

**November 13** - Jeff Sackett (Stewardship)

**November 20** - Chad

Scriptures: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 23:33-43

Title: **A Cross Not to Love**

Just as we get set to start the countdown to Christmas next week with the first Sunday of Advent, the lectionary appears to have gone off the rails. Before the spotlight falls on the babe in the manger, it shines on the suffering messiah on the cross. Even so, what we are about to hear will do more to prepare us for Christmas than we can imagine.

**November 27** - Natalia (Advent 1)

Scripture: Isaiah 2:3-5, Romans 13:11-12, Matthew 24:36-38,42-44

Title: Watching and Waiting

(Tim Coons - Starting to Wake Up)

Why do we do this every year? We know Jesus has come into the world, we know what he's here to do, and we understand who he is. So why? Why do we keep waiting? Why do we spend time in this season of Advent each year, and what does it accomplish?

**December 4** Chad

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Title: **Three Chords And The Truth**

Every year we hear from the crazy, bug eating, desert prophet, yelling about getting our act together or else! Just as there is no way to Easter except through Good Friday, there is no way to Christmas without this trip down to the river. So grab your backpack and your hiking boots, you do not want to miss this!

**December 11** – Natalia (Christmas Program, 1 service 9:30)

Advent 3 - Working a short meditation with Katie to fit program

Christmas Program: The Big, Big Story - Join a few reporters and their camera crew as they follow the latest breaking news to find the Big Story that everyone is talking about. Big Story! Big, Big Story! This is really big. Come here the story and share it with others.

**December 18** Chad (Cantata One Service)

Chad will do a short meditation in the midst of the cantata.

**December 24** Chad (Christmas Eve)

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-14

Title: **The Cubs Win! (and other miracles)**

One little boy almost misses the chance to have his childhood hero visit his own house. One of the great Chicago Cubs was turned away by the boy's own mother. Maybe you feel like you have missed your chance to experience glory. If so, I have some good news!

**December 25** Chad (One Service, Christmas day)

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14

Title: **The Light Shines In The Darkness**

It is not often that Christmas day falls on a Sunday. You may be tired or very busy or both on Christmas morning, but if you are able to make your way over to church on this holy day, you are sure to be blessed.

**January 1, 2017** - Natalia (1 service 9:30)

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23

Title: **Be it Resolved**

I know no person who reads this text and thinks “well that’s an uplifting one!” It’s a brutal and violent story right in the midst of our celebrations.

But there are things to be learned from this story, both from the family of Jesus and from Herod. So what happens when we let our anger over the way things worked out take over? What might mean for us that the son of God was a refugee? And how can we come together on this new year and resolve to be followers of Christ once again?

**January 8** - Natalia

Scripture: Isaiah 42:5-9; Matthew 3:13-17

Title: **Pure Promise**

Note: there will be a baptismal remembrance today as a part of worship

When we are baptized we are given a promise. This isn’t the same kind of promise we make to each other as friends, as neighbors, as citizens, as spouses, or as parents. It’s a special kind of promise that we are going to dig into a bit today.

**January 15** - Natalia

Scripture: Isaiah 49:5-7; John 1:35-42

Title: **Claimed. Named. Called. Sent.**

We know we’ve been claimed in our baptisms, but now what?

Today we hear the story of the call of the disciples and we’ll take some time to reflect on our own call and what it might mean to take that call into the world around us.

**January 22** - Ask the Pastors and Annual Meeting