LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN
LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
The Harris Family: Troy, Blake & Alec
“My Soul Magnifies the Lord”

MEET & GREET
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
“Angels We Have Heard on High”
“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
WORSHIP CONTINUES
“Winter Snow”
Stephanie Carson, Solo

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER
3rd-5th Grade Children dismissed to Sunday School

CALL TO OFFERING
OFFERTORY
“Do You Hear What I Hear”

SCRIPTURE READINGs
Matthew 11:2-6 (NRSV)

MESSAGE
“An Angel with Buck Teeth”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

SONG OF DEDICATION
“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES
8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 13, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.
Teachers: Nathan Rodewald & Kelsey Propst

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (13/14 School Year) Room 3
Teachers: Hallie Pelham & Pat Cheek, Diane Musto

1& 2nd Grades Room 16
Teachers: Mr. Bill Sutton & Jean Swintek

3~5th Grades Room 8
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8.
Teachers: Melissa Patel & Pam Jeffre

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.
Teachers: Barbara Englehart & Carissa Johnston

In the coming weeks, let us prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the month. It is a prayerful time for giving thanks and confessing our sins, renewing our commitment to God, and hearing the Word proclaimed. Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact elder Jackie Koski (jackieandjerry@verizon.net), Chair of the Worship Team the week prior to communion Sunday.

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: The Gospel according to John is a challenging study. Yet it helps us see what Jesus had to face in trying to lead the people to God’s way. Imagine being taught by your religious leaders that it is wrong to do God’s will on Sunday. We read in chapter 9 such an incident. Join us as we learn more of what our Lord has done for us. Class starts at 9:45 but come a little early for coffee and a time to chat. Led by Doug Shierling.

TCI (Today’s Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11
TODAY: Do we have an understanding of what happens when the Lord’s Supper is shared here at Northwood? How would this understanding be affected, if at all, if the Communion were to be shared with others over the Internet? Bill Bitner will lead a discussion that will address examples of churches that are providing online communion as well as virtual churches in general. The class meets in rooms 9 & 11 at 9:30 AM accompanied by coffee and cookies.

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: “Christian.” Ask 100 people to define what it means, and you’ll get 100 different answers. In this series, we will explore the truth and fiction behind one of the most famous brands in all of history. Led by Vicki Krueger.
Order for the Public Worship of God
December 15, 2013
3rd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

WE GATHER
(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins. Please silence cell phones.)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

OPENING VOLUNTARY
Joseph M. Martin
"The Voices of Christmas—Prologue"

(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST
(Place complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and place it in the offering plate later in the service).

*CAROL #143  “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”  REGENT SQUARE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY—Isaiah 55:9-12
(8:15) The Gajentan Family: Peter & Susan
(11:00) The Luke Family: Dave, Diane & Betsy

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN #85
“We Gather As One”  TIP IN VELDELE

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
(stanzas 1, 2 & 3)

WE CONFESS

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)
Mighty and powerful God, your word says, “Rejoice always” ... but we would rather talk about the things that don’t go right. Your word says, “Pray without ceasing” ... but we go for days without even thinking about You. Your word says, “Give thanks in all circumstances” ... but our thankfulness is fleeting. Your word says “Hold fast to what is good,” while we mercies upon us O God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #88 (stanzas 6)
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WE SHARE

MUSICAL OFFERING  “In the Bleak Midwinter”  Gustav Holst
Melanie Cox, Violin  arr. Jason W. Krug
(based on the Christmas Hymn #144)

“The Voices of Christmas”
By Joseph M. Martin; Narration by Pamela Martin

“The Voices of Christmas”

The Voice of Israel
Narrator: Isaiah 40:5-6, 10-12
"O Come, Emmanuel"
Michele White, Soprano

The Voice of Isaiah
Narrator: Isaiah 40:3-5a
“Still Is the Night”
Cindy Huffman, Alto; Gene Ecker, Tenor

The Voice of the Shepherd
Narrator: Luke 2:8-11, 25
“Shepherds, Come Rejoicing”
Carol Zaffiri, Soprano

The Voice of the Star
Narrator: Psalm 19:2-4
“Listen to the Stars”
Dennis Rasmussen, Tenor

The Voice of Silence
Narrator: Habakkuk 2:20; Psalm 49:10
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
Barb Jordan, Alto

The Voices of Christmas
Narrator: John 1:1, 2b-3a, 4
“Good Christians, Now Rejoice” (congregation stand and sing)

Good Christians, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christians, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye need not fear the grave for Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
Wilbur Held

(You are invited to remain for the final act of worship, the closing voluntary. A closer look is welcomed if you wish to come stand next to the organ console.)

*Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.

“The Voices of Christmas”
Cantata Members:

Soprano:  Carol Zaffiri, Soprano
Tenor:  Dennis Rasmussen, Tenor
Alto:  Barb Jordan, Alto
Bass:  Dick Evans

Violin:  Melanie Cox
Flute I:  Adrienne Clover
Flute II/piccolo:  Kathy Terry
Clarinet:  Nikki Metropolous
Trumpet:  Diane Suris
Trumpet:  Emily and Steve Cantin
Percussion:  Diane Suris

Narrator:  Stephanie Carson
Tom Huffman:  Organist/Associate Director of Music
Babs Bailey:  Drama Coordinator
Garry Justice:  The Voices

Fontanini Nativity: On loan from Bailey Shields

The Italian Fontanini Family creates nativity figurines in a very detailed process that can take up to two years to complete from beginning to end. Once each piece is created each is hand painted by skilled artisans. We invite you to come forward at the conclusion of the cantata to get a closer look.

THANK YOU! Thank you to the Chancel Choir with extra cantata singers who worked hard over many weeks to present this in worship today. The addition of instruments adds immeasurably to the sound and the beautiful nativity shows fully the incarnation of Christ. We pray it brings you joy and blessing this Christmas season.

~Stephanie Carson, Director of Music