

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

December 2017

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...

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." Mark 1:3

"We Need a Little Christmas" is a song that came from the Broadway musical, *Mame*. The story is set in the aftermath of the Wall Street crash of 1929 in which Mame lost her fortune. She decided that she, along with her nephew and household servants, needed a little Christmas to cheer them up. "*But Auntie Mame, it's one week past Thanksgiving Day now!*" is an original lyric. Since the song was written (and first performed in 1966 by Angela Lansbury), the result has led to "Christmas creep" in which we see the holiday season beginning ever earlier.

Certainly Christmas cheer is a blessing. Yet the song we need to be singing now is "We Need a Little Advent." We need to repent. We need to hear the Advent preacher, John the Baptist, crying: "*Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight!*" We are not able to fix our own sinful hearts. We cannot change ourselves. We need God to step into our lives with His blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. He is the change our life needs. He is the true Christmas Cheer. He comes at Christmas, but before we celebrate His coming, we need a little Advent.

"We need God to step into our lives with His blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation."

Before we celebrate Your coming at Christmas, bring us, Lord Jesus, to Your Father's house during Advent that, hearing Your words, we are ready to receive You as our blessed Savior. Amen.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry, announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings, glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare, for Christ to come and enter there.*

LSB #344—"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" vss. 1, 2

Christmas Services

The Christmas Eve Service will be Sunday evening, December 24, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

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:

- † Treasurer Needed
- † Christmas Walk
- † Church Decorating
- † Christmas Caroling
- † December Calendar

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



Attendance

October 29 - 59
November 5 - 52
November 12 - 65
November 19 - 42
Thanksgiving Eve - 25
November 26 - 56

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

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Marthasville Food Pantry. Over 150 items and \$40 were collected; the Pantry Director indicates donations have been down quite a bit the last few months and was very grateful for everything we collected. Thanks for making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate this holiday season!



Christmas Caroling

We will be going Christmas caroling at several nursing homes in Washington on Sunday, December 10. We will leave from the church parking lot at 1:30 p.m. and should be done around 4:30 p.m. Oftentimes we go out to eat afterwards for those who are interested; please sign up on the available form in the Education Wing if you would like to join us for this annual outing. Thanks!

Treasurer Needed

Starting in January we will need a Treasurer. Duties would include printing and mailing checks each month, filing invoices in the file cabinet, assigning these expenses to appropriate accounts in the computer, and printing reports at month, quarter and year-end.

If you know your way around a computer, we could certainly use the help. We have no one available now. Training will be available. Please call me if you are willing. Tom Kluesner 636-433-5484

Augusta Christmas Walk

We will again be participating in the annual Augusta Christmas Walk the first two Fridays in December from 5:00-10:00 p.m. We will be handing out cookies and wassail in the Visitor's Center where children will be visiting with Santa and his elves. Because of the large number of children expected we are estimating we will need 25 dozen cookies each Friday as well as four people each evening to man our table; two from 5:00-7:30 and two from 7:30-10:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets are available in the Education Wing for these activities - please consider helping with this important and festive community celebration!

+ + + + + + + + + + +

Church Decorating

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season on Sunday, December 3, immediately following First Sunday Fellowship. The new pre-lit Christmas tree we purchased earlier this year should make this project much easier and less time consuming. We will be removing the decorations on Sunday, December 31, immediately following the service. There is a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing for those who are willing to help; please consider volunteering for these important projects as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Thanks!

Special Services Offering Designation

The Church Council voted to assign the Thanksgiving offering to the General Fund and the Christmas Eve offering to Lutheran Child and Family Services as we did both last year. It was decided to assign the Christmas Day offering to Lutheran World Relief - Domestic Disaster Relief Division to help some of the folks caught in the natural disasters that have occurred around the country. My apology as chairman, we normally discuss this in the October Voters Meeting but I overlooked this item with all the other items on the agenda.

-Tom Kluesner