



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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Making peace by the blood of his cross — Colossians 1:15-20

Grace, peace, and mercy to you from Emmanuel, Jesus, our Lord,

One of my favorite hymns this time of year is “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The name “Emmanuel” comes from Isaiah’s prophecy picked up by the apostle Matthew (1:22-23).

Isaiah’s initial prophecy is somewhat humorous how it plays out (Isaiah 7). Judah’s king, Ahaz, is concerned as Ephraim has fallen into league with Syria and threatened to take Jerusalem. The Lord sends Isaiah to comfort the king’s fears. But Ahaz does not have ears to hear. When Isaiah offers a sign to prove Judah will be fine, the king refuses to ask for a sign. “Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?” Isaiah declaims. We came to comfort you and you don’t want to listen?

It’s then that Isaiah gives one of the most famous prophecies in history: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.” It’s struck me that this cannot really be a sign to bolster Ahaz’ faith. But part of the point is that Ahaz wasn’t looking to have much to do with faith. He thought he was too busy, in too much of a real-world jam.

But the virgin really did conceive. Her child’s name “Emmanuel” describes the most impactful real-world event, that “God is with us.” God taking on our flesh means there is no season of life, no current event, nothing at all that we need suffer alone.

The hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” reminds us of this. Weaving together Old Testament images and everyday struggles in life, we hear how Jesus underwent every temptation for us. He is the great high priest who understands what we are going through (Hebrews 4:15). And He comes to us, saving, ransoming, ordering, and freeing.

During Advent this year, we’ll be taking up this theme of Emmanuel with us in every season. Our daily devotions will go season-by-season, talking of the different ways Jesus is with us. Our Wednesday night services will look at the end time season. What do we need to know? How can this season become one of hope and joy for us?

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!” We sing it and it is true. Whatever season of life you feel yourself within, He is with you. When His Word comes to bring comfort, I pray we all have ears to hear.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in December

Birthdays

- 5- Rebecca Franke Anderson
- 7- Braylon Mumphrey
- 7- Corrie Brian
- 8- Shane DeVary
- 9- George Wilson
- 11- Jackie Hilbert Fowler
- 12- Robin O'Neil
- 12- Brian Gehrman
- 13- Jennie Shreve
- 15- Will Chapman
- 16- Ann Barney
- 17- Melinda Rutledge
- 18- Bitsy Scott
- 18- Shawna Nelson
- 20- Tammy Chesher
- 20- Evelyn Hollingsworth
- 20- Steve Rusch
- 22- Josh Wilbur
- 28- Charles King

Anniversaries

- 2- Joe & Sandy Jager (1972)
- 10- Virgie & Letha Butts (1949)
- 18- Alan & Kim Whitehouse (2001)
- 21- John & Merrie Feole (1984)

SENIOR'S GROUP: DECEMBER 4

The Senior's Group will meet again for lunch at noon on Tuesday, December 4. Please see Rita Whitehouse for more information.



DEEP ROOTS: DECEMBER 6

December 6's Deep Roots looks at the millennial generation and their engagement with the church. Why are millennials, on balance as a group, less engaged with the church? How can the church best minister to millennials? Pastor will bring some thoughts and will be glad to hear from you, too, because Jesus' call is for all tribes, nations, and generations. Join us Thursday at 7 pm in the church kitchen.



VOTERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 9

There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, December 9 following the Divine Service. Items on the agenda include 2019 Budget and Church Council Nominations.

BOOK CLUB: JANUARY

The book club is now reading "Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery" by Eric Metaxas for their January meeting. Date to be determined. For more information please see Shelah Shreve.



THREADS OF GRACE: DECEMBER 18

Threads of Grace is now meeting at Holy Cross. Whether you knit, crochet, cross-stitch, needlepoint or just want to socialize - all are welcome. Please see Anita Themer for more information. They will meet again on Tuesday, December 18 at 7pm.

HOUSE NUMBER PEDESTALS

Charlie Schufer says he will make anyone a house number pedestal if they give an extra \$20 donation to church.

MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

Nominations are being excepted for open council positions for the term starting in January, 2019. Current available positions are:

Vice President*
Treasurer *
Chair of Education, (committee support is already in place)
Trustee
Youth

**term limits met*

Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Please, prayerfully consider volunteering for your church council. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me. Thank you.

John Feole, Vice President Elections Chair

Gofastfalcon@gmail.com

Christmas Events



ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS: DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19

Advent looks back to Jesus' first coming and ahead to His glorious return. He came first in humility, taking our sins for our salvation. He comes again in glory, taking us home to heaven. Our Wednesday night vespers theme this year is "How Jesus Wins." We'll look at texts from Thessalonians and Revelation especially that describe the end of history and the glorious restoration of the new creation. Even as we look ahead to the Last Judgment and final homecoming, we'll find that Jesus' victory is all playing out from His sacrifice on the cross where He defeated death, the devil, and our sinful flesh.

Wednesday, December 5, How do you tell the signs? 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 24:3-13 The Scriptures speak of signs of the end. How do we read the seasons? There is hope in hearing God's steadfast ordering.

Wednesday, December 12, A last battle? 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Revelation 20:1-10 The Scriptures speak of tribulation, antichrist, and a thousand year reign. Is Satan defeated? There is peace in hearing God's victory.

Wednesday, December 19, The good place. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Revelation 21:1-8, 22-27

The Scriptures speak of the glories and wonder of heaven. What does this have to do with us today? We find many of these descriptions come tied into passages about present suffering; there is joy in hearing God's rich plans for us.

ADVENT DINNER: DECEMBER 5

The Advent dinner will be Wednesday, December 5, from 5:30-6:30pm. Please let Rita know if you will attend so she will know how much to prepare.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: DECEMBER 2

We will be having "Hanging of the Greens" again this year. It will take place after the Divine Service on December 2. Help would be greatly appreciated. Please see Rita Whitehouse for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: DECEMBER 23

The children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday December 23 during the 11am Divine Service.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held Monday, December 24, at 7pm. Christmas Day service with communion will be at 10:00am Tuesday, December 25th.

CELEBRATE BIRTH

Many of you may have noticed I did not organize the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Instead, after talking to some others, I would like to support a local organization. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, I propose we also celebrate the birth of other babies, specifically those helped by Shelbyville's ALC (A Loving Choice) Pregnancy Support Center and the mothers who choose to have their babies rather than abort. I will provide a table where we can collect baby items to help those served by ALC. I will put some 2 gallon baggies on the table that you can take and fill with baby items for ALC to give the mothers as needed. Ideas would include, but are not limited to: receiving blankets, onsies, bath items, board books, baby toys, pacifiers, crib sheets, sleepers, wipes, outfits, etc. They are in particular need of larger size diapers (size 4,5,6) as they do not stop support at the newborn stage. Your items do not need to fit in the 2 gallon baggie, – you may fill a baggie if you choose or just donate baby items. I think it will be fun to shop for a baby as we remember that Jesus came to us as a babe in Bethlehem. The table will be up until Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact me. Kathy Adams



*And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born
will be called holy—the Son of God. -Luke 1:35*

CAMP CEDARBROOK ADVENT EVENT: DECEMBER 8

Please come join them at Camp Cedarbrook in the Lodge on December 8th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. to celebrate the waiting of Advent! Come color-coordinated as a family to have your Christmas picture taken with Camp's beautiful scenery! They will be doing a craft to get ready for Jesus, eating a full dinner with delicious soups, playing games, decorating cookies, enjoying a fire and carols, and lighting up the property. Please invite your friends to slow down with you and enjoy some time preparing our hearts for Jesus! Any questions, feel free to contact liesl.beaton@gmail.com.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nation—and the Nations to Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs Sundays at 9am on 102.7FM. For more information, visit www.lhm.org (<http://www.lhm.org>) or call 1-800-876-9880.

KENTUCKIANA FEDERATION ELECTIONS

The Kentuckiana Federation of Lutheran Churches holds annual elections at their January delegate meeting. This year the positions of president, and secretary are up for election. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and a member of one of the congregations of the Federation. Please submit nominations along with name address and phone number to: Pastor Steve Ensley @ Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3640 River Park Drive, Louisville, KY 40211, pastor@redeemerlouky.com by Jan. 3, 2019. Nominees will then be contacted, informed of the duties of the office, and given time to prayerfully consider the nomination in time for our upcoming delegate meeting on January 22nd.

POINSETTIAS

Orders for poinsettias are now being taken to decorate our church for the Christmas holidays. Cost this year is \$6. Please make checks payable to Holy Cross Lutheran. Flowers may be ordered in memory of someone or in honor of someone. Order forms are available. The last day to order is Sunday, Dec. 9th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. See Merrie Feole if you have any questions.



STOCKING STUFFER PROJECT 2018

DATE: Tuesday December 11
10:00-Noon

Lunch will be served

AT: Grace Lutheran Church
1787 Klerner Lane, New Albany



ITEMS NEEDED:

Small toys (McDonalds are fine), **COLORING BOOKS**, Small Stuffed Animals, Candy Canes, Mittens/Gloves, Hats, Children's personal care items, Socks, Hair decorations, Card games, Baseball Cards, Crafts/Art, Games, Stickers, Small cars/trucks, Journals, Small school supplies, Dolls, Jewelry, Playdough, **BOOKS**, Christian items. **Anything that will fit in a Christmas stocking.** Please no gum, play guns, or anything that would encourage violence.

Stockings will be categorized as follows: Small Girls, Small Boys, Older Girls, and Older Boys.

Stockings will be given to children visiting a parent in jail or prison, to children in youth shelters, and to other children needing help and support.

Items may be dropped off at Grace Lutheran Church between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm weekdays, or brought on December 11th. Text or call Dolly Jenkins, 812-989-3093 or jenkinsfamily09@twc.com for special arrangements.

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- Your biggest fund-raisers are bake sales instead of bingo.
- You can't have a meeting without having a meal.
- Sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon.

LIFE QUOTES

"Advent is about Return—the Lord's Second Coming, our return to Him, which is another way of saying 'repentance.' Repentance requires memory, for return requires memory. The Prodigal did some mental research and remembered the facts about his father's house from his personal history. Informed by a paternal history, he struck a new course, which was to return. And the Homecoming was sweet, like the marriage supper in paradise, when all history will be fulfilled, and the guests live happily ever after. Advent reminds us based on history that we know, that He is coming, which should remind us, Repent!

James M Kushiner, The Fellowship of St James
A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life
www.lutheransforlife.org

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Famous Psalm

What famous chapter of the Bible is often called the "Shepherd Psalm"?

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Look for the answer in the January's Newsletter
 November's answer: Manna (see Ex. 16:15)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHER	USHER	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
December 2	Max Semeniuk	Jeff Wilson	Rod Shreve	John Feole	Botkins family	Josh Botkins	Chuck & Laura Richburg
December 9	Brenyn Botkins	Madeline Botkins	Harlan Joseph	Aaron Franke	Franke family	Shelah Shreve	Non Communion Sunday
December 16	Isaac Guagenti	David Themer	Charlie Moody	Rita Whitehouse	Katy Vetter	Kathy Vetter	Jennifer Harrod
December 23	Zoe Shreve	Nancy Kovach	Don Williams	Bb Myers	Harlan Joseph	Jennie Shreve	Non Communion Sunday
December 30	Kameron McKinley	David Franke	Charlie Adams	Alex VanPelt	Sandy Runner	Alena Guagenti	Jennifer Harrod

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON THE APPOINTED DAY, PLEASE CALL SOMEONE TO SERVE IN YOUR PLACE.

Christmas

The Bible Version of the Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city called Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them at the inn.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them,

Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.



And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

And they came with haste, and found, Mary, Joseph and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. *The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 2 verses 1-20.*



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY
DECEMBER 2018

Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

28TH ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG: DECEMBER 4

Come and listen or come and sing! For the past twenty-eight years, the Advent season has begun with the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah in the sanctuary of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Join them Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30pm We hope to see you there!



CONCORDIA ADVENT TEA : DECEMBER 8

The Ladies of Concordia Lutheran Church invite you to attend their annual "Advent Tea" to be held Saturday, December 8 at 2pm. This is a festive time of dessert and fellowship with a special Advent program to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Admission is a donation of hats, gloves, scarves (adult or children's sizes) to be donated to the homeless. RSVP by calling 502-585-4459 or email dkb5250@yahoo.com. Concordia is located at 1127 E. Broadway, Louisville.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

DECEMBER 2018

ADVENT BEGINS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jer. 33:14-16; Ps. 25; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 17:3-18; Ps. 125; Acts 4:32-37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 18; Ps. 126; Acts 5:1-16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 19:1-31; Ps. 127; Acts 5:17-42 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 19:32-51; Ps. 128; Acts 6:1-7 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 16:1-17:2; Ps. 124; Acts 4:23-31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 21:1-19; Ps. 130; Acts 7:1-34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 22:1-20; Ps. 132; Acts 7:54-8:8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 22:21-34; Ps. 133; Acts 8:9-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 23; Ps. 134; Acts 8:26-40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 24:1-18; Ps. 135:1-12; Acts 9:1-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 20; Ps. 129; Acts 6:8-15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua 21:1-19; Ps. 130; Acts 7:1-34
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 1:22-2:5; Ps. 137; Acts 10:9-23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 2:6-30; Ps. 138; Acts 10:24-33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 3:7-31; Ps. 139; Acts 10:34-48 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 4; Ps. 140; Acts 11:1-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 5:1-15; Ps. 141; Acts 11:19-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 5:16-31; Ps. 142; Acts 12:1-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 6:1-18; Ps. 143; Acts 12:18-25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 6:19-40; Ps. 144; Acts 13:1-12 	CHRISTMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 7:10-14; Ps. 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matt. 1:18-25 	CHRISTMAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is. 52:7-10; Ps. 2; Heb. 1:1-6; John 1:1-14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 7; Ps. 145; Acts 13:13-41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 8:1-21; Ps. 146; Acts 13:42-47 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 8:22-35; Ps. 147; Acts 13:48-14:7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 9:1-21; Ps. 148; Acts 14:8-18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 9:22-33; Ps. 149; Acts 14:19-28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judges 9:33-57; Ps. 150; Acts 15:1-21 					

< NOVEMBER 2018



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm, December 24