

Third Sunday in Advent

WELCOME TREASURED MEMBERS AND HONORED

GUESTS! This morning we hear the Good News of God’s grace and love through the various voices and gifts of music that He has blessed us with at Christ Lutheran. We pray that you are blessed in hearing familiar favorites and new variations on the story of God’s Greatest Gift. – His Son, Our Savior.

NOTE TO OUR GUESTS: Since Holy Communion is a public demonstration of unity in faith, those who commune should express their acceptance of the faith and teaching for which we stand. Our welcome to visitors is heartfelt. Visitors from another Lutheran church or Congregation are asked to please approach our Pastor, if you have not already done so, before attending communion this morning. Also, if you’re not a member of an LCMS church but would like a blessing, cross your arms across your chest to receive the blessing. Individual cups are available, in addition to the common cup, as you approach the Altar. **Non-alcoholic white wine** is available in the center of the tray.

VISION STATEMENT: Christ Lutheran Church will continue its Christ-centered, life directed focus, responding to the needs of its members, emphasizing local and worldwide witness, and acting as a catalyst for the improvement of the neighborhood.

The First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20.....page 790
The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-45.....page 855

CHECK OUT THE CHRIST LUTHERAN FACEBOOK PAGE AND “LIKE” US TO STAY INVOLVED AND INFORMED.

ELDERS PRAYING WITH PASTOR: - Gary Heinz

GREETING YOU THIS MORNING are Suzanne Heinz and Kathy Otten.

ACOLYTES: Dylan and Andrew Sparks

NEXT SUNDAY: Levi and Laney Hall

USHERS FOR DECEMBER: Team #1 (Aaron-Miriam and Team #3 (Zechariah-Elizabeth).

LAST WEEK: Tithes and Offerings: \$8,780.00, MTD: \$18,013.00; Improvement Fund: \$, MTD: \$107.00. Attendance: 207. Sunday School Attendance: N-2nd 7, 3rd-7th 10, 8th-HS 3, Adults 55, Visitors 11, Total 76.

THIS IS THE 50th SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR

HOSPITALIZED: OSF: Joe Ehlen

CONTINUED PRAYERS: Jayme Knapp, Mike Clayton, Barb Dreher, Shawn Foote, Phyllis Wendland, Gerald Wendland, Don Sparks, Abigail Young, Eddy Jones, Al Garman, Donna Gogele, Rachael Otten, Sandra McGarity, Pat Kretzmann, Diane Hume, Joe Ehlen, Kamron Lightbody, Laura Trento, Donald Anderson, father-in-law of Sarah Anderson, for those in the military, for our Church Boards and their members, for Christians being persecuted worldwide. **THE BOARD OF ELDERS REMINDS YOU** that if you wish to have your prayer request added to the Christ Lutheran Prayer Chain, please contact either the church office (637-5309 or laura@berkshier.net) or our Lay Minister, Reg Lee (678-4764 or fbrd2002@comcast.net).

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are placed on the altar by Darlene Marvel’s family to the glory of God and in celebration of her 80th birthday on December 14th.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER for the children’s program! The Sunday School children will present their Christmas program on December 23rd. **Parents, please note that children will need to be at the church by 8:30 so they can dress for the program.** Be sure to invite your friends to these services!

HERE AND THERE - 2019 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE in the church office. First come, first served! **PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION** in the church bulletin. Envelopes for the new year will be coming soon, along with an updated copy of the church directory. Have you disconnected your landline? Has your email address changed? If you aren’t sure we have your new information, PLEASE call the church office and give us your info, including cell numbers and emails.

SENIOR CLUB WILL MEET this Friday, Dec. 21st, in the Community Room. The hosts are Bill and Judy Nelson, who are providing ham. Please bring your table service and a dish to share. Everyone is welcome!

LUTHERAN WATCH IS COMING! WATCH #43 will be held March 1-3, 2019 at the Spalding Renewal Center. Registration forms are available in the church office. Cost is \$100 for the weekend, and assistance is available should you need it. For more information, you can contact Barb O’Dell at (309)635-7962 or Pastor.

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATE! The Sunday School children will present their Christmas program on December 23rd. **Parents, please note that children will need to be at the church by 8:30 so they can dress for the program.** Be sure to invite your friends!

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH is hosting a Dave Ramsey’s “Financial Peace University”! Have you ever made a New Year’s resolution about your finances and failed to follow through? Do you just wish you could use the words “peace” and “finances” in the same sentence? This is your chance! Financial Peace University is a nine-class course on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM, from Jan. 9th-Feb. 27th. The last class will be held Sunday, March 3rd. Registration is available online at www.salemofpeoria.com. Or you may contact Rebecca Sipf at (937)408-9461 or beccagurl1@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU! To all our members and friends who purchased some sweet treats at the annual LWML Cookie Walk last Saturday. Our profit of \$1,201.76 will assist us in making a monthly donation to a variety of community organizations throughout 2019. An additional \$92.00 profit from craft items will be directed to mites for mission work. The LWML members would like to thank everyone for their support and extend a “Merry Christmas!” to all!

DID YOU KNOW? Christ Lutheran Church at one time had three services on Christmas Eve with the third service being held at 11 PM. The Men's Club would spend hours the day before stuffing stockings with oranges, apples and peanuts in the shell, along with other goodies that a huge number of children would receive after the services. This was a huge highlight and anticipation for the children. Of course, there was the traditional Christmas morning service at 10 AM.

Submitted by Larry Von Behren

WORSHIP ANEW celebrates the new life all people have in Jesus with a 30-minute broadcast service. Christ's love is shared through weekly scripture readings, favorite church hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. The message for the Third Sunday in Advent, "Are You the One?" is presented by Rev. William Mueller. Sermon Text: Luke 7:18-28 – Have you wondered what God was up to in your life? Don't fret if you have – so did John the Baptist. Feel frustrated in your faith? Don't worry - just ask the right person, like John the Baptist did. Ask Jesus in the moments of frustration and fear... and be encouraged by His answer!

NEW FLOWER CHART has been posted in the annex for next year, so families may sign up to provide flowers for the altar each Sunday. If you have any questions, please call Christel VandeVoorde at 267-3053.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – As God's stewards, we acknowledge, through faith, that God has created and owns all things. All creation belongs to God the Creator. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). The Apostle Paul wrote, "We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Timothy 6:7). Since all we have is God's, shouldn't we use what we've been given for His purposes? Because of God's grace in Jesus, we are empowered to live lives according to His will and purpose.

THE SHUT-IN LIST has been updated once again and copies are available outside the office. Thanks to all of you who are helping me get my records corrected!
~Laura

AS YOU LOOK FORWARD to your worship next Sunday, you should read the appointed lessons for the Fourth Sunday in Advent:

The First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a
The Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10
The Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING (DEC 17 – DEC 23)

MON 12/17: Bell Choir6:45 PM
TUE 12/18:
WED 12/19: Chapel..... 10:00 AM
Confirmation.....6:00 PM
Adult Choir.....7:00 PM
THU 12/20:
FRI 12/21: CLS Early Dismissal 11:15 AM
Senior Club 12:30 PM
SAT 12/22:
SUN 12/23: Holy Communion 9:00 AM
Sunday School and Bible Classes..... 10:30 AM

2018 ELDERS' RESPONSIBILITY LIST

Albert-Rayford – Cleveland Ralph Teske
Closen – Fredericks Tommie Washington
Frederking – Kirkwood Dario Lamberti
Kisler – Mills Tom Zaia
Minassian – Roth.....Mike Fritch
Rudebeck – ToschMike Lelm
Traenkenschuh – Zentko Gary Heinz