

THE CHRONICLES

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

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December 2018

HAPPY NEW YEAR! - jwf

No, the old fool hasn't lost more of his marbles. I know our calendar New Year is the first of January and not the first of December. But the Church Year, also known as the Liturgical Year, does begin with the first Sunday of Advent, the First Sunday of the Liturgical/Church year. This division into Church Seasons is a teaching tool. It has been used in one form or another for well over a thousand years. The first five "Seasons" are based upon the life of Jesus.

Advent's emphasis is based on the anticipation of the coming of the promised one of God, a time to understand the different 'advents' – comings of Jesus. The promises of the Hebrew Prophets from the first through John the Baptizer. Advent was a time to do penance and to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." Modern society has lost this understanding of the weeks before Christmas. Our society celebrates Christmas between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Christmas decorations are quickly boxed away sometimes on Christmas Day but certainly before New Year's Day. Pastors try to reclaim the Advent Season, but secular society seems to have won out. We talk about the younger generations demanding instant gratification, but we can't seem to wait for Christmas. It is a shame because we miss out on the important things to be learned in Advent, especially before celebrating Christmas – and why there is a Christmas.

No one knows what day Jesus was born, scripture doesn't tell us. Many scholars have tried to figure it out, but sometime in the early years of the Roman Empire after Christianity became the religion of that Empire, December 25th was set aside to celebrate Christ – Mas (the coming of Christ). Previously that date had been the Roman pagan festival of lights, Saturnalia. This pagan holiday was the celebration that marked the end of the winter solstice and the lengthening of the sunlight. The Christmas Season Celebrates the birth of Christ and runs from December 25th until January 6th, the day of the Epiphany. These are the twelve days of Christmas that we sing about, but no longer really keep.

The Season of Epiphany is the shining forth of Jesus, beginning with the coming of the Magi, who did not come to see Jesus until approximately 2 years after his birth (and nowhere does the Bible say there were 3). Each Sunday celebrates the revealing of The Christ to the world. Lent follows Epiphany. Lent is to help us remember what Jesus endured in His ministry. And Easter Season celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. (The word Easter is not in the bible but was the name of another pagan spring festival.)

That's half of the Church Year. The rest is the Season of Pentecost, the long season where the green paraments stay on for such a long time, the season just ending. During Pentecost we study the spreading of the Word of God, the building of the Body of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit. It ends on Christ the King Sunday. This year Christ the King Sunday was the last Sunday of November. So, Happy New Year! Advent is here!

Take time to contemplate 1) the Old Testament promises of Messiah, 2) The Word made flesh to dwell among us, 3) Christ entering our own lives, and 4) the New Testament promises that Christ Shall come again. These are the emphases of the four weeks of Advent. Have a Blessed Advent and then a Blessed Christmas.

Pastor John



December Birthdays



9 William Gear
 27 Londa Burns
 28 Claire Valentine
 29 Dene Brinkman



Events in December:

Sun., Dec. 2 – Deer Creek Devotions at 3:30
 Wed., Dec. 12 – Hosting at Trail of Lights 5:30
 Sun., Dec. 23rd – Worship at 10am
 Mon., Dec. 24th – Candlelight Worship at 4pm
 Tues., Dec. 25th – Christmas Blessing at 10am
 Sun., Dec. 30th – Worship at 10am

Important note: Please see the attachment for Pastor John's notes on the Christmas Eve and Christmas Service

December Anniversaries



31 Joyce & John Bradshaw

LCR Financial Report
October and Year-To-Date Totals

These figures are subject to revision.

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>BUILDING FUND</u>		
	<u>Donations</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Donations</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>%</u>
Oct.	\$7,260	\$6,800	107%	\$800	\$1,450	55.2%
YTD	\$69,958	\$57,835	121%	\$9,390	\$14,500	64.8%

December Worship Helpers

Assistant Ministers

2 Doris King
9 Chris Weaver
16 Autry Burns
23 Shirley Schliessmann
24 Doris King
30 Chris Weaver

Eucharistic Ministers

9 Dianne Kilpatrick
23 Chris Weaver
24

Acolytes

2 Benjamin Raska
9 Abigail Burttschell
16 Whitlee Leonard
23 Savannah Cargill
24
30 Shirley Schliessmann

Readers

2 Patti Gibson
9 Kay McBrayer
16 Kay McBrayer
23 Autry Burns
24 Patti Gibson
30 Kay McBrayer

Ushers

2 Merkord Family
9 Danny Hickman
16 Al Strobel
23 David Johnson
24 Danny Hickman
30 Autry Burns

Altar Guild

2 Pat Ehrhart
9 Dianne Kilpatrick
16 Ann Fox
23 Shirley Schliessmann
24 Shirley Schliessmann
30 Ann Fox

Greeters

2 Enid & Don Isler
9 Enid & Don Isler
16 Arturo Flores
23 Al Strobel
24 Autry Burns
30 Joan Mohr

Counters

2 Don Isler
9 Brandon Merkord
16 Tamela Jarvais-Flores
23 Shirley Schliessmann
24 Brandon Merkord
30 Don Isler



CONGREGATION MEETING RECAP

The annual Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, Nov. 18th. The 2019 Budget was approved and a new Slate of Officers were voted in. In addition, a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee were reestablished. Voting Delegates for the Synod Assembly (to be held the end of May 2019) were also approved. The following people are serving:

President:	Lynn Raska
VP:	Dianne Kilpatrick
Secretary:	Chris Weaver
Treasurer:	Patti Gibson
Member-at-Large:	John Bradshaw
Member-at-Large:	Don Isler

Nominating Committee:

Dianne Kilpatrick, Lois Hickman, Autry Burns, Gerry Tasian, Pat Ehrhart

Audit Committee:

Mary Rodgers, John Mohr, Whitney Cargill

Voting Delegates for Synod Assembly:

Arturo Flores, Tamela Jarvais-Flores

Thank you to all who are using their valuable time and talents to serve the LCR community!!

DEER CREEK DEVOTIONS



On Sunday, Dec. 2nd, at 3:30 Pastor Jeff Thompson will be conducting Deer Creek Devotions at the Deer Creek Rehabilitation Center on RR 3237. This is a quick 30 minutes of song, worship and celebration. All are

welcome and encouraged to come and join in the festivities.

Let's Make Holiday Music!



This year we are going to have a pick-up choir to use the hand chimes during our advent services on December 16th and 23rd. NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC. Trust me. We will meet about 20 minutes before church on the 16th and 23rd. You can play one Sunday or both Sundays. Please contact Chris Weaver if interested. We will have a great time. You will be delighted that you chose to play. Trust me.

Bulletin Folders

2 Enid Isler
9 Ann Fox
16 Tamela Jarvais-Flores
23 Shirley Schliessmann
24 Paula Johnson
30 Ann Fox



CHILDREN'S CHIME PERFORMANCE & FELLOWSHIP

The children's chime performance will be on Dec. 9th.

Fellowship will be held immediately after Worship on that day and it will be at the home of Dorothy & Gerry Tasian. Their home is at 39 Brookmeadow Dr. in Woodcreek.

HOSTING EMILY ANN THEATRE TRAIL OF LIGHTS

LCR's Christmas display (a new design!), has already been constructed and set-up by the Kilpatrick/Leonard family. See the photos of the new display below.

On Wed. Dec. 12th, LCR will be the hosts for the Emily Ann Theatre's Trail of Lights. LCR will provide hot chocolate and marshmallow roasting at 5:30. Join in the fun of this Christmas tradition! Entertainment on the evening of the 12th is Penny Stone Students "horsemanship"!

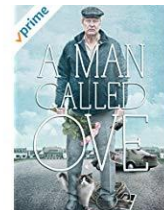


DECEMBER GIVING PROJECT

From Chris Weaver: This year during the Christmas season we will be making the holidays a little merrier for a dear four-year old, her mom and grandmom. This sweet little girl's Daddy died suddenly back in July. Since he was the main breadwinner, the family has been struggling to pay for necessities. On December 2nd there will be a tree set up with gift suggestions written on ornaments for you to take. Donations are also welcome and we will do the shopping for you. Please have all items returned by December 16th. Thank you.

SPINE CRACKER NEWS

From Emily Merkord: Mr. Grump, Mr. Grump, Mr. Grump, Grump, Grump! Spine Crackers has a new page turner, titled *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. This is a story about a curmudgeon kind of man who points at people he doesn't like as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has a strict routine and a very short fuse. But, does he REALLY seem bitter just because he walks around as a grumbly "Mr. Grump?"



December is a busy time of month, indeed for a lot of us. **Let's move Spine Crackers gathering to January (TBA), yet read the entire novel over the holidays.**

To leave you with a fact: **Ove** is the name of my first Danish ancestor to come to America. It means "blade" in old Norse. "Blade" is very manly and our son is all boy.

Keep a crackin'! It's relaxin'



NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY COMING!

From Shirley S: Thanks to all who've turned in the form requesting photo re-takes, providing updated or corrected contact information, and/or indicating that info listed in the 2017 directory is correct.

If you haven't turned your form in, please do so by December 31st so that Maureen & Shirley can work on the directory in January and distribute new ones by February 3rd. The form is in your church mailbox. Please place your completed form in the **2019 Directory** box on the table in front of the photo display board in the narthex. A current directory is also there for your reference.

We'll also provide an electronic directory for those who prefer that option. Because much of the directory needs updating (in addition to member information and a revised constitution), an e-version will save significantly on paper and printing costs! Thanks, everyone, for helping to ensure that our directory continues to be a reliable resource.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The sanctuary will be adorned by poinsettias again this Christmas season. Orders are being taken for them (each plant is \$12) and/or a donation to Lutheran World Federation through Sunday Dec. 9th.



Joyce & John Bradshaw
Michael Thurman
Estelle Hill
Al and Jan Erlandson
Marvin Bowen
Beverly Pugsley
Rob Schultz
Gini Bouzzard
Doug Groth
Jack the Policeman
Keith Lauderdale
Kern Tilley
Bobby Frady
Joanne Bachle
Brad Simpson and Family
Kandace Fox
Chandler Brown

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– Romans 8:38-39

HAPPY 36TH ANNIVERSARY, LCR!

Following a record-setting brief annual congregation meeting (12 minutes!!) on Sunday, November 18, 2018, the LCR family enjoyed a celebratory potluck luncheon to commemorate 36 years as a worship community in Wimberley. LCR's first service was held Sunday, November 28, 1982, in Bowen Intermediate School, formerly located where HEB now stands.



Congratulations, LCR!



The *All We Are Thankful For* banner, created that morning by the Durkin children, was perfect for the occasion. Every contribution to the buffet was delicious too! Thanks to all for a wonderful celebration!

FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPERS

LCR has a few copies of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog available in the narthex. Purchases from this catalog help ELCA projects. You can also shop for this at ELCA.org/goodgifts.



And Most Importantly:



Thank you to *Patti Gibson* for being the LCR Treasurer and for working so hard on the 2019 Budget.

Thank you to *Dorothy Tasian* for teaching the children bible lessons during the Worship homilies.

Thank you to the *Emily & Brandon Merkord* and *Enid & Don Isler* for putting up the Christmas decorations. This was a long process requiring hours of physical work.

Thank you to the *Interim Team* for leading LCR through this most difficult transition.

Thank you to *Don & Enid Isler* for tackling the recent day-to-day maintenance as well as the septic replacement and the massive new flooring project.