Marge Manteufel reported on the progress of care projects. Greeting cards, including Christmas cards, are available through Ladies' Aid. Plans were made for the Christmas Luncheon which will be on December 1st.

## **Christian Fellowship Society**

Christian Fellowship Society had a brief meeting following the Pancake Supper on November 11. The date of November 25 was selected to put up the outdoor Christmas decorations. The Fellowship Society voted to fund the Christmas sacks for the children on Christmas Eve. The group's Christmas Dinner will be December 9.

## **Special Worship Service on December 2nd**

Each year the St. John choir and instrumentalists work together to present a special worship service focused on the birth of Christ on the first Sunday in December. This year they will present the cantata, "The Carols of Christmas" by Joseph Martin. The cantata music will be woven into the liturgy of the service. Throughout the service familiar Christmas carols will be sung by both the choir and the congregation and will be enhanced by instrumental accompaniment.

Many hours of planning and rehearsal have gone into this endeavor. We are so blessed to have many talented people who are willing to make this special effort to bring the message of Christmas to you in this meaningful way. It is our prayer that this message in song will be a blessing to you.

## Thank You

St. John has received thank you's from the LCMS in supporting the mission work of Kristin Matasovsky (\$92 & \$175) and Rev. Jeff & Lora Horn (\$81).

## St. John Banana Bunch Bible Christmas Caroling Party:

The Banana Bible Bunch is joining up with our Grace brothers and sisters to go caroling. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 16 at 4:30 pm. After we carol in the community, we will have a Fun Christmas Party hosted by the Grace Youth group at Grace Lutheran Church. Junior and Senior High students are asked to bring a gag gift that they made, found or reused for the party. And of course there will be treats. Come, relax and have a BUNCH of fun. Please plan on meeting at Grace at 4:30 pm before we go caroling. If you have any questions, call Jerry 732-2775 or johnson@bvu.edu.

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### “What’s the Baby’s Name?”

By: Celeste Cummins

Babies all have unique stories that they can tell about their birth. One of the things I remember about Sarah’s birth is I could not talk. I *wanted* to. I had all these words, thoughts, and questions going through my mind. I was trying to express them, but no sound was coming out. I opened my mouth to talk several times, but I was silent. A little bit after the baby was born, the doctor asked me, “What’s the baby’s name?” I opened my mouth and out came the word, “Sarah.” The question about the baby’s name broke the spell of my silence!

After I had that experience, the story of Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) is more meaningful to me. When the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would have a baby, he was also told that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born (Luke 1:5-25 and 57-66). During his wife’s entire pregnancy, Zechariah was unable to talk! No sound came from him until that moment when the baby was to be named. Then, Zechariah’s voice was restored.

Why did God want Zechariah to be silent during Elizabeth’s entire pregnancy? Was it to provide a whole new meaning to ‘giving your wife the silent treatment?’ ☺ Or was it so Elizabeth didn’t get high blood pressure listening to Zechariah drone on and on about how excited he was about becoming a dad after so many years? Chances are neither of these were the case for Zechariah and Elizabeth. Those 9 months were probably a time of quiet anticipation, eager expectation, and longing as they awaited the birth of their son. Perhaps, the reason was to provide a lesson for us. A lesson that comes down to waiting quietly and patiently in life for God’s timing.



Your Poinsettia will be purchased & delivered to the church by our coordinator, Lynn Hardt. The cost is still only \$10.00 each. If you wish, you can bring your own, as well, but it is requested that they all be red. It will be listed in the bulletin who gave each plant, & if you like, you may have them in memory of someone or in honor of a particular occasion. We ask that you fill in the form below so the names & occasions are accurately listed (please print).

**INSTRUCTIONS....**

Please return this form by Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> using one of several options

Mailing it to the church office or drop it off (mailbox)

Emailing it to the church office...stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

Calling the church office with the necessary information

We look forward to decorating the Lord's Altar each Christmas reminding us of the joy of celebration as we thank our heavenly Father for the blessings of the Birth of His Son, our Savior. Please help us to continue this expression of joy in our Christmas Worship Service.

Poinsettia given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Names)

Poinsettia given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Occasion)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Names)

Poinsettias given in thanksgiving for the blessings of the Birth of our Savior  
by \_\_\_\_\_

(Simply state your name)

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY

**You are cordially invited to  
A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Guest of Honor: Jesus Christ

Date: Every Day - Traditionally, December 25  
(but He's always around, so the date is flexible)

Time: Whenever you're ready  
(Please don't be late, though, or you'll miss out on all the fun!)

Place: In Your Heart....He'll meet you there  
(You'll hear Him knock)

Attire: Come as you are....grubbies are okay  
(He'll be washing our clothes anyway. He said something about new white robes and crowns for everyone who stays 'til the last)

Tickets: Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone...  
(He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it anyway...It cost Him everything He had. But you do need to accept the ticket!)

Refreshments: New wine, bread, and a far-out drink He calls "Living Water"  
(Followed by a supper that promises to be out of this world)

Gift Suggestions: Your life. He's one of those people who already has everything else.

(He's very generous in return though. Just wait until you see what He has for you!)

Entertainment: Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Life, Love, Real Happiness  
(Communion with God, Forgiveness, Miracles, Healing, Power, Eternity in Paradise, Contentment, and much more)

# New in our St. John Lutheran Library

## “THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE”

St. John Library has purchased 22 of these fine newly published Bibles by Concordia Publishing House for use in our Bible Studies here at St. John and have placed 15 of them in the library and 7 in the Fireside Room.

Never before in the history of English-speaking Lutheranism has there been a single-volume edition of the Bible produced like this one with so many features. The aim and goal has been to provide a resource for the lay reader that is comprehensive, devotional, and Christ centered.

It all started with the first Luther Study Bible translated by Martin Luther and published in 1534. Since that time, the LCMS has yearned for an exclusive Lutheran Study Bible to match Martin Luther's which would also include some of his comments that would be printed in English.

Even though the “Concordia Study Bible” is a good Bible printed in 1986, the comments are not all “Lutheran”.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod have spent several years working on this project of putting together for the first time, “from the ground up”, printed in English, Lutheran Study Bible making exclusive use of Lutheran notes, commentaries, articles and annotations, including many comments that were included in Martin Luther's “Luther Study Bible” that he translated into German.

May God bless all who use The Lutheran Study Bible so that you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity”.

# **Your Bible Reading in 2013 and 2014**

## **“READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2 YEARS”**

**Yes, it's easy....it's devotional....it's inspirational....**

**it's faith strengthening....it's eternal life changing**

**First of all, you have all the tools you need at your fingertips, at home or in our library or we would be happy to help you purchase what you need from CPH.**

**“The new Lutheran Study Bible”** (ESV version) includes a layout for you to guide you through the Scriptures in two years. This Bible is also filled with wonderful daily prayers and other devotional helps and each Book of the Bible has an outstanding introduction. So much can be learned and absorbed thru the various articles and explanations interspersed throughout the Scriptures of this Bible.

**“The Today's Light Bible”** (NIV version) will also guide you through the Scriptures in 2 years. This Bible can be found on the desk on the north wall of the library and is available for checking out for the 2 years.

Need help getting started? Please feel free to contact the librarians.

Joanne Lussman 732-4098

Dianne Johnson 732-2775

# Know Your Church Family

**Pastor Lesemann** (did you know Lesemann is pronounced “LAY-zuh-man”?) has enjoyed being your pastor for 6 years now. He feels blessed to be your servant. His hobbies include tinkering with computers and spending time with his family. At the end of October, he will go to the Philippines for two weeks to help lead a training seminar for the pastors in the people group that he and Amy served during their years there.

**Amy** keeps busy homeschooling their children. Although it is a lot of work, she loves getting to spend that time with them and considers it a blessing that she’s able to stay home with them. Vegetable gardening occupies much of her free time during the growing season, along with canning and pickling the produce. Although her free time is limited, when she has the chance she enjoys reading, singing, playing the piano and drawing. She also enjoys “doing music” with the Faithbuilders on Sunday mornings.

**Abigail** is 11 and in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. She plays piano and trumpet, is an avid reader, and loves to make art and design things on the computer. She has had chronic daily headaches for 16 months now, and the Lesemanns would appreciate your prayers for her.

**Gabriel** is 9 and in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He loves computer games and customizing his Lego figures. He takes Karate and enjoys playing with the neighborhood kids.

The Lesemanns are so thankful for all the love and support that you at St. John give them. ☺ (And, we are so very glad that God has placed them here at St. John!)

**Bob & Loretta Rehnstrom** are the family we will get to know this week.

Loretta (Biggins) Rehnstrom has been a member of St. John since 1954 when she was married to Russell Biggins who passed away on May 2, 1999. They were proud parents of Cathy (Jim) Nelson of Alta, IA, Jean (Jim) Toillion of Eagle Grove, IA, and Jan (Monty) West of Centennial, CO, 5 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. Loretta belonged to St. John’s Circle and then later Ladies Aid. She worked as a waitress at Lakeshore Café and then part time in the Catering Department of Buena Vista University.

On February 14, 2002 Bob Rehnstrom and Loretta were married at Hope Evangelical Free Church in Storm Lake, IA. Bob was married to Lois Mudge in 1951 and she passed away on January 2, 2000. They were the proud parents of

five children: Diane (Alan) Hix of Malakoff, TX, David (Laurie) Rehnstrom of Hartington, NE, Debbie Condit of Sioux Falls, SD, Denise (Brian) Wall of Manning, IA, and Dawn (Gregg) Shinn of Rockwell, TX. They had 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Bob was a farmer in the Alta and Aurelia area, cattle buyer for Wilson Company in Cherokee, IA, and B.V. Supervisor for 8 years.

We're both happy to be a part of St. John.

**Dave and Jan Magnussen** have been members of St. John for several years. Dave has served as treasurer, and Jan is active in the choir, Ladies Aid, Mary/Martha, and Altar Guild.

Dave has been farming for 40 years in the Storm Lake and Alta areas. He is gradually retiring from farming but still helps son Paul with fieldwork. He was also an accountant in Spencer and Hartley for 15 years. Dave was born in Storm Lake and raised on his parents' farm north of Storm Lake. He graduated from Albert City, went to Emmetsburg Junior College and then to Mankato State College where he graduated with a business major. It was there he met Jan (Kenow). Jan was born in Faribault, MN, and moved to Minneapolis at age 6. She graduated from Mankato State College with a degree in Home Economic Education and later received a Masters in Learning Disabilities from Morningside College. She taught 7-12 Special Ed for 13 years in Alta and 14 years at Storm Lake Middle School in Family and Consumer Science, reading, and keyboarding. She retired from teaching last May and now does some substituting.

They have been married 41 years and have three children and seven grandchildren: Ann, lives in Woodbury, MN and is a buyer for a pet supply distributor; Lynn (Joe), lives in Delaware where she is a stay-at-home mom with Jackson, 10, Cole, 8, Cade, 6, Reed, 3, Leah, 1, - Joe is a teacher and coach and head lifeguard on the beach; and Paul (Jen), lives north of Storm Lake – Paul is service manager at Hultgren Implement, and Jen is an OB nurse at BVRMC. They are parents of Alli, 9, and Tyler, 6.

Dave enjoys his computer/office work, taking care of his trees, and taking walks and Gator rides with dog Maggy. Jan enjoys knitting, cross-stitch, reading, puzzle books, and traveling. They are grateful for all of the blessings God has given them.

*There is another Church Family on the next page.*

This week we will get to know **Dan and Laurie Gaffney and their family**. Dan was born in Iowa City, moved to Storm Lake around age 7 and then graduated from SL High. He and his family joined St John when they moved here as his grandparents Ervin and Edith Hansen were members. Dan attended University of Iowa and graduated with a degree in Finance. He has worked at several businesses here in Storm Lake including Medicap Pharmacy, BV Stationery and Printing, Vision Care and currently as the administrator of Trimark Buena Vista Clinic. Dan has served as an elder and has assisted with many youth events here at St John. He enjoys golfing, yard work and Hawkeye football games.

Laurie was born and raised on a farm near Schaller. She attended Northwestern College in Orange City where she played volleyball and earned a Business Administration degree. She has worked at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center for over 21 years and is the current director of the Business Office. She has been active in Mary and Martha, Board of Ed as well as taught Faith Builders for several years. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, playing volleyball and watching all of the kid's events.

Dan and Laurie were married here at St John 17 years ago. Dan's mom Marie played a large part in getting them set up on their first date.

Their children include Brooke who is a junior at the University of Iowa majoring in elementary education. Brooke loves kids and works at a daycare in Iowa City. Brooke loves to read a good book and cheer those Hawkeyes on to victory.

Madison is a freshman at Storm Lake public. She loves to play volleyball, softball and basketball. Of course keeping up with friends, Twitter and Facebook fill her spare time.

Austin is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who enjoys football and baseball as well as swimming at King's Pointe. He likes to play Wii and build things with Legos.

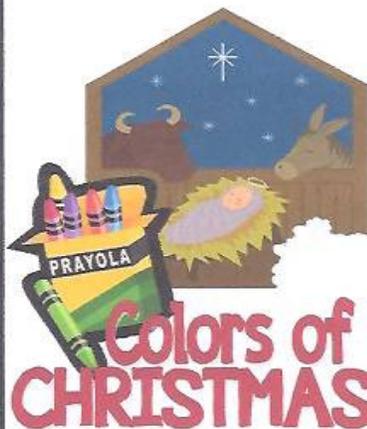
Laurie's mom, Hilda Wendel, lives with them and attends St John quite frequently with the family. She is a member of St Paul in Schaller. She grew up near Red Wing, Minnesota in a family of 10 kids. She met Laurie's dad Floyd through the past St John choir director, Lydia Koth. They have 5 children who all live fairly close to Storm Lake. There are 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Floyd passed away in October of 2009. The kids really enjoy having grandma around. She makes the very best scotch-a-roo bars.

# PRACTICE CALENDAR

Christmas Eve  
Practice #1  
NOVEMBER 25  
11:00AM to  
NOON

Christmas Eve  
Practice #2  
December 2  
11:00AM to  
NOON

Christmas Eve  
Practice #3  
DECEMBER 9  
11:00AM to  
NOON



The Christmas Program will be Christmas Eve, Monday, **December 24th at 6:00pm**. The children need to be here at the church at **5:45pm**.

Attendance is important for a good program. Please make every effort to have your children here on Sundays for practice.

Christmas Eve  
Practice #4  
DECEMBER 16  
10:45AM to  
NOON

Christmas Eve  
Practice #5  
DECEMBER 23  
10:45AM to  
NOON



## St. John Christmas Eve Service practices are November 25 and December 2, 9, 16 & 23

- ▷ Faithbuilders is at **10:15am to 11:00am** and practice at **11:00am to 12:00pm** on November 25, December 2 & 9...**AND** Faithbuilders is at **10:15am to 10:45am** and practice at **10:45am to 12:00pm** on December 16 & 23.
- ▷ *This year the children will be sharing the colors of our liturgical calendar through God's gifts...Grace, Love, Peace and Joy. They will be singing favorite Christmas hymns and a special song that they learned and worked on all year long, The Coloring Song.*

*The children will also bring home on December 16th a little blue bag for them to put their Christmas offerinas in for Kristin Matasovsky South Africa Mission Trip.*



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL  
NOURISHMENT FOR YOUR  
SOUL THROUGH THE WORD.**

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Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

**To God be all the Glory.**

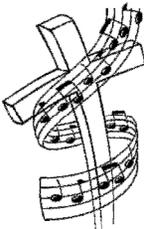
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We're on the Web! Http:  
//www.stjohnstormlake.org

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### **Special Music**

You are invited to share your musical talents in our worship services here at St. John.



The choir rehearses each

**WE WELCOME YOU TO  
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

### **December Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Volunteers

**Greeters:** **Saturday**

Bob & Karen Fletcher

**Sunday**

Still available

**Bell Ringers:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Henry Hardt

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

Emily Johnson

**Acolytes:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Logan Norwood

### **Altar Flowers**

2 - In memory of Don Bumann by Donna Bumann.

9 - In memory of Marvin Jesse and Angel Jesse by family.

16 - In honor of Harold & Jan Redenbaugh's anniversary.

23 - Poinsettias

