



**MESSENGER NEWSLETTER
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

"The small church with a BIG heart: Ordinary people
With an extra ordinary message!"

Pastor Gerald Scheperle

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Babbtown (Near Meta)
7075 Highway P
Westphalia, MO 65085

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER, 2021

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Schubert and Babbtown Newsletter

Calendar for December, 2021

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BABBTOWN

Sunday Worship

8:00 A.M. Worship

(Holy Communion 2nd & 4th Sunday)

Bible Study and Sunday School 9:10 A.M.

SCHUBERT

Sunday Worship

Sunday school

9:15 A.M.

Bible study 9:30 A.M.

10:00 A.M. Worship with

(Holy Communion)

Also Streaming on Facebook

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

- Dec 1 Confirmation 6 pm, Advent
Worship 7 pm, Elders following.
- Dec 4 Hanging of the Greens 9 am
- Dec 8 Confirmation 6 pm, Advent Worship
7 pm
- Dec 14 Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner
6 pm Perkins Restaurant
- Dec 15 Trinity Chapel, Confirmation
6 pm,
Advent Worship 7 pm
- Dec 19 Christmas Practice 12 Noon
Church decorating following.
- Dec 22 Christmas Practice, 5 pm
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship
Babbtown, 5:30 pm
Schubert, 6:30 pm
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Worship
Babbtown, 8 am
Schubert, 10:00 am
- Dec 26 Second Christmas Day Worship
Babbtown, 8 am
Schubert, 10:00 am
- Dec 27 Youth Group Caroling 1 pm
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Worship
Babbtown, 6 pm
Schubert, 7:30 pm

**Dear Friends and Members of St. John's Congregations, Brothers
and Sisters in Christ Fellow Redeemed,**

Often we hear the phrase: "Christmas through the eyes of a child." This is a sweet-sounding, sentimental saying that brings a smile to our faces and a pleasant picture to our mind. As the Thanksgiving/Christmas celebrations approach, Paula and I, (As Grandparents) are once again reminded that the children add an extra spark of excitement to our regular family observance of these Holidays.

But let's dig a little deeper into that phrase: "Christmas through the eyes of a child". Christmas is all about a Child. This is not just any child, but this Child is Immanuel, God with us; the great I Am; the Savior of the world; true God and true Man in one person; Jesus Christ!

What if we looked at Christmas through the eyes of a child—(The Christ Child that is.)? What would we see?

Yes, of course, Jesus saw His mother Mary and His father Joseph. Jesus (The Child) did not necessarily see the angels announcing His birth, but He saw the shepherds who came to worship Him because of the angels' message. Jesus saw the poverty of being born in an animal shelter and laid in a manger. Jesus saw the needy sinful human race that He came to save. Jesus saw the love and dedication of Mary and Joseph who endured the judgments of those around them because they trusted what God had told them. Jesus saw the Gentile magi who traveled a great distance to honor and worship Him. He also saw the hatred of a king who lied and then tried to kill Him.

Christmas through the eyes of a child the Christ Child—reveals to us the reality of God's great mercy and love. He sent His own son into a fallen world to clean up the mess of sin and offer life and salvation to all who will believe in Him. Christmas—through the eyes of the Christ Child is the hope for the fallen world and the life for the spiritually dead, and the peace that passes all understanding because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Celebrate your Christmas through the eyes of the Christ Child—so that you have a very Merry CHRISTmas.

In His Love,
Pastor

SPEAKING FOR LIFE

“In carols of Christmas, you’ll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You’ll hear of deliverance: ‘Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...’ There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death’s days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David.”
James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Volunteers are needed to help with church cleaning during December. If you would be able to help, please talk to Linda Brenner. It is only for one Sunday, if enough people volunteer. Your help would be very much appreciated, especially since everyone is so busy in December.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Real Reason

Have you ever experienced the Christmastime tug-of-war? As a parent, you want to shower your children with good gifts and revel in their expressions of joy. Yet you want to also say “enough is enough” with material possessions and remind kids why we celebrate the holiday in the first place. Although our society tries to remove Jesus from the Christmas holiday, he’s the sole reason for its existence. Despite what retailers want you to believe, Christmas would still happen without overloaded shopping carts.

Most Christmas customs in the United States share two characteristics. First, it’s usually hard to pin down their origins to a single source. And second, their roots almost always reach back to religious custom. As we move into the celebration of Advent, whether it’s with wreaths in churches or calendars at home, it’s easy to forget why we celebrate the season at all. After all it pales in comparison to the celebration of Christmas.

So how do we do it? How do we bring Jesus back into the center of the season? The answer is simple. Keep him at the center during every season – not just at Christmas. Every season has a Real Reason of Christ.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:11

PS

Be sure to sign up to participate in the Christmas Eve Worship Service and remember Sunday school on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and weekday and confirmation class on Wednesdays 7:00p.m.

It’s Time to begin planning the Christmas Eve Service

The tradition Christmas Eve Worship with the children leading is planned December 24th at Babtown 5:30 pm and Schubert 6:30 pm. We are planning the service around the Theme “Master Peace” a play on words directing us to the Master—God who delivers to us the Price of Peace—Jesus.

Times and dates of practice will be announced.

Sign up now. We are able to handle children ages 3-College+.

Name _____

Age _____

Will Participate in the Christmas Eve Children Service.



Please sign up if you would like to place a poinsettia in church in celebration of Jesus' birth.

Cost—Small \$5.00

Medium--\$8.75

Large--\$15.00

Pink Signup sheets are at the entries of church or call the church office.



Thanks to everyone who donated items and baked goods for the Thriftmas sale! Thanks to all the shoppers and workers that helped make it a success! The youth group made over \$800 to put toward the National Youth Gathering trip next summer!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

We will have special
Wednesday mid-week worship
services that center on the
theme
"Wait upon the Lord"



The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. In this worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

Dec. 1, Wait upon the Lord with Faith (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God's Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

Dec. 8, Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

Dec. 15, Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.

Come and join us 7:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24th Babbtown 5:30 P.M. Schubert 6:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec. 25th Babbtown 8:00 A.M. Schubert 10:00 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dec. 31st Babbtown 6:00 P.M. Schubert 7:30 P.M.

Greetings in the Name of Jesus, Whose birth we celebrate this month,

Fear Not! was the message the angel had for Mary when told she would be the mother of Jesus, and **fear not!** was the message the angels had for the shepherds when they announced the birth of Jesus. Numerous times in the Bible God's people are told to **fear not!** Just as those words gave comfort to God's people many years ago, they are our hope for today in any circumstance.

Fear not! The God whose love caused Him to become a tiny embryonic speck inside Mary's womb, the God who was knit together in the womb and shaped and formed as a human being, the God who was laid in a manger, the God who was tempted as we are, the God who paid the awful, bloody price for our redemption, the God who rose victoriously from the dead---this God will not forsake those for whom He demonstrated this kind of love.

Fear not! Fear of an unknown future drives many young women to the abortion mills where daily 3,000 babies are sacrificed because of fear. Fear of suffering drives many people to feel it is compassionate to hasten death. Fear of not being forgiven drives many who have sinned against life to despair.

- **To the pregnant young woman, we say, "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He loves you and will give you strength. He will help you do what is best for you and your baby, and He will support you through the loving arms of His people.
- **To those who are suffering, we say, "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He knows about suffering. He knows how the love of God works in suffering. He will be with you and care for you through His caring people.
- **To those who have sinned against life, we say "Fear not!"** Jesus was born for you. He demonstrated His love for you and paid for your sins on the cross. He comes to you even in the depths of your grief and guilt to lift you up into His merciful and forgiving arms.

Fear not! The message of Christmas changes hearts and lives all year long. After all, we serve a God who works best in weakness---even in poverty---you know, like showing up in a manger!

"For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day...a Savior who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10b-11) (Adopted from LFL 2012 Christmas bulletin insert)

A blessed Christmas to each of you! May God remove all your fears and fill you with His peace, and may you share that peace with those around you.

In Christ,
Sylvia Glenn

Feel free to call me (573-592-7866) for information or concerns about life issues. For those who have had an abortion, there is a **word of hope!** "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). For confidential post-abortion **referral, counsel, and reconciliation** contact WORD of HOPE, toll-free 888-217-8679, info@word-of-hope.org or visit www.word-of-hope.org.



Sharing Christ's Love at Christmas

For so many in the world, Christmas is that time of the year when lights are up, stores are full, and the angel's declaration of "peace on earth" is celebrated by stressing over the perfect gift, or planning for a relative's upcoming visit. And for some, it can unfortunately be a time of loneliness too.

In the midst of this, we should keep in mind that Christmas can also be a time when someone who may be spiritually lost will actually consider matters of faith, and be open to learning more about Jesus.

So while Christendom may be "on-the-ropes" for some, it has left in its wake some cultural traditions that can keep the door open for us. For example, many non-Christians will still attend some sort of church service during the holiday season as part of a "tradition," like putting up a Christmas tree or hanging lights on the front of their house. It's certainly not ideal, but it does come with one redeemable feature: the opportunity for people to encounter the incredible power of the gospel.

That friend, acquaintance or family member who doesn't truly know Jesus is far more likely to attend a Christmas Eve/Day service with you than any other time of the year. So invite them—and let them know where to find St. John's on Facebook too. People will say 'no' to 100% of the invitations that you don't extend.

True, this isn't always easy. Christ's command to move beyond "comfortable conversations" and be His witness can leave us feeling a little scared, like Peter stepping out of the boat into the stormy waters of the impossible (Matthew 14:26–33). The fear is real. It's just misplaced.

Just like Peter, we all experience those moments. But that is only because we have taken our eyes off the One who rules the weather.

In the verses surrounding the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), Jesus reminds us that he is the King and possesses all authority. He may have humbled himself to a manger, but now He reigns once again from His throne. And in verse 20, He makes a wonderful promise: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The important four words you can remember this Christmas season as you step out and give the gift of the gospel are the same four words Christ gives to all who know and love Him: "I am with you."

At Christmas, we can't help but think of the thousands of people who are lonely, troubled, and looking for hope. Christmas is a reminder from God that we are not alone. The Prophet Isaiah said that His name would be called Immanuel, which means God with us (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus a love that rescues us from separation, sin and loneliness.

At this Christmas season we can be assured that Jesus Christ is here to give us hope, to forgive our sins, and to heal our spiritual wounds, if only we will let Him. If only we will tell others about Him.

The Christmas message has not changed in 2,000 years. Christmas still reminds us that God is with us.

In spite of all the cynicism, the headlines about murders, riots, demonstrations, war and the coronavirus, Jesus Christ is alive. He is alive to conquer despair, to impart hope, to forgive sins and to take away our loneliness.

"I am with you." The true message of Christmas, and the means by which we should boldly declare it to everyone!

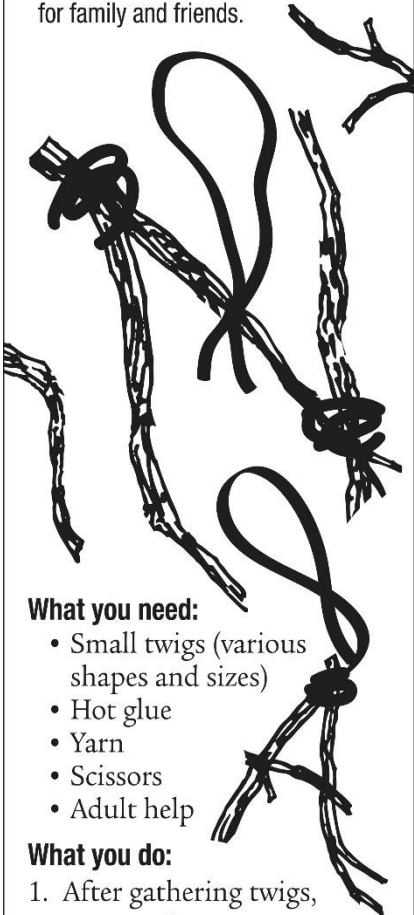
Stay strong in Christ.

St. John's Evangelism Committee constructed this article using information found in various articles on Christian instruction on the worldwide web.



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

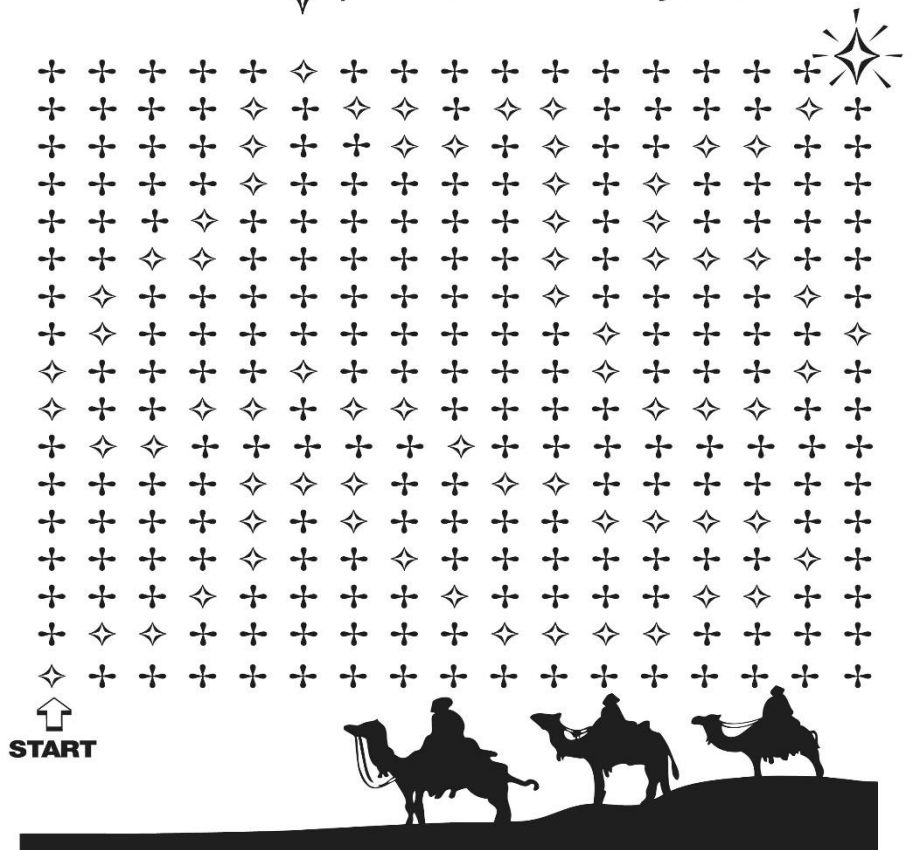
- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✧ path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

L D O G

N C A K N R I E N F S E

R Y H M R

— — — —

— — — — — — — — — —

— — — —

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

**BABBTOWN NEWS****CHRISTMAS EVE**

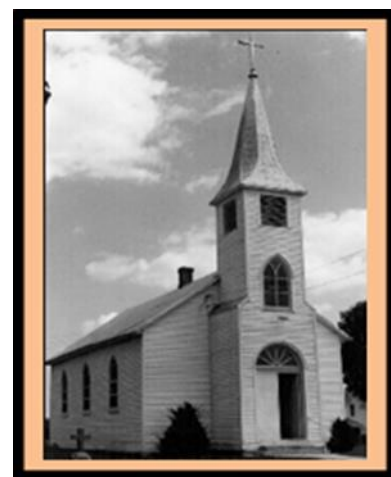
Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:30 p.m.
on Christmas Eve. Practice for this will be
announced at Sunday Services.

Dianna Schubert will be in charge of
announcements. All children and adults will be
included in the service.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day will be at 8 A.M. with
communion. All announcements will be at
regular Sunday Services through the month. We
hope all will be able to attend, weather
permitting.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!

**CALENDER OF
EVENTS FOR
DECEMBER, 2021**

Dec 24th, Christmas Eve
Worship-5:30 P.M.
Dec 25th, Christmas Day
Worship-8 A.M.

**BAPTISM BIRTHDAY
DECEMBER, 2021**

Dec. 7, Sylvia Bunker
Dec. 7, Gabriel Schubert
Dec. 17, Breay Buschjost
Dec. 21, Nancy Clark

**CLEANING FOR
PARISH HOUSE**

December, 2021
Arnold and Theresa
Mueller

Schubert

Usher Schedule

Dec 5 Jim Forbis
Andy Beach
Silas Luetkemeyer
Gary Lofton

Dec12 Jim Forbis
George Kuhlman
Eric Lofton
Dale Schmutzler

Dec19 Jim Forbis
Mike Forbis
Dave Mueller
Dale Ludwig

Dec26 Jim Forbis
Kevin Lohraff
Berry Wiggins
Sherri Russell



Dec 1 Colin Larkins
Amy Powell

Dec11 Brantly Carver
Gary Lofton

Dec25 Kathy Bauer

Dec27 Henry Householder

Dec28 Kevin Green
Cory Mueller

Dec29 Emily Smasal

January, 2022

Newsletter Items are due

December 19, 2021

Newsletter items may be placed in either Pastor's or Jan's mailbox.

Or they may be e-mailed to Pastor Scheperle—

st.jshubert@outlook.com

Any announcement:

Weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, personal notes, pictures or church related business are welcome.

December, 2021

**CLEANING
CHURCH**

Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Brenner

Martha Kleindienst

