



# The Beacon

December  
2020

Christ Ev. Lutheran  
Church

320 N 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



An old friend (literally-he's at least 95 now) has often said "We live in interesting times." Don served in World War II and helped liberate Dachau, so he can certainly make that declaration. And he said that long before COVID-19 reared its ugly head.

He's correct; we do live in interesting times. But what about Mary and Joseph? Back in their day, Israel was subject to the Roman government-with its corrupt, wicked, indulgent, pagan rulers. Then an angel drops a life changing bomb on Mary and Joseph-Mary would be with child by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Hard to believe? It was for Joseph. He was under the impression that Mary had been unfaithful to him so he was planning to break off the betrothal. But an angel came to him in a dream and reassured him that this pregnancy was indeed the work of God. Everything's hunky-dory right? Not so fast. Remember-they're not married yet, so when Mary started to show tongues would wag. Mary and Joseph must have wondered, "What will people think? It sounds like a really hair-brained claim. We will take God at His word, but will others?" Meanwhile, Caesar has made the law that everyone must travel to their ancestors' place of birth to be counted in a census-most assuredly so Rome can levy more taxes on an already financially oppressed people. Is God really in charge of his universe, or has he fallen asleep at the controls?

Fast-forward to December 2020. Interesting times? This summer, my father (almost as old as Don) said, "Your mother and I have never seen anything like this. That's an understatement! Like Mary and Joseph, we have questions. What should *our* government do? Should it legislate or stay out of the way? What will the new administration do to handle the pandemic? Will it be pro-life-or "other"? Should we get together at Christmas or should we all just stay home? When will life get back to normal? (whatever normal is) Is God really in charge of his universe, or has he fallen asleep at the controls?

In his Word-which he saw fit to preserve for us-we have a very definitive and encouraging answer to that question: Because he loves us with an everlasting love God got Mary and Joseph safely to Bethlehem-and brought Jesus safely into our world. Jesus came forth as a healthy baby boy. Perfectly healthy in every way. Healthy in every sense of the word: love in its finest human form. Perfect in everyway: no sin, no agenda, no hatred for the people who would betray and kill him. Why would God send his Son into this messy, sinful, sick, evil world? To save us from all of that: our sin, our hatred, our greed, our doubt, and all those other things that make us spiritually and physically sick.

So, even if it's only a few family members-or just you all alone-you can celebrate this Christmas! Even in a world full of change, God doesn't change. Even in a world full of stress and distress, God is not stressed or distressed. The reason is still the same: His love caused him to send his only Son to live the life we couldn't live and to die the death we deserve so that, by grace through faith in Jesus, we can have joy here in the midst of gloom. Hope in the midst of hopelessness.

Merry Christmas? Yes, Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Kirk Schield*

## Vacancy Pastor

The call committee has decided on the vacancy pastor. He will be serving us until we call our new pastor. He and Pastor Schield will share duties.

Our vacancy pastor Reverend Jerry Bernecker is retired and living in Duluth, he was born in Lincoln, NE and raised in Humboldt, NE where he graduated from high school in 1971. While in college, he met his wife, Jane, marrying her in 1974 in Schleswig, IA (her hometown). In 1976, he graduated from the University of Nebraska with a Civil Engineering degree. He worked in Kansas City, MO for three years as a structural engineer. In 1979, he entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, graduating in 1983. Over the next 36 years, Rev. Bernecker served three parishes – in Shawnee, KS (the greater Kansas City area), Sheridan, WY, and Rice Lake, WI. He retired from the ministry in 2019 moving to Duluth in September of that year. Rev. Bernecker and Jane have three children – Eric (Lottie) in Dallas TX, Katie (Paul) in Rice Lake, WI, and Lorie (Dave) in Duluth, MN. They have four grandchildren in Rice Lake and Duluth.

## 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 November 29, 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 2: Advent Midweek 1 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.**

**December 9: Advent Midweek 2 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.**

**December 16: Advent Midweek 3 – 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.**

## Soup & Sandwich Suppers

Unfortunately, we are unable to host soup & sandwich suppers this year. See you in 2021!

## 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)

## Poinsettia Time – Please get your order in - extended deadline

It is time to order poinsettias to beautify the altar during Christmas. The price is \$11. You will find order forms in various locations in the narthex & in the church office starting November 8. Please fill out an order form and turn it in WITH the money to the office. The deadline for ordering is December 6.

## Guardian Angel Program 2021

You are invited to participate in our **Guardian Angel Program in 2021**. If you are interested in participating in the Guardian Angel Program, you will need to fill out Guardian Angel registration form, one is attached at the end of the newsletter or located on the table in the Narthex outside of the church office. The bottom section of this form can be placed in the Guardian Angel basket on this same table. A name will be drawn for you, placed in an envelope and placed in your church mailbox. You will keep this person in your prayers throughout 2021. You are welcome to remember your special person on significant dates (birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays) by sending cards or small gifts to this person. When signing your card, simply write, "From Your Guardian Angel." "Surprises" can be delivered in the mailboxes in the Narthex. We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year, at the Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch of 2022. **Unfortunately, there will be no brunch this year.**

*The forms should be at the church no later than Sunday, January 17, 2021.*

**If you can't get to the church right now to obtain and fill out a form, feel free to contact Roni Hauser @ 715-398-3680, and she will take the information needed to fill out a form, you can also email [clcoffice320@gmail.com](mailto:clcoffice320@gmail.com) your information.**

## Want to take a mission trip to Puerto Rico?

Our Minnesota North District has, over the last four years, committed to partner with the mission work in Puerto Rico. Members at Peace in Christ in Hermantown are planning to make a one week mission trip there in 2022 (in the time frame of mid-January through March). You are invited to join us in that mission team. The team will offer help/assistance with light construction and clean-up (from earthquake and hurricane damages). Total cost of the trip is estimated to be no more than \$1,200 (including housing, meals, and airfare). You can either do your own fundraising or join with the fundraising efforts at Peace in Christ. Depending on the COVID status, those fundraising efforts will *begin to be planned* in mid-January of 2021. The mission team is limited to a total of 18 people. Openings are based on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like more info or commit to going, please contact Rev. Jerry Bernecker at [janejerry3@gmail.com](mailto:janejerry3@gmail.com) or call 715-651-3267.

## 2020 Offerings & 2021 Offering Envelopes

2021 offering envelopes are here, you will find them in your mailbox by December 15. If you don't have a mailbox they will be on the counter. If you did not have envelopes in 2020 and would like them in 2021 please contact Roni in the office.

With everything that is happening in world right now, it is still vitally important to support your church. Whether you are staying safe at home, watching services online, or if you are coming to church, we still need your contributions. The bills don't stop. Please continue to support your church by mailing or dropping off your contributions or try e-giving and give electronically. If you have any question please contact Roni in the church office.

**Reminder: please throw away any unused 2020 envelopes as of January 1. Please** do not use 2020 envelopes in 2021 because the number may not be the same and your contribution will not get credited to you.

Your offerings for 2020 must be **to the church no later than December 31**. Contribution statements will be available in the narthex by January 31.

## Church Council Minutes

November 12, 2020 - Cancelled

## Voters Meeting

November 15, 2020

Rescheduled to December 13, 2020

## Stewardship

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.

## 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

Yep you guessed it also cancelled.

## Youth Upcoming Events

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Remember our Service Personnel

**Captain Nick Kirchoff**, Army, Hawaii, son of Chris & Amy Kirchoff; **SPC. John Seboe**, Army, Hawaii, grandson of David & Donna Manos; **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org) or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

## December Birthdays

1	Louise Busse
3	Beth Erdman Lida Byrka
4	Audrey Kidd
6	Mark Schultz
7	Mary Manderscheid
8	Margaret Stenberg
9	Todd O'Kash
10	Bud Brand Josh Wermter
11	Joshua Pitt
12	Amanda 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 Scott Stenroos
29	Carole Strohmman
31	Brett Austin



# Guardian Angel Program

## What are Guardian Angels?

You are invited to participate in our **Guardian Angel Program in 2021**. If you are interested in participating in the Guardian Angel Program, you will need to fill out the form on the bottom of this page. The bottom section of this form can be placed in the Guardian Angel basket on the desk by the office door in the Narthex. A name will be drawn for you, placed in an envelope and placed in your church mailbox.

The person's name that you have been given, you will keep in your prayers throughout 2021. You are welcome to remember your person on special dates (birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays) by sending cards or small gifts to this person. When signing your card, simply write, "From Your Guardian Angel."

"Surprises" can be delivered in the mailboxes in the Narthex. We do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for

until next year, at the Epiphany Brunch of 2022. **There will be no brunch this year.**

*If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel Drawing in 2021, please fill out the bottom of this form and put it in the basket in the Narthex or mail it. The forms should be at the church no later than **Sunday, January 17, 2021**.*

**Forms Due: Sunday, January 17, 2021**

---

**Guardian Angel January 17, 2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Candy/Treat: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_