

DECEMBER 2021

# SHARED LIFE

## *Newsletter*

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



## “ADVENT IS A SEASON OF WAITING”

Happy New Year! On Sunday, November 28, we began a new church year. We begin this new church year, year C in the lectionary, with the season of Advent. During this season, we wait for our Lord's coming, while we live now in his forgiveness. We wait in hope as we remember the beautiful promises that God in Christ has come to us in Christ's incarnation and will come again for us. Each Sunday we sing 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, remembering that our Emmanuel (God with us) comes down to us in love.

God continues to come to us and for us, through the person of Jesus Christ, present in the hearing of the word, and in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. During Advent, we consider all of the ways in which God is present for us in and through Christ, while preparing for the day we celebrate this God who comes near to us by celebrating Jesus' birth.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ in the birth of baby Jesus, we also prepare for the second coming of Christ, where all things will be made new. We wait with hope for the day where there will be complete love, joy, and peace in the world.

There are many ways Christians may celebrate and prepare during this season of Advent. Perhaps you have your own traditions, but here are a few ideas...

We light the candles on the Advent Wreath here at Nativity on Sunday mornings during Advent as we pray and sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel. You may have your own advent wreath with candles at home, this is a great way to connect your devotional life to the worship of the Church at large. You could use a blue table cloth to fit with the color of the season. You may read scripture and/or say a prayer as you light the candles on the wreath each day or once a week. We have an Advent Star Devotional available, from United Lutheran Seminary, that would work great for this practice.

~ continued on sheet 2 ~

It's fun to use an *Advent Calendar*, with or without daily chocolates, to count down the days. In the season and spirit of giving, you may follow a *Reverse Advent Calendar*. This calendar gives daily suggestions of non-perishable food items, which you may bring to the church to donate to NHCO. Both of these calendars, as well as the advent devotionals, are available in the Narthex.

If you are interested in using the Advent devotionals or the Advent calendars available, but are unable to make it to the church to pick one up, let us know. You may email or call the office, and we will make sure that you get the resources you'd like.

In whatever way you prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth this advent season, I pray that it is filled with great meaning that leads you to trust God's love and forgiveness that has come through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings on your Advent journeys,

Rev. Jennifer Soltis

## BANNERS AND CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH



On the first Sunday in Advent, we light the **Candle of Hope**. This candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of the Advent, or Coming, of the Savior.

On the second Sunday in Advent, we light the **Candle of Love**. This candle symbolizes the Coming on earth of Jesus, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary.

On the third Sunday in Advent, we light the **Candle of Joy**. This candle symbolizes the Coming of the Savior into our hearts and life through faith in His holy Word.

On the fourth Sunday in Advent, we light the **Candle of Peace**. This candle symbolizes the final Coming of the Savior in glory with all His angels for the judgment.

Then on Christmas Eve, we light the white Christ Candle. This candle symbolizes the Fulfillment of the prophecy – the Nativity of Jesus Christ, the Savior and Light of the world.



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order poinsettia plants this Christmas, go to our church website's homepage and click the link to order on-line. You can order either Red or White (or both). Deadline for orders is Monday December 6.

Cost is \$6.50 per plant. Plants may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve



## FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Join us on **Sunday, December 12** beginning at 4:00 p.m. with Christmas Cookie Decorating. At 5:00 p.m. a Soup Supper will be provided along with "Jesus Birthday Cupcakes." At 6:00 p.m. we show a family friendly Christmas movie, "The Star", complete with popcorn. Please invite your friends and family.

You are welcome to attend any or all events. The activities are sure to be fun for all ages!! Sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen or on the *Sign-up Genius* on our website online.



4:00 pm

5:00 pm



6:00 pm





## ELCA GOOD GIFTS

**CHRISTMAS GIVING IDEAS:** The “ELCA Good Gifts Program” offers many ways to honor friends and loved ones with gifts that will make a difference in the world. There are more than 50 gift-giving options including farm animals, safe water items, education and school supplies, agricultural gifts including vegetable gardens, trees and tools, health care options such as hygiene kits, Bibles and church resources.



You can access this wonderful program online by going to <https://goodgifts.elca.org> or by picking up one of the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs in the narthex. This is a perfect way to find a gift for someone who “has everything.” You are supporting people in need in over 60 countries, including the United States.

Please remember we need Worship helpers each week for: Lector, Usher, Greeters, Acolyte, & Videographer. Just signup on the website by going to the “Serving This Month” Tab and click the link to take you to the Signup Genius. Or you can let the church office know!

Be on the lookout for the 2022 Flower Chart. It will go up later this month. Wow, 2022 already?

## NATIVITY’S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS (WELCA)

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings which will be held in person. Our schedule for **December** is as follows:

- Tues., Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m. - Business Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. - \* Christmas Luncheon at Hartwood Restaurant  
(reservations required)
- Tues., Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study – Advent Devotional: “Women of Advent: We draw strength from our spiritual grandmothers
- Tues., Dec. 21 & 28 - NO MEETINGS

\*Please note that we will be collecting donations for the Bethlehem Lutheran Church’s New Start Furniture Ministry in lieu of gifts at our Christmas Luncheon on December 7.

# PRAYER LIST

## On-Going Prayer List:

Mary Pataky  
Ken & Jean Johnson  
Pat Brick  
Lorraine Howell  
Joe Lambert  
Eric Holsinger  
Rachael Faulkner  
Carol Gustafson  
Allen Kirkland



## Service Personnel:

Sarah Foster



We remember in our prayers those who have recently lost loved ones. We pray especially for the family and friends of members Tom Richardson & Kelly Rembe. We also pray for the family and friends of and Charles Schmitz (Don Schmitz father).

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Christmas can be a difficult time of year for people; especially for those grieving, those who are lonely, or longing for something better. The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service usually happens on or around December 21, the winter solstice, which has the longest night and shortest day. Come join us for a quiet and contemplative service of Holy Communion, on December 16 at 7pm.



# Kantor's Korner

People love to sing Christmas Carols. Maybe it's because they probably know the first stanza of the words. Maybe it is because we have sung them from our early years in Sunday School or even way back then, yes, public schools. How many of us have enjoyed singing them while gathered around a piano at past Christmas parties. I sure miss these moments.

As a musical form Carols have always been popular because they emerge from the common folk. They were often first sung during harvests in fields before they made their way to be sung in church.

It is interesting to note that Carols are universal. They come from many different countries.

Early Carols often had Latin words attached like *Adeste Fidelis* ELW 283 "O Come all ye faithful," or *In Dulci Jubilo* ELW 288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," or *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* ELW 257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," or *Divine Mysteries* ELW 295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten." The First collection of carols came from *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of late Medieval Latin songs which was first published in 1582. In subsequent years carols became all the more popular when music publishers promoted them in the 19th Century.

By the time of the Reformation carols emerged in the vernacular to convey the Evangelical Faith. Martin Luther, of course, authored many. One of his more favorites is *Vom Himmel Hoch* ELW 268 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." He wrote it to teach the miracle of the Incarnation to his 6 children. There is still a child-like simplicity to the Carol.

By the 20th Century more collections appeared as the more popular ones, *Mendelssohn* ELW 270 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," *The First Nowell* ELW 300 "The First Noel" or *Carol* ELW 282 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," appeared. The publication in 1871 of *Christmas Carols, New and Old* by Henry Ramsden Bramley and Sir John Stainer was a significant contribution to a revival of carols in Victorian Britain.

*The Oxford Book of Carols*, first published in 1928 by Oxford University Press, was a notably successful collection; edited by the British composers' Martin Shaw and Ralph Vaughan Williams, along with clergyman and author Percy Dearmer. It became a widely used source of carols in among choirs and church congregations in Britain and remains in print today. If you have ever come across "A Service of Lessons and Carols," from King's College, Cambridge, many of these carols included within the service come from *The Oxford Book of Carols*. The service first broadcasted by the BBC was brought forth by the Dean of the Chapel who felt that the "Hope of Christmas" needed to be proclaimed in light of the mass devastation and death caused by the First World War. The Service is still broadcast today to over 370 million people throughout the world. It is part of the Public Broadcasting System [PBS] and airs on WQED at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Morning, and again at 7:00 p.m. later that evening. I record it every year. I think this will be my 46th year!

The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak, *Kantor*





# DECEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Louise Kilbert Smith	1
Andrea Specht	1
Rev. Jennifer Soltis	3
Robert Grimes	3
John Mitchell	3
Charles Brandt, Jr.	4
Andrew Brandt	4
Erin Brandt	4
Gerry Schmid	4
Thomas Weller	5
Laura Hazelton	7
Jean Amstutz	9
Traci Saunders	14
Declan McCartney	16
Thomas J. Richardson	16
Charlotte Bisese	17
Linda Ryan	18
Alexis Davis	19
Christina Hurnyak	22
Jean King	24
Samuel Kara	25
Linda Halcoussis	26
Rebecca (Henne) Kara	27
Jessica Kiefer	31
Betty Weller	31

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Martin & Darlene Matisz 30

# DECEMBER

## Baptisms

James H. Coon	12/17/67
Jesse A. Coon	12/13/92
Joseph B. Coon	12/07/69
Robert Grimes	12/ /37
Mary Hembrock	12/01/26
Carol J. Messner	12/22/39
Lillian K. Messner	12/28/03
Chauncey Roefs	12/11/11
Traci Saunders	12/24/64
Kathryn J. Sever	12/13/70
Jennifer M. Soltis	12/15/85
Paul E. Specht	12/23/84
Atius Samuel Anson Weller	02/22/11
Holly L. Werner	12/ /78

*Congratulations*



**Congratulations to Traci Saunders on becoming a 1<sup>st</sup> time grandma (or Ti-Ti in Hawaiian)! Mickey Wilder McMahan was born on 11/20/2021 at 12:28 am at Tripler Army Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii. Mickey weighed in at 7lbs 10oz and 18.5 inches long. Proud parents are Sarah and Davey. Congratulations to everyone.**

*Thank you*



Sharon and I would like to thank everyone for the cards and support we've received at the passing of my father. It was quite a shock that is still just starting to sink in. Your friendship, prayers and support have brought back good memories that have helped ease the sadness, and have been greatly appreciated. Thank you!

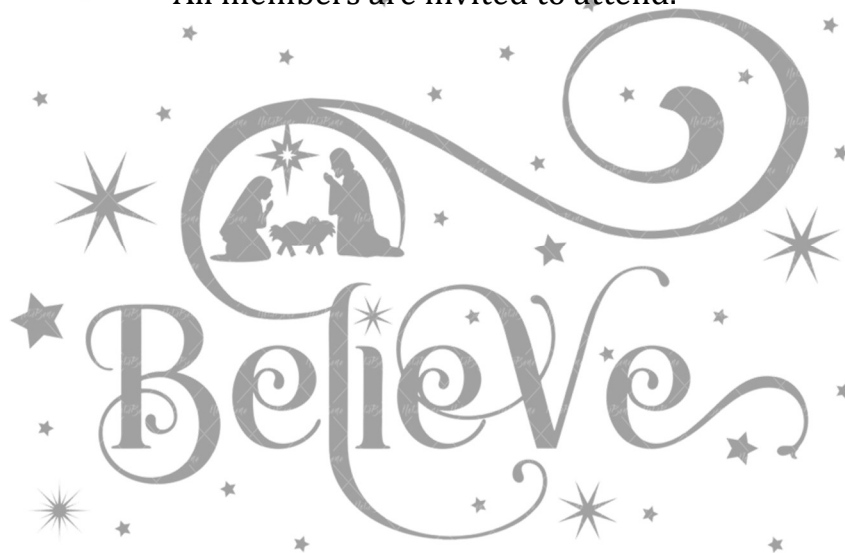
*Don and Sharon Schmitz*

## COUNCIL NOTES

Here are some of the highlights from the November Congregation Council meeting. As usual, the official minutes will be approved at next month's meeting and posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery as well as our website.

- Worship and Music also discussed the possibility of having grape juice available in addition to wine for communion. Let Pastor Jen know if you would like a grape juice option available.
- Dottie Zaffuto was approved as the new Administrative Assistant. She will begin her orientation with Pastor Jen and Kim Brandt beginning in December.
- The Treasurer's books for fiscal year 2021 were reviewed by Diana Mitchell, Dottie Zaffuto, and Kevin Hoskins. A formal report will be submitted to the SWPA Synod Treasurer.
- The resignation of Rev. Brian Bennett, Communications Committee Chair, was accepted. Members who would be interested in replacing Brian should contact Charlie Brandt, Council President, or Pastor Jen.
- We discussed current Covid guidelines at Nativity and decided to continue with our same guideline; asking people to wear a mask while in the building with others. This will be revisited at our next council meeting, knowing that things are continually changing. There will be an announcement regarding this decision in the bulletin and in the Nativity News.
- We are still seeking a third bid for the replacement of the sanctuary air conditioners.
- Final Exam care packages were created and sent to the college students.
- Discussed various activities for December, which are noted in this newsletter and will be in the weekly bulletins.

Council meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
The next council meeting will be **December 14 at 7:00 p.m.**  
All members are invited to attend.



Large print editions of the bulletin for Sunday's worship are available each week. Please ask the usher for a copy!

The daily devotional "Christ in Our Home" for January, February & March 2022 is available in the tract rack near Pastor's office. Large print editions are available in the Narthex.



# SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

**December 5** - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: Second Sunday in Advent (blue)

- First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4
- Psalm: Luke 1:68-79
- Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11
- Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

**December 12** - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: Third Sunday in Advent (blue)

- First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
- Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
- Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

**December 19** - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: Fourth Sunday in Advent (blue)

- First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a
- Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm (alternate): Psalm 80:1-7
- Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
- Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**December 24** - 7:00 p.m.

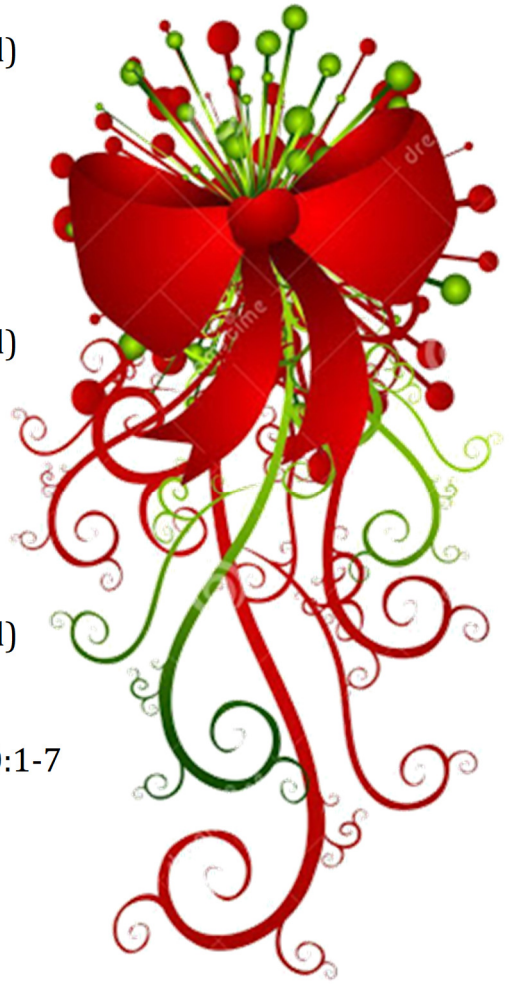
Scriptures: Christmas Eve (white)

- First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm: Psalm 96
- Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
- Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**December 26** - 10:15 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Sunday School)

Scriptures: First Sunday of Christmas (white)

- First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm: Psalm 148
- Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17
- Gospel: Luke 2:41-52





# December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>All meetings are in-person unless noted</i>			1	2	3 7 pm - NA Meetings	4
5 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship <b>Greening of the Sanctuary</b> after service	6 8 pm - AA Meetings	7 10:00 am – WELCA Business Meeting 7:00 pm – Worship & Music Committee Meeting (Zoom)	8 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	9	10 7 pm - NA Meetings	11
12 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship <b>Family Fun Night</b>	13 8 pm - AA Meetings	14 10:00 am – WELCA Bible Study <b>7:00 pm – Council Meeting</b>	15	16 <b>7 pm – Longest Night Service</b>	17 7 pm - NA Meetings	18
19 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship <b>Christmas Brunch following service</b>	20 8 pm - AA Meetings	21	22 7:00 pm - Harmony Line Chorus	23	24 <b>7 pm – Christmas Eve Service</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 
26 9 am – Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	27 8 pm - AA Meetings	28	29	30		