

December 31, 2023
Sunday of Christmas

Order of Worship

Opening Music Nancy Plote, Organist

Welcome & Announcements Tom Plote

Prelude Music
Lighting of the Altar Candles Acolyte(s)

Call To Worship Tom Plote, Leader

Leader: We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still we wait.

All: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Leader: We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

All: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Leader: We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

All: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth, as it is in heaven.

Leader: Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

All: Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth, as it is heaven. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

***Opening Hymn Congregational Choice**

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Friends, let us prepare to enter the new year with hearts that have been unburdened, and let us make our confession before God and one another, first in silent prayer.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Communal Prayer

All: God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace; You know us well, better than we know ourselves. You hear us cry “Gloria!” and “Praise!” And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds. You hear us say “Thy will be done” and “Use me, O God!” And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive us. Hear us now say, “Help us to change; turn us around. Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful.” This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power up-lifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

All: Loving God, we thank you for this joyful season of Christmas, as we continue to celebrate the Birth of Christ, who came into this world and our lives. Changing the world for the better through Your love. God, we thank you for the loving, kind, and beautiful blessings we receive, which have a positive impact on our lives. Loving God, we thank you for the coming year of 2024. For each new year brings new hopes and possibilities for all people. God, each new year also brings uncertainties. Be with those who are sick or hurting in some way, and those who have suffered the loss of loved ones. We pray for peace and justice in this world, and for those who continue to suffer. Loving God, please strengthen and guide us; call us to share our love with others in Jesus’s name, so that they can also know and feel Your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem long ago, and who taught us to pray; Our Father.....

*Hymn of Preparation

Congregational Choice

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:22-40

(This scripture reading tells us how Jesus was celebrated as a baby in the temple by faithful elders of his community. Thought for the day: how can we celebrate the children in our community and support their parents or care givers in raising up these children?)

***Congregation Hymn Sing**

Congregation Choices

***Benediction**

Leader: Beloved of God, depart now in peace, knowing that you have encountered Christ, our Savior. Go now to watch, to wait, and to spread the light of Christ to the ends of the world. That God's kin-dom might reign on earth - as it is in heaven.

All: Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

***Parting Hymn**

"God Be with You till We Meet Again"

God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels, guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet till we meet God be with you till we meet again.

***As the Light of Christ is Carried**

Acolyte

***Go in Peace & Love to Serve God and Neighbor**

CHURCH CALENDAR – December 2023 – January 2024

Vicke's Hours M-W-Th 8-Noon

PASTOR OUT OF TOWN (Saturday, Dec. 30 – Wednesday, Jan. 3)

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Hannah Phillips Mollenkamp / Sycamore UMC
(512) 350-5494

Sunday, December 31 1st Sunday after Christmas Day / **Hymn Sing Sunday**
Coffee time 10:30 a.m.- Frank & Kitty Jouris
Leader: Tom Plote
Greeters: Denny & Vicke Heins

Monday, January 1 - Wednesday, January 3 - Pastor Out of Town

Returns sometime on January 3rd

Wednesday, January 3 Prayer & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. (In-person or zoom)
Choir Practice resumes on Wednesday, February 7th

Sunday, January 7 Baptism of the Lord Sunday with Communion
Coffee Time 10:30 a.m. – Denny & Vicke Heins
Greeters: Harry & Marilyn Berg

On the table in the Narthex are copies of the School Supply list for Malta Elementary School kids, copies of the Midwest Mission “Top Needs” Supply list, January/February Upper Rooms, and January Newsletter.

“CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND” If you wish to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund, please mark your check accordingly and send your donations to Nancy Plote, 411 S. Malta Rd, Malta, IL 60150

SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY **SPECIAL NEED: TOILET PAPER** You are welcome to bring Non-Perishable food anytime throughout the year for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Place it in the box in the narthex marked “FOOD PANTRY”. Salvation Army appreciates all you give.

HELP MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER / URGENT NEEDS!

Liquid Laundry Detergent 32-64 oz. - Colored Pencil - 12 Pack - Liquid Household Cleaner 16-40 Oz. - Scissors - Student Size - Liquid Dish Soap 14-32 Oz. - Bleached Lumber to make desks - Blankets – Can be gently used - Rulers 12” long with metric - Toothpaste – 2.5 oz. or larger.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center will also accept any MMDC Kits, treadle sewing machines, gently used tools, new or slightly used medical supplies and equipment.

They will also accept a financial contribution. Send checks to Midwest Mission Distribution Center at 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558. Check out their web page:
umcnic.org/2022MissionChallenge

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

Condolences to the Janice Haws Family
on the passing of Janice (Heins) Haws on December 20th.
Funeral and luncheon was held on Saturday, December 30th.

**HELPING OUR KIDS at Malta Elementary School /Special needs: Children's Underwear
and socks**

The school supplies needed are: boxes of crayons with 24 colors, glue sticks, boxes of #2 pencils, boxes of Kleenex, 3 ring binders, plastic school folders, black dry erase markers, scissors (for younger and older children), and boxes of regular colored markers (I believe they come in boxes of 8 colors). Also, a donation of a new stocking hat, pair of gloves, or mittens would be wonderful (hand-made mittens and hats are also okay), as long as they are new.



<p>12/23 Denny & Vicke Heins (47 Years) 12/30 Harry & Marilyn Berg (17 Years)</p>

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE TIME / FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

Beginning in January we will be doing a "Simple" Coffee Time at 10:30 a.m. before church. There is a sign-up sheet on a clipboard in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking those who participate in the Sunday morning Coffee Time to sign up in advance to take turns making the coffee, getting out the cups, and bringing a simple treat (such as a box of donut holes or cookies). **KEEP IT SIMPLE!**

If no one signs up, no treats! Whoever arrives first can make a pot of coffee.



2	Brenda Hunt Jalen Jouris
8	Joanne Abbott
10	Frank O. Jouris
12	Katie Crouch
14	Kaye Dinsmore
17	Katie Fenstermaker
19	Austin Arndt
21	Donna Willrett
22	Max McArtor
23	Abiella Thompson
25	JESUS
30	Derek Rempfer Carol Sandberg



BIRTHDAYS	
01	Molly Heins-Doughty
04	Elaina Anderson
06	Ethan Fenstermaker
08	Randy Boyden
14	Jenny Plote Becky Piquett
16	Denny Heins
19	Sydney Sandberg
23	Jason Hill
25	Dennis Abbott
26	Sandy Schafer
27	Troy Mattis Rodney Engstrom Gene Hickey

MALTA'S CHILI COOK-OFF

**Saturday
Feb. 3, 2024
6 - 9 PM**

at Malta Historical Society Building



Do you make amazing Chili?

Compete to be crowned

"BEST CHILI IN MALTA"

Tickets \$10 donation

Ticket includes chili samples, corn bread, and dessert.
Attendees will be the judges!



Register to compete by contacting:
Malta.Seedlings@gmail.com
or on Facebook @MaltaSeedlingProject

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Malta
Seedling Committee's community improvement efforts.