

³ **Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Printed copies of the sermon are available on the tract desk.
- Large Print Service binders can be found on the tract desk.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255- 258 in the hymnal.
- For a personal preparation for Holy Communion, please see pages 295-296 in your hymnal.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

Our Lord teaches in his Word that in Communion we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, and that participation is also a declaration that we believe what our fellow communicants believe. In obedience to God's Word, then, we ask that only those who agree on all points of teaching—those who belong to a WELS or ELS church—

and are confirmed partake in the Lord's Supper today. If you are not a member of WELS or ELS church but would like to pursue that unity of faith, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor.

Setting 3, pg. 188

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People

CW 312

- 1 “Comfort, comfort all my people;
 speak of peace,” so says our God.
 “Comfort those who sit in darkness,
 groaning from their sorrows’ load.
 Speak to all Jerusalem
 of the peace that waits for them;
 tell them that their sins I cover,
 that their warfare now is over.”
- 2 All their sins our God will pardon,
 blotting out each dark misdeed;
 all that well deserved his anger
 he no more will see or heed.
 They have suffered many’_a day;
 now their griefs have passed away.

God will change their aching sadness
into ever-springing gladness.

- 3 John the Baptist's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling people to repentance
for the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Please stand for the final stanza

- 4 Then make straight the crooked highway;
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is spread abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.

He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears
with his ears,
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the
oppressed on the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the
wicked to death.
⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.
⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf
together,
and a little child will lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear will graze together,
and their young ones will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand into a
viper's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy
mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰This is what will take place on that day. The peoples
will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a
banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be
glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

38 Rebuke Me Not in Anger, LORD

Psalm 38

- 1 Rebuke me not in anger, LORD:
 restrain your wrath, I pray;
grant that your child be yet restored,
 not judged and cast away.
I feel your arrows deep within,
 I sink beneath your hand
and underneath a weight of sin
 too great for me to stand.
- 2 For sinful folly now I pay:
 I'm humbled to the ground,
as I go mourning all the day
 and no relief is found.
I feel my body racked with pain,
 diseased in ev'ry part,
so crushed that I cannot contain
 the groanings of my heart.
- 3 My longings, Lord, to you are known,
 you see my ev'ry tear;
my strength, my sight are almost gone,
 my friends will not come near.
And others lay their deadly snares,
 all day they plot and lie;
like one who neither speaks nor hears,
 I offer no reply.

4 In you, O LORD, my hope I place:
Lord, answer when I call;
let those not jeer at my distress,
who long to see me fall.
My foothold is about to go,
my torment will not cease;
and my iniquity I know:
my sin permits no peace.

5 My foes are many and are strong,
their hatred has no cause;
my kindness they repay with wrong,
although I keep your laws.
O LORD, be with me to the last,
remain forever near;
come to my rescue, come with haste:
O Lord, my Savior, hear!

Text: David G. Preston

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Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so

that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹²And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the

Gentiles;

on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

And all people will see God's salvation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

¹In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths
straight.”

⁴John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy

Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

CW 316

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come, then, and listen, for he brings
good news about the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin
and furnished for a Guest within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and lift us up to fall no more;
O make your face on us to shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 3:1-12

The Promised Elijah Is Here

I. As God foretold (1-4)

II. To preach repentance (2, 5-9)

III. To point to Christ (10-12)

(Stand)

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,**

seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son
of God,**

eternally begotten of the Father,

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from
true God,**

begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from
heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary,**

and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate.**

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with
the Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

THE SACRAMENT

(Stand)

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

Distribution

(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 308

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
 Prepare in the desert a highway,

a highway for our God!

The valleys shall be exalted,

the lofty hills brought low;

make straight all the crooked places

where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Christians, you bring good tidings;

get up to the heights and sing!

Proclaim to a desolate people

the coming of their King.

Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;

like grass their works decay.

The pow'r and pomp of nations

shall pass like a dream away.

3 But the Word of our God is eternal;

the arm of the Lord is strong.

He stands in the midst of the nations,

and he shall right the wrong.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,

the lambs shall gently hold,

to pastures of peace shall lead them,

and bring them safe to his fold.

317 When All the World Was Cursed

CW 317

- 1 When all the world was cursed
 by Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
 with words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
 the greater one he named,
and him, as yet unknown,
 as Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before Saint John was born,
 he leaped in joyful meeting,
confessing him as Lord
 whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
 a new Elijah bold,
he testified of him
 whom prophets had foretold.
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God,
 who bears the world's transgression,

whose sacrifice removes
the devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away our sin,
who for our peace and joy
will full atonement win.

4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
that we receive, rejoicing,
the word proclaimed by John,
our true repentance voicing,
that gladly we may walk
upon our Savior's way
until we live with him
in his eternal day.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.

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(Stand)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

CW 318

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day.”

2 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv’n;

3 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.

4 Honor, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 12/07/202.....9:00 AM Communion Worship
Monday 12/08/2025.....7:00 PM Communion Service
Tuesday 12/09/2025..... 6:30 PM Council Meeting
Wednesday 12/10/2025...5:15 PM Soup and Bread Supper
6:30 PM Advent Service
Sunday 12/14/2025.....9:00 AM Worship Service
Monday 12/15/2025.....10:00 AM Pastors' Study
7:00 PM Worship Service

Attendance

Sunday Attendance:63 Monday Service: 16

No Bible Class or Sunday School (snow)

Our **Time** to Our Lord

December Servers

Sundays John Solgat, Nate Rupprecht, Mike Hecht,
Grant Barnes

Monday: Barry Mays

Midweek Advent Service Dec. 10: Brandon Frank &
Jacob Zieroff

Finance: Jeremy LaPratt, Nick Hubbard, Ed Newsome

Altar Guild: Marian Whitney, Teenia Rose, Pat
Mecham

Organist: Olivia Marker

Sunday Morning Bible Class: History of the WELS Snack Volunteers

December 7-Rose Walker December 14-
Vincent/Mecham

January Sundays are next up, sign up today

Our Talents to Our Lord

Christmas Caroling: What a delight. Christmas Caroling has returned to St. Luke's!!! **Following the Cookie Crunch on December 21st** we will leave from the church. The members we will visit will have been contacted and times of visit arranged. Music sheets will be prepared and available. Share your joy!

Beverage Container Collection: The LES children are collecting returnable bottles and cans to raise money for items needed at their school. Further information is on the bulletin board.

Euchre/Games Anyone? There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, for those who intend to attend. Your signature does not commit you to each game day. We will play on Friday evenings after the new year.

Just in time for the Christmas shopping season!!! Be sure to check out the books (and other gift items) offered by

Lowry's Book Fair. The book fair is to be set up in the fellowship hall and will be available **December 10th - 15th**.

- *Proceeds from the book fair will allow teachers to purchase books for their classroom libraries.*
-



Our Treasures to Our Lord

Budgetary Gifts: \$8,115.00

Special Gift for 2026 Envelopes: \$1,000.00

Sunday School: \$6.00

These gifts reflect services: November 24th, 27th, 30th.

Michigan Lutheran Seminary News

Current Students of St. Luke's

Braylin Zieroff, Phoebe Schultz, Piper Schultz

MLS Christmas Concert: Michigan Lutheran Seminary invites you to attend the annual Christmas concert on **Friday, December 19 at 7 pm**. Under the theme "Christe, lux mundi," the choirs and band will perform carols such as "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "Silent Night," "Before the Marvel of This Night," and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming." Doors will open at 6:30 pm.



The MLS girls' cross-country team won the regional championship this year! Phoebe and Piper Schultz were both part of this team! This is the first regional championship since 2012 for girls. The boys' team also made it to States! They were able to compete at the State Meet at the Michigan International Speedway on Nov.1st!

MLS 2025 Football Recap: Michigan Lutheran Seminary wrapped up a strong 2025 season at 6-4, highlighted by a 57-0 shutout over Hemlock and a 42-0 season-opening win against Laingsburg. The Cardinals battled hard all year and ultimately saw their playoff run end in a close 34-28 loss to Nouvel, finishing the season with plenty to be proud of! St. Luke's member **Braylin Zieroff** was a part of this hard-working team

Prepare the way of the Lord

³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight."

Matthew 3:3

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

December 10, 2025-6:30 PM

Preceded by
Soup Supper

Potluck of Soup and Bread – 5:15 – 6:30 pm

All are Welcome

Look for the signup sheet for soup,
desserts and more in the narthex.

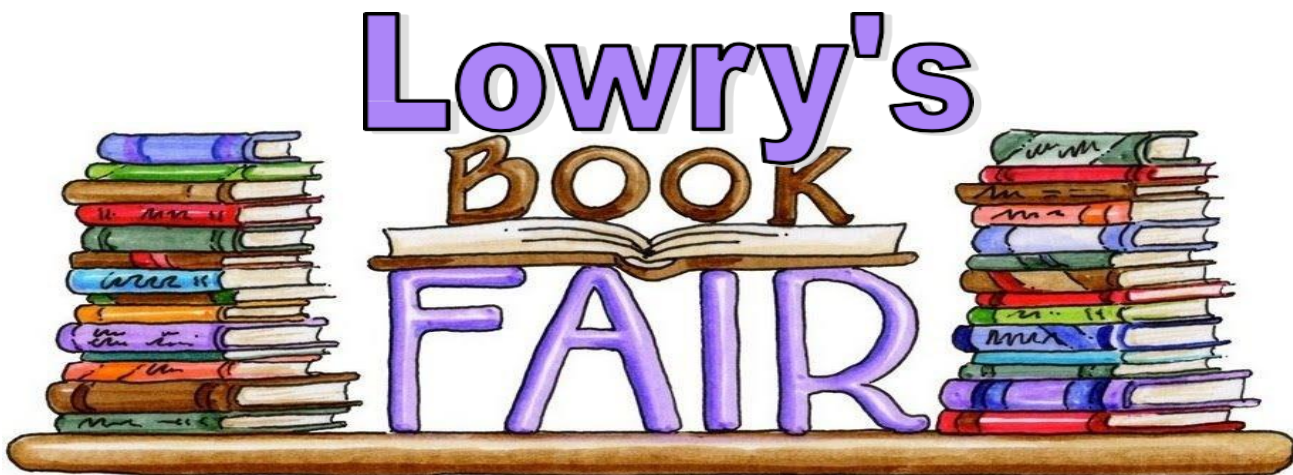
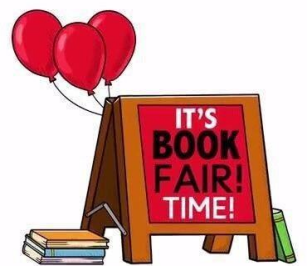


Just in time for the Christmas shopping season!

Be sure to check out the books (and other gift items) offered by Lowry's Book Fair after any Worship Service

Dec. 10th—15th.

NOTE: Proceeds from the book fair will allow teachers to purchase books for classroom libraries.



“OPERATION J.O.Y.”
(Jesus. Others. Yourself.)

Every year, St. Luke's CEO hosts a special program entitled “OPERATION J.O.Y. ”

This year we have decided to provide much needed supplies to Ennis Center for Children, a facility that assists in transitioning children from their homes to foster care. The greatest need they currently have is underwear for both boys and girls in all sizes from toddler to teen. They also need hygiene items like toothbrushes and toothpaste. And of course, new toys, games, books and educational materials are always welcome. Any items that your children use on a daily basis are the things these children need too.

- A Wish Tree will be set up at church beginning December 1st until December 19th where you can select a tag or tags of items you would like to donate, which can then be returned back to the tree any time before the 19th. Or you may bring your donations to the school (a drop box will be located in the school office), no tag required. Your help will make the difficult transition a little more comfortable for those children, big and small.

**Any questions can be directed to Paula Walker at
(989)239-8445.**

