



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

News and Notes from Pastor and Principal December 2020

Connecting People with Word and Sacrament

Holy Communion

Even though Holy Communion is being offered during regular worship services, we recognize that not everyone is comfortable with being in those services. If you would prefer to receive the Sacrament privately, please contact Pastor Heuer. Something can be arranged with you.

The Promise - Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 AM (9:15 AM Streamed)

Advent is a time of promises. In our families, we may end up making promises about family vacations over the Christmas holiday or promises about items on the Christmas gift list. Sadly, promises often get broken. The toy is sold out or too expensive. The family trip can't happen because of illness. The promise of a "good Christmas" doesn't seem to hold true. Thankfully, when God makes a promise, he keeps his promises, and his promises do not disappoint. In our Sunday Advent worship services, beginning November 29, we will be encouraged by God's promises. Ultimately the promise of Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, is the answer to every promise God has given us. His promise will not disappoint - a promise of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Open These Before Christmas - Wednesdays 6:30 PM

At Christmas time we enjoy opening gifts that are given to us. If we are the ones giving the gift, we enjoy watching people open our gifts. Yet the greatest gift given was not placed under a Christmas tree. The greatest gift was wrapped in cloths and lay in a manger. Before we can open that gift, we need to open these before Christmas to better appreciate the greatest gift God has given us. Join us for our midweek Advent services, beginning December 2, as Pastor Meier leads us in worship opening our ears, eyes, and mouth before Christmas. *These services will not be streamed online.*

The Candles of Advent - Sunday Bible Study 9:15 AM

Advent is a season of preparation. In the four weeks of Advent, we light special candles in church and in our homes. Each candle has a different name, but lighting these candles is one way to help us prepare for the coming of Jesus. Join us between services in the gymnasium this Sunday (November 22) for a Family Bible Study based on these four candles (hope, peace, joy, love) and the accounts that prepare us for Christmas. If you would prefer to participate in this or any Bible study via Zoom, contact Pastor Heuer.

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 20 is the Children's Christmas service called "Christ the Savior is Born". With the precautions we are taking this year, some changes are being made to this service so that it is easier to maintain proper social distancing. The children's service will be held in the gymnasium at 10:30 AM. *We ask that only family members of the children attend that service.* We also plan to stream this service live for those who are not able to be there, but would like to be a part of that service in some way. A regular Advent worship service will also be offered in the church sanctuary at 8:00 AM as well as a streamed service at 9:15 AM so that everyone has an opportunity to worship that weekend before our Christmas celebrations begin later that week.

Christmas and New Year's Service Times

- ❖ Christmas Eve - 3:30, 6:30, and 8:00 PM (If you are able to attend the 3:30 or 8:00 services, we ask that you consider worshipping at those times.)
- ❖ Christmas Day - 8:00 and 9:30 AM
- ❖ December 27 - 9:30 AM
- ❖ New Year's Eve - 6:30 PM
- ❖ January 3 - 8:00 and 10:30 AM
- ❖ Online Streaming Schedule:
 - Christmas Eve Candlelight - 6:30 PM (Live)
 - Christmas Day - 9:30 AM (Live)
 - December 27 - 9:30 AM (Live)
 - New Year's Eve - 6:30 PM
 - January 3 - 9:15 AM

Christian Day School

School Choice - The process for beginning the School Choice program started with training. There was a New School Training session in November on the 16th or 18th. Four members registered for this: Dave Nommensen and Misty Quinn-Task Force members, Matt Bongard-BoCE chairman, and Mike Falk-Principal

Special Meal - On Thursday, November 19, the students enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast. We thank Becky Greving and others who prepared this special meal for us to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Health - We thank and praise the Lord for the relatively good health of our staff and students so far this year. We are not going to "knock on wood" because the glory certainly goes to our Lord for this blessing.

General News

We are participating in the Elkhorn Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5. We are looking for helpers to hand out candy and invitations to worship with us. There is a sign up sheet on the brown door or call the office if you can help. Liability waivers are available in the office. If you are willing to help, please sign one and put it in Leah Bongard's mailbox. Any questions, please contact Leah at 414-322-2169.

The Giving Tree has been placed in the narthex. We are collecting new hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for those in need. If you would like to donate, it is greatly appreciated.

A project was approved to enhance the technology in our church sanctuary. This project mainly consists of adding two 86" video displays in the front of church near where the banners currently hang, a 65" video display in the back of church for the presiding pastor, a new high definition video camera, as well as updating parts of our sound system which are outdated. These upgrades will cost approximately \$30,000 and begin after the first of the year. Some funds have already been secured for the project. Any special gifts toward these upgrades are appreciated. We thank you for your generosity. These technology upgrades will be a tremendous blessing to our congregation as we gather for worship. The video displays allow us to place the order of service, hymns, graphics, videos, and announcements up on the screen in a better, clearer, and easier to see way. The video camera and other included software allows us to live-stream a regular Sunday service for those who may not be able to join us in worship that weekend. As you know, we have been doing all of that for months. However, these upgrades give us the ability to be more efficient and improve upon what is already being done.