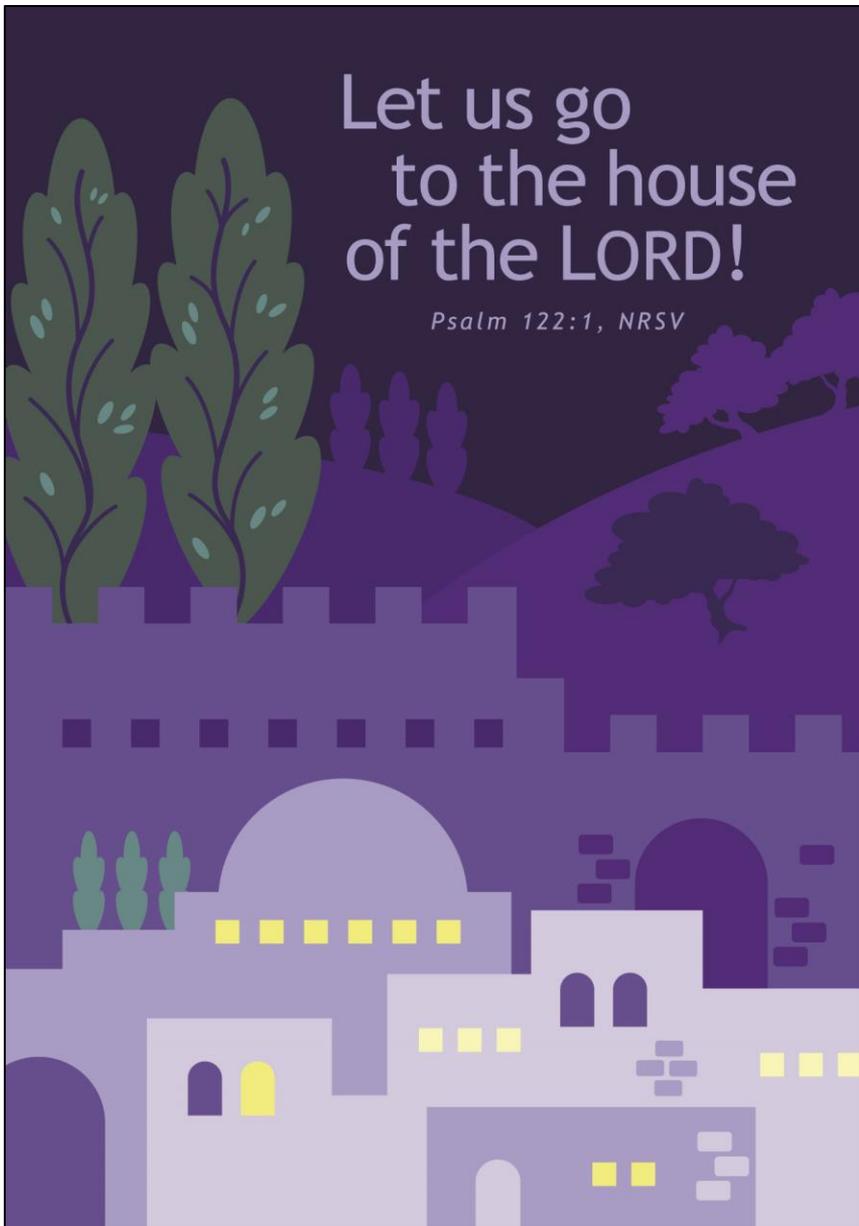


**BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**820 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533**

Let us go  
to the house  
of the LORD!

*Psalm 122:1, NRSV*



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Sunday, November 27, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.**

## INTRODUCTION

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

**PRELUDE** "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" -arr. by Fred Bock

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

( \* ) Please stand as you are able.

LBW (green hymnal)    WOV (blue hymnal)

## GATHERING

### \* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C: **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

C: **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on  $\dagger$  Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

LBW #34

**\* APOSTOLIC GREETING**

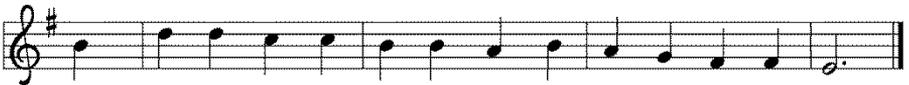
P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

**\* KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## \* HYMN OF PRAISE

vs. 1



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together.

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## \* ADVENT LITANY

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that

even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: **Amen.**

**\* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

vs. 1

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:*

*Let the light banish darkness.*

*He shall bring salvation to Israel,*

*God fulfills the promise.*

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD’s house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 122:1-9** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

**SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-4**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.*

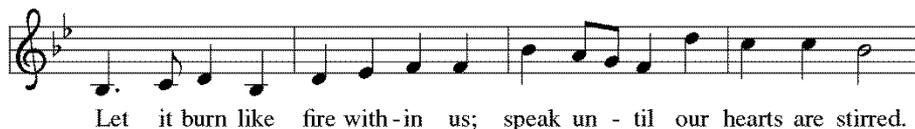
<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in

reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



\* **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.** (*sung*)

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field;

one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** (*sung*)

**SERMON** – Pastor David Kistler

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LBW #25

### **\* APOSTLES’ CREED**

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

P: God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. We pray especially for Lisa, Tina, George, Barbara, Tim, Jane, Myra, Bob, Ruth, and all those we name in our hearts or aloud...God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. We thank you for the gift of supply pastors who shepherd our congregation each Sunday. Bless us with patience, wisdom, and guidance as we go through this time of change, and we pray that you would lead us in the right

direction as we discern your vision for our future. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**\* SHARING OF THE PEACE** (American Sign Language)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share a sign of that peace with one another.

**\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## SENDING

### \* BLESSING

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### \* SENDING HYMN

“Awake, O Sleeper”

WOV #745

### \* DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### \* POSTLUDE “Come Unto Jesus” -James L. Rasmussen

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## **COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:**

**UPDATED WORSHIP GUIDELINES:** If you choose, face masks are no longer required in our building during worship. We respect the decision of those individuals who wish to continue masking. They are encouraged to take the precautions they feel are necessary to protect their health.

**SANCTUARY SEATING:** For your convenience and comfort the sanctuary now has open seating. The pews on the **RIGHT** side will remain taped for those who wish to continue to remain physically distant during worship.

**CONTACTLESS OFFERING** is being practiced. You may place your offering in the plate near the door of the sanctuary; give on-line; or through the mail. Thank you for giving generously as an act of worship and an expression of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity and faithfulness. Thank you!

**WELCOME to all who have gathered here for worship this morning!** If you are a visitor to Bern, please sign the guest book in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We rejoice in the opportunity to worship our Lord together!

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Church Phone: 610-374-4343

Church Email: [bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

Secretary Korinne: Tuesday–8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday–12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday–8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Members:** Lisa Miller, Tina Hissinger, George Schaeffer, Barbara Speicher, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, Bob Frey, and Ruth Keeney

**Family and Friends:** Sheri Mafeo, Bishop Christopher deForest, Eleanor, Shannon Helms and family, Austin Kennedy, Ann Skinner, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Marcia Stoudt, Pastor Joyce Seip, Peter and wife, Bill and Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Charles Trophe, Michael and Troy, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, and Lesley Wegman.

*(If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please contact Korinne in the church office. Please also notify her of anyone that could be removed.)*

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND SPONSORS:**

ORGANIST: Jane Battaglieri

OPENER: Theresa Shurr

LECTOR: Richard Gruber

GREETER: Nancy Malandra

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given to the Glory of God in honor of Jessica and Christopher Spelman's birthdays by Phil and JoAnn Ketz.

BULLETINS: Given to the Glory of God in honor of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces by Jay Field.

**INCOME TOWARDS EXPENSES:** 11/20/2022 = \$1,310.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 11/20/2022 = 49

## **CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 28–Lisa Miller, 28–Margaret Reagan

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 3–Andrew Kasisky

## **WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK:**

- Sunday, November 27
- Worship, 10:00 a.m.
    - First Sunday of Advent
    - Pastor David Kistler
  - Sunday School, 11:00-11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 29
- Library Reserved, 1:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 2
- Frog Pond, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 4
- Catechetical Class, 9:00 a.m.
  - Worship, 10:00 a.m.
    - Second Sunday of Advent
    - Pastor William Fryer
  - Sunday School, 11:00-11:30- a.m.
  - Social Hall Rental – Matt Kasisky

**THANK YOU** to Pastor David Kistler for leading us in worship this morning and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

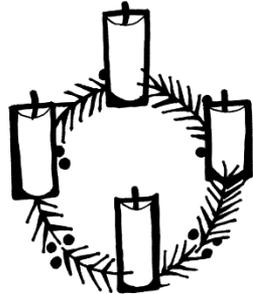
**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** – Join us on next Sunday, December 4, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. for coffee, Christmas cookies, and fellowship. Hope to see you there. – Worship & Music Committee

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** – We will be decorating our sanctuary with red and white poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like to order any plants, please fill out the order form included in your bulletin. A minimum of 60 poinsettias are needed in order to decorate the poinsettia tree, with 25 of those being white for the cross in the middle. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 11th. Thank you!

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** – We are taking orders for wreaths to remember our military veterans. The laying of the wreaths will take place on Saturday, December 17th. A service will take place before the laying of wreaths at 1:00 p.m. at Bern UCC. If you are interested in helping to lay the wreaths, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229. If you would like to order wreaths, there are extra forms on the round table in the narthex. **Orders are due by Thursday, December 1st.**

**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER DEFOREST** – We received word that the Bishop has been hospitalized and receiving treatment for a systemic strep infection. Doctors will also replace one of his heart valves in the very near future. Thanks to the gifts of antibiotics and modern medicine, he intends to be recuperating at home during December. We will be sending a card from the entire congregation of Bern to let him know that we are thinking of him and are praying for him.

**ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH** – One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.



Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

The **ADVENT SEASON** is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. On the round table in the narthex you will find several items that may be helpful during the coming Advent season and will bring a deeper sense of God's presence with you and great love for you. **Advent Study:** This booklet is filled with thoughts and questions to ponder each week. Taking quiet time with this booklet may provide a helpful antidote to the stimulation and commercialization that can be so overwhelming at this time of year. **Advent Calendar:** This year's calendar is bright with color and proclaims, "Glory to God and on earth peace." Open a window each day as a way to "count down to Christmas." You may find a prayer or a hymn that reflects the mood of Advent: both longing for and expecting God to fulfill God's promises of peace, security, and love for all God's children. Behind other windows you will find suggestions for good gifts, ways through which God works to fulfill those promises. **ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue:** You will notice items in the Advent calendar correspond to items listed in this catalog. You may find a gift to choose from to honor a loved one.



## TIME TO WAKE UP

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what's comfortable and "always has been" to what's actually happening right now. It's why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as "wake-up calls."

Yet it is never God's intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won't *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can't raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.



# *Christmas Cards* for our **Homebound Members**

You may have noticed a table with a basket on it in the hallway on your way into church. We are collecting cards to send warm wishes to our homebound members for Christmas and to let them know we are thinking about them. All you have to do is sign the card, put the member's name(s) on the envelope, place it in the basket, and we will take care of the rest.

Bern's homebound members are:

Robert Frey  
E. Berry and Margaret Hey  
Beatrice Kauffman  
Ruth Keeney  
Jack and June Kochan  
Arlene Lengel  
Ann Myers  
George and Jane Schaeffer  
Pauline Shuman  
Ronald and Phyllis Stonefelt  
Doris Supplee

Please have your cards to church by **Sunday, December 11th.**  
Thank you!



*Christmas Cards*