

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa

10:00 A. M.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE

Janice Ploeger, Organist

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Second Sunday in Advent

Pyle Family

Reader 1: In days when God’s people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1).

Reader 2: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of God’s shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Light two purple candles of the Advent wreath.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder: Heaven and earth will pass away,

People: but the word of God endures forever.¹

Elder: Let us worship God.

***HYMN “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” #124**

INVOCATION (Please be seated) Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON): Elder

Most merciful God, we confess that we prepare the way for ourselves. We pave the way for promotions at work, recognition at home, and popularity with other people. We do not prepare the way for you to enter the lives of others for fear that we will be unpopular.

Forgive us for our focus on ourselves and our unwillingness to prepare the way for your kingdom. Remind us that you have sacrificed yourself for us. Strengthen and embolden us to proclaim your kingdom in winning words and loving deeds. (Time of silent prayer). Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

***GLORIA PATRI #623**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11 Pastor

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling:

¹ **Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 176). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.**

“In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

**Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Elder

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Denny Miller
The Donna Godbersen Family
Joan Beebe

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Purple Gang
Doug O'Bannon & Family
Shari O'Bannon
Joyce Deloach
Willie Lang
(starting treatments on Nov. 27th)
Randy Leask
Steve Schaefer
(Methodist Manor for Therapy)
Carol Swanson Poston
Karla Hustedt and her family
Ken Fells Jr.
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family
George & Darlene Franzkowiak
Carol Wendel
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Malia Meyer

REMEMBER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Bonnie Currie
Brett Currie
Shane Reimers

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

December 3, 2023 - First, Lake Park

December 10, 2023 Pray for Rev. Shawn Harmon,
Commissioned to Overseas Mission Service

more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” #249

SERMON “Rescued Today”

*APOSTLE'S CREED

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #625

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN “Go Tell It On the Mountain” #138

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG “Freely, Freely” (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)

.....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2023

- 03 Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent)
9:00 am Sunday School Classes
9:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)
- 06 Wednesday
3:30-5:30 pm Purple Gang
- 10 Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)
9:00 am Sunday School Classes
9:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)



Please help provide our church with a festive look by sharing poinsettias for the season.



SHARE THE WARMTH


Please have all your gifts of warmth at the church no later than Sunday, December 3rd.





THE GIVING TREE

All gifts must be brought back to the church by Sunday, December 3rd.



COOKIE WALK




December 9
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Lakeside Presbyterian Church
110 E 3rd St, Storm Lake, IA



Selling a variety of homemade
cookies and candies



All proceeds will go to support **An Angel's Touch**, a nonprofit charitable organization. The mission statement of An Angel's Touch is to improve the lives of the elderly, children and those with special needs who are impoverished, distressed and underserved, or underprivileged by giving one small gift at a time with heartfelt love and caring. An Angel's Touch was created to continue carrying forward the love and kindness Ronnie and Janette Willer shared for others.

Don't miss your chance to enjoy some delicious cookies and also to help those in need! An Angel's Touch Cookie Walk on December 9th. See details above. Your own containers are welcome!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS JOY

November 26th thru December 25th

THE PERFECT GIFT

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us —leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



Christmas Joy Offering envelopes can be found in the back of the Sanctuary throughout the season of Advent to put your donation in or

please mark your check "JOY". Please give generously.

DECEMBER ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Jane Bisenius – (Dec 3rd)

Julie Langner – (Dec. 10th)

Mark McDonough (Dec. 17th)

Julie Langner - (Dec. 24th)

Janice Ploeger (Dec. 31st)

2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita amount is \$48.35. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

FOOD PANTRY:

REMINDER: WHEN BRINGING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES.



PURPLE GANG

Purple Gang meets on Wednesday's from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-5th.

We are thrilled to give your children an opportunity to talk, eat, and play with their friends outside of a school setting. We will maintain our policy of

cancelling a Purple Gang event if the school closes due to weather or illness.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER SERVERS:

Philip & Susan Diersen
Dec. 6th

Kirk & Julie Langner
Dec. 13th

NO PURPLE GANG
Dec. 20th & Dec. 27th



BIRTHDAY WISHES:

John W. Franken (Dec. 3rd)
Missy Kestel (Dec. 6th)
Florene Cork (Dec. 9th)
Joann Reimers (Dec. 17th)
Jim McDonough (Dec. 20th)
David Siebrecht (Dec. 21st)
Bruce Mentzer (Dec. 26th)



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

December 3rd
Pyle Family

December 10th
Kirk & Julie Langner

December 17th
Jacobson Family

December 24th
Franken Family