

TOGETHER IN FAITH



Saved by Christ, Connected by Love, Called to Care



"The theme for the second Sunday of Advent is "Peace." Today we will be continuing our look at Israel's tumultuous history during the lives and ministries of the Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Elisha."

This Week at SCC

December 6th: AA Meeting, 8:00 PM

December 7th: AA Large Division Meeting, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

December 8th: Cake to celebrate the baptism of Bud Provonche & the addition of New Members

December 10th: Council Meeting, 6:00 PM

December 11th:

- Ladies Bible Study NOT meeting again until January 8th!
- Praise Team Practice, 6:00 PM

December 12th:

- Funeral luncheon for Allen Dawson at Noon
- Christmas Food Pantry, 2:00-4:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th VOLUNTEERS

Lay Leader: Tricia Lóser

Reader: Cathy Merrifield

Praise Team: Nancy Downs, Bob Krieger

Singers: Melody Dotson, Terri Powers, Jim Lóser, Chris Roberts, Virgil Biggs

Tech Team: Luke Brogger, Beth & Brien Simpson

Advent Candle Lighting: The Hice Family

Greeters: Dean & Julie Gage

Ushers: James Merrifield & Jacob Walter

Nursery: Nancy Benjamin

Refreshments: Cake, downstairs following the service

Sunday Service

"Through Israel's History: Elijah & Elisha"

Pastor Ethan Tews

8 December 2024

10:00am

Readings:

- Luke 4:14-30
- 1 Kings 16:29-33; 19:11-14

Music Selections:

- "Angels We Have Heard on High"
- "Infant Holy Infant Lowly"
- "Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Bible Studies

Sundays:

- Men's Bible Study, 8:30 AM

Tuesdays:

- Women's Bible Study, 6:00 PM

Wednesdays:

- Ladies Bible Study, NOT meeting until Jan 8th!

FYI...

Kid's Busy Bags are on the coat rack by the Welcome Center
Please return them to the gray basket when done!



December

17th	Margaret Chadwick
21st	Tom Westbrook
24th	Jim Lóser

The Advent Devotionals Available at the Welcome Center!

Thanks to Mike & Tina Hooper
For printing them!

Popcorn \$5.00

- Cheese
- Caramel
- Toffee with peanuts

All proceeds go to the DR Missions Trip
See Connie Biggs or Sharon Darby



Use scrip for your Christmas shopping and gift giving. This is the final order for 2024.

NEW!! Shop online through *RaiseRight's* web site and earn rebates. No debit/gift cards needed at many of their participating retailers. You can also

combine rebates by paying with a scrip debit card. Check out their web site for details.

Using *RaiseRight* scrip debit cards makes you less vulnerable to identity theft. They also make a great virtual envelope system if you are following a Dave Ramsey type budgeting plan.

Earn rebates for the 2025 camp season, UNITE, Mission Trips etc. Due date for our next *RaiseRight* scrip gift/debit card order is **Sunday, December 8th**, which will be available December 12th at the church office.

Delivery of cards can also be arranged. Contact Mark with your order or order online by visiting www.raiseright.com. Contact the Scrip coordinator if you need Saranac Community Church's enrollment code. It is very easy to do this and your order is automatically sent to our church scrip coordinator. You may also bring your payment to church or pay online for a small 29¢ fee. Remember, you can reload or print many cards at any time during the month if you enroll in *PrestoPay*. Use the *RaiseRight* scrip phone app to make ordering easier. Scrip also now offers the option of having select gift cards shipped directly to you any time during the month for an additional fee. **There are usually a limited number of Meijer and Speedway scrip cards available for purchase in the church office as well.** If you have any questions on how this program works please contact Scrip Coordinator Mark Fritsma (MarkF@wowway.com). **Earn rebates to reduce the cost of sending SCC kids to Portage Lake, Branch Adventures or a similar camp. You can still participate and help build the scholarship fund even if you do not have a camp aged child. We also consider scholarship requests for church related functions, such as retreats and mission trips, from adults as well.** Due date for next month's order is January 12th.

Ongoing Prayers



Cancer:

Dan Bowers
Paula DeYoung
Brad Edwards
Chris, Pastor Tews' mother
Jim Plotts
Craig Schiller
Robert Shepherd
Lenny Venneman
Stephanie Voland
Teresa, co-worker of Bob H.

Medical Needs:

Kelley Becker	Kevin Hielman	Karen Taylor
Sawyer & Daxton Blain	Stan Hagemeyer	Patsy Veenstra
Catherine Cove	Dana Lepien	Stephanie Voland
Emma Dawson	Christopher Piché	Carol Washburn
David & Nancy Downs	Sharon Ross	Dave Washburn
"Micki" (4-year old with leukemia)	David Seymour	Randalyne Westbrook
Mela Dotson	Jess Spychiger	Colin Williams
Valerie Emelander	Harvey & Estelle Stark	Scott Zeeryp

UPDATES: This list reflects current needs that we are aware of. Please contact the office if your name (or the name of your loved one/friend) should be on the list. Also let us know if names can be removed. (We will need permission prior to posting any prayer requests.) THANK YOU!



Military Friends

Riley Bedard	Tyler Johnson	Brian Swiger
Zach Bevington	Ben Littlejohn	Conor Talcott
Kristin Carl	Andy Lytle	Cody Westbrook
Jasmine Chadwick	Ian Manion	Robert Westover
Kameron Conroe	Trey Matthews	Jim Whittum
Tyler Gorby	Charlie Miller	Jayne Wilson
Landon Hall	Patrick Miller	Bryant Zander
Audra Hawkins	Maverick Musser	
Kyle Hill	Jon Powers	
Levi Jackson	Richie Sands	
Jared Johnson	Mitchell Simmons	

Current Events

NEW

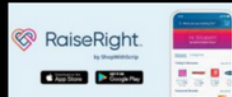


**Women's 10 Week Bible Study:
Luke (Lydia Brownback)
Tuesdays at 6 PM starting Nov
5th. (Contact Julie Gage)**

Purchase your copy of the book, "Luke: Great News of Joy" at: <https://a.co/d/73xHCMz>

**Council Meeting,
Dec 10th at 6:00 PM**

**Ladies Bible Study
Not meeting until
Jan 8th!**



**Next RaiseRight Scrip
order is due SUNDAY!**

**Men's Breakfast
(rescheduled)
Dec 14th at 8:00 AM**

**Christmas Food Pantry
December 12th & 19th, 2-4 PM
Volunteers needed for
prepping, Dec 11 & 18:
Noon-2 PM &
Pantry days: 1-4 PM**

Christmas Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays, Dec. 12 & 19, 2-4 pm. Volunteers are needed for prepping Weds Dec 11 & Weds, Dec 18, both from 12 noon - 2 pm. Volunteers also needed on Pantry days, from 1-4 pm. Please sign up on the board in the narthex near volunteer counter. Thanks to all for taking time to help this season as well as all year long!

Upcoming Events in December!

- Dec 15th: Children's Program, 10:00 AM
- Dec 24th: Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 PM

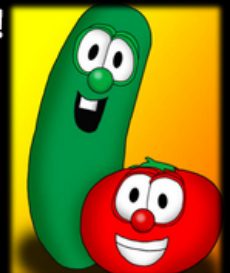
**Women of Worship:
Lunch at
The Social House
Dec 14th at Noon**

**Christmas Movie Event: Hosted by the
Christian Formation Commission!**

- December 14th, 6:00 PM
- Candy and popcorn provided!



Ice Age Mammoth Christmas



Veggie Tales Merry Larry
and the True Light of
Christmas

Upcoming Events

Men's 2025 Breakfast Topic

Starting in **JANUARY** and for the next couple of months, we'll be exploring the 7 churches of Revelation with presentations titled "The 7 churches, then and now." We'll see some of the largest archaeological sites in western Turkey and in some cases, the current cities that surround them. This series will also include a few surprise side trips to other Turkish destinations. Don't miss out. Men's breakfast, 8 AM the first Saturday of the month.



Schedule for Advent Candle Lighting

December 1st—The Candle of Hope
• Dotson Family

December 8th—The Candle of Peace
• The Hice Family

December 15th—The Candle of Joy
• The Bush Family

December 22nd—The Candle of Love
• Bart, Jennifer, & Marlene Denny

Christmas Eve Service (6:00 PM)
• The Downs Family

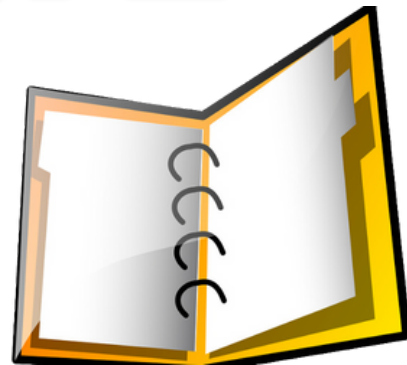
Opportunities **TO SERVE**

Nursery Volunteers Needed!


Sign up at the Welcome Center!!



For more information, feel free to contact Sarah Downs and/or Lynn Kaufman.



Additional opportunities can be found in the 3-ring binder at the Welcome Center!



*A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God's salvation.* Luke 3:3-6

Advent 2024

Dear Churches of the Great Lakes Conference,

In this season of Advent, as you prepare the way for the Lord in your own heart, anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, spend time with family and friends, and reflect the joy of God's salvation to children, teenagers and adults who are important to you or who join you for worship and special events hosted by your congregation, may you experience the deep joy that only He can give.

We who serve on the staff of the Great Lakes Conference are grateful for your church's ministry in your community. We are grateful for your partnership with the other 73 Covenant churches in the 8 states of our region as we strive to start new churches and help strengthen existing ones. We are grateful for your engagement in the larger mission of the Covenant Church in the United States, Canada and around the world to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. And we are grateful for the many words of encouragement that you offer to us when we visit your church or answer your phone call. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with everyone you serve.

May Christmas Day be a day of rest and restoration for you. And may God bless you, your family and your church as you begin the New Year.

Respectfully and on behalf of my colleagues who serve our Conference Pastors and Churches: Alan Tumpkin, Jody Eidnes, Jani Gustafson, Peg Wolter, Kim Carlson, Dan Wolter, Peg Cichon, Kevin Butcher, William Mack and Pam Pangborn,

Garth McGrath



December 2024

Dear Fellow Servants of Christ,

As you gather for your congregation's Annual Meeting it is a privilege to greet you on behalf of the 74 churches in the eight states that make up the Great Lakes Conference of Covenant Churches. I join the Apostle Paul in saying to you, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

I am grateful for your church's work to serve people in your community, lead people to Jesus, help people grow deep in their relationship with God, equip people for service in Jesus' name and support regional and global missions. I am also grateful for your church's contributions to the Great Lakes Conference and the larger Evangelical Covenant Church so that together – in a three strand strong partnership – we may continue to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

During the past year, our partnership enabled us to plant "New Evangel Covenant Church" in Detroit MI, and to continue our support and coaching of the young churches we have planted in recent years, among them "New Wine" in Mason, MI, "Life Church Riverside" in Detroit, "Life Transformation" in Columbus, OH, and "Mosaic" in Grand Rapids, MI. Our partnership enabled us to provide missional vitality coaching, evangelism training, and leadership development workshops to pastors and lay leaders to help their churches sustain or regain missional traction. It enabled us to support new pastors in the credentialing process and care for pastors who experienced acute financial or emotional distress so they could remain healthy and whole in ministry. And it enabled us to help churches navigate serious conflict, prepare churches for pastoral transitions and coach churches through pastoral search processes to find their next pastor. Finally, because of the good work we do together, we received two new churches into full membership in the Conference and the ECC: Life Church Auburn Hills, in Auburn Hills, MI, and Healing Covenant Church in Paducah, KY. It was a good year of ministry together.

As we enter the new year may your church experience the grace of Jesus in your life together, the wisdom of God as you seek his guidance, and the power of the Spirit to fulfill your Kingdom calling. May God bless you richly as you serve together in Jesus' name.

Gratefully, and on behalf of our Conference Board and Staff,

Garth McGrath

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED!

One way we can stay Connected by Love is thru prayer! As James 5:16 says
“...confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



This Week's Prayer Needs

Christine Tews, Susie McNeil and family,
Peace for the USA, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, & the Middle East

(If prayers have been answered and therefore someone
needs to be removed from this list above, please let the office know.)

Special People of the Week: James & Terri McCready

SCC Leaders of the Week: Dan Kaufman, Chair of Stewardship Commission

Community Group of the Week: Saranac Community Schools for their donations to the Food Pantry and Christmas boxes

Government and Military Friends around the world

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SCC

December 15th:

- Advent Candle Lighting: Joy
 - The Bush Family
- Children's Christmas Program during the service

December 18th:

- Volunteers needed to help prep for Christmas Food Pantry, noon-2:00 PM

December 19th:

- Christmas Food Pantry, 2:00-4:00 PM (Last one for December)

December 21st:

- Fellowship Hall Reserved

December 24th:

- Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 PM

December 25th:

- Merry Christmas!

If you are NOT receiving weekly announcements and/or prayer chain information and would like to, please complete the form located in the church office or contact Jim Lóser at the email or phone number listed under "Contact Information."

Contact Information

Pastor: Ethan Tews (pastorethan@saranacchurch.org)

- **Pastor's Working Days:** Mon-Thur, Saturday (off on Fridays)

Office Manager: Jim Lóser (churchoffice@saranacchurch.org)

- **Office Hours:** Mon 9 AM-2 PM; Tues/Wed 1-6 PM; Thur/Fri 9 AM-2 PM

Phone: 616-642-6322

Website: www.saranacchurch.org