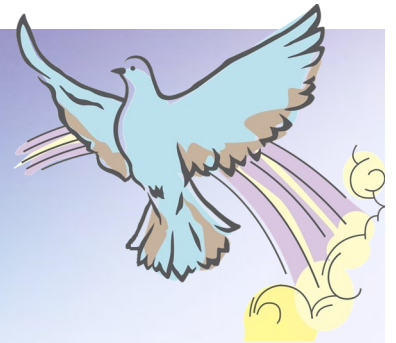


News of Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

December 2023

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The End Times

Jesus had quite a bit to say about his return. The signs that we are in the last days are clear. He will return suddenly, so be ready! The angels will descend, the dead will come to life again, we will all gather before his judgment throne. The lost will then be thrown with the devil and his angels into hell and we will go with him to live forever. But where is talk about the Tribulation and the Millennium? Jesus never speaks about a seven year period of special punishment of the world for their sins or an earthly reign at the end of time, much less a thousand year one. So where does the talk of a millennium on Christian radio, in endless end time and prophecy books come from?

The concepts of the Rapture, the Great Tribulation and a one thousand year reign of Christ prior to the final judgment are less than 200 years old. John Nelson Darby first taught the idea that faithful Christians would be “raptured” — removed from the world at the end of the current age just as God poured out his wrath in a seven year “Great Tribulation”

**BUT WE SHALL ALL
BE CHANGED
IN A MOMENT
IN THE TWINKING OF AN EYE
AT THE LAST
TRUMPET**

when the Anti-Christ would rule and severely persecute people who became Christians — mostly Jewish people. At the end of this period Christ was to return to rule the world for 1000 years. After that he was to judge the world, condemning the lost, the devil and his angels to hell, while the saints will live with God forever.

These views, popularized by the *Scofield Reference Bible* and evangelical authors, became an established theology among Fundamentalist, Evangelical and independent Protestant Churches. Some Pastors and Evangelists speculated that current events fulfilled Biblical prophecies, treating the Bible like a giant algebra problem. Some even set a date for the rapture — and recalculated when the prediction failed. Yet the whole view of the end is not true.

Christian Symbols



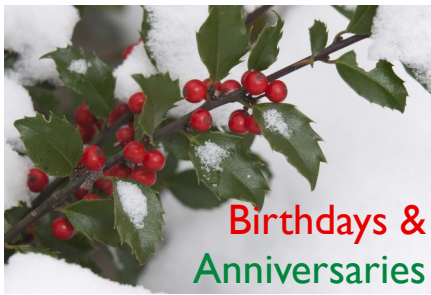
Advent Colors

One of the season’s symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God’s coming in human form, and we look forward in hope to Christ’s coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ child.



Candle

The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.

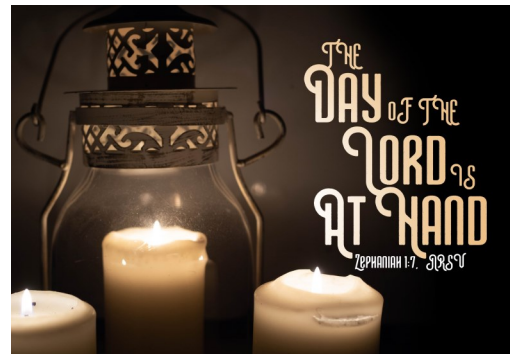


November/December

- 28 Shelia Hartenstein
- 11 Blake Johnston
- 17 Robert & Penny Hansen
- 19 Judy Janssen
- 25 Tom Greenwald

All of the signs Jesus taught apply to all the time between the Ascension of Jesus and his return at the end of time. No one knows the day or the hour of his return (Mark 13:32). It will be a normal day like any other — until it is not. (Luke 17:26-35) Jesus calls on us to stay awake. We do not know when he is coming for us — at the end of days — or the end of our days. Either way, we should be about what God has called us to do, so when he comes to take us home, we are ready to greet him.

by Rev Robert Smith, whatdoesthismean.blog



Reminder

The LWML does not meet in the months of January and February.

We will meet again on March 11 at 9 a.m. The roll call word is **eternal life**.

The calendar booklets will be available in January.

Thrivent News

Reminder the end of the year is coming! Please remember Peace as you designate your Choice Dollars. The **deadline** for directing 2023 dollars is **March 31, 2024**.

If you have any questions, contact Julie Cochran at 573-286-9634.

Church Office Schedule

Church office hours
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday 8 a.m. to noon.

Phone Number

573-836-8141

Blessed ADVENT

Join us as we direct *our hearts*
and *our worship* now
toward *the coming of Jesus*.

Wed., Dec. 6, 13, 20 at 6 p.m.
& Sun., Dec. 24 at 9 a.m.





Join us as we
direct our hearts
and our worship
toward the birth
of Christ this
Christmas Eve
December 24
6 p.m.



Cookie Sale

This holiday season let the LWML ladies, at Christ the King, help with your baking needs. They will host their eighth annual cookie sale on Friday, December 8 from 10 to 5 p.m. You will be able to select your own cookie assortment. For questions, contact Karen Blickenstaff at 636-346-2128.



For the past two months, updated directories were made available to all members. If you do not have an updated directory, please contact the church office. Thanks!

To know **Christ** and
to **believe in Him** is
no achievement of man,
but the **gift from**
God. - Martin Luther

Hospitalized?

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, have experienced a death in the family, are home bound, or scheduled to go to the hospital, please call Pastor Brandt (580-421-8108). Please keep in mind that privacy laws also limit the information hospitals can share with us. Pastor Brandt is available for any emergency, or any issue you and your loved ones might be having. Remember, our pastor is here to serve you.



Our Elders: Jeff Hedberg (573-819-4446), Jeff Emery (816-745-0229) and Earl Hartenstein (573-691-7117) will also assist in getting the pastor to follow up on any issue, not just hospitalization for you, a loved one or a death in the family.

Confirmed in Christ



On Sunday, October 29, we welcome new members Lilyan and Tristan Lewis through the Rite of Confirmation. Pictured left to right: Bill Matthies, Lilyan and Tristan Lewis with Pastor Rick Anderegg.

2024 Officers

- **President:** Bob Hanson
- **Vice President:** Brock Kliever
- **Secretary:** Susan Kral
- **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan
- **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
- **Elders:** Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick
- **Education:** Open
- **Membership at Large:** Open

Auxiliary Organizations:

LWML Officers for 2024:

- **Co-Presidents:** Dawn Hedberg & Cindy Niebur
- **Vice President:** Open
- **Secretary:** Jayne Trick
- **Treasurer:** Susan Kral

Answering Objections to the Faith: The Basics of Christian Apologetics Applying Natural Law to Evangelism cont'd

Morality is not a matter of personal opinion. It's a matter of what objectively exists in the real world. We should recognize that in the missionary presentations recorded in the New Testament, the evangelists spent relatively little time proclaiming the moral law.

They didn't need to say very much—their listeners knew the law because it was written on their hearts. At the same time, however, the moral law, whether understood by being a human or by instruction, prepares people for the Gospel, and in that sense, makes evangelism and mission work possible. It also gives us a much needed road map for con-

ducting our lives as well as restraining evil to a degree that makes civilized life possible.

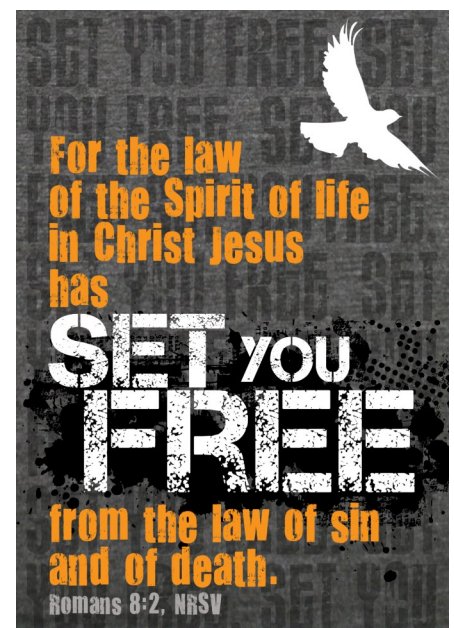
We must always remember, though, that our work as evangelists is effective for one reason and one reason only—it connects lost sinners with the power of God in the glorious message of Jesus Christ.

The moral law has no power to save; that power only lies in the Gospel message of Jesus. And this Gospel message contains the same power of God that called the entire universe into existence out of nothing.

We can never overestimate the Gospel's amazing ability to call lost souls into the kingdom of Christ. It's because of God's

saving and almighty power in this message of the Savior that we are successful in evangelism and mission work.

(from: The Reason I Believe by Allen Quist)



Devotion for December



And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10-12

What does God look like? It’s an interesting question. A non-Christian won’t be able to answer that question. A well-schooled Lutheran might quote the Catechism: “God is a Spirit, that is, a being endowed with mind and will without a body.”

What does God look like? Some years ago a pastor asked his Sunday school that question. The replies he received were most interesting:

- One child said, “God is a human being with eyes like fire, and He shampoos His hair every day.”
- Another youngster replied, “He’s tall. He looks like my daddy. He wears a jumpsuit on weekends and has a bald head.”
- One Sunday school scholar commented, “I think He’s an old man with a long, gray beard, and He sits on a throne like the king of all mankind and He drinks all the Dr. Pepper He wants.”
- The last said, “He looks like Jesus, but I’ll tell you a secret: I’m not sure, ‘cause I’ve never seen Him.”

What does God look like? To find God’s answer to that question we need to look in Bethlehem. There we will see a Child, God’s Son, our Savior. He looks like a baby because

He is a Baby, but He is an exceptional Baby because this child will live His life without sin.

What does God look like? To find God’s answer to that question we need to stand before Calvary’s



cross. There we will see the Child has grown into a Man: an exceptional Man. Throughout His life and ministry He has befriended those who were lonely, reached out to those who were untouchable and provided comfort to the heartbroken. On the cross we see Him dying

the death that our sins have demanded.

What does God look like? To find God’s answer to that question we need to go to a locked room in Jerusalem. There we will see the risen Lord appearing to His hiding, troubled disciples. We will hear Him offer God’s peace, which comes to all who are brought to faith in the Redeemer -- the Redeemer who has offered His life in exchange for ours.

What does God look like? He looks like Jesus, whose birth we are blessed to celebrate. Thanks be to God we have seen the Savior -- the personification of God’s great grace.

The Prayer: Dear Lord, today I give thanks the Holy Spirit has allowed me to see Jesus, my Savior. May I always treasure Him, who has given His life so I might be freed from the grasp of sin, death and devil. As the opportunities allow, may I share my Savior with others who are still wondering what does God look like? In Jesus’ Name I pray it. Amen.

Pastor Ken Klaus Speaker was emeritus of The Lutheran Hour® Lutheran Hour Ministries



YOUR ADVERSARY
THE DEVIL
 PROWLS AROUND LIKE A
ROARING LION,
 SEEKING SOMEONE TO
DEVOUR.
 1 PETER 5:8, ESV

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

Not Exclusively A First Article Issue

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

Witnessing is not a recruiting effort to increase membership of an organization. It is spiritual warfare in which we are seeking to liberate people who are captive to sin, death, and everlasting condemnation.

Satan rules over their captivity as the prince of this world. He does not want to let his captives go and will fight your every effort to bring them the

liberating message of life and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Witnesses must expect to encounter resistance from Satan and his forces and should not be surprised when that resistance grows to hostility. You are up against a powerful enemy who is well entrenched in the world and whose thinking permeates every human society.

The Law and Gospel message you share is perceived as foolishness by people who are captive to Satan, sin, and death. (1 Cor. 1:20-31)

On your own, you are powerless against this enemy and unable to convince anyone that God's Word is true. But you are not alone. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He made a point to include the assurance, **"I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).**

His word reminds us that although you face a powerful enemy, **"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).**

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry

Support Schedules

	Elder	Altar Guild
December	Earl Hartenstein	Dawn Hedberg & Diane Borgmann
Organist	Diana Schwab	

Ushers

1st Sunday	Robert & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels
2nd Sunday	Earl Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Diane Borgmann, Rodney Schulz
4th Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz
5th Sunday	Robert Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg

Counters

1st Sunday	Jeff & Dawn Hedberg
2nd Sunday	Jeff & Paula Emery
3rd Sunday	Brett & Cindy Niebur
4th Sunday	Matt & Deb Mayes
5th Sunday	Pudge McCloud

THANK
YOU

New Member



In June, we welcome to our Peace family new member Judy Slough.



To All Women of Peace

Don't forget to mark your calendar to attend the LWML Christmas Party on Friday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. There will be food, fun and fellowship. Those who have a Christmas stocking filled with nickels, please bring them with you. Thank you Paula for planning this activity each year.

Advent Meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

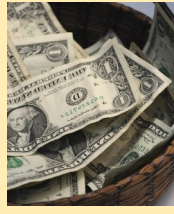


The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

New Chalice



A huge thank you to the anonymous donor for purchasing this beautiful chalice. The chalice was dedicated in October.



Stewardship

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8-11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old

Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in



the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house,

teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14:

"The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities

and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

reprinted from LCMS Stewardship Ministry

REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY
BY KEEPING IT HOLY.
EXODUS 20:8

The Christian Use of Your Christmas Tree

Its Point

As your tree points heavenward, let it remind you that Jesus came from heaven on the first Christmas to be your Savior so that you could go to heaven.

Its Light

Jesus, the light of the world, came as the Bible says to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He is your light!

Its Decorations

These should remind you of the beauty of everlasting life, God's gift to you.

If You Have a Star on Top

Let it remind you that the light of God's Word leads you to Jesus as the star led the wise men.

If You Have An Angel on Top

Let it remind you of the message of the Angel. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

An "Evergreen Tree"

Evergreen trees are always green. This should remind you of the fact that the gift of life Jesus came to give is everlasting.

Its Branches

Its branches spread outward and its tips pointing heavenward. That our love should be vertical to God and horizontal towards our neighbors.

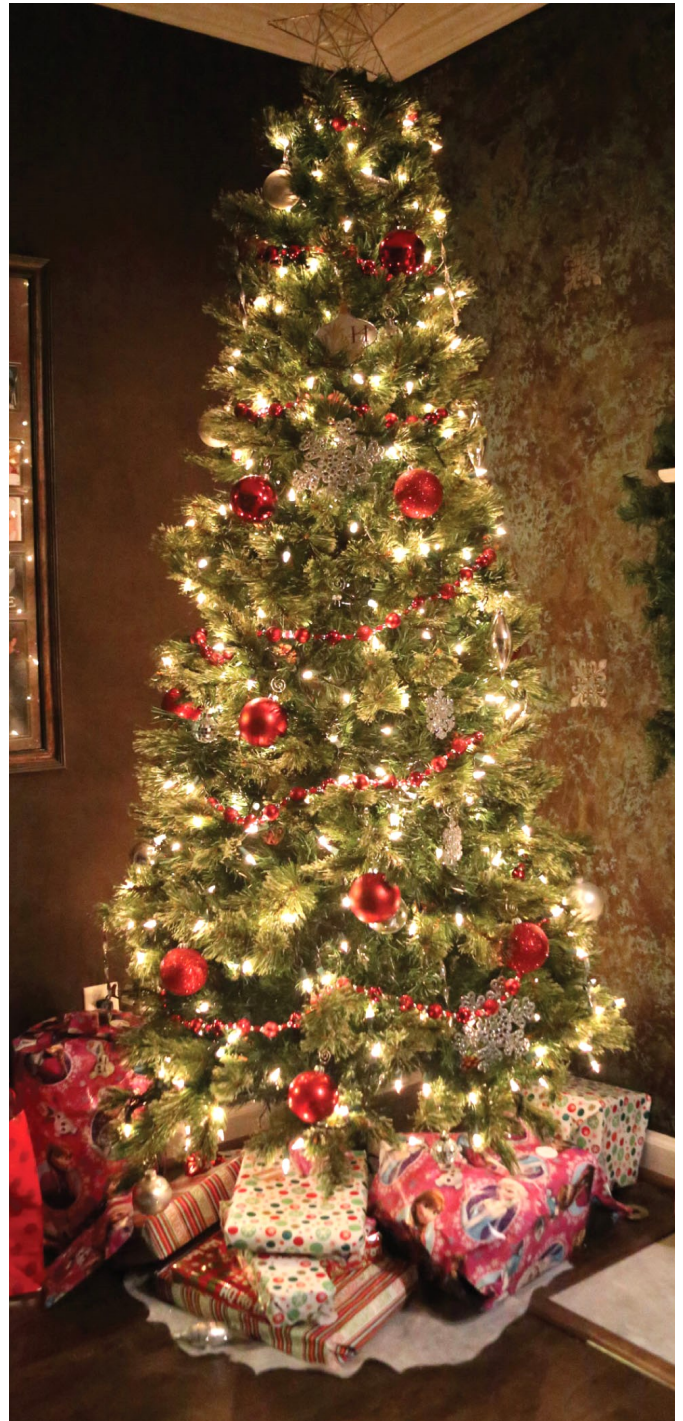
A Place for Gifts

Christmas gifts around the tree are proper if they remind both the giver and the receiver of God's great Christmas gift. The Bible says, "The gift of God is eternal life." and "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Your Tree Will Die

Cut off from nourishment, the needles will soon begin to fall. Let this remind you that those whose faith is not regularly watered with the Word of God will eventually become spiritually dead.

Friends of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."

—Martin Luther

WORSHIP SCHEDULES



Sunday Worship*9:00 am
 Bible Class/Sun. School10:30 am

Wednesday Evening Services:

- Ash Wednesday6:00 pm
- During Lent6:00 pm
- During Advent 6:00 pm

Holy Week

- Maundy Thursday* 6:00 pm
- Good Friday Service 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday*9:00 am

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday Evening6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Evening Service6:00 pm

**Holy Communion*

The Lord's Servants at Peace

- **Elders—Monday before Council Meeting 9:30 am**
Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Earl Hartenstein
- **Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month 6:30 pm**
 - ◆ **President:** Bob Hansen
 - ◆ **Vice President:** Brock Kliewer
 - ◆ **Secretary:** Susan Kral
 - ◆ **Financial Secretary:** Brett Niebur
 - ◆ **Treasurer:** Peggy Callahan
- **Stewardship:** Dawn Hedberg
- **Evangelism:** Russell Schulz
- **Education:** Sara Anderegg
- **Organist:** Diana Schwab
- **Trustees:** Chuck Kral, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan
- LWML—2nd Monday from March—Nov. 9:30 am**
President: Sara Anderegg
Altar Guild: Dawn Hedberg
Bible Studies As announced
- *Elected Offices*

Council Minutes November 14

Vice President Brock Kliewer called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Brandt opened with prayer.

The following board members were present: **Pastors** Pastor Anderegg and Pastor Brandt, **President** Bob Hansen, **Vice President** Brock Kliewer, **Treasurer** Peg Callahan **Sec.** Susan Kral, **Board of Elders** Jeff Hedberg, **Cemetery** Diane Borgmann, **Stewardship** Dawn Hedberg, **Evangelism** Russell Schulz, and **Church Members** Pat Callahan and Rodney Schulz

Absent: **Financial Sec** Brett Niebur, **Education** Sara Anderegg, **Member at Large** Paula Emery, and **Trustee** Chuck Kral

The minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary: Brett submitted a written report. Offerings are behind this time last year, but we have not exceeded expenses. His report was accepted and approved.

Treasurer: Peg submitted her report. All bills have been paid. Her report was accepted and approved.

Elders: Jeff reported the following: Christ the King Pastors have offered to fill in when needed. Jeff's report was accepted and approved.

Trustees: Chuck submitted the following information.

- Pat Callahan and Jeff Emery have performed mowing chores.
- Chuck filled the hole where Pat removed a stump.
- Chuck and Bob Hansen met with Anderson Windows. The council accepted the bid to have a new window installed in the library.
- Chuck and Bob cut down the cedar tree by the front entrance.
- Chuck contacted our snow removal company. The price for removal will not change.
- Chuck contacted the company that inspects our fire extinguishers. They have been approved for all of 2024.
- The fire alarm system was inspected. Repairs will be made when the company can send a repairman.
- Chuck called Catalyst Electric to fix the unlit exit signs. There will be an \$80.00 service call and an \$85.00 an hour fee.
- Pat Callahan and Chuck pulled out all the front bushes and seven in the back. Pat hauled off the brush and will burn it when there is no wind.

- The leaf vacuum needs to be replaced, and a commercial backpack leaf blower is needed. Pat contacted The Motor Hut. They submitted a bid of \$552.00 for a backpack blower and \$1614.99 for a leaf vacuum. The council approved those purchases. The Motor Hut will pick up the old leaf vacuum and put it for sale on consignment.
- Rodney Schulz obtained an estimate for installing a handrail in front of the church. The council requested that he get a second bid.
- Rodney will head a committee, next spring, to decide what to plant in the front of the church where the bushes were removed.

Chuck's report was accepted and approved.

Education: There was no report.

Evangelism: Russell reported the following:

- 167 outreach cards were sent in October. The cost was \$148.63.
- Life Line Screening will be held here on November 16. Russell will be present in the morning. Dawn Hedberg will be present in the afternoon.
- Russell will place an ad in the local newspaper announcing our Christmas Eve service.

Russell's report was accepted and approved.

Stewardship: Dawn had no report.

Member at Large: There was no report.

Cemetery: Diane reported the following:

- Rodney Schulz applied fertilizer to the cemetery grounds.
- Rodney and Russell cleaned up the cemetery leaves and hauled them away for burning.

Her report was accepted and approved.

Pastors' Reports:

Pastor Anderegg announced that due to health and family needs he is officially resigning effective immediately. The board thanked him for his five years of faithful service and regretfully accepted his resignation.

Pastor Brandt reported the following:

- In spite of some of our members having health or personal issues, we can celebrate the joys of this time of year. Celebrations were held for our newest members' confirmations and for All Saints' Day. We will celebrate Thanksgiving with a Wednesday evening service. The beautiful season of Advent will be celebrated with three Wednesday evening services. An Advent Service will be held Sunday morning and the Christmas Eve service will be held in the evening.

- He will cover all services except Sunday, Dec. 17. Christ the King will provide a support person that day.
- He provided Pudge with hymn numbers and scripture readings for the new church year.
- He also sent her the three midweek services' information. He has proofread the Nov. 19 bulletin.
- On November 14 he attended the monthly Circuit Pastors' Conference at St. John's Church which is northwest of Cole Camp.

President's Reports

Old Business:

- Anderson Windows has been given a down payment of \$3413.00 to begin building a window for the library. The final payment of \$3414.00 will be made when installation is completed. The new window will be installed within the next two months.
- We will grant easement to the power company so that power can be installed to the property behind us.
- Jeff and Paula Emery and Peg and Pat Callahan will hold a meeting of the church safety committee.

New Business:

- We thank Bob Borgmann for making new reflectors for our parking lot entrance. Thanks to Pat Callahan for installing them.
- Pastor Anderegg will be removed from the payroll as of November 15. His name will be removed from the church information.
- Bob Hansen explained what needs to be done if the electronic sign is not on. The large circuit breaker box needs to be opened and the circuit breakers shut off for 15-20 seconds. Then turn them back on and wait for about one minute. The sign will light up.
- Dawn mentioned that the carpet in the altar area is not smooth. She will contact carpet companies for suggestions of what needs to be done.
- Jeff mentioned that he had a call from the sheriff's department because the alarm went off. As was mentioned in the trustee report, a repairman has been called.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Pastor Brandt led the closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Kral Secretary



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Decorating the church for Christmas @ 9 a.m.
3 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Mites Collection	4 Elders Mtg 9:30 a.m.	5	6 Advent Service 6 p.m.	7	8 LWML Christmas Party 11:30 a.m. Cookie Sale at Christ the King 10 to 5	9
10 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	11	12 Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	13 Advent Service 6 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	18 Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	19 Women's Bible Study 2:30 p.m..	20 Advent Service 6 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Advent Service 9 am Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.	25  Happy Birthday Jesus!	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. New Year's Eve						