

Shepherd's *Voice*

Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - LCMS

December 2020

I have a friend who likes to coin new words. One he spent several years arguing with me about is the word "calendarize." Though it isn't a word, we could probably do some calendarizing here. The season of Advent is upon us! It's a time of anticipation, of longing, of pleading with our Lord and Savior to come and save us. Advent begins on the Sunday that is closest to November 30. So this year, it starts on Sunday the 29th. The season then runs through December 24.

During the time of Advent, our Scripture readings are focused on the need for Christ to come, both in the first coming in Bethlehem, and in the second coming, when everyone will see him. In many churches, and many homes as well, during their family devotions, an advent wreath is used. This is a pretty recent tradition, first done in the 1830s. On the first Sunday a candle representing hope will be lit. The second Sunday introduces a candle representing faith. Both of these candles are purple, symbolizing royalty and preparation. The third Sunday uses a rose colored candle signifying joy. On the fourth Sunday we add a purple candle symbolizing peace. On Christmas Day, the finish line, the white Christ candle, representing purity, is lit. At that time, the season changes from Advent, with its blue or violet color scheme, to Christmas, which is all dressed in white.

As we continue calendarizing, the other season that begins in December is . . . Christmas! It *begins* in December, but includes twelve days, running through January 5.

December Church Events

- 12.1 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 12.2 7:00 pm Advent Service
- 12.6 10:00 am Childrens Christmas Program
- 12.8 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
6.00 pm Elders Meet
- 12.9 7:00 pm Advent Service
- 12.15 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 12.16 7:00 pm Advent Service
- 12.22 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 12.23 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 12.29 10:00 am Adult Bible Study

Sunday's

Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. "The Bible and the Divine Service" (led by Pastor Spotts)

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

After service Bible Study: "Defend Your Faith" (led by Gary Seider) Will resume January 3, 2021

Children's Church is offered on Non-Communion Sunday's, during the Sermon.

Many churches and cultures have ended the season with an elaborate Twelfth Night celebration. During the season of Christmas, there are a number of other holidays. We've observed some "Saint's Days" in the past months, when one has come on a Sunday. These are days when the Church has traditionally remembered something that they think happened on that date. For an individual, it is normally the date that person died and received his eternal inheritance.

What are those holidays within the season of Christmas? We remember St. Stephen from the book of Acts on December 26. We remember John the Evangelist on December 27. We remember the Holy Innocents, who were killed by Herod's forces looking for Jesus on December 28. We remember the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus on January 1. We then move to the day and season of Epiphany starting on January 6. When people called the end of December "the holidays" that was some of what they were talking about.

I pray that we would remember Jesus throughout this holiday season. That during Advent we would be eagerly praying that he would come and set things right. That during Christmas we would be rejoicing that he has come to save us. The Christian life has a rhythm and a calendar all its own. Recognizing it is a powerful testimony to our world. Why did we set aside extra time for extra church services? Because the season is real!

Pastor Spotts

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes getting ready to be shipped to the children for Christmas.



Jacki's helpers Abby & Colton Rainey

Shepherd Supply

Offering free household supplies to those in need.

Open Wednesday 2-4 & Saturday 9-12

Or by appointment, contact Sheryl Bartels, (afternoons at 573-881-7879)

PET Project

Pick up will be the first and third Monday's of the month. At this time, they will no longer will be accepting empty pill bottles. Please bring in your clean empty plastic milk jugs or other plastic jugs that have handles and cans.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am	2 Advent Service 7:00 pm No Meal	3	4	5
6 9 a.m Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall Children's Christmas Program & Worship Service No Communion	7	8 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am Elders meet 6:00pm	9 Advent Service 7:00 pm No Meal	10	11	12
13 9 a.m Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall Worship w/Holy Communion	14	15 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am Christian Growth/Mission Committee 6:30pm	16 Advent Service 7:00 pm No Meal	17	18	19
20 9 a.m Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall Worship w/Holy Communion	21	22 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 7pm	25 	26
27 9 a.m Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall Worship Service with Childrens Church	28	29 Adult Bible Study at 10:00am	30	31 		

December Birthdays



Brittany Mechlin	Dec. 1
Martha Sydow	Dec. 3
Barbara Fischer	Dec. 5
Danny Hoek	Dec. 8
Jane St John	Dec. 9
Cheryl Steffan	Dec. 11
Greg Stowers	Dec. 12
Henry Rainey	Dec. 12
Starr Nadler	Dec. 20
Palmyra Dubbert	Dec. 28
Gayle Billings	Dec. 29



**LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES**
www.lhm.org

December

December 6

"Seek My Face"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word. (Daniel)

December 13

"The Prophet's Paradox "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends. (Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)

December 20

"Experience God "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ. (John 1:1-18)

December 27

"Welcome to the Family!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love. (Galatians 4:4-7)

Broadcasting

Columbia, MO

KMCV 100.9 FM Sunday Mornings at 8:00am

Moberly, MO

KWIX 92.5 FM Sunday Afternoons at 1:30pm

December Calendar

December 6: Second Sunday in Advent
Text: Mark 1:1-8

December 13: Third Sunday in Advent
Text: John 1:6-8,19-28

December 20: Second Sunday in Advent
Text: Luke 1:26-38

December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord
Text: John 1:1-14

December 27: First Sunday after Christmas
Text: Luke 2:22-40

Serving The Lord

Officiant: Pastor David Spotts (vacancy)

Board of Elders

Gerry Sydow (573) 682-4157

Jon Hoek (573) 682-7236

Russell Stelzer (573) 682-7230

Board of Trustees

Kathy Dickey (573) 489-3421

John Briggs (573) 424-2257

Church ballfield maintenance & scheduling

Kara Stowers (816) 547-5272

Lutheran Family & Children's Services

Season of Sharing

Christmas Tree

Be on the look out for their tree in the fellowship hall. More details to come.



FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE

November 1

Attendance 41
 Current \$ 4,405.00
 Building \$ 431.04

Total \$ 4,836.04

November 8

Attendance 38
 Current \$ 1,290.00
 Building \$ 170.00

Total \$ 1,460.00

November 15

Attendance 45
 Current \$ 1,305.00
 Building \$ 400.00

Total \$ 1,750.00

November 22

Attendance 52
 Current \$ 1,375.00
 Building \$ 170.00

Total \$ 1,545.00

November 29 (Available Next Month)

Attendance
 Current
 Building

Total

Current

10% of our current offerings are sent to Missouri District for missions. The remaining 90% is used for GSLC budget expenses.

Building

100% of money designated for building stays in our congregation for budget expenses.

Other November Deposits

11/1/20	Operation Christmas Child	\$20.00
11/15/20	Operation Christmas Child	\$182.50
11/22/20	Ministerial Alliance	\$189.00
11/22/20	Christmas Treat Bags	\$5.00

2020 Advent Services begin at 7:00p.m.

We will have no meals this year.

December 2th

December 9th

December 16th

SPECIAL OFFERING DESIGNATION

The offerings for Thanksgiving Eve, all Advent services, and Christmas Eve are to be divided in this way: one-half to Central Missouri Food Bank and one-half to Lutheran Heritage Foundation- Indonesia Kids project.



Be sure to check "Church Updates" for the latest church news and prayer requests, as well as serving and giving opportunities at Good Shepherd. Sign up and register at www.churchupdates.org

November Highway Clean up

Seven members gathered on a nice sunny day on Saturday, November 7 at 9:30 am to pick up 10 bags of trash along our east Highway 22 route. Most unusual trash was a large sheet of tin and Ann kept the shiny hubcap that resembled a fine "top hat"--she will eventually think of something to do with it. Good Shepherd has completed highway cleanup three times this year: March 7, June 20 and November 7. Thanks goes out to those who could participate. There will be more trash to collect soon enough. Ann



2020 Trunk n Treat Hosted by GSLC Senior Youth Group It was reported they had 102 trick or treaters.



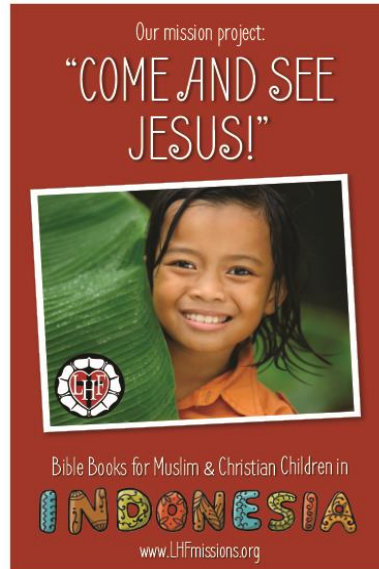
Senior Youth Group Project

The Senior Youth Group will be sponsoring a family from the Centralia Chamber of Commerce's "Community for Kids" project. Please take an ornament off the tree located in the Fellowship Hall and purchase that item. Place the item under the tree with the tag attached. (You may wrap it in Christmas wrap or the youth can do that for you.) We will get the gifts to the local family prior to Christmas. Thank you for supporting this mission. -Alane Gronefeld



Children's Church

The children at Children's Church which meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays during the sermon part of the Worship service, will be learning the Bible lesson John 1: 35-46. In addition they will apply this lesson to a fundraiser to save money so children in Indonesia can have more Christian books in their language. Each child will be given mini M&M tubes. The kids may eat the candy, but are asked to fill the empty container with quarters or small change and return it by Christmas. We will send their donation to Lutheran Heritage Foundation for the "Come and See Jesus!" project in Indonesia.



Our classroom can introduce
an Indonesian classroom
to the Savior!

Indonesia has the world's largest population of Muslims. Yet, the people pride themselves in diversity and even allow their public schools to teach about other religions.

What an incredible opportunity God has placed before us! With our mission offerings, Christian teachers in Indonesia can give their students their very own Bible storybooks, *Small Catechisms* and workbooks, translated into the languages they speak. The books are theirs to take home and keep.

**We can help –
for just \$5 per child!**

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) is an LCMS recognized service organization that translates and publishes our good Lutheran books for people around the world. For every \$5 our children send to LHF, the organization can give a Bible storybook or catechism to a waiting family in Indonesia.

<https://www.lhfmissions.org/projects/children/indonesiakids/indonesialinks/>



I selected the Come and See Jesus slogan because it is the LHF mission project that we support with Advent offerings, along with the Central Missouri Food Bank. The children have little mini M&M containers to collect change for this project too. The money is used by Lutheran Heritage Foundation to buy bible story books for schools in Indonesia—in their language.

“Goody Goods” For the Alliance Fund

The Glossy Goat in downtown Centralia has a program for giving back to the community. Each month, they select certain items for their "Goody Goods" section, and then a portion of the proceeds from those sales go to a designated good cause. For December 2020, that good cause will be the Ministerial Alliance Assistance Fund! :-)

theglossygoat.com

facebook.com/theglossygoat

Dear Friends of the Haitian Lutheran Mission Project,

Thanksgiving is almost here so.....

Dear Friends of the Haitian Lutheran Mission Project,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have continued to send your donations through this COVID SEASON. I have not sent my regular newsletters out because I have little news to report. There are no teams going to Haiti and so many of our plans have come to a halt. Your donations however continue to reach our Lutheran School Teachers every three months and they are very grateful for your continued help. The photo below is from the teachers July August and September payment. Another will be due the end of December but we will try to get it there before Christmas this year.



Other news from Haiti is not so good. I know most of you are familiar with our good friend Lophane who I speak of often in my newsletters and accompanies most of our mission teams when we travel through Haiti. His son Darlo is very ill right now and needs your prayers desperately. Darlo has malaria and is in the hospital in Port au Prince but the medications do not seem to be working. Lophane will keep me updated but I want to assure him that his friends here in the US are praying for Darlo and Lophane's family. Please add him to your Congregational prayer request.



Again, thank you for remembering Haiti and the Haitian Lutheran Mission Project during this difficult time and have a very Blessed Thanksgiving. I will update you as soon as things open up in Haiti.

Susan Gross
Haitian Lutheran Mission Project.
c/o Christ Lutheran Church
14700 94th Ave
Orland Park, IL 60462

My Faith Story by Jacki Stelzer

When I was a little girl, I went to church just on Easter. My mother made my sisters and me new Easter dresses every year, complete with the hat, gloves, and new shoes. What a great feeling that was to go to church with my grandparents and get so many compliments on my new clothes. Although I didn't really catch the real reason I was at church, I knew that it was a great place to feel good; a place to get my spirits lifted.

You can say that my grandparents planted the mustard seed. As I grew a little older, I attended Friendship Baptist Church in Mexico with them, the few times I went. I also visited First Baptist, in Centralia, with my friends occasionally.

Through my teenage years I fell far away from God. Feeling depressed and hating myself I knew there was something missing in my life. For years I didn't understand. Yes, I knew God was there, but I ignored Him.

It wasn't until I got married and had a child that I decided that I wanted a better life for my child. I started taking my son to church and almost immediately I got that same feeling as when I was younger. But something was different. I found my heart was fuller. Burden was lifted from my shoulders. It was the acceptance of God and He was working on me. What a peaceful feeling. It took me a few Sundays to get the nerve to "go forward", as Baptists do. I remember the day I finally did. I'm sure it was the Holy Spirit that threw the hymnal out of my hands and onto the pew because it went down with a bang. It startled the people in front of me. I was finally baptized when I was 22.

After I had my second child, I fell away from God again. My husband and I got a divorce and after a short while I married Russell. It wasn't until I had my third child that we had this great conversation with Rev Don McMurry, Pastor of First Baptist Church. You see, Russell was a Lutheran and I was a Baptist. We had talked about going to church and wanted to go together but didn't know where to go. So, we just didn't. Rev. McMurry came to visit us at home one day and I told him of our struggle. His unselfish words made all the difference in the world to us. He said, "The bible says that the man is the head of the household. You, Jacki, need to follow Russell." Well that was a little hard for me to swallow. But it was an answer and that's what we did. I followed him to Good Shepherd and was confirmed a short time later. As you may know we have been here since. We raised our children in the church. They too have had their struggles but I am thankful they have joined their own churches.

And now I have eight wonderful grandchildren. My hope is that I can influence them the way that my grandparents influenced me because they were great examples of God's love.

God has blessed me in so many ways through my life. Even when I didn't recognize His works, He was certainly there. My heart is full, my burdens are less. I know now that when I feel troubled, all I have to do is go to our Lord and put the burden on Him. He will handle the rest.

Now I am learning to share God's love with others in a way that I have never done before. Sure, I've talked about God and how He loves me and others. But to intentionally approach someone to share the Gospel is what I'm growing in my faith to do. I'm a work in progress.

In God's Eternal Love,
Jacki Stelzer

I would like to share with you the most beautiful story I have ever lived. I am happy to share it along with mine because my mother is not able to share.

Mary Crump, lived a life of kindness and charity. She would give to anyone that needed a hand. Although she was a very giving person, she was not a Christian.

Mom had a medical procedure done right after Christmas 2014. She had complications from that procedure and spent the next three weeks in ICU. During Mom's hospital stay, Brother Clyde Chiles, from First Baptist, visited her one day and shared a special prayer with her. I was not present during this visit, so I did not know of the prayer. Clyde called me to tell me of Mom's profession of faith. We rejoiced together.

Mom must have been lying in her bed thinking about her life. I can imagine her thinking that she just cemented her relationship with her Lord through her profession of faith that she had just made. She understood there is only one way to Heaven and that is to believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

The next day, as I was sitting with Mom in her hospital room, she motioned to me to come to her bedside. She asked me about the prayer that Clyde had prayed. I didn't know what she was talking about. I called Clyde and he immediately knew. He dictated it to me over the phone. Mom and I prayed that prayer together. We had never prayed together, and it was a great feeling to have that moment. That was the first time I had told her I was proud of her.

Later that evening, Mom requested to be baptized as soon as possible. We were in a dilemma because we knew that Baptists baptize by dunking and Mom was hooked up to oxygen and other machines. One pastor wouldn't baptize her because it wasn't possible. Wanting to fulfill Mom's wishes, we finally found the Baptist Hospital Chaplain. He explained to us that when a woman is giving birth and can't naturally, God allows us to make an alternate solution to save the mother and baby. He viewed baptism the same way. He couldn't dunk, but he would sprinkle. We set the baptism up for the next day. With family members present at her bedside she was baptized. We could tell that it meant so much to her. About four hours later the Lord called her Home.

The Lord was working through so many people in the last few days and moments of her life. I can't think of anything more beautiful.

Mary Crump's Testimony

Submitted by Jacki Stelzer

SICK AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Rick Dubbert; Mary Brechler; Martha Sydow; Pastor Kriete; Bob Graham; Dick St. John; Kevin Morse – brother-in-law of Sherry Morse; **Ed Bartels; Don Crump** – uncle of Jacki Stelzer; **Baby Klaus; Bob Moss; Martha Blevins; Susan Harris; Jane St. John; Wayne Nolan** – stepfather of Jeff Jaeger; **Joanne Bettenhausen; Michelle Smith** – daughter of Jane St John; **Sherry Hashagen** – aunt of Catherine Simmons; **Tracy Brownstein** – sister of Randy Simmons; **Norma Remmert** – sister of Ernestine Ramsey; **Arla Benskin** – daughter of Mary Brechler; **Mark Ramsey** son of Ed Ramsey.

Community: Father Mike Coleman; Cheryl Hartgrove; Pastor Hartgrove.

Community: Father Mike Coleman, the priest at Holy Spirit Church; **Pastor David Hartgrove** and his wife **Cheryl Hartgrove**.

ARMED FORCES

Chris Chism, U.S. Navy – son of Vickie & Eric Chism; grandson of Armand & Barbara Fischer; **Mason Crabtree** – grandson of Margaret Parker; **James Wessels** – grandson of John and Sherry Morse; **Brittany Macklin** – great-niece of Ernestine Ramsey; **Zachary Warden** – grandson of Betty Warden; **Diton J. Parker** – grandson of Margaret Parker; **Thomas Teem** – husband of Margaret Parker's granddaughter, Kaylyn; **Andrew Butler** – husband of Margaret Parker's granddaughter, Sarah. **Community: Ray Finlay; Jeremy Mitchell; Justin Thurston.**



Pastor David Spotts (vacancy pastor)

(573) 355-0347, Email: WittenbergCoMo@gmail.com

Church Office- Starr Nadler 8:am-12:pm, M-F

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