

December 11, 2020

Dear Friends,

**Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

We are on our way to the third Sunday of Advent when we will light the candle of Joy! What better way to celebrate than to hear a testimony from Sanyu and a sermon from Matt, two people in our community who face life square on and exhibit joy in the Lord.

Please [email me](#) for a link to the service.

Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

You may pick up your Advent devotional [here](#).

**Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.**

Please email our [family ministries pastor](#) for a link to 'go' to Sunday School.

**Signs of Life**

How can you not smile at this [picture of children](#) in Old Ottawa South making excellent use of the snow in front of the church buildings?

Speaking of children, it will be our joy next Sunday to see four of our newest babies dedicated to the Lord. The babies, their families and a few others will gather for a small in-person service at the church which will be recorded to share with all of you during our December 20<sup>th</sup> Zoom service.

Besides baby dedications, two adults will be baptized (by pouring instead of immersion in these low touch times), and two adults will be confirmed. Confirmation is when persons who were baptized as infants make personal the vows taken by their parents in their behalf.

Get ready to hear some joy-filled testimonies from our candidates for baptism and confirmation. One texted me this past week to celebrate the "peace and joy" experienced this past week as they prepared to share with us.

I could talk for hours about the signs of life I see in our church. There is much to celebrate, from extreme generosity, to new interest in Christian faith, to growing friendships, to care for others, to creative initiatives.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "Rejoice always," followed by an instruction to "pray continually." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17) Please pray that we will keep in step with the Spirit and be a blessing to many. Paul gives us these words to pray for one another: "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (verse 23) Then he confidently declares that this is a prayer God answers: "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." (verse 24)

**Christmas Eve: In Person and Livestreamed**

Thank you for registering for our Christmas Eve services which will take place at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 24 in the church building. At this point the building is at capacity for the in-person services as per current public health regulations. However, we will be livestreaming the 7 p.m. worship service so that you may participate from your home. Details will follow in next Friday's letter.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)