

THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021



Psalm 137:4 *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night* (*Stille Nacht*) in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm. The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

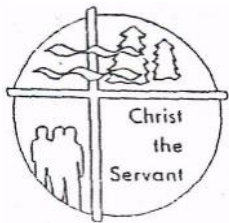
Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace.

Bishop Laurie

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021

What is Happening?

Pastor's Office Hours

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| December 1st | No office hours |
| December 6th | No office hours |
| December 8th | 2:00-5:00 pm |
| December 13th | 1:00-4:00 pm |
| December 15th | 2:00-5:00 pm |
| December 20th | 1:00-4:00 pm |
| December 23rd | 2:00-5:00 pm |
| December 27th | No office hours |
| December 29th | No office hours |

Choir Practice—Monday

Choir practice is postponed due to Covid 19. Please watch bulletin for further accountments.

Women's Group—Tuesday

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| December 7th | 10:00 am-2:00 pm |
| December 14th | 10:00 am-2:00 pm |
| December 21st | 10:00 am-2:00 pm |
| December 28th | None |

Men's Group—Thursday

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| December 2nd | 5:00 pm-6:00 pm |
| December 9th | 5:00 pm-6:00 pm |
| December 16th | 5:00 pm-6:00 pm |
| December 23rd | 5:00 pm-6:00 pm |

Confirmation—Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| December 1st | 4:00 pm-5:00 pm |
| December 8th | 4:00 pm-5:00 pm |
| December 15th | 4:00 pm-5:00 pm |
| December 22nd | 4:00 pm-5:00 pm |

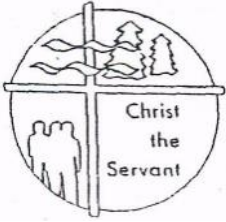
Sunday Monday School

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| December 6th | 4:15 pm –5:15 pm |
| December 20th | 4:15 pm –5:15 pm |

Bible Study—Sunday Morning

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| December 5th | 11:00 am –12:00 pm |
| December 12th | 11:00 am –12:00 pm |

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021



December Bible Readings

December 5th—2nd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:1-6

December 12th —3rd Sunday of Advent

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Lesson Luke 3:7-18

December 19th —4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm of the Day Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55

December 26th—1st Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Second Lesson Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:41-52

All is calm...
All is bright.



**Therefore confess your sins to one another, and
pray for one another, that you may be healed...**

James 5:16.

Please remember these people and
requests in your prayers.

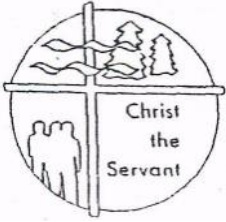
Health/Concerns: Sheila, Pete, Cyndi, Pastor Gwen,
Bob, Kathy, Chip, Scott, Janet, Vicky, Linda, and
Dina.

Military: Anton, Allesa Marrie, Amy Smith, and
Natalie.

CTS Church Council, Men's Group, WELCA, Quilting
Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, AIDS
orphans in Malawi, Hunger and poverty in the
world, and those struggling with the Coronavirus.



~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021

Announcements

A few good musicians. We are looking for a few young musicians to share their talents with us during worship and the Christmas Carol sing-a-long. I hope you and/or your child would consider singing or playing some special music. Please see Pastor Gwen.

.....

Our Health Safety Team will continue to assess our response to COVID-19. We will post signs on the door if we should make the decision to close the church or if we have to go back to requiring masks. Also, please note that our worship may also be adjusted for the safety of all present. And in the mean time please feel free to use the masks, hand sanitizer provided on the front table and remember social distancing.

.....

Bible study continues on Sunday morning at 11:00 am. Please come and join us on Nov 28, Dec 5 and 12th as we walk with Rick Warren and his DVD, to discover "The Purpose of Christmas". No homework to do, just come and let your hearts be prepared for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Our study of the book of Romans will begin in the New Year.

.....

Come join the fun of decorating the church for Christmas. Dec 9th we will begin after the men's group meeting (6:00 p.m.). Many hands make the work load lighter. We will be treated to BBQ pork sandwiches by Margaret McCulloch and Pastor Gwen. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass or a dessert to top off our meal. There is a rumor that wine will be served as well (not Mogen David)!!

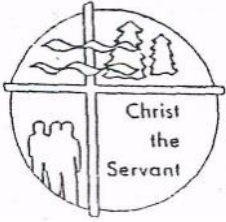
.....

Poinsettias are needed to decorate our sanctuary. The cost is \$10 to purchase one in memory or in honor of someone special. Order forms are in the bulletin and at the usher table. Please turn them in with your money no later than Dec 12. You may then take your plants home after worship on the 24th.

.....

Dec 19 is a new and very special opportunity to come and sing Christmas Carols. Since we are not able to do our traditional caroling at the nursing homes, we will sing in our sanctuary. One of our musicians, Kathy Amour, has offered her talents to organize and lead this wonderful opportunity to sing all the "Christmas music". If you have favorites that you would like to suggest, please put ideas in the pastor's suggestion box on the usher table. Or if you would like to sing or play a carol, please see Pastor. At this point we are looking for a family to sponsor the treats (cocoa and cookies) after the singing has ended. See pastor Gwen if you would like to volunteer. We will begin at 4:00 which is after Packer game!

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021

For more information about helping Afghan refugees, mentioned in Bishop's Christmas Letter:

- Volunteering at Fort McCoy: Contact Wisconsin Council of Churches at volunteer@wichurches.org.
- Resettling Families: Contact Sarah Halstad of LSSWI at Church.Relations@lsswis.org.
LSSWI Website: [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(lsswis.org\)](http://Refugee.Resettlement-Lutheran.Social.Services.of.Wisconsin.and.Upper.Michigan.lsswis.org).
- Donations: Contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse or visit their website to donate and/or purchase items off various retail registries. <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving
the light of love to those who need it most.

~ Ruth Carter Stapleton

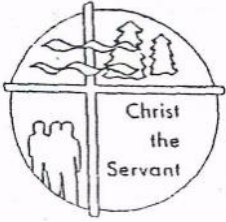
Thank you.

A huge thank you to all of you who have supported Rodney and me during my cancer treatments with rides, food, gift cards and prayers. I cannot tell you how much your love has meant to us. I am surely blessed to have you all in my corner as I faced this trying time.

God is Good All the Time! Thank you again!

Pastor Gwen

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021

Preparing to Celebrate the Birth of Christ

WELCA News – December 2021

THANK YOU seems hardly adequate to express our appreciation for the many hours of hard work that went into making this year's Holiday Market a huge success. Thank you to all who crafted, baked, cooked, sewed, knitted, crocheted, sold raffle tickets, and more. Your time and talents were more than evident!

Shoppers were able to purchase delicious homemade baked goods, beautiful seasonal home décor and crafts, cheese balls and soups.

Raffle winners were: Bucky Badger—Jeff Allen, Green Bay helmet—Dan Dugenske, and the Mission Quilt—Aidon Lewicki.

Please note that quilting time will be shifted to Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting December 7th.

Blessings to all as we move through the season of Advent and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Liz

Two thousand years ago, three wise men left
their home
When an angel of the Lord
Said, "Seek the Savior born"
Logic told them they were crazy
They shouldn't even try
They followed their hearts, they followed that
star
This Christmas, let me be that wise.

Two thousand years ago, Mary left her
home
An angel said, "Have faith"
The Lord will light your way
The road was long and winding
But a promise had been made
From heaven above, that was enough
This Christmas, let me keep that faith.

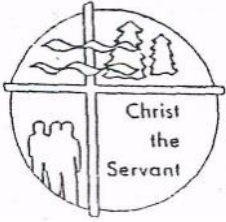
This Christmas, let this be the season
Of peace and love, joy and true believing
Two thousand years ago, as everybody knows
A perfect baby lay, Asleep there in the hay
The world would not believe Him
But he loved them all so much
On that first night, He was the light
This Christmas, let me feel that love

This Christmas Lyrics - Reba McEntire



Believe

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021

POINSETTIAS

Deadline for ordering is December 12th.

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Other _____

Your name _____

Plants will be \$10 each.

If you would like to make a purchase, please fill out the form and place in an envelope with poinsettia written on the front. Please fill out a separate form for each plant.

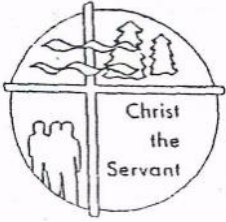


Worship Volunteer Schedule December 2021



| DATE | ASSISTING MINISTER | ALTAR GUILD | COFFEE HOUR | GREETER/USHER |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| December 5th | Wyatt Graceffa | Mary Rusch | Beth Graceffa | |
| December 12th | Mary Rusch | Jann Clark | RB & Beth Melvold | RB & Beth Melvold |
| December 19th | Jann Clark | | | David Shaw & Mary Rusch |
| December 24th Christmas Eve | Wyatt Graceffa | | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX | |
| December 26th | | | | |

~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 37

Issue 12

December 2021



Worship Volunteer Schedule January & February 2022



| DATE | ASSISTING MINISTER | ALTAR GUILD | COFFEE HOUR | GREETER/USHER |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| January 2nd | | | | |
| January 9th | | | | |
| January 16th | | | | |
| January 23rd | | | | |
| January 30th | | | | |
| February 6th | | | | |
| February 13th | | | | |
| February 20th | | | | |
| February 27th | | | | |



~CHRISTIANS SERVING GOD BY SERVING OTHERS~