

## Joys and Prayers

Continued prayers for Greg Klendl's daughter, Carmen as the family deals with husband, Michael, who has progressive ALS condition. Prayers for Greg's spine doctor so he can find the best way to deal with Greg's back problem.

Prayers for Pastor John Hazen as his healing is progressing. He is retiring at the end of 2025 and will be moving back to Menomonie in January 2026.

Prayers for world peace.

Joys for Kimberly Martinson! After 14 weeks in the hospital, Kimberly will be coming home. Thank you for your prayers!

### Home Bound or in Care Centers

June Harvey, Danielle Mensing, Jane Larsen, Mary Ellen Lidgerding, Rick Jenson, Ramona Reidt, Betty Hazen, Dorothy Wreford, Loren Heffern, Barbara Laatsch, Rosella Blakley, Rose Marie Johnson.

Our friends from Grace Bridge Korean UMC have graciously provided two cases of pet chews for your dogs again this Christmas, manufactured right here in Menomonie by Koowill Inc. If you have a pet who would enjoy a dental chew, please help yourself.

**Merry Christmas!**

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## Sunday Bulletin

December 28, 2025

## Welcome

### WORSHIP WARM-UP

"I Love You, Lord" FWS # 2068

"Morning Has Broken" Hymnal #145

"Joy Comes with the Dawn" FWS #2210



### WORSHIP WARM-UP

### GREETING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child. As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask, "What now?"

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us, the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

**People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Leader: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

**People: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2025.*

\*OPENING SONG

"Joy to the World"

Hymnal #246

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of**

the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability; who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.  
Adapted from Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

SPECIAL MUSIC "Once in Royal David's City" Linda Bark & Howard Hintzman

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Matthew 2:13-23

MESSAGE "Unfailing Love Through Unthinkable Heartbreak"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

PRAYER HYMN "What Child Is This" Hymnal # 219

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY Hymnal # 94

OFFERING PRAYER

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your

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kingdom among us. Use what we bring—not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion—to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

\*HYMN "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Faith We Sing # 2100

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE "God Rest Ye" arr . R. Whitman

# Upcoming Events

**Sarah Zarbock, our Parish Nurse to be in office most Fridays from 9:30 am-11:30** in the conference room. Feel free to stop by to meet or visit with any health or faith concerns.

**Mom's Group, 1st Monday of the month** 6:00-7:00, Fireside Room  
Childcare available.

**Messy Church, Join Us!** 2nd Sunday of the month 10:30-Noon

**Foot & Nail Clinic with Nurse Jacki Bruchert** 2nd Wednesday of the month starting January 14 9:00-3:00 pm. Contact Jackie at 715-529-5637 to schedule appt.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry, Third Thursday of the Month**, 4:00 pm Fireside room for more information contact Margaret Hastings or Sarah Zarbock.

**Choir Practice** Starting January 5, Mondays 2:30-3:30.

**GriefShare Saturdays starting January 3rd to March 28 1:00-3:00 pm.** For info contact Sarah Zarbock.

**ALB Potluck Brunch every 3rd Sunday of the month starting January 18, 2026.** Whoever can bring! 10:00 am. For more info contact Janet Mangette at 715-505-6748 or jmangette@hotmail.com. Everyone Welcome!

**Cards & Cupcakes, Friday, Jan. 23, 9:30-11:30**, Craft 5 fabulous cards. Cost: \$6. Contact Sarah Zarbock for more information.

**Monday's Meal December 29** Menu subject to change  
Hotdogs, baked beans, chips, fruit and a sweet treat.