

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA

The MESSENGER

Vol. 78- No. 12 – December, 2022



Image can be found at <https://integratedcatholiclife.org/2014/12/carmelite-sisters-watching-and-waiting-advent-in-carmel/>

The Season of Advent

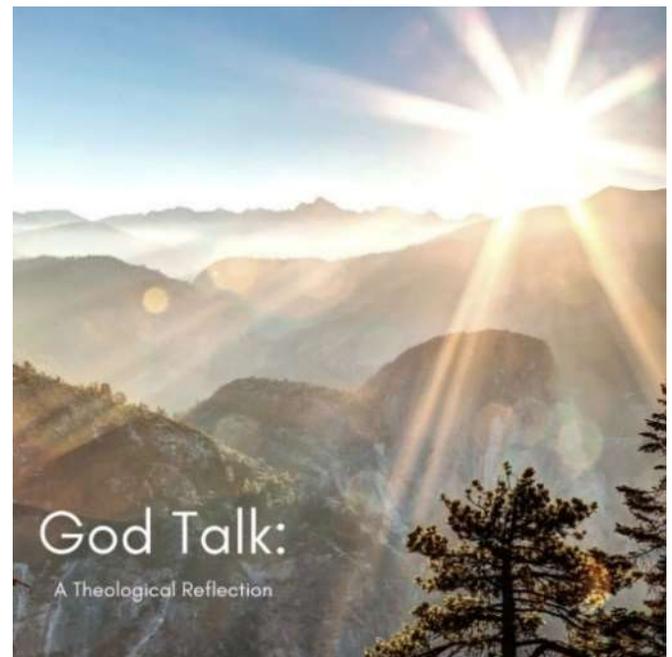
December 4, 11, 18, 2022

10:00am Worship

God Talk

I love this time of year. It is easily the most “magical” season, with a chill in the air, lights twinkling all around, and an abundance of Christmas decorations all around. And this year, I must admit, feels even more amazing to me as I see the wonder of Christmas tree light reflected in the eyes of our child. Coming to the Christmas story this year feels fresh, as I experience this new season of parenthood in my own life. Reading about Mary and Elizabeth, as they share their joy and expectation reminds me of the conversations, I have had with friends who are expecting children recently, and the Christmas story of two tired people waiting all night for their baby to arrive is far more relatable than in years past.

But how does this season of anticipation and wonder come to us when our lives have not changed dramatically? How does this season find us when we are feeling the weight of long nights and cold wind, when we can't muster the energy to put up a Christmas tree or bake a cookie? Beloved friends, no matter where



you find yourselves this season, whether you are caught up in the wonder of the season or struggling to pull your warm boots on and put one foot in front of the other, I want to remind you that this time of year is all about the ways God comes near to us in the ordinary, fleshy parts of our life. As the Gospel of John reminds us, “the Word became flesh and lived among us.” Jesus doesn’t wait for a plate of cookies and milk, for a beautifully trimmed mantle or a festive sweater to let him know it’s time to show up. Rather, Christ comes near to us with the gifts of wonder and hope, no matter where we find ourselves. So, this season, may you be surprised by the beauty of God’s love made manifest all around us, wherever you may be.

-Pastor Delaney



December Birthdays

11th Ethel Walter

21st Adrianna Eastberg

22nd Wayne Ringwolski



RIC Corner

Rudolph is not like the other reindeer. Rather than having a “normal” nose, his nose is red and shiny. He gets teased. His parents are ashamed of his nose, of him being different. Rudolph tries to hide what makes him different, so he attempts to cover his red nose, so that he fits in with everyone else. But it’s no use.

Rudolph stumbles across Hermie, an elf who does not feel called to toy-making. Rather, Hermie desires to be a dentist. An unusual pursuit for an elf. That isn’t what elves do; they make toys.

Hermie and Rudolph, feeling unwanted and ashamed, run away together, escaping a life that refuses to make space for them. On their adventure, Rudolph, Hermie, and new friend Yukon Cornelius, end up on a strange island.

They are greeted by the Official Century of the Island for Misfit Toys, who is a jack in the box. He is about to introduce himself when Rudolph interrupts him and says, “don’t tell me...Jack!” But he immediately starts crying and replies,

“No, Charlie. That’s why I’m a misfit toy. My name is all wrong. No child wants to play with a Charlie in the box, so I had to come here.”

“Where’s here?” Hermie asks.

Cue the classic Island of Misfit Toys song. The song highlights all of these toys that are, well, different than “normal” toys. They don’t fit in. They don’t belong. Someone along the way decided they aren’t good enough to be loved by children, so they are sent away.

This famous song, according to my wife, Wendy, is for queer people, for those in the LGBTQIAA+ community. When she first mentioned it to me, a light bulb went off in my head. “You’re right!” I said back to her, all wide-eyed and excited.

People in the LGBTQ+ community are often cast aside and made to feel ashamed of who they are, especially by those in the Christian community.

But the beauty of the Island of Misfit Toys, especially when read alongside Luke’s Nativity story, is that it is a community of belonging, of being loved exactly as you are. Those who inhabit the Island of Misfit Toys remind me of the shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and the animals. They aren’t what society and culture would label “special” by any means. They aren’t in positions of power, they aren’t super rich, they aren’t Emperor Augustus or Quirinius. God’s glory doesn’t show up to the Big Deals (Daniel Erlander’s term); rather, it shows up to ordinary people, ordinary animals, misfits.

The Christmas story is God’s message to the world that God does not value people the way humans do. That while we separate, sort, and put people into boxes like misfits, outcasts, losers, nobodies, casting people aside for not fitting

into our boxes of gender or sexuality, God shows us that God's glory is for everyone. God does not cast people off to Islands of Misfit toys for being different. God comes to us misfits. God celebrates us misfits, those of us in the LGBTQIAA+ community.

Santa and the others eventually repent and are transformed. They finally see what God has known all along, that the misfits are beloved, worthy, good. Queer people are beloved, worthy, and good. Thanks be to God.

Written by Rev. Allison Johnson, pastor of Journey in Faith Church in Franksville, WI. Thank you, Pr. Allison, for sharing your insight!

Seen on a website!

Our very own Nancy Day and Suzi Moylan are on the front page of the Coats for the Cold campaign for Outreach for Hope. To see the picture that was taken at the 2021 Coat distribution at Neighborhood House, click below 😊



<https://outreachforhope.kindful.com/?campaign=1221261>

Council Meeting

St. Paul's Church Council met on Zoom on Tuesday, November 8th and welcomed Pastor Delaney back from parental leave. Council re-

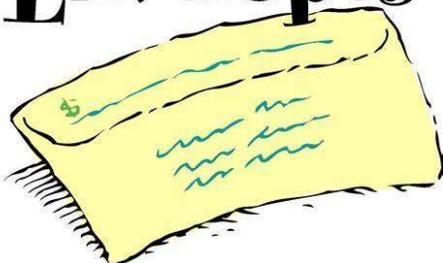
viewed some of the items Pastor missed while away and received board reports including updates on the final Kim's Table of 2022 and some recent property issues. Council also discussed the work of the task force and plans for a follow-up survey to be sent soon that will help narrow down our options.

Additionally, planning for the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons are underway and the church will be decorated in early December. Our final Council Meeting of 2022 is Tuesday, December 13th.

-Elaine Disbro



Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2023 are now available to pick up in the Narthex by the Welcome table.



FAITH AND FINANCE

As we head into 2023, we look back on all the amazing ministry of 2022. We hosted an intern, we shared new clothing with our neighbors, we spent intentional time dreaming about our future, and we gathered for weekly worship together. Looking ahead to the next year, we have an opportunity to reflect on our financial picture and consider how we might share what we have with the work of God in this place. Below you will find information about our giving and deficit. As you read, consider how we might each take part in the financial faithfulness of St. Paul's.

As we move into the end of fiscal 2022, our current deficit is (\$31,185). In previous years we have been able to manage deficits, however, this year we had to withdraw some of our investment funds to cover monthly expenses. This is something we have not done in many years. Additionally, while our investment fund is very conservative, we can and did experience a significant change in the valuation of our portfolio near the end of the third quarter. We are asking everyone to consider contributing more in order to reduce or eliminate the deficit for 2022.

JANUARY-OCTOBER TREASURER REPORT

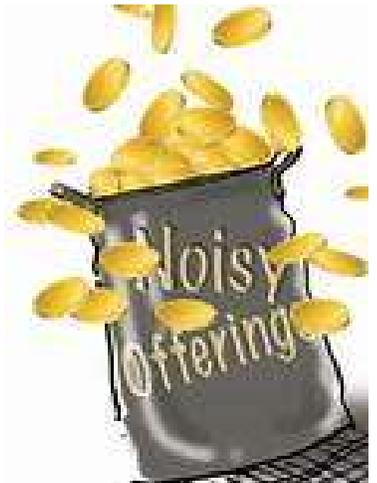
	Current	Propty	Deficit	Invest Acct Bal.
2022	\$81,633	\$8,031	(\$31.185)	\$199.622
2021	\$74.582	\$8,181	(\$34.683)	\$243,439

NOISY OFFERING COLLECTION

Bring your loose change for special offering collection at the Worship Service every first Sunday of the month.

Community Projects of Seniors

This organization was suggested as our newest noisy offering recipient by a member of our congregation.



Community Projects for Seniors began by service 100 meals to low-income seniors on Christmas Day in 1986 and now proudly serves over 15,000 meals every year to seniors in the Greater Milwaukee area and surrounding counties.

They also lead social programs and provide annual care packages with toilet paper, soap, and more to seniors and handicapped individuals over the age of 50 who live in subsidized housing. They hold activities year-round, including bingo, ice cream social, crafts, outings as well as fund raisers, care package deliveries, and serving hot meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

For complete information please visit: <https://www.cpforseniors.org>

We give thanks for the great work they are doing in our community!

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the October Messenger of this year, however, due to Hurricane Ian, our noisy offering went to Florida's clean up relief. We now are happy to collect on behalf of Community Projects for Seniors.



Sunday Gospel and Psalm Readings December 4 - 25, 2022

December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

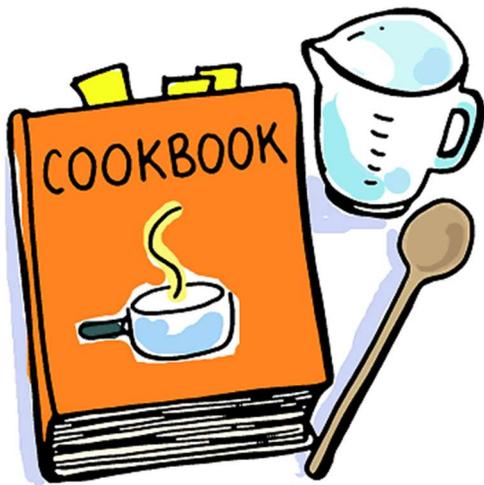
Quote ~

“Haul out the holly! Put up the tree before
my spirit falls again. Fill up the stocking!
I may be rushing things, but,
deck the halls again now!” – *Jerry Herman*

December

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9am Decorate the Sanctuary
4 8:30am Bible Study 10am Worship *Noisy Offering	5 	6	7 5:45pm Pajama Social 6:30 Advent Worship @ All People's LC	8 	9	10 Poinsettias Delivery from Mileagers
11 8:30am Bible Study 10am Worship	12	13 7:00pm Council	14 5:45pm Pajama Social 6:30 Advent Worship @ Bay Shore LC	15	16	17 
18 8:30am Bible Study 10am Worship	19	20 10am January Messenger articles DUE	21 5:45pm Pajama Social 6:30 Advent Worship @ St. Paul's LC	22 	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 Recorded Christmas Day Worship on Youtube	26 	27	28	29	30 	31 New Year's Eve



YUM!! This bean salad was at hit at Milo's Baptism and again at Vicar Charlotte's Farewell following the worship service fellowship gatherings. Thank you, Nancy Day for sharing the recipe!

Mary Pat's Bean Salsa

from Nancy Day

1 can pinto beans
1 can black eyed peas
1 can black beans
11 oz white Shoe peg corn
1 cup chopped celery
1/2 Cup chopped onion
Jalapenos, chopped (optional - Nancy does not include)

Marinade: 1 cup sugar
3/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup oil (vegetable, light olive, or canola)
1 T. water
1 t. salt
1/2 t. black pepper

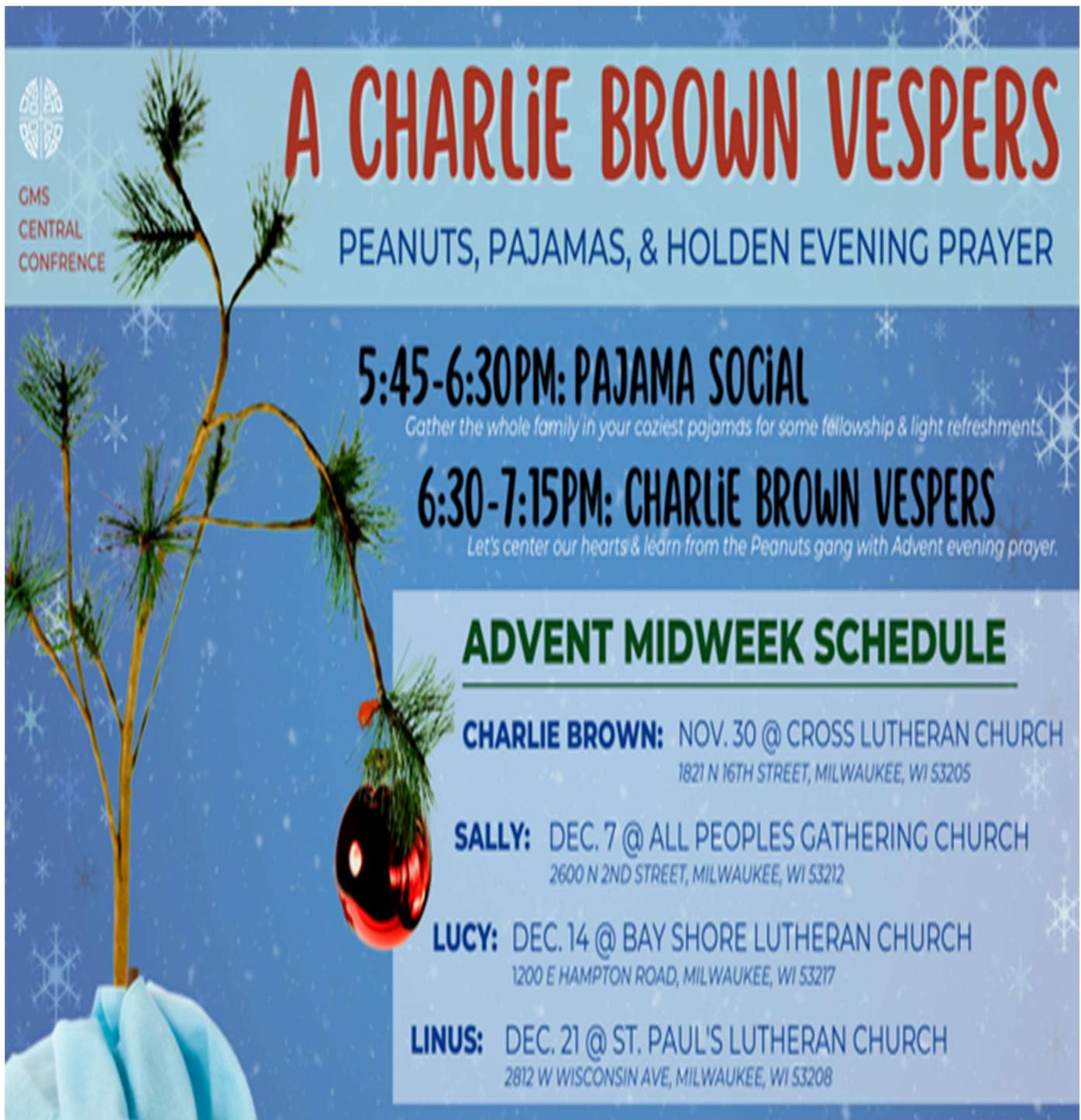
Combine marinade ingredients in saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Allow marinade to cool down.

Combine all other ingredients in a large bowl. Pour cooled marinade over mixture. Chill (preferably overnight). Drain and discard marinade before serving. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.

Midweek Advent Worship

This season, we will gather with congregations across the city for a conference-wide midweek Advent service, beginning at 5:45pm every Wednesday in Advent!

(image attached)




GMS
CENTRAL
CONFERENCE

A CHARLIE BROWN VESPERS

PEANUTS, PAJAMAS, & HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

5:45-6:30PM: PAJAMA SOCIAL
Gather the whole family in your coziest pajamas for some fellowship & light refreshments.

6:30-7:15PM: CHARLIE BROWN VESPERS
Let's center our hearts & learn from the Peanuts gang with Advent evening prayer.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

CHARLIE BROWN: NOV. 30 @ CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1821 N 16TH STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53205

SALLY: DEC. 7 @ ALL PEOPLES GATHERING CHURCH
2600 N 2ND STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53212

LUCY: DEC. 14 @ BAY SHORE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1200 E HAMPTON ROAD, MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

LINUS: DEC. 21 @ ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2812 W WISCONSIN AVE, MILWAUKEE, WI 53208



Christmas at St. Pauls!

7pm Christmas Eve Worship
Christmas Day on YouTube

Christmas at St. Paul's

Mark your calendar for Christmas Eve worship, at 7pm on Saturday, December 24. This year, join us on YouTube for a special Christmas morning service!

Christmas Giving Tree for Our Safe Place

The giving tree is up in the narthex! If you want to participate, pick one of the **little red envelopes** hanging from the branches, do some shopping, and bring a little joy to

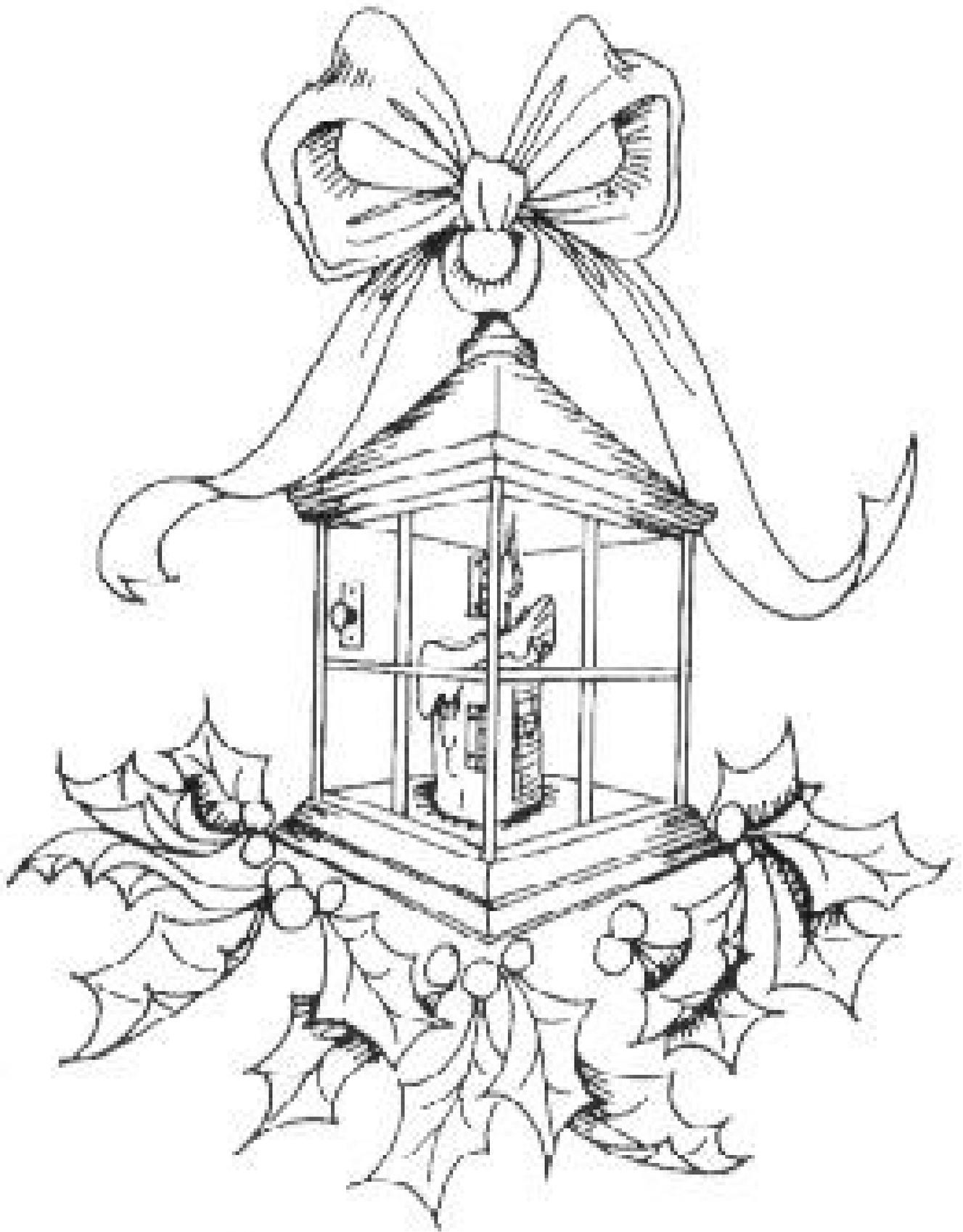
one of the guys from Our Safe Place. **You do not need to buy everything on an individual's list.** A gift card to Walmart or Target might be appropriate to help an individual defray the costs of more expensive item that they have requested. If you like baking, Christmas cookies are always a wonderful gift. **And**, if you don't like shopping, donations are always welcome and the Outreach Team will take care of the shopping!

Our Safe Place is located just around the corner on 29th Street. The men living there are in recovery from substance abuse and in various stages of rebuilding their lives. During this Christmas season, please remember these individuals and pray for blessings on their individual journeys.

Bring your items in a gift bag with the recipient's name clearly marked by Monday, December 12th. Please consider adding a personal note or Christmas card to your gift-bag. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

- Outreach Team (Nancy Day, Suzie Moylan, Jane Prahlow and Pastor Delaney)

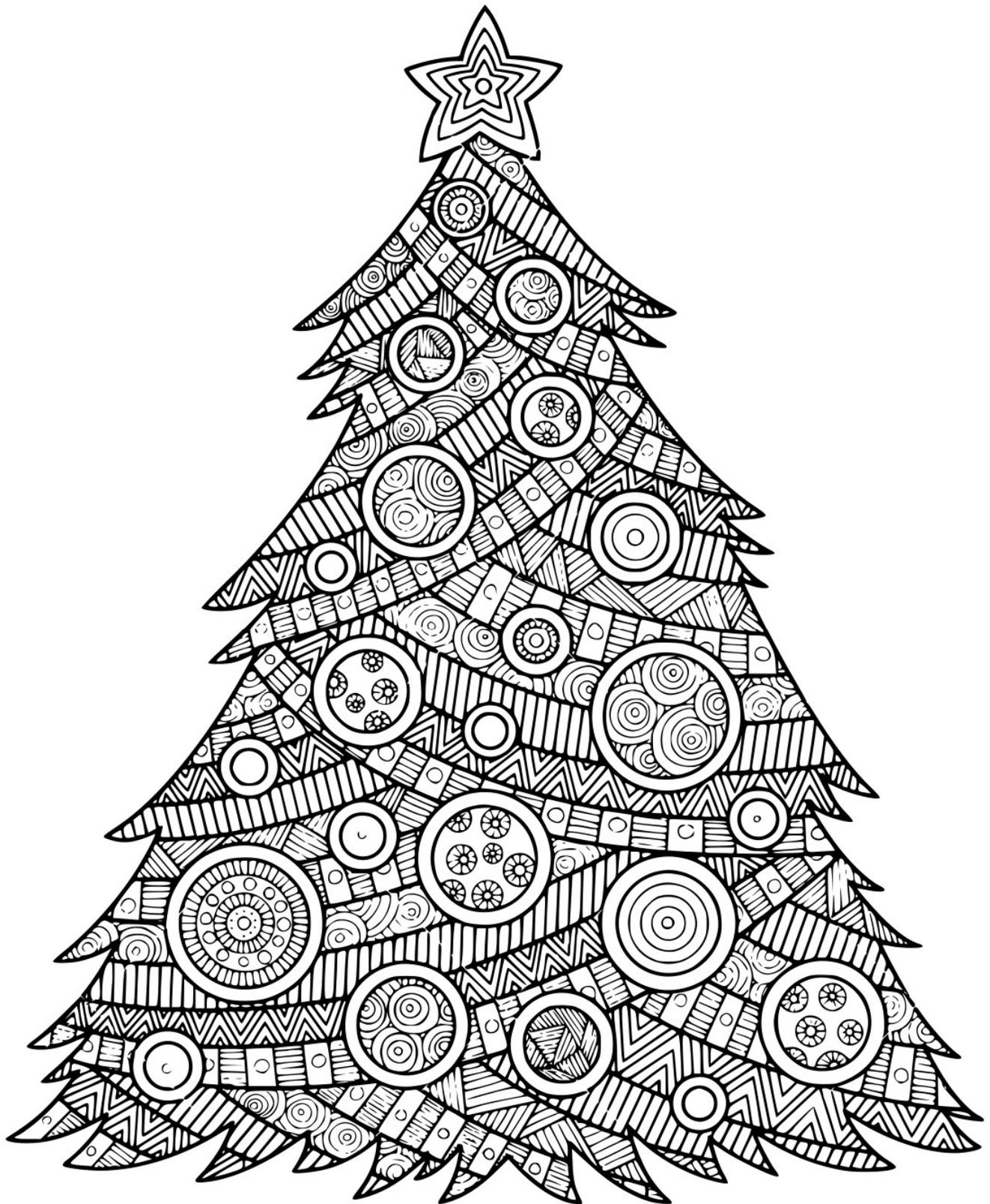




Picture can be found at <https://www.pinterest.com/sierrahennessy/diy-printables/>



Picture can be found at <https://coloringhome.com/winter-coloring-pages-for-adults>



www.coloring-pages.info

Picture can be found at <https://coloring-pages.info/illustration-for-adults-christmas-tree-with-christmas-balls-and-a-star-pattern-printable-coloring-pages-book-24077>

WORSHIP AND HOSPITALITY TEAM: December 2022

	December 4 Advent 2	December 11 Advent 3	December 18 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day
Assisting Minister	Nancy Day	Bob Bromberek	Jeri Jende	Nancy Day	~ ~
Usher Team	1	2	3	4	Recorded
Altar Guild	Judy Gilbertson Marcia Mikich	Jane Prahlow	Ron Karbel	Nancy Day Mark V-E	Worship
Greeter(s)	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek	Karen Bromberek	Service
Communion Assistant	Mary Klug or Mark V-E	MaryEllen Voelz	Bob Bromberek	Kurt Ruehrmund	on
Live Steam	Elaine Disbro	Mike Polinske	Elaine Disbro	Mark Van Engen	Youtube
Open	Ron Karbel	Mark Van Engen	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	~ ~
Close	Ron Karbel	Mark Voelz	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	~ ~
Counting Team	3	4	1	~ ~	~ ~

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