



Life Lines

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Volume 34, Issue 5

December 2021

a message from our pastor

Advent is upon us! The season of preparation - anticipation - hope. The Hanging of the Greens has been accomplished and we are off to the races. First some house keeping items.

We will gather on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. for our Candlelight service. There was much conversation and research done here. This is the closest thing to consensus.

While we will NOT have midweek services this year, but mark your calendars for NEXT year. Holden Evening Prayer (Marty Haugen) makes a wonderful midweek service! I really was trying to make it a year without major changes. It's going to be close.

And speaking of services - we are now using Setting 2 (written by Marty Haugen) and will stay with it through the season of Epiphany. Then as we begin our Lenten journey we will switch to Setting 5 (the old chant setting from SBH). Midweek services during Lent will feature a Haugen setting you probably don't know, but will absolutely love. "Unfailing Light" is a simply gorgeous Vespers service. We will be meeting in the early evening. Isn't change invigorating?

OK... back to the regularly scheduled column about preparation - anticipation and hope! We are not "preparing" for Jesus' birth - that has already occurred. We look forward to a second coming. And we prepare for a renewal - rebirth - rekindling of Jesus' presence among us now. As we remember - renew - recommit, it is helpful to keep a couple of historical realities in mind.

The first Advent occurred under less than ideal circumstances. We dress it up for the sake of pageants, but all was not well. Rome was an occupying force. People were suspicious and distrustful. There was tremendous economic disparity, great uncertainty, a large measure of despair. And Jesus came... into all of that. Jesus came in spite of all that. Jesus came to balance that. That first Advent did not magically change the world, but the world would never be the same.

It is far too easy to slide into cheap cynicism when looking at the world which God so loves! We become dismissive and dejected. And yet Christ is present. He does not take away the chaos, but serves as a touch-point within the chaos. He does not magically take away hate, but offers himself as love within the hate. Despair is always an option, but Christ is hope in the midst of despair. Where is our focus?

When we gather on Saturday or Sunday or Wednesday (when scheduled) - our focus is upon worshiping the God we see revealed most clearly, profoundly and perfectly within the risen, living and present Christ. As we move into and through another Advent season, let us recommit our focus to the God focused upon us... who comes to us.... who abides with us.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Groce



HOLIDAY GIFTS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year the Congregation Council asks congregants to make a Christmas donation to recognize our outstanding church staff. They give so much to make our worship services meaningful and our church operations run smoothly. We are so blessed to have Pastor Lewis Groce, Vickie Hodge, Joy Rachor and Ann Looney serving our church!

Please consider making a special Christmas gift donation. Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church with "staff gifts" on the memo line. The final date for making a donation will be Sunday, December 12th. There is a large envelope on the bulletin board in the office where checks or cash may be placed. THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Congregation Council,
Joe Birmingham, President



Presenting Sounds of the Season

So much great Christmas music... so little time, right? In keeping with the liturgical year, we will refrain from playing & singing Christmas carols in worship services until the appropriate time. However, we will celebrate the beloved music of the season with a special concert at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 17th! Come join Joy Rachor, Bill Kerr, Beth Chase, Chris Schaumberg, and Linda Farber, as well as our Handbells, Sanctuary Choir, and a special guest or two for some beautiful Christmas music. See you on Dec. 17th for **Sounds of the Season 2021!**

NOVEMBER CONGREGATION MEETING

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The congregation met on November 14, 2021 to consider the election of church members to fill various positions for 2022 and beyond and to approve a budget for 2022. The congregation elected the following:

- Gary Deierlein: Council President (2-yr term)
- Pam Arcaro: Council Secretary (2-yr term)
- Dave Irvin: Treasurer (non-voting on Council) for 2022
- Rick Tenny: Education Team Leader (2-yr term)
- Chris Mattheis: Finance Team Leader (2-yr term)
- Dick Jahn: Stewardship Team Leader (2-yr term)
- Bonnie Irvin: Welcome Team Leader (2-yr term)
- Denise Knebel: Worship & Music Team Leader (2-yr term)
- Steven Brown: Audit Team (3-yr term)
- Marion Miner: Endowment Team (3-yr term)
- Joe Birmingham, Craig Christen, Sue Gauerke, Marilyn Nilsen: Nominating Team (1-yr term for each)
- Mark Floros, Bonnie Irvin, Miriam Simmons: Personnel (2-yr terms)

Joe and Evelyn Birmingham: Voting Members for Southeastern Synod 2022 Assembly

The 2022 Budget was approved as presented.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve. Thanks to all that attended the Annual Election and Budget Meeting to participate and actively serve our church. Blessings to all,

On behalf of our Congregation Council,
Joe Birmingham, 2021 President

WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGES

**No Saturday Worship Services
December 25, Christmas Day
January 1, New Year's Day**

COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!!!!



Beginning December 5th at 8:30, we will be serving coffee and goodies with lots of conversation thrown in.

Coffee Hour is not possible without volunteers. Food does not need to be elaborate and purchased items work great. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for hosts each Sunday. If you have not hosted Coffee Hour in the past, please note "new" beside your name and someone will work with you that week. Any questions, please contact Pat Bock at 224.600.0433.

Thanks, we look forward to seeing and catching up with you very soon.

Service Team News

Bread of Life December 12 Ham Dinner

HAM purchased with donated funds on hand

We will need volunteers to supply:

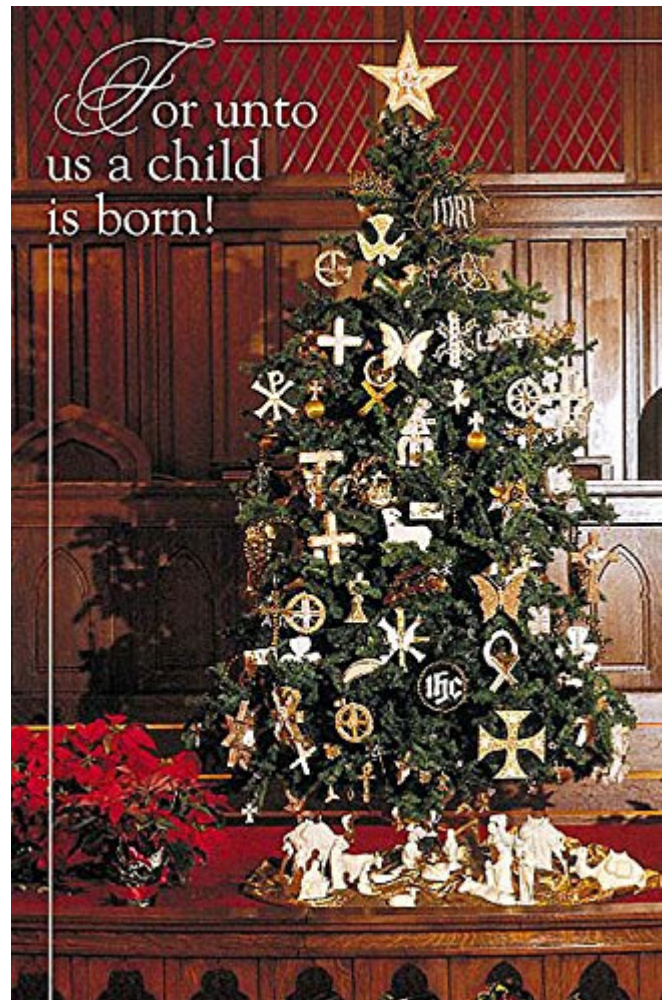
- **2** crockpots of **mashed potatoes** (recipes provided; can be made the day before)
- **2** - 9X13" pans of **sweet potato casserole** (recipes provided; can be made the day before)
- **1** person to prepare 3 large bags cooked **green peas** with one medium onion, diced
- **2** people to each bring 2 dozen **Christmas cookies**

Thank You !!!

THANK YOU

Those of us who take part in the KAIROS prison ministry want to thank everyone who baked cookies for the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex. The response to our latest appeal has been absolutely outstanding. We had pledged 200 dozen from Christ Lutheran as part of the 2500 dozen needed to ensure every resident would get a dozen cookies for Thanksgiving. We ended up with over 350 dozen and if all the other churches who are taking part in the appeal come through with their pledges, we will now have enough to give all the officers and staff, even the Warden, a dozen cookies as well. This has always been a giving congregation wherever there is a need not only of what God has first given us, but sharing our time and our talents to so many who are less fortunate.

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants!



READINGS AND PSALMS DECEMBER, 2021

	December 4 & 5	December 11 & 12	December 18 & 19	December 25 & 26
First Reading	Malachi 3:1-4	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	I Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6		Psalm 148
Second Reading	Philippians 1:3-11	Philippians 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-55	Luke 2:41-52

WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS - DECEMBER 2021

Saturday:	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistant	Audio-Video Booth	Tellers
12/4		L & D Camp				
12/11		C & M Floros				
12/18						
12/25	NO SERVICE					
Sunday:						
12/5	G & L Ferris	A Dodge/D Pry	J Jensen	C Love		H Buhrmester/C Love
12/12	L Vance		L Vance			R Borges/F Soper
12/19	M Nolan	D Tenny	J Diebel	S Dugan		B Comshaw/E Litman
12/26	B & P Bock		B Bock			B Comshaw/D Knebel

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Names stay on Prayer Concerns for three weeks unless otherwise instructed. Call Vickie to extend the time or add names.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o George Anderson o Ed Beckstrom o Odette Cadart o Ruby Carr o Gloria Floros o Glen Goergen o Bill Henderson o Betty House o Millie Kendall o Ann Looney o Walt Mellor o Walt Tyszko | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL o David & Alicia Brondos, our missionaries in Mexico o Kiswahili Lutheran Mission Church, Nashville, our mission partner. o Phil Bevington, cousin-in-law of Barb Comshaw o John Bock, nephew of Bill Bock, hospitalized in Dallas, Texas o Christy Farber, daughter of Dave & Linda Farber o Annie Mrozinski, granddaughter of June Levora |
|---|---|

EDUCATION TEAM NEWS

Sunday Education Time (SET) meets following worship in fellowship room C from 10:45-11:45.

The season of Advent launches a new 4-session series "Advent Conspiracy, Substituting Compassion for Consumption", a look at what Christmas should be - a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirits (every year Americans spend billions of dollars on material items at Christmas; Jesus gave up his riches to save the world). In this study we consider substituting compassion for consumption. Come join this thought-provoking look at Advent.

January begins a series looking at Lutheranism led by Pastor Groce. Called "Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism", the series continues for six weeks. Please look for the signup sheet in the Narthex and sign up so we can ensure adequate classroom space.

12/05 – Advent Conspiracy, Substituting Compassion for Consumption 2

12/12 – Advent Conspiracy, Substituting Compassion for Consumption 3

12/19 – Advent Conspiracy, Substituting Compassion for Consumption 4

12/26 – No class

01/02 – No class

01/09 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 1

01/16 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 2

01/23 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 3

01/30 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 4

02/06 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 5

02/13 – No class – Congregation Meeting

02/20 – Inquiring Minds Would Like To Know: Lutheranism 6

Discussion leaders are welcome; please sign up on the CLC Education schedule posted on the church bulletin board.

CLC Education Team

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Mark your calendars on December 17th at 6 p.m. for "Sounds of the Season" presented by CLC Musicians. This uplifting and beautiful concert will put you in the Christmas spirit.

We again need your help volunteering to bring cookies, set up, serve and clean up. Please check the bulletin board and let us know where you could help.

Thank you for volunteering,
Your Fellowship Team



Pastor Jenny Barnes
422 Riva Road
Riva, MD 21140

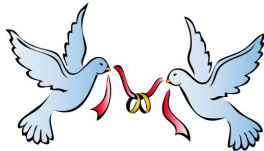
Bill & Kay Neeb
P.O. Box 2097
Crossville, TN 38557

John & Ruth Waters
Fletcher House, Room 402
P.O. Box 406
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578





HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY	
3	Margi Johnson
3	Rich Knebel
7	Tom Carter
7	Debbie Gunsten
11	Melinda Stran
12	Shirley Seibert
14	Robyn Hamlington
20	Al Moenck
20	Kathy Whitney
22	Joan Radcliffe
25	Bill Bock
26	Rita Julius
27	Lynn Dawson
30	Pam Arcaro



HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY		
3	Rob & Pam Arcaro	25 years
8	Lou & Sharon Oniga	42 years
13	Bill & Sue Henderson	7 years
15	Ben & Kathleen Welch	59 years
18	Craig & Terilu Christen	43 years
18	Lowell & Kay Landrus	51 years
19	Don & Judy Baassler	51 years
27	Doug & Margi Johnson	46 years
27	Richard & Sharon Moreland	60 years
30	Lewis & Amy Groce	37 years
30	Glen & Rachel Schimelpfenig	28 years
31	DuWayne & Jude Dzibinski	24 years
31	Jon & Pam Morris	38 years

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Lewis A. Groce, Pastor
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 (931) 260-4779
 jrachor@charter.net

Ann Looney, Saturday Pianist
 (931) 248-2570
 annklooney@gmail.com

THE 2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Officers:

CLC Council President - Joe Birmingham
 (931) 248-0216
 e-mail: jcbirm66@gmail.com

CLC Council Vice-President - Betty House
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CLC Council Secretary - Pam Arcaro.
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 e-mail: pamarcaro@gmail.com

CLC Council Treasurer - Craig Christen
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 e-mail: ctchristen@earthlink.net

Council:

CLC Communications Chair - open
 email:

CLC Education Chair - Rick Tenny
 (434) 851-1682
 e-mail: ratenny78@gmail.com

CLC Fellowship Chair - Pat Bock
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 e-mail: pbockfellowship@gmail.com

CLC Finance Chair - Dave Irvin
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 e-mail: bdirvin@charter.net
 (CLC Financial Secretary - Glen House
 (931) 210-3521
 e-mail:
 finance.team@christlutheranchurchffg.org)

CLC Property Chair - Bruce Fundling
 (281) 748-1865
 e-mail: bruce.maryf@gmail.com

CLC Service Chair - Barb Boyce
 (931) 742-0186
 e-mail: bboyce1@charter.net

CLC Stewardship Chair - Dick Jahm
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 e-mail: djmj5@hotmail.com

CLC Welcome Chair - Linda Ferris
 (931) 484-6760
 e-mail: lgferris98@yahoo.com

CLC Worship & Music Chair - Denise Knebel
 (845) 551-2096
 e-mail: dknebel22@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Welcome Team Meeting</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> <i>Kinseekers</i></p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p> <p><u>7:00 p.m.</u> <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p><u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Finance Team Meeting</p> <p><u>10:30 a.m.</u> Property Team Meeting</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Executive Team Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> <i>Machine Embroidery Sewing Society</i></p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>3:00 p.m.</u> Worship & Music Team Meeting</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>6:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Mountain Civil War Round Table</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p><u>9:45 a.m.</u> Service Team Wrap Gifts</p> <p><u>11:00 a.m.</u> <i>Book Club</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p><u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time</p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Stephen Ministers Meeting</p> <p><u>12:30 p.m.</u> Serving Lunch at Bread of Life</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Surviving the Holidays Via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> IT Team Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>1:00 p.m.</u> Congregation Council Meeting</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> Stewardship Team Meeting</p> <p><u>2:00 p.m.</u> <i>Cumberland Swing Experience Rehearsal</i></p> <p><u>6:00 p.m.</u> Sounds of the Season</p> <p><u>7:00 p.m.</u> <i>Upper Cumberland Jewish Community Service</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p><u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p><u>10:45 a.m.</u> Sunday Education Time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i> OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p><u>5:00 p.m.</u> Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p><i>Christmas</i> <u>8:00 a.m.</u> <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p><u>9:30 a.m.</u> Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p><u>10:00 a.m.</u> GriefShare - Via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p><u>1:30 p.m.</u> Hand Bell Rehearsal</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m. - Noon</u> Pastor Groce Office Hours</p> <p><u>9:00 a.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p> <p><u>4:00 p.m.</u> Via de Cristo Reunion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	