

## What's the Rush?

November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints' Day...that's when it began. It seemed to start far earlier than it usually does. For whatever reason, people waited until the day after Halloween and that was all the longer they could hold back. That was the day that Christmas came early. Usually, it holds off until the day after Thanksgiving. If people aren't out looking for doorbusters then it's that Friday that the decorations start going up. But not this year. It started on All Saints' Day.

The Monday before Thanksgiving I was at the bank and as I chatted with the gentleman behind the counter, I noticed that Christmas music was playing and I said, "Why are they playing Christmas music? It's not even Thanksgiving." As I was dressed in my usual clergy attire he retorted back, "I thought you would appreciate it." To which I said, "No, Christmas doesn't start until December 25<sup>th</sup>, it doesn't end." The look on his face was priceless. He seems shocked and confused. I went on to tell him that in the Church, Christmas starts on December 24<sup>th</sup> and the 12 days of Christmas ends on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The 12 days of Christmas doesn't start on December 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked why does everyone think it ends on the 25<sup>th</sup>? Because nobody likes to wait, and the world doesn't understand what Christmas is about.

It all starts with Advent. On the heels of the Last Sunday of the Church Year (when we hear the parable of the Ten Virgins – Matthew 25:1-13), the First Sunday of Advent begins the new Church Year. That's when we hear of Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-9), Jesus our King coming to redeem His people, as He will do in majesty on the Last Day. Then we hear the warnings of the Last Day to be watchful (Luke 21:25-36). After that is the comfort that Jesus brings (Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 11:2-11) as He comes to us in mystery (Word and Sacraments). Finally, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the blessed Virgin Mary sing the Magnificat (Luke 1:39-56) and bless the Lord for all He has done as He comes in history and was born in Bethlehem and laid in the manger.

The evening (sundown) of December 24<sup>th</sup> is when Christmas begins. The Church gathers to watch with the shepherds and hear the message of the angels. Then on the 25<sup>th</sup> the Church celebrates Christmas (the Mass of Christ) and she continues to celebrate for 12 days!

But every year I get called a *grinch* or a *curmudgeon* or a *Scrooge* and I'm told, "*you just hate Christmas.*" False. I don't hate Christmas. I don't like to put the cart before the horse. What's the rush? Why do things the way the world does it? The world doesn't have a clue what Christmas is about, even less about Advent. Christmas is a worship service. It's not decorations, presents, food, or family. It's Jesus and receiving Him by faith as He serves His people in the Divine Service.

No, I'm not trying to put a damper on your Christmas spirit or celebrations. I'm saying that it's ok, and it's a good thing, to slow down. There's wisdom in how the Church does things with Advent and the 12 days of Christmas. It forces you to slow down and meditate and ponder Christ who came in history, who comes to you now in mystery, and who will come again in majesty. What's the rush? The world keeps time. The Church has time.

Something to think about: Imagine starting to celebrate Easter at the beginning of Lent. Sounds crazy, right? So why do it with Christmas and Advent?

Your joyful curmudgeon,  
Pastor Fitzner



### *The Measure of Our Generosity*

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



## **DECEMBER 2023 PULPIT PROGRAM**

### **DECEMBER 2/3 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT / H.C.**

**(All Chanted)(5:30pm/8am livestreamed & 10:45am)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 4

READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 21:1-9

### **DECEMBER 6 MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 (12:15pm & 6:30pm livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Evening Prayer

READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33

### **DECEMBER 9/10 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT / H.C. (5:30pm/8am livestreamed & 10:45am)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 4

READINGS: Malachi 4; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36

### **DECEMBER 13 MIDWEEK ADVENT 2 (12:15 & 6:30pm livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Evening Prayer

READINGS: Titus 2:1-15; Luke 2:41-52

### **DECEMBER 16/17 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT / H.C.**

**(All Chanted)(5:30pm/8am livestreamed & 10:45am)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 4

READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 11:2-11

### **DECEMBER 20 MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 (12:15 & 6:30pm livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Evening Prayer

READINGS: Ephesians 6:1-9; Colossians 3:18-25

### **DECEMBER 23/24 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT / H.C. (5:30pm/10am livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 4

READINGS: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 1:39-56

### **DECEMBER 24 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE) / H.C. (All Chanted)**

**(4:00pm & 7:00pm livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 3

READINGS: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20KJV

### **DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) / H.C.**

**(10am, chanted & livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 3

READINGS: Exodus 40:17-21, 34-38; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-18

### **DECEMBER 30/31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS / H.C.**

**(All Chanted; 5:30pm/8am livestreamed & 10:45am)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 4

READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-16; Galatians 4:1-7; Luke 2:22-40

### **DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE / H.C. (6:30pm livestreamed)**

LITURGY: Divine Service 3

READINGS: Isaiah 30:8-17; Romans 8:31b-39; Luke 12:35-40

# NEWS & NOTES

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**CHRISTMAS PARADE...** Saturday, Dec. 2nd, meet on the street in front Kingsley Junior High School (303 Kingsley St, Normal), at 9:00am. The parade starts at 10am and goes to downtown Bloomington. Pick up will be at the parking lot on the corner of Jefferson St and Gridley St, Bloomington.

**BRRR! It's cold outside... so we're inviting the congregation to join the Mary Martha Circle in providing HATS, GLOVES, and MITTENS to the children of the Baby Fold.** You may put your donation on a Christmas tree located in the **Sunday School hallway through Dec. 3rd.** Your gift is appreciated.

**MEN'S NIGHT OUT...** will be at **Bandana's BBQ**, 502 IAA Dr, Bloomington, at **6:30pm on Monday, December 4th.** If you have any questions, contact Chris Turner at [chtur@msn.com](mailto:chtur@msn.com) or 309-261-7026.

**JOURNEY TO THE MANGER...** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 10th from 5 - 7 pm.** We have many opportunities that you can help with, from readers to greeters and refreshment servers to scene setup and take-down. If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of this wonderful outreach to our local community, please contact Deaconess Froh at [deaconessfroh@christlutherannormal.org](mailto:deaconessfroh@christlutherannormal.org)

## **JANUARY NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE EARLY!**

With the Christmas holidays coming, we will be doing the January newsletter early.  
Deadline to turn in items is **TUESDAY, DEC. 13th!**

## **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT...**

Please join us for a festive evening to enjoy food and fellowship!

**December 14 @6:30 pm**

Hosted by Karen Duran (613 Whispering Pines Lane, Normal)

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and you may bring your favorite beverage if you like.

### **Optional:**

**White Elephant gift exchange:** you are welcome to bring a gift to exchange (\$15 max value) with the other participants.

**Donation for the Baby Fold Healthy Start Program:** as a way to support the Baby Fold program, you may bring an item from their [Healthy Start recommended list](#) and it will be dropped off to the non-profit organization afterwards.

If you have questions, please, contact Karen Duran at [karen.duran.7@gmail.com](mailto:karen.duran.7@gmail.com).

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING...** The confirmation classes, their mentors, the youth choir, High School Youth, and all members of the church are invited to go **Christmas Caroling on Saturday, Dec. 16th, from 1-3pm. We will meet at church at 12:40pm** and carpool to our homebound and nursing home individuals from our church. Afterwards, we will return to church for a pizza party. Please mark your calendar and help share the Good News of Jesus' birth.

## **Sunday School Christmas Program**

The 3-year olds through sixth graders will present **"Peace Came to Earth"**  
on **Sunday, December 17th at 6:00pm.**

Join us as we share the Christmas story through scripture and song!

# NEWS & NOTES

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## **NOVEMBER VOTERS MEETING SUMMARY: Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**The following were motioned and approved.**

### **Official Acts**

#### **TRANSFERS-IN**

A. Brian & Jennifer Davis, confirmed son Matthew, and baptized son William from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL on November 14, 2023.

#### **TRANSFERS-OUT**

A. Jason & Kim Timmons and baptized children; Avery, Austin & Alaina, to Saving Grace Lutheran Church, Queen Creek, AZ on September 12, 2023.

B. Steve & Sheila Runyan, to Christ Lutheran Church, Clinton, IL, on November 2, 2023.

#### **ADULT CONFIRMATIONS**

A. Brian Hershey at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal, IL. Rev. Bill Jensen officiant.

B. Beth Stoppkotte, on November 12, 2023. Rev. Jonathan Huehn officiant.

#### **WEDDINGS**

A. Sabrina Nord & Amauri Reeves on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Christ Lutheran. Rev. Jonathan Huehn officiant.

### **2024 Church Council/Boards**

o Roger Jones added to Elders

o No other additions

#### **Ballot:**

President: Phil Allyn

Secretary: Sandra Underwood

Co-Treasurer/Liaison: Don Holzhauer

Co-Fin. Secretary: Ron Krueger

Elders (4)

Kevin Kothe

Jonathn Kothe

Alan Sobery

Roger Jones

Trustees (6)

Paul Couillard

Bill Timmons

Adult Ministry (2)

Ruth Huckstadt

Children/Youth Ministry (4)

Mandy Richardson

Mission/Evangelism (3)

### **2024 Budget**

o Increase over last year, 4.5%

o Health insurance increased, high deductible plan

**HVAC Replacement for all 4 units for the sanctuary – \$137K**

# NEWS & NOTES

**COMING IN JANUARY 2024**

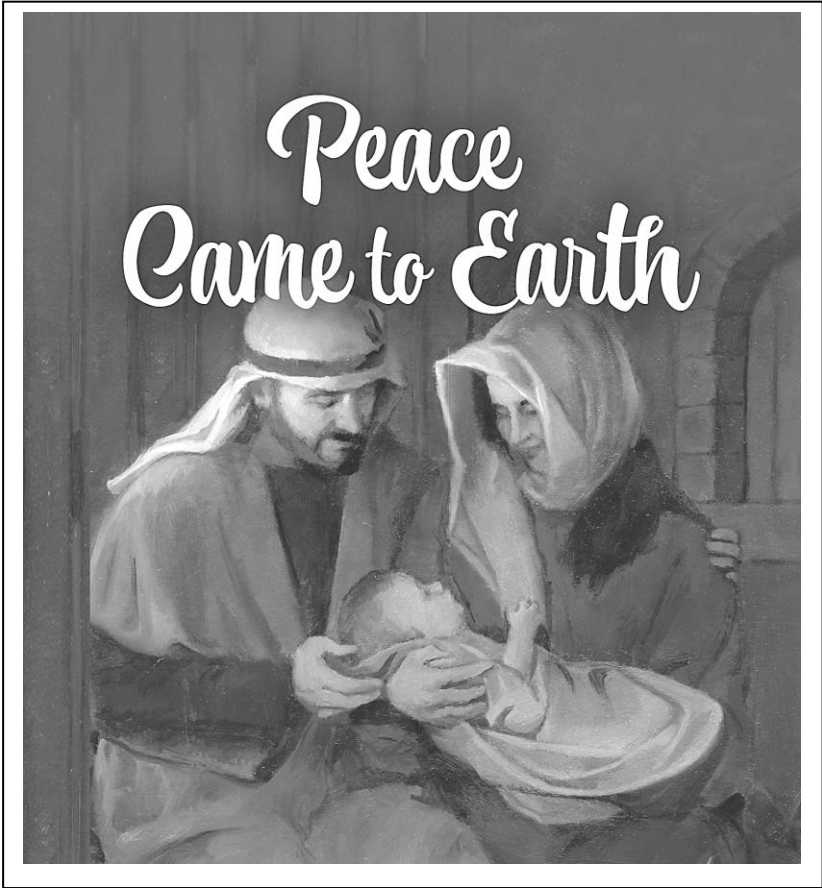
**Installation of all Church Officers and Auxiliary Officers**, Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, both services.  
**Annual Reports for 2023** are due in the church office by **Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Officers Workshop**, Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, (morning) at church.

**October 2023 Financial Report**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENSES</b>	
<b><u>October</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>	<b><u>October</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
\$71,499.63	\$564,217.08	\$57,925.69	\$581,454.48

**MEMORIALS** have been received this past month in memory of  
**Janet Revell (Jeanne Holzhauser’s Sister) & Dale Wenzel (Andrea Couillard’s Father)**  
by MM Don Holzhauser.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES...** Will be available to be picked up in the narthex area, before you go into the church, starting the first weekend in December. They are in alphabetical order. Please, don’t use them until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.





# The Youth of the Church

## December 2023

Deaconess Froh

[DeaconessFroh@ChristLutheranNormal.org](mailto:DeaconessFroh@ChristLutheranNormal.org)

### Sunday Bible Study

We continue to begin with opening at 9:25 in the Parish Hall. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades will then meet in the library for confirmation. High school class will meet at the end of the Sunday School hallway, across from the kindergarten classroom.

### High School Youth Group

Wednesday evening youth group will not meet during the month of December. However, we hope that you will be able to continue to come to church during this time to attend Advent services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm.

### WHO AM I

Higher Things applications are available on the Youth bulletin board outside the kitchen. The conference is June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at Concordia University in Mequon, WI.

Please turn in your forms to Deaconess Froh by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. (You may place them in her mail box outside of her office.) After Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> the price to you will go up. This event is open to current 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday)** – Parade Day! Hope you will come and share the good news of Jesus' birth to our neighbors by riding the float or handing out candy canes and information about Journey to the Manger. Meet at 9:00am at Kingsley Jr. High.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** – Journey to the Manger. Please note that a light meal will be served at 4:00 if you would like to join us. You will need to be putting on your costume by 4:30 to be in place on time. Please do not eat after your costume is on.



## **NURSING HOME/HOME BOUND MEMBERS**

*Please remember our shut-ins with Christmas greetings.*

### **LINDA BODE**

c/o Jennifer Patton  
1712 Sunrise Ct  
Normal, IL 61761

### **EMMA COUILLARD**

2025 East Lincoln #5106  
Bloomington, IL 61701

### **CONNIE FETZER**

1815 N Towanda Barnes Rd #23  
Bloomington, IL 61705

### **RUTH HANSEN**

Champaign Urbana Nursing & Rehab  
302 Burwash Ave  
Savoy, IL 61874

### **REV. & MRS. AUGIE LUBKEMAN**

2604 Airport Rd  
Bloomington, IL 61704

### **KAREN NAFZIGER**

14 Heartland Dr #107  
Bloomington, IL 61704

### **KATHY STAPPENBECK**

2012 E Lincoln, Apt 106  
Bloomington, IL 61701

### **VONNIE TROYER**

2025 E Lincoln St #1223  
Bloomington, IL 61701

*Please remember our members who are serving in the military with Christmas greetings.*

(These are their parents' addresses)

### **BRIAN IMIG**

805 Kern St  
Normal, IL 61761

### **JONATHAN LITTLE**

1310 Kim Dr  
Bloomington, IL 61704

### **IAN QUISTGAARD**

7 Timber Lake Rd  
Bloomington, IL 61704



Christ Lutheran Church's Mission & Evangelism Board will be sponsoring **International Neighbors Night on January 20th at 6:30 pm at Wittenberg Lutheran Center in Normal, IL.** We would like to invite the entire congregation to attend this International Neighbors Night for a dinner, an activity, and fellowship with the International Students of ISU. For dinner, we will be hosting a potluck and we would like everyone who attends to bring either a side dish or a dessert (if you can). If you're interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet by the church office or contact Joshua Kothe by emailing him at [joshua.a.kothe@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.a.kothe@gmail.com) or texting him at (309) 434-0936.



# *Journey* *Manger*

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**5 – 7 PM**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

**311 Hershey Road, Normal | 309-452-5609**

**Free tours include**

- Live drama
- Singing and music
- Indoor and outdoor scenes
- Hot chocolate and cookies



## **DECEMBER**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

3 - Liz Mehn  
Clayton Wellenreiter

6 - Doris Kothe

7 - Emilee Martin  
Stuart Nerby  
Austin Richardson  
John Sunderland  
Marilyn Wiechmann

8 - Emma Nerby

9 - Donna Clausen  
Nicholas Piller  
Brady Weinkein

13 - Maggie Bever  
Chloe Hambleton

15 - Megan Manning

16 - Mark Newberry  
Stephanie Turrentine

17 - Linda Baer  
Christine Gruber  
Frank Gunter  
Justin Vest

18 - Elizabeth  
Blankenship  
Annie Downey  
Brian Runyon  
Mary Sunderland

19 - Leah Alexander

20 - Maggie Frueh  
Norm Hester

21 - Robert Felton

22 - Kathy Stappenbeck

23 - Bruce Aho  
Clyve Baade  
Amy Wert

24 - William Rustemeyer  
Karla Timm

26 - Rachel Belsaas  
José Paez  
Nicholas Paez  
Brenda Vest

27 - Brian Imig  
Jonathan Krueger

29 - Brandy Capsel  
Alex Conder

30 - Sophia Lacey  
Mason Lakamp  
Reece Lakamp

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

1 - Chris & Joy  
Dominguez

10 - Tim & Mandy  
Richardson

11 - Jan & Gale Imig

16 - David & Louise  
Cameron

19 - Jason & Brandy  
Capsel  
Daniel & Holly Fulton

20 - Bob & Kathy Schlink

27 - Dan & Linda  
Wellenreiter

28 - Pastor Timothy &  
Amanda Fitzner

### **BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

1 - Gary Baumhardt  
Margaret Durry  
Eric Schuler  
Vanette Schwartz

2 - Sarah Vest

3 - Bill Schuth  
Vonnie Troyer

4 - Kay Cordani  
Pastor Timothy Fitzner

5 - Christian Badorek  
Donna Grovesteen  
Katie Williams

6 - Cason Cherry  
Kim Gerdes

7 - Karen Duran  
Parker Russell

12 - Emma Henning

13 - Maggie Bever  
Julianna Nord  
Alan Williams

14 - Janette Poppen-  
Bever  
Jackson Vest

15 - Dean Little

17 - Jared Baumhardt

18 - Christopher  
Maaks

19 - Tanner Little

20 - Samantha  
Turrentine

21 - Robert Felton

22 - Max Dameron

23 - Ron Krueger

24 - Jan Imig  
Austin Richardson

25 - Liz Mehn  
Gerine Phipps  
Brooklyn Wegner

26 - Sean Godwin  
Donna Maaks  
José Paez

27 - Noah Hambleton

28 - Julia Cherry  
Sarah Cherry

29 - Donna Clausen  
Alex Conder  
Doris Kothe  
Reid Majerczyk

30 - Greyson Herron  
Chelsea Link

\* \* \* \* \*

*Blessings  
to those  
celebrating  
December  
Birthdays,  
Anniversaries,  
& Baptismal  
Birthdays!!*



## THOSE WHO SERVE – DECEMBER 2023

### ELDERS:

**8:00 AM**  
 DEC. 3 Jonathan Kothe  
 DEC. 10 Brandon Lacey  
 DEC. 17 Jonathan Kothe  
 DEC. 24 ~ 10am only: Roger Jones  
 DEC. 31 Jonathan Kothe

### 10:45 AM

Roger Jones  
 Steve Trimpe  
 Henry Scheltens  
 Roger Jones

### SAT / SUN ORGANISTS

Patty Downey  
 Patty Downey  
 Patty Downey  
 Patty Downey

### SAT ELDERS:

DEC. 2 Alan Williams  
 DEC. 9 Kevin Kothe  
 DEC. 16 Alan Williams  
 DEC. 23 Alan Williams  
 DEC. 30 Kevin Kothe

### SAT USHERS:

Garry Smith  
 Jared Baumhardt  
 Jan Imig  
 Jared Baumhardt  
 Garry Smith  
 Jared Baumhardt  
 Jan Imig

### ALTAR CARE: Suspended for December

**FILL CANDLE OIL:** Jeff Smith

### USHERS:

DEC. 3 Joshua Kothe  
 Daniel Timm  
 Wayne Timm  
 DEC. 10 Gary Gruber  
 Stuart Nerby  
 Chris Turner  
 DEC. 17 Joshua Kothe  
 Daniel Timm  
 Wayne Timm  
 DEC. 24 ~ 10am only: Gary Gruber, Joshua Kothe, & Daniel Timm  
 DEC. 31 Joshua Kothe  
 Daniel Timm  
 Wayne Timm

Jacob Baker  
 Paul Couillard  
 Jeff Smith  
 Phil Allyn  
 Ron Krueger  
 Nyle Wiechmann  
 Jacob Baker  
 Paul Couillard  
 Jeff Smith  
 Phil Allyn  
 Jeff Smith  
 Nyle Wiechmann

### USHERS MIDWEEK:

	<u>12:15 PM</u>	<u>6:30 PM</u>
DEC. 6	Jared Baumhardt Jan Imig	Joshua Kothe Daniel Timm
DEC. 13	Jan Imig Garry Smith	Ethan Blankenship Joshua Kothe Daniel Timm
DEC. 20	Jared Baumhardt Jan Imig	Joshua Kothe Daniel Timm

### ACOLYTES:

DEC. 3	Allie Cunningham Juliana Nord	Katie Russell Rachel Russell
DEC. 10	Ethan Cunningham Will Davis	Ben Allyn Luke Smart
DEC. 17	Mason Lakamp Reese Lakamp	Morgan Fifer Anna Gerrietts
DEC. 24 ~ 10am only:	Juliana Nord Luke Smart	
DEC. 31	Katie Russell Rachel Russell	Ben Allyn Joseph Blankenship

### MONEY COUNTERS:

Mary Rustemeyer  
 Vanette Schwartz  
 Gary Baumhardt  
 Don Holzhauer  
 Gary Gruber  
 Ron Krueger  
 Linda Conder  
 Bee Reinthaler  
 Lisa Scheltens  
 Brenda Vest

### KITCHEN DUTY:

Don & Jeanne Holzhauer

### NURSERY: Closed for December

**KITCHEN MAINTENANCE:** Mary Martha Circle

### GREETERS:

DEC. 3	N&D Clausen	G&C Gruber Karen Harsha
DEC. 10	Doris Kothe	A&D Katchmar
DEC. 17	C&J Cagley	T&M Richardson
DEC. 24 ~ 10am only:	Kara, Abby, & Andrew Huehn	
DEC. 31	Phyllis Reeves	N&M Wiechmann

### FLOWERS:

Tim & Mandy Richardson ~ Anni. Dec. 10  
 Dan & Linda Wellenreiter

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

	<b><u>*4:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>*7:00 PM</u></b>
<b>ELDERS</b>	Brandon Lacey	Steve Trimpe
<b>USHERS</b>	Phil Allyn Paul Couillard Stuart Nerby Jeff Smith Chris Turner Nyle Wiechmann	Jacob Baker Jared Baumhardt Ethan Blankenship Joshua Kothe Daniel Timm Wayne Timm
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Sadie Mehn Landon Rustemeyer	Ethan Cunningham Liam Scott
<b>CRUCIFER</b>	Braden Mehn	Andrew Huehn

**\*4:00pm & 7:00pm services are candlelight services.**

	<b><u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u></b>	<b><u>NEW YEAR'S EVE</u></b>
	<b><u>10:00 AM</u></b>	<b><u>6:30 PM</u></b>
<b>ELDERS</b>	Henry Scheltens	Kevin Kothe
<b>USHERS</b>	Gary Gruber Ron Krueger Jeff Smith	Paul Couillard Gary Gruber Ron Krueger
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Paul Hambleton Andrew Huehn	
<b>CRUCIFER</b>	Sean Godwin	

**UPCOMING SERVICE TIMES DURING ADVENT****ADVENT – MIDWEEK SERVICES**

<b>WED. DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12:15 pm &amp; 6:30 pm</b>	Evening Prayer
<b>WED. DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12:15 pm &amp; 6:30 pm</b>	Evening Prayer
<b>WED. DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12:15 pm &amp; 6:30 pm</b>	Evening Prayer

**SATURDAY, DEC. 23/SUNDAY, DEC. 24 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**5:30pm/10:00am (livestreamed), Divine Service/H.C.**  
**9:00am Bible Class ~ Movie (for all ages), No SS**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>** **4:00 pm (livestreamed) & 7:00 pm, All Chanted**  
 Divine Service /H.C. ~ The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>** **10:00 am (livestreamed), Chanted**  
 Divine Service /H.C. ~ The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 30<sup>TH</sup>/SUNDAY, DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup> FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**5:30 pm/8 am (livestreamed) & 10:45 am, All Chanted**  
 Divine Service/H.C.  
**9:25am Bible Class ~ Hymn Sing (for all ages), No SS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>** **NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**6:30 pm (livestreamed), Divine Service/H.C.**

# DECEMBER 2023

# Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9am Christmas Parade 12pm Church Christmas Decorating <b>5:30pm Worship/HC</b>
3 <b>First Sunday in Advent</b> 8am(livestreamed)/ 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Bible Class	4 10am PH: Sharing Joys 6:30pm Men's Night Out @ Bandana's BBQ	5	6 12:15pm & 6:30pm (livestreamed) Midweek Advent Service 5:45pm Handbells 7:15pm YA & Adult Choirs	7	8	9 9am JTM Set-Up 5:30pm Worship/HC
10 8am(livestreamed)/ 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25am SS/Bible Class 5-7pm Journey to the Manger	11 10am PH: Sharing Joys	12 9am Circuit Pastors' Conf. 5pm Children/ Youth Board	13 <b>EARLY DEADLINE – JANUARY NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</b> 12:15pm & 6:30pm (livestreamed) Midweek Advent Service 5:45pm Handbells 7:15pm YA & Adult Choirs	14 11:30am PH: Miriam Circle 6:30pm Women's Christmas Social @ Karen Duran's	15	16 12:40pm Christmas Caroling w/Pizza Party 5:30pm Worship/HC
17 8am(livestreamed)/ 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25 am SS/Bible Class 9:30am Confirmation Review 6pm SS Christmas Prog.	18 10am PH: Sharing Joys 11:30am PH: Sharing Joys Lunch	19	20 12:15pm & 6:30pm (livestreamed) Midweek Advent Service 5:45pm Handbells 7:15pm YA & Adult Choirs	21	22	23 5:30pm Worship/HC
24 9am Bible Class ~ Movie for all ages 10am Worship/HC (livestreamed) <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4pm(livestreamed) & 7pm ~ Worship/HC	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10am (live- streamed) Worship/HC  Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 5:30pm Worship/HC
31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 8am(livestreamed)/ 10:45am Worship/HC 9:25 am Bible Class ~ Hymn Sing 6:30pm Worship/HC (livestreamed)	Jan. 1, 2024 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Church Office Closed					



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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*A Church of the Missouri Synod*

## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### STAFF

#### Senior Pastor

Pastor Jonathan Huehn

#### Associate Pastor

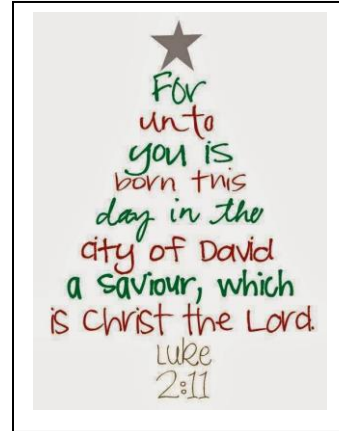
Pastor Timothy Fitzner

#### Deaconess

Elizabeth Froh

#### Music Director

Patty Downey



Christ Lutheran Church exists to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.

To this end, and with the help of God, we will do this through

**preaching, teaching, and reaching.**

**Preaching** the Word and administering the Sacraments.

**Teaching** all things Jesus has commanded in His Word through instructional opportunities.

**Reaching** out and serving others.

Have a blessed Christmas...from the Staff at Christ Lutheran Church



Pastor Huehn  
Deaconess Froh  
Andrea Couillard

Pastor Fitzner  
Patty Downey