


December 2020

Elder: Jerry Toft

Altar Guild: Jennifer Kooi, Mary Ortner

Stewardship: Sharilyn Buryanek



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:45 pm Catechism 7:00 pm Advent Worship	3	4	5 9-10:30 am SS Program Practice 6:00 pm Worship*
6 9:15 am SS & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship* 11:30 am Voters-Election of Officers Usher Team: Denny Peters Acolytes: Addison & Emrie Camera: Dakota Allen A/V: Mandie Allen Acc: Peggy Christensen	7	8	9 5:45 pm Catechism 6:40 pm Caroling 7:00 pm Advent	10	11	12 9-10:30 am SS Program Practice 6:00 pm Worship
13 8:30 am Elders Meeting 9:15 am SS & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Usher Team: JP Breugem Acolytes: Tristen & RJ Camera: Derek Allen A/V: Dan Tentinger Acc: Peggy Christensen 3:00 pm Youth Group	14	15	16 5:45 pm Catechism 6:40 pm Caroling 7:00 pm Advent	17	18	19 9-11:00 am SS Program Practice & Jesus' Birthday Party 6:00 pm Worship*
20 9:15 SS & Bible Study 10:30 am Worship* Usher Team: Mark Weyer Acolytes: Ani & Jayden Camera: Katrina Burt A/V: Derek Allen Acc: Sharon Wakeman	21	22	23 No Catechism No Advent Service	24 6:30 pm Special Music 7:00 pm SS Children's Program 9:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship 	26 No Worship
27 No SS or Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Usher Team: Rodney Matz Acolytes: Brielle & Kelan Camera: Derek Allen A/V: Mary Ortner Acc: Tracy DeBruin	28	29	30 No Catechism No Bible Study	31		



Youth Group

The youth will meet Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 pm to make cookies for shut-ins.

Hymn of the Month

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

LSB 384



This hymn was written in the 4th-5th century by Aureius Clemens - a late convert to Christianity from Spain. His religious poems were meant to be sung. It is paired with a chant tune from the 13th Century. The text and tune are nearly 1,000 years apart in age, and, together, nearly 1,000 years older than us. While chant tunes aren't for everyone, I hope this hymn draws you into the joy and mystery of the Christmas season.



Children's Christmas Eve Program

God-willing, Christmas Eve will go as planned with the children's program. We are taking special steps to ensure that

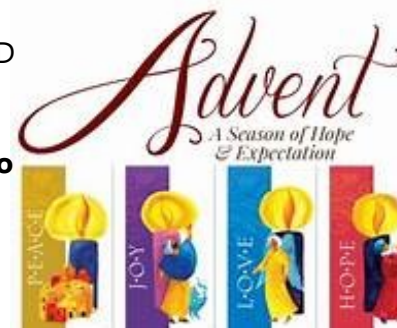
those who wish to come are safe. We will encourage spacing and masks; the basement will be reserved for those who are high-risk or would like to be especially distanced, may view the service in the fellowship hall.

Practices for the Children's Christmas Eve Program will be Saturdays Dec. 5 and 12 from 9:00-10:30 am, and Sat. Dec. 19 from 9:00-11:00 am for practice and Jesus' Birthday Party.

The Sunday School students are encouraged to share their talents by playing or singing Christmas Music at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve prior to the Children's Program. Contact Kara Vander Hamm if you are interested.

DURING ADVENT, WE PREPARE TO CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH AND HIS COMING AGAIN.

" 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, 'Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty' " (Revelation 1:8).



December at Trinity:

Advent Midweek Services

Ever taken the time to study your family history? If so, you may discover interesting facts about your relatives. Everyone has a family—even Jesus. This Advent we will hear about Jesus' Family, the Jesse Tree. We will also learn more about who we are through our Savior born for us!



Advent Midweek Services start on Wednesday December 2 at 7:00 pm. You will want to come at 6:40 pm on December 9 and 16 for informal caroling before the service starts!



Midweek Advent Devotions

Twenty special Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries are printed and on the table in the Narthex.

Reminder:

Our **old** address: PO Box 311
Our **new** address: 1103 Central Avenue

We now receive mail at the church in a locked mail box. Please use the church's physical address of 1103 Central Avenue. Thank you!



Covid Procedures



It is our hope to continue in-person worship; To do so, please consider the following:

1. If you're sick, awaiting test results, or a member of your family is sick, please stay home.
2. If your health is especially vulnerable, please consider staying home.
3. Washing hands, distancing, and masks are encouraged.
4. Putting the best construction on other's actions and being responsible decision makers for yourself and family is critical for these days.
5. Please contact pastor if you have questions and concerns, and **ESPECIALLY** if you are sick.
6. If you're worshipping at home or wish to receive private communion (pastor can wear a mask, etc.), please let pastor know.

WE ALL ENJOY OPENING THE GIFTS
PLACED BENEATH THE CHRISTMAS
TREE, BUT NONE CAN COMPARE TO
THE GIFT GOD GAVE US IN CHRIST.

**"Thanks be to God for His
inexpressible gift!"**
(2 Corinthians 9:15)



**“Main Street Living” and “This Is the Life” programming
information for December, 2020**

December 6

This Is the Life – Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series –
The Stableboy’s Christmas – A family experiences the excitement of the holidays, while trying to keep the true meaning of Christmas at the center of their preparations.
Worship Service - Rev. Lee Weander of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norfolk, NE delivers the message “Now Is the Time” based on II Peter 3:8-14.

December 13

This Is the Life – Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series –
Red Boots for Christmas – One shop in the small town of Friedensdorf doesn’t have any Christmas decorations, and no Christmas spirit inside the store.
Worship Service – Rev. Garret Kasper of Christ Lutheran Church in Remsen, IA delivers the message “Final Instructions for Parouosia Preppers” based on 1 Thessalonians 5:9-24.

December 20

This Is the Life – Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series –
Christmas Is – A journey back in time to the first Christmas with Benji and Waldo to rediscover the feeling and message of this significant day.
Worship Service – A special presentation by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

December 27

This Is the Life – Lutheran Hour Ministries Animated Series –
The Puzzle Club Christmas Mystery – It’s Christmas, and some mysterious events have occurred which require some special investigative talents.
Worship Service – Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President of LCMS Mid-South District, delivers the message “On the Other Side of Christmas” based on Luke 2:22-40.

Additional information is available on the web site:
www.mainstreetliving.com.

Fellow Workers on God’s Team

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, “*For we are God’s fellow workers...*” (1 Corinthians 3:9). Through Paul, God was telling the people in Corinth that they had the honor and privilege to work with Him and to be important participants in His mission. In the same way, God makes us His fellow workers on His team. Even though we are undeserving and have nothing to offer, God, in His sovereignty, chooses us to be His vessels through which He will accomplish His purposes. As God’s fellow workers, we become His hands, feet, and mouth to the world.

God does not schedule tryouts for those He selects to be on His team. He isn’t seeking the most talented, the most powerful, or the most attractive. He invites and encourages everyone to be part of His team. The people who become part of God’s team vary in appearance, in gifts, in stations in life, and other ways. Although God’s team is made up people who are different in some ways, the one common factor is that they are all new creations with transformed hearts for Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17). Through the work of the Holy Spirit, they have become people of faith who see God as their greatest treasure. Faithfulness is a top priority as a fellow worker with God. Through faith, we commit and are energized to serve God by serving others. What we do with our time, talents, and money gives evidence to which team we belong.

In God’s Word, we find examples of people who were not eager always to be fellow workers on God’s team. Moses gave numerous excuses that God shouldn’t use him to lead the Israelites out of the Egyptian captivity. Saul hid! David felt unqualified to be king. God caused Jonah to be swallowed by a fish in order to get him on His team. God didn’t give up on these people. He chose and equipped each of them to be fellow workers on His team.

God blesses each of us with the privilege to be a fellow worker on His team. Whether we willingly join or are at first resistant, we are now participants in God’s mission to help others “*to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4). God uses ordinary people like us to do extraordinary things. Are you ready to go to work?

From Pastor's Desk....

"What do you want for Christmas?" That question is going around a lot these days and in the weeks to come. That answer changes throughout life. As a kid you want the latest clothes, videogames, toys, etc. High Schoolers want a new phone or money. Young people want money or gift cards. Married people want a date night or a massage or the kids to be healthy or sleep through the night (ME!). Older adults want their families healthy and happy, and for good health. Whatever it is, something new sounds good.

Has 2020 changed what you want for Christmas? With COVID and elections bring anxiety and limitations, 2020 may not be a year we remember fondly. It's been a hard year. We are ready for a new calendar and new beginning. The Church's year begins at the end of November with Advent. The word Advent means "coming." Christians recognize Christ's coming is threefold: past, present, and future. Christ came historically in the past at the first Christmas. He comes now through His Word and Sacrament. He will come at the end of time as Judge of the living and the dead. Christ's promised return means an end to suffering, sickness, disobedience (sin), and death. For that the Church cries out: "Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!" 2020 is certainly a year that has intensified my cry for Christ to come.

I think the hardest thing of 2020, and one I hadn't imagined ever coming, is being cut off from each other. We are thankful for technology that keeps us connected, but it has cut off the physical nature of what it means to be human. To shake hands, to hug, to see people smile, to be able to sit around a table and share food and laugh. At what point are we going to admit that technological existence is only artificial; it's but a small glimmer of the real thing. I'm not allowed to say these things because we're told we are unloving and want to kill people. That's the farthest from the truth. I just simply want to live the way the Lord made us to live; together to be human.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)" God united Himself to us in the flesh and blood of a sperm and egg conceived in the womb of Mary. Born like us the baby Jesus had fingers and toes, an umbilical cord and wore pampers. He breathed and cried and nursed. He teethed and grew and walked and cried some more. We know God through the humanity of Jesus. We have life with God with the humanity of Jesus. We have salvation in God through the humanity of Jesus. And we are truly only through the God-Man Jesus Christ. That's what we get for Christmas in Jesus.

Perhaps we won't get what we want for Christmas this year. But we got Jesus. We got Him that first Christmas. We got Him now in His Word and Sacraments. We will get Him in the fullness of God where He promises: "And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new' (Rev. 21:5). 'He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!' (Rev. 22:10).

December Birthdays

- 1 Wendi Ruhland
- 2 Dave Huebner
- 3 Curt Anderson
- 4 Carol Coffelt
- 5 Brooke Klemme, Trudy Paul
- 6 Dan Christensen, Mary Ortnor
- 7 Peggy Christensen, Blake Van Ballegooyen, Brenda Watkins
- 8 Carson Frye, Sonya Kruid, Emma Mace
- 9 Tara Van Ballegooyen
- 11 Tracy DeBruin, Juliana Miller, Amber Van Wyhe, Dan VerMulm
- 14 Sharilyn Buryanek
- 15 Paisley Anderson, Joyce Boyer
- 17 Carl Baas, Lisa Ruhland
- 18 Dave Hamilton
- 19 Dana Curiel
- 20 Carol Aldrich, Mia Finch, Marlin Janssen
- 21 Mitch Schlumbohm
- 22 Carter Bultman
- 25 Diego Hurtado, Casey Van Bochove
- 27 Lois Greder, Addilyn Van Wyhe, Lycia Anderson
- 28 Henry Lowe
- 29 Lukas Burt, Steve Johnson
- 30 Jule Schollerrman, Aaron Schurman, Haley Stevens



December Anniversaries

- 5 Angel & Amy Topete (26 years)
- 30 Casey & Amanda Van Bochove (15 years)



Read the Bible in one year by reading the following passages this month...

- | | |
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| 1. Luke 1:46-55 | Revelation 1-2 |
| 2. Psalm 1 | Revelation 3-5 |
| 3. Psalm 2 | Revelation 6-8 |
| 4. Psalm 3 | Revelation 9-11 |
| 5. Psalm 4 | Revelation 12-14 |
| 6. Psalm 5 | Revelation 15-17 |
| 7. Psalm 6 | Revelation 18-20 |
| 8. Psalm 7 | Revelation 21-22 |
| 9. Psalm 8 | Isaiah 1-3 |
| 10. Psalm 9 | Isaiah 4-6 |
| 11. Psalm 10 | Isaiah 7-9 |
| 12. Psalm 11 | Isaiah 10-12 |
| 13. Psalm 12 | Isaiah 13-15 |
| 14. Psalm 13 | Isaiah 16-18 |
| 15. Psalm 14 | Isaiah 19-21 |
| 16. Psalm 15 | Isaiah 22-24 |
| 17. Psalm 16 | Isaiah 25-27 |
| 18. Psalm 17 | Isaiah 28-30 |
| 19. Psalm 18 | Isaiah 31-33 |
| 20. Psalm 19 | Isaiah 34-36 |
| 21. Psalm 20 | Isaiah 37-39 |
| 22. Psalm 21 | Isaiah 40-42 |
| 23. Psalm 22 | Isaiah 43-45 |
| 24. Psalm 23 | Isaiah 46-48 |
| 25. Psalm 24 | Isaiah 49-51 |
| 26. Psalm 25 | Isaiah 52-54 |
| 27. Psalm 26 | Isaiah 55-57 |
| 28. Psalm 27 | Isaiah 58-60 |
| 29. Psalm 28 | Isaiah 61-63 |
| 30. Psalm 29 | Isaiah 64-66 |
| 31. Luke 1:46-55 | Mark 1 |



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