

Morning Worship Service 9:00 AM

December 16, 2012

Third Sunday of Advent

*Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.
If you need to leave the Sanctuary, please use the exits at the back.*

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Reflection

Advent means “coming.” It is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming as well as his first. The glowing flames of the candle remind us of the star of Bethlehem, and most of all, the Light of the World Jesus Christ.

Of the five candles, three are blue, one is rose, and one is white. The blue candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. The rose candle, the Shepherd’s candle, stands for God’s love and faithfulness. The white candle in the center represents Christ’s holiness and perfection.

The First Candle is the prophecy candle. It reminds us that Christ’s coming was revealed by God through the prophets hundreds of years before Christ was born.

The Second Candle is the Bethlehem candle, which points to the Christ becoming man in Bethlehem.

The Third Candle, the rose candle, is the shepherd’s candle. We recognize that we, like the shepherds, must come to Christ, believe in Him, and tell this good news to others.

Prelude

Prelude on Greensleeves - Callahan

Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord.

Call to Worship

Revelation 22:16-17

Leader: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

ALL: **The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.**

**** Glorifying God in Song**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn #208

**** The Invocation**

**** The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson

¹⁴ Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." ¹⁸ "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Confession of Our Sins

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

- A prayer attributed to St. Francis

Assurance of Pardon

Musical Offering

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Christmas Canticles,
A Cantata of Carols in Four Suites -
Benjamin Harlan

Suite III: The Child in the Manger

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella,
Bring a torch, come hurry and run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village.
Christ is born, and Mary's calling:
Hush! Hush! Beautiful is the mother:
Hush! Hush! Beautiful is the child!

Skies are glowing, the heavens are cloudless,
Bright the path to the manger bed.
Hasten, all who would see little Jesus,
Shining bright as yonder star.
Hush! Hush! Beautiful is the mother:
Hush! Hush! Beautiful is the child!

The Rocking Carol

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.
We will rock you, rock you, rock you.
For his bed a cattle stall;
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Away in a Manger

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

The Second Scripture Lesson

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to his own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Continued...

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

**** Offertory Hymn**
Once in Royal David's City
Hymn #225

**** Offertory Statement & Prayer of Dedication**

¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. ² From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. ... ¹⁴ Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Psalm 50:1-2, 14-15

The Offertory

O Come All Ye Faithful - arr. Mark Hayes

*PLEASE FILL OUT THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN
TO INDICATE YOUR ATTENDANCE.*

**** The Doxology**

(Hymn # 731)

Children K4 – K5 may be dismissed to Children's Church.

The Message

Rev. John K. Keen

Senior Pastor

**** Glorifying God in Song**
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hymn #201

**** Benediction**

Postlude
Hark the Herald Angels Sing - arr. Lani Smith

*** All who are able, please stand*

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Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome you in the name of Christ! You can find more information about us on our website at www.seminolepca.org. For questions or to share a prayer concern, call the office at 774-3881, ext. 700 or email us at: church@seminolepca.org.

Deacons' Mercy Line (813) 774-3881, Ext. 744

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call this church phone extension; a deacon generally checks the line daily.

SPC Family Matters



Congregational Meeting - Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting **TODAY, immediately after the morning worship service**. The purpose of this meeting is: 1) to elect new officers; 2) present the 2013 Church Budget to the congregation and entertain and address any questions not already answered previously; and, 3) to elect and seat/reseat trustees of the corporation. No other business will be discussed at this meeting (per our *Book of Church Order*).



Christmas Eve Worship Service - Please join us at **5:00 pm** on **Monday, December 24** for our annual candle light Christmas Eve Service.



Las Posadas – Seminole! We are invited to join in St. Paul's 4th Annual "Las Posadas" celebration, which commemorates Mary and Joseph's cold and difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of shelter. It will be **TONIGHT at 6:30 PM**. The event begins in the church courtyard (between the Sanctuary and Snyder Buildings) and will proceed to neighboring (pre-selected homes) where participants will sing carols and ask for a room for Mary and Joseph, and the new baby Jesus. Then everyone will return to the church (a symbol of the stable) and of course be welcomed. A simple fiesta ends the evening with food and marshmallows roasted over a fire pit. One and all are invited to join in - it's a lot of fun and symbolism for all.



Middle School/High School
Ice Skating Christmas Party
TONIGHT!
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The cost is \$10; bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$5 in value (and you must have a Notarized Medical/Release form). **Be at the church office by 4pm.** We will drive downtown together to ice skate, then we will head to the Dalton's home for dinner. Be sure to get picked up at the Dalton's (5903 N Tampa St.) at 8:00 PM.

Costa Rica Mission Trip
(For High School Students)
Information Meeting



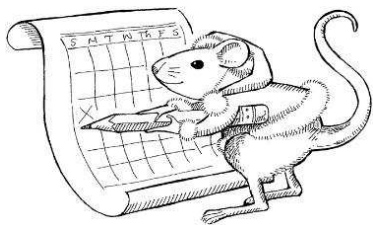
If you are a high school student or a parent of a high school student (rising 9th graders-outgoing 12th graders), and you have an interest or are just curious about the upcoming Costa Rica Missions Trip, this information meeting is for you! Questions, questions, questions will be answered ...

Cost? Safety? Purpose? Expectations? Preparations? Cross-Cultural Ministry? Language? Food? Et cetera... This brief meeting will present the basic purpose and expectations of this trip and answer any questions you may have. Come one, come all:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013
12:00 NOON; LUTHER TOWER

PCA Christmas Offering – If you would like to give towards the 2012 PCA Ministerial Relief Fund Christmas Offering, we can forward your check to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund, however, please make your check out to: PCA Ministerial Relief NOT to SPC. You may place your check in the offering plate. Alternatively, feel free to mail your contribution directly to the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund to the address printed on the enclosed flyer.

Programming Note – Please be advised that Sunday School will be suspended on Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Our Worship Service will be held at its regular time, 9:00 am, followed by a time of fellowship at 10:15 am.



Church Office Schedule – Please note that the church office will be closed from December 24 through January 1; the office will reopen Wednesday, January 2. If you have contributions for the 2012 tax year, please simply mail them on or before the 31st of December (versus hand delivering to the office).

End of Year Contributions - This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for the 2012 tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Toenes (813-220-4095).



Boxed Offering Envelope Sets - Boxed offering envelope sets will be made available upon request. **Envelopes are NOT required or needed.** Only request a set if they assist you in keeping up with your tithe and contributions. Contact Jackie if you would like a set: jtoenes@seminolepca.org or leave a message at (813-220-4095).



Saturday, January 12 @ 9 am – Unhanging of the Green & General Grounds Workday We'll need a bit of help taking down the decorations. Also, there are some projects for the grounds that need to be tended to such as weeding flower beds. Save the date and join in!



Removing of the Greens

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer/Praise:

- Larry Dickey – Praise! Larry is home!
- Kim Dostal (DIL of Judy Dostal) & Alan Dostal (Judy’s husband)
- Servy & Raquel Fernandez – parents’ health issues; Servy’s new business
- Amarnath Boodoosingh – better employment

Pray for our missionaries:

- Scott & Kathy Craig, MTW/Short-term Team Coordinators in Costa Rica
- Don & Judy Vander Ploeg, Wycliffe/JAARS; Papua New Guinea
- Dave Hawes, Navigators – training and development
- Jeff Lee, Reformed University Ministries @ USF

E-mail: prayer-list@lists.seminolepca.org

Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

Class/Grade	Class Teacher(s)	Class Room
Ages 2-3 / Toddlers	Bev Thomson	#115
Ages 4-5 / K4–K5	Jane Lambers & Liz Hickerson	#109
Ages 6-7 / 1 st - 2 nd Grade	Lisa Johnson & Laura Strickland	#105
Ages 8-10 / 3 rd –5 th Grade	Therese McKenzie & Cathy Armstrong	#107
Jr. High / 6 th –8 th Grade	Steve Pothoven & Brian Waugh	The Tower
Sr. High / 9 th –12 th Grade	Danny Dalton	#101
Adult – Walden Class	Matthew McKenzie	#108
Adult – Church & Sacraments	Ben Lambers	#102
Adult – Esther	Joe DeNitto	Church Office

Current Adult Classes

Walden Class – Room 108

Teacher: Matthew McKenzie

The Walden class is made up of folks of all ages, from young adult to those in their late eighties. From a group such as that you may well imagine the range of perspective the discussions take. This class is a Bible study class, open to class discussion, questions, and comments. We study Old Testament as well as New testament books. The length of time (weeks) to complete a Study depends on the class participation and the discussion level generated by a particular text. We do keep a schedule, but are open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit and follow where scripture leads. If this sounds like your kind of Bible study then by all means come and join us. Our worship service is conducive to the study of solid spiritual food, the encouragement to practice what we learn and to follow the leading of Micah 6:8: "To act justly, To love mercy, To walk humbly with our God". The Walden class meets in each Sunday morning from 10:45 to 11:45 with greetings, prayer for the needs of God's people, and Bible study. Come join us, you are most welcome!

Theology 401: The Church and Sacraments - Room 102

Teacher: Ben Lambers

This is the fourth of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith. We will cover chapters #25-33 discussing topics such as, "What does it mean to be a member of the church?" "What are the Sacraments?" "How do the Sacraments effect my faith?" "What is church discipline?" "What happens to Christians when they die?" and "What exactly is the Last Judgment?" Do you have a biblically informed answer to these questions? Come join us as we conclude our study of the best summary of Sacred Scriptures teachings. *(Please note, attendance at prior Westminster Confession classes is not required to benefit from this session.)*

Esther – Church Office

Teacher: Joe DeNitto

Come and join Joe DeNitto as he leads us through the book of Esther. This book tells the story of a Jewish woman who became queen of Persia and thwarted a plan to commit genocide against her people. Though God is not mentioned specifically even once, his providential care and covenantal presence saturates the entire book. This teaches us that the hand of God is active in all our circumstances. Nothing is merely a coincidence. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe and we can be assured and comforted that His plans will not be moved by the actions of mere men.

This Week at SPC ~ December 16 - 22

SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:00 am
Congregational Meeting

Fellowship Time, 10:15 am
Sunday School, 10:45 am

MS/HS Ice Skating Party, 4 pm – 8 pm

Las Posadas, 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm



December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm
December 25: Christmas Day
Dec 24 – Jan 1: Church Office Closed
January 6: Costa Rica Info Meeting; 12 pm; Luther Tower
January 8: Session Meeting, 7 pm
January 12: Removal of the Greens, 9 am



SEMINOLE AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 115

Last Sunday's Offering: \$5,141.37

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12

Volunteers

Children's Worship Volunteers

	<u><i>Teacher</i></u>	<u><i>Helper</i></u>	<u><i>Banner Bearer</i></u>
<i>Today:</i>	<i>Kelly Melendi</i>	<i>Kourtney Melendi</i>	<i>Nora Fernandez</i>
<i>Next Week:</i>	<i>Randa Gravanti</i>	<i>Abby Johnson</i>	<i>Nikolas Royer</i>
<i>Dec. 30:</i>	<i>Therese McKenzie</i>	<i>John McKenzie</i>	<i>Dominick Zak</i>

Children's Church for children in K4/K5 meets in Room 109.

Coffee Volunteers

Coffee Volunteers

<i>Today:</i>	<i>Steve Strickland</i>
<i>Next Week:</i>	<i>Randa Gravanti</i>
<i>Dec. 30:</i>	<i>Andrea Cawley</i>

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

<i>Anna Claire Lambers 12/3</i>	<i>Lesley McKenzie 12/20</i>
<i>Alex Fernandez 12/10</i>	<i>Bryson Pothoven 12/22</i>
<i>Jared Frail 12/12</i>	<i>Joey Hickerson 12/23</i>
<i>Abby Johnson 12/15</i>	<i>Eva White 12/24</i>
<i>Pat Bardin 12/16</i>	<i>Grace Morton 12/26</i>
<i>Dave Bardin 12/17</i>	<i>Hannah Johnson 12/27</i>
<i>Chris Kladakis 12/17</i>	<i>Rainey Hoopes 12/29</i>
<i>Jane Lambers 12/20</i>	<i>Andrea Cawley 12/31</i>
<i>Judy Wildeboer 12/20</i>	

Anniversaries

Tom & Andrea Cawley 12/20

Dave & Pat Bardin 12/29