



# the Shared Life

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 2021

## Newletter

## The 12 Days of Christmas – True Meaning

Teaching the Christian faith was outlawed in sixteenth-century England. Those who instructed their children in Christianity could be drawn and quartered. Thus, the church went underground. To hide the important and illegal elements of their teaching, pastors composed poems that seemed silly to most people. But these verses were veiled works that taught the church's most important beliefs. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is said to be one of these teaching tools.

***On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.***

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

***On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtledoves.***

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

***On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens.***

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to [1 Corinthians 13](#), the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

***On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds.***

One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

***On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings.***

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

***On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying.***

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the [Bible](#). Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.

***On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming.***

Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

***On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking.***

This gift represents the ones who would receive Christ's word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake (the Beatitudes).



***On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing.***

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruits of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

***On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping.***

As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Christians.

***On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping.***

Most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

***On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming.***

The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."

*- Pastor Bish*

# "STEP" INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to  
remember God's  
many blessings.



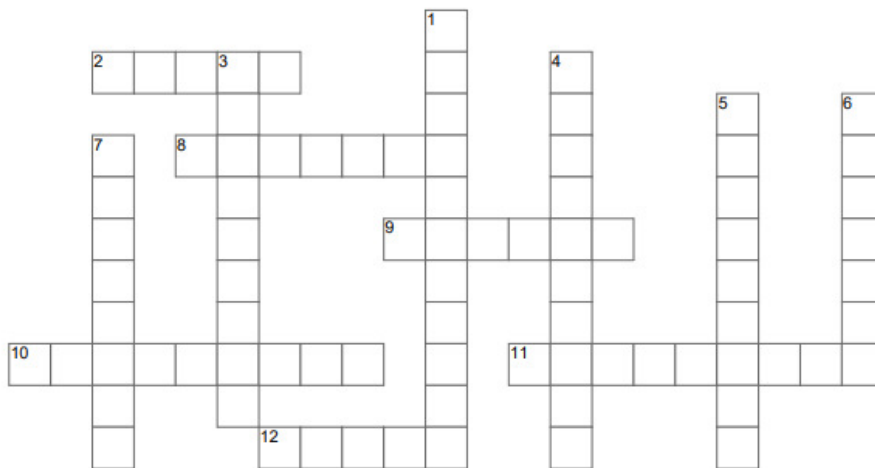
**What you need:**

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

**What you do:**

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR



**ACROSS**

2. A mechanical or electrical device for measuring time.
8. First month of the year.
9. All the descendants of a common ancestor.
10. the point in time at which something starts.
11. Low explosive pyrotechnic device used for entertainment purposes.
12. A social gathering of invited guests.

**DOWN**

1. January 1st
3. A white sparkling wine associated with celebration.
4. A firm decision to do or not to do something.
5. Counting numerals in reverse order to zero.
6. A person one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.
7. Twelve o'clock at night.

## 2021 Offering Envelopes Now Available.

Your 2021 Church Offering Envelopes have been placed in your mailbox at the church.

You may stop by the church and pick them up if you have a key. Or you may stop at the church on the following dates and times and Tom Beecher will be there to assist you:

December 21 and 22 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

December 28, 29, and 30 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Or you may have them mailed to you by sending me an e-mail with that request. My e-mail is: [kirk.bish@verizon.net](mailto:kirk.bish@verizon.net).

The envelopes will then be mailed to you.

Do make sure that you get your new Offering Envelopes!



## HOLY COMMUNION

With the technology of live-streaming, we are now able to offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the conclusion of our live-streamed worship services. We will begin this Sunday.

In preparation for the service, you will need to have with you the communion elements: bread and wine/grape juice.

If you wish to receive the Sacrament, you will continue to follow the service after the organ postlude concludes. The service will continue with the liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At the appropriate time, Pastor Bish will instruct you to place the elements in your hands for the "consecration of the elements" (the blessing of the elements). The liturgy will be our normal Sunday morning worship.

This portion of the service will not be taped which means it will not be present on the service that you can view on our web page at any time.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We will live-stream our Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th. It will begin with a fifteen minute prelude at 7:15 p.m. The service will then begin at 7:30 p.m. We will offer the Sacrament of Communion at the conclusion of our live-streamed worship services.

If you wish to receive the Sacrament, you will continue to follow the service after the organ postlude concludes. (see above)

# THANK YOU!

- ❖ **Jean Chantz, Jim Zaffulto, Jim and Nancy Shuey, Pastor Jim Dollhopf, Joann Smith, and Tom Beecher** for removing the flower beds along the sidewalk and church building.
- ❖ **Linda Ryan and Carol Banks** for shopping for and purchasing a new artificial Christmas Tree for the sanctuary of the church.
- ❖ **Linda and Norman Ryan** for decorating the chancel and nave of the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.
- ❖ **Ed and Carol Banks** for erecting and decorating the Christmas Tree in the chancel of the church..
- ❖ **Joann Smith, Janey Roefs, Jim Kiefer, Ed Banks, Jerry Sever, Kevin Hoskins, and Tom Beecher** for assembling and erecting the outdoor Nativity Scene.
- ❖ **Heather Johnson, ILO Romero, Rafael and Quentin Romero Lauro, Charlie Brandt, Tom Beecher, Ed Banks, and Kevin Hoskins** for installing the new equipment for the "live-streaming" of our worship services.
- ❖ **Heather Johnson and ILO Romero** for the many hours of work that they have spent in setting up all of the equipment and programs so that the "live-streaming" of our worship services can take place.
- ❖ **Kim Brandt** for the wonderful work that she is doing in the creation and production of our congregation's monthly newsletter.

# KANTOR'S KORNER

I love the sunsets in January. Off to 7:30 meetings at the four Churches I have served has afforded me many opportunities to see them. I have always been intrigued with Venus which in January shines so brightly in the western sky. With each successive week, the sunsets are more spectacular and Venus shines all the more. Maybe the brightness of the planet in the evening sky conveys to me a note of hope.

When I see Venus I think of an Epiphany hymn which also tells of another star but this one is referred to as "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright." It is revered as the "Queen of Chorales." Christ is that Morning Star for us and shines on our lives with a brightness that casts away all darkness. The author of this famous Lutheran hymn was Philipp Nicolai. He wrote both the Hymn text as well as the Tune and conveys the power of hope.

Amid several parishes, Philipp Nicolai served as Pastor at Unna between July 1597 and 1598. The Plague took 1300 of his parishioners in a single week to the "Black Death." What is ironic is how Philipp took his depression and grief and creatively did something with it. He took pen in hand and authored the text to "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" ELW Hymn 308. Not only did he write the text but also the tune, Wie Schoen Leuchtet Der Morgenstern. This hopeful hymn is such a testimony to the gift of Faith. How many of us could deal with our grief by proclaiming who is the true Morningstar in our life, who washes away the darkness of our despair as do shadows flee with the coming of the morning sun.

Some thoughts to encourage us with hope and shine upon our Faith, as we continue to deal with the "Covid-19" virus. I long for the day when we are all vaccinated and able to unite our voices in the singing of this great Lutheran hymn.

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## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As many of you know the call process was put on hold during the first few months of the pandemic. In mid-September the synod asked if we would be willing to start the interview process, as it does not appear that an end to the pandemic will occur soon. The call committee has been continuing to meet during our time away and we felt we were ready and able to interview if presented candidates.

In the beginning of November we received 2 candidate's profiles. We reviewed their profiles and interviewed both candidates but ultimately felt that neither candidate would be the right fit for Nativity. Pastor Asplin said that he would be talking to several potential candidates on our behalf soon.

We will continue to provide you updates as we progress through this process. Thank you all again for your patience, prayers and understanding.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!  
Alisa



MAKE A  
**Joyful  
Noise**  
TO THE  
**LORD,**  
ALL THE EARTH;  
BREAK FORTH INTO  
JOYOUS SONG  
AND SING PRAISES.  
PSALM 98:4, NRSV



CALL COMMITTEE







Glade Run Christmas Angel Program:  
Since we did not have in person worship, we requested ten less gift tags than in previous years. Because of our congregations generosity and continued service to the Lord , we collected **\$1,050.00**.

This amount **exceeded** expectations and is the most we have ever donated! Thank you so much to those who participated; your gift means so much to so many needy children.

God is smiling down on you!!!



WELCA

## Women of the ELCA

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to joining our weekly meetings which are held via the Nativity Zoom Account.

Our schedule for **January** is as follows:

Tues., Jan. 5 - No Quilting

Tues., Jan. 12, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

Tues., Jan. 19, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study -

*"Journeys with Angels," Session 1*

*"New beginnings, awe-full, awesome angels"*

Tues., Jan. 26, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review -

The Dutch House by Anne Patchett

The Zoom meeting code for January meetings is **821 5770 8458** and the Meeting passcode is **792954**. Please sign in and wait until the leader, Ruth Kiefer, lets you in to the meeting. If you have questions or problems, please contact Ruth at 412-512-6049.



## Christian Education

The youth distributed your Advent Bags during the week before Thanksgiving and we received positive feedback via phone and notes. Here is one note we received:

"To all participants of the Sunday School Group, how blessed is the Nativity family to have such a wonderful, loving group of kids! Your Advent package was over and above and really gave us a "big lift". The package was just right and we are truly in the spirit of the season. Thank you so much for thinking of us at this crazy time in our lives. You are in our thoughts and prayers and we hope to see you all soon. Love to all and Merry Christmas."

We continue to have our Sunday School classes via zoom. During the month of December the Adult Sunday School class will be talking about Islam and other types of religions. They also will be covering the Gospel of John if time permits. All are welcome to join the class at 8:30 a.m. by clicking on the link from the Nativity News from Tom Beecher.

The middle and high school classes start on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and we follow the ELCA weekly lessons.

There will NOT be any Sunday School classes on December 27, 2020.

We are planning a Christmas virtual program for all to enjoy starting on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and Holiday Season !



# What's Happening in January

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Tom Beecher	3
Kelsey King	5
Adam Mitchell	6
Robert Bessemer	9
Emily Werner	10
Shaine Coon	11
Gayle Henne	13
Olivia Messner	16
Brody Bukauskas	20
Tyler Coon	20
Laura Richardson	20
Mary Heyne	24
Alan Wolfe	26
Jack Brookman	29
Jean Chantz	29
Cheryl Kilbert	30
Jim Kiefer	31

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Wilma Johnson	14
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## JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Jean C. Amstutz	1/ /55
Charles T. Brandt, Jr.	1/13/02
Andrew L. Brandt	1/13/02
Erin M. Brandt	1/13/02
Richard A. Edmonds III	1-13-19
Laura Hazelton	1/29/84
Taylor A. Radebaugh	1/27/91
Joshua D. Rembe	1/ /04



We thank the wonderful and caring congregation of Nativity for the expressions of sympathy at the passing of Pam's mother. Your support and compassion are sincerely appreciated!

~ Kevin and Pam Hoskins

Thanks to all of the members of Nativity for their thoughts, prayers and cards during the time of my mother's, Erna Dean, illness. Also, thank you for the comfort blanket we received. Mom passed away in Seneca Place on November 20 from COVID 19. We interred her remains in the Nativity Memorial Garden on December 5.

~ Ed and Carol Banks



### On-Going Prayer List:

Pat Brick  
Linda Tozier  
Rachael Faulkner  
Rob Miller  
Gail Cadwell  
Mitch Kasenic  
Kenny Shoemaker  
David & Karol Emmert

### Service Personnel

Sarah Ashmore

# January 2021

**JANUARY 3** - 10:15 am

Assistant: Ken Saunders

Scriptures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas (White)  
 First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20  
 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Gospel: John 1:1-18

**JANUARY 10** - 10:15 am

Assistant: Pr. Dollhopf

Scriptures for the Baptism of our Lord (White)  
 First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm: Psalm 29  
 Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7  
 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

**JANUARY 17** - 10:15 am

Assistant: Alisa Michael

Scriptures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (Green)  
 First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]  
 Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 Gospel: John 1:43-51

**JANUARY 24** - 10:15 am

Assistant: Cheryl Kilbert

Scriptures for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (Green)  
 First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

**JANUARY 31** - 10:15 am

Assistant: Kim Brandt

Scriptures for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (Green)  
 First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm: Psalm 111  
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Offering Tellers for January: Heather Johnson & Carol Huffman  
 Altar Guild: Linda Ryan, Kim Brandt



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Bish's hours:  Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm					1	2
3 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class  10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”	4	5 2:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg. on Zoom		7	8	9
10 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class  10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”	11	12 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Business Meeting on Zoom  7:00 pm – Council Meeting on Zoom	13	14	15 Deadline for the February Newsletter	16
17 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class  10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”		19 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Bible Study on Zoom	20	21	22	23
24 / 31  8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class  10:15 am – Worship “Live-Streaming”	25	26 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Book Review on Zoom	27	28	29	30