

The MESSSENGER

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

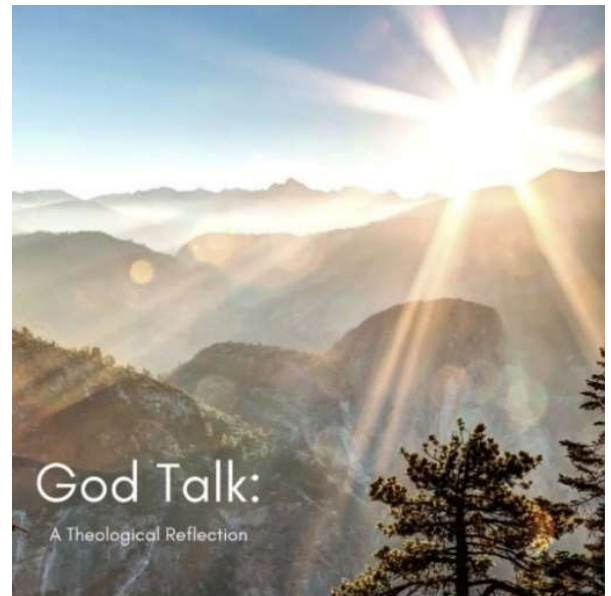
Vol. 80 - No. 1 – January, 2024



Epiphany Fellowship
Sunday, January 7, 2024
Following the 10am Worship Service

God Talk

“This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”-Genesis 9: 12-13



Throughout scripture, God makes covenants with God's people, promising descendants, faithfulness, and in one notable instance: protection from destruction. In the story of Noah, God destroys the earth with a flood, but after destruction rains down upon earth, God regrets what God has done and chooses to make a covenant with Noah and all creation. God promises never again to destroy the earth with a flood, and in order to remember what God promised, a bow is placed in the clouds—the same bow that Hebrew cosmology would describe as what God used to pierce the clouds for the deluge to come through. God is sorry for the flood and for the destruction wrought on creation, so God makes a promise to hang up the weapon used to destroy, storing it in a prominent place in order to remind creation and God of this commitment.

This time of year, a lot of people make resolutions. Thinking back on the previous year(s), folks consider what might change and how they want to live, and they resolve to make a change. In a way, God's covenant with Noah is like a resolution. As we head into a new year, what if we took some time to think about the way that God's creation is being destroyed, whether in big ways like war or climate change, or small ways like discord and hurt feelings between people, and resolved to respond with a rainbow of our own? Instead of focusing our New Year's resolutions on things like diet and exercise, how might we respond to the gift of a new beginning and God's covenant with all creation and work for peace and wholeness as a sort of resolution? Blessings on a new year; may you feel God's abiding presence and promise with you each day of 2024. - Pastor Delaney

Bible Study Resumes January 7th



Join us for Bible Study in the memorial Suite Sundays at 8:30am. All are welcome! We will continue our reading through the Gospel of Mark.

ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendars and stick around after worship on Sunday, January 28, for our annual congregational meeting. A Zoom option will be available for those who aren't able to attend in person. We will be accepting nominations

and voting on the following slate of officers.

President: Michael Polinske

Secretary: Alyssa Gluth

Board of Properties: Bob Bromberek

Board of Parish Life: OPEN

Board of Outreach and Social Ministry: OPEN

January Birthdays

5th LaVerne Mueller

8th Jeri Jende

16th Salem Polinske

18th Polly Eastberg

23rd Paige Eastberg

26th Dr. Judy Gilbertson

31st Pastor Delaney Schlake-Kruse





RIC Corner

What might 2024 mean for St. Paul's in terms of welcoming all people? How can we grow our witness as a place where

all are welcomed, embraced, and celebrated? As we head into a new year, let's look to the example of Jesus and share ideas with one another: how can we respond to Jesus' big, big love with love for our LGBTQ+ neighbors?

Epiphany Fellowship - January 7, 2024

Please bring your left-over Christmas cookies to church on January 7th for our annual Epiphany Fellowship following worship in the common area.



NOISY OFFERING COLLECTION

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

Reconciling Works

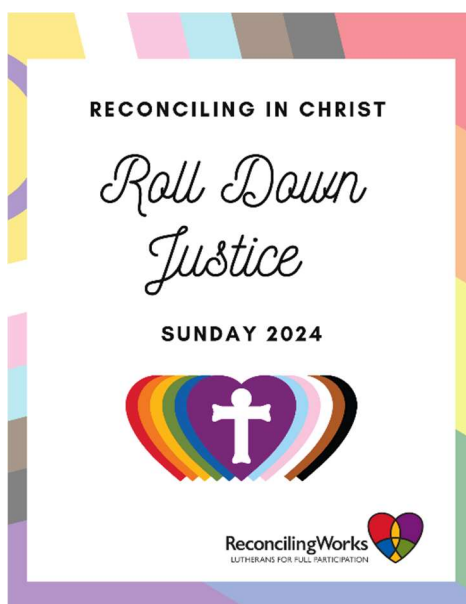
Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks:

Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community. For more information, please visit their website: www.reconcilingworks.org



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday Worship 2024



is Sunday, January 28, and the theme is Roll Down Justice! This worship service celebrates the 50th Anniversary of ReconcilingWorks is inspired by Amos 5:24

Let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

Housing, Race, and Equity
with
Habitat for Humanity

January 13, 2023
10-12

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2812 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee 53208



Workshop at St. Paul's

Please join your St. Paul's community on January 13, 2024 from 10 AM-12 PM for a Housing, Race, and Equity Workshop with Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. From their website:

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity's Housing, Race, and Equity Workshop is a 2-hour interactive, discussion based, opportunity to better understand how local history has impacted our housing patterns. By examining primary sources and data maps we'll seek to understand how segregated housing was a conscious institutional choice and the very real effect these decisions have had on the Milwaukee metro. After looking at recent housing trends, we'll have the opportunity to make a commitment to affordable housing and learn a few ways to take informed action.

Safe and fair housing is an issue that impacts all of us, and it impacts our neighbors here on the Near West Side as well.

I (Sarah) have participated in one of these workshops and can attest that they are interactive by design. The time flew by, and I learned so much! We'd love to see you there. Bring a friend!



THANK YOU!

The Christmas Giving Tree and Books for Penfield - Thank you all for your generous contributions towards the Christmas gifts for Our Safe Place and help

assembling the gift bags. And, so many books for Penfield! It is just wonderful! Thank you! Thank you!
-The Board of Outreach and Social Ministry



Pictured here are two residents of Our Safe Place, Jane Prahlow, and Andy Liss.

Pictured on the next page are the bags assembled by members of St. Paul's!



Task Force, Capital Improvements

In 2023, we began a process of determining how best to be responsible stewards of our church building. In that time, we have replaced the boilers with high efficiency models, and worked hard to get quotes for things like updating the sound system and making our building more accessible. As we move into a new year, please be considering how we might move forward in these efforts, and how we can all work together to invest in the future of St. Paul's!





What goes up, must come down
Ornaments to be put away, trees taken down, wreaths and boughs to be placed back in the box. Please join us after worship on **Sunday, January 14th**, as we put the Christmas decorations away for another year!

January Anniversary
23rd Gordy and Nancy Anderson



Offering envelope

boxes for 2024 are available in the narthex. Please stop by to pick yours up. Thank you.

Thank YOU! A very happy recipient of a tie blanket! Larry Schulz says "Thank YOU!"



January

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 	3	4	5 	6
7 Epiphany 8:30am Bible Study & Zoom 10am Worship	8	9 7pm Council	10 	11	12	13 10am – Noon Habitat for Humanity Workshop
14 8:30am Bible Study & Zoom 10am Worship Take down Sanctuary Decorations	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 	17	18 	19	20 10am February Messenger Deadline
21 8:30am Bible Study & Zoom 10am Worship	22 	23	24	25 	26	27 
28 An. Mtg 8:30am Bible Study & Zoom 10am Worship Annual Cong. Meeting after Worship	29 	30	31 	Feb 01	Feb 02 	Feb 03

SUNDAY GOSPEL AND PSALM READINGS

January 7 – 28

<p><u>January 7 - Epiphany</u></p> <p>Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12</p>	<p><u>January 14 – Epiphany 2</u></p> <p>1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:29-42</p>
<p><u>January 21 – Epiphany 3</u></p> <p>Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20</p>	<p><u>January 28 – Epiphany 4</u></p> <p>Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28</p>



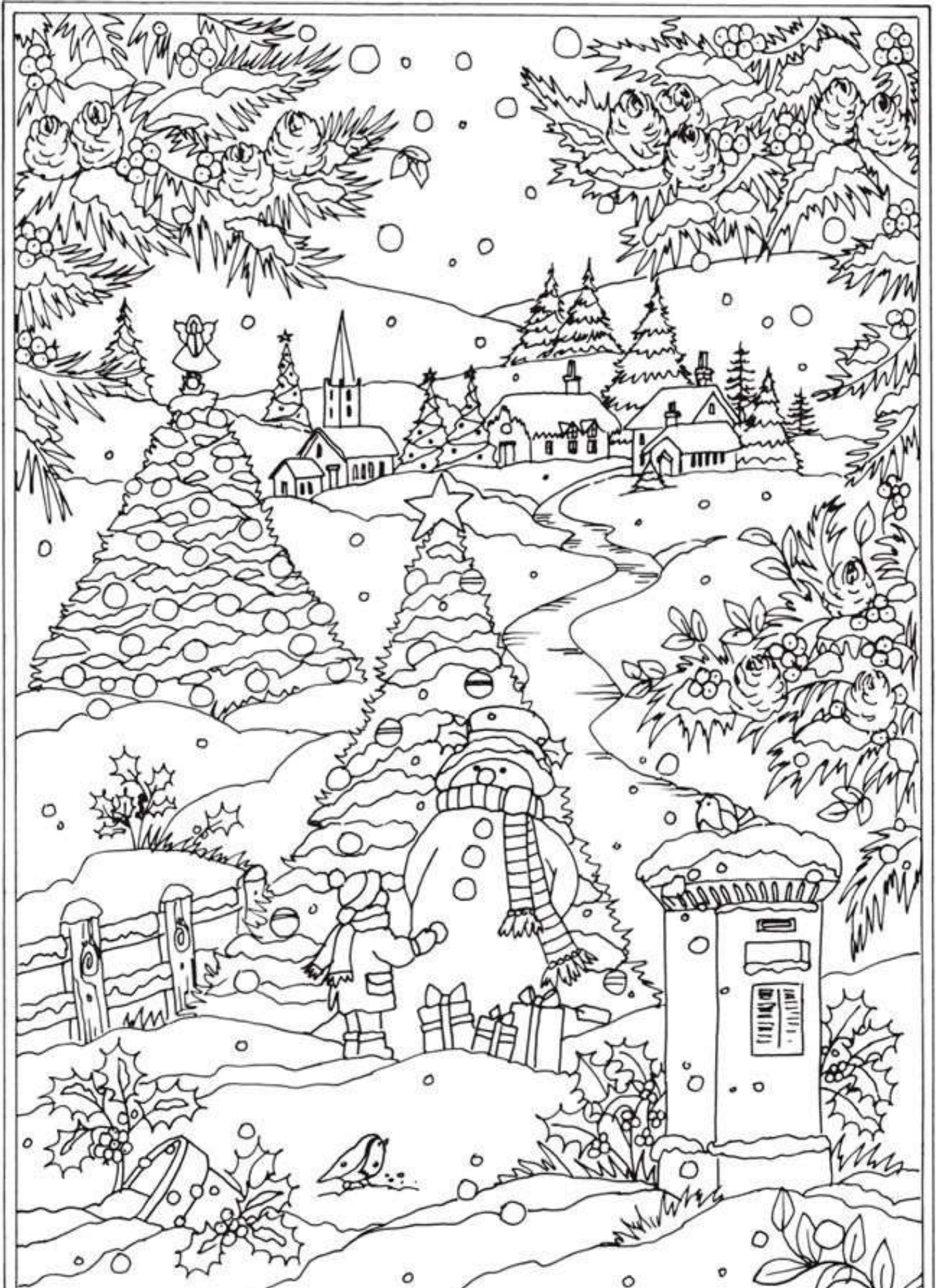
Quote ~

“We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential.”

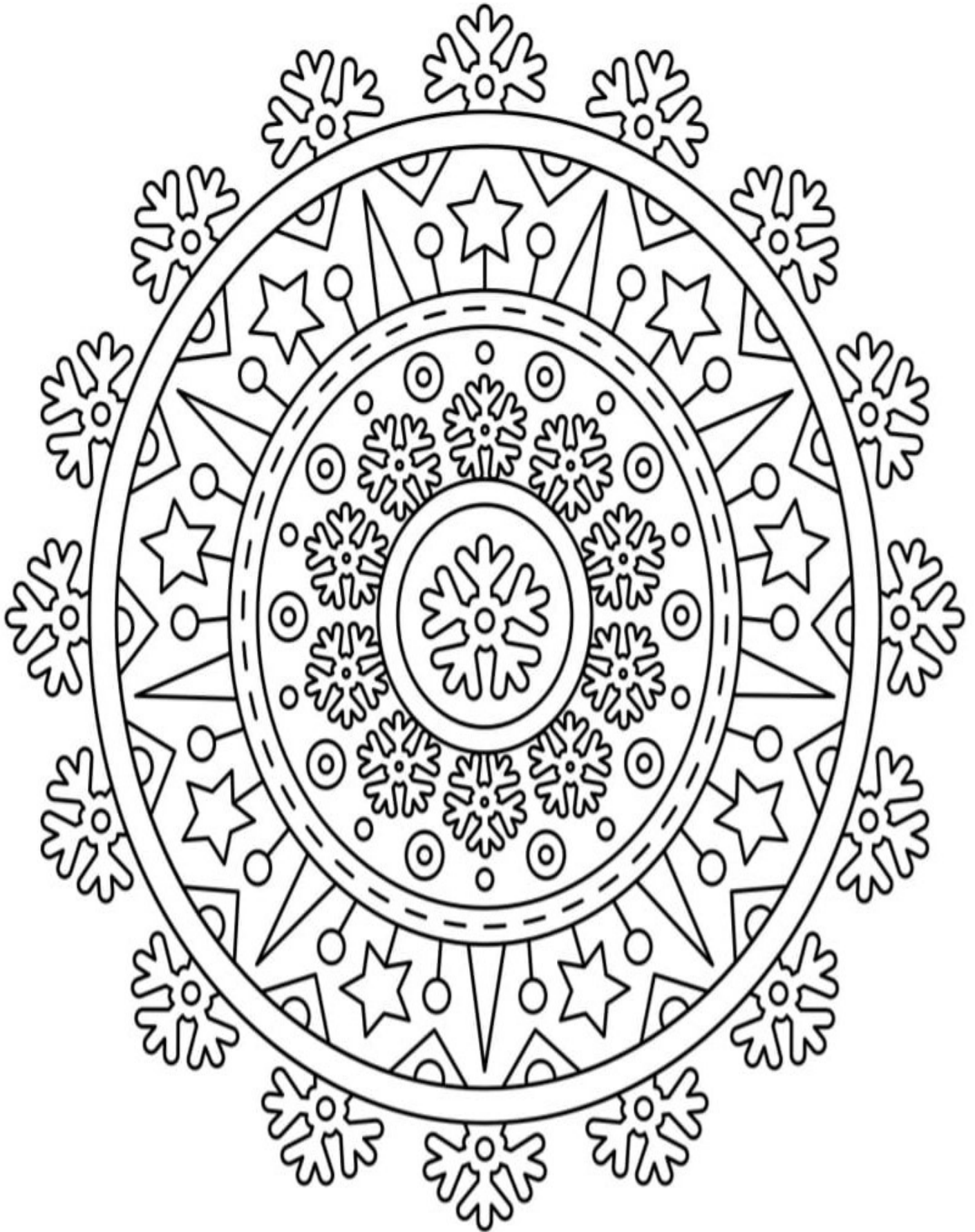
— *Ellen Goodman, American journalist & syndicated columnist*

WORSHIP AND HOSPITALITY TEAM: January 2024

	January 7 Epiphany	January 14 Epiphany 2	January 21 Epiphany 3	January 28 Epiphany 4
Assisting Minister	Jeri Jende	Nancy Day	Bob Bromberek	Sarah Micheel
Usher Team	3	4	1	2
Altar Guild	Ron Karbel	Nancy Day Mark Van Engen	Kurt & Judy Ruehrmund	Judy Gilbertson Marcia Mikich
Greeter(s)	K. Bromberek	K. Bromberek	K. Bromberek	K. Bromberek
Comm Assistant	Mary Klug	Matt Prahlow	MaryEllen Voelz	Bob Bromberek
Live Steam	Brett Gluth	Mark Van Engen	Brett Gluth	Mike Polinske
Open	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	Mark Van Engen	Bob Bromberek
Close	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	Mark Voelz	Bob Bromberek
Counting Team	1	2	3	4



Picture can be found at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/409616528606549842/>

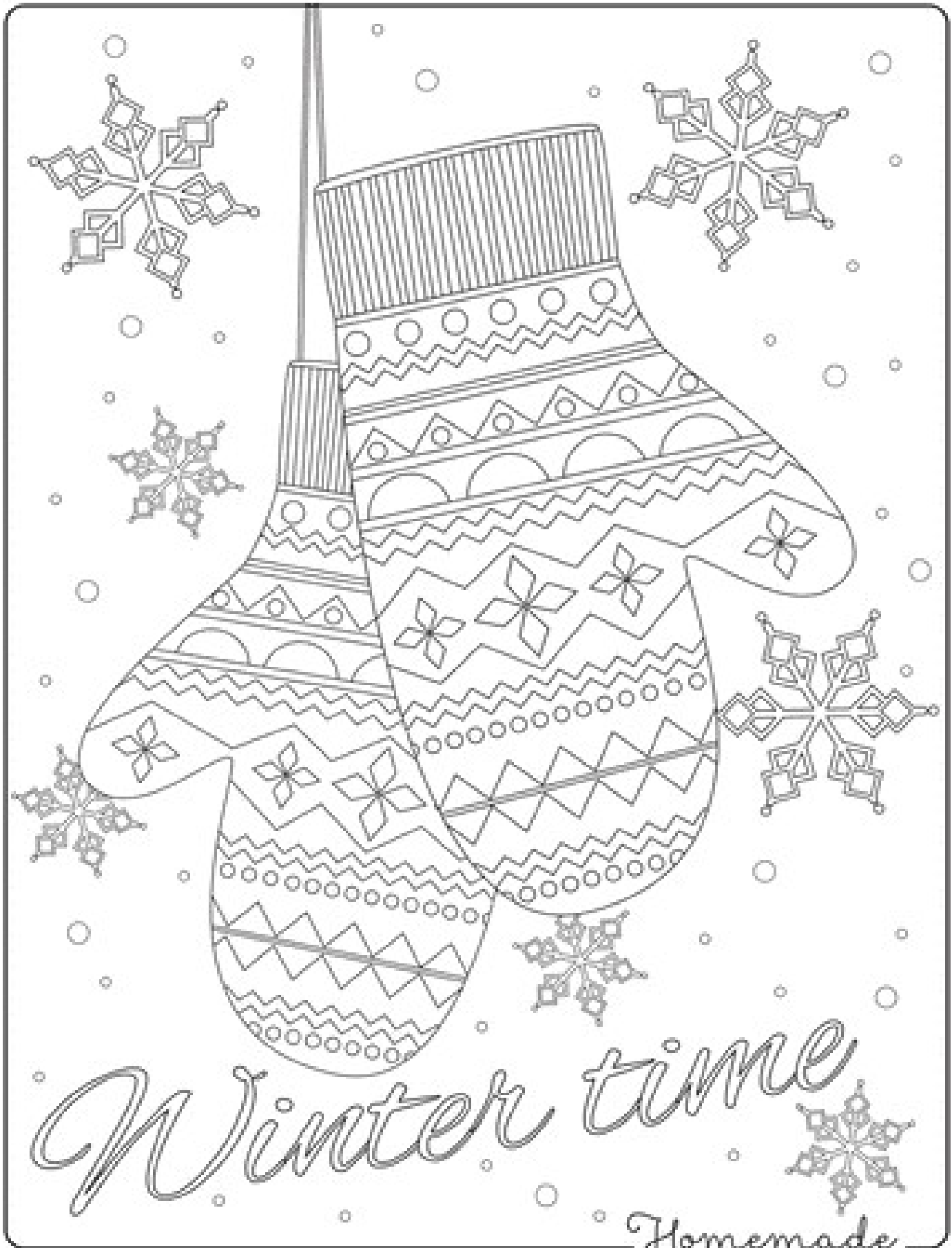


Picture can be found at <https://www.happierhuman.com/winter-coloring-pages/>



Homemade

Picture can be found at <https://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/coloring-pages.html#new-year-coloring-pages-happy-new-year-ribbons-banner-2024>



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