



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Highspire
Advent One
November 30, 2025

Introduction

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.

Overview

Turn On. Tune In. Wake Up!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In today's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the parousia, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in today's second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wide-awake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.

WORDS OF WELCOME
PRELUDE

Call to Advent

Choir

The Gathering

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

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW p. 94

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

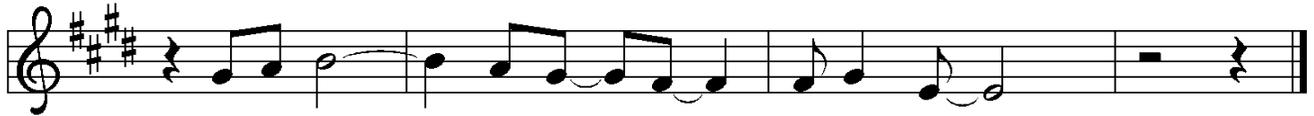
C Amen.

*KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle vs. 1

ELW #240

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

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!"

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

2 In 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.

3 Many 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.

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

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 122 (read responsively)

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

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

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

3 Jerusalem 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.**

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

**6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

7 Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

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

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

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

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.

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

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 188



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But 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. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Glenn Beard

SERMON

Rev. Glenn Beard

*HYMN OF THE DAY

The King Shall Come

ELW #260

*NICENE CREED

ELW p. 104

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing especially *Don Alsedek, Connie Barner, Rachael Benkovic, Elijah Dean, Duck Harris, Rose Hoover, Samson Kennedy, Bernie Kunz, Rob Lipsitt, Jeff Myers and Kevin Schonewolf* and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

*PEACE

ELW p. 189

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Keep Your Lamps!

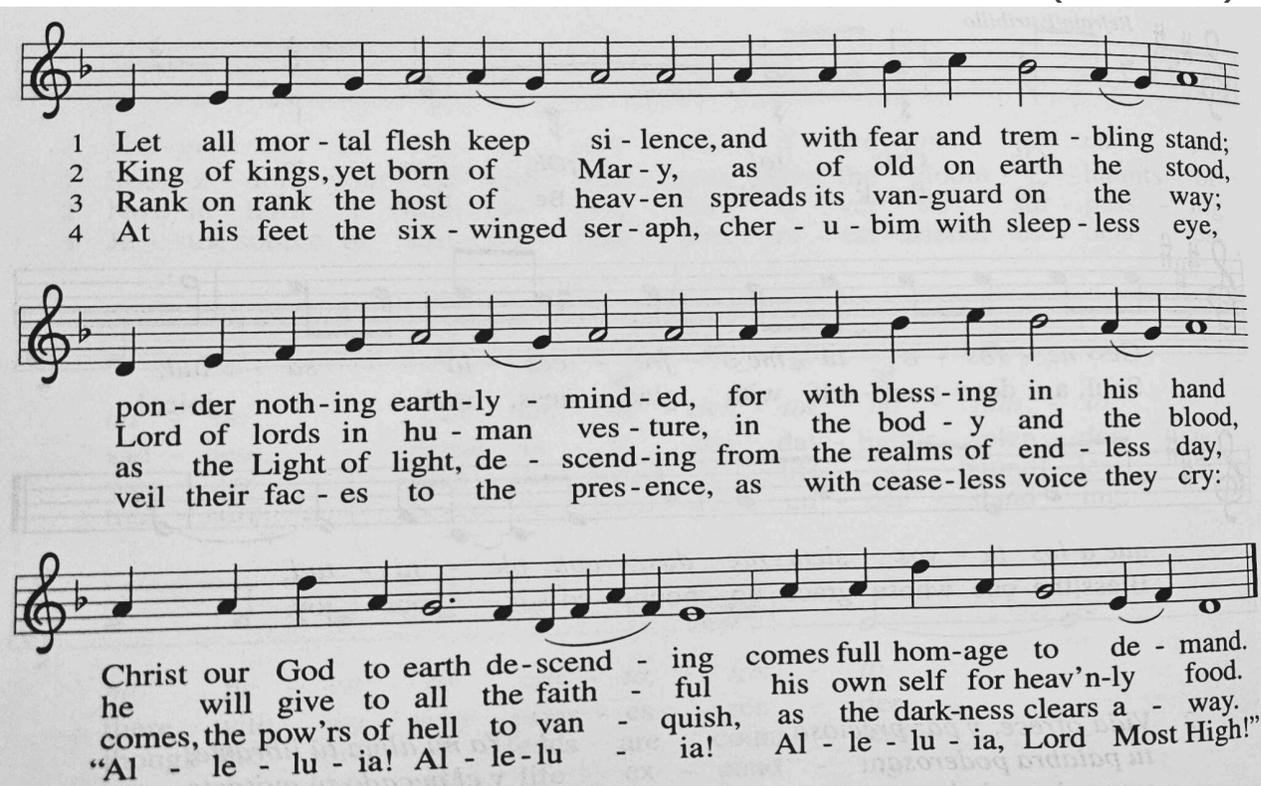
Choir

with Weston Hawkins, Cajon

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" ELW #490
(v. 1 & 2)



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,

pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:

Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p.190

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

P 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'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

*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.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.191

P 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.**

*SHARING THE MEAL

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

Lamb of God

ELW p.191

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW #247

He Came Down

ELW #253

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

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

C Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

*BENEDICTION

P May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN Soon and Very Soon

ELW #439

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE The King of Glory

W & P #136

***Thank you, Rev. Glenn Beard for presiding over worship today.
It is a blessing to have you here.***

***Thank you Weston Hawkins for being a guest musician today.
We appreciate you sharing your talents with us.***

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Prelude - "Call to Advent" - J. Jerome Williams @1980 Hope Pub. Choir

Kyrie - p.184-185, ELW, setting 8

Lighting the Advent Wreath - "Light One Candle" ELW #240 (v. 1)

@1984 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Wayne L. Wold

Gospel Acclamation - "Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?" p.188. ELW

Hymn of the Day - "The King Shall Come" ELW #260 PUBLIC DOMAIN arr.

@1969 Concordia Publishing Co.

Special Music - "Keep Your Lamps!" SPIRITUAL arr. Andre

Thomas @2003 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Choir w/ Weston Hawkins, cajon

Offertory Hymn - "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" ELW #490

(v. 1 & 2) PICARDY PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Holy, Holy, Holy", p.190, ELW, setting 8

Distribution of Communion - Lamb of God, p.191, ELW, setting 8

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" ELW #247 @ 1991 Iona words and music -

Geonyong Lee

"He Came Down" ELW #253 PUBLIC DOMAIN

Sending hymn - "Soon and Very Soon" ELW #439 @Capitol CMG

Publishing, words and music - Andrae Crouch CCLI Songs # 11249

Postlude - "The King of Glory" W&P #136 @1967 OCP words - Willard

Jabusch music - Israeli trad.

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For pastoral care, please reach out to the church office at 717-939-3492 or by email at stpetershighspire240@gmail.com. You can also call Rich Deutsch at 717-512-1136.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Vases are Presented to the Glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Herbert and Berniece Hickman by Barbara Johnson and family. Mr. and Mrs. Hickman's wedding anniversary is December 2nd.

The Advent Wreath is presented to the Glory of God in memory of Romaine (Mickey) Bruaw, Ben Hickman and loved ones by Stephen, Clydene and Stephanie Strauss.

Worship Participants for November 30, 2025

Presiding Minister	Rev. Glenn Beard
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Worship Assistant	Brian Keyser
Lector	Doris Reynolds

Worship Participants for December 7, 2025

Presiding Minister	Rev. Glenn Beard
Music Director	Stephen Strauss
Musician	Juliet Mitton
Worship Assistant	Sally Schonewolf
Lector	Randy Hoover

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Rehearsals have begun for all St. Peter's choirs. This Wednesday, December 3rd will be rehearsal for the Bell Choir at 7pm. Join us at rehearsals and offer your talents to the Lord through music! Any questions, call or text Steve at 717-265-6854.

All are Welcome Bible Study

The *All are Welcome Bible Study* meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm. We are currently reading Psalms. We send out a weekly email with the Zoom link, as well as a brief summary of what we covered the previous week. To get the link for attending the Zoom session, or just to get on the weekly email list, please contact Matt and Mary Hunt at allarewelcomebiblestudy@gmail.com.

Monday Night Meals

Sally Schonewolf wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone for their food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving Meal this past Monday. They served 265 meals that evening! Also, she wanted to remind everyone to keep bringing in plastic bags and brown paper bags for the meal and the food bank!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Budget Meeting and Election of Council members will be held on Sunday, December 14th, 2025, immediately following the service. Please plan on attending, as we will discuss the proposed 2026 Budget and elect council members. We will need to elect 2 members to replace those that are ending their terms. If you would be interested in serving on council, you can let Rich Deutsch, or any member of council know.

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

Patrick Hawkins reported to council the only thing left to install are the hanging microphones. They plan on installing them soon. He stated that as we grow the sound system, we are finding we need some additional items. The new lapel microphone for the pastor to wear and a new altar microphone were ordered and are awaiting their arrival. Noah Hawkins did some wiring work to connect to the wireless receiver, which will help when we are using all the wireless components for the sound system. The total cost for this upgrade was \$2907 dollars. If anyone would like to help offset the cost, you can let Kane High know or put your donation in the offering plate designated for the sound system. We also want to give thanks to the members who have already donated towards this project! Our congregation is truly blessed with all of you!

Come to church and stay for fellowship every Sunday in the Parlor. Enjoy coffee and snacks and friendly conversation! If you would be interested in "Hosting a Sunday" please check the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the Music Room/Church Office.