



NEWSLETTER

2023

Blessed New Church Year, It's Advent Pastor Weinkauf

We rejoice in the Incarnation of Jesus all year long, just as we rejoice in the Resurrection. 24/7/365. We find great joy and comfort and peace and happiness in the flesh and blood of the Christ, our Savior. Advent (and Lent) never distracts from it, but to follow in a pattern of the Church year that really goes back into the Old Testament. Penitential seasons serve and support to order our days according to the life of Christ and Scripture. Advent is a penitential season -not as much as Lent, but it is still a penitential season of preparation. It's not Pre-Christmas. It is not Christmas until Dec. 25, then it last 12 days until Epiphany. It's good to leave your tree up to Jan. 6 every year.

The blessings and benefits of Advent focus on the three-fold coming of Christ (in the incarnational past, the sacramental present, and future judgement). It is the Lord's desire and design that His coming be preceded and prepared for by the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The entire ministry of St. John the Baptist has, in one sense, already served its purpose of ushering in the Lamb of God, and there's obviously no repeating of that historical work. But the Pastoral Office as Christ's Forerunners continues in the Ministry of the Word, as the preaching of Jesus Himself is summarized by the Evangelists as that of repentance, and the preaching of St. Peter and the other Holy Apostles was likewise the necessary preaching of repentance unto the ends of the earth. In the way that the Old Testament prepared for the New, and St. John prepared for the Christ, and the Service of the Word prepares for the Service of the Sacrament, so does Advent with its preaching of repentance prepare us for the coming of the Christ, at Christmas and throughout the year, even to the end of the age.

We are all familiar enough with the challenges and distractions of materialism and consumerism, that easily hide a great poverty of soul and a woeful lack of substance. Advent (and Lent) especially grounds us into a season of special devotions, meditations, repentant reflections -as the Church always has done. Then the German Lutherans come along about 200 years ago and add the Advent wreath. Get one. Use it. Order your days in reflection, in repentance, in preparation.

The call to repentance that Advent proclaims is the perennial and necessary preaching of Isaiah and prophets, St. John the Baptist, forerunners of Christ, who go before the Lord to prepare His Way. It is a sober warning that you must recognize your frailty and weakness, your failings and sinfulness. But for all that, it is also a proclamation of the Gospel, pointing you to the Lamb of God, who was incarnate for the purpose of carrying our sins to the cross, and in His atonement, to unite us with God in Himself. This is what the ChristMass is all about; it is what every "Mass" (the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord and His Supper) is about.

It is with all of this in view that the sacred Season of Advent calls us to repent and prepares us to receive the coming Christ. **The Lord be with you for a blessed Advent & Christmas.**

Some 'firsts' to note as we are entering a New Church Year...

Youth Chorale first sang in the Service 10/22, open to all 2-8th grade.

One Year Lectionary readings will used 2023-24 instead of the Three Year Lectionary. You will not notice a difference except for the names of Sundays in Advent, Lent, Easter also have historical Latin names for the theme.

Logos. Mike Adair has designed graphic artwork logos for us to utilize for the Church, Classical Academy, Cemetery, Music. Thank you!

Key Events

Dec. 1

Sunday School Game Night/ Parent Night Out

Dec. 2

Church Decorating

Dec.6,13,20

Midweek Advent

Dec. 8,15

Adventide Socials

Dec. 10
Caroling

Dec. 17 Cookie Walk

Children's Program

Dec. 24

Services 5 & 7 pm

Dec. 25 Divine Service 10:30 am

Church 913.724.2900 rslcms.church

Pastor Weinkauf weinkauf@rslcms.church 913.369.5942

Advent, Christmas Schedule

Advent Midweek December 6, 13, 20

Service 8:30 am; Bible Class 9:00 am

Supper 6:00-6:50 pm; meals hosted by LWML or Youth Group **Service** 7:00-7:45 pm; Confirmation, Bell Choir 7:45-8:25



Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 17, 6:00 pm, followed by reception

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 & 7:00 pm

The Morning is the 4th Sunday in Advent, Services 8, 10:30; no Sun. Sch./Bible Class

Christmas Day Divine Service

10:30 am



New Years Eve, as Dec. 31 is a Sunday, no evening activities. Sunday Divine Services as regular, but no Sunday School/Bible Class.



Dec. 8, 15 7-8 pm

Adventide Socials

All invited to gathering at a home from 7-8 pm on 2 Fridays in Advent. Bring a snack or beverage to share if you wish. There will be social visiting and then wrap-up with a hymn sing, and prayer.

<u>Dec. 8</u>: Nick & Sarah Bretz, 18641 178th, Tonganoxie (just 6 minutes west of the Church, right off Hwy 24)

<u>Dec. 15</u>: Steve & Kathy Woelk, 16401 Leavenworth Rd. (just 4 minutes west of the Church)



Bring gift by Dec. 17

Angel Tree

To help meet the needs of some families that have had some hardships, anonymous cards with details for gifts, gift cards are hanging on a tree in Wittenberg Hall. Please consider helping and bring back the gift/gift card by Dec. 17. Thank you.



To Dec 17

Can Food Drive

Our annual collection for Lutheran Urban Ministry Agency food pantry. Now through Dec. 17. Last year 1000 cans were donated.

Bible Classes



Sundays 9:15 am Isaiah

Weds. 8:30 am Matins Service

9:00 am Micah, Joel,

Jonah, Obediah

Cathy Manis

Risen Savior Classical Academy



K-High School Home School Cooperative There is an opening to teach a 40 minute class in Composition: Fables on Mondays at 10:20 am. Lesson Plans already done for the year. Contact Pastor Weinkauf for guestions.

Music @ Risen Savior

We now have more people in the Vocal Choir and Bell Choir than ever! No experience necessary. Join at any time.

Vocal Choir Practices Sundays, 11:45 am **Bell Choir** Practice Wednesday at 7 pm, following Vespers. Youth Chorale Practices Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm. 2nd-8th Grade are invited to participate in our Youth Choir.

Church Decorating



On Saturday, Dec. 2 before Advent, we'll be busy putting up the tall tree in the Nave and decorating. All are invited to help. We start at 9:00 am, should be done by 10:30 am

Dec. 2 9:00 am

Germany 2024 Pastor



Sept. 13-24, 2024. Information now posted at **LutherTours.com**. Printed copies available in the Narthex. Pastor Weinkauf will be hosting this 'once-in-alifetime' trip, for the third time. An amazing itinerary is planned! We have 22 sign-ed up! Members along with people from around the nation may join. We anticipate 40 people for the max. discount. Time to save, sign-up & get your passport.



3 yr. old - 8th grade

Gamenight/ **Parent Datenight** Friday, Dec. 1, 6-8 pm

Christmas Program: Sunday, Dec. 17, 6 pm Program practice: Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 am-Noon



Dec. 3 6:00-8:00 pm Invite any friends.

higherthings.org



19-39 year old

ON HOLD as we await the 2nd Pastor. This group meets the 1st Friday. Social setting of young adults, single or married, engaging issues & culture in light of God's Word.



No **December** gathering

Katlyn Selbe, Coordinator; usually meet 3rd Inurs. Ladies Night Out, sisters of Katie Luther

Thanks to all who came out to the firepit for food and beverages. Looking forward to a wonderful 2024.



BOOK

Dec. 7 6:30 pm

Book Club Amanda Uhlmansiek, Coordinator 314-489-0704

All are invited to come and listen to the lively discussion! (Even if you haven't finished the book or it hasn't come yet!) 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm. Order now for upcoming gatherings...

Dec. 7: My Inventions: The Autobiography of Nikola Tesla by Ben Johnston and Nikola Tesla

Jan. 4: Les Miserables by Victor Hugo

The plan now is to take 3 months to read Les Mis but we will discuss everyone's progress in December. The book is divided into 5 sections so for the 3 month plan it would be. Read up to Marius



Men's GameNight Usually 4th Friday of the month

We will not be meeting in December, resuming Jan. 26.



1 ST Friday Trustees Board of Trustees, Nick Bretz

No December gathering; as we will meet next January 5.



Cookie Walk Dec. 17

Women In Mission Dayle Reynolds, President 913-680-5366

We will have our annual Cookie Walk on December 17, before and after and in between Services on Sunday morning. We invite all of you to purchase cookies that day (\$8.00 per dozen), and they can be used in your gift trays and for your Christmas celebrations, and you won't have to bake any yourself. You are welcome to bring cookies to donate. They can be here on <u>Saturday 9:00</u>, December 16, for when we set up. If you can't bring them on Saturday, you are welcome to bring them on Sunday before 9:00 am.

All of the money received for this project is sent to the student co-op at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Thanks in advance for helping us to make this a wonderful mission project.

December meeting is Dec. 14, Tuesday, 6:00 pm. All women invited.



Dec. 10 4:00 pm

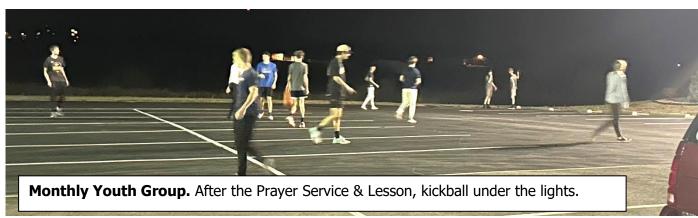
Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:00 pm we'll meet at the church and carpool to our stops. We should return to the church by 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to join us in this special gift for others.



Poinsettias

Available for \$10. Deadline **Dec. 17.** They will be placed in the church for the Christmas Services. Forms in the Narthex. Bulletins will note memorial or thanksgiving. You make take yours home after any of the Services.





Christkindl Markt. Christmas Market & Crafts 2023. Another great turnout with 30 vendors and crowd all day. Thanks to the Fellowship Board and all who helped with the set-up, clean-up, shopped and for the German lunch. Over \$1000 was raised.











12 Homeschool moms gathered for an evening of social time, sharing ideas.





December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Last Sunday of Year 8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Sun. School/Bible class 10:30 a Divine Service 11:45 a Vocal choir practice 11:45 a Church Planning mtg 6:00 p Book of Concord study	27 8:30a-3:30p RSCA	28	8:30 a Matins Service 8:30 a Bible Study for all 6:30 p Evening Prayer 7:00 p Confirmation 7:00 p Bell choir practice	30 St. Andrew, apostle 6:30 p Youth Chorale	8-9:30 a First Friday Trustee work 6:00-8 p Sunday School Gamenight	9:00 a Church Decorating 6:00 p Divine Service
3 1st Sun. in Advent 8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Sun. School/Bible class 10:30 a Divine Service 11:45 a Vocal choir practice 6:00 p Youth Group	48:30a-3:30p RSCA	.	8:30 a Midweek Service 9:00 a Bible Study for all 6:00 p Supper 7:00 p Midweek Service 7:40 p Confirmation 7:40 p Bell choir practice	6:30 p Youth Chorale	7:00 p Adventide Social	6:00 p Divine Service
8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Sun. School/Bible class 10:30 a Divine Service 11:45 a Vocal choir practice 4:00 p Caroling to Shut-ins	8:30a-3:30p RSCA Noon Lunch with Pastor 6:30 p Board of Elders	10:00 a Bible Study @ Advocacy First	8:30 a Midweek Service 9:00 a Bible Study for all 6:00 p Supper 7:00 p Midweek Service 7:40 p Confirmation 7:40 p Bell choir practice	6:00 p LWML 6:30 p Youth Chorale	7 57:00 p Adventide Social	1 6 10 a-Noon Christmas Program Practice 6:00 p Divine Service
8:00 a Divine Service 9:15 a Sun. School/Bible class 9:15 a Cookie Walk 10:30 a Divine Service 11:45 a Church Council 11:45 a Vocal choir practice 6:00 p Children's Program	&	10:00 a Newsletter due	8:30 a Midweek Service 9:00 a Bible Study for all 6:00 p Supper 7:00 p Midweek Service 7:40 p Confirmation 7:40 p Bell choir practice	6:30 p Youth Chorale	22	6:00 p Divine Service
24 4th Sun. in Advent 8:00 a Divine Service 10:30 a Divine Service Eve Services 5:00 p Service 7:00 p Service	25 Christmas Day 10:30 a Divine Service	26 Feast of St. Stephen	8:30 a Midweek Service 9:00 a Bible Study for all St. John, apostle	28 Holy Innocents'	29	30 6:00 p Divine Service
Eve of Jesus Name 8:00 a Divine Service 10:30 a Divine Service	3 Rae Ann Evans 3 Kirk Sullivan 3 Lynette Ford 5 Gene & <i>Tammie Davidson</i> 5 Matt & <i>Jean Dedeke</i> 5 David Benzel 6 Bronson Durflinger 6 Oscar Peters	8 Jim & Billie Brush 9 Forest & Karen Erickson 9 Annabelle Hillyer Ison 10 Klein Selbe 12 Andy Dedeke 13 Easton Oswald	hdays & 13 Mary Ellen i 18 Jon Goodsn 19 Jerry Long	Arniverscries Ballard 20 Reagan & Marlaine Malone and 20 Ron Swartz 21 Leah Muntzel 23 Owen Johnson 24 Keagan Murry 28 Neil Wiehe	30 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	Gary & Nancy Hobelmann Luke Muntzel Lanis & Anita Yarbrough Alto Arana Emma Hall Bianca Oswald John & Linda Scheer

Thank You

November cleaning families: T Dunn, L Ford, Stevens, Weinkauf, M. Benzel, J Kasunic

If you wish to join the rotation contact: Jeanette Curtis 913-370-6823.

For all who helped, came to **Christkindl Markt**

For electrical work on the new shed and organ **David Ford**

From the Malone's:

Reagan & Marlaine wish to thank you all for the prayers, cards, and gifts. Your support has been a great source of strength and comfort to us. Thank you so much.

2023 Financial

Full report posted in Church Office. Less Dedicated Gifts and Expenses,

Through end of October:

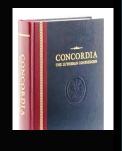
Budget \$370,489

Offerings \$377,938 Expenses \$277,565

Book of Concord Study

No December gathering.

Join us any time. Extra books always available. All welcome to come for an evening of enrichment in our Lutheran doctrine and Scriptural engagements, food, & refreshments. Childcare provided. Usually last Sunday evening of the month.



FOR LIFE

LutheransForLife.org

"While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God's earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don't deserve and more than you could imagine."

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