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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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ELDER'S CORNER

Searching the Night for a Light

(From *In the Manger* by Max Lucado)

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matt. 1:22-23

On the night that Jesus was born, I wonder if Joseph ever prayed, "Father this all seems so bizarre. The angel you sent? Any chance you could send another? If not an angel, maybe a person? Some company would be nice. Even a shepherd would do."

Perhaps he did. Perhaps he didn't. But you probably have. You've stood where Joseph stood. Caught between what God says and what makes sense. You've done what he told you to do only to wonder if it was he speaking in the first place. You've stared into a sky blackened with doubt. And you've asked what Joseph asked. You've asked if you're still on the right road. You've asked if you were supposed to turn left when you turned right. And you've asked if there is a plan behind this scheme. Things haven't turned out as you thought they would.

Each of us knows what it's like to search the night for a light. Not outside a stable, but perhaps outside an emergency room or on the manicured grass of a cemetery. We've asked our questions. We've questioned God's plan and we've wondered why God does what he does. The Bethlehem sky was not the first to hear the pleadings of a confused pilgrim.

If you are asking what Joseph asked, let me urge you to do what Joseph did. Obey. That's what he did. He obeyed when the angel called, when Mary explained, and when God sent. He was obedient when the sky was bright...and when it was dark. He didn't know everything, but he did what he knew. He shut down his business, packed up his

family, and went to another country. Why? Because that's what God said to do.



him to change the world. Can God do the same with you?

God still looks for Josephs today. Men and women who believe that God is not through with this world. Common people who serve an uncommon God. Will you be that kind of person? Will you serve...even when you don't understand?

No, the Bethlehem sky was not the last to hear the pleadings of an honest heart. And perhaps God didn't answer every question for Joseph. But he answered the most important one. "Are you still with me, God?" And through the first cries of the God-child the answer came. "Yes, Joseph, I'm with you." Through the small face of the stable-born baby, he says yes. Yes, your sins are forgiven. Yes, your name is written in heaven. Yes, death has been defeated. And yes, God has entered your world. Immanuel. God is with us. ✨

...Art Atrops

MOWING IN DECEMBER



Dec 3 – Bill Williamson & Arlin Weiting

Dec 17 - Reese Riddiough & Nathan Schofield

Dec 31 - Art Atrops & Jim LaBelle





ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE December



Dec 01	7:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Dec 04	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 04	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Dec 07	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 07	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Dec 11	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 11	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 12	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Men's Group
Dec 14	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 14	7:00 pm	Advent Worship
Dec 15	9:00 am	Jan. Ministry Schedule Due
Dec 18	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 18	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Dec 20	9:00 am	January Newsletter Deadline
Dec 24	6:30 pm	Christmas Caroling
Dec 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc.
Dec 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Comm. Svc.

- Dec 04 – Communion Svc.**
10:00 AM – Susan Wilcox - Set-Up
– Marianne Heuchert - Take-Down
Flowers: In memory of Kiersten Shaffer's
10th birthday
- Dec 11 – Worship Svc.**
10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin
Flowers: Vicki Amaral & Linda
Bornhoft's birthdays
- Dec 18 – Praise/Communion Svc.**
10:00 AM – Peggy Payne – Set-Up
– Deborah Maddison - Take-Down
Flowers: In memory of Ruth Lange's
birthday
- Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
7:00 PM – Peggy Payne/Connie Hathaway
Flowers: Open
- Dec 25- Christmas Day Comm. Svc.**
10:00 AM – Becky Zielke
Flowers: Open



Dec 02	Harold Oliver
Dec 03	Susan Atrops
Dec 04	Don Pflingsten
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 15	June Hahn
Dec 16	Louis DiModica
Dec 17	Darrell Heuchert
Dec 23	Jean Janssen
Dec 25	Deborah Rich
Dec 28	Debra Mattson, Devon Zamudio, Ivy Zamudio
Dec 30	Clara Rowe
Dec 31	Trevor Schofield



Dec 10	Gerry & Marilyn Wagner
Dec 21	Jordan & Julie Hahn
Dec 22	Rudy & Cheryl Stowell
Dec 27	Dave & Debbie Wobrock



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

ADVENT

7:00 p.m.

November 30 December 7 December 14
(Preceded by Soup Suppers at 6:00 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Carols

December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day, December 25 – 10:00 a.m. –
(Communion)**

HERE I AM, LORD

We are getting a new Pastor next year and the Holy Spirit has already chosen him for us. It is our job to listen to the Holy Spirit and be led by God to the Pastor. This is the concept of a Call, the purpose of praying the 31-Day Prayer schedule, and why the Call Committee has been following the steps laid out by the LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod).

"The Call comes from God through the congregation and is extended by God to the Called person." (*Procedures for Calling Commissioned Ministers of Religion, LCMS*) We are guided and directed by the Holy Spirit through prayer to find our new Pastor. Hence, your participation in this process, through the 31-Day Prayer schedule, is much desired.

The steps for extending a Call to get a new Pastor are necessary so that the process is completed legally and in a timely fashion. Terry Murdock, our Chairperson for the Call Committee, is keeping us on track. We also have assistance from the Circuit Visitor, Pastor Whittaker. And, thanks to many others, the documents such as the Congregation Self Study, the Long-Range Plan, and the Pastor Profile have been completed or are in process.

Please continue to pray for guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit as we work with Him through the Call Process. ✠

HARMONY HOLIDAY



Central Coast Harmony Chorus, A Chapter of Sweet Adelines International, presents **Harmony Holiday**. Join us for

two free performances this season (\$15 donation greatly appreciated): December 10 at 4:00 pm, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, and December 18 at 4:00 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 490 Los Osos Valley Rd, Los Osos. Raffle tickets available for prizes (\$1 each or 6 for \$5).

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



A limited number of poinsettia plants will be available this year for Christmas. There will be ten (10) regular-size plants (\$13/each) available to sponsor. Traditionally, these are ordered in memory of a loved one or for blessings received.

They may be picked up after 10:00 AM Christmas service on Sunday, December 25. Please call Anne at the Church Office (805-937-1116) to reserve your plant(s). **First come—first served!!**. Please note that there will be a few large-size poinsettias, but these will be delivered to our shut-ins. ✠



Singles Event will not take place in December. It will pick up again in the new year—**January 15, 2023.** ✠

Christmas Extravaganza



Children's Nativity Skit Practice

If you would like your child to be a part of the Live Nativity skit, you are welcome to join the LCOS Sunday School children at rehearsals from **9:00-10:00am** (during regular Sunday School time). Rehearsals will be **Nov 27, Dec 4, and Dec 11 at 9:00am**. If you want your child to participate, please try to attend all three rehearsals. Children will be able to fill roles like: Mary, Joseph, animals, angels, wisemen, etc.

EVENT

Christmas Extravaganza!
Sunday, December 11

5:00pm - Animal viewing
5:30pm - Children's nativity & musical program
In the Sanctuary

Following the program--Cookie Carnival
in Stahnke Hall

Stop by the table on the patio today to sign up to donate cookies or to see how you can help. Plan to attend this celebration of Christmas and consider inviting your neighbors and friends to join you. Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

FROM TRASHED TO TREASURED

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student, home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms, and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured. ✨

—Heidi Hyland Mann

THE UPSIDE-DOWN OF CHRISTMAS



Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least, and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.” ✨



Planning to visit Fikisha in Kenya in April 2023! Approximate dates are **April 8-22**. The trip will include flight, food, donation to Fikisha, time with Fikisha scholars and street boys, staying at the Shalom House, 3-day safari in Masai Mara, and other variables. Total trip costs would be around \$4-5000. All who are interested, please call, text, or talk with Paul and Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443. ✨



Advent Soup Suppers are back! Come and join your church family in Christian fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Advent worship will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays (November 30, December 7, and December 14). Sign-ups for the Soup Supper are available in Stahnke Hall. ✨

Bible Quiz



Complete this Bible verse: “The (1)____ (2)____ in the (3)____, and the (3)____ has not overcome it.”

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above

Answer: B (See John 1:5.)

CHRISTMAS HUMOR

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2022
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	LESSON READER	MUSIC... CHOIRS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
November 30 Advent I	7:00 pm		Mark Hathaway Dennis Payne			Diana Brown	
4 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Ali Mayes	Tom Heuchert Mark Hathaway	Debbie Heuchert		Ed Buchholz	Altar: Peggy Payne – Set-Up Marianne Heuchert – Take-Down Flowers: In memory of Kiersten Shaffer's 10 th birthday
7 Advent II	7:00 pm		Art Atrops Todd Martin			Ed Buchholz	
11 Sunday	10:00 am		Rudy Stowell	Marjorie Hord		Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: Vicki Amaral & Linda Bornhoft's birthdays
14 Advent III	7:00 pm		Tom Heuchert Rudy Stowell			Terry Murdock	
18 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Todd Martin Art Atrops	Melanie Mayes	Praise Team	Dennis Payne	Altar: Susan Wilcox – Set-Up Deborah Maddison– Take-Down Flowers: In memory of Ruth Lange's birthday
24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc.	7:00 pm	Riley Olney	Dennis Payne	Becky Zielke		Karl DiModica	Altar: Peggy Payne/ Connie Hathaway
25 Sunday Christmas Day	10:00 am Comm.	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Mark Hathaway	Lucas Mayes		Diana Brown	Flowers: Open Altar: Becky Zielke Flowers: Open
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	ELDERS *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	CHOIRS <u>Sanctuary Choir</u> *Diana Brown 448-1990 <u>Praise Team</u> Jane Riddiough 937-5241	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Gary and Anita Lange 805-860-8522

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT;
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**

DECEMBER 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 7 PM – Elders’ Mtg.	2	3
4 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	5	6 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – Sanctuary	7 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Advent Worship	8	9	10
11 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc. Christmas Extravaganza 5:00 PM – Animal Viewing 5:30 PM – Nativity/Musical Program	12 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Men’s Group	13 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	14 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Advent Worship	15 December Ministry Schedule Deadline	16	17
18 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc.	19	20 9:00 AM – December Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	21	22	23	24 6:30 PM – Christmas Caroling 7:00 PM – Christmas Candlelight Svc.
25 10:00 AM – Christmas Day Comm. Svc.	26	27 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	28	29	30	31