



THE BEACON

January 2017

Christ Lutheran Church
320 N 28th St. E.
Superior, WI 54880
715.398.3680
clcoffice320@gmail.com

Sunday Divine Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Divine Service 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany Brunch & Guardian Angels Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch

We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 8, 2017, following the 2nd service, for the Annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch held in the fellowship hall. A delicious potluck brunch will be provided.

What is a Guardian Angel?

People participating will pick a name out of a hat. For the next year, the person who draws your name, will keep you in their prayers throughout 2017. You are welcome to remember your person on special dates, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, by giving cards or small gifts to this person. When signing your card, simply write, "From Your Guardian Angel."

The mailboxes located in the Narthex, will be used when delivering these surprises. Remember, we do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year at the Epiphany Brunch of 2018.

If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel drawing, please fill out a form located in the Narthex and place it in the Guardian Angel box on the counter. The form should be submitted "no later than" Wednesday, January 4, 2017. You will need to attend the event to pick out a name from the basket.

This event is a potluck. There is a sign-up sheet on the office door in the Narthex for breakfast/brunch type items needed for the Brunch. Please check the sheet and consider bringing one of the items to the brunch. We appreciate your help on this. **Your favorite brunch-type recipe would be appreciated.** Ideas include: egg bakes, muffins, fruit, and juice.

Special Voter's Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 11:45 a.m. to discuss part time call to Pastor Schield.

Mission Sunday

We will be observing Mission Sunday on January 15. Pastor Robert Pfeil, former missionary Pastor will be here to present about missionary service.

Bible Study Opportunities for Everyone

"How sweet are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey"

Sundays, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for age 3+
Teen Bible Study – Youth Room
Teen and Adult – Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Morning Bible Class – Multi-purpose room
3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Multi-purpose room

Quilting Group News

Earlier this year it was decided to make quilts for both Lutheran World Relief and also donate quilts to local shelters.

On December 13th 6 adult and 5 children's quilts were delivered to Harbor House, 6 adult and 5 children's quilts delivered to CASDA (Center against sexual and domestic abuse) and 6 adult quilts were given to Community Action Center for distribution to the needy.

During this past year 72 quilts were delivered to Lutheran World Relief center in St Paul for world wide distribution.

The quilters are a small group of church and non-church members. Usually, 5 or 6 very dedicated people are making these quilts. We also have a special person who is making beautiful children's quilts. (Thank you whomever you are). New members are always welcome!

NEEDED for quilters to continue is clean, gently used flat sheets--any size, color, or pattern. That includes twin, double, queen, king Flat sheets. So if you are cleaning out your linen closet after the holidays, please remember the quilting group.

We are at church in the fellowship hall every Tuesday morning around 9 ish until noon. Coffee and treats around 10:30 a.m. Feel free to stop by to visit.

Bring Christmas into Your New Year

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

– Luke 2:1-7

What if that had never happened? What if there had never been a Christmas?

Without Christmas there would be...

- no winter family gathering,
- nothing to look forward to as days get shorter and thermometers fall,
- no Christmas gifts,
- no holiday traditions,
- no Saint Nicholas (aka: Santa Claus,)
- Christmas carols,
- Christmas trees,
- Bing Crosby and White Christmas,
- No Jimmy Stewart and it's a wonderful life,
- Children would have to go to school the entire month of December,

But without Christmas, something far worse wouldn't have happened: Christ would not have come. And without Christ, the world would be far different– in ways you may never have imagined.

For instance, when Jesus came, He taught His followers to love their neighbors as themselves (Luke 10:27). To live out this idea, the early Christian churches stressed support for widows, orphans, the sick and disabled. They organized efforts to help those who were dying. They built, staffed, and paid for hospitals. In recent times, Christ's followers have founded virtually every charitable organization on earth, including the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, World Relief, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Food for the Hungry, and Compassion International.

Fortunately Christ did come down to rescue us from a winter without Christmas. The Father sent Him from His throne to be an infant small and lie there poorly manged in that cold and dismal stall. From stall and cross He undertook a great exchange: put on our human frame and in return gave us His realm, His glory and His name!

So don't jettison Christmas along with the boxes and old tree. Bring along the Christ of Christmas into your new year and watch for the difference that He continues to make in the hearts and lives of those He came to save. Indeed, He will be present for you each week at His holy altar. Praying to see you there... have a blessed and happy new year!

Pastor Schoessow

Church Council Minutes

December 8, 2016

Members Present: Pastor Schoessow, Don Hauser, Len Campbell, Bob Raaflaub, John Robinson, Wayne Ploetz, Jim Lemmerman, Elisabeth Hannula **Absent:** Sharyn Vengrin

Call to Order: Don Hauser

Opening Prayer and Devotion: Pastor Schoessow

Call for Additional Agenda Items: None

Approval of Minutes: John made the motion to accept the November 14, 2016 minutes; Jim seconded.

Pastor's Report: No official acts. No written report. A new Bible class has started.

Trustees: Belknap P & H will come to repair and service the heating system as well as a leaking urinal in the men's rest room. Altar carpeting has been cleaned. Trustees helped with the pasty bake.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking account balance: \$44, 913.82. Jim made the motion to accept the report; Len seconded it.

Deacons: Phone calls to inactive members will resume in January. The Advent and Christmas schedules have been set. An elders'/pastoral retreat will be held Feb. 3-4 near the Twin Cities; Jim hopes someone will attend.

Stewardship and Evangelism: They are working on a greeter document. Valet parking at major events has been considered but is not covered under our insurance and would involve an additional charge. CASDA representatives may make a presentation here in February (many programs and services are offered and could be covered). Other springtime activities are being discussed. The Guardian Angel brunch will be held January 8. Pastor Schield will make a brief report about our sponsored missionary Pastor Jastram at a later date.

Board of Education: Villa Marina was a great success. Plans are well underway for the family Christmas service this Sunday. No additional report.

Memorial Committee: The balance of both accounts totals \$12, 882. 55, with some of those funds designated for kitchen improvement and landscaping. Half of the cost of the paraments has already been covered and the other half will be paid shortly.

Endowment: Two contributions were made from the mission fund: \$100 to our local Salvation Army, and \$250 to Missouri Synod World Missions. Bob received a letter from Split Rock Private Trading outlining possible future ramifications of the recent presidential election. We may have additional scholarship money available next spring.

Memorial Garden: No report.

Old Business: Planning Update

- **Youth Leader Discovery Group** will meet next week on December 15
- **Constitutional Update:** Don suggested several minor changes; Len suggested that we at some point discuss excommunication details in the document

New Business:

- Voters' Meeting this Sunday to call Pastor Schield for part-time ministry; installation January 15
- Requests to use the Fellowship Hall: none
- Via email, the Council approved Christmas gifts for Elisabeth, Roni, and the Balkos.

Next Council Meeting: January 12, 2017 at 5:00

Stewardship

Celebrating New Years is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in the hope and anticipation and perhaps even worry of what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be; what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Years is our own version of Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents, and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6-15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to

change what needs to be changed, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast of the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a mercy place. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward the neighbor. You are a member of the Church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy in showing mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the Church in and for the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the Church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy **Why do we sing the Gloria right after the Kyrie?**

During the Mass, we sing "Lord, have mercy" immediately after the Introit, that is, as soon as the pastor has approached the altar for the first time. On Sundays outside of penitential times, the Church has traditionally augmented the Kyrie with the Gloria in Excelsis, which is also called the Greater Gloria. (Traditionally this Gloria is not sung at weekday Masses unless they are feasts of the first class or feasts of our Lord). This approach is to signify the approach of faith, as the writer to the Hebrews says, "Draw near to God." As soon as we enter the holy place we cry out for mercy, thereby acknowledging our dire need for mercy in the presence of the holy God. Yet we also know that this God is indeed a merciful God. We do not pray as if to make God merciful by our petitions. Rather, we know He is so. Therefore as soon as we have cried out for mercy, we at once express our confidence in this mercy by singing the song of the angels at the birth of Christ: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men." With these words our hearts are again brought to Bethlehem and the One whose holy birth has joined heaven and earth. In Him is our confidence that we shall receive mercy. For He who is heavenly from all eternity is now also become earthly for all eternity, that we who are earthly might become heavenly in Him, for all eternity. Therein we find confidence that God shall indeed be merciful to us. □

Excerpt taken from "Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy" by Burnell Eckhardt

Opportunities to Serve

Altar Guild. Men and women who prepare the sacred vessels for Holy Communion and who care for the altar and its liturgical appointments. Their service beautifies the sanctuary and the sacred space in which God's people worship. They serve as assistants to the pastor and function under the authority of the Board of Deacons.

Choir. We currently have one choir. They practice on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. The opportunity exists for an individual to begin new choirs such as a children's, youth, or second adult choir. Choirs function under the authority of the Board of Deacons.

Communion Assistant and/or Worship Assistant.

This opportunity is open to qualified men who would receive instruction from the pastor and/or choral director to assist in parish liturgies and/or distribution of Holy Communion. They function under the authority of the Bd. of Deacons.

Grounds Maintenance. A beautiful and well-maintained building and grounds says "this is a church that cares." Who plants and cares for our flowers, who cuts the lawn, cleans the building, shovels the snow? Our members do. Speak to any member of our Board of Trustees to volunteer.

February Newsletter
Submissions are due by
January 15

Prayer Chain. Members intercede to the Lord on behalf of others in need.

Quilting. Hands on sewing of quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and used around the world. Meet on Tuesdays from 9am – noon.

Sunday School Teachers (grades preschool through high school). More teachers are welcome.

Shut-In Visitation. Currently a member brings meals once a week to some. There is also opportunity for regular friendly visits to be made to one or more people.

Usher. This is a service of hospitality to members and guests. Ushers assist worshippers in our services of worship.

Lutheran Witness

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine about you and your church. Each month it brings you a wealth of information that's important to you as you grow in faith and service to the Lord Jesus. You can receive the Witness in your home for the cost of \$22.01 for eleven issues. You will find a sign up form on the office door. When you sign up make your check payable to Christ Lutheran Church and leave it in the office. Any questions please contact the office. Sign up by January 22.

2016 Offerings & 2017 Offering Envelopes

Another year has flown by and it is time to distribute new offering envelopes. You will find them in your mailbox. If you don't have a mailbox they will be on the counter. If you did not have envelopes in 2016 and would like them in 2017 please contact Roni in the office.

Reminder: please throw away any unused 2016 envelopes at the end of December. Please do not use 2016 envelopes in 2017 because the number will not be the same and your contribution will not get credited to you.

Contribution statements will be available in the narthex by January 31.

Annual Reports

Another year is past and it is time for me to start compiling the Annual report. I will need everyone's reports by January 15. I will accept reports in whatever form they come in but it saves me some time if they can be emailed or saved to a flash drive or disc or typewritten. Thank you for your work.

Youth Upcoming Events

All 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to attend any or all events! We study God's Word in a variety of ways – music videos with today's current Christian artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that relate to the youth! Join us! Bring a friend!

We are also well on our way Sunday mornings in the youth room at 9:15 for Bible study. Please come and join us.

Leaving for Warmer Climate?

Take me with you! Kidding, sort of, but if you are one of our 'snowbirds' and you want your newsletter or contribution statement mailed to you please remember to leave your winter address with the secretary. You can also get the newsletter online at our web site: christlutheran-superior.org.

Christ's Men

Men, Let's Do Lunch

Christ's Men will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 12 noon at the Upper Deck Restaurant at the Bong airport. This is an opportunity to gain guidance and spiritual support from God's Word as well as an excellent opportunity for Christian friendship.

The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please double check that all doors are locked, all lights are turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats are turned down before your group leaves the church. Thank you!

Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry.

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to clcoffice320@gmail.com

January Birthdays

- 1 Kathryn Swanson
Erik Lull
- 2 Betty Knutson
- 5 Jan Larson
Ken Bedard
Joan Pince
- 7 Kathleen Field
- 8 Eric Mack
- 9 Martin Pfeil
- 10 Brandon Derick
Cody Krause
- 13 John Robinson
Sara Constantine
- 14 Simon Pfeil
- 17 Kiera Hannula
- 18 Chris Kirchoff
- 19 Matthew Vengrin
Trevor Derick
- 20 Jeremy Winans
- 23 Allan Makela
- 24 Makayla Pitt
Stacie Kirchoff
- 26 Deborah Klein
- 27 Kristin Kroll - Taly
- 28 Ricky Krause
Susan Krause
- 30 Andy Anderson
Elijah Kroeplin
- 31 Jacie Benesch



Online Information

LC-MS Website
lcms.org

Minnesota North District Website
mnn.lcms.org

Lutheran Witness Online
www.lcms.org
Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

LC-MS Synod Radio Stations
www.kfuo.org—or—classic99.com
www.issuesetc.org

**Information on Pregnancy, Parenting
& Adoption**
getrealwithyourself.com