



to raise up an everlasting king and in him to bless the world and open the gates of heaven to all who believe in him and trust in his word.

- FIRST LESSON:**..... Luke 1:26-38 .....Sylvia Halverson  
*The Angel Visits Mary*  
Carol: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #211, vs 1
- SECOND LESSON:**..... Luke 1:39-45 .....Linda Willaby  
*Mary and Elizabeth*  
Carol: "What Child Is This?" #219, vs 1
- THIRD LESSON:**..... Luke 2:1-7 .....Larry Hummer  
*The Birth in Bethlehem*  
Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #230, vs 1-2
- FOURTH LESSON:**..... Luke 2:8-14 .....Audrey Henkel  
*The Angels and the Shepherds*  
Song: "Away in a Manger" #217, vs 1-2
- FIFTH LESSON:**..... Luke 2:15-20 .....Terry Halverson  
*The Shepherds Worship*  
Carol: "The First Noel" # 245, vs 1-2
- SIXTH LESSON:**..... Matthew 2:1-11 .....Janet Garvick  
*The Gifts of the Magi*  
Carol: "The First Noel" # 245, vs 3-5
- SEVENTH LESSON:**..... John 1:1-14 .....Nancy Hummer  
*The Word Made Flesh*  
Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" # 234, vs 1-3

**– We Respond to God’s Word –**

*Giving with a Thankful Heart*

Offering may be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary at this time, or on your way in or as you leave. *Thank you!*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Holy Communion*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

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*The Lord’s Prayer (unison)*

# 895

*Receiving the Gifts of Bread and Cup*

You are invited to come forward to receive this gift of God’s love in Christ as instructed by the pastor. Everyone is welcome to the Lord’s table in the United Methodist Church, as Christ’s act of love is offered to all. After you have communed, please return to your seats by the side aisles. If coming forward is difficult for you, signal the communion servers who come to the back of the sanctuary and overflow room – they will be happy to bring communion to you. Thank you.

*Prayer after Receiving*

*The Lighting of the Candles*

*The Light of the World has come to give us his light for our lives.*

While we sing the next Christmas Carol, the aisle candles will be lit. Glow-stick candles will be passed out to all. To activate, bend the candle until you hear a crack and give it a little shake. On the last stanza of each verse of "Silent Night, Holy Night," please raise your candle high.

Carol

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

# 239

\* *Benediction*

\* *Hymn for Going Forth* "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

# 431

\* *Postlude – Go in peace with the love of Jesus in your heart.*

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**Welcome to Christmas Eve worship** as we hear "good news of great joy": "Unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11, ESV).

**Keep in your prayers this week:** Bev Niebuhr, Joan Christian, Alan Yokiell; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; all those serving in the military and their families.

**Announcements**

**The Advent offering** this year will be staying close to home and helping people right here in Faribault County who are at the poverty level and in an emergency situation. Through the Salvation Army, we can directly reach people who need emergency financial assistance with lodging, rent, heat and utilities, gas, car repairs, or emergency prescriptions. Make someone's life a bit easier with an Advent offering to the Salvation Army of Faribault County. Make your checks out to Open Doors UMC and use the special Advent offering envelopes or write "Advent Offering" in the check memo line.

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**Mitten Tree:** We are collecting gifts of hats, mittens & scarves for the less fortunate. They'll go to USC and Semcac.

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**Thank you** for worshiping with us tonight. May you have a blessed Christmas. Thank you also to everyone who participated in this service in some way - whether through music, or readings, or lighting candles - it has truly made this worship the experience of being the family of God together.

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**UHD Hospice** invites you to **Light Up A Life** throughout the month of December. Remember your Loved One and support Hospice by purchasing a bulb for the local Hospice Memorial Tree. Donation forms are available at each church.

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**Community Prayer Group and Bible Study** – There is a group that meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. for prayer in the Hospitality Room of Open Doors UMC and you are invited. Following prayer at 10:00, there is a community Bible Study that is open to all, as well. They are studying the book of John. Just bring your Bible. (They will NOT be meeting December 28.)

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*Thank you for sharing the beautiful poinsettias!*



**Given By**

**In Memory of**

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Diane & Elizabeth Bathke, ..... | Edgar & Carrell Bathke and |
| Mike & Christine Buer & Family  | other Loved Ones           |
| Margaret Courier .....          | Loved Ones                 |
| Roesler Families .....          | Ralph & Wilma Roesler      |
| Sherry Asmus                    |                            |
| Sarah & Doug Hankerson          |                            |

*(And others not known at time of printing.)*

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**Worship services in Kiester** will continue through January and take place in the basement. However; On January 1 and 22, we will have joint services in Wells. January 1st will be a Wesley Covenant service and January 22 is the Annual Meeting. So, plan on church in Kiester at 11:00 on January 8, 15, & 29.

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**Jan./Feb. Upper Room** daily devotionals are available to pick up. Start your new year off right with daily devotions.

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**Kitchen Campaign Update:** With donations for the kitchen remodel received to date and some pledges scheduled to come in over the next year, WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL of \$25,000!!! THANK YOU EVERYONE who has contributed!!! If you have a moment and haven't seen the beautiful make-over, you should stop into the Wells Campus to take a look.



**Painting Class** – We're going to continue with the painting class after Christmas and are hoping a few more people will take the opportunity and join the group. The class meets on Mondays in the basement Youth Room at the Wells Campus from 9-11am. Jim Dalton teaches the class. It is open to acrylic or watercolor painters. Your supplies for the first day are provided so you can see if it is something you want to continue and invest in. Hope to see you there!



**Wednesday Night Suppers are coming back!** Yes, enjoy a night away from the kitchen and out with friends at church! The first night will be **Wednesday, January 11**, in our new kitchen at the Wells Campus. John & Melissa Kruse will start us out as cooks. Serving will be from 5:00-6:15 each Wednesday and we'll ask for a free-will donation. Invite your friends or meet them here! And please consider volunteering as a Wednesday night cook!



**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Saturday, December 24–Christmas Eve**

- W** 4:00pm Worship – Family Oriented
- K** 5:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols with Communion
- W** 7:30pm Worship – Lessons and Carols with Communion

**Sunday, December 25–Christmas Day**

- 9:00am Worship – Pre-recorded and available on YouTube and [www.opendoorsumc.net](http://www.opendoorsumc.net).

**Monday, December 26**

- Office Closed for holiday
- W** 9:00am Painting class

**Tuesday, December 27**

- 9:00am Coffee with Pastor at The Bean
- 5:00pm Jamaica Mission Team meeting at Youngblom's

**Wednesday, December 28**

- W** 9:00am Staff meeting
- 10:30am Worship at The Shepherd's Inn

**Sunday, January 1**

- WK** 9:00am JOINT Worship in Wells
- 10:00am Coffee

**Monday, January 2**

- Office Closed for holiday
- W** 9:00am Painting class

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

- Pastor ..... Rev. Christopher Leistra
- Organist ..... Jan Johanson

**Birthdays This Week:**

- Dec. 25..... Barb Halvorsen
- Dec. 26..... Beverly Niebuhr, Aaron Johnson, Faye Lackey
- Dec. 29..... Olivia Bird
- Dec. 31..... Cindy Hagen
- Jan. 1 ..... Elizabeth Bathke

**Christmas Eve** – Saturday, Dec. 24

- 4:00 p.m. in Wells – Family Service
- 5:30 p.m. in Kiester – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion
- 7:30 p.m. in Wells – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Communion. This service will be live-streamed to Open Doors UMC Facebook, website, and YouTube.

**Christmas Day** – Sunday, Dec. 25

- 9:00 a.m. Online. No in-person worship, instead, a Christmas worship service will be pre-recorded and available to watch at 9:00 a.m. on YouTube and our website [www.opendoorsumc.org](http://www.opendoorsumc.org). Reflect on Christ's birth in the comfort of your home with family around.

**Bevcomm Cable Schedule, Ch 990:**

- Tuesday, Dec. 27, 11:00am & 8:00pm will be the Christmas Day recorded service.
- Friday, Dec. 30, 6:00pm will be the Christmas Eve evening Lessons & Carols service.



**Christmas  
Worship  
Schedule**