

# December

# STREAMER



Willow Creek Church of Argyle  
7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, Illinois 61011  
815-885-3455  
December 2021

## ***A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the Love of Christ***

Advent is here! Here are some of the scriptures included in the lectionary readings this year:

Psalms 25:6 "Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been **from of old**."

Malachi 3:4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the **days of old** and as in former years."

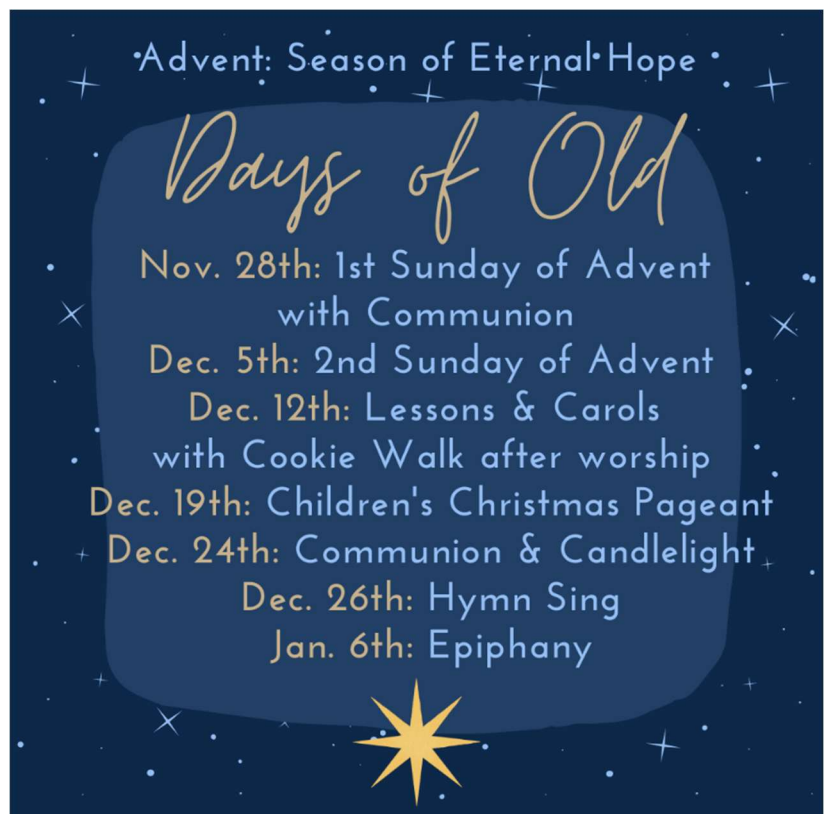
Luke 1:70-71 "...as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets **from of old**, that we would be saved from our enemies..."

Then there are several prophetic verses that encourage with reminders that the promises from of old will come true "on that day" - a day in the future we look forward to.

I won't be able to preach on all of these verses, but as I read these and the other scheduled passages, this theme emerged for me: *Days of Old*. Again and again the idea that something old and ancient is still true, or the idea that a long-awaited promise is coming true, emerged from the page.

As I think about this theme, I'm struck that this is a year where we might feel particularly nostalgic. We get to return to old traditions we missed last year. There will be many sweet moments of return. And there will also be moments of continued longing - either because of loved ones we have lost since the last time we cherished a particular tradition, or because the return doesn't feel the way we expect it to.

This isn't only because of COVID - Advent and Christmas have always offered this complicated cocktail of emotions! Advent is a season of waiting and expectation and hope - and then it's over. Christmas day arrives and many wishes come true, but some don't. Christmas day arrives and the thing we most wished for is sitting under the tree, but the experience of that gift never matches expectations.



This reminds me of a favorite quote from C.S. Lewis, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." While this world offers many good things, many sweet blessings that are a foretaste of glory divine, we weren't made for this world, but the next. Advent reveals this. This is the perfect season to pay attention to our longings, to pay attention to the blessings in this life that bring us comfort and peace in the longing, and to notice what we still long for - divine love and the return of Christ.

I am excited to explore this theme with you in the coming weeks as we continue to return to traditions and create new memories together.

Happy Advent,

Pastor Lauren



Dear Willow Creek Friends,

I sit here early on Tuesday morning knowing that I will meet with Pastor Lauren this evening to work on plans for the Christmas Services, which are still a work in progress. However, I can share with you the basic things we have so far.

We are very happy to have our Bell Choir back!

December 5: Renee O'Dell, soprano

December 12: Lessons and Carols Service; numerous Willow Creek Musicians, including bells, will be involved.

December 19: Sunday School Christmas Presentation

December 24: Bells and Dianne Londo, pianist

December 26: Hymn Sing, Deborah Dunnavan, guest organist

Sounds good to me! I hope it does to you, too.

See you in church,

Elizabeth



### ***Thank You for Decorating Church***

A great big **THANK YOU** to all of you who stayed after church on November 14<sup>th</sup> to help decorate the church for Advent and the Christmas season! We appreciate your time and energy!

God bless you all,

The Worship & Music Committee

I'd like to thank everyone at Willow Creek for all their thoughtfulness during my "Covid Crisis". The calls, cards, gifts, visits (through the outside window) were all very much appreciated. I will add that Jack and I truly appreciate all the support everyone has given us through this past traumatic year. Hopefully we are on the mend all the way around.



Sincerely,

Jean Greenlee



**Thanks  
for Your  
Support!**

October was a great month for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. We are increasing our financial lead terms of income verses expense. What an amazing comeback we have experienced compared to previous years. This can attributed to your steadfast means of support. Thanks again and please take care of yourselves and one another.

### ***WCPC Operating Statistics***

	October 2021	Year-to-Date
Income	13,764.62	130,679.57
Expenses	<u>10,987.66</u>	<u>125,581.74</u>
Excess/(Deficit)	\$ 2,776.96	\$ 5,097.83



## ***Change for Change Sunday***

Each **Second Sunday** of the month will be "**Change for Change Sunday**". We have pledged to raise our children in the faith. The children have taken the lead in this mission project. They have given us the opportunity to show, surround and saturate them in the Gospel value of generosity.

Please mail your offering check to the church and indicate in the "memo" Change for Change. Thank you for your support!

***The kids only need about \$100.00 to reach their goal for the year – can you please help them reach their goal?***



Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m.

We will meet in person. Children can go down to Sunday school after the scripture reading.

## ***All Church Calendar December 2021***

Sun 12/5	9:00 am	Advent Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	11:30 am	Youth Group – Christmas Caroling & Lunch Out
Sun 12/12	9:00 am	Advent Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship – Hand Bells
		<b><i>"Change for Change Sunday"</i></b>
	10:30 am	Children's Sunday School
	Afterwards	Annual Cookie Walk
Sun 12/19	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Pageant
Fri 12/24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion – Hand Bells
Sat 12/25		<b><i>Merry Christmas!</i></b>
Sun 12/26	10:00 am	Worship – Hymn Sing







### ***Christmas Card Tree***

Place a card for your church family on the tree located on the stairs going up to the Sanctuary! Money you would have spent on postage is placed in the collection tin below the tree to be donated to Kemmerer Village.

### ***Mitten Tree***

Place your handmade or purchased hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves on the Mitten Tree!

### ***Gratitude Bags***

Please write a note of thanks for each staff member and place in their Gratitude Bag in the Fellowship Hall! The bags will be out each Sunday in December and given to staff after December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,

Worship & Music Committee



### ***Un-decorating Party***



On Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> we will un-decorate the church. A crockpot potluck will follow and end with a birthday cake for Jesus! Bring your favorite crockpot recipe. Rolls, crackers, drinks, and table settings will be provided.

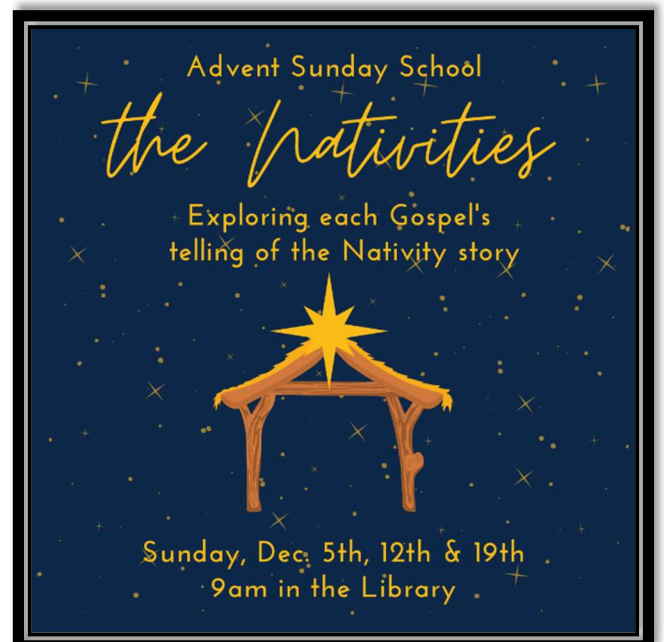
Please come and join us!

Thank you,

Worship & Music Committee

### ***Adult Sunday School***

Don't forget... Come explore "The Nativities" with us!



## ***Annual Cookie Walk***

Our Annual Cookie Walk is December 12<sup>th</sup> following worship! Bring your homemade baked goods to the church on Saturday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. Then, after worship on the 12<sup>th</sup>, you'll have the opportunity to put together your cookie box of items to go! All proceeds go to the Families in Need Fund.



A banner for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle. On the left is a circular profile picture of the church interior. To its right is a large landscape photo of a green field with a rainbow in the sky. Below the profile picture is the Facebook logo and the text 'Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle @willowcreekpc'. To the right of the landscape photo is the Instagram logo and the text '@willowcreekpcargyle Willow Creek PC of Argyle We are a faith community growing together sharing the love of Christ. We gather to worship, deepen our bonds, and grow in Christ serving others.' Below these is the text 'Check out the latest photos and events on our Facebook and Instagram pages!' followed by the URLs 'https://www.facebook.com/willowcreekpc' and 'https://www.instagram.com/willowcreekpcargyle/'.

A YouTube channel promotion banner. At the top, it says 'Miss a Worship service? Check out recordings on Willow Creek's new YouTube channel!'. Below this is the YouTube logo and the text 'Come Learn, Worship and Share with us every Sunday'. Underneath are three small video thumbnails labeled 'Adult', 'Sunday School', and 'Youth', with times '9:00am', '10:00am', and '11:00am' respectively. To the right is a circular logo for 'Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle' and a red 'SUBSCRIBE' button. At the bottom, it says 'search: Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle'.

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