



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Donavon W. (Bill) Heithold, Jr.

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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



DECEMBER 2021 -- VOLUME 59 No. 12

FROM THE PASTOR

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We all know this familiar verse that gives us a few names for Jesus. There are other names and descriptions of Jesus in the Bible. I will list the verses below. You can look them up and see if you can figure out the description or the name. See how many different descriptions or names you find in these verses.

Genesis 49:9, 10	Exodus 3:14	Deuteronomy 18:15-22
Job 19:25	Psalms 16:10, 118:22	Isaiah 7:14-8:8, 9:6, 11:1, 28:16, 40:3-5, 53:3
Jeremiah 23:5	Daniel 9:25,	Micah 4:3
Zechariah 3:8, 6:12	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 1:21, 23, 41, 3:3, 4:25, 42, 6:14, 7:40, 8:19, 9:15, 21:11, 26:67, 28:19
Mark 1:24, 6:3	Luke 1:29, 35, 36, 47-2:11, 7:16, 23:35	
John 1:1, 14-18, 3:29, 4:10, 5:22, 23, 6:32-35, 7:38, 8:12, 10:9, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1		
Acts 2:27, 3:14, 9:2, 10:42	Romans 9:5	1 Corinthians 1:24, 30, 15:45
2 Corinthians 4:4	Ephesians 1:6, 2:20, 5:23	Philippians 2:6-11
Colossians 1:15	1 Timothy 1:1, 6:15	Titus 2:13
Hebrews 1:8, 3:1, 2, 4:14, 12:2, 23	1 Peter 1:19, 2:6, 25	1 John 1:1-3, 4:14
Revelation 1:5, 8, 3:14, ch 5, 7:17, 17:14, 19:16, 21:9, 22:16		

Pastor

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY

A driver pool has been created for members who need transportation to medical appointments. The following volunteers have signed up to provide this transportation.

Dick Dommers	(575) 434-8735
Shirley Enyeart	(575) 439-7665
Goldie Gressman	(575) 430-2272 (In town only)
Bob Klose	(575) 491-3407
Cheryl Richey	(575) 214-9942 (In town only)
Nora Sotak	(575) 434-5247 or (575) 439-7524

Persons needing the transportation may call those on the list to schedule transportation. To avoid possible liability for the church this will be a person-to-person arrangement.

Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

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ELDERS MESSAGE

Thanksgiving

We gather together as families to give thanks to GOD for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us in the past year.

We also prepare to celebrate the birth of Our LORD and SAVIOR ,JESUS CHRIST.

Amid all the usual hub bub of the season, we need to reflect daily on the wondrous gift GOD has given us, SALVATION through the innocent suffering and death of JESUS on the cross.

All we have to do is remember John 3:16.

F.R.O.G

PRAYER WORKS.

James R. Wilkes, Elder

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CONGREGATION PRESIDENT REPORT

At the congregation annual meeting on November 14, the proposed budget was voted down with a number of comments from members. Issues raised were reviewed and a revised budget was presented at the board meeting on November 18. The board approved the revised budget with amendments for presentation to the congregation at a meeting to be held after service on December 5th . Copies of that budget are available to all members for review. The board is well aware that we have to manage our spending very closely in order to keep expenditures within the range of contributions. We still welcome ideas on where to cut costs without cutting our service to the Lord.

The BOD also approved Advent Soup Suppers, and we look forward to seeing you there to taste the delicious offerings from our chefs.

As we approach the day to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I urge you to pray for our nation, our leaders, our church and all that are in need, that all may enjoy a holiday in the peace brought to us by Jesus.

In Christ's service,
Dick Dommers

EVANGELISM

Tract of the Month: Christmas isn't always the bright and cheery affair found in songs or movies. The tract of the month for December "**What Is Christmas?**" conveys how this season can be a complicated and difficult time of the year. Providing Scriptural narrative from the first Christmas, the author "conveys how God has reconciled man to Himself through His Son and how His love gives us hope". Concluding the booklet, the author asks the reader this: "Where do you find yourself this Christmas?" Wherever that place might be, the reader is reminded that God's gift of love in Jesus Christ can heal every wound and repair every broken relationship." This booklet mixes snippets of modern Christmas with the happenings of the first Christmas. Wherever you are this Christmas, this booklet is informative and enjoyable to read.

* * * *

STEWARDSHIP

Psalm 100:4 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name!"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray all of you had a very blessed Thanksgiving. I feel so very blessed by God! It saddens me that society is taking the thankfulness out of Thanksgiving and replacing it with football and shopping on Black Friday.

When we abide in God, He will provide all we need! As He provides for us, He desires that we give back to Him! This is the challenge we face. With our nation in the condition it is in EVERYTHING is being blamed on, or excused by COVID.

I'm sorry, but I don't think God excuses us from giving back to Him from what He gave us in the first place! It is easier to stay home than to get up and attend church on Sundays. It is less stressful on our limited budgets to use our tithes to buy more gifts for under the tree on Christmas. Is this what God calls us to do? NO!

Our church's expenses are more than the offerings being received. To pay the necessary bills to keep our church functioning we are using up, QUICKLY, the reserve funds we have. Bottom line is, God needs us to give back to Him some of what he has given to us.

If you cannot or do not wish to attend church, you can mail your tithe to the church:

Trinity Lutheran Church
1505 College Ave
Alamogordo, NM 88310

I believe we would all be blessed abundantly if we would do as the psalmist in Psalm 100:4. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him, bless His name!"

God's blessings,
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

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SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPERS

After a year off we will once again have our soup & sandwich suppers before each Advent service at 6:00 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, followed by the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for providing soup or sandwiches. Just sign your name and what you plan to bring for whichever advent service you wish.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Every year around January first, thousands of people take a look at their economic and physical shape. The New Year makes us think of new beginnings and new ways we can improve our life by taking off a few pounds or committing more of our pay check to home improvement or our bank savings. You might say that that's all well and good but this is December, not January.

Did you know that the first Sunday of Advent begins our new liturgical year? Maybe as we prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth, we should be taking a look at our spiritual shape. I'll bet you'd be surprised at how many opportunities there are at our church to expand our giving.

Have you ever considered teaching a Sunday school class or participating in a Bible Study group? Do you have office skills that could be put to use? Would you consider visiting a new visitor to our church or one of our homebound members? Do you have the gift of music that could blend with others in our choir or are your musical talents better used in our bell choir? Have you ever wondered who makes sure we have flowers every week, or who mans the microphone and streaming equipment, or who prepares communion for the altar, or who cuts the grass, or who maintains the church kitchen? Do you wonder who pulled out the overgrown sage bushes and repaired the stucco wall they were hiding? Do you appreciate the greeters every Sunday when you enter the Lords house? This is just a small portion of the opportunities and needs generated by our church every week, month and year.

Have you ever been tempted to let your name be put forward for a church board position but were unsure of your qualifications or the possible demands a position might entail? Talk to a current board member about the duties or volunteer to be a member of the committee. You'd be surprised to learn that some of our committees are undermanned.

In my younger years I had the opportunity to listen to a speaker who told her audience that if God called you, He would equip you. Over the years I have had the joy of learning just how true her words were. A few times I didn't readily agree with the direction God was turning me but I've never regretted answering His call. Jump in with both feet or just dip your toe in to test the water, you won't be sorry. See you at church.

Belinda Burmeister, Stewardship Committee

LWML

MESSAGE FROM LWML PRESIDENT – DEBBIE LARSON

Our good works are not something we do to gain salvation, but something we do out of love and gratitude for God's love and gift of salvation. We love God so much we want to live and act as he would. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have many opportunities to reach beyond ourselves and show God's love to a lost and erring world. God has prepared good works for each of us. He equips each of us for certain tasks with unique personalities and spiritual gifts. Have you been called to serve as a short term missionary or to lead a Bible study at your church? How about making quilts or teaching Sunday school? Use the gifts and talents God has given you to care for others. But do not get stuck in a rut or reject a new area of service because it is not an area for which you feel equipped. God does not ask if we are capable, only if we are willing. He promises to always be with us and to give us what we need to serve Him. Our faithful prayers and mighty mites allow us to

make a difference in the lives of people in our communities and around the world. We care for them physically and spiritually, just as Christ has taught us.

WHAT LWML REPRESENTS

- It has at it's "MISSION HEART" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world.
- It is also called "Lutheran Women in Mission", the name adopted by the LWML BOD in January 1998.
- It is women who are finding avenues to use their God Given Talents, as they meet the challenges of how to share the Gospel message.
- It is composed of individual women and women's groups within congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, on campuses, in members homes, or other settings.
- Individual membership is open to all women in LCMS congregations with or without society affiliated with the LWML. Women may have an interest in the mission and ministry of the LWML - and wish to be a part of the organization, but cannot for a variety of reasons belong to a local group.
- The LWML seeks to develop and maintain a greater MISSION CONSCIOUSNESS amount women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, the gospel, and service.
- A major emphasis is the Support of Mission and Ministry throughout the world by means of the MITE BOX Offerings. These mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in Mission Grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

EVENTS

October 9 – 24 ladies attended the LWML Zone Fall Rally here at Trinity. Pastor Hiethold provided a meaningful Bible Study. Trinity LWML hosted a wonderful luncheon. Thank you to those who attended and those that assisted with food and help with everything.

October 10 – LWML Sunday was observed. Thank you ladies who stepped and helped during services. Did you notice all the Ladies wearing their PURPLE? Thank you for contributing to Mission Mites.

November 20 - We gathered together for a Prayer Service presented by Nora Sotak, and to work on Thanksgiving Food Baskets for families in need, Once again THANK YOU to all food contributions, money and volunteering to deliver the food baskets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4 – we will gather to decorate the church for the Advent Season at 10:30a.m. Lunch to follow...We will have the annual family gift giving tree up in the NARTHEX – please take a tag or two and help families have a Christmas that might otherwise not. Thank you.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020--2022

Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness — Lutheran Braille Workers – Grant \$8,000

Lutheran Braille Workers is prayerfully requesting a grant to offset the costs within the Ministry Production Centers across the United States, to explore the opening of new Ministry Production Centers primarily within the Rocky Mountain District, and to assist with production costs nationally. These funds would help with the production of over 1,000 volumes of materials in Braille, Specialized Large Print and Audio formats, and will help thousands of people world-wide know about Jesus in a manner which serves their needs.

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2019 -- 2021

Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life LCMS Life Ministry — \$92,000

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). The sanctity of life created by God, and the family as God designed it, has been under attack by pro-choice organizations who are expanding their movement to reach children of younger ages, to attack chastity and promote promiscuity, and to influence our children causing devaluation of life, marriage, and the family. The continued development of "Life" curricula is one of the most frequent requests by LCMS schools. With this grant, LCMS Life Ministry will build a set of developmentally appropriate resources and curriculum for early childhood, young children, and elementary-aged children and their families.

Remember: You get can all kinds of information, resources, bible studies, devotions, support by going to the LWML website: LWMLRMD.org (Rocky Mountain District) or LWML.org (National).

by Yvonne Steeby, Trinity LWML President

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

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

LWML DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT

LWML's mission project for December is the Christmas gift tree. We have 4 families this year. We are asking for your help to purchase gifts for these families. The gift tags will be on the tree in the narthex by December 3rd. Please have your gifts purchased and brought in to the church by December 19th. We will be delivering the gifts to the families during the week of December 20th. If you have any questions please contact Sue Kelly (575-430-2100) or Bev. Van Duyn (575-434-5048).

A SHOOT BRINGS LIFE

Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several thrived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing "dates that Jesus ate," but there's another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11, a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel's sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (see verses 6-7).

Some people and churches celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world.

---adapted from *The Wired Word*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Advent Season is upon us and Christmas is fast approaching so as your Financial Secretary I have several items to accomplish for you.

A new item in the monthly newsletter will be a graph (below on next page) with a giving portrait and where we are for the year. Please feel free to give me your comments or suggestions for improvement.

Tellers: First of all THANK YOU to my teams that help with the offering tally each and every Sunday! We couldn't do it without you! If anyone would like to volunteer to be a teller we would love to have you join our team. We have training materials and I would be happy to help you with a Sunday's counting of the envelope monies. You could also be an observer to see if you might be interested. Please contact Vicki @ 575-921-8602.

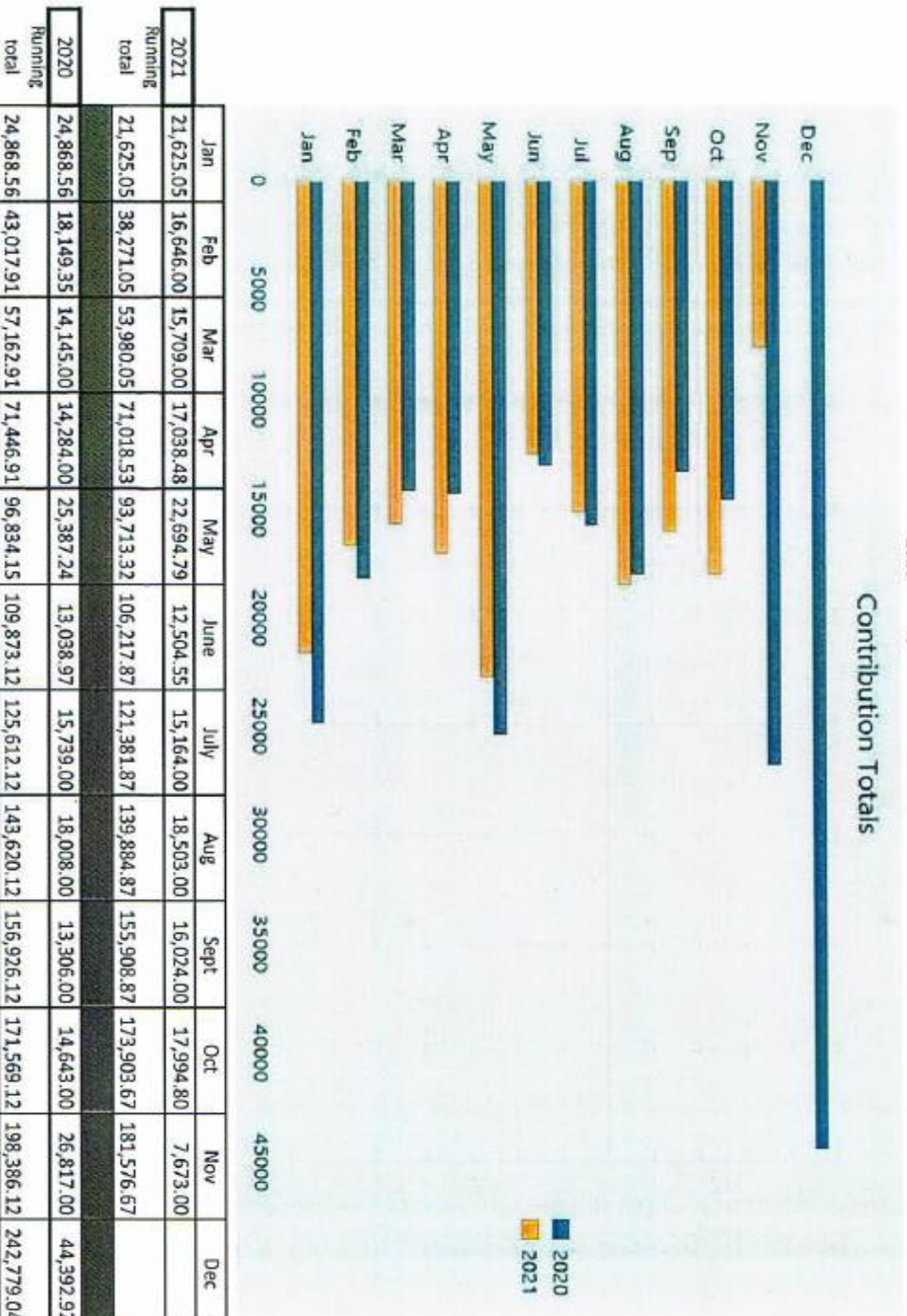
Offering Envelopes; I will be getting the offering envelopes ready to go by mid December. As usual they will be placed in the narthex for pickup. We are trying something new and providing monthly envelopes to those who would like to contribute monthly. Weekly envelopes will still be available. In addition Mission envelopes near the door for Special offerings.

End of Year Contribution Statements: End of year statements will be ready the first week of January and will be placed in the mailboxes. If you would like a different format than is provided or have corrections please let me know.

Yours In Christ,
Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary

Trinity Lutheran Church Contribution Totals (Month by Month Comparison)

2020 vs 2021



Please note that November TOTALs are Partial with only 2 weeks included-It also needs to be noted that some members made their November contributions on October 31st so they are included in October's total.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

[For use in newsletters or announcements of the Advent–Christmas series:]

SYMBOLS OF SALVATION: FORETELLING CHRIST'S BIRTH

Sermon series by Aaron A. Koch

Contributors: Thomas Handrick, Sr., David Rogner, and Jacob B. Weber.

Advent Series for 2021

Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Isaiah 7:14); “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6); and “From you [O Bethlehem] shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Micah 5:2). These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But in addition to these wonderful verses, Jesus teaches us that, in fact, the entire Old Testament prophecies about Him—“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them *in all the Scriptures* the things concerning *Himself*” (Luke 24:27, emphasis added). “For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, *because only through Christ is it taken away*” (2 Corinthians 3:14, emphasis added). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; *and it is they that bear witness about Me*” (John 5:39, emphasis added). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh. As the hymn puts it,

For deep in prophets’ sacred page,
And grand in poets’ winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord. (LSB 810:2)

The various “types” in the Old Testament point to a complete fulfillment in Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The Advent sermons in this series focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. The Christmas sermon then focuses on how the narrative of Jesus’ birth is no fairy tale but a true story that also foretells the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation. Jesus takes on our flesh so that He might die in the flesh for our sins and be raised bodily for our justification (Romans 4:25). All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. May God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh!

EVERGREEN
A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION BY HENRY RISCHÉ

THIS DAY MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 1952

History tells us that Pastor Henry Schwan of Ohio was the first to introduce the Christmas Tree in church; and King Albert in Windsor Castle; and Martin Luther, in the home. But legend relates that it was the angels who chose the evergreen for the world's Christmas tree.

They passed the mighty oak because it was too hard and the wood was used for crosses. They passed the beech because it lost its leaves too soon and was worm-eaten. They passed the birch because it gave itself for making switches. The graceful willow was rejected because it was a symbol of weeping and not joy.

At last they came upon a fir tree, the Cinderella of the woods. It wasn't good for firewood, nor lumber, nor fruit, but it was just right for Christmas. It had a pleasant aroma, an even, up-pointing form, and evergreen needles. A perfect symbol to represent Christmas faith and grace—"Thy leaves are so unchanging."

*Not only green when summer's here,
But also green in winter drear.*

When the last rose of summer is faded and gone, when the swallows southward fly, when the frost is on the pumpkin, when the melancholy days are here, "then is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer" by this prince of trees.

When the hope of life grows dim, and love waxes cold, and good will runs thin, and religious interest has a jaded look, then a tree stands in the heart of the home, and in the house of worship, and in the market place, as a reviving remembrance of the beneficence of Christmas!

Its soft lights symbolize the cheerful radiance that Christmas brings into the shadows of the home. Its star-studded tip points the thought of men upward. Its fragrant scent reminds the human heart of the sweet myrrh of comfort that lies like a balm in the alabaster treasury of the Word. Its silent presence in the room speaks of the peace that passeth all understanding.

And its evergreen quality, the same through summer heat and winter frost, speaks of the Word that passeth not away and the Christmas-born Savior, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever"—the changeless Christ in a changing world.

The oak sheds its leaves, the beech is worm-eater, the willow weeps, and the birch is for switches; but you and I must stand fast in the Lord, must be lasting in love and sempervirent in soul, like the evergreen—

*Thou bidst us true and faithful be
And trust in God unchangely.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
How sturdy God hath made thee!*

DECEMBER 2021 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Dec. 1 Matt Clark (Advent Service)
Dec. 5 Jim Wilkes
Dec. 8 Jim Wilkes (Advent Service)
Dec. 12 Glen Schlehuser
Dec. 15 Glen Schlehuser
Dec. 19 Jim Wilkes
Dec. 24 Jim Wilkes (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Jesse Elkjer (Christmas)
Dec. 26 Matt Clark
Dec. 31 Jim Wilkes (New Year's Service)

ACOLYTES

Dec. 1 Madie Sanchez (Advent Service)
Dec. 5 Ryan Sebring
Dec. 8 Zac Sanchez (Advent Service)
Dec. 12 Dylan Sebring
Dec. 15 Reilly Quinn (Advent Service)
Dec. 19 Macey Sebring
Dec. 24 Children's Program (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Ryan Sebring (Christmas)
Dec. 26 Zac Sanchez
Dec. 31 Dylan Sebring (New Year's Service)

READERS

Dec. 1 Bob & Sandy Klose (Advent Service)
Dec. 5 Lola Ableidinger & Susan Kelly
Dec. 8 Vicki Leonard/Hannah Keeler
(Advent Service)
Dec. 12 Cheryl Richey & Lewis Thomas
Dec. 15 Yvonne Steeby/Cheryl Sandenaw
(Advent Service)
Dec. 19 Ruth Wilkes & Kelly Thomas
Dec. 24 Children's Program
Dec. 25 Gerald Moore & Dick Dommers
(Christmas)
Dec. 26 Youth
Dec. 31 Ruth Wilkes & Louis Mauriot
(New Year's Service)

USHERS

Dec. 5 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer,
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Dec. 12 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker
Jesse Elkjer, Susan Kelly
Dec. 19 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Ray Krueger, Bob Thede
Dec. 26 Bob & Sandy Klose
Gerald Moore, David Teller

HOSTS

Dec. 5 Megan & James Bowman
Dec. 12 Ed & Nancy Branch
Dec. 19 Marvin & Joyce Bunker
Dec. 26 Allen & Belinda Burmeister

TELLERS

Dec. 1 Megan Bowman & Dick Dommers
(Advent Service)
Dec. 5 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
Dec. 8 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak
(Advent Service)
Dec. 12 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly
Dec. 15 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
Dec. 19 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley
Dec. 24 No offering (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Shirley Enyeart & Vicki Leonard
(Christmas)
Dec. 26 Megan Bowman & Dick Dommers
Dec. 31 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
(New Year's Service)

DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dec. 5 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Dec. 12 Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 19 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Dec. 26 Pastor & Cindi Heithold

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Shirley Enyeart

DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Stacy Johnson
Sandra Krueger

