

Fourth Sunday in Advent

WELCOME TREASURED MEMBERS AND HONORED GUESTS!

Whether your family exchanges Christmas gifts or not, Christians gather here to celebrate, receive, and unwrap the perfect Gift, that is, Jesus Christ Himself. The wrapping paper in our homes temporarily covers a gift and is soon thrown away, but Jesus comes to us every day by His Means of Grace to give to us infinite things we can't find anywhere else.

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.

Pianist: David Best
Children's Christmas Program..... *Christ the Savior is Born*
Homily: Rev. Karl Eckhoff
Christmas Eve Sermon: Rev. Karl Eckhoff
"Resolved to Draw Near" Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Day Sermon: Rev. Karl Eckhoff
"Sing a New Song" Psalm 98

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

ELDERS PRAYING WITH PASTOR: - Mike Fritch
ASSISTING WITH HOLY COMMUNION: Tommie Washington, Reg Lee and Mike Fritch

GREETING YOU THIS MORNING are Wilma and Debra Kay Ogden.

ACOLYTES: Levi and Laney Hall
NEXT SUNDAY: Madeline Mooney and Bella Blair

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

LAST WEEK: Tithes and Offerings: \$7,995.55, MTD: \$26,008.55; Improvement Fund: \$190.00, MTD: \$297.00. Attendance: 223. Sunday School Attendance: N-2nd 9, 3rd-7th 10, 8th-HS 5, Adults 50, Visitors 4, Total 78.

THIS IS THE 51st SUNDAY OF OUR PLEDGE YEAR

HOSPITALIZED: *OSF:* Shirley Swanson
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, Kamron Lightbody, Donald Anderson, the family of Joe Ehlen, the family of Laura Trento, 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 Dale Eckhoff to the glory of God and in celebration of Pastor and Judy Eckhoff's 35th wedding anniversary on December 27th.

HERE AND THERE - 2019 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE in the church annex. 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.

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.

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.

CLYF, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! – There will be open gym on January 13th at CLS. The playoff games will be on and there will be food and games. There is no cost and the time will be announced later. For more info, check with Christel VandeVoorde.

TITHING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 are available in the annex this morning. PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION ON THE LABEL and make sure it is correct. This information is what will be listed in the coming church directory. If you don't see your envelopes, please contact the church office at 637-5309

A 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.

DID YOU KNOW...

Over the years, the students of Christ Lutheran School have participated in the Christmas program. When I was in grade school, this service was held on Christmas Eve. At the time there were so many students and families at school that there were two services. Students with last names beginning A-K in one and L-Z in the other. One program has always stood out for me-Christmas 1960. I was in the 5th grade and I don't remember what our class did, probably recitations and songs. What I do remember is the 8th graders, dressed in costumes, presented the Nativity story in song-specifically solos. I especially remember that the Principal's daughter was Mary and she sang the "Magnificat". The three boys who played wise men proceeded down the center aisle, each singing their verse of "We Three Kings". One of my fond memories.

Suzanne (Sampson) Heinz
Class of 1964

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 Nativity of Our Lord is, "God Comes Near" presented by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer. Sermon Text: Luke 2:9 – "The hopes and fears of all the years" came together over two thousand years ago in the "little town of Bethlehem." God came near. What are your hopes this Christmas? Your fears? God comes near! "O, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!"

STEWARDSHIP CORNER – The Apostle Paul writes, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 10:11). Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to extend God's kingdom and to help those in need both locally and in the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

AS YOU LOOK FORWARD to your worship next Sunday, you should read the appointed lessons for the First Sunday after Christmas:

- The First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15
- The Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17
- The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

THIS WEEK THE LORD WILLING (DEC 24 – DEC 30)

- MON 12/24:** Christmas Eve Worship6:00 PM
- TUE 12/25:** Christmas Day Worship..... 10:00 AM
- WED 12/26:**
- THU 12/27:** Quilting.....Noon
- FRI 12/28:**
- SAT 12/29:**
- SUN 12/30:** 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