

Calvary Lutheran Church

December 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:11.

I'm sure most, if not all of you are familiar with this verse from Luke's Gospel. It was the announcement from the angel of the Lord who appeared in the night sky to the shepherds who were out in the field, "keeping watch over their flock by night" (Lk 2:8). I can't say for sure, but part of me guesses those shepherds' ears perked up because of some of the words the angel of the Lord had used. Perhaps their minds were taken back to what the prophet Isaiah once said; "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore" (Is. 9:6-7)? Certainly, these Jewish shepherds knew of God's promised Messiah as foretold through Isaiah and the other prophets. Is this what such an angelic announcement means?

This verse from Luke will be the source of the Wednesday evening Advent meditations. More specifically, we will take time to reflect on three specific words the angel of the Lord used: Savior (Messiah)...Christ (Anointed One)...Lord (Yahweh, aka. God). These three words are all titles given to Jesus. As Christians, we use these words interchangeably and quite often. In the days of old and during Jesus' day, that was not the case. In fact, Jews didn't dare say the name of the Lord (Yahweh) for fear of something bad happening to them. They chose to substitute the more generic name Adonai for Yahweh so as to not cause any holy offense. But on this night, the angel reveals to these shepherds that the very One who was promised from of old was born in the city of David and He was the Savior (Messiah)...the Lord (God). And though this occurred many millennia ago, the same announcement rings true in our Christian ears as the angel heralds it once again this year!

Now, I know many of you are busy, whether because you work full time, volunteer, or have other commitments with family and friends. I get it. But might I entice you to take a little time from the busyness of your daily grind and sit at Jesus' feet this Advent season, even if for just a few moments, to feed your soul and let God overflow your heart? This Savior...this Christ...this Lord...is for YOU! Before any title or calling was ever placed on you, God loved you and promised His Son to you. All of you are a son or daughter of Jesus and God has placed His

Name on you in baptism...YOU ARE LOVED! And Advent is for you...Christmas is for you...Everything God does, HE DOES FOR YOU! Won't you come and sit at Jesus' feet and hear of His great love for you? "For unto YOU is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season Be To You All, Pastor Kessler



Midweek Advent potlucks will begin on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00pm before the worship service. All are welcome. Please join us and bring a friend.



The children have begun practice for the Christmas Eve Service. They are excited to share the joy of the Savior's birth in word and song with some surprises this year!

It is VERY important that the children attend Sunday School each week in preparation for this special service.

The children will be attending the Christmas Bell Choir concert at Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday, December 17 at 4:00. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!



Our monthly Fellowship Dinner is planned for 5:30 on Thursday, December 7, at DaBoyz. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to participate in an ornament exchange please bring a wrapped ornament, valued at no more than \$5.00. Hope to see you there!

A "Learn to Knit" class will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 5:30 in the Education Building for anyone interested in helping with the Prayer Shawl Ministry. All supplies will be provided. Experienced knitters are also invited to join us. Beginning Sunday,
December 3, we will begin collecting

socks and canned goods for Crossroads Mission and the food bank. A sock tree and box will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for your donatioins. Thank you for helping the less fortunate in our community.

December Birthdays

Idonna Deaver – 12/3
Jason Herwig – 12/7
Joseph Parker – 12/7
Brodie Morris – 12/12
Matt Dusek – 12/17
Gladys Timoruski – 12/17
Roxana Williams – 12/18
Jennifer Kessler – 12/19
William Stewart – 12/21
Jacob Williams – 12/24
Kyle Dennis – 12/30
Mike Ehrlich – 12/31





Megan Ehrlich – 12/1
Jaiden Williams – 12/2
Katherine Seeger – 12/6
Tyler Green – 12/12
Katie Strom – 12/12
Lisa Elam – 12/13
Joseph Parker – 12/19
Arlen Humphries – 12/22
Paloma Tansey – 12/23
Jennifer Kessler – 12/25



Ron & Michele Hill – 12/20 Bruce & Maggie Fenske – 12/29 Pat & Debbie Lamaestra – 12/30 Ben & Penny Urness – 12/31

