## St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA

421 S Peoria Ave. Dixon, IL 61021

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve, 3:00 pm December 24, 2025

#### GATHERING

Prelude

"Glory (Let There be Peace)"

Praise Band

Welcome and Announcements

## Advent Candle Lighting

R: Blessed are you, God of all, for your promises held true. You sent your Son to bring the Good News of great joy—hope, love, joy, and peace.

R: As we light these candles, remind us of your endless love poured out in Christ Jesus your Son, our Lord, that we may carry His light into our world.

R: O people of God, come,

C: let us shout for joy, for the savior is born this night. Amen.



- He came down that we may have love;
- he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have light; He came down that we may have light;
- He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

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Children's Message

Please rise in body or spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **C: Amen.** 

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Loving God, C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our actions and inactions; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you. 

Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.

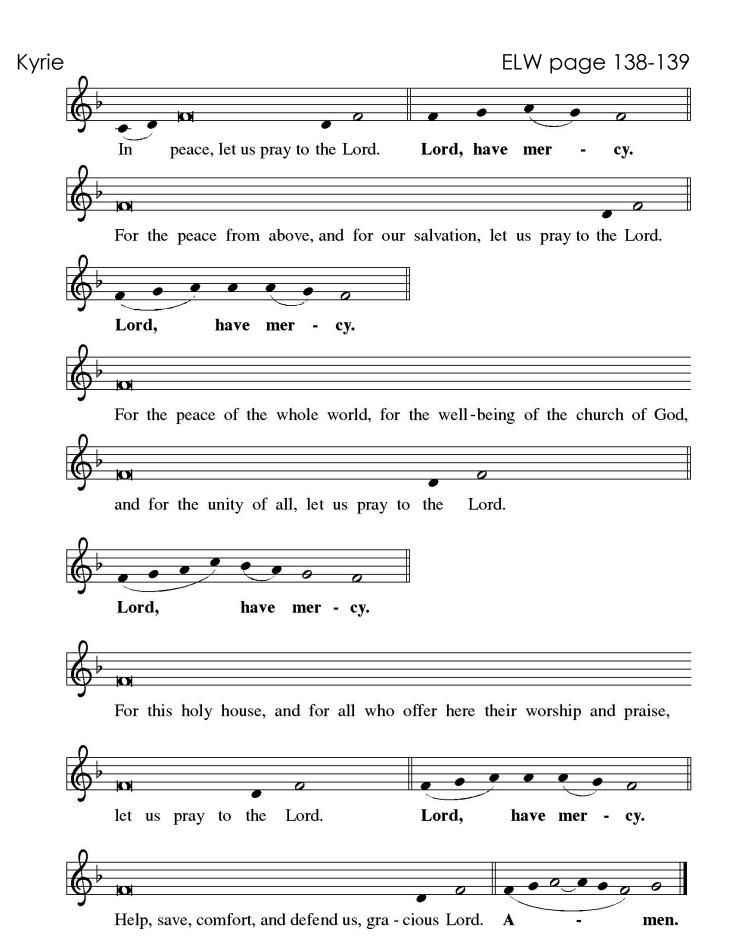


Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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#### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.** 





Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray, Almighty God,

C: you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation is invited to be seated.

#### **WORD**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A: A reading from Isaiah

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

A: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 96

A: We will read the psalm responsively by whole verse.

A: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

A: Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

C: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

A: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

C: Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

A: Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

# C: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

A: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

#### C: Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!

A: The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

C: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

A: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.

C: You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

A: A reading from Titus

A: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

A: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

## Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

## C: Glory to you, O Lord!

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their

flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The congregation is invited to be seated.

Sermon

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day "Do You Hear What I Hear" Verse 1
Said the night wind to the little lamb,
Do you see what I see? Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see? A star, a star dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite, with a tail as big as a kite

Verse 2

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,

Do you hear what I hear? Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy Do you hear what I hear? A song, a song high above the trees With a voice as big as the sea, with a voice as big as the sea

Verse 3

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know? In your palace warm, mighty king
Do you know what I know? A child, a child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold, let us bring him silver and gold

#### Verse 4

Said the king to the people everywhere Listen to what I say! Pray for peace people everywhere Listen to what I say! The child, the child sleeping in the night He will bring us goodness and light, he will bring us goodness and light

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#### Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in God using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

#### Prayers of Intercession

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

## C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

#### C: Your mercy is great.

P: Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling especially Roger Asplund, Eva Cowley, Barb Strom, Deb Liebzeit, Chase Flynn, Connie Clayton, Bonnie Bollman, Connie Laidig, Zinnia Larson, and those we name aloud or in our hearts... brief silence.... Hear us, O God.

#### C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

#### C: Your mercy is great.

P: Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. We remember Glenna Switzer. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

#### C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.** 

Peace P: May the peace of Christ be with you. C: And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace however you feel comfortable.

#### **MEAL**

## Offering

Offerings may be placed in the plates by the doors as we enter or depart In addition to the offering that supports the ministry of St. Paul, the children of St. Paul receive a weekly Children's Offering.

The December children's offering will support ELCA Good Gifts, which helps buy chickens, pigs, goats, honeybees and more for families across the globe to have sustainable food resources.

Offering Song "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW #289 vv. 1&3



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, sweet ly sing ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi-lee? Why your joy ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth le hem and see him whose birth the an gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.







Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

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Please rise in body or spirit.

## Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of glory,

C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

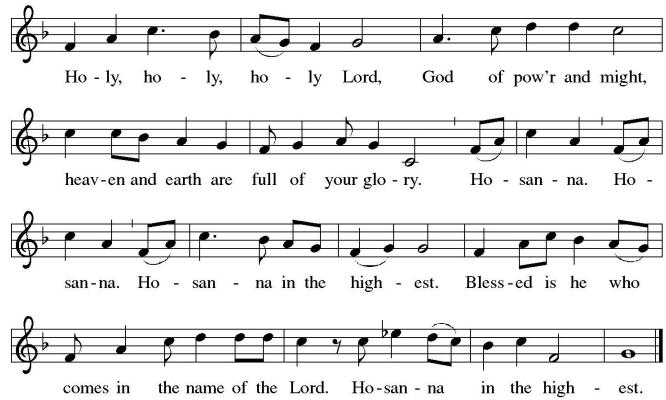
C: And also with you.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

#### C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### Words of Institution

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me"

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

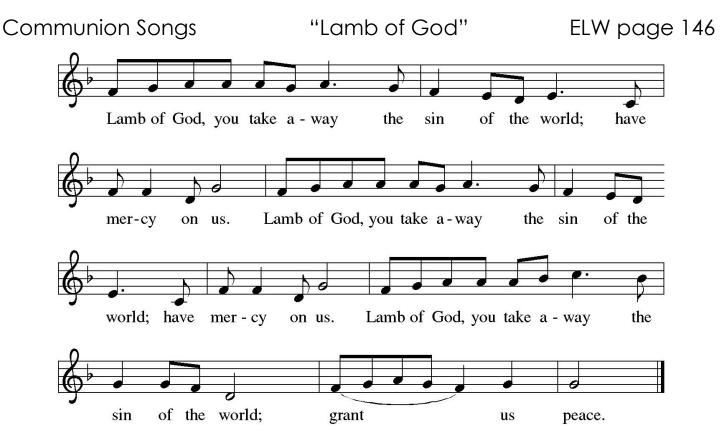
#### Invitation to Communion

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

The congregation is invited to be seated.

#### Communion Distribution

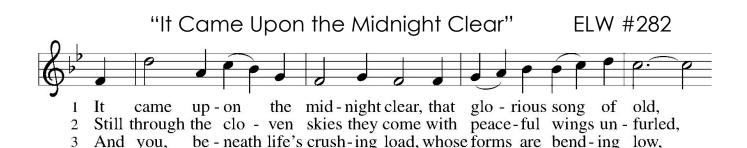
St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA practices "open table" communion.
This is Christ's table; Jesus is our host.
Everyone is invited and welcome to receive Holy Communion.
When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
"The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you."
And each person may respond, "Amen".



"A Christmas Hallelujah"

music by L Cohen, words by the band, Cloverton reprinted by permission under CCLI annual license #1124556

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah





The days are has-t'ning on, by

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

proph-ets seen of



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."

A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an sing. ba - bel sounds the o'er bless - ed an sing. and ev - er its gels oh. be - side the wea-ry road and hear the an - gels sing! the world give back the song which now the an - gels and sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

lo!

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Please rise in body or spirit

## Post Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His Grace. **C: Amen.** 

## **Prayer After Communion**

A: Let us pray. Incarnate God,

C: you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

## The Candle Lighting

P: On this holy and awesome night we remember God's great act of love for the sake of the world—becoming incarnate in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have lit candles representing the hope, peace, joy, and love we receive from God's abundant grace and mercy. And heard of God's mighty acts of love. We light our candles now to share God's light with one another and into the world. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace among those whom God favors!

As the lights in the church are dimmed, please assist one another in the lighting of the candles. Reminder: tip the unlit candle, hold lit candles upright.

## Candle Lighting Songs

"What Child is This?"

ELW #296 vv.1-2



- What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es tate where ox and ass are feed ing?
- 3 So bring him in cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing. The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing; Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be me, for you; borne for song on high, lul - la - by; Raise, raise the the vir - gin sings her



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y! Word made flesh, hail. the the babe, the of Mar - v! hail son for Christ is born, the babe, the of Mar - y! joy, joy, son

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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#### **SENDING**

## Blessing

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **C: Amen.** 



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 Public Domain reprinted/podcast/stramed with permission under One License #A-730141

#### Dismissal

A: Glory to God in the highest! C: And peace to God's people on earth! A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Praise Band

Words African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual: Music arr. by Tim Witt, Public Domain reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A730141

#### **Leading Worship**

**Musicians:** Gerad VonHolten and the Praise Band **Preacher:** Pastor Anthony **Presider:** Pastor Riley

Worship Assistant: Lester Hallquist

#### St. Paul Announcements

Church Office contact information ~ email: <a href="mailto:office@stpauldixon.org">office@stpauldixon.org</a> phone: 815-288-2757 Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Pastor Anthony Windau (414) 364-9504 pastoragwindau@gmail.com

Pastor Riley Reed-Windau (406) 240-2145 <a href="mailto:pastorreedwindau@gmail.com">pastorreedwindau@gmail.com</a>

#### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Wednesday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship 7 pm at Immanuel

Christmas Eve Worship 11 pm at St. Paul

Thursday, 12/25: Christmas Day Worship 10 am at Immanuel

Saturday, 12/27: No service

Sunday, 12/28: No Sunday School (Christmas Break)

Joint Lessons and Carols Worship 10 am at St. Paul

Today's worship is
livestreamed on
Facebook and
archived on YouTube.
If ever you miss a
service, you can join
us online!

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Merry Christmas and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Happy New Year

#### **Sunday School resumes January 4 with Faith Lab**

Preschool through high school and adult leaders will come together to celebrate God in the beginning of a new calendar year! We'll be creating something "NEW" and throwing a party to the Glory of God! -God's mercies are new every morning- (Lamentations 3:23)

See you at Faith Lab January 4th!

**Snow tubing Family Event with Immanue**l: Sunday, January 11, carpool from Immanuel 10:30am; return to Dixon 5:30pm. At Snowstar resort in Andalusia, IL. Cost is \$10/person for McDonalds. Sign up on the youth bulletin board by January 4!

