

THE MESSENGER

The Sycamore United Methodist Newsletter



Volume 23, Issue 12

December 2022

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

Friends,

“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart” – Luke 2:19

With the expecting of a child, yours or someone you know and whether it is the first or the third, you do not have a lot of time to ponder many things in your heart, there is just too much going on between doctors' visits and adjusting schedules and planning a baptism. And yet here in Luke, at the end of the familiar Christmas Gospel, we see that Mary treasured and pondered what was going on around her.

In the midst of giving birth in a stable, surrounded by animals and messy shepherds, Mary takes it all in. She might see Joseph trying to convince the shepherds to come back later, only to let them in anyway. She may see a lamb nibbling at the straw that now serves as baby Jesus's pillow. There might even be some spectators, who peek in, wondering what the commotion is all about. Imagine the stories she can tell her friends and family later about that fateful night, a story that later in her life will have a completely different meaning when her son grows old.

What did it all mean? How much was happening because this was the Christ child, and how much was happening just due to the circumstances of being in a stable?

How many times in the coming years will Mary reflect about the stable and remember something small and seemingly insignificant, and realize that maybe it was not so insignificant after all?

I think the reason that there are so many traditions surrounding Christmas is because we do not take the time to treasure and ponder what is going on around us. Everything seems to go by in such a blur that the only memories we have sometimes are those that were repeated year after year, without fail.

This year, with so many acts of violence, the uncertainty the surrounds us and other events (national or global) that has unfolded in front of our eyes, I wonder if we can start a new tradition... take a moment to treasure what is going on around you and ponder it all in your heart.

Treasure the gathering of everyone around the fireplace (or any meaningful place in your house) or the dinner table, treasure the going to church on Christmas Eve, treasure the singing of carols, treasure the fellowship that you have together, even if it is only for a few moments.

And then ponder it throughout the rest of the year. Ponder how the Child Christ came and lived among us all and blessed us beyond our imagination. Ponder how Christ comes to each of you in the gifts of Word and Sacrament when you come to church. Ponder how those carols, and all the hymns that we sing are confessions of the faith that has been passed down from generation to generation and help keep moving forth in our discipleship journey. Treasure these things; ponder them in your heart.

Rejoice in what Christ has done in you, is doing and will continue doing for you.

In Christ' love,
Pastor Luis

Staff

Rev. Luis Reyes

LEAD PASTOR

LFReyes@sycamoreumc.org

Pastor Joe Munro

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

joemunro@sycamoreumc.org

Debbie Elleson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

debbie@sycamoreumc.org

Craig Fritz

ORGANIST

craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org

Peter Hansen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

peter@sycamoreumc.org

Jim McCue

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

jim@sycamoreumc.org

Becca Rome

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION DIRECTOR

becca@sycamoreumc.org

Lisa Szydowski

ABC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org

Buzz Wheeler

MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

buzz@sycamoreumc.org



December 2022 Worship Schedule

ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAM
SERVICES ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ONLY

Saturdays at 5:00pm;

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00am

www.facebook.com/SUMCIllinois/ or
www.youtube.com/results?searchquery=sycamore+umc
or www.sycamoreumc.org/live .

December 3- Saturday Celebration

December 4 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

Holy Communion will be served at all services.

December 10- Saturday Celebration

December 11 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Advent Family Worship at 10:00 service

Christmas Bazaar after the 10:00 service

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

December 17 - Saturday Celebration

December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Cantata - "The Winter Rose"

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services

at 4:30, 7:00 and 11:00pm

(see page 9 for details)

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7, 10; Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-10

December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00am Pre-recorded Service

Pastor Luis F. Reyes

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 5:2-7, 10; Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-14

Securely give online at
www.sycamoreumc.org/giving



It's an easy way for anyone to
give immediate donations.

Checks may be mailed to the
church at: 160 Johnson Ave.,
Sycamore, IL 60178.



Sycamore United
Methodist Church



@sycamoreumc



Those for whom we pray:

Eric Gabriel	Jean Schmidt
Diana Grace	Linda
Maggie Buie	Howard & Sue Keller
Carole	John & Pat Sackis
Nancy	Tom Snell & Family
Barbara Drake	Alice Kay Larson
Tom Sanders	Virginia McMillion
Diana Sanders	Betty Lou Finn
Jim	Lois Cullison
Marian Parker	Holly Rudolph

We extend our sympathies to the family of:

Elaine Sailor

The Service Personnel and Their Families

Cpt. Mark Browning,	PO3 Samuel V. Bell
*SGT Ben Bushno	CPT Ed Richter
SGT Shaune Clark	*SGT Brock Grimaldi
SGT Matthew Einhorn	E4SPC Alexis Jones
PFC Timothy Einhorn	E3PFC Max Keller
PO1 Frank Incapreo	A1C Brock Larson
SSG Christopher Isabel	*Maj Steve Haack
*Lt. Col. Garrett Slack	PV2 Caden Grimaldi
SFC Matthew "Scott" Stewart	PV2 Rachel McMillion
MMN1 Frank Huftalin	*CPL Joshua Caraballo
LT Matthew Herbaugh	SPC Sutit Jackson
PVT Trevor Bassett	<i>*indicates deployed personnel</i>

December Visioning Team Update



Welcome to the second Vision Team Update. The Team has continued to conduct meetings on the first and third Thursdays of every month. On October 20th, **Carol Larson** gave a presentation on the history of SUMC, because it is vitally important for us all to remember the richly spiritual history that defines us as a congregation and as a church. On November 3rd, **Cheryl Callighan** shared with the Team an overview of the last SUMC Vision process, which resulted in the current Vision and "High Five" defining principles that we currently know and embrace. **Craig Fritz, Pastor Joe, and Pastor Luis** are providing invaluable oversight to the Vision Team and keeping the Team on-task. Likewise, the 14 Team members, representative of the diversity of our congregation, continue to exhibit highly inclusive behaviors; we recognize that each of us has an equal seat at the table, as well as an equally important voice to be heard.

Again, **Thank You** to all 225 of you who took the Vision Survey, and for participating in the recent "Pew/Online Question" survey -- look for more "Pew/Online Question" surveys in the months to come. Based on the two surveys' results, the Team is in the process of finalizing a "SWOT Analysis." The "SWOT Analysis" assists the Team in defining SUMC's current **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats, as they pertain to the current and future health of our church. To define each, Strengths are aspects of our church that we do well; conversely, Weaknesses are areas where improvements are warranted or desired. Opportunities are **internal** actions -- that is to say, things under **our** control -- that SUMC can take to either sustain our current Strengths, or to improve upon and resolve our current Weaknesses. Finally, Threats are generally **external** influences that we cannot control which may adversely affect the future stability and viability of our church. For instance, the current uncertainty of our national economy and the threat of a new pandemic in the future are potential threats to the well-being of SUMC.

In our most recent meeting, the Team identified the Top 5 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of SUMC as they pertain to the here-and-now of our church. Now that we have a good understanding of the current SWOT elements of our church, we can start to identify and develop 5 to 8 Core Values that will define us as a congregation. Once the Core Values are honed and polished, they will form the nucleus of our new Vision Statement.

If the Team continues to track on the current timeline, it is hoped that the coming of Spring 2023 will represent more than new seasonal growth; our goal is that SUMC will be experiencing a period of new growth and prosperity under a new Vision Statement and Core Values as well. Please continue to provide input to this process, either through the completion of "Pew/Online Question" surveys, or by reaching out to any of the Vision Team members. We need and value your input!

Jerry Armstrong, On Behalf of the Vision Team

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES



SYCAMORE UMC GIVING TREE 2022

The Giving Tree is one way we can give hope to families in need by providing Christmas gifts. Pick a paper ornament off the Christmas tree in the concourse to see what is needed.

Here are ways to get your gift to the church:

Purchase your assigned gift and place the wrapped gift under the Giving tree in the Concourse with the paper ornament to the package.

You can also send gift cards or monetary donations to the office marked: Giving Tree. Extra funds or gift cards will aid families in need in the new year.

All wrapped gifts must be delivered or received in the office by Tuesday, December 20th.

Should you have any questions or need assistance signing-up for a gift, please contact the church office. Thank you for your generosity and please include these families and all families in need in your prayers.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS THIS MONTH

Our Food Pantry is continuing to serve its clients each Monday.

Present needs are: canned mandarin oranges, canned pineapple, mac and cheese, spaghetti sauce, canned ravioli, and paper towels. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Let's remember that there are those who don't know where their next supper will come from.



LIFT DINNER

With Joy Dinners is now LIFT (Living In Faith Together)! December 14th from 6-6:45pm generations will gather around tables with the sharing of food, fellowship, and learning. This free will dinner centers around a scriptural theme where groups will break bread, study, play and pray together. We hope you will join us as we get nurture our connection as a community of faith. Click this link to register: <https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=d73d077d-0e31-401e-ae2c-b61dbbbee29e&envId=p-EnpCOn6a4EGn4NxAc0h-pQ>

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION Ultimate Gift Giving

This is the time of year when thoughts turn to finding just the right gift to give someone for Christmas. Why is giving important? In a material sense, it is important because you want to let the other person know how much you care about them by finding a meaningful gift. There is a significant spiritual side to giving as well. Giving is the nature of God. Our God is a God who gives. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life" (John 3:16 CEB). God expects his people to respond by giving. Generosity is evidence of the Spirit's work in a person's life. As you submit more and more of yourself to Jesus, there will be less of "self" and more of him. His character will be demonstrated through you.



As your heart beats more in unison with the heart of Jesus, then the purpose of Jesus will be released in your life. For those who follow Jesus, giving becomes a way of life. Notice in Matthew 6:2 that Jesus did not say "if you give," He said "Whenever you give" ("Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get." Matthew 6:2 CEB). We rejoice on Christmas knowing the ultimate gift was freely given to us by God with the birth of Jesus.*

Your monetary gifts to the ministry and mission of Sycamore United Methodist may be mailed to the church at 160 Johnson Avenue, Sycamore, Illinois 60178, You may give on-line at www.sycamoreumc.org/giving. Or you may use the church QR code to be directed to the giving portal.

(*Message adapted from text by Rev. Mike Slaughter in his book first - putting God first in living and giving.)

MUSIC NOTES

Fast away the old year passes! So much has been happening this year in our worship services and with our music programs too!

Mark your calendars!

December 11, 2022 @10 Special Family Christmas Service and our kids' choirs will be singing at worship that day!

December 17, 18, 2022 at all three weekend services!

Choir will lead worship and present the Christmas Cantata "The Winter Rose" at all three services on that weekend. Please note, the 5 o'clock service on Saturday and the 10 o'clock service on Sunday will also feature a chamber orchestra playing with choir! Accompanying the 8:30 service on Sunday will be our own, one-man orchestra, Mr. Craig Fritz. All three will be incredibly spirited, joyous, and musically filled as well tell the Christmas Story through narration and song!



I would also like to thank the many musicians and groups who helped or lead our services this year. The various Choirs, soloists, ensembles, guest artists, worship leaders and our tech team as well! Thank YOU!!!

Looking forward to even more glorious worship and music making in 2023 !!!

ABC PRESCHOOL MINISTRY NEWS

December is here! The magic of the Christmas Season is a joy to see.

Our classes start the month off with a gingerbread theme. You never know where that Gingerbread Man will show up in the building. He's been known in the past years to leave flour footprints all over Jim and Debbie's desk in the church office. We then begin the study of Christmas. For 2 weeks everyone will learn about the joy and wonders that this time of year brings to all children and adults alike. We end our month with activities and stories that teach about the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The children will finish the week prior to Christmas break with our annual Christmas Concert but we will do it in a different way this year.

Our Monthly Mission Project for December will be to work with:

Central DuPage Hospital Child's Life Toy Donation's

Age Range: Young Child - Teens

Notes: All Must Be New in Package & Non-Edible & Non- Scented

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Playdoh | Legos | Board games |
| Barbie | Stuffed Animals | Puzzles |
| Hot wheels | Fidgets | DIY kits |
| Disney Princess | Coloring books | |
| Uno | Card games | |



The hospital has an area for children to select a toy or other item to have while they are receiving their various treatments. To be able to provide a child something to play with or have while receiving their chemotherapy or several other treatments they are going through is truly a blessing. We will have a donation box available to contribute to. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

We wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas Season and a wonderful New Year as we go into 2023

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

On Sunday, November 20th, the worship service included this scripture:

Mathew 7:7 - Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

This was a perfect scripture verse considering that I had met Jerry Armstrong, the president of United Methodist Men (UMM) in the Concourse just prior to the 8:30 service. I had the good fortune of attending the Saturday morning breakfast of the UMM the day before. Jerry was commenting on the spirit of service that all the men in attendance have and their amazing attitude. However, he also said that when he first had joined the congregation that he had the impression you had to be asked to join the UMM.

I thought I'd address this thought. According to our church's database there are many different groups sponsored by or hosted by this church. To put it mildly, there are many opportunities if you are looking for a way to contribute some of your time to our mission, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

There may be a few administrative groups that you may be asked to join but most of these groups would welcome your participation. Choices range from the adult choir, the adult handbell choir, Sunday school teachers, Bible study, United Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, ushers, greeters, and liturgists that would be common in any United Methodist Church. There are also a few committees unique to this church such as LIFE Missions, Sycamore Food Pantry, the coat ministry, the prayer chain, and the Caring Ministry Network. This last committee is tasked with ensuring that every church member is contacted at least monthly with a face-to-face meeting or because of COVID considerations, a phone call, or a post card. This group visits those in nursing homes and those homebound.

In conclusion, church is a verb – an action verb. Get involved. Where do your spiritual gifts lie? Find a group or activity that you enjoy. Your spirit will prosper.

YIC,
Buzz Wheeler



Christmas Poinsettias Order Information



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias. The poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary in memory of family and friends during this Christmas season. The poinsettias are \$10.00 each for a 2 quart pot. Please return your order form and money to the church office by Monday, December 12.

Your Name _____

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of: _____

In Honor/Memory (please circle one) of: _____

How Many? _____

Please include total amount _____

Make checks payable to
Sycamore United Methodist Church
and indicate for "poinsettias".



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Blessed Advent, my siblings in Christ!

This is last month I write to you as the Children's Education Director. Starting in January, I will begin the transition into my new role as Director of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation. I am overwhelmed by the confidence and congratulations you have offered. I also understand your questions about what this new role will entail.

As the Director of Discipleship & Spiritual Formation I will be responsible for developing and maintaining pathways for spiritual formation at Sycamore UMC. I will work with the Discipleship Team to create a holistic and accessible path of discipleship that is gospel centered, fits in within the overall vision of this congregation. I will oversee discipleship programming, such as classes, small groups, covenants, church-wide conversations, and curriculum development to meet the needs of the people of this congregation.

I am not abandoning children's ministry. My decades as an educator and connection with you has prepared me for this next step in my service to God and this church. We will work together to discover who God intends us to be as individual and as a body of Christ. I am excited to work with people at various places in their faith journey, from those exploring the Christian faith to a committed servant of SUMC and empowering them as disciples of Christ who love God, love one another, and love God's world. May Our Creator's presence light the way as we prepare for this new chapter of ministry for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,
Becca Rome

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This month we prepare our hearts for the birth of the Light of the World. One of the best ways to shine light into this world is to use our gifts and talents in service of others. Please consider sharing that love through service and participation in Children's Education. Here's what is going on this month:



December 11th - The Bethlehem Bazaar and Children's Choir Program. Come to the 10:00 worship for a special worship geared towards families so God's children of all ages can worship together. We will hear Mary's story, sing, move and converse about how the joy of Advent prepares us for the Light of the World to come on Christmas! Stay after worship to walk through a marketplace at the time of Jesus' birth where families will build, bake, and create at various stations. Families will also hear the Christmas story and experience a living manger scene.

Christmas Eve 4:30pm will be a family service. We are looking for young musicians, readers, artists, and more to celebrate Christmas by using their talents. We will meet Sunday, December 18th after church to practice the service. No commitment needed!

Looking Ahead:

Sunday School Teachers Needed! We are looking for adults and youth to help once a month or more. Strengthen your faith by spending time with God's greatest blessings, children! Click this link to sign up: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gjGG02EmFphL-K-a6F3aOZeAxi4X6ymqMpCSI-q2Ks4/edit?usp=share_link



Let's reflect on this year and what's been placed on our path. May we listen to our hearts for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we let go or cling to what 2021 has put before us. I pray this Advent is filled with contemplation, abundant love, and many opportunities to share the light of Christ with this church, our community, and God's glorious earth.

DECEMBER 2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>The deadline for the January issue of The Messenger is December 19th</p> </div>				<p>1 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 12:00 PM UWF Christmas Unit Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team 7:00 PM Advent Study "While We Wait" via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>2 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 1</p>	<p>3 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>
<p>4 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 11:00 AM Families in Faith 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp</p>	<p>5 12:30 PM Food Pantry 12:30 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study 6:00 PM Staff Parish 6:30 PM Church Conference</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner</p>	<p>7 11:15 AM Advent Study "While We Wait" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:45 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Confirmation Class of 2023 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 2 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 5 6:30 PM ABC Preschool Christmas Concert 7:00 PM Advent Study "While We Wait" via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Potawatomi Cub Scout Round Table</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 10:00 Girl Scout Holiday Celebration 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service 9:00 PM LIFE Missions Letter Writing</p>
<p>11 8:30 & 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Services 10:00 AM Christmas Family Event 11:00 AM Bethlehem Bazaar in the gym</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Magic Mondays 12:30 PM Food Pantry 12:30 PM Coat Ministry 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner</p>	<p>14 11:15 AM Advent Study "While We Wait" 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:45 PM Children's Choirs 6:00 PM LIFT Dinner 6:45 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>15 7:50 AM B.A.D. (HS Breakfast & Devotion) 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Littles Sing 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 5:30 PM Visioning Team 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Advent Study "While We Wait" via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>16 11:00 AM ABC Preschool Littles Sing 7:00 PM Girl Scouts Secret Santa Pack 141 Pack Meeting</p>	<p>17 7:30 AM UMM Breakfast 3:00 PM Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 PM CHRISTMAS CANTATA</p>
<p>18 8:30 & 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS CANTATA 10:00 AM Children's In-person Sunday School 2:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Middle & High School Youth Grp</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Sing 12:30 PM Food Pantry 12:30 PM Coat Ministry 6:30 PM Worship Comm.</p>	<p>20 11:00 AM ABC Preschool 3's Sing 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 3 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner 7:00 PM Leading Ladies</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM Caring Ministry Team 11:15 AM Advent Study "While We Wait" 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Christian Kids 5:45 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service at Salem Lutheran</p>	<p>22 No School for ABC 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM TOPS 6:30 PM Pack 141 Den 5 7:00 PM "Advent Study "While We Wait" via Zoom 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>23 No School for ABC</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 11:00 PM (see page 9 for details)</p>
<p>25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 9:00 AM Pre-recorded Worship Service on Facebook & YouTube</p>	<p>26 Church offices closed No School for ABC 12:30 PM Food Pantry 12:30 PM Coat Ministry</p>	<p>27 Church offices closed No School for ABC 6:00 PM Pack 141 Den 4 6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study & Dinner</p>	<p>28 Church offices closed No School for ABC</p>	<p>29 Church offices closed No School for ABC 4:30 PM TOPS 7:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p>30 Church offices closed No School for ABC</p>	<p>31 5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service</p>

To Our Church Family:



A big Thank You to all! As the fall gives way to Advent, we thank everyone who helped make the Craft Show a success – the volunteers and the shoppers.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON at SUMC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

10:00am Advent Family Worship

Come to a special service geared towards families so God's children of all ages can worship together. We will hear Mary's story, sing, move and converse about how the joy of Advent prepares us for the Light of the World to come on Christmas!

11:00am Bethlehem Bazaar in the gym

Stay after worship to walk through a marketplace at the time of Jesus' birth where families will build, bake, and create at various stations. Families will also hear the Christmas story and experience a living manger scene.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AND 18

5:00pm, 8:30 and 10:00am Christmas Cantata - "The Winter Rose"

The Winter Rose incorporates both traditional carols and newly composed anthems that visit the timeless Christmas story with fresh insight. Through use of music, narration and simple symbolism, the cantata presents the life of Christ from prophecy to passion. The orchestrations effectively capture the essence of Joseph Martin's well-crafted piano writing, fully expressing the color and beauty of this musical tableau.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00pm The Longest Night/Blue Christmas: A Service of Loss, Healing & Hope at Salem Lutheran Church, 1145 DeKalb Ave., Sycamore

Congregations of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Sycamore United Methodist Church, Salem Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church of DeKalb, Bethlehem Lutheran, and Federated Church of Sycamore

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:30pm Family Service with Candlelight and Communion
Nursery will be provided.

7:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion
Nursery will be provided.

11:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am Pre-recorded Christmas Day Service

There will be NO in person worship. Please watch our service online in the comfort of your home.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE

5:00pm Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00am Worship Service - one service only

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE