



The Beacon

December
2018

Christ Ev. Lutheran
Church

320 N 28th St E
Superior, WI
54880

Office Phone
715.398.3680

Web Site
Christlutheran-superior.org

Divine Worship
Services
Sunday - 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study & Sunday
School
Sunday - 9 a.m.



From the Desk of Pastor Schield

What's the Perfect gift? The perfect gift is...

We've heard that this time of year, this "season" is the "season of giving." But what does it mean to give? To whom are we to give? And what are we to give? What does one give to someone who has everything—or nothing?

Certainly, we need to think about giving of our physical goods to those who are really in need. After all, we have been blessed with so much.

But before we talk about the perfect gift we need to know why we need it. Why is anxiety or depression, or even envy or anger so pronounced this time of year? Those things are prevalent because the Christmas season is to be about family. But there is so much brokenness in our families. I believe this brokenness comes from our inability to give the one gift that is needed most of all: the gift of forgiveness. In so many instances we are unwilling to give that gift. If we are honest we will admit that we all think this way: "She hurt me so much I could never forgive her." "He did things that cannot be forgiven." Sadder yet is the thought, "What I did is so terrible that I can never forgive myself. But these mistaken beliefs is more tragic than any of those: 1) "God could never forgive me for what I've done," or 2) I don't need forgiveness from anyone." Without the gift of forgiveness, either for ourselves or from others, no other gift is worth anything.

Whatever our thinking, here is what God really wants for us to know. When His Son, Jesus was born in Bethlehem angels appeared to some shepherd outside that little town. The angels told the shepherds God's feelings toward us: "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Why does God feel this way? Here's why: Through Jesus' perfect life, his innocent death and his resurrection from the dead God would forgive and forget our sin. God took care of our sin himself. He forgave us who as rebellious sinners were unforgivable. Forgiveness is the ultimate gift we can give to others.

The ultimate giver, the ultimate gift: God giving his Son to be our Savior.

The story is told in Spain of a father and his teenage son who had a relationship that had become strained. So the son ran away from home. His father, however, began a journey in search of his rebellious son. Finally, in Madrid, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in the newspaper, to be run the next morning. The ad read: Dear Paco, meet me in front of the newspaper office at noon. All is forgiven. I love you. Your father." The next day at noon, in front of the newspaper office, eight hundred "Pacos" showed up. They were all seeking forgiveness and love from their fathers.

What a wonderful gift is the gift of love and forgiveness. All of us crave this gift. Though you have been rebellious and have strayed from the love of your heavenly father, he seeks you out and will not rest until you are safe in his arms. This season—and every day—is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the love God has freely given to you in Jesus.

Forgiveness. It's the one gift we can all afford to generously give—and graciously receive.

The Season of Advent is Here!

Start the New Year with spiritual preparation for our dear Lord's imminent return in glory! Join us during Advent!

*"Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
Turn not from me aside,
And grant that I receive Thee
This blessed Advent tide.
From stall and manger low
Come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee
And forth Thy glory show."
-THL 75:4*



Happy New Year! Well, not quite yet, but it will be soon. The new church year begins Sunday, December 2, the First Sunday in Advent. Spiritually enriching and challenging Divine Services are planned for each Sunday and Wednesday in Advent. Start the New Year right by preparing for our dear Lord's imminent return in glory! Join us during Advent!

"The Incarnation of Christmas"

Is your Christmas getting too commercialized? Is your calendar filled with shopping, parties and TV specials, but empty of times to meditate on the main focus of Christmas, namely the incarnation of our Lord that He might save us from our enemies? Then do something about it! Pencil into your December calendar time with Christ and His Church. Here is something worth coming out for on a cold December afternoon or evening!



December 5: Advent Midweek 1 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

December 12: Advent Midweek 2 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

December 19: Advent Midweek 3 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.

Soup & Sandwich Suppers

Please join us for soup and sandwich suppers during Advent. They start **December 5 at 5:30 p.m.** The Board of Deacons is hosting this first supper.

Christmas Schedule

*"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger."
-Luke 2:7*

December 24

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Nativity)

January 6, 2019 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Epiphany of our Lord (The Magi)

We offer four Divine Services during the Twelve Days of Christmas. Enjoy them all!

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday school Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 16 during 10:30 service. The 10:30 service will be totally devoted to the Children's Christmas program. The 8 a.m. service will be a Divine Service with Communion.

CASDA Mitten Tree

We once again have a Mitten Tree that will be set up in the fellowship hall. We are collecting new hats & mittens for CASDA. Just put hats and mittens on the tree in the fellowship hall. The items will be taken to CASDA the week of December 18.

Poinsettia Orders

It is time to order poinsettias to beautify the altar during Christmas. The price is still \$10. You will find order forms in various locations in the narthex & in the church office. Please fill out an order form and turn it in WITH the money to the office. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 2.

Pasty Bake Done! Thank You

Another successful pasty bake is in the books! We made 1557 pastys in 2 days thanks to our tireless volunteers, great work. Thank you to all the volunteers, the old hats and the newbies, it can't be done without you! Thank you to all the people who supplied food too, we ate well.

Church Council Minutes

November 8, 2018

Members Present: Wayne Ploetz, John Robinson, Mike Kramer, Len Campbell, Jim Lemmerman and Sharyn Vengrin

Absent: Pastor Schoessow, Pastor Shield,

Call to order: Jim Lemmerman

Call for additional agenda items: None

Approval of Agenda: Mike made motion to approve Agenda Items. John seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Opening Prayer: Jim Lemmerman

Minutes from Council Meeting: Len made the motion to accept the October 11, 2018, minutes, John seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Pastor Schoessow's Report: No Report

Pastor Schield's Report: No Report

Treasurers Report: Ending Balance: \$13,168.32. Len made the motion to accept the ending balance.

Seconded by Sharyn. All in favor. Motion carried

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board of Deacons: Follow up with old Bibles and

Song Books: Pastor would like to keep the song books.

We are looking into possibilities of uses for the Old Bibles. **Funds for October Fest:** Will check on this.

Board of Trustees:

1. On October 15, 2018 had Belknap P&H repair a water leak in a pipe in the soffit on the left side of the Nave. There was a pinhole leak in a coupling on the main water line that goes to the Kitchen and Mechanical Room. There was little water damage to the wall and ceiling. Total cost \$294.59.
2. On October 22, 2018 Belknap P&H installed a new 50 gallon Water Heater in the mechanical room. Total cost \$1,191.02. This was approved at the May 20, 2018 Voter's Assembly Meeting.
3. On October 25, 2018 Belknap P&H inspected the RPZ (back flow preventer). This is required by State regulations. This that was approved on May 20, 2018. This unit was installed on the boiler feed line.
4. Replaced a toilet seat in the ladies restroom. The hinge was broken.
5. Made arrangements with Jamie Johnson to plow snow this coming winter. The price will be the same as last winter.
6. Heavenly Maid Janitorial Service advised by phone that they are adjusting the monthly charge to \$675.00 per month next year.
7. Installed a Hose Bibb Vacuum Breaker on the slop sink faucet in the janitor closet off the Sunday school hall.
8. John is getting bids from cleaning companies.

Board of Stewardship & Evangelism:

Old Business: Everything for stewardship Sunday on November is ready to go. Desserts are ordered for the event.

Pastor Schield updated the Board about Project 24 in regards to how to choose a child. Children would be picked based on those at risk and those far enough along in their education but require additional funds for completion of the program. Project 24 focuses on

building new facilities and those requiring finishing touches. The cost to sponsor a child in Kenya is \$90/month. The Board will bring this forward to the congregation in February 2019. Options to support the project 24 program would be one person sponsoring a child for a year, or break up a sponsorship between a few members for a monthly or yearly sponsorship. Discussion also took place on how to involve Sunday school children in the program. We continued to discuss financial support of the Main Street Living Northland weekly TV programming. Besides the potential for a \$1,000 annual donation through mission funds over three-years to support MSLN, additional discussion also led to a mission door offering at some point for this program. Len will contact Pastor Jeff Walther for additional details pertaining to the operation and financial stability of the program.

Pastor Schield has contacted the LCMS Foundation and is awaiting a return call.

New Business:

The Board will serve Advent soup and sandwich on December 12.

The Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, January 6,

Coffee and Treats will be covered by the Board on the following dates;

December 2: Campbell's

January 20: Johnson's

February 3: Campbell's

March 3: Severin's

April 7: Becken's

May 5: TBD

Other Business:

Pastor Schoessow mentioned that if any of our board visits a shut-in, he would like to be informed for his records. Members will consider visits as their schedules allow.

Nest Meeting: 5:00pm, Tuesday, December 4, 2018 @ Grizzly's

Board of Education: No Report

Memorial Committee: No Action

Endowment Committee: No Action

Memorial Garden: Marker has been placed on Kay Anderson's Grave.

Old Business:

Replacement of Black Top Parking Lot: No reply as of yet.

Update on roof progress: Still coming next week.

Review 2019 Budget. John made the motion we accept the 2019 Budget as written. It was seconded by Len. All in favor. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Planning Council meeting: This will be Dec. 4, 2018 at 12:00 at the Upper Deck.

Request by Roni for increased vacation days (15 year anniversary). Sharyn made the motion that we increase Roni's vacation days to 20 days, 110 hours per year.

Beginning January 2019.

Seconded by Len. All in favor. Motion carried.

Request to use Fellowship Hall: None

Next Council Meeting: December 13, 2018 @ 5:00 pm
Adjournment: Lord's Prayer
Respectfully submitted by: Sharyn Vengrin

Stewardship

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).

Blessing of Advent Wreath at Home

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

Response: Amen.

Leader: As we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." *Isaiah 9:2*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Response: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in our home/school throughout this holy season of Advent.

Response: Amen.

Rite of the Christmas Tree

This order may be used with family or friends as you decorate your Christmas tree. You can find take home copies in the narthex.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad!

All: Let the sea roar and the fullness thereof! Let the fields be joyful and all that is therein!

Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the lord. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness and the people with his truth.

Leader: Jesus on the Tree of the Cross didst give salvation unto mankind

All: That whence death arose, thence life might rise again.

Leader: And that he who by a tree once overcame

All: Might likewise by a tree be overcome through Christ our Lord.

Leader: The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Praise be to Jesus who in his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness

Let us pray. . .

O Lord Jesus who didst bear on thine own sacred Body the sins of us and all mankind on the Tree of the Cross; bless this tree and let it be a reminder to us of the joy of thy birthday and of the glorious hope which thou has obtained for us.

All: Amen.

Each One Reach One!

The New Year brings with it another opportunity for us to gather an adult membership class (beginning later in January). During the past year you may have made many contacts with neighbors, friends and family who do not presently have a church home. With the blessing of God's Spirit on your consecrated effort, you may be able to lead them to know Christ as their Savior and/or to find a new church home in which to worship and serve Him. Invite these people to worship with you or to attend the next Life in Christ—Life at Christ new member class. You may also wish to have pastor contact them. And by all means, remember them in your prayers.

Christmas Is One of Two Times during the year when people without a church are especially open to invitations to come and worship. Use this opportunity to invite and bring your neighbors to our Advent and Christmas services. God bless your missionary work!

Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch

We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 6, 2019, following the 2nd service, for the Annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch held in the fellowship hall. A delicious potluck brunch will be provided.

If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel drawing, please fill out a form located on the table next to the office in the Narthex and submit the form "no later than" Wednesday, January 2, 2019. You will select a name at the January 6 Epiphany Brunch. Remember the person you select on special dates throughout the year, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and

holidays, by giving cards or small gifts to this person, signed only "From Your Guardian Angel." Use the mailboxes in the Narthex to deliver your surprises.

This is a potluck event. There is a sign-up sheet on the office door in the Narthex for breakfast/brunch type items needed for the Brunch. Ideas include: egg bakes, muffins, fruit, and juice.

God Bless and Thank You!

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!

Come to the Youth Bible Study during the Christian education hour from 9 to 10 each Sunday, it promises to be good and there may even be food!

Getting Married?

A marriage preparation class for couples planning marriage is coming up in January, date yet to be decided. Limit of five couples. Please contact the church office immediately to get your spot.

Did You Know

Advent Devotionals

Advent devotionals are available for your family, free of charge, in the church narthex. There are a couple of different devotions available to choose from, take the one that works best for you or take both. You will find them in various locations around the narthex.

Invite Someone to Church

Christmas is one of two times during the year when people without a church are especially open to invitations to come and worship. Use this opportunity to invite and bring your neighbors to our Advent and Christmas services. God bless your missionary work!

2018 Offerings & 2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 offering envelopes are here, you will find them in your mailbox. If you don't have a mailbox they will be on the counter. The envelopes should be out by December 15. If you did not have envelopes in 2018 and would like them in 2019 please contact Roni in the office.

Reminder: please throw away any unused 2018 envelopes as of January 1. Please do not use 2018 envelopes in 2019 because the number may not be the same and your contribution will not get credited to you.

Your offerings for 2018 must be **to the church no later than December 31**. Contribution statements will be available in the narthex by January 31.

Remember our Service Personnel

1st Lt. Nick Kirchoff, Army, Hawaii, son of Chris & Amy Kirchoff; **Pvt. John Seboe**, Army, Ft. Drumm, NY, grandson of David & Donna Manos; **LTJG Sean Freitas**, US Navy aviator, Texas, grandson of Carole Strohman; **Nathan & Jill Rogers**, Majors, Air Force Reserves, Daughter & son-in-law of Darrell & Joann Erdman;

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

Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: infocenter@lcms.org or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

December Birthdays

1	Louise Busse
3	Beth Erdman Linda Byrka
4	Audrey Kidd
5	Joshua Wermter
6	Mark Schultz
7	Mary Manderscheid
8	Margaret Stenberg
9	Kaiti Derick Todd O'Kash
10	Bud Brand Josh Wermter
11	Joshua Pitt
12	Amanda (Bedard) Kowalewski Ken Ormsby James Lemmerman
14	Gertrude Johnson
16	Jennifer Doane Marie Haire Nell Loughren
20	Jim Pohl
21	Alyssa Isackson
22	Sharon Makela
23	Sharyn Vengrin
26	Lawrence Lehto Bonnie Pahlen
27	Tiffany Kari Adair Piper
28	Lloyd Lehto Mark Olson Scott Stenroos
29	Carole Strohman
31	Brett Austin



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