



Christ Lutheran Church, Pascagoula, MS



Contrary to what the secular versions of Christmas might suggest, in the Christian calendar we are not yet in the Christmas season.

That belongs to the “Twelve days of Christmas” which *begin* on December 25 and go for twelve days until Epiphany. We are, instead, in the season of Advent, from the Latin *adventus* which means “approach” or “arrival.” It is not really about the approach of the Christmas holiday, and certainly not just a “pre-Christmas” time. It is a time that looks forward to the second coming of Christ and teaches us to prepare for that Last Day by reflecting on the first coming of Christ.

As such, Advent was considered a season of penance similar to Lent, though Advent has more a character of patient waiting than Lent’s somber repentance. But just as giving up something for Lent as a form of fasting is a historic tradition, Advent is likewise considered a time of fasting. The society around us

continues to get farther and farther away from Biblical Christianity -- and Christmas becomes an ever-increasing glut of consumption and materialism. It is a wonderful expression of our counter-cultural faith to instead practice self-denial and self-control instead of self-indulgence.

The Christian life is one of moderation and balance; our celebration of God’s grace is balanced with repentance for our own sin, our feasting is balanced with fasting. This was the pattern of God’s commands to ancient Israel, and has been imitated by the Church. And so, the Thanksgiving feast is followed by an Advent fast before we return to the Christmas feast.

Some Americans concerned about culture and a “war on Christmas,” but we are not called as Christians to make sure non-Christians observe Christmas in any capacity; certainly the phrase “Merry Christmas” is meaningless if it’s only referring to Santa and Rudolph and gifts. Our Christmas is always merry because

The
Watchman



December

2022

we treasure God’s awe-inspiring acts in the Incarnation, but the “war on Advent” (far more than any “war on Christmas”) leads us away from reflecting on God’s work and preparing to greet Jesus when he returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I believe that, as American culture slides farther and farther away from historic Christianity, those of us who do believe and strive to live according to that faith will stand out more and more as counter-cultural, and I think that December is perhaps a time of starkest contrast between the secular Christmas buying and “ho ho ho”-ing and the Christian quiet, patient waiting for the King to return, the self-indulgence or pressure to find the perfect gift versus self-control and receiving God’s gifts. We’re reminded that Advent is not part of the Christmas season, nor even a “pre-Christmas” time, but a time of reflection to take our thoughts to the future and all our Lord still has in store for us.



4	Dave Hamilton & Jay Torries (Elder)
11	Shawn Robbins & Bobby Trehern (Susan R.)
18	Dave Griffin & Kevin Rademacher (Cathy G.)
24	Jay Torries & Dave Hamilton
25	Bobby Trehern & Shawn Robbins



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
Robert Trehern	28
Bob Andrews	31

HAPPY Anniversary!

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



4	Crystal Robbins
11	Aletha Schollian
18	Debbie Schulte
25	Marilyn Trehern

A recent trip to the WWII Museum in New Orleans by some of our church's veterans.



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, December 18, 2022

After worship service, a team of dedicated volunteers is being sought to help set up and decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. A light lunch will be provided. In words taken from Nehemiah, one of Israel's great leaders: Many hand make light work (See Chapter 3).

OTHER NEWS

- **PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST:** As a reminder to all members, a chain phone call prayer request is available for all members. To either make a chain call prayer request or to start receiving chain prayer calls, please contact either your Elder or Pastor.
- **NURSERY:** Nursery is provided for children during worship service.
- **NEW CHURCH EMAIL:** The new office email is CLC1888@outlook.com
- **MEMBER INFO UPDATE:** Please complete the member form and turn it in to an elder, usher, or send it in an email to help update our records. Also please send a family picture for the directory to Janet or Pastor.
- **CHRISTMAS DINNER:** December 11th after the worship service.
- **SUGGESTION CARDS:** Suggestion cards are available in the Sanctuary for recommendations and/or complaints.
- **ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES:** Soup Supper at 6:00 and Service at 7:00.
- **LWML:** No December meeting.

Advent Midweek Services

**Soup Suppers 6:00 pm
& Services 7:00 pm**
Sign up list in Memorial
Hall to bring soup.

- 30 Elders
- 7 Council
- 14 LWML
- 21 Congregation



December 11th @ 11:30

Invite a friend!!



Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 11.14.2022

Kevin Rademacher called the meeting to order

Pastor opened w prayer

Waived to read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Pastor's report

- Janet is working on a church directory – send a recent picture and information to her or Pastor by November 30 so we can complete and distribute the directory. Pastor can also take a picture for you.
- Jay Torries and Kevin Rademacher will lead the Thanksgiving Eve service
- Red Cross requested to hold a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall 12/22
- See attached Pastor's report

President's report: Kevin Rademacher:

Vice President Report Dave Griffin:

- Sign up for ushers and flowers. Signup sheets are in Memorial Hall.
- The amplifiers in the sanctuary need to be upgraded or replaced

Elders Report Jay Torries:

- Roger Cox has agreed to serve as our sixth elder
- Advent Soup Supper Schedule:
 - November 30 – Elders
 - December 7 – Council
 - December 14 – LWML
 - December 21 – Congregation

- Christmas Dinner will be held after worship on Sunday, December 11. Turkey will be provided. Please sign up to bring side dishes and desserts—sign up list is in the Fellowship Hall
- We are planning to decorate the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary December 18 after worship. Lunch will be provided

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen

- Total deposits October \$11,247
- November to date: \$455
- Ytd deposits \$108,585.66

Treasurer Lin Jacobson

- All bills are current
- Working on the 2023 budget

Trustees

- P trap replacement in single bathroom in Memorial Hall
- Noticed two shingles have fallen off the bell tower

Evangelism: no report

Mary Martha: Kyndel Torries:

- The puzzle books and pencils for nursing homes will be distributed this month
- Planning spaghetti dinner for Hurricane Ian relief
- January 8 we are planning a shower for Epiphany Lutheran Church in Jackson. Pastor will ask them what they need replaced after the fire

Youth: no report

Education: Donna Krebs requested funds to purchase VBS supplies for summer 2023

Social ministry Kathleen Cox and Marilyn Trehern: Sending birthday cards to retirees and other cards as needed

Stewardship no report

Safety –Shawn Robbins is researching grants to purchase an AED (automated external defibrillator)

Endowment fund no report

Old business: memorial garden-no updates

New business: Kevin Rademacher led a discussion on developing a service dog policy. Three options will be presented to the congregation for a vote next week

The December Council meeting has been moved to Monday, December 12 at 6pm. New council members are invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully,

Susan Rademacher

Pastor's Report November 2022

Membership, Worship, and Christian Education

- Membership changes: Thyne Brown is on hospice care at home.
- The Sunday adult Bible study is going through the book of Acts. Never too late to join us!
- Janet is still working on an updated church directory; if you have not already sent her your current information, please do. We suggest a deadline of end of November so we can get the directory out after New Year's.
- Advent devotion booklets will be available for members.
- Advent services and soup suppers are beginning soon! The Wednesday dates are November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.
- Birthday celebrations have resumed the first Sunday of the month.

Mission, Witness, and Outreach

- Oktoberfest was held Sunday, October 30. Kathleen has a Thrivent card to purchase a lot of the supplies.
- Christmas dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 after church.

Circuit, District, and Synod

- Circuit meetings: our next meeting is Tuesday, November 15 at Lamb of God in Slidell, LA -
As circuit visitor, I am still helping congregations in Biloxi and Hattiesburg fill their vacancies.
- We held a circuit forum on Saturday, October 22, 10am at St. Matthew Gulfport and elected circuit delegates for the national 2023 LCMS convention in Milwaukee. Our circuit delegates are Pastor Warren Pellom of Southaven, MS and Mr. Hank Jaubert of Slidell, LA.

Travel

- Vacation time for 2022: 16 days out of 21 (2 Sundays out of 3)
- Planned travel for November: going to TN for Thanksgiving with family.
- Planned travel for December: hopefully going to TN after Christmas.

Other Activities, General Information

- I have been contacted by the Red Cross to host another blood drive in our fellowship hall; they requested the morning of Thursday, December 22.



Christ Lutheran Voters Meeting Minutes 11/20/2022

Christ Lutheran Church Voter's Meeting Agenda

Opening prayer: Pastor Derek Waffel

Minutes: The reading of the previous Voter's Meeting minutes was waived.

Pastor: Pastor Derek

- Council minutes and pastor's report are in the monthly newsletter. Susan will also be happy to send reports to you.
- Advent services begin next week and soup suppers
- Theme for Advent: Once he came in Blessing. Pastor has advent devotion books.
- Oktoberfest was a success. Thanks to the Roger and Kathleen Cox for their work.

President: Kevin Rademacher

Election of Officers

- Handed out Ballots for 2023 officer election
- Opened floor for additional nominees
- No nominations from the floor
- It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of officers as is. The slate of officers was approved unanimously:
 - President-Kevin Rademacher
 - Vice President: Roger Cox
 - Secretary: Susan Rademacher
 - Treasurer: Lin Jacobson
 - Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen
 - Trustees: Dave Griffin (Head Trustee)
 - Trustee: Dave Hamilton
 - Elders: Roger Cox
 - Education: Donna Krebs
 - Evangelism: John Tetreau
 - Youth: Vacant
 - Stewardship: Cathy Groff and Rita Shepherd
 - Social Ministry: Kathleen Cox
 - Safety: Vacant

Vice President: Dave Griffin

- Sign up for ushers, flowers, greeters. List in Memorial Hall
- Looking into amplifiers for the sanctuary.

Elders: Jay Torries

- Thanked Dave Hamilton for assisting with elder duties
- Thanked Roger Cox for accepting nomination for elder
- Soup Suppers
 - Nov 30 -elders

- Dec 7 - council
- Dec 14 - LWML
- Dec 21 - congregation
- Christmas dinner will be Dec 11 after worship. Christ Lutheran will provide meat and bread, congregation members can volunteer to bring side dishes using the signup sheet in Memorial Hall.
- Dec 18 following service join us to decorate tree and have a chili lunch.

Financial Secretary: Carl Erichsen

- Total Deposits: \$108,585.66
- General Fund: \$99,594.58
- Building Fund: \$1671
- Self-insurance fund: \$ 5090

Treasurer: Lin Jacobson

- Checking Balance: \$1248.59 all bills are current
- CEF savings: \$16,743.74 CD over 17k approx. 34k in savings
- Endowment Fund: approx. \$40k
- 2023 Budget working on it this month and it will be included in the watchman
- Utilities and insurance have gone up

Trustees: Louis Bontly

Rita Shepherd gave the Trustees Report for Louis:

- Major plumbing upgrades have been completed in the small bathrooms in the Memorial Hall
- We have a rat infestation in Memorial Hall. Terminex found no evidence of rodents in the sanctuary.
- Terminex provided an estimate to seal potential entry points and trap the rats. Their estimate was approximately \$3,000.
- Terminex also suggested installation of a moisture barrier under the Sanctuary with an estimate of \$4k.
- We are determining the best method to eliminate the rats. A potential solution is to have the trustees attempt to seal the entry holds and have Terminex responsible for trapping.

Safety: Shawn Robbins – Service Dog Policy & AED

- Shawn has been researching obtaining an AED (-automatic external defibrillator) for Christ Lutheran property. We need to determine how to proceed and purchase one either new or refurbished one. Can a Thrivent grant be used? It was also suggested that the self-insurance fund could be used to purchase an AED.
- Service Dog policy: We need to address visitors who bring service dogs. We want to welcome people who want to worship and need to have a service animal to attend. There was a discussion on service animals. The following definitions were presented to the congregation:
 - The below are from the ADA, MS Law and AKC

Service Animal – "Service animals are working animals, not pets. Since 2011 service animals are only dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities." If it is not apparent what the service animal does, the establishment may ask only whether it is a service animal, and what tasks it performs. There are also service dogs, known as psychiatric service dogs that require extensive training to work specifically with people whose disability is due to mental illness. These dogs detect the beginning of psychiatric episodes and help ease their effects. Although this sounds similar to the role of an ESA, the difference between a psychiatric service dog and an ESA is again in the tasks performed by the dog and

the training received to perform these tasks. If it is simply the dog's presence that helps the person cope, then the dog does not qualify as a psychiatric service dog.

In MS - Mississippi's Support Animal Act defines a service animal as a dog or other animal that is specifically trained as a guide, leader, listener, or to provide any other assistance necessary to assist a blind, hearing-impaired, or mobility-impaired person in day-to-day activities. A mobility impairment is defined as one that makes a person unable to move with crutches, a wheelchair, or another form of support, or limits that person's ability to climb, sit, rise, descend, walk, or perform similar types of functions. Only animals that assist people with these physical disabilities are covered: Mississippi state law does not protect Psychiatric service animals and animals that assist with physical disabilities that don't meet these definitions.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA) - provide support through companionship and can help ease anxiety, depression, and certain phobias. However, they are not service dogs, and ESA users do not receive the same accommodations as service dog users. To legally be considered an emotional support dog, also called an emotional support animal (ESA), the pet needs to be prescribed by a licensed mental health professional to a person with a disabling mental illness. A therapist, psychologist, or psychiatrist must determine that the presence of the animal is needed for the mental health of the patient.

In MS - Neither the ADA nor Mississippi's service animal law includes what some people call "emotional support animals": animals that provide a sense of safety, companionship, and comfort to those with psychiatric or emotional disabilities or conditions. Although these animals often have therapeutic benefits, they are not individually trained to perform specific tasks for their handlers.

- We will create a policy on service and support animals based on the congregation's preference.
- The congregation voted on the following options:

Option 1: Not allow any animals into church buildings

Option 2: Allow only leashed, vested and trained service dogs

- a) Physical Service Dogs only (not to include psychiatric service dogs)
- b) Both physical and psychiatric service dogs

Option 3a: Allow leashed service and emotional support dogs into church buildings

Option 3b: Allow all leashed service and emotional support animals into church buildings.

- Results: 27 ballots were submitted and tallied

16 votes for 2a: Allow only leashed, vested and trained physical service dogs (not to include psychiatric service dogs).

8 votes for 2b: Allow both physical and psychiatric service dogs that are leashed, vested and trained.

2 votes for 3a: Allow leashed service and emotional support dogs into church buildings.

1 write in ballot: purchase outdoor kennel for all animals brought to church except physical issues as prescribed by physician.

- A policy will be written up using the option the Congregation voted on as a base for development. It will also include definitions, expectations of dog owners and liability.

Evangelism: Rita Shepherd, Cathy Groff

- Invite friends and family to soup suppers and advent services
- Order Altar guild poinsettias \$12 by December 18, and they will be red this year.

Mary Martha: Kyndel Torries

- No December meeting
- Will distribute puzzle books today
- Sent \$100 for seminary student

- January will host an Epiphany shower for Epiphany Lutheran Church in Jackson that was burned in an arson fire.
- New slate of officers: President-Donna Krebs, Vice President-Susan Rademacher, Secretary-Melonee Crews, Treasurer- Kathy Griffin.
- Planning a February spaghetti dinner for Ian relief

Youth: VACANT

Education: Donna Krebs

No report

Social Ministry: Kathleen Cox, Marilyn Trehern

No report

Stewardship: Michael Southern

No report

AD HOC Committees:

Endowment Fund: no report

Old business: Memorial Garden - no report

New Business: none

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully,

Susan Rademacher

December Sunday Scripture Readings

SEASON	DATE	FESTIVAL	FIRST READING	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
ADVENT	Nov. 28 <i>2021</i>	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14–16	Psalm 25:1–10	1 Thess. 3:9–13	Luke 19:28–40 <i>or</i> Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 5	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1–7b	Psalm 66:1–12	Phil. 1:2–11	Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 12	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14–20	Psalm 85	Phil. 4:4–7	Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)
	Dec. 19	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalm 80:1–7	Heb. 10:5–10	Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)
CHRISTMAS	Dec. 24 <i>Eve</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Eve)</i>	Is. 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
	Dec. 25 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Midnight)</i>	Is. 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Dawn)</i>	Is. 62:10–12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Is. 52:7–10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1–6 (7–12)	John 1:1–14 (15–18)

2022 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 \$12.00. Please give the money to Tanya Hamilton or Rita Shepherd with your information for the bulletin, before December 18, 2022. The flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service or the following week.

This Poinsettia is given by	
In honor of	
or	
In memory of	
or	
To the Glory of God	

DECEMBER



2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15			Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			Men of Christ Breakfast 8:00
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15 Christmas  POTLUCK DINNER 11:30	Council @ 6:00		Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15 Elders 11:15 Christmas Decorating After worship			Soup Supper 6:00 Advent Midweek Service 7:00			 Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Adult Bible class 9:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship: 11:15  Christmas Service						