

The background is a dark teal color with a subtle pattern of falling snow. A pine tree branch with green needles and a small brown pine cone is visible in the lower right corner. The word "Christmas" is written in a white, elegant cursive font, centered on the page.

Christmas

December 25, 2022

We Approach God

Welcome & Announcements

Sonshine Singers – “He Shall Reign Forevermore”

Praise Singing

“Joy to the World!” Hymn #135

“Ring the Bells” Hymn #146

“Glory in the Highest” Hymn #162

Congregational Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Children’s Message – Cody Mueller

Message – Disappointed?

Scripture – Luke 3:15; 2:1-38

We Respond to God

Prayer

Benediction

“Go, Tell it on the Mountains” Hymn #139 vs 1 & 3

Following the service, please take your pew Bible and hymnal and place them on one of the designated tables in the lobby. Thank you!

Disappointed?

Have you been disappointed with Santa? Why?

Have you been disappointed with Jesus? Why?

Israelites Expected...

The _____

The Savior

The Christ/ _____

The Lord

The Consolator

The _____

W_____ King or S_____ Servant?

APPLICATION: What do you expect?

Know what you expect of Jesus. List three things you hope/expect Jesus will do:

Realign Your Expectations to Jesus. Specifically, start reading the Gospel of Luke. Prepare for next Sunday by reading Luke 6:27-49; 7:36-50; 10:25-42; 13:1-9, 22-30; and 19:11-27. In the new year, we will be teaching on major themes from Jesus' life, focusing mostly on Luke's Gospel, but touching on others too. Then articulate how your expectations of Jesus might be off:

Upcoming Events

- Dec 25** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Sonshine Singers
- Dec 26** 10:00am – Clear Out Sanctuary
7:00pm – Deacon Meeting
- Dec 27** Ceiling Renovation Project Begins
8:00am – Prayer Meeting
- Dec 30** Office Closed
- Jan 1** 8:30am – Prayer Meeting
9:30am – Pastor Kevin, Communion

To view the church calendar, go to www.altoreformedchurch.org

Communion Statement:

Regarding whom may and should participate in Communion... “We welcome all those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life. Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however, eat and drink judgment on themselves.” (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 81; 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32)

Paul challenges believers to participate in communion in a manner that is sincere and authentic. He writes to the church in Corinth...

“Eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in the right way. Don’t do it in a way that isn’t worthy of him. If you do, you will be guilty. You’ll be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone should take a careful look at themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 NIRV)

So, we welcome any who are trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins to participate in the Lord’s supper. If your child understands the above statement, they too are welcome to the table. As well, we want to urge those who trust Jesus to join with us in ministry as Covenant Partners.

Youth News

No youth groups this week! Merry Christmas!

Opportunities to Get Involved

Sanctuary Prep – On Monday, December 26th at 10am-12pm we will be clearing out any moveable items from the sanctuary to prepare for the ceiling renovation project which will begin the following day. If you are able to help, please be here at 10am.

Women’s Bible Study – Join us for a bible study on 1 & 2 Peter held on Tuesdays at 9:30am for 11 weeks beginning January 17th. Come when you’re available. Signup for the book (cost \$10) at the Information Center by January 8th.

Bulletin Board News

Offering may be placed in one of the three white offering boxes located in the lobby. Upcoming benevolent schedule: 12/25 Food Pantries, 1/1 Regular Benevolence, 1/8 Missionary Salary, 1/15 Union. If you feel led to give specifically towards the upcoming ceiling project, please put your check in a separate marked envelope in one of the offering boxes. The deacons are beginning to keep track separately of what has been contributed towards the project, which will be shown on the monthly financial reports. Thank you.

AMEN articles are due today.

Emmanuel Women's Retreat 2023! We pray you will join us for this free two-day event Friday, February 3rd at 6:30pm & Saturday, February 4th at 8am-12pm for women to gather and worship the Lord and hear from the Holy Spirit for a stirring within our hearts! Are you willing to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Christ? Light snacks will be provided. No RSVP needed. ~Come as you are, leave Changed~

P - praise R - repent A - ask Y – yield

Praise: Wonderful Savior, I praise you for the hope you brought at your birth in a humble stable. I rejoice with the shepherds that you would come to one such as I to reveal your love and power.

Repent: Please, forgive me for lingering in disappointment and self-pity.

Ask: I pray that you would intervene in our world and bring hope and joy... Revive our faith by inspiring us to study your Word and to pray without ceasing. Renew our passion for your mission and help us reach the lost. Heal and strengthen those listed below as they face challenges each day. Guide and lead our national and world leaders to bring justice and peace to all.

Yield: I will follow you in the new year. I will maintain a life of prayer, study your Word, participate in the Lord's supper, gather with believers regularly, use my spiritual gifts and financial resources to further the mission of Jesus through the local church, live a life pleasing to you and accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership.

THIS WEEK... Continue to pray for healing for Marcia Hopp, Joyce Van Buren's daughter.

Healing: Friends and family with cancer, undergoing treatment, hospitalized, recovering from surgery/illness, etc.: Betty Daane, Cal Flegner, Barbara Gordon, Alvin Harmsen, Doris Harmsen, Kevin Harmsen, Sharon Harmsen, Faye Janey, Isabel Kastein, Larry Mulder, Jim Parrish, Dave Rumley, Jean Stelsel, Jodi Vande Berg, Carl VanderKooi, Jake Vande Zande, Ron Vande Zande, and Silas Willey.

Military Personnel:

Aaron Zeatlow, stationed in New Mexico; Sebastian Hoenisch, deployed on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, grandson of Larry & Gloria Mulder; Mitch Miller, stationed in the South China Sea

Shut-ins: Members in assisted living, nursing homes or those confined to their home: **Barrett House:** Lowell Glewen
Charleston House: Brian Hemp
Beaver Dam Memory Care: Cora Hemp
Christian Home: Sharon Harmsen, Dayton TerBeest, Junice Vande Zande, Kay Vande Zande
Home: Margaret Hoekstra, Marion Tolsma, Marilyn Westerveld,
Christian Homestead: Betty Bruins
Maple Meadows: Arlene Henning
Marvin's Manor: Eleanor Loomans
Prairie Ridge: Annice Hopp

Missionaries: Bob Abel – Remember Nhu, Steve & Amanda Bialy – Converge, Chris Briggs – CCCD, Andy Lickel – InterVarsity, Jersey & Preston Sheldon – Overland Missions, Randy & Wanda Potratz – SIM, Scott Ritzema – Youth for Christ