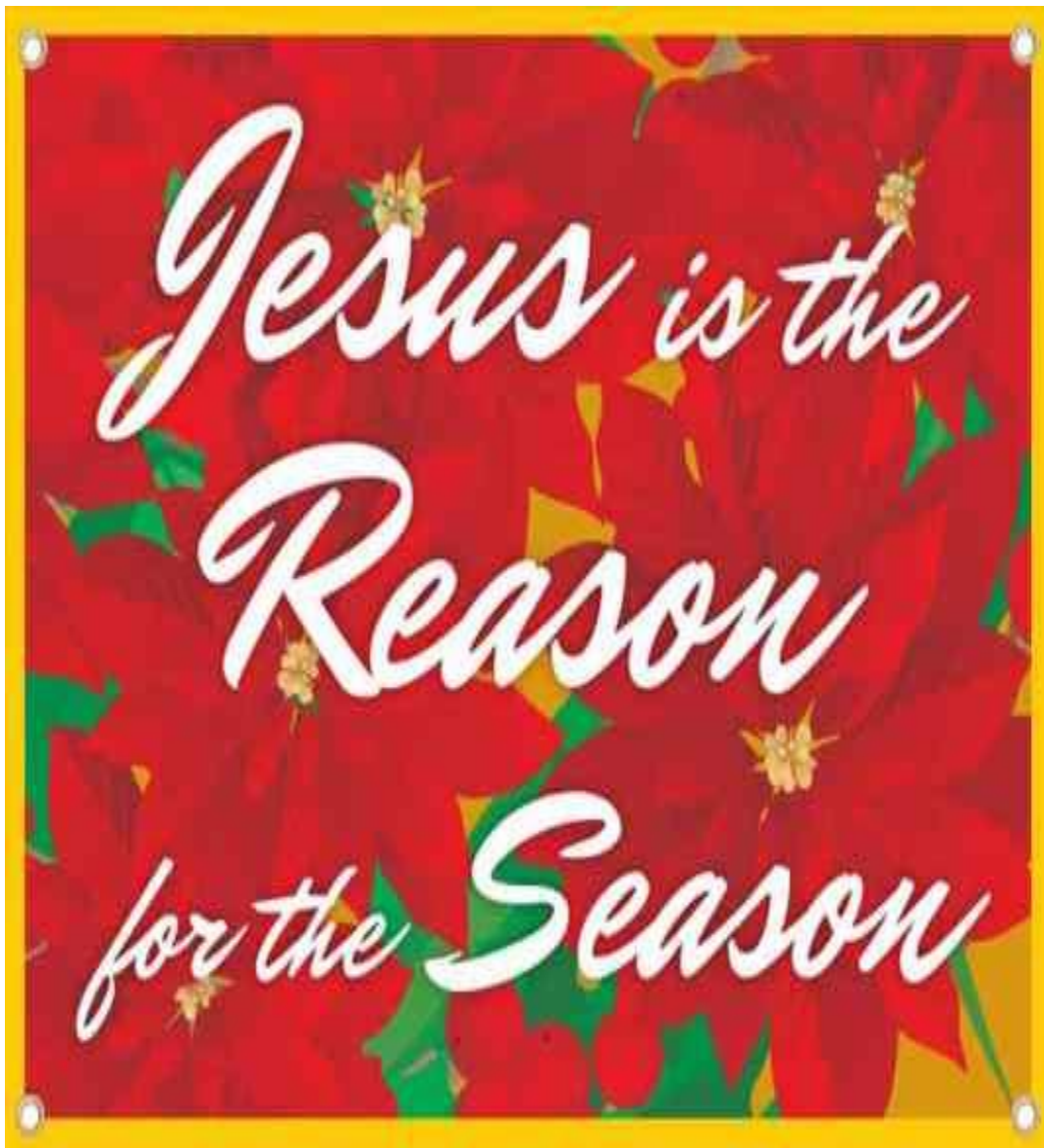


# **December Newsletter**



***Merry Christmas!***

***&***

***Happy New Year!***

**Lord, hear our constant prayers for . . .**

Mr. Burl Brown                      Mrs. Joan McFadden  
Rev. Marvin Griffin                  Mrs. Marian Martin  
Mrs. Agnes Hatcher                Mrs. Nancy Pritchett  
Mrs. Jackie Wilder

**Prayer Hour – Join us each Saturday @ 11 a.m.  
Dial: 1/681-999-0264 (Access Code: 391959#)**

**Prayer Requests/Concerns – November 12, 2022**

LeSure Family – on behalf of Je'dan LeSure – prayers are lifted up for him

Edward Coles and Family – loss of his wife, Sandra Coles  
Pastor Washington and Family – loss of his brother, Reginald  
Andrew Hill's family – bereavement (cousin of Dianne Harris)

Pastor Marvin Griffin and wife, Mrs. Shirley Griffin  
Earnest Murphy – recovering  
Burl Brown  
Jean and Victoria Davison

Pastor Washington and family/Church families  
Blessings on our Church services tomorrow

Bereaved families and sick/shut-in

Everyone online this morning and their families

Our young people in the city, recent shootings, overdose, etc.  
and for our schools, churches and community . . .

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Jackson, Mississippi – destroyed by fire

Stormy weather in Durham, NC and others going through the storms

Be with our Nation – Recent election and upcoming elections

Bind Satan, the enemy

Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers! In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen!**

## **Prayer Requests/Concerns – November 19, 2022**

Pastor Washington & Family – loss of his brother, Reginald Washington  
Funeral Service is today @ 11 a.m., Unity Lutheran Church, Birmingham

LeSure Family – on behalf of Je'dan LeSure – prayers are lifted up for him

Burl Brown – continued strength for him

Caregivers, doctors, nurses, etc.

Bereaved families and sick/shut-in

Pastor Washington and family/Church families

Blessings on our Church services tomorrow – Last Sunday in Church Year

All online this morning for prayer hour and their families

Bind Satan, the enemy

Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers!

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen!**

**By the Sick:** Merciful Lord, You have power over all things, including the illness we are struggling with now. We come to You for help and, if it is Your will, healing. Give us courage and faith to trust You in all things. Enable us to put everything into Your hands, and remind us of the forgiveness we have in Christ Jesus. Surround us with Your Spirit and those who show us mercy and care. Whether our illness is mild or severe, may it draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**By the Bereaved:** Dear Lord, it is hard to lose a family member or friend. You know exactly what it felt like when Your friend Lazarus died. Death was not a part of Your plan for this world. Comfort those who grieve, assure them of Your compassionate mercy, and one day bring us into Your heavenly kingdom, where there will be no more crying or pain. In Your holy name, Jesus. **Amen.**

## **Portals of Prayer – December, 2022**

**Advent (General)** – Lord Jesus, You promised to return in glory to judge both the living and the dead. Grant us repentance and sorrow over sin in this season when we remember Your imminent return in judgment. Lift up our heads and eyes as we await our redemption. Renew and strengthen our faith with John and all the saints of God as we remember Your first advent and look with anticipation in Your second coming. **Amen.**

**Christmas Eve (December 24)** – Merciful Christ, You are God Almighty, who is gracious and merciful to us. Through Your prophets and angels, You promised to dwell among us and redeem us from our sins. As it was with Joseph, aid us in obedience and trust in Your Word. Help us live in the truth of Your incarnation, knowing You are always with us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. **Amen.**

**Christmas Day (December 25)** – Jesus Christ, You are the incarnate Word of God, who is God and was with God from the beginning. From nothing, You created all things and rule over it all. You are the light of the world in which nothing is hidden. Renew our joy and gladness of heart as we celebrate Your birth, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



**For Acceptance of Life's Changes (New Year's Eve, December 31)** – Heavenly Father, You are God Almighty, with whom there is no change. Comfort us with the truth of Your Word through all chaos and tumult. Remind us through Your Word and Sacraments that although in this life people and circumstances change, Your grace, truth, and love for us will never change; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **STEWARDSHIP DEVOTION**

### **God's Faithful Stewards**

Knowing that God is the Creator and Provider of all things motivates us to worship Him with our faithful stewardship. As faithful stewards, we acknowledge God as the source and owner of everything. We are merely managers or caretakers of His property that is on loan to us. In our faithful stewardship, we seek to use our lives and blessings according to His will. We understand that our main purpose is to serve and glorify Him. We seek God's wisdom and strength to fulfill our stewardship tasks, and we are aware of our need to be responsible and accountable. The reward for our faithfulness will come from hearing God say, "**Well done, good and faithful servant!**" (*Matthew 25:23*).

**Prayer:** Lord, as I read and study Your Word, I pray that Your spirit will enlighten my heart and mind so I may draw closer to You and better understand Your will for my life. May my stewardship give You honor and glory. I pray in the precious name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus. **Amen.**

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Our Altar is adorned with beautiful flowers placed there by Mrs. Dorothy Lamar and Mrs. Margaret Bryant in precious memories of Mrs. Hattie Harris (mother), Mr. William Harris (brother), Mr. Nathaniel Jackson (brother), and Mr. Benjamin Harris (brother).

### **BULLETIN BOARD FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER**

**"Thanks"** to Mrs. Barbara Brown for decorating our bulletin board in the Narthex. **"JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!"**

### **LWML CENTRAL ALABAMA ZONE OFFICERS**

**"Congratulations"** to our LWML members who were elected to serve as officers: Mrs. Debra McDaniel, President, Mrs. Agnes Pegues, Secretary, and Mrs. Benita Madison, Christian Growth Representative. **SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

# **D E C E M B E R**

## **“Birthday Blessings”**

<i>1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>Rochelle A. Arnold</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Theodora Hatcher</i>
<i>7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Omari James McDaniel</i>
<i>11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Xenovia Murphy</i>
<i>13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Jessica Perkins</i>
<i>16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Caroll Ishman</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Thelma Dianne Harris</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Ollie Morrissette</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Edwin Peeples, Jr.</i>
<i>23<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Jordan Coles</i>
<i>23<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Steven Shawn Washington</i>
<i>28<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Alma J. Ware</i>

## **“Anniversary Blessings”**

*26<sup>th</sup> Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Barbara Brown*

*27<sup>th</sup> Mr. & Mrs. Edwin T. & Deborah Peeples*

*27<sup>th</sup> Pastor Steven & Dr. Cheryl Washington*

### **Quote:**

*Forever Thankful . . .  
Always Grateful . . .  
Abundantly Blessed . . .  
Counting our Blessings & Forgiven!*

