

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study 6pm - Intergenerational	2 9 am - Quilting 11:30am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Prayer Team	3 6:30pm - GriefShare	4 12pm - Lutfisk Luncheon 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	5 9 am - Charis Women's	6 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am - Men's Prayer	7
8 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	9 9 am - Quilting	10 6:30pm - GriefShare	11 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	12 9 am - Charis Women's 6:30pm - Vision Team	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 Lucia Tea 2:00 pm
15 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Anchored In 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	16 9 am - Quilting 11:30am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Prayer Team	17 Recycling PU 6:30pm - GriefShare	18 6:30pm - Men's Bible Study 6:30pm - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Youth Group 7:30pm - Choir Practice	19 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am - Men's Prayer	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 9 am - Worship 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve 5pm - Candlelight Service CHRISTMAS EVE	25 Merry Christmas 1 New Year's Eve	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9 am - Worship & Carol Sing 10 am - Coffee Fellowship 10:15am - Good Life 10:25am - Adult Study	30 9 am - Quilting 11:30am - Staff Meeting	31	1	2	3	4

DECEMBER



the Christ Lutheran No Name Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

Advent is the Beginning of the New

The fresh new snowfall has covered everything. It all looks clean and bright. But we know underneath are the fallen leaves and sticks, piles of garbage, and junk. What looks clean and bright is just covering what is not right.

As we begin the season of Advent, and a new church year, we begin with the Holy Baptism of Grant Peter Nieuwsma! In Holy Baptism God does a miraculous work, too good to be true, but is true! God gives a new birth! God raises up a new Grant Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit. He is by God, adopted into God's family. He is God's child. God is the initiator and the only one able to do 100% holy and perfect work. God makes Grant Peter new and holy, just as God is working his holy work in us!

God will continue to shape Grant Peter into the likeness of Christ as long as he lives. When we go to heaven God will complete his work, making us into the very likeness of Christ. There is a lot of struggle in our lives as we delay Christ work in us, as we try to make our lives a human effort

rather than letting God be at work in us. But god will accomplish his work, to mold us into his likeness and into the joy of God's family. As we begin the new church year with the season of Advent we sing "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory". The song announces Jesus coming into the world with perfect light and truth. The fulness of God in person. It is Good News, too good to be true! But it is true! Jesus is not just a pretty covering, a false light. Christ is very Light of very Light! He is holy and good for you and for all people. He has power over all darkness. He is at work in us, showing us how to live in real faith. We can relax and let Him work in us through the Word.

As we enter into the season of Advent and a new year let us let his holy work in us, bring us to joyous rapture as He alone makes us new. He is no mere covering but one who gives us a true desire to love, to forgive, to act freely and not by guilt. He is Light for us.

Pastor Ron



ANTICIPATING
Advent

Special Events

- Dec. 1st - Intergenerational Game Night
- Dec. 14th - Lucia Tea
- Dec. 24th - Candlelight Service
- Dec. 29th - Worship & Hymn Sing

Youth Update

Hi there!

Happy December! Thank you all for your kind words, donations, and time given to make the Operation Christmas Child box packing experience a wonderful one! We sent out 147 boxes and prayed that they would get to their rightful owners safely by Christmas. This was possible because of each of you. On December 1st we will have an intergenerational game night from 6-8 p.m.! If you are able to join us, please feel free to bring a treat and a favorite game. The more the merrier, all ages are welcome!

As many of you have heard, our mission trip destination for the summer of 2020 is Puerto Rico! Please join us in prayer for those that are going on this trip, for those who we will be serving, as well as for all of the details that planning a trip like this entails. If you have any questions about this trip, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to answer them for you. Thank you for cheering us on and for being fervent prayer warriors for our youth.

Merry Christmas!

Molly

Prayer of the Month

God, as the days grow shorter and nights grow longer, we would shout your praise. Even when we are lonely, you hold us captive by giving us the joy and hope of heaven. In brokenness you heal, in rejection you redeem, in death you give life. Your ways are marvelous, for they start where we end. Amen.

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship - Being faithful in and responsive to God's goodness!

For the month of October our offerings were \$22,800. Which is our average monthly giving. Our expenses were \$21,600. For the year we are \$6,600 in the red. We hope that our December offering is generous, as God has been generous with us.

We have been able to meet all our ministry commitments and support our Mission Partners. Our Mission Partner for the month of December is the new Haven Home being built in Maple Plain, for construction of the new chapel there.

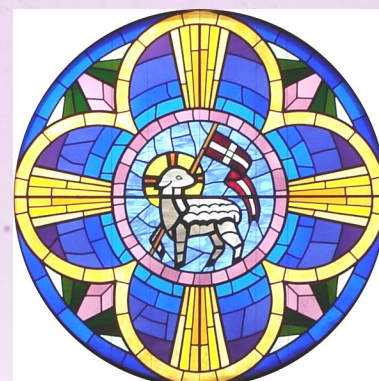
CLW Update

We open our hearts to God, by worshiping and hearing His word. We serve Him and worship in work, by extending our hospitality to others and sharing His word.

ALL THE WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE MEMBERS OF CLW. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US, YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST.

Upcoming CLW Hosted Events:

- Dec 4 - Lutefisk Luncheon
- Dec 14 - Lucia Tea & Prayer Partner Exchange
- Jan 25 - Potluck & Bunco Party



Serving Team Yellow - December Schedule

Readers

Dec 1 Deb Stueven
 Dec 8 Kirsten Shanahan
 Dec 15 Karen Pennaz
 Dec 22 Dale Anderson
 Dec 29 Jean Flatten

Leader: Brad Sim

Greeters

Dec 1 Jan Selstad, Karen Grandstrand
 Dec 8 Cal & Judy Johnson, Anne Wyatt
 Dec 15 Gary & Kathy Mutchler
 Dec 22 _____
 Dec 24 _____
 Dec 29 Thomas Family

Leader: Shelly Anderson

Coffee Servers

Dec 1 Roilands, Stuevens
 Dec 8 Mary Steffl & friends
 Dec 15 Bonita Heilman, Becky KenKnight
 Dec 22 Grenells & Arianna
 Dec 29 Christmas Cookie Sunday

Leader: Judy Johnson

Ushers

Dec 1 Denny Grenell & Arianna
 Dec 8 Reese Shanahan, Greg Roiland
 Dec 15 Cal & Judy Johnson, Wade Burlet
 Dec 22 Larry & Nancy Wood
 Dec 24 Denny Grenell, Denny Johnson
 Dec 29 Denny Grenell

Leader: Skip Flatten

Altar Care

Dec 1 Jean Flatten, Karen Pennaz
 Dec 8 Deb Stueven
 Dec 15 Vicki Burlet
 Dec 22 Nancy Wood
 Dec 24 Deb Stueven
 Dec 29 Judy Johnson

Leader: Deb Stueven

Clicker

Dec 1 _____
 Dec 8 _____
 Dec 15 _____
 Dec 22 Dale Anderson
 Dec 29 Dale Anderson

Leader: Mark Mundahl

Serving Teams- We encourage every member to serve our congregation by being on a serving team.

ORANGE - serving in October, January, April, and July
 YELLOW - serving in September, December, March, and June
 BLUE - serving in November, February, May, and August

Time to order your
Christmas Poinsettia's!



Poinsettia Fun Fact

Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

December Verse of the Month:

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the good news is preached to the poor!" Jesus wanted John to know that he was not setting up an earthly kind of kingdom, but God's kingdom where he really touched the lives of individuals, real needs come first. Let us love others in all the small things we do! Let us share the Good News of God's total love for people, all people.

Matthew 11:4-5

Memorial Committee

Over the last couple of months, the Memorial Committee has been studying different needs or projects in the congregation and how to go about helping them happen. The funds available in the Memorial Fund have been sitting there and the committee has made recommendations to the church council.

Several goals were made. We wanted to have achievable projects that were both short term and long term. The

recommendations for short term were;

1. New banners for the sanctuary that can also be used in other areas in the church. (\$1,200 goal).
 2. Funds for the furnishing committee to use for new artwork in our hallways (\$2,000 goal).
 3. A new permanent flagpole with solar lighting at our cemetery (\$3,500 goal).
 4. Funds to support the celebration of our 150th Anniversary in 2025 (\$3,000 goal).
- The long-term goal, pending church council and congregational approval was a bell tower. The Memorial Committee had a bell tower representative give us a lot of information and what costs were about a bell tower. There were many things to consider as far as design, what the functions of the bell could do, and maintenance of the bell. Costs for a bell tower can vary from \$35,000 - \$65,000.

The church council designated the current Memorial Funds as follows; Banners \$500, Artwork \$743, and Flagpole \$1,500. There was already \$3,300 designated to a bell tower. The Memorial Committee will continue to study and work on these goals. We hope you would like to give to help us complete these projects.

Vision Team Looking Up!

What is the church? Someone once said, "The church is what is left over after the building has burned down." The church is really the people, it is a living and breathing organism. It gets its life from Christ! We get church upside down when we think it is about the projects and events we do. We look up to Christ for his resurrected and victorious life to dwell in us.

Jesus once asked his disciples "Who do people say I am? The disciples shared the speculations of others. But then Jesus asked them, "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded to Peter, "Now you are Peter, the rock, and upon this rock I will build my church". Jesus went on to say that He will build his church and the gates of hell could not stop it.

Think about that. As a Christian, who or what can stop you? Who or what can stop your church, or congregation? Not secularization? Not another religion. Not a government. Nor even the enemy, Satan. Not an ideology. Nothing can stop the Christian movement, except Christians. If Christians do things by their own power and for their own agenda, the church will stop.

If we but look to Christ as the true source of life, the amazing life and fellowship we have in Christ, if we but continue to look up to Him as our Lord and Savior, and not just look down at what the world can offer us, then our church will bear good fruit for His people. Our God is a great God who truly loves us and all people. In all we do, may we look up to God's love and reflect it to our neighbor.

The Vision Team meets again on December 12th at 6:30 pm