

**12/20/2020**



## ***St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church***

***Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod***

**401 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.**

**Bangor, WI 54614**

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***Luther High School – 783-5435***

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. Since the word “advent” means “coming,” it is good for us to be familiar with his coming as a Babe in Bethlehem, his coming into our hearts by faith, and his coming again on the last day!

### **THE ADVENT WREATH**

It is an old custom to light a candle each week leading up to Christmas to heighten our excitement for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. Some assign a different symbol to each candle. Let us do the same this year: November 29: Hope!; December 6: Peace!; December 13: Joy!; December 20: Love! All these Christian virtues live in our hearts by faith in Christ. May these fruits of the spirit guide our thoughts and actions in preparations for Christmas!

### **OUR WORSHIP SERVICE**

Angels announced the Savior’s arrival. Mary didn’t understand it, but she received it with joy and trusted God to make it all come true! David received a promise that Jesus would one day shield, and shelter, and save his people forever! He must have wondered how. But faith received the message with joy and waits for the promise to come true. Take it all in! Rejoice to see God’s promises come true in the birth of Christ – a vivid reminder that he is God and is worthy of our praise and glory! He has accomplished what is impossible for mankind to achieve!

# THE COMMON SERVICE

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

James J. Chepponis

Gently *mp*

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

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*(The soloist(s) will begin the service by singing the “Advent Gathering Song.” Please repeat it and again after each verse)*

1. From the house of David he’ll come...
2. Sing the goodness of God, and come ...
3. God is faithful forever, so come ...
4. Give God glory through Christ who has come ...
5. For the angel proclaims he will come ...
6. As the servants of God we come ...

STAND

## INVOCATION

*(The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.)*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C:** Amen.

## CONFESSION

**M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C:** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.

## ABSOLUTION

*(The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners” [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?]. See John 20:21-23.)*

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

Mark 10:47

### Kyrie

*(Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression “Lord, have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.)*

**M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

**M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C:** Christ, have mercy.

**M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

**M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C:** Amen.

[M]

The Lord be with you.

[C]

**And also with you.**

[M]

Let us pray.  
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.

[C]

**Amen.**

The Word of God

**The New Testament Lesson: Romans 16:25-27**  
In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of these last moments before Christmas, find time to be quiet, to be alone, to shed tears of joy and gladness: He, the sum of all that God has to say to us, is about to descend once more to the lowly manger of our hearts! May we say with Mary “Be it unto me as you have said!” Come Lord Jesus!

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to strengthen you—according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—  
<sup>27</sup> to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Luther noted that the Virgin Mary received the message of the incarnation with a simple, “Yes!” She did not shave her head and enter a convent. She did not set herself up on a throne to be worshiped. She did nothing but receive! Mary did not pretend to grasp all that the angel said or its full implication. All she knew was that the message came from God, and that whatever he was about to give – even his only begotten Son! – she was ready to receive. Notice how clearly the Angel summarizes the incarnation – God promises us a miracle – true and complete God, true and perfect man in one person. “Be it unto me as you have said!” May we receive the word with such child-like faith!

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”  
<sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him

Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”  
<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”  
<sup>35</sup> The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible for God.”  
<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.”  
Then the angel left her.

93 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord’s A - noint - ed, Great Da - vid’s great - er  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer  
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him And gold and in - cense  
4 O’er ev - ’ry foe vic - to - rious, He on his throne shall

Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on  
wrong, To help the poor and need - y And bid the  
bring; All na - tions shall a - dore him; His praise all  
rest, From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing

earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, To  
weak be strong, To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their  
peo - ple sing. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And  
and all - blest. The tide of time shall nev - er His

set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -  
dark - ness turn to light Whose souls, con - demned and  
dai - ly vows as - cend, His king - dom still in -  
cov - e - nant re - move; His name shall stand for -

gres - sion, And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
dy - ing, Are pre - cious in his sight.  
creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.  
Tune: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN (76 76 D) Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601.

<sup>8</sup> “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

**NICENE CREED**  
*(Public confession is faith’s response to God’s saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible’s teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.)*

**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.**

*(\*The original text here reads “catholic,” a word meaning “universal.” The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history.)*

*BE SEATED*

**OFFERING**  
*(Moved by God’s love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.)*

*STAND*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**THE SACRAMENT**

*If you are visiting our service, the way we practice the Lord’s Supper might be different from the way you have seen it offered in other churches. The Bible teaches us to distribute this sacrament to those who have been taught and confessed their faith in the “real presence” of this Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:27). This instruction is given by our pastor so that all our communicants might be of one heart and mind as they join together in this sacred meal. If you would like to learn and confess these truths with us so that you may commune at the altar of the Lord, speak with the Pastor after the service. When you come to the same conviction through a study of God’s Word, we will encourage you to participate with us in this blessed Sacrament.*

**PREFACE**  
**(The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers’ hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.)**

**M:** The Lord be with you.  
**C:** And also with you.

**M:** Lift up your hearts.  
**C:** We lift them up 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, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

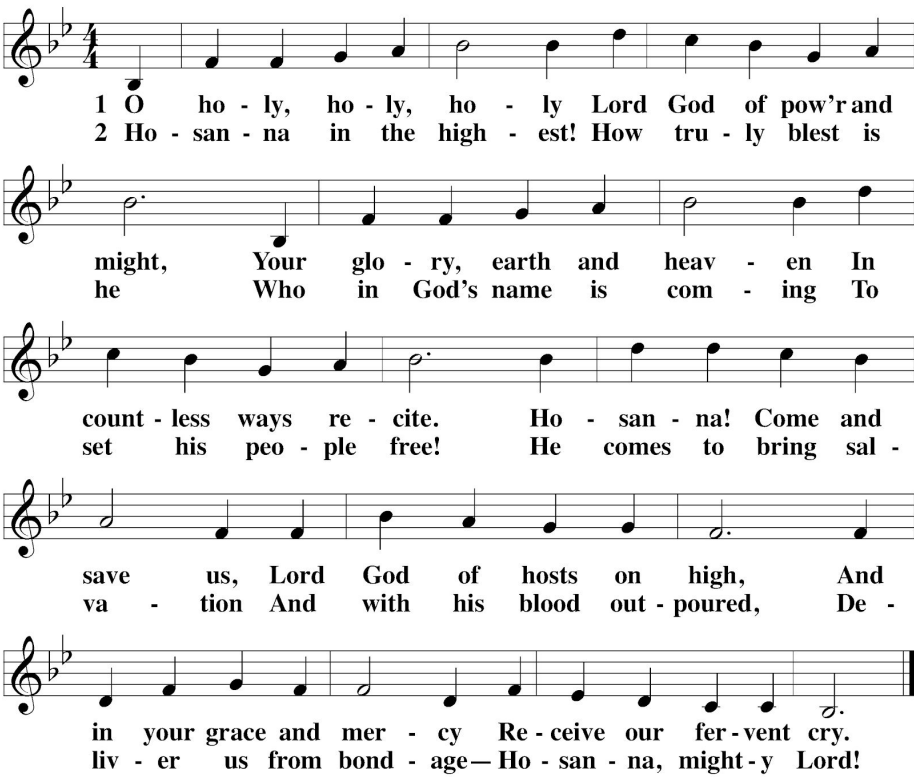
(Sanctus means “holy.” Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26].)

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ’s body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C:** Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

**C:** 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28  
1 Corinthians 11:24,25

(As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord’s use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ’s death.)

**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.

C: Amen.

Hymn # 56

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

56 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; Wise men sought and found him.  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There he lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a stran - ger.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round them.  
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a stran - ger.



Such a babe in such a place— Can he be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing.  
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found his fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night; All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise his name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry!

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

(The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord’s Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.)

Distribution Hymn: #41  
God”

“Let All Together Praise Our

CHRISTMAS

41 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
2 He leaves his heav’n - ly Fa - ther’s throne, Is born an  
3 He veils in flesh his pow’r di - vine A ser - vant’s  
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav’n a - gain And  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners’ sake His  
change in - deed! Could Je - sus’ love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
heav’n and earth did make, Who heav’n and earth did make.  
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
Of paradise today.  
The angel guards the gate no more;  
To God our thanks we pay,  
To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

Nunc Dimittis

(The Nunc Dimittis [“Now dismiss”] is also known as the “Song of Simeon.” Through God’s Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.)

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Tune: ICH FREU MICH IN DEM HERREN

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to

as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -  
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -  
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -

light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,  
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une

crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!  
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

(The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, “So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them” [Numbers 6:27].)

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: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: #23 (vs 1)

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

ADVENT

23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
3 Oh, come, O Day - spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

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# Announcements

## This Week:

<b>Sunday: 12/20</b>	<b>Communion Worship 8 and 10 am</b> Bible Study 9:15-9:40 Sunday School 9:00-9:40 at School
<b>Wed: 12/23</b>	Early Release from School/Provide own Transportation
<b>Thursday: 12/24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:30 and 6 pm</b>
<b>Friday: 12/25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Worship 9 am</b>
<b>Sunday: 12/27</b>	<b>Worship 8 and 10 am</b> No Bible Study or Sunday School
<b>Thursday: 12/31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve worship with communion 7 pm</b>

Thank you to **Greg & Barb Loomis** for the lovely poinsettias.  
Thanks also to **Carol Stuebs** for the many altar decorations.

Mr. Eric Duve has received a divine call to teach grade 4 at Eastside Lutheran in Madison, WI. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Mr. Duve welcomes your input as he weighs the call.

**2021 Church envelopes** are now available downstairs. Please pick yours up as soon as possible. If you are able, please deliver to those that are unable to attend church services due to COVID concerns.

**Usher Schedules** are available in the narthex. Please pick up your copy.

St Paul's Church/School is seeking to hire a **part-time Church/School Secretary**. 15-20 hours per week. For a complete job description, please contact Jeff Parr at [treasurer@stpaulsbangor.com](mailto:treasurer@stpaulsbangor.com). Application deadline is January 15, 2021.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27th!** Parents of Sunday School children, please take note of this. Sunday School classes will resume on January 3 at 9:00 am at the school.

**St. Paul's Church Records Update:** Please take a moment to complete the form in the narthex to update our church records with current names, address, emails and cell phone numbers. You may also do this electronically at [www.stpaulsbangor.com](http://www.stpaulsbangor.com) and click on "Sign Up for our Newsletter".

## **Virtual Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Due to COVID restrictions and concerns for our children, our Christmas Eve service will look differently than in years past. The day school children will record their Christmas messages to the congregation earlier in the month and these recordings will be shown in the Christmas Eve worship services. The service will close with the dimming of the lights and worshipping by candlelight. Please invite your friends to join us for our Christmas worship services - what better time to share our hope in Christ than at Christmas?

## **Offering Summary (includes online and memorials to Gen Fund)**

**Weekly Budget: \$9,948.43**

**Budget to Date: \$487,473.07**

**Received 12/13/20: \$7,594.63**

**Rec'd to Date: \$418,467.93**

## **Attendance - 12/13/2020**

**8:00 am: 76      10:00 am: 63      Total: 139**