



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

“But as for me, I will look to the LORD, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me.” Micah 7:7-8

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The season of Advent is upon us. As a child growing up in the Missouri Synod (or *Misery* Synod as some of us later recalled), I remember Advent as a time of sorrowful reminders of how inadequate we were. We were to fear the coming of the Lord because we could never be ready. It was a lot like Lent—a season of darkness with a note of despair. The liturgical color was purple.

Thankfully in the 1970’s, somebody decided that such a sorrowful approach to preparation for the breaking into our world of our Savior was not in keeping with either the texts or the general feeling of joyous anticipation we experience around us in December. The color of the season was changed to blue, the color of hope.

Our Advent season begins on Sunday, November 27th. Advent is a season of pregnancy—Mary’s, ours as a congregation, and ours as individuals. God is always working in us, bringing us new life. What will be brought forth in the coming months? Will there be new ministries, new families joining us, new shouts of joy in worship?

In December, the days grow ever shorter until the shortest day of the year, December 21st. The darkness seems to pull us deeper into ourselves as we struggle with the reactions of our bodies and souls to more hours of

darkness than we would like. We are drawn into reflection about the dawning of the coming year and the birth of the King of Kings. Into that darkness, breaks the Light of the World!. We are invited to consider, what will our response to the Christ child be? Over the course of the next year, what wondrous things will God bring to new life in you and me?

May God sit with you and whisper encouragement in your ears this Advent, bringing you hope and comfort.

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Joan

COUNCIL'S CORNER:

November meeting minutes will be available for review as soon as the Secretary gets her act together and prints them. Stay tuned.....

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President	Laura Helton
Vice President	Todd Whitford
Secretary	Jan Dill
Treasurer	Hank Nienaber
Financial Secretary	Irvina Sandmann
Members	Micki Watson
	Mitch Talbott
	Dana Bradley
	Pastor Joan Armstrong

Birthdays:

2	Cindy Weiner
2	Al Brickler
5	Micki Watson
15	Sue Huff
16	Aaron Weine
19	Lorie Scott
31	Sue Thompson
31	Leslie Bell

Anniversaries:

25	Kim & Jim Wood
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OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS:

Receipts

10/23/16	\$1769.66
10/30/16	\$755.00
11/6/16	\$2926.00
11/13/16	\$2547.66
11/20/16	\$1610.00

Prayer Emphasis:

In this season of hope and expectation, let us pray for our sisters and brothers in Syria who are struggling to survive the violence of war. Let us pray for an intervention that would bring hope to those who are falling into despair and hopelessness. Please also remember those in our own communities who are homeless and suffering from the cold.

Spiritual Discipline:

Advent Study The ELCA offers two free Advent Studies that you can get by downloading them from the ELCA website.

1. Go to ELCA.org
2. You will find the first one featured toward the right side of the page under Worth a Look. It has a reading for each of the four weeks of Advent written by the bishops of the Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the US and Canada.
3. Click on "Read More" and you will find the document.
4. For the second one, paste this address into your browser: http://download.elca.org/ELCA_Resource_Repository/WH_Advent_Study.pdf
This one is offered by ELCA World Hunger and will challenge you to consider those who are hungry during this holiday season.

Both are great resources to help you to deepen your appreciation for why we set the time of Advent aside to consider what God is doing in the world.

If you do not have access to a computer, please let Pastor Joan know and she will make sure you get a hard copy.

News & Events: *Come and be blessed!*

Advent Service: On December 7th at 7pm we are offering an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the season of Advent and to experience the feeling of anticipation of the birth of our Lord on Christmas. The service will be contemplative in nature with readings, hymns and time for reflection. Please join us to take a moment out of the busy-ness of holiday preparations to slow down and rest in the spirit of expectation that Advent brings.

Deck the Church: *Make this a part of your Christmas joy!*

Hanging of the greens on December 11 (right after service) is a fun and meaningful time to spend with your church family. No matter what you think you are able to do, you are welcome to stay! Bring a dessert or snack food.....pizza will be provided. This will be a time to make a joyful noise (or in some cases, make a noise joyfully) to the Lord as we sing carols, make crafts to decorate our outside tree! You may even learn something about the tree in our sanctuary and what the significance of the Christmons are.

Nativity Sunday: *Here's an awesome opportunity!*

Bring your nativity set to church on Sunday, December 18 for our second annual display. From humble to grand, bring them all! The diversity of the nativities is what makes the display so fascinating. From tiny to large, last year's display included sets made of cardboard, wax, plaster, clothes pins, glass, banana tree bark and more. Please try to bring your set early and take it home after service for your display in your home. If you do not have a nativity now, it is a great time to purchase or make one....start a new Christmas tradition in your home!

(Questions: Call Sam Cantrell @859-635-4582)

Ladies Group: *All ladies are welcome....come and have fun!*

Ladies Christmas Party 12/27/16 6:00 pm at church bring a covered dish and a \$5.00 exchange gift.

Young @ Heart: *We don't check any IDs!*

November's meeting was organized, led by and blessed by Peggy Whitford with good food and a turkey quiz game. December's gathering will be on December 7 @ 11:00 a.m. at the Highlands Country Club. We do not card for age, so all are welcome each and every month. Please just let Peggy Whitford (859-441-1617) or Sam Cantrell (859-635-4582) know if you want to attend the luncheon for reservations.

Men's Bible Study:

Tuesday, December 6 @ 6:30 p.m.

Parable Players: *A small but active group!*

Once again (as every 3rd Monday of each month) the Parable Players entertained and were blessed by the residents of Crossroads Transitional Care. Songs were played by Todd Whitford and sung by all in the chapel! Readings by the group (Peggy Whitford, Sam Cantrell, Jan & Roger Dill) about "thanks". They believe they receive more than they give when they represent Christ and our church!

BULLETIN:

Kim Wood prepares the worship service bulletin. If you need to have information placed in the bulletin, or would like to add someone to the prayer list, please make sure she has your information by 2:00 PM each Wednesday. Her email address is wood.ks@icloud.com.

NEWSLETTER:

Jan Dill prepares the monthly newsletter. If you have information or insertions to be placed in the newsletter, please provide this information to Jan by the 20th of every month. *(Please bear with her as she learns the ropes)*
Her email address is reimanjd@gmail.com.