

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday School (All Ages) - 8:45am  
Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship - 10:00am  
Shepherds - Tyler Ellis & Russ Taylor  
K.T. Service, 1:30pm - Elder, Jim Niewold

## Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve Service, 11:00pm - Elder, Kammy Johnson

## Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Birth of Christ

## Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

January Newsletter Deadline

## Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Colleen & Don out of town to spend time with family

## Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School (All Ages) - 8:45am  
Youth leading Worship - 10:00am

## Looking Ahead

- Epiphany Party after Worship at the Lawrence Home on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing  
and faith for these friends and family members*

Laura Adkins, Mike-Active 101st Airborne, 

Janet Goudy, Alan Turner, Bill Cofel,  
Jeff & Barb Legener, and Marcella Woodworth

*Homebound or in Nursing Homes*

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes

Jani Fraim, Wanda Larson, Marcella Woodworth

For the month of December, please bring *pickles, syrup, flour,  
white/brown sugar & peanut butter* for the Food Pantry.  
*As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.*

## December

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1st - Nancy Taylor



15th - Storm Smith

22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae

28th - Brock Johnson

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister  
Church (217) 379-2442 • Home (217) 379-2722 • Cell (815) 994-0674  
pastorfglc@gmail.com • www.paxtonfederated.com  
Organist - Priscilla Andreae

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Federated Church of Paxton  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



# Welcome to our guests!

Please take a minute to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

## Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

### Opening Prayer

#### \*BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**\*Gathering** He whom shepherds came beholding,  
In the arms of faith enfolding,  
He, the universe upholding,  
Our Good Shepherd, Christ draws near.

Lift your eyes, God's mercy knowing;  
Like the stars in heaven glowing,  
Count God's blessings overflowing.  
Look, O shepherds, God is here!

**\* Call to Worship** (*responsively*) *Isaiah 25, Psalm 24*

One: O Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock.

**All: To humble shepherds is proclaimed: a Savior, Christ the Lord!**

One: We are the people you care for, the flock for which you provide.

**All: You make us lie down in green pastures; you lead us beside the still waters; you restore our souls.**

One: All of us were like sheep who had gone astray, turning to our own ways.

**All: You lead us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.**

One: From death you raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

**All: Even in the valley of darkest shadows, your rod and staff provide comfort.**

One: "Have no fear, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

**All: At your table we are secure; our heads are anointed, our cups overflow.**

One: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd, to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

**All: And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

One: To humble shepherds is proclaimed: A Savior, Christ the Lord!

**\*Hymn** Where the sheep are safely grazing,  
Shepherds, sing, your Shepherd praising,  
Grateful hearts and voices raising  
To the Lord who cares for all.

See, in answer to our yearning,  
God's great love so brightly burning.  
To our need the Lord is turning,  
For God hears our plaintive call.

**Prayer of the Day** (*in unison*)

**Stir up, O Lord, stir up your might.**

**Release us from the shackles of sin,**

**which hinder us from living lives of faith in action.**

**Make us ready to approach the manger to see  
your most personal and lovely Gift for the world.**

**Make us strong to approach the cross**

**to see our Savior do his hard and heartfelt work.**

**For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn** Christians, come; the blessing ponder:  
Though like sheep we all did wander,  
Still our Shepherd seeks us yonder,  
For we have been sought and found.

Gracious Shepherd, stand beside us;  
To green pastures gently guide us;  
With your rod and staff provide us;  
Let your blessings still abound.

**The First Lesson** *Micah 5:2-5a*

**Hymn** Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**The Second Lesson** *1 Peter 2:22-25*

**Hymn** Oh, come, O King of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind.  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**\*Gospel** *Luke 2:8-12*

#### The Bethlehem Shepherds

While shepherds watched their flocks, in fields of Bethlehem,  
The angel of the Lord appeared to bring good news to them.

Our God in love provides a wonderful surprise:  
The angel of the Lord appears—O shepherds, lift your eyes!

A sacrifice awaits, a gracious God's reward.  
With faithful shepherds, come, behold the mountain of the Lord!

To pastures rich and green, through valleys dark and deep,  
The Savior of the world appears; the Shepherd leads his sheep.

#### Message

#### Offering

**\*Hymn** "People, Look East" PH, #12

#### Prayers

#### \*TAKING OUT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

**\*Benediction** *Hebrews 13:20-21*

One: From death God has raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

**All: His sacrificial death guarantees the eternal covenant.**

One: May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will.

**All: And may God, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him.**

One: And to Christ be the glory forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Closing Stanza** God's dear flock, rich blessing reaping,  
Guided waking, guarded sleeping,  
Safe within the Shepherd's keeping,  
Hear the angels' song anew!

*Tyler Ellis & Russ Taylor are the Shepherds  
Brian Funk will be providing the Voice of God*

\*All who are able, PLEASE STAND