

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

School and Early Learning Center



December 3, 2023

"Keep Watch for Christ's Advent"

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WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS!

OUR SAVIOR WELCOMES YOU AND SO DO WE! Whether you are a first time visitor or returning guest, we are delighted to share our worship with you! Please come back and worship with us again!

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES We love to have children in worship! However, parents who find a need to take their children out of the service are welcome to use the narthex/lobby area while you quiet your little one. The infant care room is also available for nursing mothers. You'll be able to hear the service from the speaker system in the narthex and in the infant care room. A changing table is in the men's and women's bathrooms. If needed, please ask an usher for assistance.

REGISTRATION CARDS are in the hymnal racks. Guests may use the registration cards to let us know how we may further assist you. We encourage all members and guests to fill out a registration card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

A HEARING LOOP is installed in our sanctuary for your convenience. If your hearing aid has a t-switch, you'll need to activate it when you're in the sanctuary, in order to benefit from the hearing loop.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES Holy Cross offers a full Christian elementary school (grades PreK3 – 8), Kids Crossing Early Learning Center (6 weeks – 5 years), Sunday School and children's youth activities.

PRAYER CONCERNS? Contact Sherri Bartels, sbbartels.sb@gmail.com. Our prayer chain is a large group of Holy Cross members who join you in calling upon God with your prayer concerns. Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

USHERS are on duty during church services. Please speak with them if you need assistance.

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP If you or a loved one are unable to attend worship, our 8:30 am service is live streamed on the church website.

PHONE-IN WORSHIP Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (Call any time after 8:20 a.m.; dial 1 (978) 990-5164 followed by access code 6279900#)

ON DEMAND WORSHIP View or listen to any of our past worship services by visiting our website and click the tab labeled Live Stream/Sermons and click sermons.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sunday, 8:30 am 10:30 am and Monday, 6:30 pm.

TRANSPORTATION FUND If you have no other way to church, taxi rides to and from church are available. Please speak with the Pastor or call the church office at 249-3101.

THE LORD'S SUPPER is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and the following Mondays. We believe the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity of faith in our Savior as well as our unity in all scriptural teachings. Since the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod profess full unity in biblical teaching, members of these church bodies are welcome to commune with us. If you are a member of a different Christian church, we ask that you wait to commune until you have closely examined what we teach and are convinced that we are a church that preaches the true Word of God, and that you are in agreement with our teachings. Please speak with a pastor if you are a guest and would like to commune.

MISSION STATEMENT The mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our community through the Means of Grace, reaching out to the lost, and nurturing our fellow believers. This we do through worship, education, service and fellowship that God's kingdom may grow.

"Keep Watch for Christ's Advent"

**December 3, 2023
First Sunday in Advent**

The Common Service – Page 15

Senior Choir....."Dance and Sing, For the Lord Will Be With Us"

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

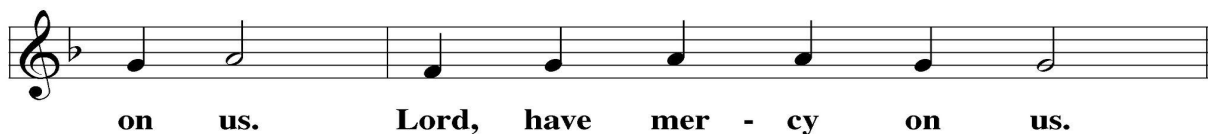
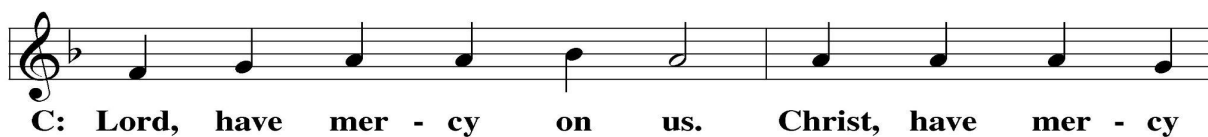


Confession of Sins

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy



M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory Be to God



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: **A - men.**

Old Testament LessonIsaiah 63:16-17; 64:1-8

Our everlasting Redeemer comes down to save sinners.

You, the Lord, are our Father.

Our Redeemer from everlasting is your name.

17 Why do you cause us to wander from your ways, Lord?

Why do you harden our heart so that we do not fear you?

Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes that are your heritage...

64:1 Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down.

Mountains then would quake because of your presence.

2 As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries.

Then nations would quake in your presence.

3 You did amazing things that we did not expect. You came down.

Mountains quaked because of your presence.

4 From ancient times no one has heard. No ear has understood.

No eye has seen any god except you, who goes into action for the one who waits for him.

5 You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways!

But you were angry because we sinned. We have remained in our sins for a long time.

Can we still be saved?

6 All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth.

All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind.

7 There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you.

So you hid your face from us. You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

8 But now, Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter.

All of us are the work of your hand.

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 24

(selected verses)

M: The earth is the Lord’s and everything that fills it, the world and all who live in it,

C: because he founded it on the seas, and he established it on the rivers.

M: Who may go up to the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God who saves him.

M: Lift up your heads, you gates.

C: Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors, and the King of Glory will come in.

M: Who is this King of Glory?

C: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

M: Lift up your heads, you gates.

C: Lift up, you ancient doors, and the King of Glory will come in.

M: Who is he, this King of Glory?

C: The Lord of Armies—he is the King of Glory.

Epistle Lesson.....1 Corinthians 1:3-9

God’s gifts prepare us for the coming of the Savior.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! 4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. 5 You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, 6 because the testimony about Christ was established in you. 7 As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

(Revelation 22:20)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Lighting of First Advent Candle: The Prophecy Candle

Hymn #2....."Savior of the Nations, Come"

1 Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!

4 From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell –
High the song of triumph swell!

5 Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

Sermon.....Pastor Piet Van Kampen....."Keep Watch for Christ's Advent"

Mark 13:32-37

32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. 35 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Preface

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy names and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



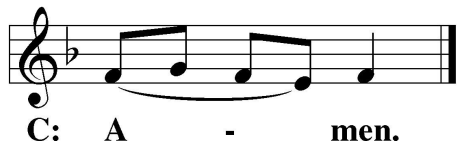
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

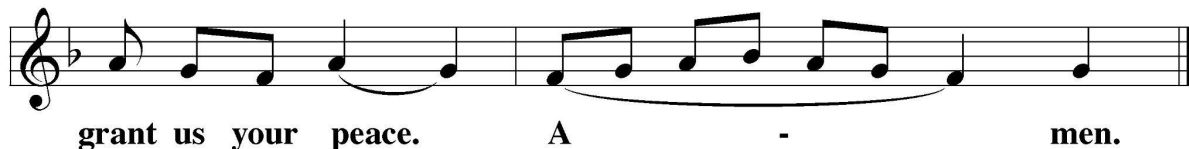
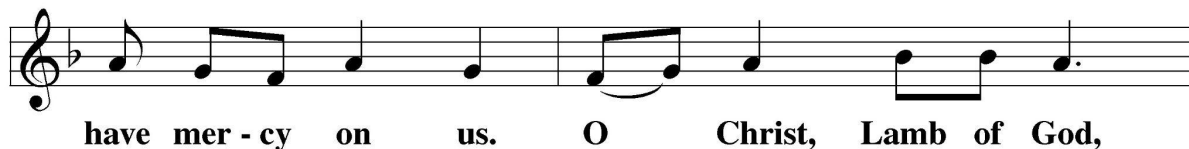
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God



The Distribution & Hymn #310 (vs 1-9)....."I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"

1 I come, O Savior, to your table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.

Refrain:

*Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

2 Oh, grant that I in manner worthy
May now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me,
Look only unto You, O Lord!

Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet you your lamb will banish never
Nor will your faithfulness depart!

Refrain

4 Oh, let me loathe all sin forever
As death and poison to my soul
That I through willful sinning never
May see your judgment take its toll!

Refrain

5 Your heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to you in faith are turning;
So let me, too, come trustingly.

Refrain

6 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
Receive me graciously, and gladden
My heart, for I am now your guest.

Refrain

7 You here will find a heart most lowly
That feels unworthy in your sight,
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely
Your merit pleads, as it is right.

Refrain

8 By faith I call your holy table
The testament of your deep love;
For by your gift I now am able
To know the heart of God above.

Refrain

9 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.

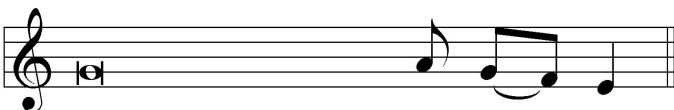
Refrain

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

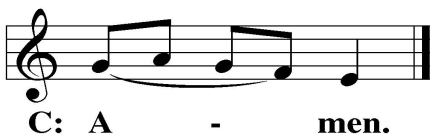
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

Prayer after Communion

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Benediction

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Announcements If you attended online services at Holy Cross, please send an email to frontoffice@holycrossmadison.org, and in the subject line write "Attended" and after that the number of people who watched from your home.

Holy Cross News & Notes

December 3, 2023

Calendar for the Week – December 4 - December 10

Monday

- Worship Committee - 5:00pm
- Worship - 6:30 pm
- Bible Information Class- 7:30 pm

Wednesday

- School Chapel - 8:10 am
- Bible Study - 10:00 am
- Adult Handbell Choir - 6:00 pm
- Senior Choir - 7:00 pm

Thursday

- Ladies Aid - 12:30pm

Sunday

- Worship - 8:30 and 10:30 am
- Bible Class- 9:45 am
- Sunday School - 9:45 am

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK Cassidy Olson and Keryl Ketter were hospitalized this week. Please pray for them and our homebound and for those in nursing homes.

TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERING

Our delegates and pastors at convention set a budget of \$840,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries for 2023. Note the special envelope provided in your bulletin or in the entry for this special offering to the ELS and its missions. **Please write your check out to our church** and designate it for the synod's budget from your congregation and provide your financial secretary with your envelope number or name. As you do, please remember, our strategic plan to *Tell of Jesus and His Love* is our five-year plan for our churches, pastors, and boards to prayerfully implement (2023 Synod Report pp. 132-147). At the same time, may all our gifts be in accord with our Lord's abundant blessings to us.

Special Note: Our synod's Board of Trustees, in addressing the needs of our college, have asked and the delegates at convention have agreed that all funds over \$840,000 in congregational gifts will go to Bethany Lutheran College to help with their deficit. So if congregational giving totals \$860,000 this year, \$20,000 of those gifts will be additional funds for Bethany. May our Lord give us all generous hearts to support the work we do together as a synod, and all we do through our Bethany College.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES FOR PARENTS

The Sunday School Christmas Service will take place Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m. We are already beginning to learn our parts. December 3 and 10 we will be practicing our service in the sanctuary between services in place of regular Sunday School class. There will be Sunday School on the 17th to give us one last opportunity to prepare. Please make sure your student(s) is (are) in attendance for those three Sundays (12/3, 12/10 and 12/17). It is important to have as many students there as possible as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Thank you! The Sunday School Christmas Service will be livestreamed for friends and relatives who cannot attend in person.

THE FAMILY ALTAR

How about a 4 week spiritual-bonding-time with you and your children at home? Advent is almost here. Advent is the 4 weeks of the church year where we get ready to celebrate Jesus coming as a baby and into our hearts. Advent is a great time to have short daily devotions for the whole family... maybe after supper or at bedtime.

If your child attends our school, they'll be bringing an advent devotion booklet home from school.

If your child doesn't attend our school, devotion books are available at the welcome center.

If you know a family with children, take one from the welcome center and share it with them.

Help make Advent a special time of spiritual preparation for your family! Begin with the first devotion on the first day of advent: Sunday, December 3!

COOKIE WALK VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, December 9th!

Thank you to all who have signed up to donate cookies/baked goods, the support is so amazing! We are still looking for a few more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the sheet located in the welcome center. Any questions email Jodi Hougan at jspeth11@gmail.com

SERMON VIDEO LINKS

Holy Cross will begin sharing videos of our most recent sermons with you. Our hope in doing this is twofold. First of all, we hope that, as you watch these videos yourself as a part of your own regular devotional life, the Holy Spirit would strengthen your faith during the week. Secondly, we ask that you share these videos with your friends, relatives, and neighbors as you see fit. You could forward this email on to those you think would be interested, or simply copy and paste the links to your social media feed for all your online friends. For example, if there's a sermon that addresses a particular topic, such as grief, you can pass it on to someone you know is grieving. Our Savior told His disciples to "preach the gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15), and this is just one more we can fulfill His great commission. And we have the promise from God that, as the apostle Paul says, "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ" (Ro 10:17). The Holy Spirit will work on human hearts wherever His Word is proclaimed.

11/22/23 - Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

<https://vimeo.com/887496378?share=copy>

11/26/23 - The Last Enemy to be Destroyed - Pastor Mark Bartels

<https://vimeo.com/888438016?share=copy>

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM OUR EARLY LEARNING TEAM!

Love spreading holiday cheer? This season, consider spreading some holiday cheer to our Early Learning Center classrooms!

We have ideas both big and small to help our children learn and grow.

Scan the code with your camera to check out our Amazon wishlist. In the comment section, you will see which classroom the item is for. Dreamers: infant room, Explorers: one-year-old room, Growers: two-year-old room, Movers: 3K, Thinkers: 4K

Thank you very much for your love, generosity, and support!



ELS YOUTH "UGLY CHRISTMAS PARTY"

7th-12th graders are invited to join other area ELS youth for an evening of bowling, pizza and soda at the annual Ugly Christmas Party. This year's party is set for Sunday, December 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Spartan Bowl in McFarland. The cost will be \$10 per person and includes bowling, shoe-rental, pizza and soda. Prize awarded for the ugliest dressed!

ENDOWMENT FUND MATCHING OPPORTUNITY

A gracious donor has offered to match dollar for dollar any donations given to the Endowment Fund up to \$10,000. A gift to the Holy Cross Endowment Fund is a gift which 'keeps on giving.' Once a gift is given to the fund, it builds interest or income. Only the interest is spent annually. The larger the fund grows, the greater the amount of interest that's available for the congregation to use for key non-budgeted items. This is an important fund for Holy Cross. For example, this year the Fund was used for the purchase and installation of 12 outdoor security cameras. Currently the Endowment Fund balance is approximately \$385,000. Praise God for this wonderful opportunity!

SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULE

- Sunday School Christmas Program: Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 10:30 am
- Holy Cross School Christmas Program: Wednesday, Dec. 20 @ 4 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 24
 - 9 am Advent 4 worship service
 - Christmas Eve Worship at 2:30 pm & 4:30 pm
- Christmas Day Monday, Dec. 25 @ 9 am
- New Year's Eve Sunday, Dec. 31 @ 9 am (with individual absolution)
- New Year's Day, Monday, Jan 1 : No worship service

HOLY CROSS YOUTH PACKER PARTY

Attention 7th-12th graders! The Holy Cross Youth Group December event will be a Packers Party!

When: Sunday, December 17th, after the 10:30AM Sunday School Christmas Program.

Where: Holy Cross, Fireside Room.

Time: 12:00PM - 3:30PM.

We will be streaming the Packers vs Buccaneers game in the Fireside room. There will also be food, games, and card-making for our homebound members and for those in local assisted living and nursing homes. Please use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B49AEAD2CA1F85-46448963-december> to RSVP. We would love to see you there - wear your favorite Packers attire! Questions? Please speak with Pastor Van Kampen or Sophie Griffin. Thank you!

24-25 KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION MEETING

Mark your calendar for January 10, 2024 for a presentation on Kindergarten for the 24-25 school year. It will be held in the Fireside room from 4:30-5:30 PM. This event is for parents to hear about our program and meet the teacher and principal. Please use this link to sign up. Spread the word about our great school!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30EoD4EAFAB2CAAF7-46493473-kindergarten>