

HOPES AND BLESSINGS CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2018

From a prayer in the old Lutheran Book of Worship, we promised to "offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us - ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of God's gracious love". For the days in December, each council person and staff has selected a scripture that speaks to their heart - they have included a prayer or blessing or their thoughts and feelings of that scripture. We ask you to look up the scripture, then read their notes, or pray the prayer or blessing. From all of us on council and staff - Merry Christmas! and may you take a few minutes out of your busy days this month to listen for God's personal message to you.

Dec. 1 - Peggy	1 John 4:16	Holy Spirit, shine your love in us and through us, that there is no darkness.
Dec. 2 - Peggy	Isaiah 40:31	Renew our strength that we may soar like eagles
Dec. 3 - Pastor	Proverbs 3:5-6	God, I am trusting in you to lead and guide me and to keep me on the right paths. Sometimes it's hard to know or even see the way, so please help me. I know that you can and will. Thanks! Amen
Dec. 4 - Pastor	Philippians 4:5b-6	Dear Lord, I know you are near me always. Help me to not worry, but to turn everything in my life over to you. And when I don't get my way or all that I want, let your peace cover me and help me keep my sanity! Thank you. Amen
Dec. 5 - Rick	Luke 15:24	God, we pray for all who have found their way home to your table.
Dec. 6 - Rick	Philippians 4:19	Father, in the name of Jesus, we believe all the needs of our ministry will be met.
Dec. 7 - Sherry	Philippians 4:4	Dear Precious Lord, Give me courage to rejoice always, again and again, in your love, your grace and your mercies. I deserve nothing that you have given me but continue to breathe the air that you provide and sing your praises. Keep me forever rejoicing.
Dec. 8 - Sherry	John 4:13-14	Almighty Father, I come to you each day with a thirst that only your Word can quench. Your water gives me the courage to be loving and caring to others as you are to me. Allow me to not only drink of your life-giving water but to remember that with this same element, you wash my sins away.
Dec. 9 - Wayne	Psalms 23:2	Even in life's distresses, the Lord still gives us His Grace and Peace

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Dec. 10 – Wayne	Luke 2:11	Imagine a world without having a Saviour? So many live without. There are many of times in my life that I could not have endured without the Praise and Guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ.
Dec. 11 – Janice	Matthew 6:24	Dear Heavenly Father, please forgive us especially during this holiday season, remind us that money and material gifts should not be our focus.
Dec. 12 – Janice	Psalms 106:1	Dear Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for Your everlasting love and grace.
Dec. 13 – Mary Lou	1 Corinthians 13:4-13	I pray to you, Lord, that you will help me be more loving to my loved ones and neighbors
Dec. 14 – Mary Lou	Matthew 22:37	I pray to you, Lord, to give me patience in my interactions with my loved ones.
Dec. 15 – Richard	1 Thessalonians 5:18	Thank you God for all our blessings – seen and unseen
Dec. 16 – Richard	Timothy 1:7	There is strength in God! We have power with God! We have love with God! We have self-discipline with God!
Dec. 17 – Brenda	Psalms 31:24	God, we pray for the courage and strength that is given to us through our Lord and Savior to guide our hearts to give all hope and love.
Dec. 18 – Brenda	1 Corinthians 13:13	Lord, please give us the love to share to others so that this will give all hope and love to share to all.
Dec. 19 – Torren	James 1:17	God does so much for us. He gives so much to us and other people who are already so grateful.
Dec. 20 – Torren	John 1:16	God shows us how much he appreciates us in every way.
Dec. 21 – Laura	John 13:34-35	This is a blessing to us to be able to share this same love to one another that God gives freely to us. It is something that doesn't cost us a thing to do but reaps much reward to do!

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Dec. 22 – Laura	Galatians 6:10	The key to this verse for me is that it says ALL people. That is a challenge, but when we pray for guidance and trust God’s plan, we find that truly all are deserving because God sets our standard. How blessed are we to emulate our Father!
Dec. 23 – Heidi	Proverbs 3:5	Lord, help us to love You only – our Lord – recklessly and unequivocally
Dec. 24 – Pam	1 Corinthians 13	Today, take a little extra time to give someone in your family a hug, give a stranger a smile, and give God praise for all He’s done in your life. Just wondering... what is the greatest “love gift” you have ever received in Christmas pasts?
Dec. 25 – Pam	1 John 5:11	<p>Today, as we gather with family and friends, we can share the truths about God...that He gave us the Gift that we need, that we want, and that we could never afford to get for ourselves. He wrapped that Gift in a blanket and gave – voluntarily, sacrificially, and lovingly – to each one of us, the named recipients of His greatest Gift. Invite Jesus back into Christmas to take His place as the perfect Gift that never stops giving. I think it would be wonderful to experience a family member opening their present and announce, “I got Jesus!”</p> <p>Prayer: Dear Lord, Too many times I have excluded You from my Christmas and been satisfied with presents and stuff. Let me not be content until I experience the gift of You in my heart. Cause me to see You as the ultimate Gift. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.</p>

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Dec. 26 - Peggy	John 1:14	Thank you Lord for the gift of your Son - give us courage to spread his Truth in this world.
Dec. 27 - Heidi	John 3:1	We, as Christians, have a duty to spread the love God has given unto us, so that the world does know HIM
Dec. 28 - Peggy	1 Peter 1:3	Your mercy is great, Father God. Thank you for the living hope you have lovingly blessed us with.
Dec. 29 - Pastor	Joshua 24:15	Heavenly Father, there are so many people and things who want to be my god and ask me to follow them. They make so many promises that look so good. Please help me to keep my promise to follow you and serve you every day. Thank you. Amen
Dec. 30 - Pastor	Psalms 100	God, I'm so happy when I can come to your house, our church. I'm very busy all the time, and spending time with you there really refreshes me. I don't know what I'd do without you in my life. And I don't want to even try. Thank you so much, for you and everything!
Dec. 31 - Peggy	Isaiah 43:18-19	Lord, help us to open our eyes and hearts - to walk by your side as we begin a new year.