



CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

December 2020 Volume 12, No. 4



True Joy

by Pastor Laesch

St. Paul encourages: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!"

Isaac Watts and George Frideric Handel move us to belt out: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!...Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!"

That continual joy is a theme that our Lord shares in Luke 1 and 2:



Pastor Laesch

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"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth."
(1:14)

"... the baby in my womb leaped for joy." (1:44)

"... and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." (1:47)

"... and they shared her joy." (1:58)

"Praise be to the Lord..." (1:68)

"... good news of great joy..." (2:10)

"... glorifying and praising God..." (2:20)



The
Joy of
Christmas

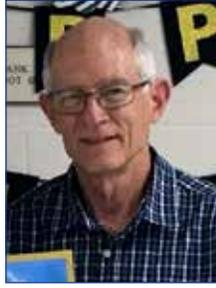
As we approach the manger, as we worship the Christ-child born for us, as we sing and celebrate this blessed season, our hearts are bursting with Christmas joy! And what makes that Christmas joy God-pleasing is that the very source, nature, essence, and content of our joy and rejoicing is not in our actions whatsoever! Our joy is based and founded in the person and redemptive work of the Savior, Jesus Christ, born for us.

True joy centers in Jesus. True joy comes from the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Savior. True joy is found in the Gospel of Christ. It is why we worship. It is why we sing. It is why we rejoice in the birth of a Savior.

Merry Christmas, Chapel of the Cross! I wish you a most happy... and joyful... Christmas celebration! ✠✠✠

Dear members of Chapel of the Cross,

It is with a humble heart and gratitude that I want to thank you for the many kind words, cards, gifts and support that you have given me upon my retirement. You have touched me deeply and it really has been overwhelming.



To say that I am grateful to have served the Lord by serving at Chapel for 34 years is an understatement. It wasn't just the place I worked. It was the place I served with joy. My relationship with so many of you was beyond just being a worker in a congregation. It was serving and working with many of you as friends. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many talented staff and congregation members with servant hearts and attitudes over the years. What an honor that has been. Whenever I drive by Chapel, I shoot up a prayer asking God to continue to bless you, the staff, and the ministry that continues to happen.

Thank you so much once again. And may God's blessings and peace be with all of you. Dave Funke ✠✠✠



Thank You:

Over the past several months, Chapel has been offering in-person worship services for those who choose this option. But due to COVID, this has certainly added extra work in order to make our church safer for people to attend. Each weekend, a crew of volunteers clean and disinfect our wor-

ship space between all the services. Chapel of the Cross would like to say a big thank you to Denny Vogelsang; Ken & Marilyn Kreitner; Marcia Turvold; George Tomazi; Craig Schlichtmann; Jon Rogers for all of your extra time and effort over these past four months.

We appreciate you! ✠✠✠



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2020 Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Advent Services

December 2, 9, 16
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24
3:00, 5:00 and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25
10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship

December 31
6:30 p.m.





Outdoor Services At Chapel

by Ken Kreitner

We, as a congregation, have faced many obstacles this year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We initially had only virtual church services, Sunday School and Bible classes due to restrictions.

Many members opted not to attend services after restrictions were lifted. To help encourage better attendance, we decided to have outside services every other Sunday. This went over very well. Many members who opted out of indoor services came to the services outdoors. We are planning to once again have these outdoor services in the spring regardless of the pandemic.

Please let the Pastor, Board members or Elders know if you have any ideas. †††





Confirmation on Zoom

Our students are pretty amazing! As many of you know, students this year continue to navigate alternative learning plans, structures, and mediums in this time of pandemic. So, too, our confirmation students have adapted to a new plan, structure, and medium for their faith formation and catechesis. Students complete weekly lessons and scriptural study on their own and with their families. We meet as a large group via Zoom every few weeks to discuss the lesson materials and any supplemental instruction. In between these large group meetings, I've had the opportunity to connect one-on-one or in small groups with students. This is the

best new addition for me personally—the chance to connect with the students and really get to know them!

We're just finishing the first unit of study, and so far we have learned much! We look forward to the time when we can return to in-person learning, but are thankful for these ways to creatively continue our growth together in the meantime. As you see these students and their families, be sure to encourage them. Confirmation is a team effort of the whole congregation—our opportunity, together, to fulfill the promises we make at baptisms to raise our children in the faith. So please pray for and encourage our students and their families! †††



Chapel's 55th Anniversary Celebrated

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020, Chapel of the Cross celebrated our 55th year of mission and ministry. Chapel members were encouraged to share a "demonstration of praise and thanksgiving" as they remembered the psalmist's words from Psalm 116: "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord." In celebration of the anniversary, Chapel's Director of Music, Ryan Meyer, produced a devotional coloring book resource for members and friends of Chapel of the Cross. We give thanks for the Lord's great gifts as we look forward to future years of ministry and as we ask Him to bless the mission of Chapel: to share the love of Jesus to the people of North County and beyond so that all may have a living relationship with Christ. †††

Pastor Honored For 15 Years Of Service

On the weekend of October 10th and 11th, congregational president, Steve Geisz, presented a gift of appreciation to Pastor Laesch for his fifteen years of service at Chapel of the Cross. The gift was a crystal plaque with the words engraved on it: "Fifteen years of ministry service to our devoted Pastor in appreciation for your faithful and dedicated service. Your ministry makes a difference in our lives and we are deeply appreciative. Thank you for your caring heart and guiding hand. With love, joy and gratitude from the members of Chapel of the Cross."

The other members of the ministry staff at Chapel were also acknowledged: Pastor Jim Marriott, Ellory Glenn, Ryan Meyer, Bill Rusnak, Pastor Bischoff, Pastor Meyer and Mary Laesch. Each was given a card with a token of appreciation. †††

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◀ November		December 2020						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
29 <u>Advent 1</u> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Adult Bible Study 9:45	30	1 Joyful Noise 6:30 p.m.	2 <u>Advent Midweek</u> Worship 6:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	3 Life Team Meeting 7:00	4	5 Worship 5:00 p.m.		
6 <u>Advent 2</u> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Adult Bible Study 9:45	7	8	9 <u>Advent Midweek</u> Worship 6:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Worship 5:00 p.m.		
13 <u>Advent 3</u> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Adult Bible Study 9:45	14	15	16 <u>Advent Midweek</u> Worship 6:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	17	18	19 Worship 5:00 p.m.		
20 <u>Advent 4</u> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Adult Bible Study 9:45	21	22	23	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> OFFICE CLOSED Worship 3:00 p.m. Worship 5:00 p.m. Worship 10:30 p.m.	25 <u>Christmas Day</u> OFFICE CLOSED Worship 10:00 a.m.	26 Worship 5:00 p.m.		
27 Worship 8:30 & 11:00	28	29	30	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u> Worship 6:30 p.m. OFFICE CLOSED				

Chapel Life Team's Mission Statement:

"Motivated by the Gospel and the great love God has demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ, the Life Team of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran exists to equip our church to celebrate, defend, and care for life at all stages."



"The eyes of all look to You, (O Lord,) and You give them their food in due season. You open Your Hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 145:15-16; 118:1

A Christmas Day Prayer



Praise to You, Lord God!
You have become one of us —
You have become a human being,
while still retaining all your power
and holiness as God!
You, O Lord, made the journey
of the unborn child. By being an
embryo, a fetus, and a newborn,
you joined all unborn and new-
born children to you!

From the beginning of history, O Lord, You were the Creator of every human life. Now, with Christmas, You join Yourself in an unthinkable way with the life You created.
Let this Christmas, O God, fill all of us with awe and wonder at how close human life is to You. Cleanse the world of all that tarnishes and rejects this gift. Purify our hearts of all that fears this gift.
Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming every human life! Amen! †††

Friend Of Moms Boutique — Alive And Well

by Clara Mueller

Some of you may not be aware of the Friend of Moms Boutique! It's the room next to the Library, across from the Nursery. We provide gently used clothing and shoes, socks, blankets, books, diapers, wipes and information for child care. The clothing is from Newborn size up to size 4.

Our clients come from seeing the info on our website, and also from social agencies in STL County that promote Friend of Moms. More recently, clients who come to the Food Pantry have requested clothing from our Boutique.

We were closed down in March due to the pandemic. In June we started taking requests from clients which we prepare for them to pick up by calling the office when they drive by the church. In these six months we have prepared requests for over 50 clients! This is even more than we served before we closed down.

Thank you to the office staff who take the requests and bring the bundles out to the clients in their cars.

All donations of clothing are washed. If you would like to wash a bag of clothes, (hangers provided) it would be much appreciated!! We do have volunteers who fill the orders, sort the donations, and hang up the clothes. Donations of wipes and/or diapers are always accepted gratefully!

If you are interested in helping out with this community ministry let me know! †††

Walking Together in the Word

You are invited to sign up to receive a digital version of the devotional guide Walking Together in the Word. This devotional guide, created by Chapel of the Cross staff, guides you through the Bible readings for the upcoming Sunday. The digital guide is easy to use. You can read Scripture, watch a video devotion on the Gospel reading, listen to songs and hymns, and download Scripture-based coloring pages. Call (314-741-3737) or email (office@chapelofthecross.org) the church office to sign up. The printed version of Walking Together in the Word is still available for pick up at the Welcome Center. †††

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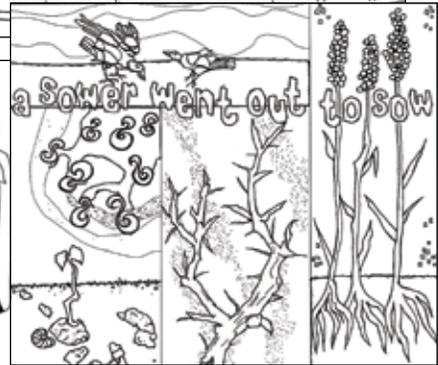
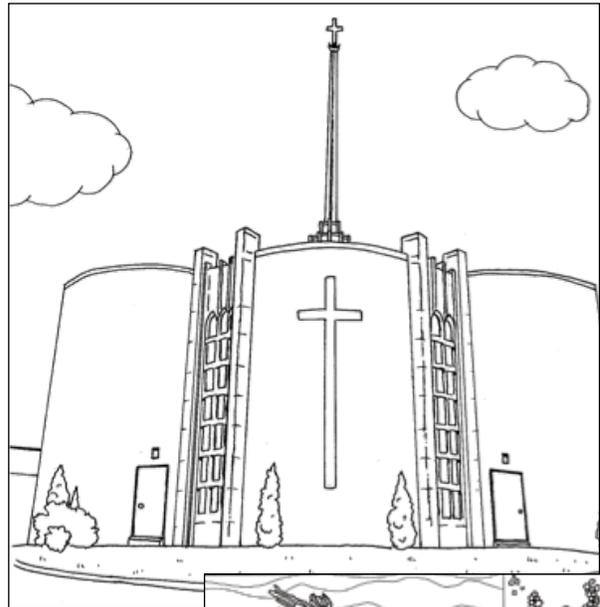
The Buchholz Mortuaries family is dedicated to serving your family's needs now and in the future.

Devotional Coloring Book

In celebration of the 55th anniversary of Chapel of the Cross, we are excited to offer a Chapel-themed “Devotional Coloring Book” to our congregation!

As our Chapel community is centered around our worship services, this book is arranged in nine sections outlining the Divine Service. Included in each section you will find a page with suggested Bible readings and short devotional thoughts to reflect on, prayer experiments, as well as unique images from our church to decorate and color. Our hope is that this coloring book will be a blessing for all ages!

You can also download the full coloring book at Chapel’s website: www.chapelofthecross.org. Join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/chapelstl) for more ideas and ways to share your coloring pages with our Chapel family! ✠✠✠



Membership Matters

TRANSFER IN

Connie Fielding from Hope Lutheran Church, Granite City, IL
Sarah Fielding from Hope Lutheran Church, Granite City, IL

REMOVE BY REQUEST

Linda Kennedy

DEATHS

Norman B. Deady (September 20, 2020)
Lawrence A. Tomazi (October 2, 2020)
Melvin C. Foehse (November 4, 2020)
Samuel M. Johnson III (October 13, 2020)

Former number of members: 909

Gains: +2

Losses: -5

New number of members: 906



Kirk Mueller

YOUR LIFETIME PLAN FOR GIVING

Have you left a lasting legacy of your faith?

Have you blessed your family in the best way?

Have you remembered your favorite ministries?

As you can answer “yes” to each of these questions, I know you will experience the peace and joy of knowing God has blessed you to be a blessing.

To find out more, contact:

Kirk Mueller—LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136

314.704.4389

Kirk.mueller@lcms.org



Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

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Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes
9:45 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship Service
5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

