



## *Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS*



One of the great benefits of a “traditional” or “liturgical” church like ours is the use of a lectionary, a schedule of Scripture readings for the various worship services throughout the year. The schedule we usually follow is in a three-year cycle, and each service includes three readings: usually Old Testament, New Testament Epistle, and Gospel.

Over the course of three years, we can cover a lot of ground. However, with as much material as the Bible has to offer, some things are still left out. Nine out of the sixty-six books are not used at all; another twelve are used only once during that three-year span. The year of the Church does not line up exactly with the year of our civil calendar; as of November 29, we have just begun

a new church year -- and this year, I want to invite you to join me in a project of visiting every book in the Bible at least once.

There are sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments; and, when we include all the Sundays, all the Advent and Lenten midweek services, and a few special occasions like Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, etc. we arrive at sixty-six worship services during the year. What a wonderful opportunity! So during this new church year, each service will feature a reading from each book of the Bible; by the end, we won't have read every word in the Bible, but we will have visited each of the books in the Scriptural collection (We won't be going through in order, from Genesis to Revelation; for example, our four Sundays of Advent will take us to

# *The Watchman*



**2020**

Titus, Daniel, Genesis, and Numbers).

Perhaps it will help us better appreciate the comprehensiveness and consistency of God's message to us, and help us better see how Christ and the Good News about him is at the center of Scripture from beginning to end. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,” as 2 Timothy says, and God declares via the prophet Isaiah, “so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it,” so when we are turning back to all of Scripture to receive the gifts God gives us by His Word, we cannot help but benefit.

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries (2019)

L to R: Frank & Sylvia Feazell, Bobby & Marilyn Trehern, Tim Krebs, Maria & Terry Pike and Kirk Pellegrin



### Anniversaries

3	Bob & Betty Andrews
19	Rocky & Michelle Southern
24	Marion & Thyne Brown
28	Derek & Eve Waffel
29	Louis & Marlene Bontly

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Anna Jacobson	3
Donna Krebs	5
Shawn Robbins	12
Sandy Welty	13
Tina Hamilton	14
Tammy Carnley	15
Sheila Williams	21
Eve Waffel	21
Emma Pellegrin	25
Lionel Dale	26
Lin Jacobson	27
Haley Torries	28
Gracie Davis	28
Bob Andrews	31



**Bible Treasure Hunt:** Solve the clue to discover the treasure, a Bible person, place, or thing. Answer on calendar.

How many books are in the New Testament?

# Mary Martha News

Mary Martha will not meet in December.

Mary Martha is sponsoring a church wide donation of gift cards (Visa, Mastercard, Target, Walmart) to be collected for hurricane relief. If you would like to donate, please give to a M/M member or leave in the office by **December 6** so they can be distributed before Christmas.

## Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere

**KFUO Radio**  
**\$60,000**

Since 1924, KFUO has been reaching people far and wide with the message of Jesus Christ by using the latest technology. In the last century, technology has advanced at an unprecedented rate and continues to develop with each new year. Incorporating the newest forms of communication methods into KFUO's ministry, they can more effectively reach the younger generation and the generations to come with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even our Nation's military can listen wherever they are stationed. Aging family and friends who are confined to their homes can still be gathered to the Word through an iPad or similar device. Prison Ministry also utilizes KFUO as an effective way of sharing the Gospel. This grant will assist the station in sharing the gospel and staying current in the digital age.

Using the latest technology, KFUO can video stream LIVE on Facebook reaching multiple generations, especially the Digital Generation, with bibles studies, chapel services, and informative interviews about organizations that are striving to spread the Gospel. Viewers can make comments, ask questions, and engage in conversations with hosts/guests as they learn about God's Word and what they can do to help share the His Word with others. (KFUO interviews Kelly Schumacher as she talks about her liturgical art and how she uses her skills and talent to spread the message of Jesus Christ, and encouraging listeners to use their own God-given talents to help share the Gospel.)



## December Scripture Readings

Dec. 6	Is. 40:1–11	Psalms 85	2 Peter 3:8–14	Mark 1:1–8
Dec. 13	Is. 61:1–4, 8–11	Psalms 126	1 Thess. 5:16–24	John 1:6–8, 19–28
Dec. 20	2 Sam. 7:1–11, 16	Psalms 89:1–5 (19–29)	Rom. 16:25–27	Luke 1:26–38
Dec. 27	Is. 61:10—62:3	Psalms 111	Gal. 4:4–7	Luke 2:22–40



## Church Council Meeting minutes 11/16/2020

Shawn called the meeting to order

Pastor opened w prayer

The reading of the previous meeting minutes waived

See Pastor's report attached.

Pastor contacted the music department at MGCCC for suggestions for a new organist.

Midweek Advent services begin December 2. The council will not be serving soup suppers, but you may bring your own supper and eat in the Fellowship Hall.

The council recommended to cancel Christmas potluck this year due to COVID restrictions.

Candlelight service will be held Christmas Eve. Pastor would like to add a Christmas Day service this year at 2pm.

Jody Heusman and Jay Torries will officiate Thanksgiving Eve service at 7pm.

Pastor is researching establishing a church endowment fund through Thrivent.

President—Shawn:

Vice President—Kevin Rademacher: Elections next week. Still need an evangelism chair

Elders—Jody: Currently have 4 elders. New schedule will be published soon.

Trustees—Jerold: Planned repairs: replace kitchen door and door to Pastor's office, need to repair the asphalt patch area, need to replace exterior burglar light, light fixture in altar room needs to be replaced, will also get bids for Sanctuary exterior paint and the walkway cover that has termite damage.

Financial – Carl: Deposits for October: \$8251

YTD: \$109,209.29

November contributions so far: \$6606

Treasurer: Lin \$2208.46 in checking, all major bills aid through the end of the month

Self Insurance Fund \$70,350. (Contingent fund + CD) We may use some of these funds for bell tower repairs.

Mary Martha: Collecting gift cards for LCMS congregation members who sustained hurricane damage. Gift cards are due December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Six boxes were delivered to police and fire departments in Pascagoula, Moss Point, and Gautier. Mary Martha is sponsoring a new seminary student, Matt Doebler.

Mary Martha is not meeting in December.

Kyndel Torries was elected new president.

Youth- No report

Education-Educational packets were given to Sunday School participants

Social Ministry-sent out birthday cards to retirees and called homebound members

Stewardship- Jay: Continue to give if possible

Old Business--none

New Business- -none

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Susan Rademacher

# Pastor's Report to the Board of Elders and Church Council November 2019



## Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Polly Ross passed away.
- As far as post-worship fellowship, there's a pot of coffee in case anyone wants to come in, but not many people have come over so far.
- Search for an additional organist: we are thankful for Rita and Tanya's service, but they'd appreciate some relief if we can find another organist to help out!
- Advent Midweek services this year are December 2, 9, and 16. Are we having suppers?
- I would like to plan a Christmas Day service this year. In light of the coronavirus situation, I expect there are some people who would normally get together or travel to be with family, but won't be able to this year; there may be others who would like to have a Christmas service but are uneasy with the typical Christmas Eve crowd. I suggest a service in the afternoon on Christmas Day, 2pm or 3pm; simple lessons and carols, singing a lot of favorite Christmas songs.

## Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- The online services are a good outreach tool! I encourage everyone to share these on your own pages, as some of you already have. The services stay available after the initial premiere, so anyone can go back and watch older ones too.

## Circuit, District, and Synod

- For the foreseeable future, we are holding our monthly circuit meetings online via Zoom.
- Gary Weier is coming to the term-limited end of his service as circuit visitor, and I have been elected to take his place beginning in summer 2021.

## Travel

- Vacation time to date for 2020: 14 days used out of 24 total (0 Sundays out of 3).
- Planned travel in November: with approval from the elders, we will again visit family in Tennessee for Thanksgiving as they cover the Thanksgiving Eve service.
- Planned travel in December: we are planning/hoping to visit family in Tennessee after Christmas, during the week of New Years.

## Other Activities, General Information

- As a reminder, we are able to accept offerings/donations online through PayPal or by credit/debit card. The link is at the bottom of the home page of our website <https://www.christlutheranchurchms.org>
- Should we plan a congregational Christmas dinner this year?
- I have been in touch with Darrell Butler of Thrivent about a church endowment fund.

## **Voters Assembly 11/22/2020**

Due to COVID restrictions, an abbreviated Voters Assembly was held in the sanctuary following service. All members maintained social distance guidelines and wore masks.

Shawn Robbins called the meeting to order.

Pastor Waffel opened with prayer.

The reading of previous minutes was waived. Sign in sheets were not used (COVID guidelines). The ushers counted 29 members in attendance.

Pastor Waffel: We will continue to worship, observing social distancing guidelines. Two members have passed away since our last voters meeting, Melvin Hayes and Polly Ross. No services are planned at this time, but Pastor will notify us if a memorial services will be held in the future. Oktoberfest was held outside this year, about 40 people attended. New Bible

study begins next week. “The Story” is based on the Bible, one chapter a week will be covered. Study videos are also posted on Facebook.

Pastor was selected as the new Circuit Visitor for our district and will begin serving in that role next summer.

Advent begins next week. We will not have soup suppers this year, but Wednesday eve services will be held at 7 pm.

Pastor will hold a Christmas Day service this year.

President: Shawn Robbins: The council has decided to resume District contributions and has added that line item to the 2021 Budget.

Vice President: Kevin Rademacher: Continue to support the flower fund and volunteer for usher service.

Elders: Jody Heusmann: Elders are available –reach out if you need assistance. We are down to four elders. Contact Jody if you would like to serve.

Trustees: Jerold Shepherd: Obtaining quotes for repairs to the bell tower and painting.

Financial Secretary Carl Erichsen:

Total deposits \$109,209.29

General Fund: \$100,539.25

Disaster Fund: \$578

Memorials: \$300

Hurricane relief: \$2145

PayPal: \$503.42

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson: Presented 2021 Budget, discussed and voted. Budget was approved. The only change was to resume contributions to Southern District.

Checking account: \$ 2208.46

CEF Self Insurance Fund: \$43,327.52

CD \$approximately \$27K

Baum Scholarship \$4886.99

Youth: No report

Education: Cathy Groff: Sunday school is continuing. Bring your children.

Social Ministry continues to send cards to retirees and calls homebound members. Let the team know if someone needs a card or call.

Mary Martha is collecting gift cards (Walmart, Target, Visa, Lowes, etc) for people impacted by the hurricanes. Due date is December 6.

Stewardship: No report

Old Business: We are looking for a new organist.

New Business: Discussed developing an endowment fund for the church. \$25K is needed to begin the endowment. The growth (interest) would be used to support the church in the future.

Apparently wet hand sanitizer damages the hymnals, so let your hands dry before picking up a hymnal if possible.

Church Council officers were elected by acclimation.

Thank you Pastor Waffel for your extra efforts during this crazy year!

Respectfully, Susan Rademacher

# A Thought about Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

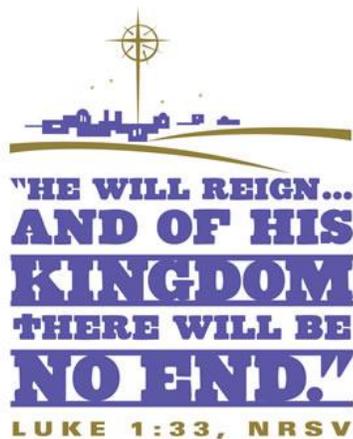
We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God’s people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.



## 2020 Poinsettias



Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia on the altar for Christmas Eve, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, may purchase one for \$10.00. Please give the money to Tanya Hamilton or Rita Shepherd with your information for the bulletin, before December 20, 2020. The flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service or the following week.

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<b>This Poinsettia is given by</b>	
<b>In honor of</b>	
<b>or</b>	
<b>In memory of</b>	
<b>or</b>	
<b>To the Glory of God</b>	

## Advent

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.

The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4.

("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

The concept of giving each candle a name, i.e., Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd and Angel, etc., is a relatively novel phenomenon and probably originates with certain entrepreneurial publishers seeking to sell Advent candles and devotional booklets.



Taken from the [lcms.org](http://lcms.org) **Frequently Asked Questions — Worship & Congregational Life**

# DECEMBER

## 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00			Advent Midweek Service 7:00			Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00			Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Elders 11:00	Council 7:00			 <i>Christmas Eve Worship</i> 7:00	 <b>Christmas Service 2:00</b>	
27	28	29	30	31		
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00						Solution to Bible Treasure Hunt: 

27

