

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

November 15, 2020



THE JESSE TREE...IS
THE JESUS TREE!

***"There shall come forth
a shoot from the stump
of Jesse, and a branch
from his roots shall
bear fruit."*** (Isaiah 11:1)

It will soon be Advent (Nov 29!) — A time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call "Advent" were just days and nights lived in darkness.

And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness that permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world.

It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This

daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity's fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister Mary became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world.

No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness, for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world.

Every force of Satan would seek to put that light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do. The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light that began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.

This Advent, we will gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse's tree. He is the Root of Jesse's tree. He is the Life of Jesse's tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse's tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, ***"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth"*** (LSB 383).

A blessed Advent begins November 29!

Angel Tree Toy Drive

The deadline to turn in your donations of unwrapped toys for all ages of boys and girls for the Angel Tree for the FISH Christmas Store will be **Dec. 9th**. You can put your gifts around the Christmas tree in the Atrium. Thank you!

Special Services

Coming up...

Thanksgiving Services:

Wed, Nov 25th, 6:30 PM (No Holy Communion)

Thanksgiving Day, Nov 26, 9:00 AM

(No Holy Communion)

Christmas Eve

Thurs., Dec. 24th 4 PM, 6:30 PM, & 11 PM

(With Holy Communion)

Christmas Day

Fri., Dec. 25th 9 AM, w/Holy Communion

Saturday, Dec. 26, NO Worship Services

Sun., Dec. 27th 8 AM, w/Holy Communion

Sun., Dec. 27th 10:30 AM, w/Holy Communion

Due to Covid 19 and our plan to have a safe place for everyone to worship using social distancing, please sign up for the above Holiday Worship Services using the Church's webpage or call the Church office. Thank you!

Advent Midweek Services:

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16.

12:15 PM & 6:30 PM

You do ***not*** need to sign up for these services.

Nativity Scene Fundraiser Update

Grace upon Grace!



You can grace our Food Pantry by making a donation for this Nativity Scene. All proceeds will go to our Food Pantry. The Nativity Scene will be

“graced” to a child in December, sharing the central focus of Christmas – Jesus – with them. That’s grace upon grace! See Janet Brinkopf to make your donation for the Nativity Scene. Thank you. – Pastor Burdick

Haiti Hunger Fight Event

This event is still on, and will be held on Sunday, Nov. 15 from 11:30-1:30. The meals will be take-out only. Please drive through & support this cause. Haiti, like the rest of the world, is suffering due to COVID and their economy is under great stress. Our support is more important than ever.

Operation Christmas Child

Don't forget, your filled boxes will be due on November 22.

Scrip Sales

We are resuming Scrip sales after church services. Look for a member of the Social Ministry team who will have a table set up in the gym.

Our Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance.....	252
Online Worship Views	112
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	31
LifeLight Class.....	9
Adult Sunday School Class	15

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund	\$8,440
Online General Fund	\$3,750
Total General Fund Offering.....	\$12,190
Building Fund	\$165

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Matthew 25:30a – “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.” Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master. So, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse. Since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

Concordia Seminary Food Bank

The Board of Social Ministry will be collecting non-perishable grocery items during the Thanksgiving Worship Services. Please bring your grocery items to either service (Wed., Nov. 25 at 6:30 PM or Thurs., Nov. 26 at 9:00 AM).

Decorating

We will be decorating the church on Saturday, Nov. 28 from 9 AM - ?. All help would be appreciated! Thank you! Howard & Laura Janis & The Decorating Committee

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Lesson 12 Exodus 12: 1-32

"The Passover Promise" is this week's lesson about God's establishment of the Passover. God, through Moses, threatens one final plague—worse than any previously experienced. Following God's instructions, the Israelites make careful preparations for the Passover, marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb prepared for the feast. The final plague takes place at midnight as all the firstborn throughout Egypt die. The Egyptians hand over their valuables, hastening the Israelites away.

Prayer List

Dennis & Nancy Johnson, Marilyn Schaefer, Marlene Bushue, Karen Dall, Velma Wagner, Delores Miller, Rev. Dr. Wayne Hoffman, Marlene Walker, Dwight Kelpzig, Gerald Pruemer, Rose Boggs, John Romero, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, Janet Brinkopf.

Members of the Armed Forces, including Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Baileigh Longwell, Jason Mette, Gabriel Walker, Johnathon Schuette, Henry Bielenberg; and all first responders of our community and nation

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"To be sure, our God Father does not give the vocation of a large family to everyone. (And, of course, any quantity of family and offspring He bestows is a great benefit.) But we need not despise proliferation the way the world does. Indeed, we may appreciate and assist our brothers and sisters who engage in this holy (and delightful!) calling. And we may also raise our young ones to cherish procreation and adoption more than any personal preferences or material possessions. The blessings of children always outweigh even the burdens!"

Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org

Today's Light

For instructions on how to sign up for our two-year Bible reading campaign, pick up the sheet attached to the hall bulletin board by Dec. 1.

Christmas Cards Sales

Christmas cards are available in the cabinet. More will be added after the card orders arrive. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Wetherell.

The Lutheran Hour

You can listen to the Lutheran Hour on the radio:



- WCRA 1090 AM Sun 9:30 AM
- WCRA 96.3 FM Sun 9:30 AM
- WPMB 104.7 FM Sun 12:03 PM

This radio broadcast is also always available by going to: www.LHM.org. Scroll down to this week on TLH & click on it. Then, click on Sermon Schedule November 22, "Politics in Perspective". Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler Political turmoil is nothing new and political security is only temporary. We can't escape politics. However, Dr. Michael Zeigler offers good news of a kingdom that cannot be overthrown and will never pass away. (Daniel 7:1-14)



Welcome to the family, Tate Samuel Bloemer! Following our 10:30am Service, Tate is baptized into Christ. His parents are Wade and Brittany Bloemer; his sponsors are Alex Gordon, Hope Moeller, and Zac Bloemer. Grandparents are Steve and Nancy Moeller, Cathy and Jerry Bloemer.

Next Week's Service

Next weekend Pastor Fortkamp will lead us on the Last Sunday of the Church Year, while Pastor Burdick preaches for the Mission Festivals of Grace-Dieterich and Faith-Shumway.

CALENDAR-----Nov 15 – Nov 22, 2020

Sunday	15	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Haiti Hunger Fight Food Drive UP
<i>Preschool Classes – Monday, Tues., Wed. Thurs. & Friday 8:30 – 11:30 AM</i>			
Monday	16	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
Tuesday	17		
Wednesday	18	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 PM	Confirmation
Thursday	19	6:30 PM	Catechism Bible Study
Friday	20		Pastor's Sabbath
		12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
Saturday	21	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 PM & 5:30 PM	Worship Service w/HC
Sunday	22	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 AM	Sunday School & LifeLight
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			Operations Christmas Child Boxes are Due

Birthdays This Week

- 11/15 Betty Carter, Paisley Bloemer, Rae Ann Wagner, & Treva Brandt
- 11/16 Abel Wilson, Anthony Lechman, Cloie Bailey, & Kenneth Longwell
- 11/17 Troy VanBlaricum
- 11/18 Corey March, Lilli Wernsing, Mattie Niccum, & Ron Lading
- 11/19 Ivy Utz, Janice Pike, Katie Hinton, Kris Lipe, & Sandra Weber
- 11/20 Donna Budde & Matt Wohltman
- 11/21 George Young & Makenna Duckwitz

Anniversaries This Week

- 11/16/73 Jim & Carol Klein
- 11/16/02 Chris & Heather St. John
- 11/19/83 Rick & Deb Gregory

Pecans

Pecans have been ordered, and will be \$10.25 for halves and \$10.00 for med. & small pieces. You can sign up on the bulletin board by Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Youth Board events are BACK!!!

We are not able to do things like we use to, but this is what is planned:

Cookie Walk—will be a pre-order of cookies. Fill out the insert in the bulletin or call Cathy Norris 217-821-3656 or Christine Niebrugge 217-663-0719 to place your order. Cost is \$6/dz. Order by Dec. 6th pick up and pay for your order at the Dec. 19th or 20th church services.

Grab-n-Go Advent Meal Dec. 2nd. We will serve 1 hour before each service and 30 min. after each service. Menu is Chili & Vegetable Soup, Hot Dog, Chocolate Chip Bar & Water. Free will donation. NO SIT DOWN DINING.

Live Christmas Nativity Scene – Dec. 12th from 6 – 8 pm. If you wish to participate, sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway. We are still in need of a camel, sheep, and/or mule.