

December



**OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Called to share Christ's Love with all



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down..."

Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent begins with a lament. Not with Christmas Carols and good news of glad tidings. No, Advent begins with a cry to God. We hear the prophet Isaiah beg God to come down and change everything. The world is broken. A savior is needed.

The season of Advent reminds us to wait a moment before we rush into our celebrations of the nativity of Jesus. Before the decorating and the songs of Christmas, we are invited to join the prophet in crying out to God. The scriptures for the Sundays of Advent push us to name the things that need to be redeemed. These living words of God call us to look further and deeper into ourselves and the world in which we live. This year many of the places of pain in our world are no longer hidden. The pandemic has shown us the cost of our current systems of health care, research, wages and benefits, distribution of essential resources, housing, and so much more. We join Isaiah in pleading with God to "tear open the heavens and come down..."

We make this plea with the full knowledge that God is indeed willing to come down. About 2,000 years ago, the Lord God did open the heavens, and come in the form of a human baby to make a home with us. The baby whose birth we celebrate this, and every, Christmas began the redemption of this broken world. He has not stopped working on our behalf. The savior we need is coming. And he will work in our heart and mind and body so that we become a part of God's work to heal our families, our neighborhoods, and the world.

Pastor Kratzer

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THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

December 2020, Volume 54, No. 12

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WWW.OURLORDS.ORG



CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

The festive tradition of sharing Christmas with Our Neighbors at Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will continue this Christmas season. It may look different, but it will bring joy to the residents and staff at Elmwood.

To keep everyone safe, members are being asked to make a monetary contribution toward the purchase of the gifts for the 70 residents. The contribution can be made through your established on-line banking, online by visiting the church website www.ourlords.org, or by sending a check to Our Lord's Lutheran Church, 150 Wilma Drive, Maryville, IL 62062. Make the checks payable to OLLC, and write "Elmwood" on the memo line. \$20 is the suggested contribution per resident. Santa will be ordering the gifts, assembling the gifts at church, and delivering them to the residents by Christmas Day. Any extra funds received will be used to purchase a gift for the staff.

On Christmas morning, you are invited to meet in the church parking lot at 10 am. Please wear a mask and, as always, stay safely distanced. We will walk to the windows outside the Elmwood dining room (it's the bank of windows facing the OLLC parking lot). We will play pre-recorded Christmas carols. Rather than sing, you are asked to bring a bell or other merry noise-maker to play with the music. We will meet for approximately 15-minutes. Thank you for helping make Christmas morning for our neighbors a little more special!

If you have any question, please contact Karen Tilashalski at 618-806-6373 or KLT@charter.net.



Scriptures for Worship Services
Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 8 & 10:45 am
Please note that the availability of indoor services may change due to COVID-19 risk mitigation recommendations in Madison County.

A SEASON OF HOPE

November 28 and 29 – ONLINE ONLY

First Sunday in Advent

"Stir Up Your Power and Come"

Isaiah 6:1-9; Mark 13: 24-37

December 5 and 6 – ONLINE ONLY

Second Sunday in Advent

"Heralds of the Coming One"

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

December 12 and 13

Third Sunday in Advent

"Holy Anticipation"

Isaiah 61:1-4, John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 19 and 20

Fourth Sunday in Advent

"After You Have Agreed to What Seems Impossible"

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:26-38

December 24

Christmas Eve

"The Wonder of It All"

Titus 2:11-14; Mark 13: 24-37

December 25 – ONLINE ONLY

Christmas Day

"God with Us"

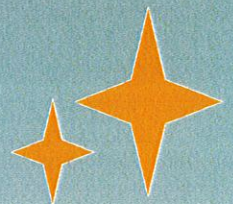
Lessons and Carols for Christmas with Holy Communion

December 26 and 27

First Sunday of Christmas

"Across the Generations"

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Luke 2:22-40



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Lord's Christmas Eve & Christmas Day traditions are an extra special way for us to share the story of the birth of our Savior with one another. Three services are being planned: 2 traditional services are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. , and the Praise Band led non-traditional service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Modifications for the services will abide with the guidelines on attendance, singing, and physical distancing. Each worship service will include communion and last about 45 minutes. You are welcome to arrive early to enjoy recordings of Our Lord's members performing preservice vocal and instrumental music. Should there be a need, overflow seating will be available, and the service will be live streamed to the Fellowship Hall.

Each of the services will conclude with our traditional lighting of candles as we listen to Silent Night, performed by Jacob Davis. Both the 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services will be available on YouTube. If you watch one of the services from your home, be sure to have your own candles ready to join with your brothers and sisters in Christ during the Candle Lighting. There will not be a late, 11 p.m., service.

The Christmas Day Service will be entirely pre-recorded. The service will use the Lessons and Carols format previously used for Christmas Eve. The reading of the Christmas story will be accompanied by verses of favorite hymns and carols in the safe comfort of your home any time on Christmas Day or thereafter.

Pre-packaged wafers and grape juice will be used for Holy Communion during all services. You are encouraged to stop by the church office, take home the amount you need, and join with other members of Our Lord's as we partake of Communion.

While we realize the changes to the worship services might be different, we hope that you find Joy in the Word as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Chery Sides
Rhonda Comrie

December 24th
Christmas Eve Services
3:00 p.m. -- Traditional Worship Service
5:00 p.m. -- Traditional Worship Service
7:30 p.m. -- Praise Band Worship Service

December 25th
Christmas Day Service
Pre-recorded - available throughout the
day via YouTube



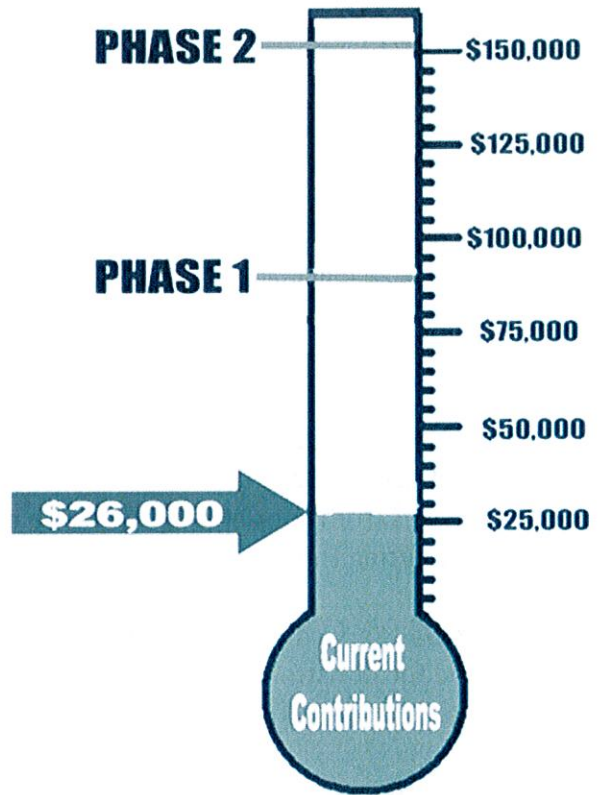
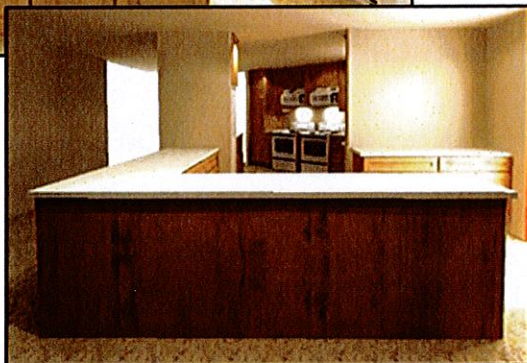


Restoring OUR LORD'S House

Progress & Contribution Update

The OLLC Council designated \$25,000 from church funds to begin this restoration campaign. These funds were used to purchase flooring and begin the installation. The remainder of Phase 1 funds must be collected before the kitchen remodel will begin.

*Through your generous support we
can Restore OUR LORD'S House*



PHASE 1: \$89,000--

New flooring throughout the Worship Center facility (with the exception of storage rooms,) remodeling kitchen with new cabinetry & appliances, and extending counter cabinetry into fellowship hall. Funds for flooring have been secured and flooring will be purchased with installation beginning soon (fellowship hall carpet will be purchased with installation completed by the men's club at a later date). Once the financial goal is met for the remainder of Phase 1, the work in the kitchen will begin.

PHASE 2: \$68,000

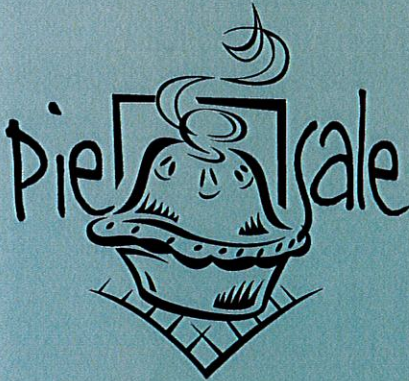
Upgrading restrooms, the purchase and install of new furniture in narthex and commons area that fulfill specific needs and is stylistically appropriate for the space, signage installation throughout facility (entry door, 'welcome', and directional signage), and replace air conditioning units for fellowship hall.

Contributions to "Restoring OUR LORD'S House" can be made by writing a check payable to Our Lord's, note "Restoring OUR LORD'S House" in the memo line, arranging a withdrawal from your personal checking or savings account, or making an online contribution by going to the church website www.OurLords.org

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Christmas Pies – brought to you by Our Lord’s Lutheran Youth!

Order a Christmas Pie!



OLLY members (and their parents!) are looking forward to making your Christmas pie! Based on your pre-order, we will assemble the pies on December 21, freeze them, and have them available for pick up or delivery on December 22. Order as many as you need!

Email pre-orders to Kathy Hoelscher kah2003@att.net or phone (618) 791-6656

- 10" Apple Pie - \$17.50
- 10" Cherry Pie - \$15.00
- 10" Pumpkin Pie - \$15.00

All proceeds support OLLY activities, including attendance at the National Youth Gathering in 2022.

Another Opportunity to Support the Youth Group.....

1. Pick up a My Schnucks card at any store.
2. Visit www.escrip.com/schnucks and register your card with eScrip.
3. After 24 hours or so, call customer service at (800)264-4400 and tell them you want to "donate"

Cookbook Sales — all proceed benefit local food pantries!

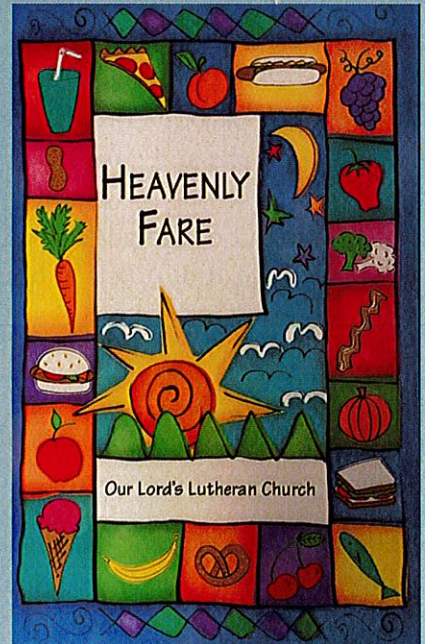
Imagine finding a hidden, 17-year-old treasure while cleaning a utility closet at the church office: an unopened box of wonderful, pristine cookbooks! The books are full of favorite recipes from the kitchens of Our Lord’s ladies, past and present.

It didn't seem right to put the books back in the closet. Selling them to benefit a need was the original plan for the books; with that in mind, the cookbooks will be for sale at \$5.00 each, while supplies last. All proceeds will be shared with the food pantries near us to help feed hungry families.

The cookbooks would make great stocking stuffers, be a wonderful gift for a kind neighbor, and be a perfect gift to yourself —it is always fun to add new recipes to our own kitchens!

Cookbooks can be purchased at the church office. The books are available near the little window inside the front door. Please bring exact change or write a check payable to Our Lord’s Lutheran Church, add 'cookbook sale' to the memo line.

If you have any questions contact Susanne Richter (618) 667-4767.





EDUCATION MINISTRY

LOVING JESUS

What does it mean to love God? What does it mean to love Jesus? Join in a discussion of the book *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allan Powell. Powell, a recently retired Lutheran seminary professor, is an internationally known Bible scholar with particular expertise in Matthew and the historical Jesus. He also has a deep love of Jesus. You will find his book both interesting and challenging as we discuss how to “move beyond the old certitudes of a naïve and youthful faith into the less certain but more bracing terrain of a second naivete, a closer walk with Jesus.”

We are meeting via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. Although we have already begun the study, please send me an email at revkratzer@gmail.com if you would like to participate so that the Zoom meeting information can be sent to you.

I hope you will join us for what should be an interesting and profitable discussion.

Pastor Tom Kratzer



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Drive-Thru Pick-up of Sunday School Kits and Communion Elements with Scenes of the Season Sunday, December 6, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

All members are invited to come to this Holiday drive-thru event. Families with school age children are to pick-up Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Kits. These kits include with the materials needed for at-home Bible Story Exploration for three months.

Everyone may pick up Communion elements for the Online Services including the Online only Christmas Day service of Lessons and Carols.

As you drive out of the parking lot, there will be Scenes of the Season, including a small living nativity scene on the Parking Lot during that hour.

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

A special thank you to those who have brought in craft supplies for the Sunday school ministry. Please continue to save your paper towel and any other paper rolls, craft supplies, sewing supplies, along with any other items you think might aid in our preparation of crafts for virtual Sunday School packets. If you have questions or need to have someone pick up the materials, contact Lisa White or the church office.





STUDY GROUPS

Morning Glories Bible Study will be gathering via zoom meeting on **December 10 @ 10:00 am.**

“Singing, Writing, Moving, Connecting”
Advent Rituals for Uncertain Times

In times of turmoil and uncertainty such as we’ve experienced this year, it can help to name these days as “liminal.” The word “liminal” comes from the Latin word for threshold—a place that represents the ending of one thing and the beginning of another.

Gather magazine’s 2020 Advent devotional, written by the Rev. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, focuses on another liminal story: Mary’s journey as she follows God’s call into motherhood. While exploring Mary’s story, we think about the liminal days in her life, and how she might have traveled spiritually and emotionally during her own uncertainty. As we embark on our own emotional and spiritual journeys this Advent, we’ll explore four practices that can help to ground and steady us: gratitude, movement, song and honest conversation.

Bible Crunchers will be taking a hiatus during the month of December; sessions will resume in January.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The **GETTING TO KNOW YOU** column will resume in January 2021.

TUESDAY TEA

Time: 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tuesday

Tuesday Tea will continue throughout the Winter. Even if you have not been a part of it before, you are welcome!

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09)

[pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09)

Meeting ID: 868 3939 8550

Password: 511171



SERVICE TO CONGREGATION



Hanging of the Greens

Greening of the Church

OLLC will be decorated Saturday, December 5th beginning at 8:30. Everyone is invited! Social distancing and wearing a mask is required.

MENS'S CLUB

Men's Club Meeting and Breakfast on Saturday, **December 5th**, 7 am. If you feel comfortable please come out for fellowship and churchwork. If you plan on attending, please confirm by e-mail or text to Steve Hoelscher.

BUILDING USE POLICY DURING THE PANDEMIC

At the present time Our Lord's is permitting groups of 10 people or less to use our classrooms or fellowship halls for meetings. Masks and social distancing must be observed. Leaders of the groups are responsible for disinfecting all areas used during the meetings. Contact the office at (618) 345-5692 or lovetohaveu@ourlords.org to reserve your date and time.



social distancing
please continue practicing throughout

FINANCIAL NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT


As of October 31, 2020

Total receipts for October 2020	\$29,907	(anticipated budget amount of \$31,167)
Total disbursements for October 2020	\$40,055	(anticipated budget amount of \$31,500)
Total receipts for 2020 as of 10/31/2020	\$381,317	(anticipated budget amount of \$310,596)
Total disbursements for 2020 as of 10/31/2020	\$339,423	(anticipated budget amount of \$313,583)
Mortgage principal paid in October 2021	\$ 9,011	
Total mortgage principal paid in 2021	\$47,033	
Remaining principal on mortgage	\$84,060	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$32,888	(CD \$25,000 matures in December 2021)
Cash - Designated	\$56,121	

Submitted by **Max Eakin** 11/16/2020

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FAIR TRADE



I want to thank everyone for their ongoing support of our Fair Trade Ministry as the Pandemic continues around us. The Artisans worldwide are all being affected by this a well. Every purchase from Equal Exchange or SERRV continues to assist them. Our numbers are strong but can be stronger. Our weekly average is approximately \$119.

Many of you have picked up SERRV Christmas catalogs from the church. Ordering is a BIG option and so far orders are coming in 4-5 days even with COVID. As orders come in, all items are sanitized and packaged for pick-up. As we all know, there will be no Our Lord's Christmas Store this year. Special items can still be purchased. Don't forget the SERRV.org website. Get me your Item sku numbers. I will get right back to you on availability and YOUR price.


Yours in Christ, Mike

MARYVILLE OUTREACH CENTER

Grandma's Attic is closed until after Thanksgiving or when the number of positive COVID cases is below 7%. There will be free give-aways on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon. If there is someone who has an emergency need for clothing, appointments can be made by calling the Outreach Center at 618-345-9693. Someone will call back to make the appointment.

The Food Pantry also makes appointments with clients for twice/month curbside pickup. Thanksgiving Baskets were given out on November 19th. Christmas baskets will also be given out in the same way. The baskets include three large paper grocery bags of canned goods, a dessert, and a \$50.00 gift card to purchase a turkey and other items to complete their holiday meal.

Because the Scout Drive was canceled, donations will be needed for the Food Pantry. These can be dropped off at the church and placed in the tubs under the mail boxes or donations can be taken to the Outreach Center and dropped off at the front door under the covered front entrance. They will be brought in by the Food Pantry Coordinator who is there twice a day or other volunteers working behind the scenes at Grandma's Attic.



The Resident Assistance Program is still doing interviews over the phone. Anyone needing assistance can call the above number. They will be called back as soon as possible.



FAITH IN ACTION

Giving Thanks and Telling of Wonderful Deeds

During the holiday season, most of us take the time to give thanks for our blessings, but perhaps there is even more we can do as we give thanks this year. For instance, I find it helpful to consciously answer a thank you with "You're welcome" rather than "No problem." I want to fully acknowledge another person's expression of thanks.

In Psalms it is written *"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."* Note that after the first step of taking time to give thanks, we are also instructed to share the good news. I want to go beyond giving thanks in this holiday letter to you.

Let me share with you just a few examples of wonderful deeds that have made me thankful:

- Another wheelchair ramp has been built for a client in need because volunteers from a partner church consistently step up to help.
 - A volunteer prepared small gifts for each of the pastors and support staff members as a way for CFIA to thank you, our partner churches.
 - Many of our partner churches continually share the work and news of CFIA through their church publications and during worship service announcements.
 - Four new volunteers have completed orientation and are giving of their talents, time, and energy.
 - A new Answers on Aging Specialist has joined our staff bringing fresh ideas and perspectives.
 - Former staff members have selflessly donated their time to train new staff members.
 - The Springfield Diocese Campaign for Justice and Hope has granted us funds to help our clients avoid isolation.
 - The Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis has granted funds through their Partner Stability Grant.
 - Individuals and businesses continue to show their support with donations big and small.
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Each day there are beautiful acts of kindness that I am privileged to witness. All these acts demonstrate to me enduring goodness. I give thanks and am honored to "tell of all" these "wonderful deeds."

In gratitude,

Lisa C. Brennan

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

We want to keep Our Lord's Prayer List as current and viable as possible.

The list is long, as we have many in our church family, or people we know, that need prayer. The church office "purges" the list periodically. If the person for which you have requested prayer has improved enough to come off the prayer list or has passed away, please let the church office know. Thank you for your help.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Reminder: Newsletter Deadline (to submit articles for January's Newsletter): Thursday, December 15.

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

SYNOD WEB SITE: www.csis-elca.org

ELCA WEB SITE: www.elca.org

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available in printed copy in our Worship Center and Life Center or accessed at www.elca.org/prayerventures.



DECEMBER

Birthdays

Dr. Harvey Chiles
Abigail Tiemann
Erick Larson
Carol Gocken
Brian Kelly Hartke
Anna Rimar
Carol Hancock
Grant Lang
Dean Lackey
Joel Gerhard Kampwerth
Crichton Reed Williams
Bill Davidson
Sophia Christine Helms
Rachel Lee
Jack Rimar
Sue Green
Ian Maue
Caitlyn Williams Baczewski
Kaitlyn Blotevogel
Irene VanHooser
Kendyll Leigh Orr
Susanne Richter
Linda Spencer
Loretta Williams

Anniversaries

Jeff & Penny Waterman
Brian & Jaime Henderson
Don Simonson & Jan Vinson
Terry & Kathie Brady
Bruce & Mary Ann Fritz
Randy & Erin Helms
Brian & Doug Lotz-Manns

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer, Pastor; **Dr. Rhonda Comrie**, Organist; **Beth Giese**, Nursery Attendant; **Chery Sides**, Organist; **Toni Barz**, Newsletter Editor

Church Council

Tom Steinmann, President; **Kathy Hoelscher**, Vice President; **Jaime Henderson**, Secretary; **Dr. Max Eakin**, Treasurer; **Alan Kramer**, At Large; **Darla Ann R. Kratzer**, Pastor

Steering Team [Worship, Education, Fellowship, Service]

Ed and Laura Foppe, Steering Team Coordinators; **Tim Nyland**, **Lyn Kampwerth**, **Erick Larson**, **Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson**, **Rhonda Comrie**, **Randy Kampwerth**

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAY FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

Harriet Stensland
Jan Jensen
Rudy Kantola
Jean Weishaupt
Kim Payne
Dan Homes
Linda Spencer
Dean Lackey
Rob Eakin
Jim Lemke

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
Major James Carmichael
Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
SPC Bill Homes
Charles Homes
Zach Huff
A1C Lucas Maue
John Meyer
Zachary Neubauer
Amador Ochoa
Josh Pace
Scott Prengel
Jake Randall,
Jack Scoles
PFC Eric Shelton
Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer

PRAY FOR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Bobby Wuebold
Joyce and Fred Tatjenhorst's nephew

Steve Tatjenhorst
Fred and Joyce Tatjenhorst's son

Jeff Blind
Brother of Matt Blind

Laura Hartman
friend of the Nogas

Ruth Ann Fulton
cousin of Peggy Pick

Bob Meyer
brother of Mary Ann Fritz

Melissa and Tim Nehrt
son and daughter in law of John and Kathy Nerht

Stephanie Cummings
daughter in law of Karen and Erick Larson

Larry Neecy
friend of Don and Jan Vinson

Brian Lemke
grandson of Jim and Marcine Lemke

Laurie Wallach
friend of Carol Gocken

Please remember these
members, friends of Our
Lord's, and their families
as they grieve their loss
and share the sure
promise of the resur-
rection:



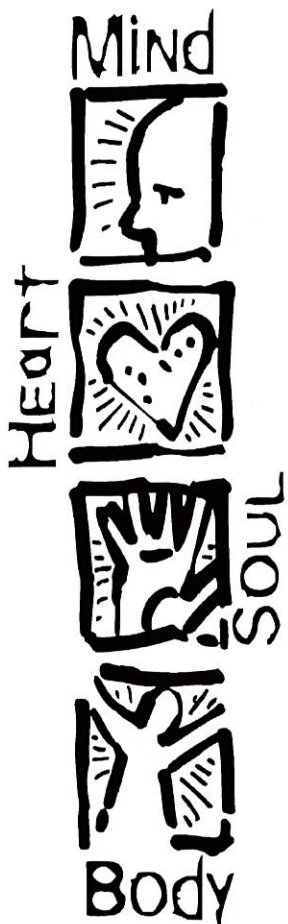
Dave Cashen (friend of Erick Larson)
Toni Schmonsees (friend of the Pugh family)

MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season will be very different for most of us than any other holiday season we have experienced. Social distancing changes the way we celebrate in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and churches. Recommendations for social distancing include limiting the number of people you interact with on a regular basis, limiting the events you attend, and keeping six feet or more of physical distance between you and others who are at the activities you choose to be a part of this holiday season.

That affects how we will experience this holiday season. Those of you who already experience depression may find your symptoms increase in severity. And all of us may experience feelings of loneliness, stress, and anxiety. Psychologists have known for decades that there is a link between depression and social isolation. So, I strongly encourage each and every one of you to prioritize your mental health this December and throughout January 2021. Even when the holidays are over, the sense of loss that is sure to be a part of this holiday is likely to linger.

There are many good websites, including the Mayo Clinic site, that give detailed tips on how to manage your mental health during holidays. So, I am going to limit my exhortation to you to a quick list. Use these strategies to improve your mental health:



Talk to someone. Call a friend or a family member who is in your regular social circle. Acknowledge your feelings. Pray. God is waiting to hear your voice. And your brothers and sisters in faith are ready to listen and encourage.

Have a hobby hour. Keep dedicated time for hobbies that bring you joy. Mark it on your calendar. Some hobbies can be done with a friend group online.

Practice relaxation. Meditation, a hot bath, rubbing hand cream into your knuckles, deep breathing, intentionally laughing out loud for a few minutes are all healthy ways to relax.

Exercise. Move your body in some way you enjoy. Do it regularly during these months. Exercise provides a boost to your mood and to your body.

Stick to a budget. Don't try to buy happiness with a marathon of online shopping. Decide what you can afford and stick to it.

Eat healthy meals. Freeze some meals to have on hand when you don't feel like cooking.

Limit or cut out alcohol. Drinking when you are anxious or stressed can have the opposite effect of the one you hoped for.

Get plenty of rest. In times of high stress, the body often needs more sleep. Go to bed thirty minutes earlier than you usually do. Let your body tell you what it needs. Getting enough sleep lessens irritability and depression and increases patience and overall happiness.

So, guard your mental health during this season and reach out for help at the first sign of distress.

Pastor Kratzer

PREVIEW OF COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and special observances.
All events are subject to change due to COVID-19.

JANUARY

- New Year's Day, Jan 1 (Office closed)
- Epiphany, Jan 6
- Baptism of Our Lord, Jan 10
- Newsletter Deadline, Jan 15
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan 18 (Office Closed)
- Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan 31



FEBRUARY

- Education Summit, Feb 1
- Steering Team Retreat, Feb 6
- Valentine's Day, Feb 14
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Feb 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Feb 15
- Ash Wednesday, Feb 17
- Catechism Class Visit to Lincoln Museum, Feb 20
- Holden Evening Prayer, Feb. 24



MARCH

- Holden Evening Prayer, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24
- Daylight Saving Time, Mar 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Mar 15
- St. Patrick's Day, Mar 17
- Palm Sunday, Mar 28

Preliminary Plans for Annual Meeting

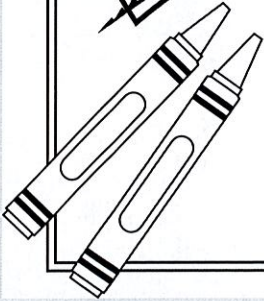
The 2021 Congregational Meeting for Our Lord's Lutheran Church will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, January 31, 2021**, beginning at **12:15 PM**. The virtual format will require many modifications in the way we take attendance, introduce motions, ratify the budget, elect officers, and outline our goals for 2021. Meeting details will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Tom Steinmann, President
Church Council



ANNUAL MEETING

PUZZLE

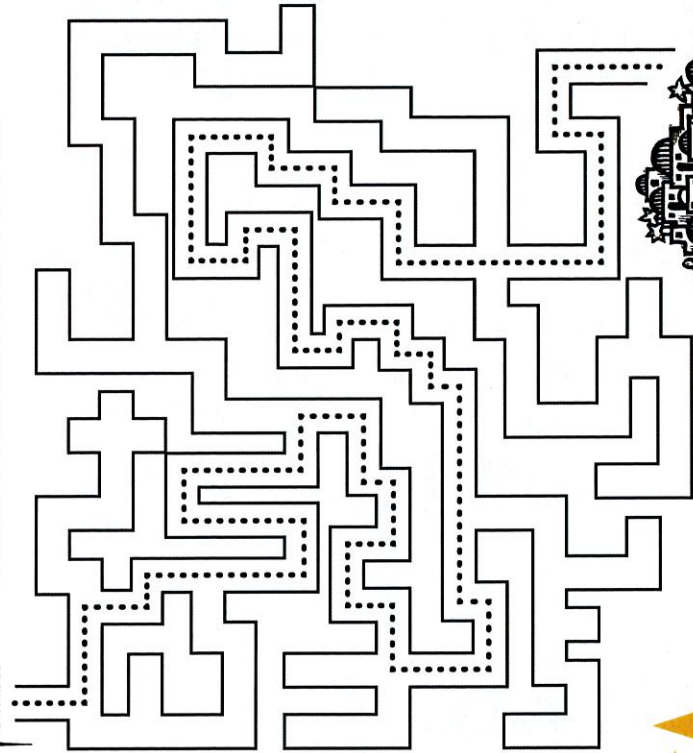


JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.

START



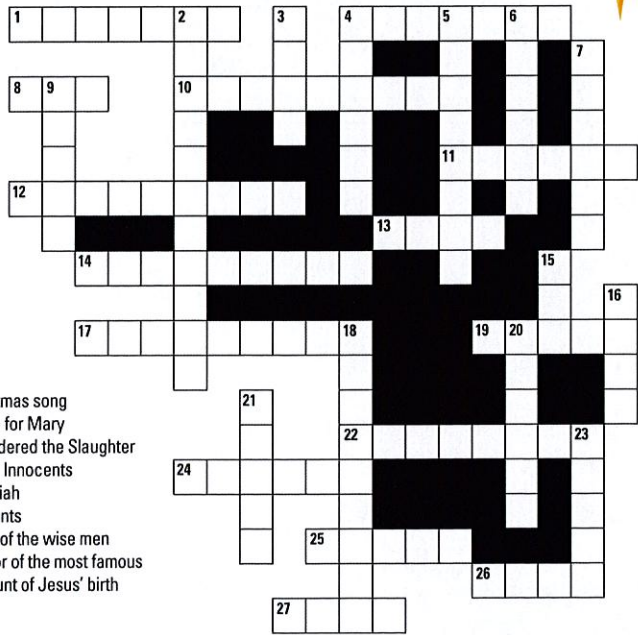
BETHLEHEM

Puzzle!

Enjoy solving this Christmas crossword.

CLUES

- 1. He has a red nose
- 2. Red plants
- 3. A nova
- 4. (across) The Anointed One
- 4. (down) Crib
- 5. Keeper of sheep
- 6. Season that means "coming"
- 7. He was a carpenter
- 8. 12th month (abbr.)
- 9. Northern little helpers
- 10. Enflashed
- 11. Messiah composer
- 12. Of Ephrathah
- 13. Gabriel came to her
- 14. A form of holly
- 15. B&B
- 16. Wise men
- 17. Tree decorations
- 18. Patron saint of children (2 words)
- 19. Red-suited man
- 20. Heavenly singers
- 21. Christmas song
- 22. Home for Mary
- 23. He ordered the Slaughter of the Innocents
- 24. Messiah
- 25. Presents
- 26. A gift of the wise men
- 27. Author of the most famous account of Jesus' birth



Answers: 1. Rudolph, 2. poinsettias, 3. star, 4. (across) Messiah, 4. (down) manger, 5. shepherd, 6. advent, 7. Joseph, 8. Dec, 9. elves, 10. incarnate, 11. Handel, 12. Bethlehem, 13. Mary, 14. mistletoe, 15. inn, 16. Magi, 17. ornaments, 18. Saint Nick, 19. Santa, 20. angels, 21. carol, 22. Nazareth, 23. Herod, 24. Christ, 25. gifts, 26. gold, 27. Luke

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 Advent 2 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional Service (Online Only) 9:15 AM 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation Class - Zoom 10:00 AM High School Sunday School Class - Zoom 11:30 AM Drive-Thru Sunday School Kit Pick Up: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>	<p>7 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 6:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>8 10:00 AM Loving Jesus Book Study - Zoom 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement</p>	<p>9 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice and Recording Session - WC</p>	<p>10 10:00 AM Morning Glories 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>12 Advent 3 10:00 AM Recording: Advent and Christmas Music 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (In-Person/ Livestream)</p>
<p>13 Advent 3 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (In-Person/ Livestream) 10:45 AM Worship: Traditional (In-Person) 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>	<p>14 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Submission Deadline 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement</p>	<p>16 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice and Recording Session - WC</p>	<p>17 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Planning Meeting 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC 6:30 PM Recovery 360 Family Support</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>19 Advent 4 9:00 AM La Leche League - WC 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (In-Person/ Livestream)</p>
<p>20 Advent 4 8:00 AM Worship: Traditional (In-Person/ Livestream) 9:15 AM 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Confirmation Class - Zoom 10:00 AM High School Sunday School Class - Zoom 10:45 AM Worship: Traditional (In-Person) 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>	<p>21 First Day of Winter 10:00 AM Recording: Christmas Day Service</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Newsletter Assembly 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Church Office Closed-Holiday 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC 3:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service: In-Person and Livestream 5:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service: In-Person 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Praise Service: In-Person and Livestream</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed-Holiday Worship: Lessons and Carols, ONLINE ONLY 10:00 AM Christmas With Our Neighbors</p>	<p>26 Christmas 1 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service (In-Person/ Livestream)</p>
<p>27 Christmas 1 No Sunday Services - Saturday Praise Service available online 1:00 PM Private Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM Emerging From the Storm Team</p>	<p>29 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous - LC Basement</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM Praise Band Practice and Recording Session - WC</p>	<p>31 Church Office Closed-Holiday New Years Eve 1:00 PM Music Lessons, H. Chiles - WC</p>		

