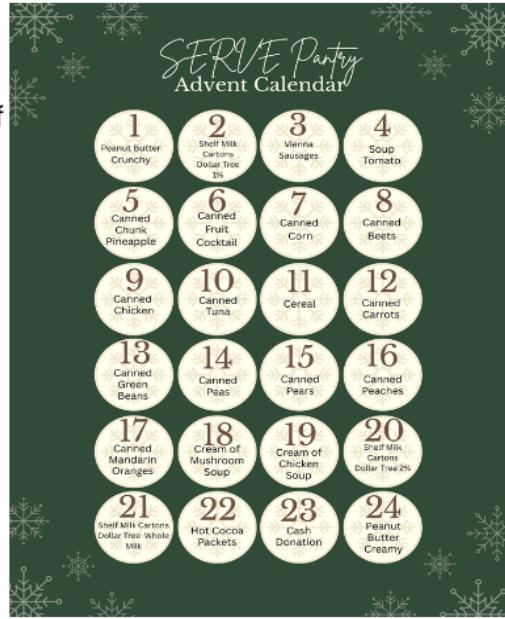


## Announcements

Mission of the Month is the SERVE Shelf



## This Week's Schedule

### December 21

Worship 9am

### December 22

ELO 9-2pm

### December 23

Mat Weaving 9-11:30am

Homestead 9am

Van Buren 10am

Prayer Devotion @ 12 noon

### December 24

Christmas Eve Service 5pm

### December 25

Christmas Day!

### December 26

Office closes @ 12 noon

### December 27

Worship 5pm

### December 28

Worship 9am



We need hosts for the Nativity Scene!

Please take time to sign up after the worship service.

Sign Ups are in the back of the sanctuary on weekends and in the office during the week.

Thank you so much!



## Algona First United Methodist Church

December 20 & 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**WELCOME SERVE LOVE**

## Order of Worship

### Welcome & Announcements

**Prelude** Hadley Friedrich, Flute

### Call to Worship & Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

**All: Today, we choose to live into the values of God's Kingdom. We believe Jesus came to seek the flourishing of all God's creation. We join Him in that mission.**

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of our commitment to bring justice and opportunity to all. *The fourth candle is lit.*

### Unison Opening Prayer

**In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives. In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.**

**\*Song** #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Saturday)  
"Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground" & "Welcome to Our World" (Sunday)

### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 11:1-5*

### Unison Congregational Prayer

**Slow us down, O Lord, this Advent, So we may understand the darkness we are in, The darkness of fear that comes with wanting more, And the fear of having less. Grant us the light of transformation, As we wait for your true abundance-- The love of the Incarnation, A love that brings us true dignity and security, A love that embraces all, that enriches all, That calls us all to share justly and celebrate joyfully. In the Name of our Savior we pray. Amen.**

### Special Music Rose Kitzinger, Piano

**\*Song** #218 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (Saturday)  
"How Many Kings" (Sunday)

### Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

### Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

### Offering & \*Doxology

### \*Offertory Prayer

**Heavenly Father, at Christmas You gave us the most costly Gift of all. We humbly and joyfully give You these offerings as a sign of our gratitude and desire to do Your work on earth. We pray in the Name of Immanuel, God with us. Amen.**

**\*Song** #203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (Saturday) "When Love Was Born" (Sunday)

### Children's Message

### New Testament Reading *Luke 1:39-56*

### Message "The Great Reversal"

**\*Response** #246 "Joy to the World"

### \*Benediction Mother Teresa

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." **All: Amen.**

### Sermon Notes

### "The Great Reversal"

Mary's profound spiritual insight is revealed in her song (Luke 1:46-55.) Mary astutely recognizes the revolutionary nature of God choosing her to be the Divine Messiah's mother:

### Justice and compassion are key themes through-out Luke's Gospel:

4: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

6: Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

610: "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

12: And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

14: "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

16: "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

**The Bible as a whole:** The Bible is abundantly clear. There are thousands of Bible verses revealing God's concern for justice and compassion for the poor. Those with ample material resources are responsible to use their wealth in ways that are just and compassionate. See James 5:1-6; I Timothy 6:17-19; I John 3:16-18.

### The One we worship this Christmas was:

- The victim of political oppression and violence
- A homeless immigrant
- Dependent on the charity of strangers