



CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

Winter 2022 Volume 14, No. 4



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“Come and See”

by Pastor Laesch

As I write this, I'm doing some planning. A few extra services. A few extra sermons. A few extra letters to write. Advent is just around the corner. A calendar year is coming to a close, but a new church year is just beginning. And that means there's a special birthday to prepare for! Time for the Light to shine into the darkness! Time for the coming of the One who brings joy to the world!



Pastor Laesch

The Christian season of Advent starts on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (which is November 30). You might remember him. Andrew was a fisherman by trade, but then he met Jesus and Jesus invited Andrew to “come and see” what being a disciple was all about. (John 1:39) Andrew spent the day with Jesus and realized that this rabbi was different. He made such an impression on him that the first thing that Andrew did when he got home was to find his brother Peter and say, “We have found the Messiah!” And Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.

Andrew couldn't keep Jesus to himself. He had to tell Peter. And not just that! He made sure to escort Peter personally to Jesus himself. “And he brought him to Jesus.” (John 1:42) And Peter's life was never the same from that moment on. Jesus changed Peter. He changed his name from Simon to Peter. But more than that, Jesus changed his heart! And Peter became a central character in the sharing of God's divine story of love and grace - all because his brother invited him to meet the Messiah.

On my office window I have a sticker with the words “Come and See.” It's a reminder to me of Jesus' invitation to Andrew (and also Philip's invitation to Nathaniel to meet the Messiah in John 1:46). It's a wonderful invitation, isn't it? It was spoken to you at one time in the past, perhaps when you were a child. Perhaps even when you were a baby at the font. Come and see! Come and see Jesus, your Lord, your Redeemer, your Savior. Maybe it was a little later in your life when you heard that beautiful invitation: “Come and see!”

Have you thought of those you might know who need that invitation today? Might there be those in your life who need the joy and the peace and the comfort that knowing Jesus gives? Perhaps you can plan to invite someone to “come and see” their Savior. After all, Jesus changes us. He changes us from lost to found, from sinner to redeemed, from dead to alive forevermore!

Who will you invite to meet Jesus this Advent? †††



by Mary Laesch, Coordinator for Children and Family Ministry



Sharing Jesus' Love in Sunday School

Children in Preschool through 6th grade have been coming together each Sunday morning to learn more about Jesus' love through Bible lessons, crafts, games, and snacks. The children are also working on learning songs that they will sing in worship. A big thank you to all the adults who have been sharing their faith through teaching and helping in the Sunday School classes! Adults play an important role in the faith formation of children. If you would like to make a lasting impact on a child's life through teaching or helping (even just once a month!), please contact Mary Laesch.



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Children and Youth Christmas Program

The children and youth of Chapel will be presenting the Christmas program Symbols of Salvation on Sunday, December 18 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. In this very special service, children and youth will share how the symbols we see at Christmastime point to our Savior, Jesus! Preschoolers through high schoolers will be part of the Christmas program. Please invite your family and friends to come! †††



The Holy Huddle

The next time you watch a football game, consider this special kind of Holy Huddle:

If the LORD meant for us to be alone, He wouldn't have put so many people into our lives; Some to walk ahead of us to light the way, and some to walk beside us to hold our hands; Some to walk behind us, learning from our example; Some to encourage us when we're feeling down, and some to help the load; Some to simply shine a smile to us in the middle of the day; Some to celebrate with us

and to rejoice in our successes when good things happen, and some to comfort us when hardships and losses knock at our doors; Some to enter our lives for a season and some to be our friends and companions on our life's Journeys. Some to help us up, and some who will be lifted up by us. Some to give to us, and some who will receive from us. Some to annoy us, to test us, to challenge us, to frustrate us. Some to show us our measure of patience, kindness, and hope. And all to travel with us on this amazing, adventurous, joyous journey called LIFE! We thank the Lord for our Holy Huddle of people young and old, rich and poor, fast and slow, right and wrong. We thank the Lord for family and friends and for our faith and future as His Holy Huddle! We were not meant to be alone...and we're glad!

Autumn attitudes for older adults *Matthew 5:12*
Be...There Be...Joy-Filled Be...Thanks-Filled Be...Human
Be...Forgiving Be...A Model Be...Focused Be...Humorous
Be...An Encourager Be...A Storyteller Be...Ready
A FREE-BE...Because of our Baptism...Just BE!
Col. 3:12-17 †††

Always Remember

The presents are shiny and the paper is bright.
It's hard to wait through the cold and long night.
It's just seemed like it took oh-so-long
To finally open them that very next morn.
But it's important to definitely always remember
Why we give gifts near the end of December.
And why we all gather to joyously sing.
It's to celebrate the birth of our Savior and King!



Contributions for the Spring 2023
issue of CrossRoads are due by
Sunday, February 5th.

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**2022
Christmas and
New Year's Eve Schedule**

Advent Services
November 30
December 7,14,21
6:30 p.m.
Advent Dinners at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert
December 11
11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program
December 18
11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24
5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
December 25
10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship
December 31
5:00 p.m.



Annual Christmas Choir Concert
Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with this special musical worship service, including Chapel's various choirs, handbells and orchestra!



Thank you, Carolyn Rusnak!
Sunday, October 30, marked Carolyn's last Sunday serving at Chapel of the Cross. Since the fall of 2011, Carolyn has regularly played for worship services, accompanied the Choral Singers, led Joyful Noise and Glad Sound, as well as played her flute. We give thanks for Carolyn, and her years of service in the music ministry at Chapel. We pray for God's blessings and His continued guidance in her new call to Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO. ✠✠✠



Mary-Martha Mixin Fixin Assembly Day

On Tuesday, October 25th, members of the Mary-Martha guild met for a day of fellowship and service. They assembled and decorated bags and jars for the Mixin Fixin sale the following weekend, October 29-30. Proceeds from this year's sale were divided between Day 3 Seeds and Helping Hands Food Pantry. Many thanks to all who prepared the decorations, bought supplies, and helped with the final assembly and decorating. Mary-Martha Guild is very appreciative of all those who supported this mission project with their purchase. †††



Mary-Martha Guild members assembling Mixin Fixin products in the church kitchen.



Mixin Fixin products ready for sale.

Mary-Martha Guild

The Mary-Martha Guild members would like to thank you for your support of our Mixin Fixin fundraiser.

Our meeting on December 12th will be a Christmas Party. It will again be catered by Catering to You. We will take reservations starting at our November meeting. Everyone is invited and please bring a gift to exchange with a \$5.00 limit. Please join us for an enjoyable evening. More information will follow in the Chapel weekly.

On January 9th, we will have a Social Night with no business meeting. Members are asked to bring games to play and snacks to share. This promises to be fun for everyone. †††



More members decorating the jars and bags in room B.

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 Echoes of Christmas in Adoption

by Jason Johnson

Christmas is the story of a good Father going to extravagant lengths in order to adopt those who have been separated from Him.

It is the celebration of God seeing the plight of His people and responding with the greatest gift of love this world has ever known-Himself. Not merely for us or near us in theory, God now put on flesh and became one of us in humanity-entering the darkness and brokenness of our story to bring us a brighter and better one in Him.

God With Us

In what we now know as the Christmas story, scripture consistently speaks of the incarnation, the act of God wrapping Himself in the flesh of an infant child, in beautifully vivid and forever-altering terms. The apostle Paul, in Galatians chapter 4, writes: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

At a predetermined, specific moment throughout all the course of human history ("...when the fullness of time had come"), God looked down on the plight of His people and decided right then, at that very instance, He would step out of His glory and enter into the brokenness of our humanity. He would not strut into this world on a throne but would crawl into it through a manger, being born in humility, in poverty and in relative obscurity so that He might bring fullness to the empty and belonging to the lonely ("...God sent forth his Son").

The significance of His name, Emmanuel, meaning God is with us, could not be overstated. God is not somewhere. God is not over there. God is not out there. God is here, with us, among us, one of us. He is in our story. He has seen us in the plight of our brokenness and met us exactly where we were, placing Himself beneath the rule of judgment over us in order to rescue and redeem us out from under it ("...born under the law...to redeem those under the law"). God is with us. Nothing will ever be the same.

To Make Us His Own

The intended outcome of Christmas was clear – for God to bring into His family those who had been tragically orphaned from Him (...that we might receive adoption). No longer isolated. No longer orphaned. Now adopted as dearly loved sons and daughters.

At Christmas we remember the lengths God has gone to call us His own. He has not loved us from a distance, but has thrust Himself fully into the brokenness of our story to bring us securely into His forever family. He interceded on our behalf, at just the right time, to make us His own. In the gospel God says, "I see you where you are and I'm coming after you!" This is Christmas - the crescendo of that emphatic declaration.

Adoption: An Echo of the Christmas Story

The gospel of our adoption, making its vivid debut that night in Bethlehem, acts not only as the emphasis behind why but also the model of how we as those adopted into the forever family of God are called to forever give our families to those who need them. Christmas is ultimately the story of God stepping into our darkness in order to bring light into it. It, above any and all other motivations, compels us to do the same on behalf of the vulnerable, marginalized and orphaned in this world. It is impossible for us to truly celebrate Christmas without considering both its implications for us and its expectations on us – to do for them exactly what God has done for us through Jesus. *(Continued on next page)*

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STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

by Clara Mueller

The LWML Stamps For Missions project has produced over \$17,622 over the past several years.

Some of you have given me cancelled stamps that I in turn give to the District LWML which are sent to a lady near Concordia, MO who sorts and sells them.

Here are a few guidelines for you if you are interested in saving stamps for Missions.

Do not save any Christmas, love or Bell stamps. Save U.S. common stamps with plate numbers only.

1. Forever stamps: save all commemorative and booklet size stamps. Common ones without plate numbers are to be discarded.



2. U. S. Common stamps with plate numbers: Plate numbers are either a single # or a series of numbers, other than the date, at the bottom of the stamp.

3. U.S. Commemorative: generally larger in size, oblong shaped from 1 cent to 50 cents.

4. U.S. high value: stamps of 60 cents or more.

5. Foreign Stamps: separate into large foreign and small, common foreign stamps.

6. U.S. Airmail: stamps marked airmail with value 31 cents and higher

7. U.S. Priority Mail and U.S. Express Mail

8. Pre-stamped envelopes

9. Federal Duck stamps

Trimming: Cut the stamps from envelopes leaving 1/8 to 1/4 margin of paper around the stamp. Be careful to not cut the stamp. Perforations must be perfect.

OR: Just put all of your stamps in a baggie for someone else to sort!

A 'Stamps for Missions' box can be found above the coat rack beside the left hallway of the Commons. THANK YOU for yet another way to save for Missions! †††

The Echoes of Christmas in Adoption *(from page 6)*

In light of the gospel and the story of Christmas we can no longer remain on the peripherals of the plight of others, but must, at just the right time, meet them where they are by interceding on their behalf. Their brokenness no longer just theirs, but also now ours. An old story forever being rewritten by a new one. A better one. A brighter one. Together.

Adoption begins with our willingness to step foot into darkness, not merely to pull a child out of it but to bring light into it. This is exactly what Jesus did for us and what we are therefore compelled to do for them. We do not strut into their stories with a cape on our back but crawl into them with the Cross on our shoulders. We are not the rescuers, but the rescued. We are not the heroes, but on every occasion seek to point to Him who is. Our Hero has come. Immanuel. God is with us. Nothing will ever be the same.

In the end, the echoes of Christmas in adoption beautifully reverberate in forever-altering terms. A taking on of one story and a writing of a new one. A better one. Together.

Nothing will ever be the same.

This. Is. Christmas. †††

Membership Matters

Affirmation of Faith

Becky Kammeier

Release

Caryn L. Bonnell

Marcia R. Bonnell

Transfer In

Jennifer Krupp from Congregation Chai v' Shalom, St. Louis, MO

Death

Barbara Gray (March 13, 2022)

Former number of members: 898

Gains: +1

Losses: -2

New number of members: 897



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

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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.*

