

### From the Pastor: Six Points for a Solid 2024

The New Year is upon us! If you're anticipating a Healthy, year of wisdom, enabling a Fruitful new 2024. I hope everyone that was here during Advent enjoyed the season as much as I did. Leading up to the anticipation of Christmas; I felt magnificent! I wish everyone reading this article the best health, with wisdom undergirded by our Savior. May he lead everyone this coming New Year and may it be the happiest ever. I wish you all the six reasons why we should live Christmas all year round.

Not all these six reasons will everyone be willing to want to walk this New Year of 2024, though I could be wrong. However, if you keep what we learned this Advent in your heart you will follow the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, adopting the mind of Christ Jesus in your life. And I know you'll live a very happy prosperous New Year in 2024! Yet, maybe the people of God who want to live wisely, heartfelt, and joyful might want to put these reasons somewhere that are close to you to grow following the Baby Jesus and allow him to be close to you as we journey with him. Was your heart renewed as you took Jesus in to grow with Him as you found your childhood innocence?

First reason to remember is to put the baby Jesus foremost in your life and grow with Him as we journey 2024 year-round. We are to keep him close to our hearts and let him lead us.

Secondly, to follow the new command Jesus gave us in our Christmas Eve morning message, Jesus stated, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Thirdly, we want to love all those we meet and be positive in the way we all know to be and walk—in the mind of Christ our Lord. No matter what occurs this coming year. That was my closing on the message love gave us all this Advent on Christmas Eve morning service. Keep love first in your heart, as it always jolts the darkness that recesses in those obscure places in our souls. Christ lights up those hidden corners.

Fourthly, Joy, was enlivened in the lighting of the third pink candle. My joy slipped from me, and thus was rejuvenated that Sunday of Joy because of Abraham's faith that we needed to be a part, as a born-again converted Jew justified the assurance that we who renewed our hearts would be blessed to be the ones that enter heaven.

Fifthly, Peace always interests me at Advent. It can be easy to engage in, or depending on your day. Peace is an attitude one must adopt to be of Peace. This mind set is encountered in the mind of Christ Jesus. When adopted this mindset is witnessed as Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Peace is my goal; from now on in life I will take the narrow road and encounter peaceful resolutions to problems. Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and

Sixthly, Hope in Jesus is the only light that will shine on us that look to hope. That way. Hope is something we can't see but can feel. Hope is a definition of faith. Hope is justified by faith, to have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. As Romans 5:2c tells us, "and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God."

In these attributes when added to a mindset, we will change lives. That is why Jesus is the reason for the season. He will enliven your walk with him when you let him. Amen

### Annual Meeting:

The Annual meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Please mark your calendars!

### Office Closed:

**Office:** Will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 for the New Years holiday. Office hours resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.

### Church Staff

<b>Pastor</b> Rev. Hal Shafer	<b>Faith Nurse</b> Linda Hamilton
<b>Office Admin.</b> Linda Warren	<b>Music Director</b> TBD
<b>Custodian</b> Team Work of Lapeer	<b>Organist</b> Katherine Nold

### Please Pray For...

Joe Adamson (Shirley Adamson's son)  
Sharon Walker  
Bob Barber  
Chuck Hale  
Betty Gamblin  
Julie McKenna ( Mike Mosher's sister)  
Corey Lovell (Wanda Knapp's grandson)  
Ruth Stover Lange  
Jim and Phyllis Dickie  
Lena Brown  
Vera Grayhek  
Cindy Beebe (Friend of Linda Warren)  
Jeanette Gentsch ( Kim Herderich's Mom)  
Wayne and Lynne Strandberg  
John Kleindl  
Carolyn Lyons



### January Birthdays

2 Elizabeth Placeway  
Kathy Bodell  
3 Jeanette Gentsch  
4 Suzette Glasgow  
10 Lynne Butler  
11 Joe Black  
Betty Hart  
Bart Gentsch  
14 Linda Youngblood  
21 Kiley Quinlan  
25 Kennedy Thompson  
26 Sarah Emmons  
Genie McKim  
27 Lauren Emmons  
30 Alice Merriman



### Attendance:

12-17-2023: Adults 63- Children 1  
12-24-2023: Adults 56- Children 0  
Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 2023:  
Adults-95 -Children 7

### Nov 30, 2023:

**General Account:**  
11-30-23 Income: \$16,619.72  
11-30-23 Expense: \$14,410.44

### Making Connections

**Office Hours:** M-F, 9am-2pm  
Pastor Hal's Hours T-F, 9am-2pm

**Pews News Deadline:** If you want your news item in Pews News, please submit your info the Wednesday before the next issue.

**Going Deeper:** To learn about becoming a Christian or a member here, please contact our office.

**Per Capita 2023: \$29.77**

## Session & Committees

Bob Rowden (Missions)  
Scott Placeway (Health Min)  
Kathryn Lawter (House —  
Finance)  
Mike Mosher (House)  
Bob Glasgow (Personnel—  
Finance)  
Barbara Skirmants (Finance)  
TJ Craven (Christian Ed.)  
Lauren Emmons (Co - Chair  
Worship)  
Lori Curtis (Co-Chair Wor-  
ship)

## Deacons

Chris Dungey  
Toni Emmons  
Deb Moore  
Darlene Placeway  
Carol Jaeger  
Francis Pitts  
Nancy Pitts  
Kim Herderich  
Virginia Harris  
Julene Van Dyke

## Other Ministry Leaders

Scott Bodell (Ushers)  
Carol Jaeger (Pres. Women)  
Co Moderators (Faith Circle)  
Co Moderators (Priscilla Cir-  
cle)