



# Radiant Church

A LUTHERAN CONGREGATION IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

*"Peace"*

Isaiah 40:1-11

**Key Verse:** *"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1-2)*

**They/We are comforted because...**

**1. They/We are God's people**

*"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)*

**2. They/We have peace with God**

*"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:2)*

**3. God will bring them/us home**

*"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3)*

*"Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young." (Isaiah 40:10-11)*

**4. The Word of the Lord stands forever**

*"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8)*

## **Advent Midweek**

Wednesday, December 13

7:00pm at Radiant

The word Advent is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means “approach” or “arrival.” Since the Middle Ages, Advent has marked the beginning of the Church year. Its observance defined not only the One who was coming, but also those who were faithfully and self-consciously waiting. In that regard, Advent is a season of active waiting. Instead of rushing into Christmas, we pause to reflect on our own lives to ask if we are ready for the Christ’s arrival. This Advent season, Radiant is holding three special contemplative Advent services on Wednesday nights from 7:00-7:45pm. These services are comprised of confession, sacred reading, listening, responding, and praying. You are encouraged to come and prepare your heart for the promised coming of the Messiah.

## **Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, December 17

11:15am (immediately following worship)

All mission partners of Radiant are encouraged to attend a brief business meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 17. There is only one item on the agenda, which is to vote on our proposed one-year lease renewal.

## **Christmas Eve Service**

Sunday, December 24

4:00pm at Radiant

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, we will hold only ONE service at 4:00pm in the afternoon. Unlike most traditional Christmas Eve services, this will be a fun, old-fashioned carol-sing, but will also feature communion and candle-lighting. To make things more festive, you’re encouraged (allowed?) to wear your most festive Christmas attire – including an ugly Christmas sweater if you’re so inclined. Come early to enjoy some appetizers and cider as we celebrate the birth of the newborn King!

## **New Year’s Eve Brunch and Worship**

Sunday, December 31

10:00am at Radiant

Don’t miss this special Sunday when we’ll enjoy brunch together as part of our worship service! Table fellowship was an important part of Jesus’ ministry and that of the Early Church. We continue that practice by eating, singing, and conversing together as we wrap up 2023 and look ahead to 2024.