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Allen Steinbeck, Intentional Interim Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 61 – Number 12

December 2023

FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR...

Dear People of God in Christ Jesus,

As I write, it is two days before Thanksgiving. Please know I am thankful for you. The Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 1:3-7a say it well:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about you, since I have you in my heart ...

I know you are aware of the fact that Thanksgiving Day is not just about our thankfulness for each other. It is also "A Day of National Thanksgiving." With that in mind, I'm including a prayer that is good for us to pray each and every day of the year. (From *Lutheran Worship*, pages 126-127)

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

As I've previously shared, Advent begins Sunday, December 3, and we will follow a series woven together by Dr. Reed Lessing entitled: "Arise and Shine." Individual themes/dates are as follows:

- Wednesday, December 6 (Supper, 6:00 p.m. / Service, 7:00 p.m.)
 - Rising Light – Isaiah 60:1-6
- Wednesday, December 13 (Supper, 6:00 p.m. / Service, 7:00 p.m.)
 - Reflected Light – Zechariah 9:14-17
- Wednesday, December 20 (Supper, 6:00 p.m. / Service, 7:00 p.m.)
 - Healing Light – Malachi 4:1-6
- Sunday, December 24, Regular Sunday Service (10:00 a.m.)
 - Eternal Light – Daniel 12:1-3
- Sunday, December 24, Sing Carols at 6:30 p.m. / Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
 - Glorious Light – Isaiah 9:1-7
- Monday, December 25, Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m. with Communion
 - Shining Light – John 1:1-14

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA – Sunday, December 17 – 5:00 Animal Viewing; 5:30 Nativity/Music

Peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord!
Pastor Allen



ALTAR GUILD FLOWER RATES for 2024

Effective January 2024 the cost of altar flowers will be as follows:

Regular Arrangements: \$49.00
Special Arrangements: \$65.00



ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



Dec 03	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 03	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Dec 06	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 06	7:00 pm	Advent I Worship
Dec 07	6:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Dec 10	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 10	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 13	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 13	7:00 pm	Advent II Worship
Dec 15	9:00 am	Jan. Ministry Schedule Due
Dec 17	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 17	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Dec 19	4:00 pm	P/S Board Mtg.
Dec 20	9:00 am	Jan. Newsletter Deadline
Dec 20	4:00 pm	P/S Board Mtg.
Dec 20	6:00 pm	Soup Supper
Dec 20	7:00 pm	Advent III Worship
Dec 24	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Dec 24	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Dec 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Comm. Svc.
Dec 31	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Dec 31	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.

DECEMBER

Dec 03 – Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Set-Up – Susan Wilcox

Take-Down – Lori Williamson

Flowers: In memory of Kiersten Shaffer's 11th birthday

Dec 10 – Praise Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers: In memory of Ruth Lange

Dec 17 –Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Set-Up – Becky Zielke

Take-Down – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers: Jim LaBelle in honor of all December birthdays

Dec 24 –Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers: Open

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Svc.

7:00 PM – Connie Hathaway

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Set-Up – Marjorie Hord

Take-Down – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers: Open

Dec 31 – Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers: Mark & Connie Hathaway



Dec 02	Harold Oliver
Dec 03	Susan Atrops
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	David & Debbie Wobrock

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Portals of Prayer (Jan-Feb-Mar) are available on the ushers' table and/or the distribution table. This inspiring booklet of daily scripture and reflections is free of charge. Large-print copies are intended for the visually compromised. Why not take one home and include it in your daily prayer life. ✨

MOWING IN DECEMBER

- Dec 02 – Art Atrops & Jim LaBelle
- Dec 16 – Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes,
Dick Scholar
- Dec 30 – Bill Williamson & Harold Oliver



FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

ELDER'S CORNER

BE NUMBERED AMONG THE SEARCHERS

(From *In the Manger* by Max Lucado)

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

The operative word of the verse is *among*. He lived *among* us. He donned the costliest of robes: a human body. He made a throne out of a manger and a royal court out of some cows. He took a common name—Jesus—and made it holy. He took common people and made them the same. He could have lived over us or away from us. But He didn't. He lived *among* us. He became a friend of the sinner and brother of the poor. He touched their sores and felt their tears and paid for their mistakes. He entered a tomb and came out and pledged that we'd do the same. And to all of us frightened ones, He shared the same message: Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.... I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1,3). And how do we respond? Some pretend He doesn't exist. They occupy themselves with what they find in their part of the world and ask no questions about the Creator. Others hear Him, but don't believe Him. It's not easy to believe that God would go so far to take us home. But then, a few decide to give it a try. They venture out of their corners and peek up through whatever opening they can find. Each day they look toward the sky. They, like Simeon, "wait for" and "look forward to" the day Christ comes (2 Peter 3:12). They know there is more to life than what they've found here, and they want to be ready when Christ comes.

Be numbered among the searchers, won't you? Live with an ear for the trumpet and an eye for the clouds. And when He calls your name, be ready. Look up, and He will reach down and take you home....when Christ comes. ☼

...Art Atrops

Hello to the LCOS Congregants from the Pastoral Call Committee!

Welcome to the final month of 2023. As we look back on the year, we remember our expectations and remember that God has a different timetable. As St. Peter reminds us, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:8-9). We are waiting for the Lord's second coming, just as we are waiting for a list of potential pastors to serve LCOS.

As we wait, we don't wallow that our expectations are not being met, BUT continue to extend the patience the Lord bestows upon us, to others, by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them that everyone may come to repentance. This is the goal of the Church and the goal of LCOS in our community.

When you have an idea of how to meet a need in our community, please share it with the Call Committee or Pastor Steinbeck, so more dialogue and brainstorming and fleshing out of ways to share Jesus with our community can come to fruition so everyone can come to know Jesus. The Call Committee looks forward to your ideas and discussions.

Everyone is encouraged to pray the following each day:

Heavenly Father, We give You thanks for the time You have given us to look closely at our ministry here at Lutheran Church of Our Savior. Thank you for listening to our every prayer and petition calling on You to guide us in the needs of Your church. As we look forward to receiving those names of candidates you have chosen for us to consider, help us to keep focused on You and Your will for our church. Continue to bless us with patience and give the committee clear direction in how the resumes are examined and interviews conducted. **Amen.** ☼

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Six women from LCOS attended the Fall Rally held at Trinity in Paso Robles. Our gathering included a responsive reading of the Pledge, reports on the National Convention, and the retreat held in August. Daniel Jenkins, President of Lutheran Braille Workers, gave an eye-opening presentation of their work. A tour of Trinity 's large print facility was available until the closing lunch was served.

Following are the 2022-2024 biennium numbers:

- \$ 79,511.64 collected for grants through September 2023
- \$107,910 Mission Grants Goal for 2022-2024 biennium
- 74% of goal given with 5 months to go.
- March 31, 2024 fiscal year end.
- Mites have funded through Grant #11
- Collecting mites for Grant #12 - Spanish Devotions
- 17 total grants for this biennium to fund
- \$.50 of every dollar collected goes directly to fund our CNH grants
- \$.25 of every dollar collected goes to fund national LWML grants

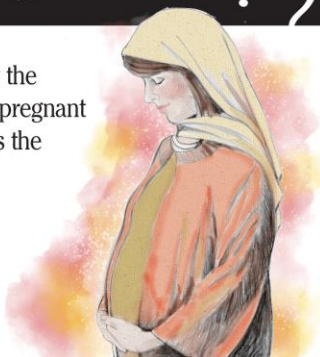
Please keep putting mites in your boxes, especially at Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for from our Heavenly Father.

Why not pass the box around the table when your family is gathered and take that time to share about mites and the many ways mites are funding projects in our CNH district. For an update on mites, go to: LWMLCNH.org. ✨

?? Bible Quiz ??

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon



Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41)

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA EVENT



Christmas Extravaganza!
Sunday, December 17

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 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!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023

From October 25 to November 8,

about 15 volunteers assisted in sorting, counting, making kits, and preparing shoeboxes for the packing event which was held on November 11. Two hundred ten (210) shoeboxes from LCOS were filled and packed into cartons ready to ship to the processing center in Fullerton. Throughout the National Collection Week (November 13 – 20), ample volunteers helped in the collection of shoeboxes from surrounding area churches and individuals. A huge thank-you to all the generous volunteers who make this ministry possible. As a drop-off location, LCOS had nearly 1,400 gospel opportunities begin their journey to children around the world. All praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ! ✨



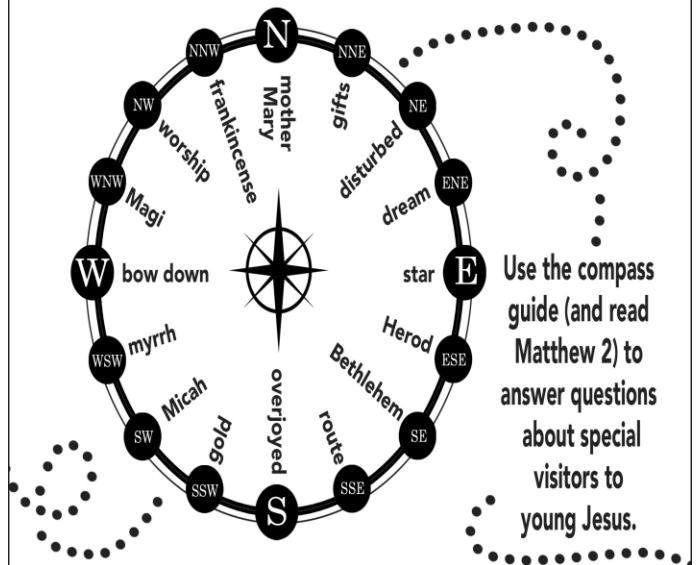
DON'T MISS OUT

In his poem **“The Inn That Missed Its Chance,”** Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the “fairly crazed” innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming “a hive at swarming-time.”

Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, “Could I know that they were so important? “There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light resplendent; but I had no time for stars. And there were songs of angels in the air out on the hills; but how was I to hear amid the thousand clamors of an inn?”

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus’ true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — “as he will surely come” — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: “Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends.” ❀

Puzzle!



1. Who was king at the time of Jesus’ birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus’ birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. bow down; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. frankincense, myrrh; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. gold; 11. gold, frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

7:00 p.m.

December 6 December 13 December 20

(Soup Supper precedes services at 6:00 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Carols – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service –

December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day –

December 25 – 10:00 a.m. – Communion

DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
3 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Art Atrops Todd Martin	Mike Foley	Brent Clavin	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Susan Wilcox– Set-Up Lori Williamson– Take-Down Flowers: In memory of Kiersten Shaffer's 11 th birthday
6 Advent I	7:00 pm		Todd Martin			Diana Brown	
10 Sunday	10:00 am	Ali Mayes	Dennis Payne	Jim LaBelle	Floyd Olson	Karl DiModica	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: In memory of Ruth Lange
13 Advent II	7:00 pm		Art Atrops			Dennis Payne	
17 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Mark Hathaway Rudy Stowell	Michael Southern	Melanie Mayes	Terry Murdock	Altar: Becky Zielke– Set-Up Marianne Heuchert– Take-Down Flowers: Jim LaBelle in honor of all December birthdays
20 Advent III	7:00 pm		Dennis Payne			Diana Brown	
24 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Bill Williamson	Debbie Heuchert	Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: Open
24 Christmas Eve Svc.	7:00 pm	Elder	Mark Hathaway	Michael Southern	Becky Zielke	Dennis Payne	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: Open
25 Monday Christmas Day	10:00 am Comm.	Elder	Todd Martin Art Atrops	Mike Foley	Gary Lange	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Marjorie Hord – Set-Up Marianne Heuchert – Take-Down Flowers: Open
31 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Braedon Rappoza	Tom Heuchert Rudy Stowell	Paul Mattson	Dave Block	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Connie Hathaway Flowers: Mark & Connie Hathaway
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	ELDERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Gary and Anita Lange 805-680-8522 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER.
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGE(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

DECEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	4	5 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	6 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Advent Worship	7 6:00 PM – Elders’ Mtg	8	9 1:00 – 6:00 PM – SH & Sanctuary in Use (D. Brown)
10 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	11 No Men’s Group in Dec.	12 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	13 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Advent Worship	14	15 January Ministry Availability Due	16
17 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 5:00 PM – Christmas Extravaganza	18	19 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	20 9:00 AM -January Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM – Soup Supper 7:00 PM – Advent Worship	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM – Worship Svc. 6:30 PM – Christmas Eve Worship	25 10:00 AM – Christmas Day Svc./Comm.	26 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc						