



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org



First Sunday of Advent **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the loving presence of the Spirit as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal. **If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact information.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✠ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #259

"Fling Wide the Door"



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



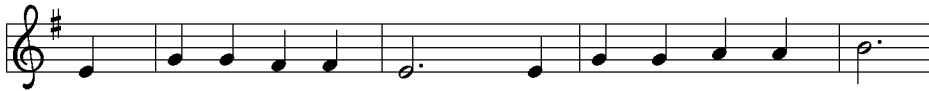
praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ADVENT DEVOTION & LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

ELW #240

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” Verse 1



- 1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 2:1-5

Weapons of war transformed into instruments of peace

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Response after the First Lesson

Word of the Spirit, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)

¹I was glad when they ¹ said to me,
"Let us go to the house ¹ of the Lord."

²**Now our ¹ feet are standing
within your gates, ¹ O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. R**

⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.**

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the | Lord our God,
I will seek to | do you good.” R

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 13:11-14

Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.


¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Response after the Second Lesson

Word of the Spirit, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Please rise in body or in spirit. The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 24:36-44

The sudden coming of the Son of Man

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #438

"My Lord, What a Morning"

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

Please rise in body or in spirit

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need ...

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a distanced sign of Peace with our neighbors saying

Peace be with you to which we respond **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

✚ **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**

✚ **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**

Please rise in body or in spirit

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW #186

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

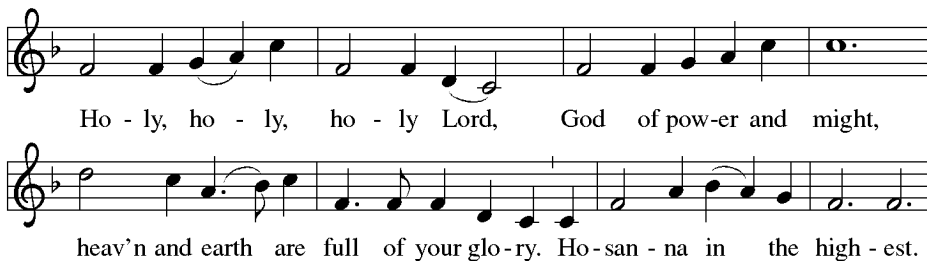
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

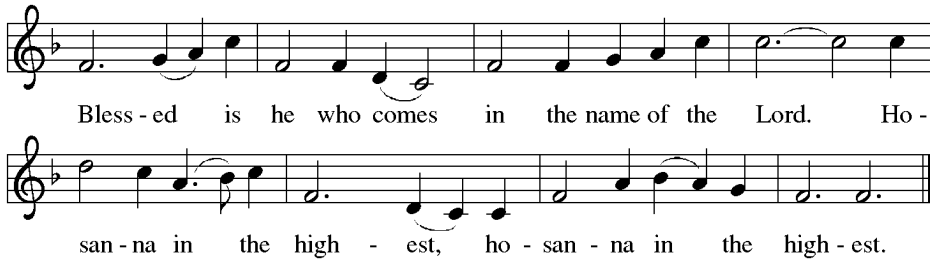
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Sit

COMMUNION

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away. You will be invited to come forward to receive the elements. Holy Communion are the gifts of God for the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #260

"The King Shall Come"



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose	Ray Scholz
Altar Care	Janet Gomez	Lynn Scholz
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert	Jennie Hawkins
Lay Assisting Minister	David Leunig	Sue Turner
Lector	Judy Wright	Irene Albert
Technology	Chris Hawkins	Shawn Jaeger

WELCOME TO PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Pastor Jay Serafin will be our supply pastor through the end of December. He has also been recommended by the Virginia Synod to be a candidate for our Interim Pastor. If you haven't had a chance, please take time to introduce yourself to Pastor Jay and his wife, Jamie.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Lesson:

Isaiah 11:1-10

*From David's line, a ruler bringing
justice and peace*

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

*May the righteous flourish; let there be an
abundance of peace*

Second Lesson:

Romans 15:4-13

*Live in harmony,
welcoming one another*

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

*A voice cries: Prepare the way of
the Lord*

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Please take a minute to sign up to provide flowers for our altar – you can make your own arrangements from your garden – if you need vases, we have them. The signup sheet is in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see Janet Gomez.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Please help yourself to the Advent devotions that are on the table in the narthex.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Orders are being taken for poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas – the cost is \$12.99 each and deadline to order is Sunday, December 11th – signup sheet is in the narthex.

LUMINARIES FOR THE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Caring Community Ministry Team will be putting together luminaries to line the walkway for the Blue Christmas Service which will be held on Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM – if you would like, please put names of loved ones you would like to remember on a bag and leave it on the table in the narthex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Daniel Gomez – December 2

HAPPY BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY

Chase and CK Ambrose – December 1

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Opal Baker, Eddie Freeman, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson, Michael Schlemmer, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Sue and George Turner, and Jerry and Lena Woodlief

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Patricia Armentor, family of Sharon Bagley (friends of Judy Wright), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Family of Kimberly Conine, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy and Kathie Davis, Mary Divelbiss, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Laura Fleige, Teresa Floersheim- Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Michelle Fowler** (Reida Avery's daughter), **Dana Goodwin** (Juanita Sturdy's daughter), **Shirley Grimes** (Ben Grimes' mother), **family of Shirlean Hackman, Mike Hall, Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden) **Carl and Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Diane Hill** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **the Little Family, Lorraine Malkemus, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Jean McKee** (Lilly Frost's grandmother), **Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle M^cMahan), **Keith Morgan, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson and his brother, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Kathy Shackelford, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Linda Sutterfield, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt), **Elizabeth and Steven White, Kitty Witty, Cory Woodlief, Jim and Carol Wolf, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret and Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 – DECEMBER 4, 2022

TODAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY	7:00 PM	Men's AA
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	Al-Anon
SATURDAY	6:30 PM	AA Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	First Sunday Potluck/ ELCA Good Gifts Presentation

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Alberts/Runk	Scholz/Ambrose
Tellers	L. Hodges/C. Hawkins	Liljebergs

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK – NEXT SUNDAY!

Please join us for our "First Sunday" potluck next Sunday – it will be held immediately after the worship service – bring a dish to share.

PRAYERS SHAWLS NEEDED

We will be handing out prayer shawls at our Blue Christmas Service which will be held on Wednesday, December 21st, at 7:00 PM – if you would like to help make some, please see Janet Gomez.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Ben and Margaret Grimes for lighting the Advent wreath today!

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