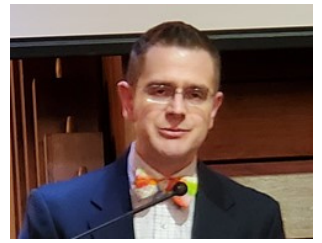




From the Desk of Pastor Luke

December 1, 2022



Hello everyone,

Welcome to December! Though we don't always enjoy the weather this season brings, we're now fully into our Advent journey, waiting for the arrival of our Lord. We're not just waiting for presents and parties, of course -- we're waiting for salvation. We're waiting for the work of redemption that only God himself can do. I'm not even sure I always know just what I need, but I know that God is good and that I can trust him.

As we go through this season of Advent, let's do so with a special attention to those around us. Everyone around us needs the work of God in their lives somewhere. For some it's less obvious than others, but God has more in store for everyone. Please be in prayer in this season about who you might reach out to -- maybe there's someone God is calling you to pray for, speak to, encourage, invite to church, or show God's love to them in some tangible way. Our theme this year in our Advent preaching is "Announce!" We have a beautiful message to share with God's beloved world!

Sermon info: This Sunday we'll continue our Advent focus on the announcements the angels made about the arrival of Jesus. Our sermon is titled "Announce! The Hope of Eternity," and we'll be reading Luke 1:26-55. We'll be celebrating the Lord's Supper together during our service, so if you'll be joining us online, be sure to have some bread and juice available so you can participate.

Other happenings:

- One way you may be able to reach out to encourage those around you is by sharing our church's videos and posts on Facebook. As a reminder, you can find our Facebook page here, and our services are also posted on Youtube here.
- What does it really mean to be saved? This Sunday at 9:15 am we'll continue our 5 week study on eternal life guided by John Ortberg's Eternity Is Now in Session. If you enjoy reading, you will benefit from getting the book or study guide by that title. See Carey Richards if you have questions.
- Mark your calendars for our Christmas Eve service, which will be at 7:00 pm on December 24th, and our Christmas Day worship service at 10:00 am on the 25th. Note that we'll only have one service each on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and our Christmas Day service will not be at the usual Sunday worship time. We'll also only have one service at 10:00 am on January 1st.
- Just a reminder that one way you can make a financial contribution to the church is through programs like Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards. These are programs that make a small contribution to a charitable organization through your normal shopping -- it doesn't cost you anything or require any special effort on your part once you sign up. If you need help signing up for either of these programs, check out our giving tab on our church website.

May God richly bless you with hope, love, joy, and peace in this season!