

THE GRAPEVINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent



December 2020

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The Grapevine is a monthly newsletter published by the staff & members of

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The Rev. Lance Henderson—Pastor
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Melodie Capole—Handbell Director

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

“Are you ready for Christmas?” You’ll hear that question in the weeks ahead from people with inquisitive cheerful smiles. Of course, they mean do you have your shopping done. Do you have your menu set? Got the tree up? Is your home well decorated in a festive spirit?

People rarely asks “are you ready for Christ’s second coming?”

You might hear from some poorly catechized Christian, “If you died, do you know where you’d wake up the next day?” or even “Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior*?” If that person sees you struggling to give an answer, expect him or her to start down a well rehearsed pitch that is going to use the words “hell” and “eternal damnation” a lot. Want to hear about the Love of God in Christ Jesus? You’ll have to wait a good while to hear it from that person probably. But it’s really not the same question as “are you ready for Christ’s second coming?”

The best advice in considering the question is the Boy Scout motto... BE PREPARED. I certainly am not advocating that you watch “Doomsday Preppers” and follow their lead. Although considering how a second toilet paper shortage seems to be besetting the nation with just the thought of a second COVID shutdown in the air, maybe doing some prep work to lessen the pain of some cataclysm isn’t a bad idea! (for answers to that dilemma, you may approach me or Mary privately.)

cont’d on page 3-->

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2020

Linda Griffith, Secretary

NOVEMBER 1st MEETING

- Accepted a bid from Gaddis Pro Audio, Inc. to up-grade the audio in the sanctuary for clarity when streaming our services.
- Agreed to present the cost of the audio upgrade to the congregation during the Congregational Meeting on November 22nd.
- Approved the purchase of an iPad for the church to be used for streaming our services.
- Approved property usage for a Holiday Party on December 4th sponsored by the Saluda River Community to include an outdoor movie, food trucks, and other venues with social distancing and masks required.

NOVEMBER 9TH MEETING

- Approved Called Council Meeting minutes from November 1st.
- Received update on planned Holiday Party by the Saluda River Community group.
- Discussed options for Christmas Eve Services.
- Reminded Team Leaders of reports due to Communications by December 1 to be included in the 2021 Church Directory.

TREASURER REPORT OCTOBER 2020

	GEN. FUND	BLD. FUND	OTHER
Received	9,867.00	1565.00	158.00
Disbursed	18,926.86	75.96	1,168.00

A GENTLE REMINDER

If you can not fulfill your duties that you have signed up for it is your responsibility to find a fellow member to substitute for you. Yes it's great if the church office can be notified for the bulletin, but, emergencies are understood.

SUPPLIES FOR SALUDA RIVER ACADEMY OF THE ARTS



Before the Scandinavians brought blue paraments and vestments into Advent fashion, Advent was always a purple season. Because Advent used to be a season with a more Lenten-like theme. A penitential season—a season of increased prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Certainly charities (and the church!) look forward to increased giving at the time of the holidays. And the “Christmas Spirit” does make giving to those in need a more joyous event. But increased prayer? Who has time for that?!? Fasting? Seriously?! (And don’t even think that your lack of holiday parties during the COVID era counts as a “fast”?)

All almsgiving, prayer and fasting are supposed to do in a spiritual sense is focus your attention increasingly more on God.

That is the heart of preparedness—keeping God in the center of things. So, be prepared. For Christmas? Yes. For your death? Yes! For Jesus’ second coming? Yes!

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Peace, Love, Joy and
Hope in Christ,
Pastor Lance Henderson



DECEMBER MINISTRIES

FLOWERS

Dec 6 *Melba Murphy*

13 *DeLeon & Jane
Wallace*

20 *Lance & Robin
Henderson*

24 *None Needed*

27 **Need Volunteer*

GREETERS

Isma Boland

**Need Volunteer*

*Barney & Loleta
Keitt*

*Barney & Loleta
Keitt*

**Need Volunteer*

WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

Dec 6 *Marie Lybrand*

13 *David Griffith*

20 *Loleta Keitt*

24 *Loleta Keitt*

27 *Rebecca Fingerlin*

LECTORS

Wayne Lybrand

David Griffith

Loleta Keitt

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

DECEMBER

USHERS

Chief Wayne Lybrand

**Need Volunteer*

Linda Griffith

**Need Volunteer*

ALTAR GUILD

*Isma Boland &
Melba Murphy*

*Beverly Nivens &
Kelly Heid*

OFFERING PICKUP

Isma Boland

Linda Griffith

TELLERS

*Beth Cleland &
Melodie Capole*

*Linda Griffith &
Linda Hill*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Need Volunteer*

**Need Volunteer*

COMMEMORATION PROFILES

Ruth Nicholson

The Lutheran Church, as part of its worship, celebrates the lives of notable Christians of the past. Our hymnal provides a calendar (pp. 15–17) for us to follow which recognizes these individuals on the anniversary of their deaths.



December 6 **Nicholas, Bishop of Myra** **(died ca. 342)**

Although St. Nicholas is one of the most celebrated saints, few facts of his life are known beyond his service as a Christian bishop in southwestern Asia Minor. Legend has it that he saved several unjustly convicted persons from death and rescued a number of sailors from perishing. His association with gift-giving (as Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Père Noel, etc.) is said to originate in the story of his generosity toward three daughters of a poor man. In order to save the destitute girls from lives of prostitution, he tossed bags of gold through the window of their home to provide dowries for decent marriages. Patron saint of sailors, children, and the state of Russia, Nicholas has been honored, as well, by having innumerable churches named after him.

December 13 **Lucy, martyr** **(died ca. 304)**

Lucy was martyred for her Christian faith in Sicily during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. After Catholic authorities declared Lucy a saint, the similarity of her name to the Latin for “light” led to prayers directed to her for healing by those with eye diseases.

December 20 **Katharina von Bora Luther,** **renewer of the church** **(1499-1552)**

“My lord Katie,” as Martin Luther fondly called his wife, came from a family of Saxon nobles who had fallen on hard times. After her mother died, Katharina, just five years old, was sent to a cloister. She took her vows as a nun in 1515. Eight years later, however, she sought release from convent life. Her sympathy lay with the reform movement of Martin Luther, and she appealed for his help in order to flee the convent. With the help of a merchant friend of Luther’s, Katharina and at least eight other nuns were smuggled out and taken to Wittenberg. After a few years of working in various households there, Katharina became the wife of Martin Luther. A local official and friend of Luther’s gave them a former monastery, the Black Cloister, for their home. Within its walls and on its grounds, and on a farm they later purchased, Katharina managed the household, the garden and orchard, the farm animals, a home brewery, and whenever needed, an onsite hospital. She frequently had to feed and house the many visitors who sought out her husband. Katharina gave birth to six children during her lifetime, and she and Martin also raised four orphans. After Martin died in 1546, Katharina suffered poverty, dislocation resulting from several wars, and wartime destruction of most of the Black Cloister property. Her death occurred after a cart accident when she was moving yet again, this time to avoid the Black Plague. Katharina’s legacy includes the example she helped to set for clergy marriage and Christian family life and her strong influence on Martin Luther’s ideas regarding those.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

From November 1-29

Sunday Worship—34

MORE OSLC NEWS & NOTES



2021 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please take a moment to sign up for the 2021 ministries you would like to serve. Don't forget to check the church directory membership to make sure the information for your family is accurate.

RAZBERRIES

We will not be having Razberries in December to continue safe practice of social distancing. Wishing all a safe and Merry Christmas!

The Fingerlin's

GOD'S HELPING HANDS

God's helping hands needs are for canned sweet peas, oatmeal, grits, shampoo, and toothpaste. Please place donations in the provided box in the Cameron Hallway.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Christmas Eve service is December 24 at 6:00 pm. The service will begin in the sanctuary. Covid protocol will be in effect. Weather permitting, upon receiving communion, the congregation will be asked to exit into the parking lot with a lit candle for the singing of "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World".

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.
- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and high:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Refrain
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Refrain
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Refrain
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.
Refrain

GRAPEVINE QUIZ
(Answers on page 7)

While the stores are all playing Christmas music, we still have Advent hymns to sing. Let's compare some Advent hymns to their inspiring Bible passages. You'll want a copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship for this one.

1. Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers uses this title for Jesus. In Scripture, it only applied to Jesus in 1 Timothy 6.
 - a.Lamb of God
 - b.King of Kings
 - c.Lord of Lords
 - d.That cool dude
2. Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying uses this Matthew 25 parable's protagonist as a metaphor for Jesus.
 - a.The king
 - b.The bridegroom
 - c.The good shepherd
 - d.The quarterback
3. People, Look East use several metaphors for Jesus in the refrain. Luke 10 tells a story which is probably the inspiration for this particular metaphor.
 - a.Love, the Star
 - b.Love, the Guest
 - c.Love, the Rose
 - d.Love those burgers
4. Which of the following is NOT used as a metaphor for Jesus in the multi-versed O Come, O Come, Emmanuel?
 - a.Wisdom from on high
 - b.Lamb of God
 - c.Rod of Jesse
 - d.Dayspring

5. Most people know this as a Christmas hymn. ELW lists it as a Advent hymn . No matter, Isaac Watts likely used Psalm 98 as a major inspiration in its composition.
 - a.O Come, All Ye Faithful
 - b.Joy to the World
 - c.Go, Tell it on the Mountain
 - d.Jingle Bell Rock

BONUS: Now challenge here. Just read your favorite Advent hymn and meditate on the richness of its lyrics!



ELCA PRESS RELEASES

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

- 10/28 ELCA presiding bishop issues election statement
- 10/30 Christopher deForest elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod
- 11/04 ELCA Presiding Bishop Election Message
- 11/06 Indigenous Peoples Month events
- 11/16 ELCA Future Church design affirmed by ELCA Church Council

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those listed below have special prayers needs at this time. We keep the entire congregation in our prayers at all times, but sometimes special prayers are needed. If your name is on the list or you have added someone's name and they no longer need to be on the list, please contact the church secretary so the name can be removed.

Carson Ayres
(great nephew of Elizabeth Shealy)
Inez Black
Isma Boland
Greg Chapman
Jeannie Chapman
Linda Crapps
Don Ford
Scott Frick
(cousin of Sandra Hughes)
Bill Hill
Dolores Hopkins
Patsy Horton

Merna Long
Betty Meetze
Anne Moye
Cheryl Rowe
(friend of Linda Crapps)
Willette Satterwhite
Marie Shealy
(Morningside Ret Ctr., Apt. 131)
Mary Stocker
John Vaughn
(friend of the Keitts & the Nivens)
Jane Wallace

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Gossett	12/03
Lisa Sawyer	12/07
Wayne Lybrand	12/08
Kay Black	12/16
Sonya Urban	12/29
Linda Hill	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & MacKenzie Erb	12/12
Lance & Robin Henderson	12/19
Francis & Rebecca Fingerlin	12/28

Please Note: if there are any errors or omissions in birthdays or anniversaries, notify the church office. We want to make sure our records are correct.

GRAPEVINE ARTICLES

If you have articles, reports and/or pictures that you or your group would like printed in the next Grapevine, please send them to the Church Office before Monday, December 28.



ANSWERS: A Christmas gift for you! All answers are B!

X
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*living in the light
of our Saviour*

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MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY



If you are reading this, we know one thing already for sure. YOU CAN READ! You are halfway there to becoming a guest lector on our YouTube channel in 5 episodes of Daily Prayer with Pastor Lance. The only other things we need is to either 1) have you come into the church and record that gorgeous voice of yours reading God's Holy Word or 2) make the recordings at home and email the

digital audio files to me.

What's in it for you?

Some of the Guest Lector's on Daily Prayer with Pastor Lance have been recognized by entertainment talent scouts and have been awarded multi-million dollar contracts for voice-over work in commercials and audio books! Okay. That's a lie. You WILL get treasure in heaven and the satisfaction of helping OSLC in its internet ministries. You don't have to be a member of OSLC, just subscribing to The Grapevine has earned you an invitation! Email me at oslcpastor@sc.rr.com to volunteer or ask a velvet-tongued friend who you know is good at stuff like reading to volunteer.