



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM

Divine Service 10:15 AM



DECEMBER 2020 -- VOLUME 58 No. 12

FROM THE PASTOR

1Th. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The verses above come from a letter from Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church in Thessalonica. They are found in the last part of the letter which has the heading, Final instructions and Benediction.

We can give thanks, and it is easy to do when things are going well but what about when it seems things are not going so well? Is it easy to give thanks when we are so shut down in our regular lives? I guess we could give thanks that we are still alive but then there are those who are wondering if it is so good to even be alive living under the conditions they find themselves in.

The Lord didn't promise us a rose garden in life. We as people of this nation have a lot to be thankful for even as we have to deal with a more "challenged" life. We had a chance to give thanks this past week as Thanksgiving came around again, even though it may have been, in some ways, "cancelled" compared to other years.

We are heading into the Christmas season and we are thankful for this season as well. There is the phrase, "The reason for the season." It is a phrase that we know should keep our eyes focused on the manger where Jesus was born. We see that new little life coming into this world for one reason, to die for our sins and then rise again for our justification.

This season will be quite different for many this year. As we go about our lives, show the reason for the season even now as we may be the few that shine with the love of Jesus for all, even in the midst of the trials that people including even ourselves may have to go through.

The season is upon us and even though it may be quite different this year, Jesus was born, He is coming again, we can look back and look forward to that day when the greatest Thanksgiving feast will be laid before us in our new heaven and earth.

Pastor

ADVENT SERIES

THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE

OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE STUDIES

1. **Advent 1**—Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree (Genesis 1:27; 3:8–15; Romans 5:12–21)
2. **Advent 2**—Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree (Genesis 22:1–18; Hebrews 11:17–22)
3. **Advent 3**—Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree (Matthew 3:13–17; Romans 6:1–11)
4. **Christmas**—Jesus, the Firstfruit of Jesse's Tree (John 1:1–14)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some,

it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call “Advent” were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness that permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world.

It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity’s fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister Mary became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world.

No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world.

Every force of Satan would seek to put that light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do. The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light that began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.

This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse’s tree. He is the Root of Jesse’s tree. He is the Life of Jesse’s tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse’s tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, “To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth” (*LSB* 383).

ELDERS MESSAGE

What am I thankful for?

I ponder this question as I prepare for the Thanksgiving festivities that will occur with family only. In previous years, we gathered with a group of friends at a mountain top retreat.

I am thankful for my spouse who asks me what I am planning to do every day. She then proceeds to tell me what I will **REALLY** be doing that day. Then my plans meld with hers, almost as if I was subjected to Vulcan Mind Meld (for those of you old enough to remember Star Trek). All kidding aside, I've been blessed for going on forty-eight years with Ruth at my side through thick and thin.

I am thankful for Arin and Cara and the joy of all the grandchildren they have brought into my life. I thank God for the opportunity to watch them grow and become their own selves.

I am thankful for all my friends, the long-time ones who provide down to earth guidance when I need it and those of recent acquaintance who renew my faith in mankind. All the members of the Trinity Lutheran Church family fall into both categories.

I am very thankful for my mother and all my siblings and their families who continually remind me of my roots. I relish their successes and commiserate with their problems. I pray for them daily.

As we gather to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we should all be thankful that Our Heavenly Father sent HIM to save us from eternal damnation.

We should be very thankful that GOD answers our prayers. The prayer chain is living proof of that.

Continue to praise GOD through prayer.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

JAMES R. WILKES, Elder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on November 19th.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that the elders met November 12th. Elder training will begin again in January 2021. Jesse Elkjer was welcomed to the Board of Elders. Jim Wilkes was selected to be head elder for 2021. The elders reviewed a proposed Advent letter to be sent to congregation members. Glen Schlehuser said talking to members is much more personal than letters. Since visits are not going to happen due to covid19 a decision was made to call or drop off copies of the bulletins and Trinitarians.

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, reported total income for November was \$14,841.00 of which \$12,932.00 went to the general fund and \$1909.00 went to special funds.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Treasurer, reported the following: General Fund income for November 2020 was \$12,932.00 (Envelopes + Loose Plate); expenses were (\$19,677.67) giving net loss of (\$6,745.67) Our year-to-date financial status: General Fund Income: \$156,990.28 (envelopes and loose plate); Expenses: (\$173,285.70) expenses exceeded income by (\$16,295.42).

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair reported: We're looking into who's interested in going to the Higher Things conference in Austin TX, next July. Emails have been sent to the children's parents. The final date for registration is in April or May, we need to register quickly as space is limited.

Allen Burmeister, Trustee Chair reported the following actions: The leak in roof above the youth room has hopefully been fixed. The fire extinguisher inspection is complete. Two issues were found and have been resolved; the Fire Department has approved. We have had several issues with the organ piping and linkage. They have all been resolved.

Ongoing or new projects: 1. We need to add an exhaust fan to computer closet, 2. We need to add a drip watering system to the front flower bed, 3. The sink and cabinet in the Youth Room will be removed and replaced with shelving, 4. Vent pipes over the Great Room received damage during the snow storm and will be repaired. If anyone notices needed repairs, please let Allen know.

Sandy Klose, Stewardship chair, reported: Benevolence funds in the amount of \$147.22 were utilized to help a family in need.

The initial payment check of \$7,852.80 has been sent to First Step Solutions for the sound system for the church. As of Tuesday, November 17, 2020 the check had not yet been received.

The laptop computer for the treasurer has been ordered. It should arrive December 4, 2020. The remaining memorial funds were used to purchase the laptop.

Unfinished Business:

1. Sound/media system. A decision has been made and approved by the Marquardt family. An initial payment, to order equipment, has been made to First Step Solutions, 1100 David Forti Dr., El Paso, TX 79936. (Open).
2. A laptop has been ordered from Dell to replace the one currently being used by the treasurer.

New Business: None.

Bob Klose, President

THANK YOU

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This is the last Trinitarian article of my four years as congregation president. I want to thank all of you, especially those who served on the Board of Directors (BOD) during my tenure, for your confidence and support. We have had some trials, losing several members to death and/or relocation, and triumphs, gaining new enthusiastic members. We made several improvements to our campus i.e. a new sign out front, upgrading the pipe organ, and the addition of central heating and cooling. All made possible through the cooperation and cohesiveness of you the members of Trinity. I pray that we all continue to remember why we are here and continue to praise and give all glory to God. I ask that you support Dick Dommers and the BOD as you supported me. Thanks again! May God bless and keep each one of you.

In His service,

Bob Klose

Outgoing President, Trinity Lutheran Church

STEWARDSHIP

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

LWML

THANKSGIVING BASKETS – Thank you to all who donated food , \$\$\$ for turkeys and time to help five families have a Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you also goes to those who were willing to help deliver the food baskets.

DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT – Finding families with children who we can help have a Christmas, and thru taking a name tag or two from the Christmas Gift Giving Tree in the Narthex. Please let Pastor or Yvonne know of any families we can help. Please have your gifts to the church by Dec. 20. Details in Bulletin. Thank you.

Ideas, Projects, and Programs, Oh My!

The Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) has been hard at work. The Christian Life Committee has a new product you'll love on the website. Many have already used the bookmarks, coloring pages, and cards for all occasions and all ages. The newest ones are by Valerie Matyas, based on "We Are HIS!" Included in this collection is the "Inspired to Share His Story" card. You may download these and many other resources at www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/

The Christian Resource Editors Committee updated 225 of our best LWML Bible studies and devotions for you to easily access and download from our website. If you need guidance choosing current materials, check out the Program Helps page at www.lwml.org/program-helps

From the Gospel Outreach Committee comes three activities for you or your group. A Mite Challenge Calendar is available each month. This fun activity has a new item for each day. Or you may be God's hands and feet with the monthly Mission Service Activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5th at 10 a.m. - Gather to help decorate our Altar, Tree & Church for Advent.

December 20th - Volunteer and help deliver Christmas Gifts to the families.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

Interns at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Navajo, NM - \$9,000

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico, has been blessed by summer interns the past two summers and want to continue this ministry. Interns have participated with other volunteer teams from across the country to lead VBS, re-roof the parsonage, and hold sports camps. In 2019, 57 children participated in VBS – that's 9 more than the previous summer. Without the leadership of interns and volunteers, those needy children would have missed out on this life-changing event. This year the intern program expanded to include Prison Ministry, where the interns witnessed to the inmates by sharing a devotion. This grant will help continue this important ministry.

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2019-2021

National Mission #17 - Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere KFUE Radio - \$60,000

Since 1924, KFUE has been reaching people far and wide with the message of Jesus Christ by using the latest technology. In the last century, technology has advanced at an unprecedented rate and continues to develop with each new year. Incorporating the newest forms of communication methods into KFUE's ministry, they can more effectively reach the younger generation and the generations to come with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even our Nation's military can listen wherever they are stationed. Aging family and friends who are confined to their homes can still be gathered to the Word through an iPad or similar device. Prison Ministry also utilizes KFUE as an effective way of sharing the Gospel. This grant will assist the station in sharing the gospel and staying current in the digital age.

National Mission #18 - Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction Office of International Mission - \$50,000

The Lutheran church has operated in Sri Lanka since the 1920's. Over the years, Lutherans in Sri Lanka have suffered numerous tests and trials. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has four very active congregations and seven preaching stations. There are three pastors for the 11 congregations. The need to train pastors is evident by the interest and enrollment in pre-seminary classes. For many years the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka has needed a sanctuary for Immanuel Lutheran Church, a central administrative office, and facilities to offer the theological classes for future pastors which will provide a permanent Lutheran seminary. Plans for a building to house the sanctuary, administrative offices, and theological classrooms have been designed. This grant will assist in funding the construction of the Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building.

by Yvonne Steeby, Trinity LWML President

Any questions? Contact Yvonne, Bev, Hannah, Christine, Belinda, or Cyndi H.

LWML On The Go, is available through your podcast provider, at lwml.org, and on the LWML App.

THE WINDOW

THE FESTIVAL OF LOVE

There is nothing in heaven or on earth that can be compared with the Love of God. Angels have sung of it; men have marveled at it; and children's lips have dwelt upon its sweetness. But to sound the depths of that love or to measure its riches is beyond the farthest stretch of men's imagination.

"O perfect Love, all human thought transcending!"

Christmas is pre-eminently the festival of love. Above, beneath, behind, and *in* the Christmas miracle we see the limitless love of heaven.

The fullness of time had come. The clocks of heaven had struck. The cup of man's iniquity was filled to overflowing. But instead of thunderbolts of judgment crashing through the skies, as men had every reason to expect, angel voices filled the midnight air with messages of peace on earth and God's good will toward men.

"For God *so loved* the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

The world had given God four thousand years of sin; and in reply God gave the world a Savior! Was there ever greater love than this?

If only our scarred and battered world in this winter of 1951 could experience the warmth and the comfort of that love! If only the hearts of men, so filled with strife and bitterness, could be opened to the transforming power of that divine affection!

For the heart that has once been touched by the love of God in Christ will always reason as did the Apostle John: "If God so loved us, we ought also love one another." 1 John 4:11.

As we enter upon another Christmas season, we shall do well to open our hearts wide to the love of God which found embodiment in Bethlehem's crib. In that love we shall find strength to increase *our* love – our love for the Lord of Christmas and our love for those for whom He came.

*Love divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling'
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded Love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.*

---'This Day Magazine', December 1951
By H. W. Goeckel

HYMN OF THE MONTH

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

...*When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem...”* Luce 2:15 (NKJV)

Feelings of sadness come over me whenever I hear this deeply moving carol. It is after all, set in the key of E minor, the “saddest of all keys.” Yet triumphant joy dispels the sadness as we exclaim: “This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.”

The melancholic melody is a famous old British tune called “Greensleeves,” originally a ballad about a man pining for his lost love, the fair Lady Greensleeves. Tradition says it was composed by King Henry VIII for Anne Boleyn. That’s unlikely, but we do know that Henry’s daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, danced to the tune.

Shakespeare referred to it twice in his play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*: In Act V, for example, Falstaff said, “Let the sky rain potatoes; let it thunder to the tune of ‘Greensleeves.’”

It was licensed to two different printers in 1580, and soon thereafter was being used with religious texts. Its first association with Christians came in 1642, in a book titled *New Christmas Carols*, in which it was used with the poem “The Old Year Now Away has Fled.” The last verse says: *Come, give’s more liquor when I doe call, I’ll drink to each one in this hall...And God send us a happy new yeare!*

For nearly 150 years, however, “Greensleeves” has been most identified with “What Child is This?” The words of this carol are taken from a longer poem written by an insurance agent named William Chatterton Dix, born in Bristol, England, in 1837. His father was a surgeon who wanted his son to follow his footsteps. But having no interest in medicine, William left Bristol Grammar School, moved to Glasgow, and sold insurance.

His greatest love was his prose and poetry for Christ. He wrote two devotional books, a book for children, and scores of hymns, two of which remain popular Christmas carols: “What Child is This?” and “As with Gladness Men of Old!”

All of Dix’s hymns should be more widely sung today, for they are masterpieces of poetry, filled with rich scriptural truth. Here’s the way he begins his exultant hymn, “Alleluis!”

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluis! His the triumph, His the victory alone.*

*---Then Sings My Soul, Book 2
Robert J. Morgan*

ALWAYS AT CHRISTMAS

By Georgia Moore Eberling

I am thinking of dear friends today
For always at the Christmastide
Although they may be miles away,
Remembrance bridges chasms wide
And deep and sweeps across the years,
While every heart the message hears
Of peace on earth, good will to men,
As angels chat their songs again.
Dear friend, I hope that where you are,
You glimpse the wondrous Christmas star,
And know the peace of Christmas Eve,
 Put by the cares that make you grieve.
May you remember childhood's bliss...
 I cannot wish you more than this.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

By Alfred Grant Walton

By Candle light, burning bright
Light the Christmas tree tonight,
Warm the hearts of young and old
With thy flame of living gold
Bless the children at their play,
Guide the stranger on his way,
Heaven has touched the earth today,
 Christ the Lord has come!

Candle light, burning bright
Light the house of prayer tonight,
Shed thy beauty as we bring
Homage to the Savor-King!
Cheer us as our carols rise,
Winged on gladness, to the skies,
God has opened Paradise,
 Christ the Lord has come!

DECEMBER 2020 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Dec. 2 Matt Clark--Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Jim Wilkes
Dec. 9 Jim Wilkes--Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Glen Schlehuser
Dec. 16 Glen Schlehuser--Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 Jim Wilkes
Dec. 24 Jim Wilkes--Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 Ray Bailey--Christmas
Dec. 27 Matt Clark
Dec. 31 Matt Clark--New Year's Eve

ACOLYTES

Dec. 2 Emma Fuller--Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Maddie Sanchez
Dec. 9 Zac Sanchez--Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Ryan Sebring
Dec. 16 Reilly Quinn--Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 Emma Fuller
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 Maddie Sanchez--Christmas
Dec. 27 Zac Sanchez
Dec. 31 Emma Fuller--New Year's Eve

READERS

Dec. 2 Bob & Sandy Klose
Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Lola Ableidinger & ????
Dec. 9 Vicki Leonard & Hannah Keeler
Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Cheryl Richey & Lewis Thomas
Dec. 16 Yvonne Steeby/Cheryl Sandenaw
Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 ?????
Dec. 24 Children's Prog.-Christmas Eve.
Dec. 25 Gerald Moore/Dick Dommers
Christmas
Dec. 27 ????
Dec. 31 Viki Leonard--New Year's Eve

USHERS

Dec. 6 Tom Blackmon, Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Dec. 13 Matt Anderson Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
Dec. 20 Ray Krueger, Robert Johnson,
Bob Thede, Trey Johnson
Dec. 27 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose

DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dec. 6 Lola Ableidinger
Dec. 13 David & Yvonne Steeby
Dec. 20 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Dec. 27 Cheryl Sandenaw

TELLERS

Dec. 2 Yvonne Steeby/Becky Worley-
Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Shirley Enyeart/Robyn Luevano
Dec. 9 Megan Bowman & Dick Dommers
Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Linde Van Cleave/Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 16 Patty Quinn/?????--Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly
Dec. 25 Lola Abeidinger/Nora Sotak-Christmas
Dec. 27 Joyce Macon & Bob Klose
Dec. 31 Yvonne Steeby/Becky Worley
New Year's Eve

HOSTS

Dec. 6 Bob & Sandy Klose
Dec. 13 Hannah Keeler & Robyn Luevano
Dec. 20 Jack & Shirley McCastle
Dec. 27 Gerald & Gayan Moore

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Shirley Enyeart

DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Stacy Johnson
Sandra Krueger

