



**MESSENGER NEWSLETTER**  
**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 "The small church with a BIG heart: Ordinary people  
 With an extra ordinary message!  
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**VOLUME 54, ISSUE 12** **DECEMBER, 2022**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Schubert and Babbtown Newsletter  
 Calendar for December, 2022  
**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  
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**DECEMBER AT A GLANCE**

- Dec 5 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 pm
- Dec 6 Pastors Conference 9:00 am
- Dec 7 WkDay/Confirmation 6:00 pm  
Advent Worship 7:00 pm
- Dec 8 Basement Reserved
- Dec11 Choir Practice following  
Worship
- Dec12 Bible, Blessings and Beyond  
1:00 pm
- Dec14 WkDay/Confirmation 6:00 pm  
Advent Worship 7:00 pm
- Dec18 Christmas Eve Practice  
Following worship  
Decorate Church 2:00 pm
- Dec21 Christmas Eve Practice 5:00 pm
- Dec24 Christmas Eve Worship  
Babbtown 5:30 pm  
Schubert 6:30 pm
- Dec25 Christmas Day Worship  
Babbtown 8:00 am  
Schubert 10:00 am

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

As you read this newsletter, there are probably left-overs from your Thanksgiving meal in the fridge. Many of you have probably begun the transition to putting up your Christmas decorations. Some people might be tempted to think that Thanksgiving is over, but we as Christians know differently.

Actually as we enter the Advent/Christmas season we find more reasons to give thanks! We give thanks for God's mercy on the fallen world. We give thanks that God kept His promise to send the "Seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:15) 'who crushes the power of sin, death and the devil.' We give thanks that God, through His holy prophets, keeps repeating His promise and keeps giving more details about the coming Messiah.

We give thanks that: "In the fullness of time" (Galatian 4:4) "God sent His Son...to redeem those under the law..."

We give thanks that all of this was brought to reality in Bethlehem when Jesus Christ (The Messiah) was born.

We give thanks that we are able to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus and to teach our children the truth of eternal life found in Jesus our Savior. We give thanks that we can proclaim this same message of Salvation to the entire world.

So remember: The Thanksgiving of Harvest is not the only Thanksgiving, but –especially now in this season–there is the Thanksgiving of Advent-Jesus' coming–and the Thanksgiving of Christmas which is the Thanksgiving of Jesus' incarnation, which is the Thanksgiving of Emmanuel- 'God with us.'

'O give thanks unto the Lord...His mercy endures forever'

A blessed continued  
 Season of Thanksgiving  
 In Christ's Love  
 Pastor

*SPEAKING FOR LIFE*

“Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.” Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life  
• lutheransforlife.org



Decorate the Church  
December 18th  
at 2:00 P.M.



It’s Time to begin planning the Christmas Eve Service!

The traditional Christmas Eve Worship with the children leading is planned December 24th beginning at Babbtown 5:30 pm and at Schubert 6:30 pm We are planning the service around the theme of gifts; **‘The Gift Exchange’**

Two practices are planned for Sunday December 18 after church and Wednesday December 21 in the evening.

Sign up now - children ages 3 up through College+!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ will participate in the Christmas Eve Children Service.

Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends in Christ:

Please join Campus Lutheran Church during, Meet Me at the Manger, an indoor display of more than 500 unique nativity scenes including traditional mangers, world travel mementos, collectible treasures, home-made creations, and touchable children's sets. Each has its own special story! Make plans to bring your family and friends to see this one-of-a-kind free gift to the community from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Friday, December 2 or 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3 or a special senior living facilities/ADA viewing 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Campus Lutheran Church, 304 S College Ave. (south of Broadway), Columbia/ Refreshments in our Community Life Center.

[MeetMeAtTheManger.org/manger](http://MeetMeAtTheManger.org/manger).



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



**What you need:**

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



**What you do:**

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



# *Advent Worship*

## **“BEHOLD THE CHILD”**

Wednesday evenings 7:00 P.M.

“For You and all the World”-November 30th

“To Set You Free from All Your Sorrow”-December 7th

“For You, to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness”-December 14th

*Come and join us for worship-as we get ready for Christmas*

*On December 7, Pastor Paul Landgraf from our sister congregation of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Freedom will join us to deliver the message.*

*We rejoice in the shared ministry of the Gospel as confessional Lutherans*

### *Heit's Point Christmas Celebration*

*4 Dec 2022*

*Narrated by: Pastor Rocco Millardi*

*1 pm Dinner  
2 pm Program  
3 pm Dessert*

**Call or email  
To  
RSVP**

Please join us for this year's Christmas Celebration. Heit's Point has been blessed with serving as outreach ministry for over 40 years. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior in the Rinne Activity Center and the blessings He has given us as we continue to serve Him in this Ministry.

[www.heitspoint.com](http://www.heitspoint.com) [info@heitspoint.com](mailto:info@heitspoint.com) 660-668-2363

## Jesus whose birth we celebrate this month was once:

### Three Inches, Two Ounces

#### Reflections on Jesus in the womb based on Luke 1:56 (by Rev. Michael J. Schmidt)

“The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her she will be the mother of Jesus. Upon hearing the news, Mary immediately goes to her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist, and remains with her for three months before returning to Nazareth. This means on this day when Mary returns, it has been 12 weeks since the angel Gabriel announced the big news to her---which means that Jesus is about three inches long and weighs about two ounces.

“But He did not just appear this way. Like each of us, He was barely the size of a grain of salt after the angel Gabriel told Mary she would be with child, and like each of us, about four weeks later Jesus’ heart began to beat, and His eyes, ears, and lungs began to form.

“In the fifth week, arms and legs appeared; in the sixth week, toes and fingers began to develop. Brain activity was detectable in week seven. In the ninth week, if he could have peered into her womb, Mary’s doctor would have been able to confirm what the prophets of old had foretold and what the angel Gabriel had already announced to her: the child was a boy.....

“To hear the words of Luke 1 is to hear that the Savior of the world is just like you (outside of the virgin birth). He does not appear in a special way, nor does He develop any differently from anyone else. And so on this day, 12 weeks from conception, He is three inches long and weighs two ounces---just as anyone else would be.

“Ponder this: The brain that will sit in the temple at 12 years old talking to teachers of the Law, the brain that will later challenge the Pharisees and Sadducees and others on the interpretation of the Law of Moses, the brain that will produce the parables and the great **I am** statements is already forming in week three and was active in week seven. The eyes that will see those sitting in darkness---including the Samaritan woman at the well, the man by the pool of Siloam, Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree---and the ears that will hear the cries for mercy....will form in week four. The hands that will....heal the blind and the deaf and the feet that will be washed by the hair of the unnamed woman, will form in week six. The heart that “so loved the world”.... will take its first beats at about week four.

“By this day in week 12, as Mary returns from visiting her cousin Elizabeth, everything has already formed, making the Jesus in the womb the same Jesus whom we will see on the Sea of Galilee....the same Jesus who will multiply the bread and the fish for the 5000, the same Jesus who will raise Lazarus from the dead, the same Jesus who will overturn the tables in the temple, the same Jesus whom we will see nailed to the cross. He is just a little smaller on this day.....The Savior who on this day is just three inches long and weighs two ounces is the same Savior who will hang on the cross on Good Friday and breathe His last.

“We meet Him this day as helpless and defenseless as one can be at three inches long and weighing two ounces. But the one who is helpless today has come into the world to help those who are helpless to save themselves. The one who this day is three inches long and weighs two ounces is already big enough to offer comfort to those sitting in darkness, to offer hope to those who recognize their sinfulness, and to put terror in the heart of Satan and his angels.

***“Jesus, who was formed in the womb of Mary, who began life smaller than a grain of salt, grew to three inches long and weighed two ounces, became a newborn in the Bethlehem manger, and lived a sinless life to become a 33- year-old who hung on a cross outside of Jerusalem. He did this so that you might be saved from the power of the devil, so that you might receive forgiveness of sins, and so that you might spend eternal life with Him in Paradise.”***

(Excerpts from **Three Inches, Two Ounces**, Reflections on Jesus in the womb based on Luke 1:56, by Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, Kansas, and First Lutheran Church, Plainville, Kansas. A Lutherans For Life publication)

In Christ, the babe of Bethlehem and the Savior of the world who values every human life He creates and redeems,  
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** call WORD of HOPE, toll-free 888-217-8679, or visit [www.word-of-hope.or](http://www.word-of-hope.or)

**Schubert**

**Usher Schedule**

Dec 4 Jim Forbis  
Andy Beach

Dec11 Jim Forbis  
John Hanes

Dec18 Jim Forbis  
Mike Forbis

Dec25 Jim Forbis  
Matt Belcher

**Communion Assistants**

Dec 4 Allan Forbis  
Mark Russell

Dec11 Allan Forbis  
Gene Walkenhorst

Dec18 Allan Forbis  
Gary Stroup

Dec25 Allan Forbis  
Russ Mueller

**Acolyte**

Dec 4 Matthew Kollmeyer  
Dec 7 Matthew Kollmeyer

Dec11 Ava Willson  
Dec14 Ava Willson

Dec18 Haley Titus  
Dec21 Haley Titus

Dec25 Claire Prohaska



Dec 1 Collin Larkins  
Amy Ripley  
Dec 2 Meg Belcher  
Dec11 Brantly Carver  
Gary Lofton  
Dec25 Kathy Bauer  
Dec27 Henry Householder  
Wesley Russell  
Dec28 Kevin Green  
Cory Mueller  
Dec29 Emily Smasal

Needed: Church cleaners for 2023.  
We would like to have two cleaners for each month. Some have had to do double duty the past couple of years. We need your help to keep God’s house in good condition. PLEASE HELP! Contact Linda Brenner if you are able to help us out.

**DECEMBER, 2022**  
  
**CLEANING COMMITTEE**  
Volunteer cleaners  
**ALTAR GUILD**  
Linda Brenner  
Donna Skelly

**JANUARY, 2023**  
Newsletter Items are due **DECEMBER 18, 2022**  
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](mailto:st.jshubert@outlook.com)  
Any announcement: Weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, personal notes, pictures or church related business are welcome.

