

Volume XX
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MONTH OF
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Newsletter of Community Presbyterian Church, Lac du Flambeau, WI

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Our Mission Statement: 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.”

A shoot brings life

Last year, Israeli scientists harvested dates from seeds that had been dormant about 2,000 years. The seeds, recovered during archaeological digs, were nurtured in incubators and several survived. One (named Methuselah!) became a 10-foot-tall palm tree.

Horticulturists joked about marketing “dates that Jesus ate,” but there's another scriptural connection. Isaiah 11, a traditional Advent reading, prophesies: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots” (verse 1, NRSV). Jesus is the tender shoot that emerged from the humble peasant origins of Jesse, father of King David. From a dynasty that went dormant due to Israel's sins sprouted a mighty tree, who will someday usher in a reign of peace (verses 6-7).

Some people and churches celebrate Christmas with a Jesse Tree, remembering how God sent Jesus to sprout life out of death and bring new hope and joy to the world

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

The example of Mary

“We must look to Mary's example to know how to deal with the glorious impossibilities of God,” writes Calvin Miller in *The Christ of Christmas*. “Look how she turned the world upside down by making one simple statement.”

Jesus surely could have come to earth without Mary's aid. But God seems to prefer partnering with people to accomplish miracles such as salvation and healing. So God chooses Mary to carry the Savior. Later, Jesus often declares people's own faith crucial to their healing. And today, God works justice through us, not apart from us.

God doesn't force us into collaboration. Yet, notes Miller, “God needs only a little of our agreement in order to work mighty wonders.” Like Mary's humble assent: “I am the Lord's servant...May Your Word to me be fulfilled” Luke 1:38, NIV). And like yours – for whatever partnership God invites you into. God will do the heavy lifting, for certain, but He hopes you'll say yes.

*Session notes from**November 9, 2021*

The meeting of November 9, 2021 was called to order by Bill Raduege, moderator, at 1:05 pm with a prayer.
 Carpets in the church and fellowship hall will be cleaned in November.
 The budget is still stable for now. Please continue to honor the pledges made for the year.
 The Session continues to work on finding a new pastor. A form was submitted to the Presbytery for approval but has stalled due to the cancellation of the Presbytery meeting. Hopefully we will hear something soon.
 Members are needed to serve on the Deacons and Session. If you are interested, please let a member of either the Deacons or Session know.
 Meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm with prayer. Next Session meeting is December 7, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Kathy LaBarge, Clerk of Session

*December***BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

BIRTHDAYS

Janeen Clarke	Dec. 1
Judy Loertscher	Dec. 3
Tonna Applegren	Dec. 12
Greg Stiles	Dec. 26

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Jan Hoppe	Dec. 11
Bill & Barb Streng	Dec. 16

*Scripture readings for
the month of December,
2021***December 5, 2021****2nd Sunday of Advent**Mal. 3: 1-4 *and* Luke 1: 68-79; Phil. 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6**December 12, 2021****3rd Sunday of Advent**Zeph. 3: 14-20 *and* Isa. 12: 2-6; Phil. 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18**December 19, 2021****4th Sunday of Advent**Micah 5: 2-5a *and* Luke 1: 47-55 *or* Ps. 80: 1-7; Heb. 10: 5-10;

Luke 1: 39-45 (46-55)

December 26, 2021**1st Sunday of Christmas**1 Sam. 2: 18-20, 26 *and* Ps. 148; Col. 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon.

*Special Dates for
December, 2021*

Second Sunday of Advent	<i>December 5, 2021</i>
Third Sunday of Advent	<i>December 12, 2021</i>
Fourth Sunday of Advent	<i>December 19, 2021</i>
First day of winter	<i>December 21, 2021</i>
Christmas Eve	<i>December 24, 2021</i>
Christmas Day	<i>December 25, 2021</i>
New Year's Eve/Watch Night	<i>December 31, 2021</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The envelopes for 2022 are on the table in the fellowship hall along with the new pocket calendars for 2022.

Both men and women will be meeting at “Woody’s” on Wednesday’s at 8:00 AM.

ANNUAL MEETING **DECEMBER 12**: Call Update on Agenda

Want to have a voice in who will lead us into the coming year? Want to know more about the pastoral call process and how you call committee is progressing? Want to learn more about our finances and the plan for the CPC budget for 2022?

Then the CPC Annual Meeting on Sunday Dec. 12 after our 10:00 AM service is the place to be. Your church needs your attendance and participation. Aside for ensuring we have a quorum for the meeting, your voice is vital in helping guide you church into the coming year. We are at a significant juncture in the life of our congregation as we go through the process of calling a new spiritual leader.

So far, your Session and Call Committee have completed necessary forms and gained approval from the Northern Waters Presbytery to continue moving forward with seeking new spiritual leadership. We have been blessed with the Sunday support of Jack and Helen Fashbaugh thus far.

Our eventual goal is to hire an ordained minister for the foreseeable future, to help strengthen and grow your church on our foundation of God’s Love.

Below is a calendar of events thus far for December:

Dec. 7: Session Meeting at 1:00 PM

Dec. 12: Annual Meeting after the service – voting for Session Members, Deacons and the Budget. Also, guest Mission Speaker at the church service – Caritas chairman, Rev. Dick Bruesehoff

Dec. 19: Special Christmas music and Christmas Pot Luck

Deacons Report

The Deacons are in need of more men and women who are willing to help with the work of the church. Their mission statement is: “The Mission of the Board of Deacons is to minister to those within our church and community that are ill, bereaved or in distress and to assist those that are in need. The Deacons shall also provide supportive services for Sunday worship service and other activities in the life of the church.” The duties of the Deacons vary and if you are interested in helping with the important activity of the church and would like a more detailed description, please give Shirlee Gallagher a call at 715-588-1320. It’s one of the rewarding jobs of the church.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for all of the people that are going through these anxious times. They need to know that they have our prayers and support and comfort.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS AT ADVENT

When Advent begins on November 28th this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6th and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.
