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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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FROM THE PASTOR...

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good. St. John's Gospel begins: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... [And] the Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us. You heard it: The Word - the eternal, divine, world creating, Genesis 1 Word - became flesh and moved in with us. All things heavenly, spiritual, and eternal touched earth, took up residence here, in Him. I'm not too sure how I feel about that. I know that's not a good thing for a pastor to admit. But there it is: I just don't know about this God in the flesh stuff: maybe because I'm too connected to my own flesh stuff.

I'm 66. I say that with regret. I don't want to hear about how much you love retirement because I don't want to think I'm getting old enough to do it. When I turned 60, people tried to tell me, "60 is the new 50." But that's bunk. 60 is 60 and my body knew it. Then I turned 64 and remembered the old Beatles song, "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" First time I heard that song 64 seemed so old; now it's in the rearview mirror. And my body (this flesh) knows it! I've heard women experience aging as change of appearance; men experience aging as loss of power. Maybe that's true. I've got a growing list of things I could do once but can't do now. My eyes were my first clue. For decades my eyeglass prescription never changed, then I hit 50. Stability went out and bifocals came in. Then I started to ask people to repeat stuff to me because I didn't hear them. Now I don't bother because I figure I don't care what they're saying. Movies used to be fun, now they're an exercise in lip-reading. "All flesh is grass," complains the psalmist (Ps 90). I'm proving that in my own body. Of course, so are you. We are not created to be angels. We are finite, mortal, and limited, or as the Bible puts it, "flesh." I know how much this flesh controls me and that makes me wonder about John's words: "The Word became flesh." Seems to me like there are lots of times we want to escape this "flesh" of ours, rise to a higher, more spiritual plane. Sometimes it's hard to think of these changing, aging, hurting fleshy bodies as anything but a prison we want to escape from—not embrace. But then Christmas comes; Jesus comes down: and the Word is made flesh. ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... [And] the Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us.*** The Word - the eternal, divine, world creating Word –

became flesh and moved in among us. All things heavenly, spiritual, and eternal touched earth, took up residence here, in Him.

This was his glory, says John's Gospel. We need something done about our flesh, this decaying material stuff. So on a starlit night God slipped in among us, assumed the very flesh we would like to shed and was born among us: God incarnate, God in the flesh, and God-with-us. It was an unexpected thing for a God to do. We think of God as the exact opposite of flesh. Carnal is what we are when we are farthest from heavenly. Godly is what we are when we are spiritual, when we rise above the decadence of this world and these bodies and float upward. But "no" says Bethlehem and the manger and the birth; "no" says the Word made flesh. You are animals - frail, enslaved, finite, and limited. You cannot climb up to God, so God stoops down to you. This is what incarnation (literally "enfleshment") means. This is what Christmas means. It's that time of year when we celebrate because God has done something about our wearisome flesh. God has become flesh in Jesus. God didn't just come close to being human, didn't just seem almost human, God became a person with a face and a name, was born among us, in the flesh.

So God sent us a "They Shall Name Him Savior. His name is Emmanuel: which means God is with us. God gave us the kind of savior we needed, if not the one we expected. But we're not always the best judges of what we should have, are we? Garrison Keillor wrote: "Some luck lies in not getting what you thought you wanted but getting what you have, which once you have it you may be smart enough to see is what you would have wanted had you known."

Sin has broken us all. We are lost without God. We need a Savior. We need a Savior who can identify with us, who can feel what we feel. We need a Savior who can enter completely into our lives. We need a Savior in the flesh—like ours... one who can laugh and cry like we do; who loves like we do... one who knows what it means to suffer, as we must. We need a Savior who understands what it means to be flesh... to change, to get older and start falling apart... we need a Savior who knows what back pain feels like. We need a Savior in the flesh who knows what it feels like to be betrayed, to be hungry, to face death. We need a Savior who is born like us, lives with us, and dies for us. We need this baby! We need this Savior! Emmanuel is here.



**Which Means,
God Is With Us."**

He was born—in the flesh-- to carry our sin, our brokenness, and our failures to a cross and bring us back to God. The shadow of the cross falls over the manger and because of it; you are God's child again! And so the promise of forever life is yours too... as Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and in my flesh will I see God." So Emmanuel has come: the Word was made flesh and dwells among us. Emmanuel, the Word was made flesh and came to us and he will dwell among us. We don't need to try and climb up to him; he has come down to us. We are flesh and so we change. We need bifocals and hearing aids and our backs hurt. We are flesh and so we change. But because Emmanuel is with us, we don't travel through this changing world alone. No matter where you find yourself a couple of days from now; no matter what your flesh is up to this Christmas; Emmanuel comes to you. May God bless each of you... in the flesh... this Christmas! ✨

...Pastor Steve Eckert



Dec 01	8:15 am	Comm. Svc.
Dec 01	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Dec 01	10:45 am	Comm. Svc.
Dec 04	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 04	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Dec 05	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Dec 08	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 08	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Dec 08	10:45 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 08	5:30 pm	Christmas Extravaganza
Dec 09	6:00 – 8:00 PM	Men's Club
Dec 11	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 11	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Dec 15	January Ministry Schedule Due	
Dec 15	8:15 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Dec 15	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Dec 15	10:45 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Dec 17	9:30 am	Tabitha Quilting Group
Dec 18	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 18	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Dec 19		No Council Mtg.
Dec 20	January Newsletter Deadline	
Dec 22	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 22	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Dec 22	10:45 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Carols
Dec 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc.
Dec 25	10:00 am	Christmas Worship/Comm.
Dec 29	8:15 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 29	9:30 am	SS/Bible Study/Confirmation
Dec 22	10:45 am	Worship Svc.

DECEMBER SUNDAYS

- Dec 01 – Board of Christian Education
- Dec 08 – Dawn Schofield
- Dec 15 – Lee Family
- Dec 22 – Linda Bornhoft/Vicki Amaral
- Dec 29 – Doreen Fasig/Art Atrops



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION



MITE BOX – 1ST SUNDAY

The Mite Box will be available on December 1 outside church. Once again, you will have the opportunity of supporting many worthwhile Lutheran mission activities.



MOWING IN DECEMBER

- Dec 14 - Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting
- Dec 28 - Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield



LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

In Nepal, where blindness is prevalent due to under-funded medical care and a lack of eye doctors, ophthalmologist Sanduk Ruit has made it his mission to treat poor people. He's performed more than 130,000 cataract surgeries to restore sight, sometimes walking for a week with surgical equipment in tow to reach patients. Dr. Ruit also found a way for replacement lenses to be made locally for less than \$3 each, rather than buying them internationally for 100 times as much. The physician brings healing to remote villages and celebrates "big eye-opening festivals" with people who "were blind yesterday, and ... are seeing today."

At Christmas we celebrate the Word of God who came to live among us as Jesus, the light of the world. In countless ways since, God has brought light to those living in literal or figurative darkness.

We celebrate people, such as Dr. Ruit and the 650 doctors he has trained, whom God uses to cause "light [to shine] in the darkness" (John 1:5). ✨





- Dec 02 Pastor Harold Oliver
- Dec 03 Susan Atrops
- Dec 04 Don Pfingsten
- Dec 06 Karl DiModica
- Dec 07 Floyd Olson
- Dec 08 Vicki Amaral
- Dec 09 Mary Windsheimer
- Dec 13 Linda Bornhoft, Fred Lee
- Dec 14 Estelle Schofield,
Debbie Wobrock
- Dec 16 Louis DiModica, Richard Mininger
- Dec 17 Darrell Heuchert
- Dec 23 Jean Janssen
- Dec 25 Deborah Rich
- Dec 28 Debra Mattson, Devon Zamudio,
Ivy Zamudio
- Dec 30 Richard Gagnon, Clara Rowe
- Dec 31 Trevor Schofield



- Dec 10 Gerry & Marilyn Wagner
- Dec 22 Rudy & Cheryl Stowell
- Dec 27 David & Debbie Wobrock

ELDER'S CORNER

From the Lutheran Hour Ministries

What does God look like? It's an interesting question.

A non-Christian won't be able to answer that question. A well-schooled Lutheran might quote the Catechism: "God is a Spirit, that is a being endowed with mind and will without a body."

What does God look like? Some years ago a pastor asked his Sunday school that question. The replies he received were most interesting:

- One child said, "God is a human being with eyes like fire, and He shampoos His hair every day."

- Another youngster replied, "He's tall. He looks like my daddy. He wears a jumpsuit on weekends and has a bald head."

- One Sunday school scholar commented, "I think He's an old man with a long, gray beard, and He sits on a throne like the king of all mankind and He drinks all the Dr. Pepper He wants."

- The last said, "He looks like Jesus, but I'll tell you a secret: I'm not sure, 'cause I've never seen Him."

What does God look like?

To find God's answer to that question we need to look in Bethlehem. There we will see a Child, God's Son, our Savior. He looks like a baby because He is a Baby, but He is an exceptional Baby because this child will live His life without sin.

What does God look like?

To find God's answer to that question we need to stand before Calvary's cross. There we will see the Child has grown into a Man: an exceptional Man. Throughout His life and ministry He has befriended those who were lonely, reached out to those who were untouchable and provided comfort to the heartbroken. On the cross we see Him dying the death that our sins have demanded.

What does God look like?

To find God's answer to that question we need to go to a locked room in Jerusalem. There we will see the risen Lord appearing to His hiding, troubled disciples. We will hear Him offer God's peace, which comes to all who are brought to faith in the Redeemer -- the Redeemer who has offered His life in exchange for ours.

What does God look like?

He looks like Jesus, whose birth we are blessed to celebrate. Thanks be to God we have seen the Savior -- the personification of God's great grace.

Have a beautiful Christmas! ❄️

...Todd Martin

Tri-City Sound Chorus
Friends & Family Concert
Thursday - December 12
7:00 PM

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Refreshments will follow.
Goodwill offering to benefit
student scholarships

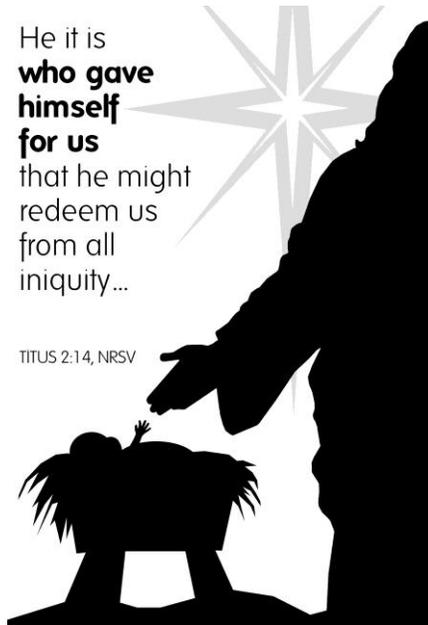


ALL ARE INVITED!

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
4725 South Bradley Road
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He it is
**who gave
himself
for us**
that he might
redeem us
from all
iniquity...

TITUS 2:14, NRSV



DECEMBER 2019

Our Mission

“Responding to God’s love, Lutheran Church of Our Savior desires to reach more people for Christ by proclaiming Him, by growing in faith, and by caring for all people.”



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship – 8:15 AM & 10:45 AM
Sunday School and Bible Class - 9:30 AM

Advent Worship – 7:00 PM
December 4 December 11 December 18
(preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00 PM)

Christmas Eve – 6:30 PM – Christmas Carols
Christmas Eve – 7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Christmas Day – 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*