

***We enter the sanctuary in quiet meditation as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship***

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

***And also with you.***

**\*OPENING SONG** "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" No. 2098

"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" No. 2099

**CANTICLE OF MARY** No. 199

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Prepare Ye" Choir

**TIME OF PRAYER – Joys and Concerns**

**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 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. Amen.

**THE CHRISTMAS STORY: JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME -  
YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER!**

Adapted from "One Rehearsal Christmas Plays" by Kendra Smiley.

*You are invited to come to the sand table during worship to light a candle or kneel in prayer as the Spirit leads you.*

**"JOY TO THE WORLD"** Vs. 1, 2 & 4 No. 246

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY** "Give Thanks" No. 2036

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 1: 26-38

**MESSAGE** "A Play on 'The Word'" Deborah Schmidt

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE MUSIC**



\*Please stand as the Spirit leads you, or sit if you are more comfortable. Hearing assistance devices are available – please ask an usher for one.

*If you must leave the sanctuary during worship, please exit through the side doors as they are much quieter. Thank you!*

**Liturgist:** Karen Crittenden

**Fellowship** Ronica, Gayle, Sherry, Nancy

### THIS WEEK

**TODAY:** Sunday school after Children's Time

**MONDAY:** "Knit-Wits" knitting class 3-5 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** UMYF 6:00 p.m., food provided.

**THURSDAY:** Bulletin announcement deadline 5:00 pm

**SATURDAY:** Christmas Eve services at 5:00 & 9:00 pm

There will be children's music time for any children interested for 1 hour before the Christmas Eve service. Children are welcome to sing, play a musical instrument or perform a dance appropriate for Christmas. If you are interested in signing up or would like more information, please contact Coleen Pickert at 249-6006.

Please note the sign-up sheet for Christmas Eve services located in the narthex. Join us Christmas Eve for two beautiful services.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 & 9:00 pm

Thank you to John Floridis for the beautiful music on the 8<sup>th</sup> and for all who attended the concert. John's cd's are on sale in the church office for \$15.00 with \$5 going to benefit Neighbors in Need.

Just a reminder that your gifts for our adopted families need to be returned **today** so that delivery can be made tomorrow and Tuesday. Blessings!



Flowers on the alter are in honor of Shirley Laughlin's special birthday.

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Pastor: Deborah Schmidt, Music Director Dawn Hashley, Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

Office Assistant: Rachel Zeigler, Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mon. – Fri. CCLI#: 2279345

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
*The People of the United Methodist Church*

## The Whitefish United Methodist Church Welcomes You!

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday of Advent



### Luke 1: 26-38

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.