December 2018

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Advent & Christmas Schedule

Dec. 2 9:00 a.m.  Sunday School Christmas Program & Eucharist

Dec. 9 9:00 a.m.  Christmas Cantata & Eucharist

Dec. 16 9:00 a.m.  Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent

3:00 p.m.  Caroling

Dec. 23 9:00 a.m.  Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24 7:00 p.m.  Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Dec. 30 9:00 a.m.  Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas

Staff

Interim Pastor
  Pastor David Russell
Director of Faith Formation
  Deacon Ellen Koester
Church Secretary
  Linda Samp
Music Director
  Jolynn Lottman
Organist
  Brenda Henderson
Custodians
  Marty Hanson Family

Church Council

Becky Gillette, President
Bev Potts, Vice President
Jill Veskauf, Secretary
Mugs Major, Treasurer
Bev Hungate
Bev Potts
Heather McLauchlan
Jim Rohweder
Ken Carpenter
Mike Seffern
Shelly Hovey
Amber Walker
The way Christians have worshiped for centuries has been, on the one hand, constant and consistent, and, on the other hand, flexible.

The constant and consistent part begins with our gathering together. The fact that we come together as Christians says something—at the very least, it says that we have found it more important to come together instead of sipping coffee and reading the newspaper or tending the garden. The opening parts of our worship—the “gathering” - are a transition from the everyday concerns of the world to being with God and God’s people. The second part focuses on the word of God. At this time, we hear from the scriptures, and the sermon is an attempt to integrate those readings with everyday life. Next comes the eucharist, in which, to use Lutheran parlance, is “the word made visible.” Finally comes the sending. We don’t just leave; we go out as people who have been changed and challenged by word and sacrament to change the world.

These four parts of the worship service—gathering, word, sacrament, and sending—are basic elements that, in some form or another, should always be a part of what we do when we gather each week. And yet, there is variety, and much of our variety is shaped by the seasons of the church year—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

The coming season of Advent is more hopeful and prayerful. Accordingly, we will have a short time of silence each Sunday during Advent before we light the Advent wreath, and we hope that our music will reflect the tenor of the season. We will not sing either of our canticles of praise (“Glory to God” or “This Is the Feast”) because Advent is more subdued. And, as something that is a little different to help facilitate the flow and feel of the season, our confession of sin will follow the prayers of the people in the middle of the liturgy.

Lutherans have and use “settings.” In fact, we have TEN settings in our cranberry worship book, and, here at Advent, we also use a couple of others. The words among the various settings are mostly the same, but the music for, say, the “Glory to God” and the music we use for communion, are different. We will use the same setting for both Advent and Christmas to suggest that the two seasons are connected, but, when Christmas comes, it will be more festive.

When you come to worship, you should not expect willy nilly changes each week; rather, you should expect some constant and consistent structures with changes that are shaped mostly by the church year.

Happy Advent, people of Advent!
On Sunday, November 18, two of our young persons affirmed their faith, a rite that has traditionally been called “confirmation.” They affirmed their baptism into Christ and all that that entails. Congratulations, Madisyn and Owen, and welcome to full membership in the church!

Madisyn Kay Hack

Parents  Robert & Rebecca Hack

Baptismal Sponsors  Brenda Read & Nichole Weber

Birthday  December 28, 2004

Baptism Date  May 29, 2005

School  Eureka High School

Favorite Subjects  Science and Math

Favorite Activities  Dance, Softball, Drawing

Bible Verse  Psalm 46:5—“God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at the break of day.”

Owen Paul Keenan

Parents  Vince & Amy Keenan

Baptismal Sponsors  Carrie Keenan & Choi Johnson

Birthday  June 10, 2004

Baptism Date  July 25, 2004

School  Metamora Township High School

Favorite Subjects  Everything but Literature, especially Math, History, and Science

Favorite Activities  Football, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Reading

Bible Verse  Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
Help Others Enjoy the Holidays!

SECRET SANTA OPPORTUNITY The church staff is aware of 4 families in need of assistance this holiday season. We are hoping to collect $1200 for their needs. If you would like to contribute, please see Deacon Ellen or Pastor David.

SUPPORTING INTACT FAMILIES Advent will again support the Intact Families Program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. The goal of this program is to help families overcome obstacles and stay together. This holiday season Advent will have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to 50 children in the program. The Prime Timers, however, are leading the effort to support the 122 mothers and 89 fathers in the program by providing personal care items such as shower gel, shampoo, body lotion and shaving supplies and personal items such as gloves, hats or scarves. They invite everyone to assist in this effort. Please bring these unwrapped items to Prime Timers on Dec. 4 or to the church by Sunday, Dec. 16. Prime Timers and the LSSI Intact Families Program thank you.

LSSI CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Again this year, Advent will be providing gifts through LSSI. Please see the display in the narthex for instructions and sign ups. Please return the gifts by 9 am on Sunday, December 9.

COOKIE WALK AT LUTHERAN HILLSIDE VILLAGE Friday, December 14, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Homemade fudge, homemade cookies and candies, individual loaves of bread, a variety of sweet treats - sound good? Stop by the main entrance of LHV at 6901 North Galena Road in Peoria. The goodies will be displayed on long tables, and you can select your own personal favorites. Sound easy? It is! Your Styrofoam container will be weighed - you can get a lot of yummy sweets for a pound! Proceeds benefit LHV's Benevolent Fund for those folks who have outlived their resources. The event is sponsored by the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria. Bakers are needed for this event. We are requesting donations to be in containers that you do not need back delivered to the main lobby/front desk of Lutheran Hillside Village between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13. We will gladly accept homemade cookies, fudge, baked breads, or Christmas candies. The residents and staff will be delighted by your efforts! If you would like to donate bake goods, please contact Ruth Rohweder at 263-2084. All donations are appreciated.

It is that time of the year again for us to go Christmas Caroling to the nursing homes. The residents love it so much, so we are hoping for a big turn out. We need all the voices that we can get.

We will meet on Sunday, December 16, in the FLC at 3:00 pm and carpool from there to the nursing homes. Then when we are done caroling we will go back to the church for a prepared meal. Come and join us for a good time and fellowship and, of course, food.
Members & Friends for Whom We Are Praying

- Todd Abney
- Katie & Eathan Blank
- Vince Keenan
- Jolynn Lottman
- Glenn Magnuson
- Gina Robinson
- Rosemary Schwartzentraub
- Judy Stegmaier
- Ben Taylor (Seminarian)
- Alyson Unsicker (pregnant)
- Sharon Unsicker
- Ella Vandervlugt (Seminarian)
- Natalie Welty
- Mike Wesner
- Walt Anderson (Ruth Rohweder’s brother)
- Mary Beebe (Phyl Beebe’s granddaughter)
- Tim Berg (Art Herm’s brother-in-law)
- Peg Carlson Hoffman (Chip Carlson’s sister)
- George Cone (Shirley Cone’s son)
- Ed Engler (Ann Sandoz’s brother)
- Samantha Goffinet (Lynn’s granddaughter)
- Jean Henderson (Brenda Henderson’s mother)
- Diana Kilgus (Jolynn Lottman’s sister-in-law)
- Al Landry
- Ron Presson (Bev Fraim’s nephew)
- Frank Presson (Bev Fraim’s nephew)
- Mike Samp (Linda Samp’s husband)
- Mary Beth Seffern (Mike Seffern’s mother)
- Wilma Simmons (Bruce’s Mom)
- Marilyn Stramp (Pastor David’s mother-in-law)
- Jess Tilton (Karin Gurdian’s niece, Bob & Jeanette Anderson’s friend)
- Harvey Welch (Rachel Tuhy’s friend)

Loved Ones of Those Who Have Died
- Marty Fraim (Bev Fraim’s son)
- Aerienne Reibert (Linda Sheldon’s mother)

Members & Friends Who Are Limited in Mobility or Ability to Travel

- **Tippie Bach**
  Apostolic Restmor, Room 614E
  1500 Parkside Drive
  Morton, Illinois 61550

- **Doris Hodge**
  Lutheran Hillside Village
  6901 North Galena Road
  REACH Bed 13
  Peoria, Illinois 61614

- **Carole Petonke**
  315 Magnolia Avenue
  Morton, Illinois 61550

- **Danny Schmutz**
  702 NE Madison
  Peoria, Illinois 61603

- **Ken Sheldon**
  Post Office Box 303
  Groveland, Illinois 61535

- **Sam Hovey**
  Reflections at the Villas of Holly Brook
  2720 South 14th Street
  Pekin, IL 61554

- **Joshua Tuhy**
  Wagner House
  2407 Wagner Lane
  Peoria, Illinois 61605

- **Ralph Walker**
  Apostolic Restmor, Room 204A
  1500 Parkside Drive
  Morton, Illinois 61550

- **Natalie Welty**
  1240 South Main Street
  Apartment 103A
  Morton, Illinois 61550
Fellowship Activities

Busy Hands Quilters
Busy Hands Quilters is taking the month of December off, but will meet on January 8 and 22. We are in need of enthusiastic quilters! Please join us in completing some beautiful quilts! All are sent to Lutheran World Relief and some local ministries.

The Lunch Bunch
will be going to Basta’s in Morton on Wednesday, December 19. We will meet at 11:00 AM to carpool from the church, and lunch will be at 11:30 AM. Please sign up on the kiosk and indicate with your phone number if you wish to carpool.

Thursday Morning Bible Study
We will be meeting on Thursday, December 6 at 10:00 AM in the library. This will be the last meeting before Winter Recess. We will meet again on March 21, 2019. Come for Bible study, fellowship, coffee and treats!!

Prime Timers
Join us on Tuesday, December 4, at noon in the Family Life Center for a shared lunch and a tour of Iceland guided by Craig and Gail Barley. Enjoy this beautiful country in the warmth of the FLC. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share. We will also be collecting gifts for the adults in the LSSI’s Intact Program—check the display in the Narthex. Please sign up on the kiosk. All are welcomed to tour Iceland with us.

Thank you to the fellowship committee members for preparing another successful Thanksgiving meal at Advent. Thank you to the 70 people who shared in this time of gathering and for the many delicious side dishes. We are so blessed to have this annual time of fellowship and giving thanks!

- Teresa Johnson

The entire Fraim family gratefully appreciates all the heartfelt thoughts and prayer shown with the sudden passing of our beloved Marty. He will forever be in our thoughts. Thank you so much.

- Bev Fraim
This is a purely volunteer project and if you chose to donate just bring the bag however full and place it in the tub by the kitchen door and it will be taken to the food pantry for you.

**Here is a list of the items they need:**
- Soup/Chili
- Rice side dish
- Pasta side dish
- Instant potatoes
- Hamburger Helper
- Peanut butter
- Cake/cookie/muffin/brownie mix
- Oatmeal
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Crackers (any)
- Canned fruit
- Spaghetti noodles
- Spaghetti sauce
- Soap/toothpaste/deodorant

**They thank us for our donations!**

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**Make a Joyful Noise in December**

Each new morning we greet the day, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

In the midst of all the rush of preparations, we cry out, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"!

As evening arrives and we look toward welcomed rest, we pray, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"!

The Promise of Advent often is lost in the busyness and the business of the Season. Taking the time to silently "wait" can be pushed to the bottom of the "list". Yet, Advent still provides the Assembly called Advent many opportunities to share the anticipated birth of the Christ Child, Emmanuel. Hold those opportunities close to your heart, but look for ways to share the Good News!

December 2nd the Sunday School will share the Christmas story, and the Assembly will be given the opportunity to lift their voices in the singing of familiar and beloved Carols. The children will share the Story, again, during the Sunday School time, with the residents of Morton Villa. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

December 9th the Adult Choir will share the cantata, "Born to You This Day". The Assembly called Advent is blessed with musicians who joyfully share their gifts both at Advent and with the residents of LHV. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

Other upcoming events: Choir Party, TUESDAY, Dec. 11, 6:30, 916 E. Madison

Thank you for being patient with my absences during my eye surgery recuperation! I am beyond blessed to lead the Assembly called Advent in music ministry.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
*With One Voice, Jolynn Lottman*
Church Council News

BYLAW CHANGE TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Church Council has VOTED not to fill the Council position vacated by John Ziah. The Council VOTED to work toward reducing the Council membership to 9 members.

The decision is based on the following points:

1. Our Church Constitution states “that we can have no more than 12 members on the Council.” The Constitution does not state a minimum number.
2. This will free up people to work on other committees and in other capacities.
3. A smaller Council will be easier to gather.
4. A smaller Council will still have valuable conversation and discussion.

The Church Council has voted to present to the Congregation, for vote, a change to the Bylaws. The vote will be taken at our Winter Congregational Meeting in January.

Constitution states: The voting membership of this Congregational Council shall consist of the pastor and NOT MORE THAN TWELVE members of the Congregation.

BYLAWS: Revised 4/29/2004 One-Third of the Congregational Council, that is four (4) members, shall be elected annually.

The present Bylaw assumes that we will always have 12 members on our Church Council. A Bylaw is an interpretation. It does not dictate. Therefore, the Church Council is proposing the following wording for the Bylaw change:

One-third of the Congregational Council shall be elected annually.
(dropping four (4) members)
Baptismal Birthdays
Karen Kaufman 12/01
Charles Pollow 12/01
David Sandoz 12/05
Carole Petonke 12/07
Gary Sidell 12/09
Ashley Abney 12/12
Carol Pollow 12/15
John Wright 12/16
Laura Dunton 12/18
Greg Prichard 12/20
Jeffrey Abney 12/22
Samantha Hovey 12/22
Matthew Hungate 12/26

Birthdays
Ian McLauchlan 12/03
Carol Pollow 12/03
Carole Petonke 12/07
Marty Hanson 12/08
Ian Taylor 12/08
Nico Bartholomew 12/11
Jolynn Lottman 12/12
Dan Parr 12/12
David Nason 12/13
Zach Hanson 12/14
Elizabeth Keenan 12/15
John Wright 12/17
Mark Brodahl 12/18
Jodi Schaefer 12/19
Mark Bischoff 12/19
Elijah Horn 12/19
Karen Kaufman 12/21
Anna Wesner 12/21
Phyl Beebe 12/24
Tim Schaefer 12/22
Kevin Hartsteil 12/26
James Barry 12/26
Rebecca Taylor 12/28
Melanie Carpenter 12/29
Chris Hanson 12/31

December 2 9:00 AM Worship Service/Sunday School Program
December 4 12:00 PM Prime Timers in the FLC
December 4 7:00 PM Property Committee Meeting
December 5 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice
December 5 7:00 PM Adult/HS Choir Practice
December 6 10:00 AM Thursday Morning Bible Study
December 9 9:00 AM Worship Service/Cantata
December 11 6:30 PM Choir Party at Jolynn Lottman’s
December 16 9:00 AM Worship Service
December 16 3:00 PM Caroling Party
December 19 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch to Basta’s in Morton
December 23 9:00 AM Worship Service
December 24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
Dec. 24-Dec. 26 Church Office Closed
December 30 9:00 AM Worship Service
Dec. 31-Jan. 1 Church Office Closed

Vouchers
If you have vouchers to turn into the church to be reimbursed or to pay some bills, please turn them in to the box that is on top of the other mailboxes in the office. We've changed this process so that every voucher will be checked by Mugs Major, Deacon Ellen, or Pastor David to make sure that all of the coding is correct. Thanks!

Witness Committee
We are trying to revamp our Witness Committee, which has the responsibility of promoting and overseeing our work of proclaiming the gospel to the community and helping our church grow. This is very important work! If you would like to be a part of this venture, please see Pastor David.

Call Committee is Formed
Thank you to the following who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee: Jim Rohweder (Chair), Becky Davis, Elizabeth Keenan, Owen Keenan, Ann Davis, Dennis Darling, and Scott Ward.

Anniversaries
Ronald & Jo Anne Stover 12/02
Mike & Anna Wesner 12/07
Bruce & Deb Simmons 12/27

Dishes, Dishes, Dishes!!!
Advent has approximately 200 sets of china dishes. The problem is, they are so heavy they are causing the kitchen cabinets to come off the wall. Norm Durflinger & Larry Major have offered to repair the cabinets. Since these dishes have been very rarely used, the Council has decided to offer them to the Congregation. They will be set out in the Family Life Center. Bring a box (or boxes) and take as many place settings as you need. Any dishes not taken will be donated to The Church Mouse.
Advent Adventures

Recently we played Bible Jeopardy for a cross-generational Sunday school class. As one might expect, there was a great range of Bible knowledge. (And just like in my life now, the geography questions got me!) Bible Jeopardy is a fun way to test our knowledge, but the point of reading the Bible isn’t to be able to answer all the questions in a game. A prayer I often share with Bible study classes captures the goal of reading the Bible “Dear Lord, help me to be disciplined in reading your Word so that I may discover the joy of meeting YOU there. Amen”

It can be very easy to struggle with reading the Bible – especially if we think it is just about people from a long time ago or outdated rules (how many of us eat shrimp?) or other practices that we don’t understand or stories that are too wild to be believed (Jonah inside a fish?). Personally, I also think that we aren’t necessarily ready to hear all of Scripture. There are certain books I find especially difficult to understand, but my experience with studying the Bible is that I have found myself in a place where I suddenly understand what a book is about. Now that may be the right teacher or the right curriculum, and I believe those are important, but I also think that sometimes I am ready to hear a message, or learn from a passage or book, when I wasn’t ready to hear it before. That experience gives me hope that in days to come, I may experience God’s presence and understand some things that I haven’t so far.

That’s one of the reasons we need to study Scripture together – to help us move beyond those obstacles to see that it’s all about God wanting to be in relationship with us. Scripture can point out the ways that we fail, but our lives can be transformed when we encounter our loving God through Scripture. Sometimes that is easier when someone else is helping us look.

We are meant to also be in relationship one another. Those relationships are meant to be loving and healthy. Many of the “rules” or laws we see in Scripture are meant to protect and nurture those relationships. Unfortunately, that isn’t always how we see the rules or other people. The stories and speeches in Scripture can also help us see others the way God sees them – with the same love that God sees us.

Sometimes it’s easier to just know facts about what’s in the Bible. Encountering God has its challenges, and we don’t always want to see others with the love God has for them. On December 2nd we begin a new church year (and a new calendar year will be here soon too). Perhaps we are being invited to explore the Scriptures together. If you are feeling that call, reach out to me. I would love to share Scripture with another group at Advent.

Blessings as we enter this holy season of hope,
Deacon Ellen
Worship Helpers

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<th>NURSERY</th>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Gillette Family</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>Nason Family</td>
<td>Sharon Unsicker</td>
<td>Becky Ward/Tammy Brodahl</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Prichard Family</td>
<td>Dave Nason</td>
<td>Ward Family</td>
<td>Lynne Horn</td>
<td>Mugs Major</td>
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<td>December 16</td>
<td>Carpenter Family</td>
<td>Amber Walker</td>
<td>McDonald Family</td>
<td>Sidell Family</td>
<td>No Fellowship</td>
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<td>December 23</td>
<td>Darling Family</td>
<td>Marty Hanson</td>
<td>Brodahl Family</td>
<td>Johnna Maragos</td>
<td>No Fellowship</td>
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<td>December 30</td>
<td>Simmons Family</td>
<td>Art Herm</td>
<td>K. Darling/L. Williamson</td>
<td>Ann Davis</td>
<td>No Fellowship</td>
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<td>January 6</td>
<td>Sandoz Family</td>
<td>Judy Stegmaier</td>
<td>J. Maragos/C. Carlson</td>
<td>Sheryl McDonald</td>
<td>Ann Davis/Dana Bischoff</td>
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<td>January 13</td>
<td>Schaefer Family</td>
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<td>January 20</td>
<td>Williamson Family</td>
<td>Jim Rohweder</td>
<td>Kent Johnson Family</td>
<td>Teresa Johnson</td>
<td>Jill Veskauf/Lori Prichard</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>Sidell Family</td>
<td>Rachel Tuhy</td>
<td>Sandoz Family</td>
<td>Carpenter Family</td>
<td>Amber Walker/Bev Hungate</td>
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ALTAR GUILD

December—Johnna Maragos & Art Herm
January—Larry & Mugs Major
February—Jodi Schaefer & Shelley Hovey

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
1211 S. Main Street
Morton, Illinois 61550-2449

Phone: 309-266-5883
Email: adventmorton@gmail.com
Website: www.adventmorton.org

Pastor David Russell, Interim Pastor
Pastor’s Cell Phone: (574) 855-6133
Deacon Ellen Koester, Director of Faith Formation

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sundays—9:00 AM
Sunday School for All Ages—10:20 AM

ADVENT LUTHERAN’S MISSION STATEMENT:
NUITRE our congregational family
SPREAD God’s Word
SERVE the identified needs of the wider community.