



Fourth Sunday in Advent

**December 21, 2025
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>Lector</i>	<i>Ernestine Gutter</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Terry Hesselroth, Beverly Dye, Philip Go</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Ernestine Gutter, Darlene Hartman, Rebecca Chan, Rhonda Short</i>

Divine Service, Setting One
Lutheran Service Book, page 151

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors ***LSB 339***

- 1 Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors,
And weep no more!
 O Zion's daughter, sing,
 To greet your coming King;
Now wave the victor's palm
And sing the ancient psalm:
 "Lift up your heads, you everlasting gates!"
 Your King awaits!

- 2 Who is this King of great and glorious fame?
What is His name?
 Lord God of Sabaoth,
 Of whom the prophets wrote,
Whose chosen, humble steed
Declares Him king indeed!
 Hosanna, Lord! Messiah, come and save
 From sin and grave.

- 3 Who may ascend Mount Zion's holy hill
To do God's will?
 The One whose unstained hands
 Can meet the Law's demands,
Whose purity within
Reveals One free from sin.
 Come, praise this King who claims the cross as throne—
 Praise Him alone!

- 4 “Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb who once was slain
Now lives to reign.
He rules our earthly ways
As Lord of Ancient Days—
O join the endless song
Sung by the ransomed throng:
“Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb be praised again!
Amen! Amen!

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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 Christ, and by His authority, 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

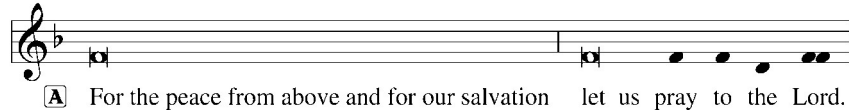
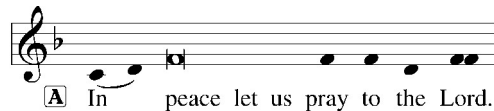
INTROIT *Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a*

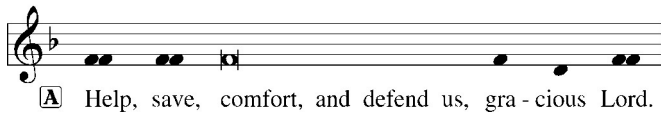
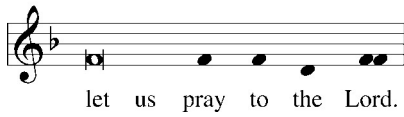
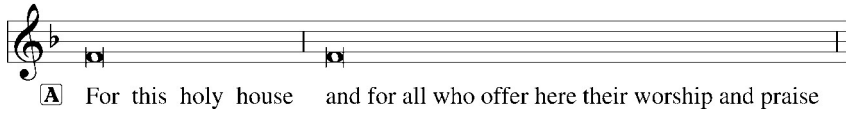
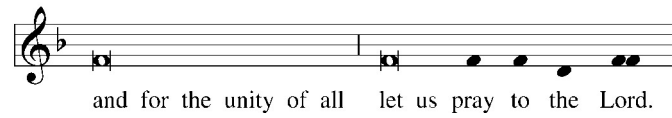
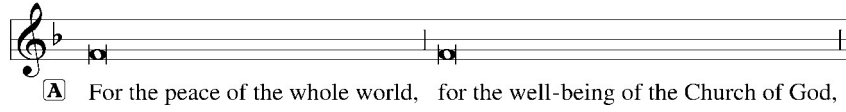
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- C** **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**
- P** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- C** **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,**
- P** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- C** **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

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** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- C** **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

KYRIE





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

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 1:39-56

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



In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

- 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*
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

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SERMON

"He, who is Mighty"
Text: Luke 1:39-56

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 OFFERING

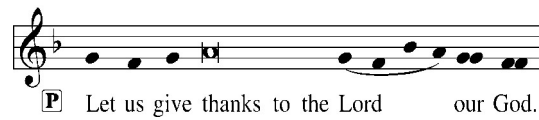
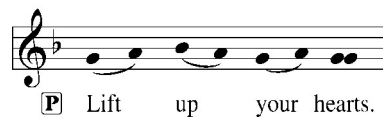
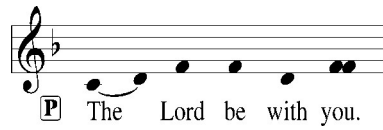
MUSICAL OFFERING

Choir: *Sweet is the Name of Jesus*

Stand

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

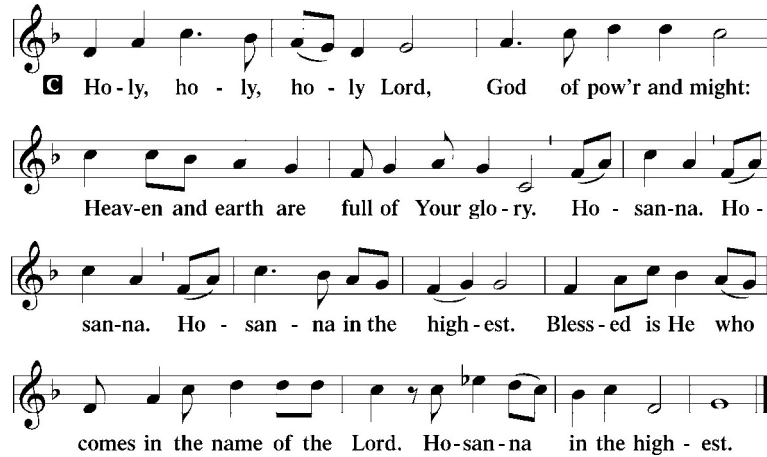
PREFACE



PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



C 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.

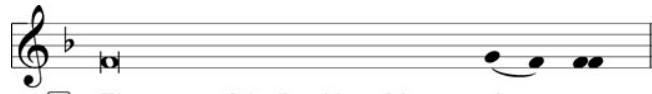
LORD'S PRAYER

- 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 $\cdot\bar{\iota}\cdot$ 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 $\cdot\bar{\iota}\cdot$ 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.



G A - men.

AGNUS DEI



G 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



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

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. **Non-alcoholic wine is provided in the chalices in the inner circle of the tray for those who are unable to consume alcohol.**
- If you are unable to come to the altar rail for Communion, please let the usher know, and Pastors will bring communion to you in your pew.

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

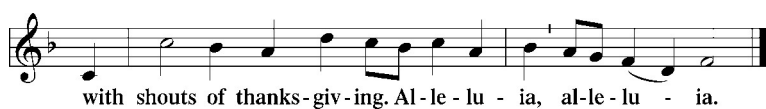
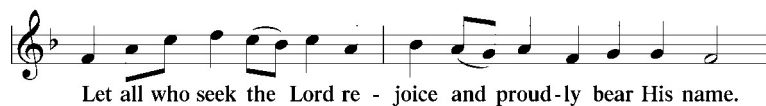
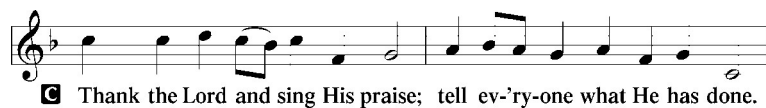
LSB 623

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

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Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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



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.



CLOSING HYMN

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

LSB 355

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
Come down, come down with mighty stride;
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
Unbar the way to heaven's crown.
- 2 O Father, light from heaven send;
As morning dew, O Son, descend.
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
To Jacob's line rain down the King.
- 3 O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen;
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare,
Our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.
- 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
When will You come with comfort strong?
O come, O come, Your throne forego;
Console us in our vale of woe.
- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand
From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring
And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore
Forever and forevermore.

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Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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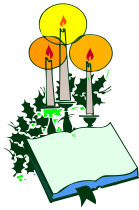


The Altar Guild is seeking new members to help with our essential ministry of preparing the church for worship. This is a quiet, behind-the-scenes way to contribute to the beauty and reverence of our services, and we are currently in need of more dedicated members to help with our important work.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can serve, please contact Rebecca Chan at 317-508-3901.

Thank you for considering this vital ministry.

In Christ,
The Altar Guild



Christmas Services

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

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 27TH SERVICE

10:00 AM December 28th SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Lord's Supper

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



St. Matthew tells us that some time after our Lord had been born, wise men from the East were led by a star to worship Him. In the Church, we call this event the Epiphany, which means *appearing*. It celebrates the revelation of the Messiah to the world, even to us. We invite you to join us here at West Portal for a brief evening service on Tuesday, January 6th (which is Epiphany) at 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Binz 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 Binz, pastorcbinz@wplsfc.com so that he can provide you with the link for joining the class.

Sundays, 9:00AM

Bible Study - Led by Pastor Swenson at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Parish 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 January—March
- 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.

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

Our Pastor's **RETIREMENT**



Join Us! Pastor Binz's Retirement Reception

The WPL Fellowship Committee is throwing a retirement reception to honor **Pastor Curtis Binz** for his incredible 26 years of ministry and guidance.

Come share your favorite memories and enjoy some fellowship, food, and fun as we send Pastor Binz off to his well-deserved retirement!

When: Sunday, 1-4-2026, 11:15 a.m.

Where: Parish Hall of WPL Church, 200 Sloat Blvd., SF

Details: Light reception and cake will be served.

Please help us get a headcount by letting me know if you can make it by **Sunday, 12/28**.

Contact: 415-661-0242, extension 221 or may.luu@wplsfc.com to RSVP.

Let's make this a memorable send-off!

May Luu
Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant

Our Stewardship of Worship Last Week

Wednesday, 7:00PM Service

In Person19

On-Line64

Saturday, 5:00PM Service

In Person12

Sunday, 10:00AM Service

In Person73

On-Line74

Total.....242

Communed Saturday10

Communed Sunday49

Sunday Bible Class.....14

Wednesday Bible Class.....7

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (12/21)

9:00AM Adult Bible Class

9:00AM Children Sunday School

10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper

11:15AM Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY (12/24) CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00PM Candle Light Service

THURSDAY (12/25) CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper

FRIDAY (12/26)

Church Office & School are closed.

SATURDAY (12/27)

No worship service this Saturday

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY (12/28)

9:00AM Adult Bible Class

9:00AM Children Sunday School

10:00AM Worship-Lord's Supper

11:15AM Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY (12/31)

11:00AM Midweek Bible Class

THURSDAY (1/1) NEW YEAR DAY

Church Office & School are closed.

SATURDAY (1/3)

5:00PM Worship-Lord's Supper



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Dick Bass; Elfriede Bonfert; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Virginia Ferry; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Gilbert Mogyorossy; Bennette Nulph; Sigrid Rogge; Ruth Stresow; Ray Toloski; Nancy Tso; Elise Wen, Patrick Man's friend; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.

Year-End Reminder from our Finance Committee

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. If you wish to donate stock or other securities, or request matching funds from your employer, please contact the Accounting Office at 415-661-0242 ext. 225, or by email at accounting@wplsfc.com.

Gary Presley-Nelson, Vice President Church Council
Chair of Finance Committee
West Portal Lutheran Church & School

West Portal Lutheran
Church & School

Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM

Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Wednesday, 11:00AM

Sunday, 9:00AM

Sunday School

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.wplsfc.com

Rev. Curtis Binz,

Senior Pastor

Rev. Jacob Swenson,

Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,

Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,

Director of

Teaching Learning Curriculum

Ms. Amy Kao

Church Music Director

12/21/25

10:00AM