

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

December 2016

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor...

"Happy" goes with Thanksgiving, and "Merry" with Christmas, but what word goes with Advent? "Happy Advent" doesn't work. "Merry Advent" doesn't work either. Perhaps Advent has to stand by itself because it's a penitential season in the church; a little like Lent. We don't say, "Happy Lent!" We wait until Easter to give such a greeting.

Advent points away from itself to Christ. John the Baptist, the Advent preacher, said of Jesus, "*He must increase, and I must decrease.*" There wasn't much merriment in John's preaching. "Repent!" he cried, "Bring forth the fruits of repentance in your life!" John preached the Law with force. This is why Advent is not "happy" or "merry" for us. We don't like to be told how to live. We don't enjoy hearing what wretched sinners we are. We like mangers, shepherds, angels, and decorations, but not "I, a poor, miserable sinner..." We trudge through Advent because it covers most of December, but how happy we are to get to "Merry Christmas!"

"God is preparing our hearts, in this penitential season, for Jesus and the gifts He brings: forgiveness, life, and salvation."

Yet apart from Advent, Christmas loses its meaning. Without Advent, Christmas is nothing more than what the world makes it: an artificial happiness. You don't need Advent to celebrate Santa Claus. You don't need Advent to put up a tree and colorful lights. You don't need Advent to go Christmas shopping and to bake Christmas goodies. But you do need Advent to celebrate the coming of the Christ-Child. You do need Advent to prepare for His coming now, and for His coming in the final Judgment.

John must come before Jesus. Repentance must come before Absolution. The preaching of the Law prepares for the receiving of the Gospel. Advent, therefore, is a blessing from God. God is preparing our hearts, in this penitential season, for Jesus and the gifts He brings: forgiveness, life, and salvation. And so "happy" and "merry" can wait. We are in Advent. John's voice is being heard. Christ is coming, and God is preparing us for our Savior. Even as we shop, bake, and decorate, let us ponder the message of Advent. Repentance is our theme. The days are dark, but Christmas morning is near.

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

LSB #331—"The Advent of Our King" vs. 1

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

- † Church Directory
- † Christmas Walk
- † Christmas Caroling
- † Special Offerings
- † December Calendar

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Attendance

October 30 - 40
November 6 - 45
November 13 - 32
November 20 - 54
Thanksgiving Eve - 27

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

Savior of the nations, come. Virgin's Son, make here your home! Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. For You are the Father's Son, who in flesh the vict'ry won. By Your mighty pow'r make whole, all our ills of flesh and soul.

LSB #332- "Savior of the Nations, Come" vss. 1, 6

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks so much to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Marthasville Food Pantry. Over 100 items and \$120 were collected - many families will enjoy a happier and healthier holiday because of your generosity. Thanks again for sharing the love of God in such a caring and practical way!



2017 Church Directory

We are again in the process of updating our church directory for distribution in early 2017. There is a copy of the current directory available in the Adult Sunday School room for members to review and initial - if nothing has changed just initial next to your name; if something has changed, make the changes as needed and then initial. Once everyone's info has been verified and all schedules (greeter, usher, teller, altar guild, etc.) are complete, copies of the directory will be distributed. Thanks for your help with this project!

Augusta Christmas Walk

Christ Lutheran Church will again be participating in the Augusta Christmas Walk December 2 and 9. We will have a booth in the former train station behind Silly Goose where we will provide complimentary wassail and cookies to attendees as part of our community outreach—always a big hit! There is a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing for those who would like to donate cookies for either date; there is also a sign-up sheet available if anyone would like to help man the booth for a couple of hours - several time slots are available. We look forward to participating in this festive community outreach as we strive to remind our friends and neighbors that Jesus is the reason for the season! Thanks in advance for your support!



Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling will take place on Sunday, December 18. We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m., carol at three nursing homes in Washington, and enjoy some fellowship together. All voices are welcome!

October 2016 Financial Update

Loose Plate and white envelope only	\$8,564.00
Operating Expenses	\$9,834.66
Operating Loss	(\$1,270.66)

Special Services Offering Designation

Special Services offerings have been designated as follows:

Christmas Eve Envelope - Lutheran Children and Family Services

Christmas Day Envelope - General Fund

-Special Giving Opportunities in plain envelopes (Loving Hearts)

All loose plate - General Fund



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Door Collection

A door collection for Christmas Eve candy bags will be taken after church on Sunday, December 4 and 11.



Men's Bible Breakfast

The Men's Bible Breakfast is now meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:15 a.m. at Kate's Coffee Shop in Augusta. They are discussing a variety of topics, as well as enjoying good food and fellowship.

The men of the congregation and community are invited to attend. Plan now to attend the next Bible Breakfast on Wednesday, December 7.



Daily Devotion

"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." Hebrews 4:12

In my first years in the pastoral office in the environs of Berlin we pastors often asked what would become of the villages in which, Sunday after Sunday, divine service was held with a few old women--that is, if the service was not canceled. (One of these pastors) often asked what might come upon Mecklenburg, where the landed gentry refused to give their day laborers Saturday afternoon off with the result that all the work that they had to do for themselves had to be done on Sunday. Today we know how such contempt for God's Word is punished. "For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." Hermann Sasse

A two-edged sword cuts in both directions. When God's Word is preached, it becomes a judgment on those who reject it. But the same Word becomes God's deliverance for those who hear it and believe it. God's Word is not a dead word. It is "living and active." "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us" (John 5:58). The faithful preacher does not simply deliver a message to his hearers in the hopes that they will act on what they hear. He delivers Christ to his hearers. It is Jesus who acts within the hearts of those who believe.

Lord Jesus, You are the Word who became flesh for my sake. Let me never turn my ears away when You are preached, but come through my ears into my heart and act in mercy to deliver me. Amen.



December 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---|--|
| Office Hours:
Monday &
Wednesday
mornings 9-12 | Prayer Service &
 Bible Study:
Wednesday
mornings 11-11:30 | | | 1 | 2
Scott Jacob

Christmas Walk
 Booth | 3
Dan & Abby Rinne |
| 4
Scott Toedebusch
9:00 Christmas
 Practice | 5
Jackie Nadler
Quinn Weirich | 6 | 7
7:15 a.m. Men's
 Bible Breakfast | 8 | 9
Diane Pieper

Christmas Walk
 Booth | 10 |
| 11
9:00 Christmas
 Practice | 12

6:00 Elders
 7:00 Council | 13
Scott & Amanda
Jacob | 14
Carol Latham
Nancy Little | 15
Gaige Ford | 16 | 17 |
| 18
9:00 Christmas
 Practice
 1:30 Christmas
 Caroling | 19
Madonna
Warnecke | 20 | 21
7:15 a.m. Men's
 Bible Breakfast | 22 | 23 | 24

6:30 Christmas
 Eve Service |
| 25
Christmas Day
 10 a.m. Service
(No Sunday School
or Bible Class) | 26
(no office hours) | 27
Bob & Glenda Drier | 28
(no office hours or
prayer service) | 29
Judy Paul | 30 | 31 |