

THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 38 Issue 12 December 2022

“From Worry to Wonder”

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same 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. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

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!" Luke 2:11-14

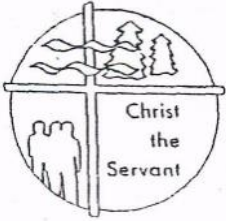
Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

Bishop Laurie Skow Anderson

~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 38 Issue 12 December 2022



Pastor Gwen's December

Office Hours:

Monday 1-4PM

Wednesday 2-5:00PM

No Office hours on December 26th.



December Bible Readings

December 4, 2022—2nd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31
Epistle Reading	Ephesians 1:7-10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 1:18-25

December 11, 2022—3rd Sunday of Advent

Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 35:5-10
Epistle Reading	2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Gospel Reading	Luke 1:67-79

December 18, 2022—4th Sunday of Advent

Old Testament Reading	Exodus 15:1-18
Epistle Reading	Galatians 4:3-7
Gospel Reading	Luke 3:15-17

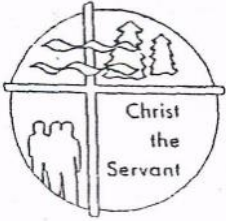
December 24, 2022—Christmas Eve

Old Testament Reading	Genesis 15:1-6
Epistle Reading	2 Corinthians 4:16
Gospel Reading	Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2022—Christmas Day

Old Testament Reading:	Isaiah 12:2-4
Epistle Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:8-11
Gospel Reading:	Luke 1:39-56

~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 38 Issue 12 December 2022

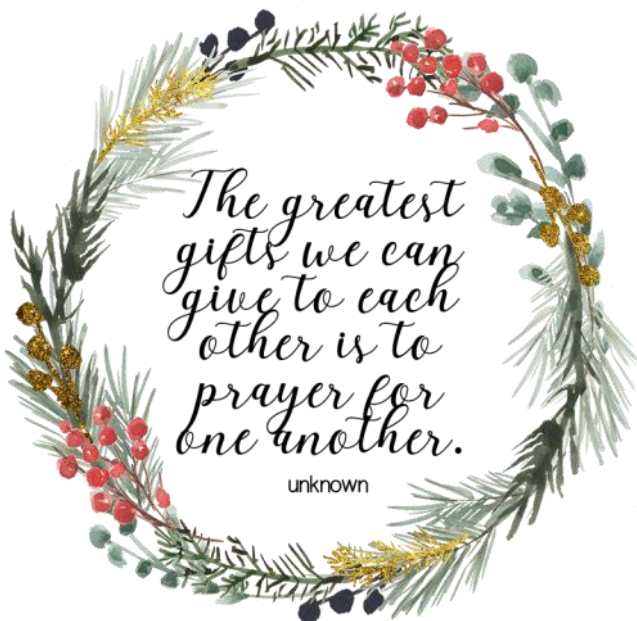


Woman's Group meets every Tuesday from 10AM -2PM.

Men's Group will meet Saturday, December 10th at 8AM.



Please remember these people and requests in your prayers.

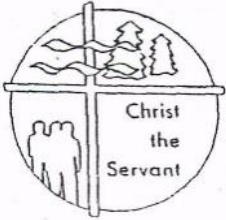


Health/Concerns: Meg, Jill W, Karen, Liz Annie, Jeff, Anne, Carol, and Craig

Military: Anton, Allesa Marrie, Ryan, Josh, Autumn, and Natalie.

CTS Church Council, WELCA, Quilting Ministry, Adult Bible Studies, CTS Youth, AIDS orphans in Malawi, Hunger and poverty in the world, Ukrainian people 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 38 Issue 12 December 2022



'Twas the night of Jesus Birth

'Twas the night of Jesus' birth, when all through the town
Not a creature was stirring, not even a cow
The animals were munching in their stable where
They hoped that the Savior would soon be there.

The sheep were all nestled down for the night
While the shepherds made sure that all was just right
Everyone thought that it was just the same
As every other boring Bethlehem day

When out in the sky there arose such a light
The shepherds couldn't look 'cause it was so bright
There was a beautiful angel up in the sky
The shepherds just couldn't figure out why

The shepherds were scared and they covered their eyes
The angel told them in a manger there lies
A baby – the Savior – was born tonight
In the town of David which was nearby

The shepherds went off to where the baby lay
They knew they would see the Savior this day
More rapid than eagles, they ran so fast
To see the Savior — they didn't want to be last

Now Peace! Now Joy! Now Everlasting Life!
On Goodness! On Love! God's one and only Son!
To the city of Bethlehem! To the door of the stable!
Let's hurry now and be on our way!

From the dry desert sand, the magi they came
Following a star, they didn't know its name
So over the dunes they came from the east
This long journey they didn't mind the least!

And then in a twinkling, the star shown brighter
So each of them kept traveling faster
To arrive to see Christ born this day
In the city of Bethlehem, so far away

They saw His mother sitting by his bed
With Joseph softly rubbing his sweet head
Their hearts were both filled with great joy
Of the birth of this very special boy.

His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples—how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, His nose like a cherry!
As his visitors awed – He simply laid
On His mouth developed a smile
As though He wanted them to stay awhile
He had a sweet face and a little round tummy
He kept looking up and smiling at His mommy

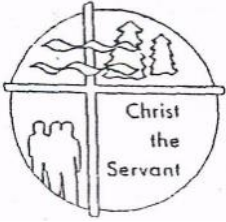
It truly was a "Silent Night" in that stable
And they laughed to themselves, whoever was able
Each couldn't believe where he was
This is so much better than meeting Santa Claus

They spoke not a word, but wanted to give more
Than what they had, but they could only adore
The wise men gave gold, frankincense and myrrh
And the animals warmed Him with their fur

As they all left that place – so holy and mild
They couldn't do anything but smile
They had just seen the Savior – the Christ child

Merry Christmas to all and to all A Good life!

~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 38 Issue 12 December 2022



Opportunities: Please sign up on the Opportunities sheet hung near the office. We need assisting ministers, ushers, coffee hour people and altar guild each week. If you have not been and would like to be trained for any or all of these service opportunities, please see Pastor Gwen. We need your help to make our worship experience on Sunday mornings meaningful.

Musician Needed: We are still looking for another musician to add to our worship schedule. If you know of someone with good keyboard skills please let Pastor Gwen know their name and she will be happy to contact them.

Men's Group: Men's group will be meeting over coffee and pastry on Dec 10 at 8:00 AM. The topic of study will be the Book of James. See Pastor or Scott Carpenter for a study guide. All men are welcome to and encouraged to come!

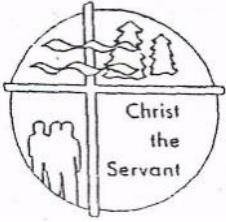
Bible Study: We will be continuing our Advent Bible study series, "Be Born in Us Today." Join us after coffee hour on Dec 4th and Dec 11th at 11 AM.

Decorating: Thursday Dec 8th at 4 PM, we will be decorating for Christmas. All are invited to come share the joy of preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth. When the work is finished, we will have a pot luck dinner. I hope you will plan to join in the fun and bring your favorite dish to pass. I heard that there might even be some wine (other than Morgan David) that evening.

O Come
LET US ADORE
Him



~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~



THE PATHFINDER

Website: www.ctslutheran.net

E-Mail: ctslutheranpf@gmail.com

Phone: (715) 762-4107

Publisher CTS

Volume 38 Issue 12 December 2022

Volunteer Schedule December – January

Date	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Ushers
December 4th	Mary Rusch			
December 11th	Beth Melvold		Dave Shaw Mary Rusch	
December 18th	Kurt Wolff		Paul & Nancy Miller	David Shaw Mary Rusch
December 24th			None	
December 25th			None	
January 1st				
January 8th				
January 15th				
January 22nd				
January 29th				

~Christians Serving God By Serving Others~