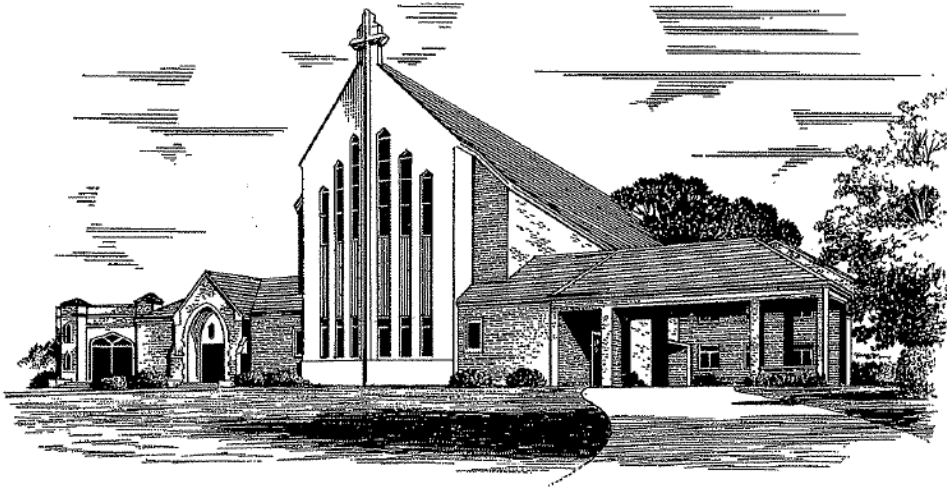


# Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church



*"When I was in want...my needs were supplied  
by the people who came from Macedonia."  
II Corinthians 11:9*

**First Sunday of Christmas  
Sunday, December 28, 2008  
8:15 Worship Services**

# MACEDONIA'S MISSION STATEMENT

**Mission:** A community of believers responding to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, worship and action.

**Vision:** That Christ might have first place in everything. (Col. 1:18)

- *Invest in youth and family life.*
- *Support and develop education programs.*
- *Build community by developing strong Christian fellowship.*
- *Improve communication including the effective use of technology.*

- *Think beyond ourselves to be involved in local synodical and churchwide programs.*
- *Strengthen and develop programs to attract others to Christ.*

- *Increase cooperation and mission opportunities with Lutheran Retirement Ministries.*
- *Encourage an attitude that promotes the development of new ministries.*
- *Identify and use the talents of the congregation to meet the needs of the church and community.*

# Sunday, December 28, 2008

## First Sunday After Christmas

Setting One – 8:15 (ELW)

### The Marks of Discipleship: I will strive to . . .

- + Pray daily
- + Worship weekly
- + Read the Bible daily
- + Serve at and beyond Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church
- + Be in Relationship with others to encourage spiritual growth
- + Give of my time, talents and resources in a generous manner and to the glory of God

### INTRODUCTION

*In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

### ***The Holy Innocents, Martyrs***

*This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.*

*P = Pastor*

*C = Congregation*

*A = Assistant*

### PRELUDE

*Two Noels*

L. D'Aquin, C. Chauvet

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/Sit*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C** Amen

**GATHERING SONG**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**ELW 288** *(Red Hymnal)*

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

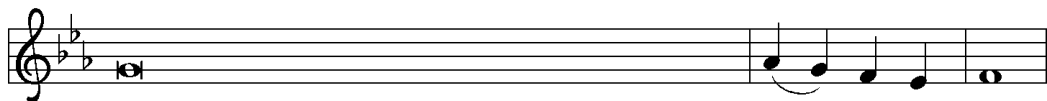
**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



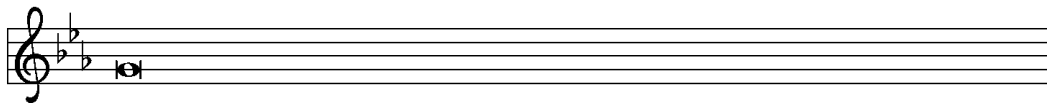
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



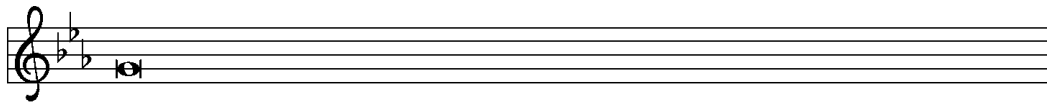
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.




A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Women Sing 1, Men Sing 2, All Sing 3 & Refrain

*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and




blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C** **Amen**

## FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

**A** A reading from Isaiah chapter sixty-one.

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

### Chapter 61

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
 my whole being shall exult in my God;  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
 to spring up before all the nations.

### Chapter 62

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING *Galatians 4:4-7*

A A reading from Galatians chapter four.

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.*

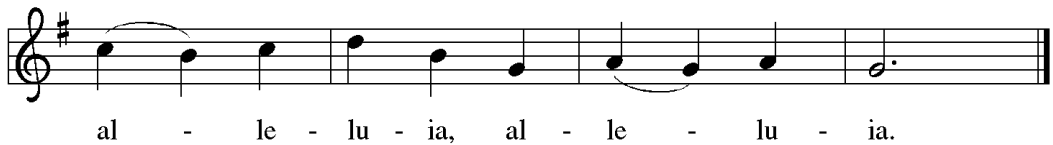
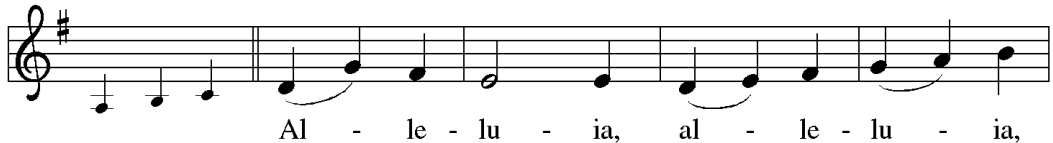
<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

A Word of God, word of life.

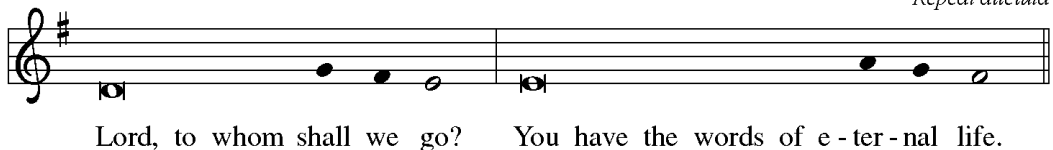
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Repeat alleluia*



## GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22-40*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**ELW 272** (*Red Hymnal*)

## SERMON

**Pastor Linda Faltin**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A** Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Let us pray for the ministry of the church, that the Holy Spirit would continue to raise up and guide devout servants like Simeon and Anna. Gracious God,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Let us give thanks for the sun and moon, fire, snow, and frost, and pray for those who do rescue and repair work in harsh weather, that they may be kept safe. Gracious God,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Let us pray for relief workers, agencies that provide aid throughout the world, and all who work to restore the dignity of human life, that all people may know their worth in you. Gracious God,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Let us pray for the fearful, the sick, and all who cry out to you (*especially*), that they may know you as their loving Abba. Gracious God,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Let us pray for this assembly, that we might be advocates for victims of violence and neglect, especially children. Gracious God,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** Let us give thanks for all who have died in you (*especially the infant martyrs of Bethlehem*).

Keep us faithful until the day comes when we join them and all the saints. Gracious God,

**C**     **hear our prayer.**

**P**     Into your hands, loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C**     **Amen**

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P**     The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C**     **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

### OFFERING

**ORGAN OFFERTORY**

*Sussex Carol*

setting by R. Haan

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

(*stz. 1 & 6*) **ELW 287** (*Red Hymnal*)

### THE PRAYER

**A**     Let us pray.

**A**     God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.  
Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C**     **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.     **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts.     **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THE PREFACE *(Spoken by the Pastor)*

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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

## COMMUNION

**P** Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

**A** The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*And each person may respond* **Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD *(Sing Twice)*

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, grant us peace.

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

A Let us pray.

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

## BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG**

*Cold December Flies Away*

**ELW 299** (*Red Hymnal*)

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

setting by J. S. Bach

On this first **Sunday after Christmas**, remind us that the Christ child can live in us if we surrender constantly to him.

**Visitors!** We are delighted you are with us. Please give us your name, address and phone number on a Welcome Card in the pew pocket or in the Friendship Register.

**The Altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Paige and Michele Claypool's birthdays and in memory of Janice Claypool on her 62nd birthday by Bill & Michele Claypool.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Boyd Black, Joan Blomberg, Jim Biggerstaff, Jerry Bryant, Bill Griggs, Joyce Helgeson, David Millspaugh, Joel Rust, Jan Hooft, Violet Patton, Elaine Ysteboe. (*Requests are to be renewed weekly by contacting the church office.*)

**Loaves and Fishes** – For the month of January please bring juices, peanut butter and sugar.

We welcome Pastor Linda Faltin from Hight Point this morning to our chancel area! Pastor Rust is on vacation in Wayne, Ohio. Pray for his safe return.

**Please note . . .** 2009 offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please use them each Sunday and mark them clearly for General and/or Capital fund.

The **Men of Macedonia** will meet on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at the Mayflower Restaurant on Huffman Mill Rd. The program will be on USHERING. All men are invited; and we need for all the ushers to be present for this informative, up-to-date

rendering on the duties and responsibilities of being and usher. This is an attempt to bring together all the ushers at one time in order to define your roles and answer any questions you might have.

Due to graduations and resignations, we are looking for several **Sound System Volunteers** for the 10:30 Service. Training only takes 15-20 minutes and new volunteers are welcome to sit through a service with one of current operators. Please see Brett Bass or John Gee if you would like to volunteer or for more information.

**MUSICAL MOMENTS AT MACEDONIA** - mark your calendar for 4:00 p.m., Sunday, January 11, 2009! We will kick off a music series on that day with the Austria Tour Choir of Williams High School, which includes our own Maddie Johnson. The Choir has just returned from a recent European tour where they received rave reviews everywhere they performed. We are thrilled that they will present an hour long concert of both sacred and secular music here at Macedonia. Mark your calendars, invite your friends. Details will be unveiled in the January newsletter. We look forward to having a music series for our church family as well as the community.

“**The Gift Goes On**” continues to be sold to benefit the youth going to the National Youth Gathering in July 2009. The Christmas CD makes a wonderful gift as well as enjoying one for your own listening pleasure. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be matching funds, so please support this project! You may purchase a CD for \$20 from Joy Rust or from the church office.

Offering (12/21) General: \$ 9,094.87 Capital: \$ 358.00

Hymns For Healing CD: \$3,620.00

The Gift Goes On CD: \$1,486.00

Sunday Attendance (12/21) SS: 46 (8:15): 35 10:30): 230

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: 169 \$972.00

## **ALSO SCHEDULED THIS WEEK**

- Today
- 8:15 Worship Communion
  - 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Studies
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion

Thursday      **NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Friday        **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Sunday 1/04/09

- 8:15    Worship/Communion
- 9:30    Sunday School
- 10:30    Worship/Communion  
            Installation of Church Council  
            Installation of Twin Lakes Board of  
            Directors
- 4:45    Reformation Ringers
- 5:30    8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
- 6:30    Crossways II, #43

## DREAM COME TRUE

What do you dream about? The season after Christmas is often a time when people slow down and take stock of their lives—their hopes, fears, and highest aspirations for themselves and for the world. Perhaps it has to do with one year drawing to a close and the promise of another just around the corner, but there's something about these "last days" that causes us to dream: a world without violence, families without strife, bodies without diseases, churches without prejudice. Is there anything we wouldn't do to see it become a reality this year? In our lifetime?



Simeon had a dream, too. He had spent a lifetime waiting for the promised Messiah. What did he dream such a figure would look like? A mighty warrior who would destroy the enemy? A savvy ruler who would make sweeping political reforms? A charismatic leader who would motivate people to action? After all, that's often where we look for redemption. We place our trust in the powers of this world to deliver us rather than in the one whose power is made known in weakness.

But it's no king or commander that brings Simeon's dream to fulfillment. It's a little child barely a week old. There, in the midst of the temple, Simeon holds the redemption he has longed for in his arms.

And so do we. When we come together in this place, we hold out our hands to receive the fulfillment of all God's promises to us: forgiveness, life, and salvation. Wars will still kill, families will still fight, bodies will still get sick, and churches will still be imperfect institutions. But we know that God is as near to us as the bread we break and the cup we bless—living signs of God's presence among us, and love beyond our wildest dreams.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**December 28, 2008**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

Monday	Psalm 148, Isaiah 49:5-15, Matthew 12:46-50
Tuesday	Psalm 148, Proverbs 9:1-12, 2 Peter 3:8-13
Wednesday	Psalm 148, 1 Kings 3:5-14, John 8:12-19
Thursday	Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21
Friday	Psalm 148, Proverbs 1:1-7, James 3:13-18
Saturday	Psalm 110, Proverbs 1:20-33, James 4:1-10

# Macedonia Evangelical Lutheran Church

421 West Front Street - Burlington, NC 27215

Phone: 336-227-5554 - Fax: 336-227-6859

New E-mail: macedonia\_office@bellsouth.net

Website: www.MacedoniaLutheran.com

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor (585-0666).....	Rev. Stephen C. Rust
Associate Pastor for Visitation (436-0104).....	Rev. Dr. Dianne Dietz
Seminarian (665-0363).....	Intern Vincent Iocona
Director of Church Music.....	Joy H. Rust
Director, Chancel Choir and Reformation Ringers .....	Sylvia R. Crews
Organist (8:15) .....	Mary Anne Dettman
Organist (10:30) .....	Joy H. Rust
Organist Emeritus .....	Terry G. Woodings
Director, Cherub Choir .....	Joy H. Rust
Director, Macedonia Ringers and Melody Choir .....	Sylvia R. Crews
Sunday School Superintendent .....	Ruth W. Matkins
Crucifer .....	Emily Adkins
Acolytes .....	Megan Turner, Maddie Braxton
Children's Message.....	Richard Johnson
Lay Reader .....	(8:15) Don West..... (10:30) Yvonne White
Communion Assistant .....	(8:15) Martha West
Greeters .....	Sadie Hatley, Kermit Hiller, Beverly Hiller
Nursery Attendants .....	Pattie Graves, Marisa Gibson
Ushers .....	Dale Greeson-Chief
.....	Brett Bass, Harold Fogleman, Charlie Harris, Randy Hunley, Frank Rhue, Danny Van Fleet
Sound System.....	Randi Dunn
Dust Covers .....	Beverly Hiller, Kermit Hiller

## Lutheran Retirement Ministries/Twin Lakes Community

Executive Director, TLC .....	Charles R. Harris
Director, Pastoral Care, TLC.....	Rev. Craven G. Ford

