



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 our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The season of Advent sets us to prepare for the coming of a king. It's kind of hard to wrap my mind around that idea. We talk about political fortunes in such small bites, like "four more years." A king rules for life.

Imagine those Israelites of old living for decades under a good king, only to have his son divide the kingdom as soon as he takes office. And in that "first one hundred days," facing Civil War, facing diminishment and loss, facing higher taxes and less trade, you can't console yourself with the idea that the next election isn't far off. He could easily live longer than you do.

We don't often see a bad king become good, but more than one king started off good and then fell into corruption. How can we Americans understand anticipation for the coming of a king?

This Advent, we will try to grapple with the coming of kings in the Bible. Our Advent devotions will start four thousand years ago and trace from Melchizedek in Genesis through David and Nebuchadnezzar to the days of Caesar Augustus in Luke. Two thousand years of kings in twenty-four days will give us eyes to see somethings remarkable. These kings and queens had plans to change the world, and yet in, through, and behind their plans, the Lord had a plan which no other king could frustrate. He was bringing a king of kings to be the prince of peace.

Our Wednesday night Vespers, too, will look at three Gentile kings from the books of Esther, Daniel, and Ezra. These were not raised in synagogues, raised knowing the Lord, and yet the Lord chose them to be a part of the salvation He brought His people. In times of darkness, light came from unexpected places. It teaches us to look to God's mercies coming from kings we neither asked for nor trusted. Pastor Andy Guagenti will be preaching these Advent Vespers and I am eager to hear his messages!

So, how do we in the 21st century anticipate the coming of a king? A king rules for life, past possibly even our own deaths. Jesus is the King whose coronation came with His death, the Lamb upon the throne of thrones. He did not manipulate or backstab to get here. He submitted and suffered and served.

So, we know what kind of king He is coming to be. We know His grace, His mercy, His justice, His love, His truthfulness – these can be no passing things. His office will not be closed in four more years. His judgments will not crumble from corruption. His kingdom is forever. His salvation is eternal. Death will be put under His feet. We will be raised to sit at His table and feast with Him in the kingdom that has no end. This is a king whose coming we can anticipate with hope, joy, and generosity. Come and join us in this celebration!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Daniel Guagenti



Celebrations in December

Birthdays

- 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- Steve Rusch
- 22- Josh Wilbur

Anniversaries

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

BAPTISM

On Sunday, October 27, 2019, Aria Elizabeth Themer was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Eleanor is the daughter of Max and Danielle Themer. Sponsors are Justin and Emma Lok. We wish Aria God's continued blessings.



Congratulations to George Wilson who made Eagle Scout!

BOOK CLUB: DECEMBER 1

The next Book Club meeting will be on Sunday, December 1 following the Divine service. The reading for the month is "Seculosity: How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do About It," by David Zahl. For more information please see Shelah Shreve.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: DECEMBER 7

On Saturday, December 7, at 2pm the Ladies will have a cookie exchange. Ladies are to bring 2 dozen homemade cookies to exchange with each other. Afterwards they will lunch at Cracker Barrel. Please see Rita Whitehouse for more information.

MEMBERS OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN 2020 COUNCIL NOMINEES

Nominees are: President - John Feole
Vice President (1 year) - Greg Rutledge
Head Elder- Dave Themer
Education- Max & Danielle Themer
Youth- Charlie Adams
Fellowship- Rita Whitehouse
Evangelism- Debbie Nelson

Any questions, comments, or additional nominees, contact the nominating committee: Dave Themer, Pastor Guagenti, David Franke, Annette Semeniuk, or Corrie Brian.

Christmas Events

December 1	Hanging of the Greens
December 4	5:30 - 6:30PM Advent Meal 7PM Advent Service
December 7	2PM Ladies Christmas Cookie Exchange
December 11	7PM Advent Service
December 18	7PM Advent Service
December 22	11AM Children's Christmas Program
December 24	7PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25	10AM Christmas Day Service w/ Holy Communion

ADVENT AT HOLY CROSS: DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18

Advent Services will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00pm. Pastor Andy Guagenti will preach a sermon series through Advent's Wednesday Vespers' services. The devotions will look at the advent of kings in the Bible from Melchizedek to Jesus. We will see the grasping for power of men (and some women), what they did with that power, and how the hand of God remained constant behind all the ups and downs of kings rising and falling.



ADVENT DINNER: DECEMBER 5

The Advent dinner will be Wednesday, December 4, 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 1

We will be having "Hanging of the Greens" again this year. It will take place after the Divine Service on December 1. Help would be greatly appreciated. Please see Rita Whitehouse for more information.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: DECEMBER 22

The children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday December 22 during the 11am Divine Service. Practices will be held during Sunday School.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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

CELEBRATE BIRTH INGATHERING

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 an ingathering box where we can collect baby items for ALC to give the mothers as needed. Ideas would include, but are not limited to: receiving blankets, onesies, 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. 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 Sunday, November 24th and I will take donations until Sunday, December 22. 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

LAKEVIEW SPRINGS: DECEMBER 7 & 8

Lakeview Springs is hosting Bethlehem Boulevard on December 7 & 8 from 6:00-7:30 at the camp. Visitors will stroll along the trail and at different spots there will be costumed volunteers from other Lutheran churches telling the story of Jesus's birth. The end of the trail will be the manger of Jesus birth. They will be serving hot chocolate in the lodge of the kitchen. Also if anyone would like to volunteer to be in the choir please let me know and I will supply information on who to contact. There will be a rehearsal Sunday December 1 at 5:30 at the camp. Dinner will be provided. For more information please see Rita Whitehouse.

VOTERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 15

There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, December 9 following the Divine Service. Items on the agenda include 2020 Budget and Church Council Nominations.

SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS: FRIDAYS

There is an ongoing Sign Language Class here at Holy Cross. For more information please see Nancy Guagenti.

TEMPEST AND REFUGE- LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Tempest and Refuge- Ladies' Bible Study begins in the New Year, seeing how God's people go through storms and find peace under the wings of our God. We'll have mid-morning opportunities for those whose schedules are more flexible in daylight hours and a nighttime opportunity for those who prefer to come in the evening. Each class will be different so if you miss one- no problem- you can jump back in. In the daytime, ladies will meet the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays at 10 AM. In the evening, ladies will meet at 7 pm the Monday evening before the second Tuesday that is skipped. For January, that means meeting the 7th, 21st, and 28th at 10am and the 13th at 7pm.

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN IF...

- Ole and Lena are really the names of your relatives.
- You know what a Lutheran Church Basement Woman is.
- You give a party and don't tell anyone where it is.

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. 15th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAYS 9:45AM

As the Scriptures focus us God's grace in Christ, characters from Abraham to Zebedee move in and out of the spotlight. Peter is one of the most memorable. He is heroic and yet utterly human. He boldly jumps out of the boat to Jesus walking on the water, actually walks a few steps, then begins to sink and needs Jesus to save him. We will follow the story of Peter up through his first epistle. We'll see a man grapple with his own country rejecting His Lord, feeling himself an exile, and yet built up into an everlasting temple. We will see how in Christ His power is made perfect in weakness, how we, too, can fish for men, and how our Lord chooses precisely what is rejected by the world to build His glorious kingdom. Come and join us!

ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG: DECEMBER 4

Come and listen or come and sing! For the past twenty-nine 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, Dec. 3, at 7:30pm

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

LIFE QUOTES

"The celebration of Christmas, the celebration of Epiphany, are celebrations of life, infant life. The salvation of the world, your salvation, began with conception; and the Christ child, your Savior Jesus, passed through every stage of life that you did, including many stages where it is legal to destroy nascent life in our country. Yes, we can adduce many passages from Scripture (and many insights from secular science) to prove that there is no essential difference between the embryo you once were from the child or adult you are today; but the greatest demonstration that all life is sacred comes from Christ Himself, whose journey to the cross began in the womb of Mary."

Rev. Christopher Maronde, Pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church, Decatur, Indiana
A "Life Quote" from *Lutherans For Life*
www.lutheransforlife.org

Heartfelt
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

KNOW YOUR BIBLE



Healing Action

What did Elisha tell Naaman to do in order to be healed of his leprosy?

Look for the answer in the January's Newsletter
November's answer: Asked for wisdom and understanding (see 1 Kings 3:5-9)

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	ACOLYTE	READER	USHER	USHER	CLEAN	NURSERY	ALTAR GUILD
December 1	Isaac Guagenti	Jeff Wilson	Alex VanPelt	Charlie Adams	Kathy Vetter	Kathy Vetter	J. Harrod N. Guagenti
December 8	Gabriel Guagenti	Charlie Moody	Rod Shreve	John Feole	Sandy Runner	Shelah Shreve	No communion
December 15	Zoe Shreve	David Themer	Don Saltzman	Aaron Franke	Sandy Runner	Jennie Shreve	B. Moody N. Guagenti
December 22	Eden Guagenti	Nancy Kovach	Charlie Moody	Rita Whitehouse	Bob Myers	Alena Guagenti	No communion
December 29	Elijah Smith	David Franke	Don Williams	Bob Myers	Botkins family	Kathy Vetter	J. Harrod N. Guagenti

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

Christmas

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 2019

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ADVENT BEGINS ■ Is. 2:1-5; ■ Ps. 122; ■ Rom. 13:11-14; ■ Matt. 21:1-11	■ Is. 2:6-22; ■ Ps. 124; ■ 1 Cor. 13:1-13	■ Is. 3:1-17; ■ Ps. 125; ■ 1 Cor. 14:1-25	■ Is. 3:18-4:6; ■ Ps. 126; ■ 1 Cor. 14:26-40	■ Is. 5:1-12; ■ Ps. 127; ■ 1 Cor. 15:1-34	■ Is. 5:13-30; ■ Ps. 128; ■ 1 Cor. 15:35-49	■ Is. 6:1-13; ■ Ps. 129; ■ 1 Cor. 15:50-16:4
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
■ Is. 7:1-25; ■ Ps. 130; ■ 1 Cor. 16:5-24	■ Is. 8:1-22; ■ Ps. 131; ■ 2 Cor. 1:1-11	■ Is. 9:1-7; ■ Ps. 132; ■ 2 Cor. 1:12-22	■ Is. 9:8-10:4; ■ Ps. 133; ■ 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11	■ Is. 10:5-19; ■ Ps. 133; ■ 2 Cor. 2:12-17	■ Is. 10:20-11:9; ■ Ps. 135:1-12; ■ 2 Cor. 3:1-18	■ Is. 11:10-12:6; ■ Ps. 135:13-21; ■ 2 Cor. 4:1-18
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
■ Is. 13:1-22; ■ Ps. 136; ■ 2 Cor. 5:1-15	■ Is. 14:1-11; ■ Ps. 137; ■ 2 Cor. 5:16-6:13	■ Is. 14:12-23; ■ Ps. 138; ■ 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1	■ Is. 14:24-15:9; ■ Ps. 139; ■ 2 Cor. 7:2-16	■ Is. 16:1-14; ■ Ps. 140; ■ 2 Cor. 8:1-15	■ Is. 17:1-14; ■ Ps. 141; ■ 2 Cor. 8:16-9:5	■ Is. 18:1-7; ■ Ps. 142; ■ 2 Cor. 9:6-15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
■ Is. 19:1-15; ■ Ps. 143; ■ 2 Cor. 10:1-6	■ Is. 19:16-20; ■ Ps. 144; ■ 2 Cor. 10:7-18	CHRISTMAS ■ Is. 7:10-14; ■ Ps. 110:1-4; ■ 1 John 4:7-16; ■ Matt. 1:18-25	CHRISTMAS ■ Is. 52:7-10; ■ Ps. 2; ■ Heb. 1:1-6; ■ John 1:1-18	■ Is. 21:1-17; ■ Ps. 145; ■ 2 Cor. 11:1-15	■ Is. 22:1-14; ■ Ps. 146; ■ 2 Cor. 11:16-33	■ Is. 22:15-25; ■ Ps. 147; ■ 2 Cor. 12:1-10
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
■ Is. 23:1-18; ■ Ps. 148; ■ 2 Cor. 12:11-21	■ Is. 24:1-23; ■ Ps. 149; ■ 2 Cor. 13:1-14	■ Is. 25:1-12; ■ Ps. 150; ■ John 1:1-28				
29	30	31				



SHARING THE POWERFUL GOSPEL!

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EVERY SUNDAY
BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE-11:00AM

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm, December 24
Christmas Day Communion Service 10am, December 25