



*December 1, 2024*

*Rome: A Place of Longing (Hope)*  
*Rome is a place where decisions impact your life beyond your control.*  
*A place to realize our need for faith.*

#### **RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME and GREETING**

**OPENING SONG:** "Make Room"

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **(10:30) BAPTISM**

Beckett Michael Natzke  
son of Matthew & Nicole

#### **THE JOURNEY BEGINS**

P We begin our Advent journey toward Bethlehem and the manger with a decree from Rome. Needing more money to build the Roman Empire, Caesar Augustus demands a census so that all who lived under his reign could "contribute" to his expansion of power. Whether we are a fan of those in power or not, our lives and stories are often shaped by that which is out of our immediate control. This was true in the moment of the Roman decree that would turn into the story of hope for the world. On this first week of Advent, we ask ourselves whether we are placing our hope in the empires of the world, or in God's presence. "What are we longing for this Advent, and how does it call us to act with hope?"

#### **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

P The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

**C We are on our way to more hope.**

P Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

**C We are a people who long for Good News.**

P There are milestones that guide us.

**C God's light goes before us, we are not alone.**

P Holy God, we know you are near, we know that every step along the way to Bethlehem in this Advent season is a step closer to renewed life in Jesus, the Christ. We know that your Spirit resides within us, growing day by day into the fullness of Hope. In this moment, we pause in silence, marking your presence with awe and asking you to fill us, guide us, along our journey.

**C Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SONG OF PRAISE: "*Chain Breaker*"

#### OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

#### EPISTLE: Romans 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we await for it with patience.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

#### GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-5

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ!**

#### ADVENT CREED

### SERMON SONG: "*Light Of The World*"

#### SERMON

#### PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS / OFFERING

#### RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

*(Please indicate if you are a member or visitor in the Rite of Friendship books and if you will be joining us for Holy Communion. **If visiting please leave us a means to contact you as we would love to follow up with you.**)*

## PRAYER

P Holy and Living God, we pray for the renewal of our world. Too often, we let fear or complacency prevent us from calling out the injustices of our time. Give us courage for action, even in the midst of our longing. Call us to a “census of hope.” Call us to our senses, so, that we may see, hear and know the power of your presence with us, Emmanuel. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ, the Hope of our lives. Amen.

**C This is an assurance that we are moving in a faithful direction: God is with us every step of our way toward the Hope of Bethlehem. Jesus is being born into our lives even now. The Spirit is transforming us in this place.**

P Peace be with you!

**C And also with you.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### HOLY COMMUNION

*We believe Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. If you share this belief and practice, please join us in celebrating the meal of God's family – Holy Communion, please receive the wafer in the palm of your hand. (The cups with white juice are for those who have requested them. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

### COMMUNION SONGS:

“Come To The Table”

“God With Us (All Sons & Daughters)”

### BLESSING and BENEDICTION

**CLOSING SONG:** “Firm Foundation (He Won't)”

### DISMISSAL

#### Please keep the following people in our prayers:

**Medical / Health Concerns:** Jenny Garcia, daughter of Andy & Mary Hoppe, Anne Raduechel, Raphael Klein, Marie Borchardt, Steve Dahlke, Donna Schroeder, Ava Downing, AJ Saltzmann, Erv Boehm, husband of Clarice, Janice Ambuhl, mother-in-law to Jan Feucht, Grace Kobs, Jason Borrero, Mary Utecht–Johnson, Lana Wilkinson, Linda Graebel, Carla Grulkowski, Jack Klein, Darwin Kufahl for knee surgery, Ella Holmes, Mel Sann rehab for hip replacement, Chad Simon due to a fall.

**Battling Cancer:** Ronald Haebig, brother of Kurt, Brenda Bartelt, sister of Carla Haebig, Paul Michalski, Perry Redeker, Emmett Heindel, Lee Seis, brother-in-law of Henry Jennejohn, Bill Kobs, Jerry Sams, friend of the Redeker's, Aissen Witter, Susan Ohde, daughter of Linda, David Hussong, brother of Bill, Tracie Wills.

**Grieving:** family and friends of Jean Rhyner

**The Gathering's** Christmas Celebration will take place on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at **1:00pm\*** in the fellowship hall. The afternoon will begin with a broasted chicken potluck luncheon. Bring your favorite dish or dessert that day to share. A free-will offering will also be available. The afternoon activities will include:

**Sheepshead, Cribbage,  
including a White Elephant Gift Exchange Game**

Your White Elephant gift will be something used! No need to buy anything! So, search in your closets, your basement, or your garage for that special gift. To add a festive spirit, please wrap your gift in holiday wrapping paper or use a gift bag; and add a bow or ribbon for that holiday touch, no tag is necessary.

**\*Please note change in start time.**



The **Wausau Golden K Kiwanis** are collecting 2025 wall calendars to distribute to area nursing homes. If you have an extra new or unused one you would like to donate, please bring it to the office.

### From the Sewing Corner

A lot was accomplished in November. Thank you to all who came and worked. Our December workshops will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00- 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We'll focus on finishing more backpacks and shorts. Jobs include cutting, ironing, sewing and putting elastic or cording into the casings. Join us if you can. We appreciate your help!

### Son-Shine Bible Study

We will continue our Advent preparation with the Because of Bethlehem video Bible study by Max Lucado on Wednesday, with 'Worship Works Wonders'. In this session we will look closer at what distracts us and what we can do to worship God in our daily lives. We meet from 1:00 – 2:30 in the Youth Room. You are welcome to join us.

### Planning Committee Meeting for the 2nd Annual "Meet Me at the Well Saturday" (being held March 1, 2025)

We had a great first planning session with several new ideas for our upcoming event. Thank you to the all the ladies that came to share their ideas, their time and their willingness to help. If you are interested in helping with this event, new committee members are always welcome. We will continue the conversations and planning at our next meeting which will be in the youth room on **Monday, December 2nd from 6:30-7:15pm.**

If you have further questions please contact Kristen Novitch @ 715-966-4172. We are looking forward to see you there!

### St. Mark's Community Children's Clothing and Toy Gift Event



The "Christmas Giving Tree" will be displayed in the Narthex **starting December 8th.** We are looking for members to buy Christmas gifts of toys and clothing for children in our community. Members will be asked to take an envelope that will include information about the child. Their sizes, clothing needs, favorite games or toy information will be provided by their parents or guardians to help select gifts that they need and will enjoy. Christmas wrapping paper and tape will be available under the Giving Tree for participants to use for their gifts.

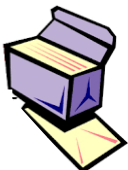
We ask that the gifts be wrapped and brought back to St. Mark's office by Thursday, December 19th. Wrapped gifts will be picked up by the children's families on Sunday, December 22nd from 12:00-2:00. Families that gave gifts are welcome to attend to help with handing out the wrapped gifts, and greeting families. Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and milk for everyone!!

Thank you for your consideration of participating in this special gift giving opportunity. **If you have any questions, please contact Kim @ 715-574-6759 or Kristen @ 715-966-4172.**

### Hurricane Relief THANK YOU

On Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, our Hurricane Relief supplies were delivered to Westfield along with others from churches in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. In addition, St. Mark's collected \$3855 in donations to help support this important effort. Two semi-trailers have already been sent from our Wisconsin warehouse and more are planned for January delivery. THANK YOU St. Mark's members for your generous support of Orphan Grain Train's efforts with this Hurricane Relief project.

### 2025 Offering Envelopes



The offering envelopes will be available for pickup in a couple of weeks. If you'd prefer to receive **monthly envelopes** instead of the full year's supply, please let the office know. Also, if you'd like to switch to **electronic giving**, contact Kurt in the office—it's quick and easy!

# St. Mark's Scoop

## December 1 - 8, 2024

<b>Sun, Dec 1</b>	<b>Contemporary</b>
<b>Mon, Dec 2</b>	6:30 Meet Me at the Well Women's group planning meeting 7:00 Dartball
<b>Tues, Dec 3</b>	9:00 Pillowcase Workshop 12:00 LWML Christmas Gathering at 2510 Restaurant 3:30 Christmas Decorating
<b>Wed, Dec 4</b>	1:00 Son Shine Bible Study 3:30 Worship - Traditional <b>4:30 Advent Supper - Taco Boats</b> 6:00 Worship - Contemporary
<b>Thurs, Dec 5</b>	5:00 PEW Sisters 6:00 Celebration Choir
<b>Fri, Dec 6</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon</b> 6:00 Confirmand Questioning Service <b>Pastor &amp; Blaine's Family Day</b>
<b>Sat, Dec 7</b>	_____
<b>Sun, Dec 8</b>	<b>Traditional</b>

**Preschool Advent Supper**  
Preschool is looking for donations of bars / desserts for their **December 4th Advent Supper**. Sign up sheet will be located on the credenza.

### Ladies Guild Christmas Gathering

The annual Ladies Guild Christmas gathering will be held on **December 3rd at noon** at 2510 Restaurant.

No RSVP needed.



### Christmas Decorating

Mark your calendars! We'll be decorating the church for Christmas on **Tuesday, December 3rd, at 3:30 pm**. After we finish, we'll gather for a light meal of pizza. Your help will make the job much easier and more enjoyable for everyone. We can't wait to celebrate the season together!

For information on ALL *St Mark's* ministry opportunities, visit

[stmarkswausau.org](http://stmarkswausau.org)

or scan this code for our ministry catalog



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