

THIS IS MY SON – ADVENT SERIES FOR 2022

# 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 2022 -- VOLUME 60 No. 12**

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

**The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. Isa. 11:6**

You may read the verse above and wonder how this thing could be. If we think about it, what was it like right after creation week? Did lions or wolves or leopards eat meat? No, they didn't. There was no death before Adam and Eve brought death into the world.

I know you might not have thought about it but when Adam and Eve ate from that tree, the whole of creation changed. Sin, death and hell entered into creation. So, when Isaiah talks of these carnivores and a little child, they must be outside sin. When will these things be? It will have to be in the new heaven and earth created when Jesus comes again.

We are not there yet, but as we look at Jesus' coming 2000 years ago and as we celebrate that coming this season, we can envision in Him a time when what Isaiah wrote will eventually come to pass. We understand what Jesus came to do was to create a relationship between God and us which was not an enemy relationship that sin causes but one of father and His children relationship.

The child in the Isaiah text, we know is Jesus. He was born to lead people to salvation. He, as a child was seen by some wise men as the King, a child, yet the King. They proved it by bringing gifts fit for a King and that is who Jesus was and is.

Another familiar text points it out as well: Is. 9:6-7 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. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Jesus, also the focus of this verse is seen as bringing peace. It is not only the peace He brings now but especially when He comes again. Yes, we have peace with God the Father because of Jesus. He paid the price on the cross for that peace and we are beneficiaries.

As we once again celebrate His first coming, let us not forget what He came to do. He, even as a child or maybe a teenager was showing great signs of leadership which carried over to leading the way for eternal life on the cross. He is the first born, we get to follow.

Pastor

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## **MIDWEEK ADVENT -- SOUP & SANDWICHES**

**There will be a soup & sandwich supper before each Advent service beginning on Wednesday, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. 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 up your name and what you plan to bring for whichever advent service you wish

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## **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

The 2023 Baby Bottle Campaign will begin mid-January. Just a reminder: Please start saving your change now so you have a big pile of it for the campaign. Watch for more information after Christmas

## ELDER'S MESSAGE

We gather together as families to give thanks to GOD for the many blessings HE has bestowed upon us in the past year. GOD has answered the many prayers we have offered to HIM.

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.

The mid-week Advent services will be on 7, 14 and 21 December. The soup and sandwich suppers will be at 6:00 PM on each of those days. Please join us at each of these suppers and the Advent services.

### PRAYER WORKS.

James R. Wilkes, Elder

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## PRESIDENT REPORT

**TREASURER.** Our treasurer, Robyn Luevano, having served faithfully for approximately six years, has asked to step down. The Board of Directors voted to accept her resignation effective the end of this year. Gratefully, Jim Kline, with experience in the position with a prior congregation, has stepped forward to fill the position, and was appointed to replace Robyn by the board. Thank you Robyn and Jim.

**SYNOD OFFICER NOMINATIONS.** The synod has requested congregations to send nominations for the offices of PRESIDENT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, and REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT for West-Southwest Region. Anyone who wishes to submit a nomination should see Dick Dommers or Bob Klose with a name no later than January 30, 2023. Any nominations will be submitted on behalf of our Trinity congregation.

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

### OUR MONTHLY RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

#### October 2022

General Fund	\$15,138.46 (Envelope + Loose Plate)
Expenses	<u>(\$16,545.46)</u>
Profit/Loss	(\$1,407.00)
Estimated Monthly Budget Requirement:	\$ 17,866.34

### YEAR-TO-DATE September 30, 2022

Giving (Actual)	\$163,628.47 (Envelope + Loose Plate)
Expenses (Actual)	<u>(\$149,510.04)</u>
Profit/Loss	\$ 14,118.43
Budgeted	\$179,388.12

### OUR WEEKLY RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

#### November 6, 2022

General Fund:	\$5,645.00
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>

Difference:	\$1,508.00
Other Designated Giving:	
Dollar Project – Bible Stick Ministry	\$34.00
Mission – Luth Disaster Relief	\$60.00
Mission – Luth. Classical College	90.00
Tree Removal	\$1,000.00
Flowers	<u>\$79.00</u>
Total Designated Giving	\$1,363.00

**November 13, 2022**

General Fund:	\$2,493.00
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>
Difference:	(\$1,644.00)
Other Designated Giving:	
Food Baskets	\$60.00
Africa Training	\$100.00
Dollar Project	\$9.00
Mission – Luth. Classic College	\$7.00
Flowers	<u>\$72.00</u>
Total Designated Giving	\$248.00

**November 20, 2022**

General Fund:	\$2,660.00
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>
Difference:	(\$1,477.00)
Other Designated Giving:	
Dollar Project	\$8.00
Mission-Luth. Classic College	<u>\$180.00</u>
Total Designated Giving	\$188.00

**November 27, 2022**

General Fund:	\$2,625.00
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>
Difference:	(\$1,512.00)
Other Designated Giving:	
Dollar Project	\$17.00
Flowers	<u>\$</u>
Total Designated Giving	\$0.00

Total Designated Giving \$

**ONLINE GIVING - (LCEF ACH ACCOUNT, NOT INCLUDED IN FIRST NATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT)**

**October 2022**

\$2,700.00

**YEAR-TO-DATE October 31, 2022**

\$16,419.85

Online giving funds are left in the LCEF ACH account will be transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> National Account at the end of December to be included in the financial year report

**Estimated total funds currently available**

\$17,643.50  
+\$16,419.85  
\$34,093.35

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**THIS IS MY SON --- ADVENT SERIES**

**MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1**

Just as God's people of old waited with faith in the coming Messiah, so is our Advent anticipation of Christmas, as we sing of the Savior, "Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!" (LSB 334:1). Our hopes and fears are real. They can distract us from God's promises. God's promise was from the beginning spoken to Adam and Eve. Salvation would come through the woman's offspring (Genesis 3:15). But it would not be Cain, the son of Adam, nor Ishmael, the son of Abraham, nor Absalom, the son of David. The true Son of Adam and Abraham and David is the Son of God. Our attention and faith thus direct our hopes and fears to God's Son, in whom we receive adoption as sons and daughters in the family of God.

**MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2**

Our Advent expectation continues as we wait to celebrate the gift of God's promised Son to be our Savior. Like us, Abraham struggled as God's promise seemed less likely to come about, especially as the years passed into decades. As our faith may at times grow weak, we are tempted to take matters into our own hands, only to discover that our efforts fail. That is one reason we are here again this day, in order that God's Word and Spirit strengthen our faith, even in the face of all doubts, to wait upon God's sure and gracious promises. The true Son of Abraham is the One whom God has sent and designated, saying, "This is My beloved Son." Jesus brings all of God's promises together to make us sons and daughters of God. Believe it. Live it.

**MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3**

By now, one would think we are getting the message. We often pin our hopes on passing things and even on people who cannot save. God promised to our first parents and then again to our "father in faith," Abraham, that one of their descendants would be our Savior from sin and death. Though He was their son, however, it was not yet Cain or Ishmael. God's promise increased to the great king David, whose hopes were dashed with tears at the death of his son Absalom. Faith must hang on to the depth of God's promise. It would be generations before God would finally send His own perfect Son, whose Baptism, suffering, death, and rising would bring forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who are children of God by faith in Jesus, great David's greater Son.

**NATIVITY**

We gather to celebrate the ultimate gift of God. This gift was promised at the very beginning of our need for a Savior from sin and from the last enemy, death, and He comes as the offspring of the woman. Yet the Promised One was not the son of Adam and certainly not Cain. Years later, the promise came to Abraham. But it was not yet the son of Abraham and certainly not Ishmael. Still the promise held to the great king David. But it was not yet the son of David and certainly not Absalom. Nevertheless, the promise was fulfilled through the house and lineage of David in the Son of Mary of Nazareth, the Son of God. To

confirm this truth, both the evangelists Matthew and Luke give the genealogy—Matthew tracing the promise forward from Abraham, and Luke backward all the way to Adam. John describes the mystery of the Savior as a true human, born of the virgin Mary, and as true God, begotten of God the Father. Let us celebrate the gift in His eternal life-giving flesh and blood with the awe and reverence of the new, eternal life of faith as true children of God.

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### **STEWARDSHIP**

Luke 2:20 “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told to them.”

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be one of those shepherds on Christmas Eve. They had seen and heard an angel telling them about the birth of a Savior, Jesus Christ. They had found the baby Jesus Mary and Joseph. Then they made known to others what they had seen and heard about baby Jesus. I believe that is what God wants us to do for Him this Christmas season. Go and tell others about the birth of Jesus!! We should be even more excited than the shepherds because we know about His life, death, and resurrection.

I pray God will put it in each of our hearts to share His love and His Son, Jesus, with others this Christmas season. Merry Christmas to each of you.

God’s blessings,  
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

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### **LWML**

“It seems Christmas arrives faster each year. Decorations appear in the stores and shopping malls before Halloween. The message to prepare for the “perfect holiday season” is everywhere. We spend so much time and energy decorating, planning menus, and choosing the perfect gifts for everyone and little time preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child. One way to keep the focus of your Christmas celebration on Christ is to observe Advent.

The word Advent is from the Latin word *adventus*, which means coming. Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. The use of Advent candles started in Germany, before the Reformation, and have been widely used in Lutheran churches in America for over 100 years. Traditionally, three purple candles and one pink candle were used. Purple is the color of royalty, and the pink candle was used to signify joy. Today many churches use blue candles instead of purple, signifying hope.

As you prepare for Christmas, keep your heart ready for Christ’s Second Coming. During the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, continue to show God’s love to the world around you. Speak kind words to your fellow shoppers and to the store clerks. Be ready to share the Christmas story – the story of a loving God who sent His Son to be our Savior. Don’t let the busyness of life keep you from reading the Bible and praying. Are you ready for Christmas? More importantly, are you ready for the day when Christ will come again?” **THE ABOVE WORDS ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN LWML BIBLE STUDY ENTITLED ‘WE AWAIT HIS COMING’**

It is important for each of us to participate in the preparations for the birth of Christ and this begins with our Advent services on Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm. There are also a few dates which the ladies will help prepare the church to be festive for Christmas Day. Please join us for a day of decorating on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1030. We will decorate the tree and put out the nativities. After decorating we will have a potluck - so bring something to share and enjoy some fellowship. We will undecorate the tree and take down

the nativities on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and then go to lunch at a local restaurant. Anyone is welcome to come help and join us. Please watch the bulletin for details.

November has been a busy month. Nora Sotak and Jill Clark hosted a Prayer Service on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the past few weeks, church members have been donating food and monies for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Thanks to everyone who donated, once again we were able to help four local families. Thank you to Cheryl Richey and Hannah Keeler for getting the items together and getting them delivered to the families for Thanksgiving.

Soon we will also begin collecting items for our Christmas families. Please watch for notices in the bulletin and the gift tag tree in the near future. Susan Kelly and Beverly Van Duyn have taken the lead on this project.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season! Enjoy the preparation for the best day of the year- the birth of the Christ Child!

Vicki Leonard, LWML President

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### **CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS**

Soon you will be receiving the schedule for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. One thing you will notice is that Christmas falls on a Sunday this year. One LCMS pastor told me he expects only 45 people to be there out of a normal 115. He expects less than half! I also read about churches canceling services every time Christmas is on a Sunday. Think about these things for a moment and what they confess.

What it confesses is that in the minds of many Christians Christmas is a time for "family" and not a time for church (as if their fellow believers were not their family!). If we turn this Holy Day into nothing more than a day of gift giving, eating a big meal, watching movies, sports, family time, etc. with a little nod to Jesus thrown in somehow, then how is this any different than an unbelievers celebration of Christmas? And yet, some of those same people who celebrate Christmas this way will get offended if someone says "Happy Holidays" and not "Merry Christmas." The very name Christ-mas(s) teaches that the entire reason we celebrate Christmas is to be in church (the mass part) to celebrate Christ's birth and receive His gifts. Where else would we want to be other than in church on a Holy Day meant to celebrate Christ's birth and all that it means for us? You cannot keep Christ in Christmas if you don't see church as the central event of the day and season.

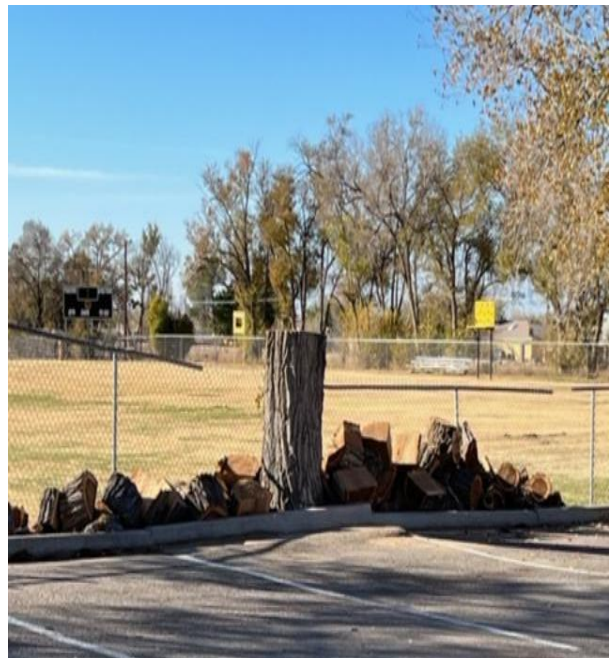
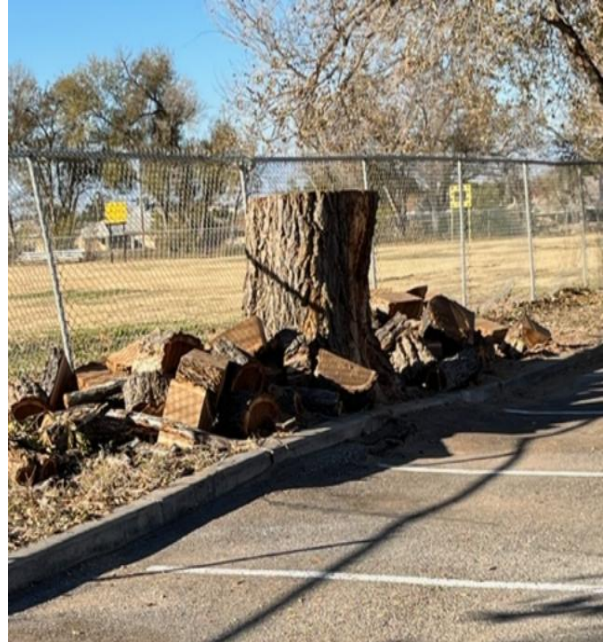
Someone will say, "But pastor, that isn't our families tradition!" Then, honestly, you need to repent and start new traditions. Traditions that make it clear that Christ is actually the reason for the season.

Let us not celebrate Christmas like the pagans and unbelieving world. Let us celebrate as Christians who believe and understand and confess that the incarnation of the Son of God is the central event of our lives.

I hope you will consider these things, pray about these things, and plan accordingly during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

In Christ,  
Pastor Packer, Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Pagosa Springs, CO

**2 TREES REMOVED FROM SOUTH PARKING LOT AT CHURCH**







**CONGRATULATIONS TO Ben Clark** as he graduated in November 2022 from the NM Law Enforcement Academy. He completed The Basic Police Officer Class 204 in Sante Fe, NM.  
**Way to go Ben!!**. He is now a full fledge Deputy Sheriff for Otero County

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO** Garrett Anderson and Jane Kelly who will be married on December 17, 2022 at Grace Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM. Pastor Heithold is the Officiant for the wedding. Garrett teaches 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades band, choir and bells for Trinity Lutheran School in Toledo, Ohio. Jane is an elementary music teacher at Trinity Lutheran School as well. Garrett is the Music Director for Trinity Lutheran Church and Jane is a professional trumpapist and has played in several symphonies in the Michigan and Ohio areas.

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### **DECEMBER 2022 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST**

#### **HOSTS**

Dec. 4 Cyndi Heithold & Wilma Jaecks  
 Dec. 11 Robert & Stacy Johnson  
 Dec. 18 Hannah Keeler & Susan Kelly  
 Dec. 25 Kerry & Ruth Buttke (Christmas Day)

#### **DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE`**

Stacy Johnson & Sandra Krueger

#### **DECEMBER ATTENDANCE**

Shirley Enyeart

#### **MUSIC**

Dec. 4 Lola Ableidinger  
 Dec. 7 Cyndi Heithold (Advent 1)  
 Dec. 11 Lola Ableidinger  
 Dec. 14 Lisa Cramm (Advent 2)  
 Dec. 18 Lisa Cramm  
 Dec. 21 (Advent 3)  
 Dec. 24 Lisa Cramm (Christmas Eve)  
 Dec. 25 Cyndi Heithold (Christmas)  
 Dec. 31 Bobby Anderson (New Year's Eve)

#### **ELDERS**

Dec. 4 Matt Anderson  
 Dec. 7 Matt Anderson(Advent 1)  
 Dec. 11 Jim Wilkes  
 Dec. 14 Jim Wilkes(Advent 2)  
 Dec. 18 Matt Anderson  
 Dec. 21 Matt Anderson (Advent 3)  
 Dec. 24 Jim Wilkes (Christmas Eve)  
 Dec. 25 Matt Anderson (Christmas Day)  
 Dec. 31 Matt Anderson (New Year's Eve)

#### **USHERS**

Dec. 4 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer  
 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn  
 Dec. 11 Marvin Bunker, Susan Kelly  
 Glen & Christine Schlehuser  
 Dec. 18 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson  
 Ray Krueger, Bob Thede  
 Dec. 25 Bob & Sandy Klose  
 Gerald Moore, David Teller  
 (Christmas Day)

**SOUND TECH**

- Dec. 4 Ben Clark
- Dec. 7 Bob Klose (Advent 1)
- Dec. 11 Bob Klose
- Dec. 14 Bob Klose(Advent 2)
- Dec. 18 Matt Anderson
- Dec. 21 Matt Anderson (Advent 3)
- Dec. 24 Bob Klose (Christmas Eve)
- Dec. 25 Bob Klose (Christmas Day)
- Dec. 31 Ben Clark(New Year's Eve)

**READERS**

- Dec. 4 Lola Ableidinger & Susan Kelly
- Dec. 7 Vicki Leonard & Hannah Keeler  
(Advent 1)
- Dec. 11 Louis Mauriot & Lewis Thomas
- Dec. 14 Yvonne Steeby & Cheryl Sandenaw  
(Advent 2)
- Dec. 18 Ruth Wilkes & Kelly Thomas
- Dec. 21 Jill Clark & Lisa Collins  
(Advent 3)
- Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)
- Dec. 25 Gerald Moore & Dick Dommers  
(Christmas Day)
- Dec. 31 Ruth Wilkes & Louis Mauriot  
(New Year's Eve)

**TELLERS**

- Dec. 4 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
- Dec. 7 Yvonne Steeby & Beck Worley  
(Advent 1)
- Dec. 11 Shirley Enyeart & Vicki Leonard
- Dec. 14 Megan Bowman & Dick Dommers  
(Advent 2)
- Dec. 18 Linde Van Cleave & Cheryl Sandenaw
- Dec. 21 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly (Advent 3)
- Dec. 25 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak  
(Christmas Day)
- Dec. 31 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly  
(New Year's Eve)

**FLOWERS**

- Dec. 4 Gerald & Gayan Moore
- Dec. 11 Dick & Jan Dommers  
Jim & Hannah Keeler
- Dec. 18 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
- Dec. 25 Pastor & Cyndi Heithold

**A PRAYER TO THE CHRIST CHILD**

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

---Bernard of Clairvauz (1090-1153)