



Rejoice. . . .

The Lord is at hand

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

Third Sunday in Advent

**December 15, 2024
10:00AM**

WELCOME, FRIENDS AND GUESTS!

WELCOME! A cordial welcome is extended to all who have come to worship with us today. May God's loving presence fill us with joy and hope as we prepare ourselves to follow Christ. If you are a guest or visitor with us, please be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Binz or Pastor Swenson and sign our guest book. We look forward to having you worship with us again.

SERVING YOU TODAY

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
<i>Liturgist & Celebrant</i>	<i>Rev. Jacob Swenson, Associate Pastor</i>
<i>Assisting Elder</i>	<i>Robert Bok</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Amy Kao</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Alex & Lucy Lew</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Tom Wedergren, Steve Wood, Alex Lew, Robert Bok</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Gerda Beisel, Jing Li, Rhonda Short</i>

AS WE GATHER

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

Divine Service, Setting One
Lutheran Service Book, page 151

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, Sts. 1-4

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. ***Refrain***

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. ***Refrain***
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. ***Refrain***
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. ***Refrain***

Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

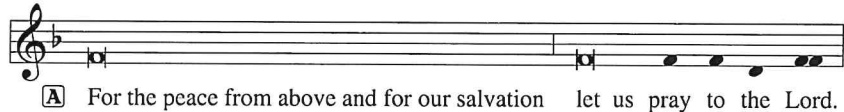
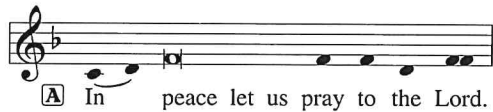
P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
C who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food
to the hungry.

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes
of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE





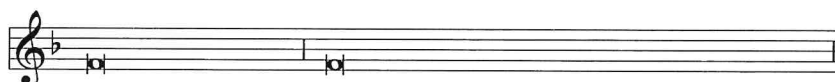
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



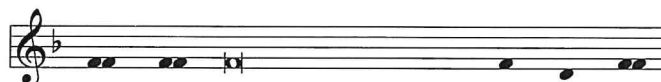
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



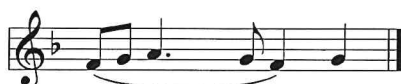
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

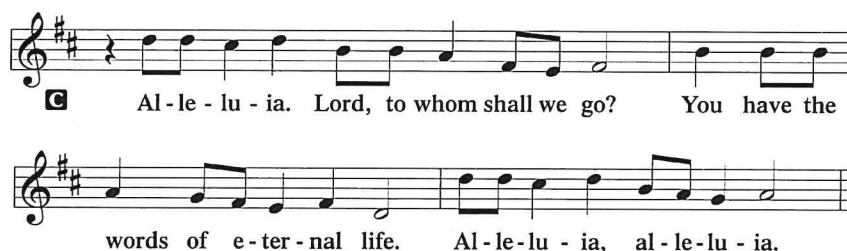
EPISTLE**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

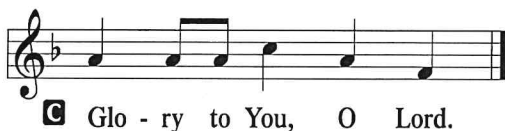
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE**HOLY GOSPEL****Luke 7:18-28**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.



The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Stand

- 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

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Sit

SERMON **“Joy in Jesus”**
Text: Philippians 4:4-7

Stand

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

[P] Lord, in Your mercy,
[C] Hear our prayer.

Sit

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

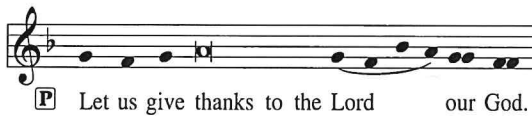
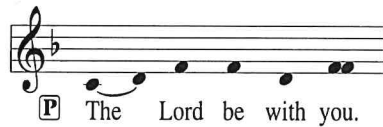
MUSICAL OFFERING

Choir Sings *Seek and You Will Find*

Stand

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

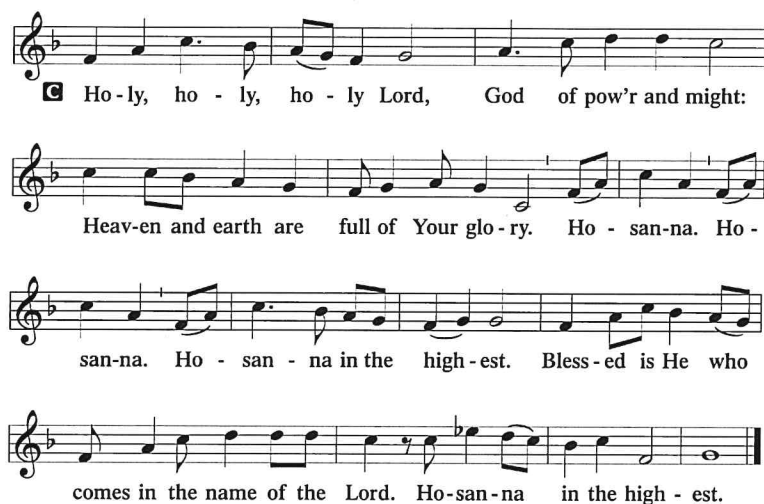
PREFACE



PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.
- P** Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI



- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



- C** A - men.

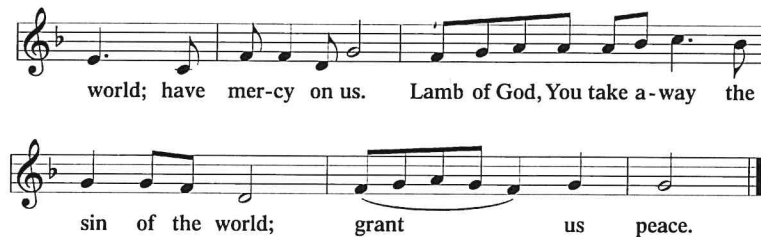
AGNUS DEI



- C** 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



Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Regarding our Holy Communion practices this morning:

- We ask that you who are communicant Lutherans prepare to receive the Lord's Supper by reading the Communion Registration side of our Welcome-Worship Registration Card.
- The consecrated wine may be received by common cup (the chalice) or individual chalices. **White grape juice is provided in the chalices in the inner circle of the tray for those who are unable to consume wine.**
- If you are unable to come to the altar rail for Communion, please let the usher know, and Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 340

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

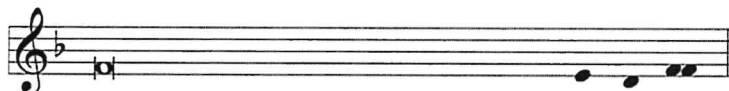
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray . . . one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

CLOSING HYMN *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* **LSB 803**

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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Through all eternity.

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Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Your tithes and offerings support the mission and ministries of West Portal Lutheran Church. If you wish to make an online donation, please use the QR code below. PayPal deducts a small fee from these donations, or you may add a nominal amount to your donation by checking the box to help cover the fees.



Altar Flower Donations

The Altar Guild is again planning to purchase poinsettias to help decorate the Church during this Christmas Season. If you would like to help by donating to the flower fund, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 15. The suggested minimum donation is \$15.00. Please make the check payable to Altar Guild—West Portal Lutheran Church.

Name of person(s) donating flowers

Name of person(s) honored or remembered

Midweek Advent Services Continue in December



In Advent we prepare for the “advent,” or coming of the Lord our Savior. He first came in the flesh at Christmas, the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Old Testament. More than that, however, He comes to us today in His Word and Sacraments. Then, as at His first coming, we gather now in patient anticipation of His final coming in the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

This Advent we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

We continue to gather for Midweek Advent Services on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00PM.

Advent Midweek 3 - December 18, 2024
Everlasting Father

Congregational Advent Dinner at 6PM to be prepared by Dan Holt and Elders/Fellowship Committees. All are welcome to a light dinner and dessert. You only need to bring your appetite!

PARISH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**Wednesday Morning Bible Study
In-Person and On-Line**

Pastor Swenson is leading an in-person and on-line Bible Study on Wednesday mornings, starting at 11:00AM in the church library. If you would be interested in joining the class on-line, please contact Pastor Swenson, pastorswenson@wplsfc.com so that he can provide you with the link for joining the class.

Sundays, 9:00AM

Bible Study - Led by Pastor Binz at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Children Sunday School - Led by Edward & Rebecca Chan at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library.

ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX:

- *Portals of Prayer* for October—December
- Latest issue of PortaLight
- Current issue of the *Lutheran Witness*
- Bulletin for today—regular size print and large size print

Please help yourself to any or all of the above listed items.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available. If you know of someone who could use one, please ask an usher for a large print bulletin—the order of service, words to the hymns, and the announcements are printed in these bulletins.

ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are now available for your use during the Worship Service. If you would like to use one of these hearing devices, please see an Usher to check one out! There are two choices for the earpiece: an Ear-Bud or an Ear-Cuff. Following the Service PLEASE return the Hearing Aid to the ushers.

Philippians 4:5–6 – “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.



Christmas Services

Join with us and invite family and friends to worship the Lord at any of our Christmas Services.

5:00 PM DECEMBER 24TH—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Scripture lessons, lighting of candles; Christmas music

7:00 PM DECEMBER 24TH—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Scripture lessons, lighting of candles; Christmas music

10:00 AM DECEMBER 25TH—CHRISTMAS DAY - FESTIVAL EUCHARIST
Carols and hymns; Lord's Supper

NO SATURDAY DECEMBER 28TH SERVICE

10:00 AM December 29th SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Lord's Supper

NO NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

Our Stewardship of Treasure

	Last Month	Fiscal Year-to-Date
Actual Contributions	29,325	123,943
Actual Other Income	9,836	115,322
Actual Total Income	<u>39,161</u>	<u>239,265</u>
Budgeted Total Income	45,373	234,560
Actual Expenses	48,092	257,795
Budgeted Expenses	47,088	257,064

CALENDAR

SUNDAY (12/15)

9:00AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00AM Children Sunday School
 10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper
 11:15AM Choir Practice

TUESDAY (12/17)

8:30PM Adult Men's Basketball (35+)

WEDNESDAY (12/18)

11:00AM Midweek Bible Class
 6:00PM Light Dinner
 7:00PM Midweek Advent Service

THURSDAY (12/19)

7:00PM Boy Scouts

SATURDAY (12/21)

5:00PM Worship-Lord's Supper

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY (12/22)

9:00AM Adult Bible Class
 9:00AM Children Sunday School
 10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper
 11:15AM Choir Practice

TUESDAY (12/24) CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00PM Candle Light Service
 7:00PM Candle Light Service

WEDNESDAY (12/25) CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper

THURSDAY (12/26)

Church Office & School are closed.

SATURDAY (12/28)

No worship service this Saturday



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, home-bound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Vincent & Brigitta Ammann, Beatrice Priest's parents; Emersynn Binz; Elfriede Bonfert; Paul Brase; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Mary Jo Fischl; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Karen Goeglien, Bob Bok's cousin; Kenny Hioe, Julia Tom's brother-in-law; Ted Jones; Eliza Latimore; George Mogyorossy, Gilbert Mogyorossy's father; Sigrid Rogge; Ruth Stresow; Marilyn Tom, Stanley Tom's sister-in-law; Annalise Traub, Peter Traub's daughter; Lisa Westermann; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.

Year-End Reminder

THANK YOU for your tithes and offerings for the Lord's Kingdom work. Your contributions are appreciated, including gifts of stocks, bonds, IRA distributions, or corporate matching funds. Remember that contributing securities that have risen in value provides you with a larger tax deduction and avoids capital gains tax. Consult your financial or tax planner for the strategy that's best for you. If you wish to donate stock or other securities, or request matching funds from your employer, please contact Howard Scully, our church and school accountant, at 415-661-0242 ext. 225, or by email at howard.scully@wpplsfc.com.

Our Stewardship of Worship Last Week

Wednesday, 7:00PM Service

In Person27

On-Line196

Saturday, 5:00PM Service

In Person58

Sunday, 10:00AM Service

In Person126

On-Line209

Total616

Communed Sunday56

Sunday Bible Class15

Wednesday Bible Class.....10

West Portal Lutheran
Church & School

Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM

Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Wednesday, 11:00AM

Sunday, 9:00AM

CHURCH

200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132

415-661-0242

www.

westportallutheran.org

SCHOOL

Sloat Campus

200 Sloat Boulevard
San Francisco CA 94132

415-665-6330

Sunset Campus

3101 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122

415-731-3000

www.wplsf.com

Rev. Curtis Binz,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jacob Swenson,
Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,
*Assistant to the Principal-
Teaching, Learning, Curriculum*

Ms. Amy Kao
Music Director

12/15/24
10:00AM