

## Announcements

### Mission of the Month

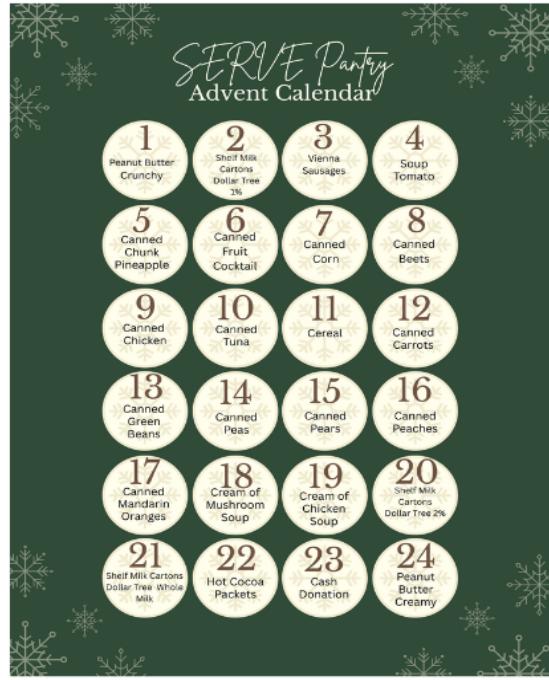
SERVE Shelf

### Christmas Program

December 17, 6:30pm

### Please RVSP for the Meal on December 17

@ 5:30pm. Call the office to be put on the list. A suggested \$10/person donation is appreciated.



### This Week's Schedule

#### December 7

Worship 9am  
Adult Bible Study & High School Sunday School 10:15am  
4H Lotts Creek in the Fellowship Hall 4:30pm

#### December 8

LHN 8:30-11:30am  
ELO 9-2pm

#### December 9

Mat Weaving 9-11:30am  
Homestead 9am  
Van Buren 10am  
Prayer Devotion 12 noon

#### December 10

LHN 8:30-11:30am  
ELO Christmas Party 9-2pm  
Vine Meal 5:30pm  
Christmas Practice, Confirmation & Bells 6:15-7pm  
High School Youth Group & Choir 7-8:30pm

#### December 11

LHN 8:30-11:30am  
Paper Magnolia's 1-3pm

#### December 12

ELO 9-10am  
Office closes 12 noon



We need hosts for the Nativity Scene. Sign up for a shift before you leave today; or call the office and set up a time. Thank you!



United Women in Faith have Cards and Brooms for sale. They are available for purchase anytime the church office is open.



## Algona First United Methodist Church

December 6 & 7, 20025

Welcome Serve Love

## Oder of Worship

**Worship Celebration for December 6 & 7, 2025**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome & Announcements**

### Advent Call to Worship

Liturgist: Every word in Scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the Old Testament is full of glimpses of God's plan of redemption.

### Unison Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that you freely give us.

**People: Loving God, as we light the first Advent candle of hope, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of Christ's coming bring light to our darkness and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

**\*Song** #211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Verses 1, 2, 5, 6 (Saturday) "Emmanuel" (Hallowed Manger Ground) (Sunday)

### Old Testament Reading

*Malachi 4:5-6*

### Congregational Prayer

**Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help me to clear the path in my heart. Show me the distractions in my life that block me from worship of You this Advent. A time of silence is observed.**

**Lord, we await Your coming! As we celebrate the first Advent--the first coming--I look toward the day where I will see You face to face. I imagine what it will be like. Give us hearts, Lord, that look for Your coming on a daily basis. Show us today how we need to be refined, purified, forgiven. Give us the strength to ask for forgiveness and to change our ways. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**\*Song** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Saturday)  
"Light of the World" (Sunday)

### Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

### Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

### Offering & \*Doxology

#### \*Offertory Prayer

**Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Center us on the King of Glory during these moments of giving. We present these gifts as your humble and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.**

**\*Song** *The Faith We Sing* #2100 "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Verses 1, 2, 4, 5 (Saturday) "Welcome to Our World" (Sunday)

### Children's Message

### New Testament Reading

*Luke 1:1-25*

**Message** "Get Ready for Christmas"

### Communion

**\*Response** #196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#### \*Benediction

Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity. Share hope by listening to someone's story. Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, share hope with those you meet.

**All: Amen.**

### Sermon Notes

### Get Ready for Christmas

*Luke 1:1-20*

#### QUESTION YOUR DOUBTS: Our Faith is Grounded in History

**1** Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, **2** just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word.

**3** With this in mind, since I myself have **carefully investigated** everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an **orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, **4** so that you may know the **certainty** of the things you have been taught.

#### BELIEVE: God is Faithful & Seeks Our Faithfulness

**5** In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. **6** Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. **7** But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. **8** Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, **9** he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10** And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. **11** Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12** When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. **13** But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard."

#### TURN THE PAGE: The Promised Forerunner

**1:13b-17**  
"Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. **14** He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, **15** for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. **16** He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

#### WALK IN GRACE: God Knows our Mixture of Faith & Doubt

**1:18-20**

**18** Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." **19** The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. **20** And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."