

# Christ Lutheran Church

## First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

### A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

Over time  
wind and water  
will sand down the edges of a stone.

For humans,  
our wind and water  
is the grief of the world.

Stay here long enough  
and pieces of you  
will be pressed upon

by life's never-ending stream.

It's enough to make you weary.

It's enough to make you question.

It's enough to make you quiet.

And yet, the stream continues.

So do not be afraid to stand in that water.

Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.

Drip wet footprints through every room in your house.

Let the water stains tell your story.

And when your body grows weary of swimming,  
name the stream.

Acknowledge your weariness.

For eventually,  
you will pick flowers from  
the opposite bank.

And over and over again, we'll tell this story.

And over and over again,  
a weary world will rejoice.

Rev. Sarah Speed

# WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH THAT WELCOMES

All are welcome at Christ Lutheran Church. We emphasize grace, forgiveness, and the reality that God is love. The teachings and example of Jesus call us to love one another and to be an inclusive and affirming community for people of every culture, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, relationship status, family makeup, and spiritual background. No matter what challenges you're facing – physical, mental, spiritual, economic, emotional, moral, or otherwise – we invite you to experience God's grace with us. There is a place for you here.

## THE IN-PERSON CLC ESSENTIALS

**Restrooms** are in the Narthex and in the Education Building.

The **Nursery** is available from 9:15 a.m. through the end of the late service.

**Attendance Registration Cards** are located in the pew racks. We ask everyone in attendance, visitors and members, to fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate as it is passed.

**Audio Receivers** for the hearing impaired are available in the Narthex.

## THE VIRTUAL CLC ESSENTIALS

Please tune in each Sunday for livestream worship at 10:30 a.m. by clicking the YouTube button below.

Online giving is easy! Simply click the Offering button below, and it will take you to the giving page to make your offering when you are ready. You can also use your phone to scan this QR code, and it will take you to our donation page at <https://clcah.org/contact-us/give-online/>



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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

*Toccata on Creator Alme Siderum - Yon*

### WELCOME

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (10:30 a.m.) *Candle, Candle, Burning Bright* - Lee Dengler

*A Home for Jesus* - Ruth Elaine Schram

Gloria Choir

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**Let us worship our loving God. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, when a man named Zechariah was given good news from God that he and his wife Elizabeth would bear a child, his response was to ask, "How can this be?" Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it. But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

Let us pray, Gracious God, **we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you. For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist. For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, “How can this be?” God’s love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

ELW #245

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn toward your Word, we ask that you would soften the callouses on our hearts. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits. And plant hope where there is room. With openness and gratitude, we pray. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

Pew Bible/Old Testament page #738

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Pew Bible/New Testament page #204

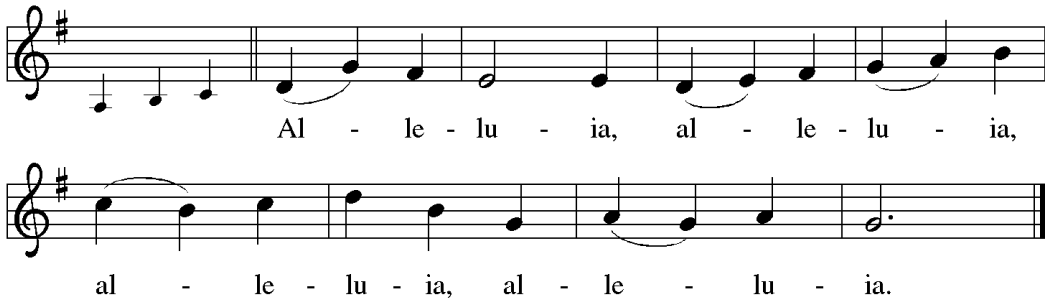
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

Pastor Leslie Price

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

Pew Bible/New Testament page #85

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Leslie Price

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW #242

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to kneel as able.*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We pray for those in need, within our own community and throughout the world. We give thanks to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Our petitions end with “Lord, in your mercy,” and the congregation responds: “receive our prayer.”*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

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## **MEAL**

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**OFFERTORY MUSIC** (10:30 a.m.) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* - arr. Carlton Young  
Sanctuary Choir

## **OFFERING**

*Christ Lutheran designates 20% of your Sunday offerings to our benevolence partners who make a direct impact on the lives of people in our world who need it most. See page two for more information on giving virtually from your phone or go to [clcah.org](http://clcah.org).*

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*Fall on Your Knees*

$\text{♩} = 89$

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A

6  
thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O

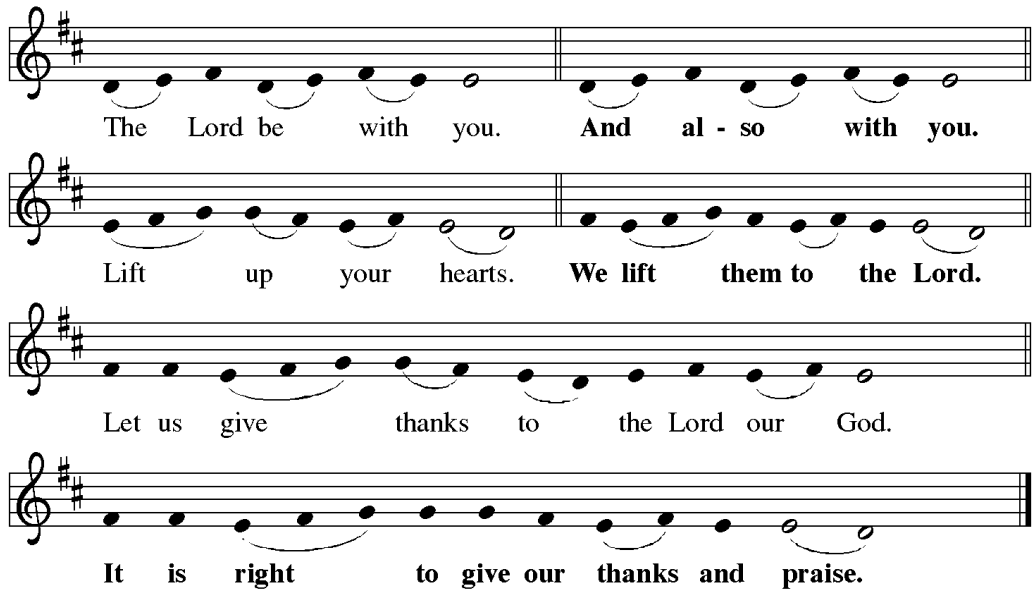
12  
hear the angel voices! Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! His power and

19  
glory ever more proclaim!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

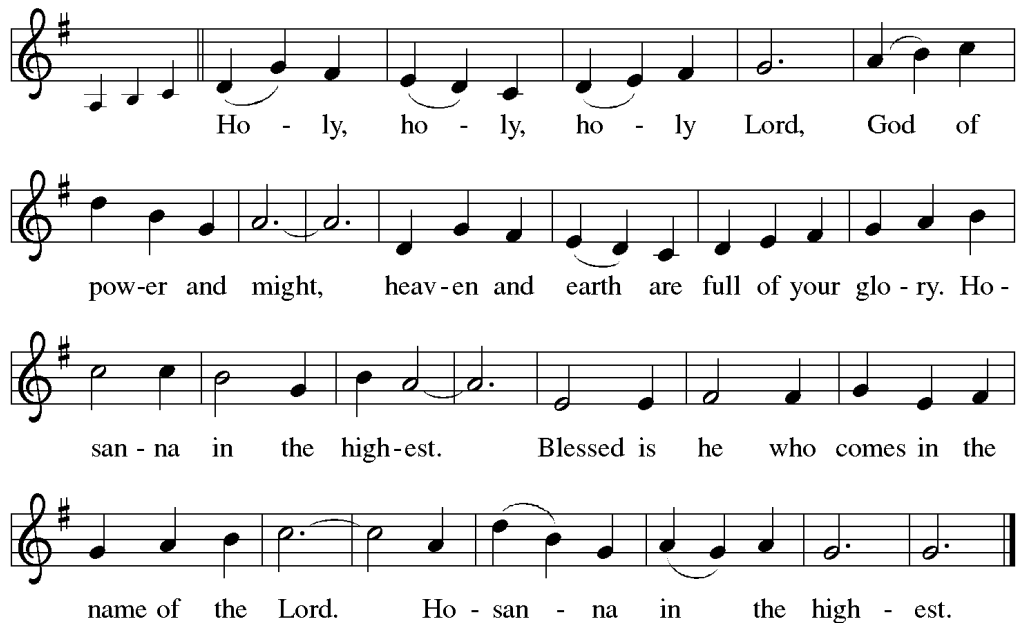
Let us pray together. Creator God, you have made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING & EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

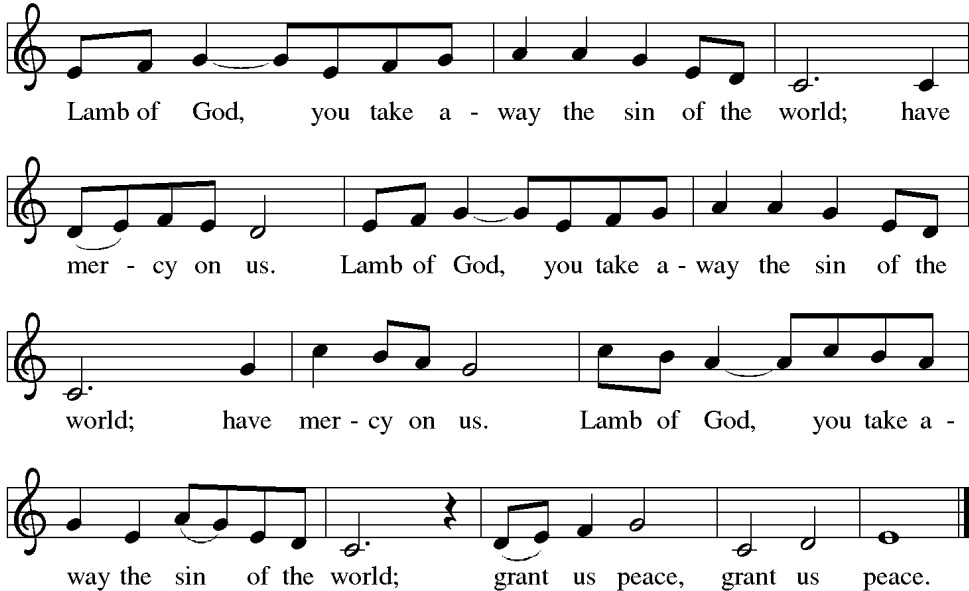
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Two thousand years ago Jesus ate with sinners and those whom others scorned. He still does. None of us is worthy, except by God's grace. No matter what you have done or what your present condition, Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another.*

*The gathered faithful have a choice to commune at the front of the sanctuary by intinction or in their seats with individual communion packets available at the entrance to the sanctuary. With intinction, the bread is placed in your hand for you to dip in the wine. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion from a minister where you are seated. Gluten-free wafers are found on the small table next to the usher stand for anyone who needs them.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC** (10:30 a.m.) *Abide With Me* - Hogan  
Sanctuary Choir

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*He Came Down*

ELW #253

*The congregation is invited to stand as able.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray together. Generous God, **we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

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### **BLESSING**

Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world— so speak tenderly. Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection. Hold onto hope. And remember that Christ took on flesh for you and for the sake of the whole world. You are God’s beloved. So go rejoicing. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

ELW #246

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding* - Haan

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Preaching & Presiding Minister*  
*Assisting Ministers*  
*Lectors*

## 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Leslie Price  
James Ehler  
Sarah Borrell

## 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Leslie Price  
Edna Robbins  
Sarah Loyd

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

*President* Michael Fischer  
*Vice President* Bryan Woods  
*Treasurer* Jeff Timm  
*Secretary* Paul Pfeifer

*At-Large Member*  
*At-Large Member*  
*At-Large Member*

Rhonda Barsalou  
James Ehler  
Edna Robbins

## STAFF

*Senior Pastor*  
*Pastor*  
*Director of Faith Formation*  
*Director for Day School Ministry*  
*Accountant & Office Manager*  
*Office Administrator & AV Tech*  
*Minister of Mission & Outreach*  
*Director of Music Ministry*  
*Organist*  
*Youth Choir Director*  
*Youth Choir Accompanist*  
*Custodians*  
*AV Tech*  
*Event Coordinator*  
*Nursery Attendant*

Rev. Leslie Price  
Rev. Howard Stendahl  
Carrie Jowers  
Dana Ferraro  
Ainslee Ford  
Lori Harris  
Deacon Lisa Diana  
Dr. Daniel Long  
Jeff Hammack  
Mary Patino  
Sharon Wiedemann  
Sam Tenorio & Justin Martin  
Jesus Garcia  
Carolyn Dufelmeier  
Clara Tenorio

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Patti Lynch, Pam Sheffield, Laurie Stiteler, Bobby Stobb, Frank Pennington, Ron Olson, and James Ehler

## WELCOME TEAM

Carolyn Dufelmeier, Lori Harris, Bob Logan, Mary Lynn Logan - Chair, Bob & Karen Corder, Bill Chavers, Joan Woods, Mary Overstreet, Edna Robbins, Ida Marie Schultz, Ulf Balldin, Jennifer Dunn, Heather Rosenquist, Tracy Anderson, Natalie Tate, Kathy Dicke, and Steve Wright

## THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to our faithful volunteer, Mary Overstreet, for the new series of banners which adorn our Sanctuary and so beautifully depict our Advent and Christmas theme: A Weary World Rejoices.

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## TODAY

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- 9:30 a.m. - Education for all ages is on break for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- 11:30 a.m. - Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary and CrossWay. Children meet in Fellowship Hall for ornament making; after decorating, all ages gather in Fellowship Hall for tamales and chili.

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## THIS WEEK

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### Monday, December 2

- 9:00 a.m. Money Counters, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Joseph's Sons, Longhorn Café at 1003 Rittiman Rd

### Tuesday, December 3

- 9:00 a.m. Quilters, Primrose House
- 6:45 p.m. CLC Book Club, Primrose House
- 7:00 p.m. Read Through the Bible via zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2461346872> or 346-248-7799

### Wednesday December 4

- 5:30 p.m. Gloria Choir, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Angelicus Choir, Children's Chapel
- 5:30 p.m. Advent Evening Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, Sanctuary, (half-hour worship)

### Friday, December 6 - Sunday, December 8

CLC Advent Retreat, Mustang Island Episcopal Retreat Center

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God, for the first Sunday in Advent, in memory of Mrs. Elward Reiss' 92nd birthday (November 30), and for Elward and Bernie Reiss' anniversary, (December 6), by their loving family.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT WEDNESDAYS EVENING MEAL

Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This year we will gather for a simple meal prior to worship. Many thanks to Scott Merkord for helping coordinate volunteers for these meals. If you would like to sign-up to bring soup, fruit, crackers, or dessert or to help with clean-up here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D44A8AA29A3FB6-53228804-advent#/>

If you are bringing food items, please deliver them to the Kitchen by 5:00 p.m.



# ADVENT RETREAT

Mustang Island Episcopal Retreat Center  
December 6-8

## What to look forward to . . .

- \* A weekend to take time to pause with your loved ones surrounded by ocean beauty
- \* Enjoy hot chocolate, Christmas crafts, and a Christmas movie
- \* Tell stories and sing Christmas songs by the campfire
- \* Good food, nice accommodations
- \* Warm, welcoming, wonderful, and faithful members

**Schedule is subject to change based on weather.**

Friday, December 6  
Welcome and Reflection

- \* 3:00 -7:00 p.m. Arrive & Check in
- \* 7:30 p.m. Gather together at the Conference Center
- \* 8:30 p.m. Story Time with Ms. Carrie

Saturday, December 7  
A Day of Preparation  
& Connection

- \* 8:30 a.m. Morning Devotion and Breakfast
- \* 9:30 a.m. Head to Birding Center and a Nature Walk
- \* 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- \* 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Crafts & a Lesson on what is Advent
- \* 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- \* 7:00 p.m. Hot Cocoa & a Christmas movie

Sunday, December 8  
Wrapping Up with Love

- \* 8:30 a.m. Breakfast & Devotion
- \* 9:30 a.m. Closing Worship Service
- \* 10:30 a.m. Pack Up / Departure

Cost includes all three meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, housing, and craft supplies. Each room has its own private bathroom and many feature balconies with a view of the ocean. Registration forms are in the CrossWay or contact the church office.

Family of 1 \$305  
Family of 2 \$410  
Family of 3 \$530

Family of 4 \$660  
Family of 5 \$785  
Family of 6 \$910



*A Weary World Rejoices*  
**HOLDEN**  
*Evening Prayer*

DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.  
WORSHIP AT 6:30 P.M.

*Wednesdays*  
*December 4, 11, 18*



*A Weary World Rejoices*  
**LESSONS**  
**&**  
**CAROLS**

*Sunday, December 8*  
*8:30 <sup>am</sup> 10:30 a.m.*



# ANGEL TREE



Make a difference in the life of a sacred child of God this Christmas and select an "Angel" today!

Sign the registration sheet and please return your gifts wrapped, and marked with the recipient's name and family number, to the CrossWay no later than Sunday, December 8.



*A Weary World* **Rejoices**

## CHRISTMAS *Pageant*

*Sunday, December 15*

*9:30 a.m.*