

Announcements for December 3, 2017

For: Rev. Escandell

The sanctuary will be open for **MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER** from noon to 1 p.m. during the Thursdays of Advent Season (December 7, 14, 21). If you feel a need for spiritual prayer/meditation in the coming days, a quiet place is available.

Please join us for our **BIRTHDAY / ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** in the Parlor next Sunday, December 10, immediately following the Worship Service as we honor all birthdays and wedding anniversaries for December.

The **SU CASA “ANGEL TREE”** is in the Narthex with the names of 35 toddlers from Su Casa de Esparanza who will be waiting for our gifts. If you wish to donate a gift, please stop by and pick up a card. Sign in on the list of names by the tree. The suggested price guideline is \$25 total for a clothing item and toy. Return your wrapped gifts to the church no later than next Sunday, December 10. This allows time for the gifts to be delivered before the Su Casa Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12. If you have questions, call Elizabeth Gearhart at 455-4111. Thank you for your generosity, and have a joyfully blessed Christmas.

Our annual **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will take place on Sunday, December 17, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. The Fellowship Ministry will provide the meat (ham, turkey, brisket, and tamales), rolls, desserts, and drinks. The congregation is asked to provide their favorite Christmas side dish. All are invited to join in the fellowship and spirit of the Christmas season!

The **2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** are available in the Narthex.

Additional Liturgy for December 3, 2017

For: Maria Colvin-Lopez

Call to Confession

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

Prayer for Illumination

It's time to hear God's Word read and proclaimed. Let us pray:

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)*

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Invitation to the Offering

God has enriched us in every way – in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received.

Offertory Prayer

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.