



ONE IN CHRIST

Week of December 14 - December 20, 2020

PASTOR'S WORD



Taken from the Central State Synod Council Visioning reflection: **December – Giving and Generosity**

Luke 21:1-4 ¹He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; ²he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; ⁴for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

2 Corinthians 9:5-15 ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Allow some silence to reflect on the text and then discuss the following questions:

1. In what ways has your congregation been generous and given in the in the past?
2. In what ways has the pandemic and focus on racial justice in our country changed how you view and provide opportunities for giving?
3. How might God be calling us to be generous in the future?

Close with the following prayer:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





Everyone is invited to visit the outdoor nativity in the church yard throughout Advent. Prayers and readings will be available, and you can follow Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

You are also invited to join us for online Zoom services. Please be sure Lisette, our Administrator (office@christwg.org), has your correct e-mail address to receive our Zoom invitations. If you have technical questions, please contact Mike Wagner at 937-416-2429 or clc.inreach@gmail.com.

Wednesday, December 16:

7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 868 2181 6784 **Password:** 701073

Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent:

9:30 am Worship

[Access Online Bulletin](#)

Follow the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

OR

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 278 217 453 **Password:** 971744



Wednesday, December 23:

7:00 pm Advent Worship, Holden Evening Prayer

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 868 2181 6784 **Password:** 701073

Thursday, December 24:

4:30 pm *Christmas Eve Service*. Join us in the Christ Lutheran parking lot for a family-friendly, joy-filled service. You can also join the service via Zoom:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 844 3983 6988 **Password:** 036137

9:00 pm *Christmas Eve Service*. Join us online for a meditative service of music and word.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 873 6341 8407 **Password:** 347364

Friday, December 25:

Merry Christmas! No Services.

Sunday, December 27, First Sunday of Christmas:

9:30 am Worship

Following Mary and Joseph's Journey of Hope



Matthew 2:1-5

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Advent Journal Reflection

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for the census, because Joseph was descended from David, and that is where David was from. It was Joseph's homeland, even if he had never been there. **Reflect on this in the red Advent Journal**

What place do you consider to be your homeland? Why?

When you visit this place, or think about visiting it, what comes to mind? What emotions rise in you?

Given that Joseph and Mary had likely never been to Bethlehem, how do you think they experienced this journey?

Children's Activities

In the red Advent Journal, draw a picture of your home. What is your favorite part of your home? Who lives there with you?

Using the small nativity set or the finger puppet characters, re-enact Mary and Joseph's loooong walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and set up a space for them in our outdoor nativity where Mary can get ready to have her baby.

Volunteer needed to help with remote worship services

We need someone to join the rotation, every 3 weeks, to help with Sunday zoom services. Some proficiency with Zoom would be nice, but Mike and Becca are willing to teach. Please reach out to Pastor Meagan, Becca Jordan, or Mike Wagner if interested.

Stewardship & Offerings

We continue to worship and reach out to people in different ways than we're traditionally accustomed. Staff and members are reaching out proactively to make sure everyone in our congregation is cared for, and connected, as much as possible. We are re-imagining ministry! Now more than ever, it takes all of us to make that happen.



We can continue to fund our church and the important work we're doing with a few easy clicks:

1. Visit [our donation website](#) directly or go to www.christwg.org and scroll down to the 'Give Now' button.
2. You may make a one time or recurring gift. There are NO FEES to withdraw directly from your bank account. Fees do apply for debit/credit card transactions.
3. Optional: set up a profile to be able to change your recurring gifts at any time or view your giving history.
4. Want to walk through the steps with someone? Contact Kate Hoerchler, 314-805-1751 or katehoerchler@gmail.com

If you prefer to make your offering by check or cash, there are mailing envelopes included in your offering envelope package.

- Joan O'Brien and Lynnae Ruff, Stewardship Chairs

Holiday Giving Update - We Met Our Goals!!!

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to our holiday giving programs. **We have met both our goals for the Adopt-A-Family and the Mary Ryder House in St. Louis!**

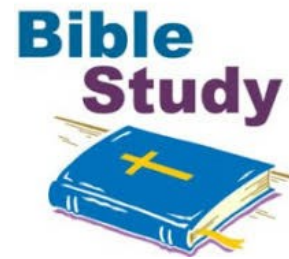


With your holiday donations, we were able to:

- Adopt a local family of five through Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. The mother and her four children will all receive multiple gift cards from Target, Wal-mart, Old Navy, and Kohl's. In addition we purchased gift cards from Schnucks for them to use towards a holiday meal. We wish them a very Merry Christmas! Thank you also to Rachel Helton for her work in organizing, collecting, and delivering the gift cards.
- Purchase wearable wallet lanyards for the 57 ladies of the Mary Ryder House, which is a residential facility for women in St. Louis. This means that each lady will be able to open a gift on Christmas from our congregation. Thank you to Kevin Drollinger and Sherry Mitchler for helping collect and deliver these items.

No additional donations are needed at this time. Thank you again for making Christmas very special for these two groups!

Fellowship at CLC



Zoom Bible Study, Tuesday December 15th at 10:00 am

"David was a man after God's own heart."

What does it mean to be someone "after God's own heart"? David, Old Testament shepherd, king and psalmist, offers an answer in the shape of his own life.

The Tuesday morning Bible study group is using a study guide by Charles R. Swindoll, "David: A Man of Passion & Destiny." We meet at 10 am via Zoom each Tuesday. The long-time participants in this group have each received a copy of the book, and if others would like to join us for this discussion, please let us know so that additional books can be ordered. All are welcome to join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643945421?pwd=V3dxdWY0YkZsRFptWkE2dDBCM3VLUT09>

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82643945421#,,1#,127284# US (Chicago)

Call in From Any Phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 826 4394 5421

Password: 127284

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christ Lutheran is planning to give a poinsettia plant to our older members and those members who are homebound. We would invite members to contribute \$7.00 per plant to help cover the costs of the 24 plants we ordered.

Please complete and return the form below to the church office by Dec 22nd. Thank you!

POINSETTIA DONATION FORM

You can purchase one or more poinsettia plants for our homebound members at \$7.00 each. They will be used to decorate the altar on Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24) and will be distributed to members throughout Christmas week. Return this form to the office with your payment by Dec 22nd.

Your name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____

I will be donating ____ plants for the homebound.

Cost \$7.00 per plant

TOTAL \$ _____



ADULT FORUM

The next Adult Forum will be December 20 and the topic will be **Stories to Tell**.

Pastor Meagan has been requesting members to submit their favorite Christmas memories. While these memories will be used for the Christmas service, those would like to share during Adult Forum are welcomed to do so. Besides discussing our favorites memories of past Christmases, we will also share how we are adapting our Christmas celebrations to 2020 realities.



Women's Advent "Brunch" Donation Information

Thank you to those who joined us, we are sending donations received to St. Louis Crisis Nursery.
Amazon wish list: <https://www.crisisnurserykids.org/our-wish-list>
Other ways to donate: <https://www.crisisnurserykids.org/ways-to-give>

Women's Advent "Brunch" guest speaker information:

Lydia Wood: <https://www.lydiawood.com/>

CLC Suggestion Box

Have an idea for how Christ Lutheran Church can make your experience better? Submit an anonymous note at <http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/stwuunh> and we will do our best to help! You



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

CELEBRATING DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

**Our apologies if we missed anybody-
Please let us know if we did.**

ANNIVERSARIES:

12/26 Robert & Joan O'Brien

BIRTHDAYS:

12/02	Luther Ciorba
12/05	Martin Allen
12/07	Michael Bude
12/07	Liz Drollinger
12/10	Catherine Gunther
12/13	Paige Meadows
12/14	Thomas Ely
12/17	James Gilliland
12/17	Rachel Helton
12/18	Linda Elkin
12/19	Brett Bussler
12/20	Jeffrey Kuziel
12/22	Christopher Lindquist
12/24	Lynnae Tanner Ruff
12/24	Loralie Blaser
12/24	Jodi McCarty
12/25	Jesse Wood
12/30	Pastor Stephanie Doeschot
12/31	Joe Bartek



Fall and Winter In Community

As the weather turns and opportunities for outdoor gatherings are reduced, we want to invite us all to be creative about how we can stay connected and continue to be in community through the winter months. If you would like to be matched with another household or two to be in intentional connection, if you have ideas for online activities, if you have ideas for outdoor winter activities, or any other thoughts about how we can stay connected, let Pastor Meagan or Council know!



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Webster Groves, MO 63119-3199**

TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011

**E-MAIL:
OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG**

**WEBSITE:
WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG**

**ZOOM WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.**

**RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN
MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE
HOURS: MON-THUR 8:30-4:30
APPTS BY
ARRANGEMENT**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
KEVIN DROLLINGER**

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR
ADULT MINISTRIES AND
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:
CAROLYN CROWE**

**DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS:
DIANE DROLLINGER**

**ORGANIST:
MARK RUFF**

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
LISETTE KREITLER**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
TAMMY PRYOR**

**CUSTODIAN:
KELLY LAKIES**

**WEBMASTER:
PERRY YEE**

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

Deepening people's connection to Christ,
Bringing meaning to daily life, and
Making a difference in our community.