

*Community*

*Presbyterian Church*

*of*

*Lac du Flambeau*

# Community Press

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2019

To: All the “Good and Gentlefolk” of Community  
Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, Wi.

Greetings!

As I write this monthly note to you all, we are closing that period of the church year designated as “Ordinary Time,” and preparing to enter the Christian liturgical year as we begin to celebrate the “Season of Advent.” The term “Advent”, which comes from the Latin “*ad-ventire—meaning to come* and fundamentally refers to the entry of Jesus of Nazareth into the world. Many Christian communities use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. There are three meanings of “coming” that Christians describe in Advent. The first, and the most thought of, happened about 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a human being and give His life for us. The second can happen in present time, as Jesus wants to come into our lives now. The third will happen in the future when Jesus wants to come back to the world as Lord of all.

Advent can be from the 27<sup>th</sup> of November to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December and only starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, as it does this year, when Christmas Day is on a Wednesday.

No one is absolutely certain when Advent was first celebrated, but it dates back at least to 567 CE when monks were ordered to fast during December leading up to Christmas. In medieval England there was also an early form of Nativity scenes called “advent images” or a “vessel cup.” They were a box that contained two dolls representing Mary and the baby Jesus. They were decorated with ribbons and flowers and

carried around from door to door. It was thought to be very unlucky if you did not see a box before Christmas Eve. People even paid the box carriers a halfpenny to see the box.

There are some Christmas Carols that are really Advent Carols. These include “People Look East,” “Come, thou long expected Jesus,” and perhaps the most popular, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Finally, I thought you just might like a little information on this part of the Christian liturgical year leading up to the Christmas event which is the reason it is the substance of this month’s Newsletter.

Carolyn and I also would like to take this opportunity to say we hope you all had a joy-filled and meaningful Thanksgiving and that your Christmas season is filled with grace and joy, peace and love, “and a spirit filled with thanksgiving and service.

Stay well and as always,

Pax et Caritas,  
Bill Anderson

## Deacon's Report for November

This month we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we will decorate the church to be ready for the first Sunday in Advent. We open the storage boxes and pull out the beautiful Chrismons that were made over the years by many members from the past. Please take a few moments to really look at these lovely symbols of the Christmas season. Jillanne can name some of the members that made these through the years. We will miss Arlene, who made these perfect.

We also order the flowers for the Christmas Eve services. This is an opportunity to honor friends and family in a special way. We remind you to pick up your plant after the service so that you may continue to enjoy the plants.

Soon we will meet to plan for the New Year as we continue in our service to the needs of our members and dear friends. Keep us in your prayers as we plan our future.

Have a Holy Christmas Season filled with love and fellowship. See you all in January, 2020.

Edi Spellmeyer, Moderator

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"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

C.S. Lewis

"Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens."

Maria Augusta von Trapp

"The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible."

Henry van Dyke

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

Martin Luther

"More light than we can learn, more wealth than we can treasure, more love than we can earn, more peace than we can measure, because one Child is born."

Author Unknown

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR NOVEMBER were:

Nov. 3, 2019: Edi Spellmeyer

Nov. 10, 2019: Jill Consie

Nov. 17, 2019: Carol Gelwicks

Nov. 24, 2019: Linda Lockwood.

Thank you all for your time, hard work and contribution to the fellowship.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Janeen Clarke	Dec. 1
Judy Loertscher	Dec. 3
Shirley Shugar	Dec. 5
Pat Behling	Dec. 10
Tonna Applegren	Dec. 12
Audrey Eder	Dec. 13
Alan Schmitz	Dec. 15
Gloria Tamms	Dec. 24
Dennis Gathmann	Dec. 25
Greg Stiles	Dec. 26

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Barbara Schneider	Dec. 2
Paul & Jan Hoppe	Dec. 11
Bill & Barb Streng	Dec. 16
Jim & Helen Sauer	Dec. 20
George & Gloria Tamms	Dec. 24

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## THE CHOIR CORNER

I felt it necessary to comment on our choir and its activity. For one thing, as its director, I am amazed that Sunday after Sunday we continue to assist our clergy in the worship experience with admirable success. Our members continue Sunday after Sunday rising early to attend what often results in a grueling rehearsal session without complaint and with dedicated effort to improve and provide an acceptable adjunct to Pastor Bill's deliveries. I am proud of each member's commitment and dedication toward that end. And I can't say enough about the service of our organist/pianist Tracy Gabryel who travels and hour and 30 minutes each way to provide our hymn music and choral accompaniment without complaint even in the difficult times of our winter seasons. Over all those events, she was late one time and that was a 5 minute event. If any of this stirs your emotion, I encourage you to thank our choir members personally; I assure you that they will be most appreciative of your encouragement. But, we are still short of our goal to bring more meaningful assistance to the service, because that goal requires more participation than we currently have. Please reconsider joining our plucky band in reaching our goal of a truly outstanding church choir. Such an accolade is within our reach if only you help us reach it.

As far as the website is concerned, we are still improving it in order that it will be a service to our congregation and anyone else who might be using it to search for a church with which to unite. Please visit the site on a regular basis to keep updated on church activities and events.

The anthems for December are (conditions permitting):

Dec. 1: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Dec. 8: There's Power in Prayer

Dec. 15: Come Rejoicing

Dec. 22: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Respectfully submitted.

Sam Shugar, Music Director & Webmaster

## DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Dec. 1, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday

Isa. 2: 1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13: 11-14; Matt. 24: 36-44

### Dec. 8, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11: 1-10; Ps. 72: 1-7, 18-19; Rom. 15: 4-13;  
Matt. 3: 1-12

### Dec. 15, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35: 1-10; Ps. 146: 5-10 or Luke 1: 46b-55;  
James 5: 7-10; Matt. 11: 2-11

### Dec. 22, 2019

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Christmas Joy Offering

Isa. 7: 10-16; Ps. 80: 1-7, 17-19; Rom. 1: 1-7;  
Matt. 1: 18-25

### Dec. 29, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

Isa. 63: 7-9; Ps. 148; Heb. 2: 10-18; Matt. 2: 13-23

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon. Liturgist will be called each week or emailed to tell them what the readings will be.

Liturgist for the month of December will be:

Dec. 1: Dick Rosenthal

Dec. 8:

Dec. 15:

Dec. 22:

Dec. 29:

Ushers for the month of December will be:

Dec. 1:

Dec. 8:

Dec. 15:

Dec. 22:

Dec. 29:

As you can see, we are in serious need of Liturgist and Ushers. Please sign up for Liturgist and Ushers in the Fellowship Hall. Your participation is urgently needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

### **SPECIAL DATES**

First day of winter	Dec. 21, 2019
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24, 2019
Christmas Day	Dec. 25, 2019
New Year's Eve/Watch Night	Dec. 31, 2019
Advent Sundays	Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22

## Giving Tree 2019

It has come to our attention recently about the increased need for foster parents. This need is due to various reasons, one of which is the opioid crisis. When foster homes are needed, children often arrive with only the clothes on their backs and a few belongings in a plastic bag. At this point, the foster parents have to provide more than shelter, food, care and love. The LDF Family Services/ICW who serve native foster families and the Vilas County Social Services Foster Closet in Eagle River that serves non-native foster families maintain centers where foster families can go to get needed supplies for their foster children.

This year we plan to use these agencies as the recipients of the donations to the CPC of LDF Giving Tree. We have lists of needed items which were provided to us by both agencies. These lists will be available at the church, in the newsletter and on our church's webpage. It you can help, select an item or items, bring **unwrapped** to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup>, and these items will be given to the appropriate agencies. If you prefer not to shop, cash donations will be accepted and we'll do shopping for you or the Vilas County Closet will use cash donations to purchase larger items that are needed by the families. Checks could be made to Community Church PW, given to Carol Gelwicks or Betty Adams, or placed on the tree, and they will be used as needed. If you have any questions, see or call Carol Gelwicks, 715-356-9272.

### **Items needed for LDF Family Services Adoptive Families:**

#### **Basic:**

Toothbrush and Toothpaste- variety  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Soap - scented and non-scented  
Hairbrush - variety  
Towel & wash cloth  
Tampons & Pads - variety

#### **Babies**

Bottles - large and small  
Pacifiers

#### **Comforts:**

Blankets - variety  
Pillow cases with cartoon characters  
Socks- variety boy/girl sizes  
Underwear - variety boy/girl sizes  
Pajamas - variety boy/girl sizes  
Slippers - variety boy/girls sizes

### **Needed items for Vilas County Foster Closet:**

Toys such as: dolls, play dishes and food, trucks and cars (not matchbox), Lego & Duplo kits, coloring books for adults and children, card and board games, books, diaper bags of neutrals colors, diapers sizes 3, 4, 5, & 6, etc. The complete suggestion list is in the back of the sanctuary. Monetary donations may be used for larger items such as gates, strollers, etc. They cannot accept these as used items.

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*As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world, fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors".*