

VINEYARD



**The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us.**

-John 1:14

DECEMBER

TRINITY LUTHERAN (LCMS)
CHURCH & SCHOOL

WINFIELD, KS



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through Him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." John 1:1-9

The days between now and Christmas are a time to "see the light" And more deeply appreciate the Father's promise to send a Savior from sin. ***"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6)***

As promised, Jesus Christ, did come to save His people from their sins. He was born as promised. He lived as promised. He was crucified as promised. He rose on the third day as promised. The prophets and evangelists speak of these things with wonder and with anticipation. In the fullness of time all of this happened just as God said it would. He will return, as promised, and we will see it all with our own eyes.

The Scriptures could not be more direct and explicit. God has chosen to save sinners through the person, work, and word of Jesus. He is, in truth, the light of the world! ***"... in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world," (Hebrews 1:2)***

Through Him and by faith, what we "see" in this Advent and Christmas season is that; ***"God would have all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*** The light of truth reveals that the Son of God was born to be The Son of Man. His life was the only life ever lived without sin from conception and birth through death. It was a life lived in perfect, sinless obedience to the Father in your place and mine. And it was that life that He gave for our forgiveness and redemption on the cross. Through the life of His Son, our Father in Heaven receives all who believe as sons and daughters.

He is assuring us that, ***"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then, with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*** (Hebrews 4:14-16)

For the next few weeks our mid-week Advent services and Sunday worship services will follow the theme; **BEHOLD the LIGHT!** We will hear the words of the prophets and evangelists proclaiming the arrival of the Son of God and the Son of Man, The Light of the World, for our salvation.



What we "see" in this season is meant to be much more than a seasonal reflection. The Scripture readings and their message are for all people and every nation to see and hear so that the light of faith and hope shine in their lives, too. May we, like John, bear witness to the "LIGHT."

With gentleness and respect, be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in you. What we hear from Him is not meant to be kept to ourselves. The time to share what you have seen and heard is now.

"And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them this child."

Luke 2:17

*****INVITE SOMEONE TO WORSHIP WITH YOU THIS WEEK*****

Blessings!
Pastor Hachaway
CH

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES: "LIVING IN THE LIGHT"

**HERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP
BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!**

Sunday, December 3

9:00 Worship/Communion

Wednesday, December 6

5:30pm—Advent meal

7:00pm "Many Lights Are Brighter Together!" Rms. 15:4-7

Sunday, December 10

9:00am Worship

Wednesday, December 13

5:30pm—Advent meal

7:00pm "A Light With A Special Purpose" Rms. 1: 1-7

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Worship/Communion

Wednesday, December 20

No meal

6:30pm—CHILDREN'S PROGRAM "From Heaven Above"

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Worship

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

"The Brightest Light!" Is. 9:2-7

Monday December 25, 10:00am

Christmas Day "The Life in the Light!" John 1:4-5

Sunday December 31

9:00am Worship

7:00pm—New Year's Eve Worship/Communion

A Note from the Deacon

The other day I was browsing through some old "Johnnie Reporters" that have been bound up and put into a hardback cover. The bound book was entitled "The Reporter – 1947 to 1953." The first issues were of course from 1947, that's 70 years ago. These issues were well preserved as the print was crisp and clean. As I began paging through the issues of the "Reporter" for the school year 1947-1948, it wasn't long before I came upon the December 17, 1947 issue and turning to the second page I found this article, "Why Christmas?" After reading the first paragraph, I asked myself this same question, "Why do I, my family, my friends, members of my congregation (Trinity Lutheran Winfield), why do we celebrate Christmas? The answer was right there in front of me. I do not know who wrote the article but I can tell you the Editor of the St. John's Reporter that year was Richard Wagner (M'48), so I applaud the EDITORIAL STAFF of that year for publishing this article. Here is that story as it appeared in the "Reporter":

Why Christmas?

"Why does Christmas mean so much to us? Why do we spend the latter part of November and the full month of December in preparation for one day, the 25th of December? Is it the formality of decorating a Christmas tree and exchanging gifts? Is it the bountiful Christmas dinner? Is it the atmosphere created by Christmas carolers singing while snow-flakes lazily drift down from a gray, overcast sky?

Or is it something deeper than the mere earthly gaiety of celebration? Why does Christmas hold that mystic power, the sensation of our greatest joy and pleasure? There must be something besides the earthly concepts of the celebration, for no other holiday reaches into the utter depth of the hearts of men as does Christmas.

Yes, there is something else. Christmas is our greatest and yet humblest moment. We praise, worship, laud, and adore the Lord in humility and meekness; in a spirit of gratitude as only a miserable sinner, snatched from the clutches of sin by a Savior can fathom.

As we come out of the neat white church, after Christmas service, our footsteps make impressions into the snow. We are treading impressions into the "snow" of life's path. What kind of impressions are they? Can the world see that in these impressions there walks a child of God who withstands the temptations of the world so that someday he may stand in the glory of God? Is the earthly man able to glean from these impressions the fact that peace is found in the Christ child lying in the manger of Bethlehem? What kind of impressions will we leave on the spotless, unblemished snow on our journey through the coming year?"

I recently shared this article with the current active list of St. John's College Alumni and I thought it was worth sharing with the membership of Trinity Lutheran Church as well. I do hope you find some meaning in this article written some 70 years ago and that your "footsteps in the snow" in the coming year, 2018, will be meaningful to you, your family, your church, your community and to the world. And I think I've renewed my thoughts as to "Why I and my family celebrate Christmas" and I hope and pray that you have too. I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very **Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.**

Deacon Larry Junker

REFORMATION 500: OCTOBER 31, 1517

PART FOUR: MEETINGS, HEARINGS AND DEBATES

"A monk's squabble" is what Pope Leo called Luther's attacks on the sale of indulgences and his efforts to reform the Church. But the drop in sales made it impossible to ignore. And there were loud voices demanding action to quell the growing "heresy." The Pope's approach was to promote a series of meetings which hopefully could solve the problem privately; he had to be careful not to anger Luther's prince and protector, Duke Frederick of Saxony. This tactic did not work; it widened the growing rift between Luther and the Church by making public the differences. IT FAILED!

In 1518 Luther's Augustinian Order sent him to a hearing at **Heidelberg** to share his views. Much of the discussion focused on the nature of good works as they relate to being saved. Nothing was settled but the meeting went so well for Luther that he was encouraged at its outcome, later saying, "I went in disguise and came back a hero."

An Imperial Diet met at **Augsburg** later in 1518 to obtain funds for the Emperor in his struggle with the Muslim Turks. Luther was asked to attend. His enemies, led by Cardinal Cajetan, used the occasion to get him to recant his "heretical views." Cajetan said to Luther: "You have erred because Rome says you teach new doctrines." Luther's answer was that he would recant only if he were convinced by Scriptures that he was wrong. He left Augsburg by night for fear of being arrested.

A debate was scheduled in 1519 at **Leipzig**, with John Eck, a prominent theologian, who managed to maneuver Luther into defending some of John Hus's "heresies." This was a dangerous situation for Luther, considering that Hus had been burned at the stake a hundred years earlier. Furthermore, Luther was on very dangerous ground when he claimed that Popes could make mistakes – they were fallible! Several weeks later the Pope answered with an official Bull which began with, "Arise, O Lord, Judge Thy Cause. A Wild Boar Has Entered Thy Vineyard." He then ordered the burning of all of Luther's writings. Luther's response: he publicly burned the Bull.

The most significant of these meetings occurred in 1521 when the Emperor convened the Imperial Diet at the small city of **Worms**. Here Luther was told to repudiate ALL of his writings by answering either "yes" or "no." Instead, he chose to explain why he could not obey this order. In his answer of unyielding defiance, he said that he would recant only if he were convinced by Scripture or other clear evidence. He could not act against his conscience, "which was bound by the Word of God." He concluded with these famous words: "Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen." In reality the Emperor had no choice but announce that he could be put to death on sight. However, on his way back to Saxony he was "kidnapped" and taken to Frederick's castle at Wartburg for safe keeping. While there, he translated the New Testament into German.

Back home, he continued to teach, preach and write. Meanwhile, a more radical reform movement was developing in Switzerland under Ulrich Zwingli. Besides eliminating many "Catholic" customs and practices, he demanded that reason be used to explain difficult doctrines. A major dispute arose when he denied that Christ's body was really present in Holy Communion. In 1529, he and Luther met at **Marburg** to discuss the problem. Luther insisted that IS means IS when Scripture says, "This IS my body." The meeting disbanded without agreement, marking the first split in Protestantism.

In 1530 the Emperor called for another meeting of the Diet at **Augsburg**. Luther could not attend because Frederick could not protect him there. The agenda included the presentation of a "Confession" of faith written by Philip Melancthon and adopted by a group of Lutheran German leaders. The Emperor objected but he needed German unity and support and had no real choice but to permit it to stand. Since then, this "Augsburg Confession" has represented the basic teachings of Lutheranism around the world.

These meetings between 1518 and 1530 were important because they helped define Luther's positions with respect to the Roman Catholic Church. Equally important, over the years they have helped many Christians understand what it means to be a Lutheran.



Advent

TABLES OF EIGHT

We will not meet during the month of December. Please focus your efforts on the many Advent and Christmas activities at Trinity. If you had not signed up yet, but would like to join and participate in Tables of Eight, you can be added to the rotation in January. Contact Debbie Dennett or the church office. Everyone who has participated so far has really enjoyed getting together for a meal and fellowship and getting to know each other better. Have a great Christmas season! (Parish Life)

GOLDEN EAGLES

Season's Greetings to all you Eagles, 55 and older. We had a great meeting in October with information shared about the Kansas Adoption Agency. We took a survey to help Cowley County get a Blue Cross Grant and Sara Deepe gave us a wonderful travel log of her recent trip to Germany to celebrate the Reformation. Don't forget our December meeting is going to be on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 12:15 p.m. This will be our annual Christmas get-together. The turkey and ham will be furnished and Eagles are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Please bring a favorite Nativity to share with the group and to decorate our tables.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Here we go a caroling! Let's spread some Christmas cheer singing to friends and neighbors on Sunday, December 17. All ages are welcome to sing. Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. to form groups and then following singing we will go to Pastor and Debbie's for supper. Bring a snack to share.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Many hands make light of much work! Come help us decorate the church on Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. Thanks in advance for your help.



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Plan to attend the Advent midweek worship services beginning on Wed. Nov. 29th at 7:00 p.m. The Advent series title is "Behold the Light!" Nov. 29: "Put on the Light," Romans 13:11-14. Dec. 6: "Many Lights Are Brighter – Together! Romans 15:4-7. Dec. 13: "Light with a Special Purpose!, Romans 1:1-7. Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program "From Heaven Above." Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.: "The Brightest Light!" Isaiah 9:2-7. Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.: "The Life in the Light!" John 1:4-5.

TRINITY BELL CONCERT-DEC. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

We invite you to come for a concert of Christmas music on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Cumbernauld Village in their basement. We invite all the residents of Cumbernauld and Trinity to attend.

CALLING ALL YOUTH! Don't forget we will be serving the first Advent meal on December 6 starting at 5:00 p.m. Each Youth is to bring a crockpot of soup. This is a required event for all Youth to participate. On Dec. 10, don't forget to fill a pew at church. Also in December we will be serving the Hospital Christmas dinner. Please be sure to mark your calendars and participate as we need everyone's help. Questions, contact Stacie VanDeGrift.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 20th, 6:30 p.m. will be the Children's Christmas program, titled: "From Heaven Above." Come enjoy the Christmas story thru words and song of a child. **Please note:** The time change and there will be no Advent meal that night.



CHRISTMAS FAMILY

As we do each year, we will help provide a family in need with a nice Christmas. We are at this time still waiting for more information so please watch your bulletin for more info or check in the office. Thanks for your help.



ATTENTION!

Members of the congregation are invited and urged to share their ideas on prospective nominees for offices of the congregation with the Nominating Committee prior to January 1, 2018. No suggestions can be made to the committee after that date. Any communicant member may suggest names to be considered by the Nominating Committee. These names are suggestions only, are confidential, and may not appear on the final ballot. The consent of the person being suggested is not needed at this time. Only male communicants shall be eligible for President-elect and membership on the Board of Elders.

The Nominating Committee consists of Sharon Cooper, Dennis Shiever, and Bill Condit. Suggestions may also be left in the church office.

Positions open for nomination are:

President-elect

Financial Secretary

Elders – 4

Buildings and Grounds – 2

Board of Education – 3

Board of Parish Life- chair-elect

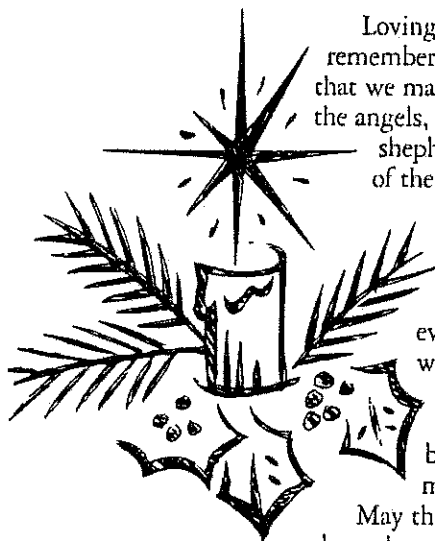
Member-at-large – 1

Board of Youth – 2

Church Endowment Committee - 1



Christmas prayer



Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

—Robert Louis Stevenson



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING,
"WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?"
AND I SAID, "HERE AM I, SEND ME!"
(ISAIAH 6:8 (NIV))



**HERE I AM, LORD...SEND ME!
GO LEARN -- GO SHARE -- GO SERVE**

God's Gift

ENJOY sharing God's gift of Jesus with a gift collection for a ministry in your area. If possible, include with each gift a printed copy of Luke 2:1-20 in a decorated envelope!

You are invited to join with the ladies of LWML Bible Study, fellowship and servant event:

Joanna Circle – Dec 14 at 2 pm
Church Overflow
Eunice, Hostess; Gayle, Bible Study
Gayle Walker, Chairman 262-6228, gwalker3@cox.net

Ruth Circle – Dec 10 2-4 pm
Cumbernauld Peach and Horn Room
Debbie & Linda, Hostesses
Michelle Schoon, Chairman 221-0838
schoon@cowley.edu

Esther – Dec 12 at 9 am
Church Overflow
Donna & Dorothy, Hostesses
Ruth, Bible Study
Linda Kindt, Chairman 221-0818 gmakindt@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:
Adopt a Family for Christmas
Dec 13 – Advent Meal, Ruth Circle Hosts
Dec 31 – Mite Box Sunday

Living and Serving our Lord and Savior!



Use me today, Lord. Don't let me miss anyone you have put in my path who needs Your encouragement, hope, and love.

MISSIONARY DANIELLE PUTNAM



As you consider your donations to our missionaries, please remember Danielle Putnam. Danielle serves our Lord in the Dominican Republic as a developmental disabilities outreach missionary working to provide often lacking help and training needed for the developmentally disabled and their families. She shares the message of salvation through Jesus and provides opportunities for them to continue to study God's Word and become part of the church family. Prior to that she served LCMS in Panama organizing Sunday school and evangelism programs with a special emphasis on women and children. She graduated from the Deaconess Program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft Wayne Indiana.

You can read more of her story – see LWML bulletin board.

Danielle can be supported with prayer and sharing her story with others. If you wish to donate to her mission:

Give securely online www.lcms.org/putnam
Checks payable and sent to:
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
PO Box 790089
St Louis MO 63179-0089
Note on check: Danielle Putnam

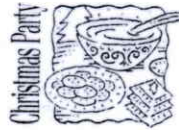
Dec 13 Advent Meal proceeds will be sent to Danielle.

Thank you for your prayers and support for this young missionary! LWML

THANK YOU

The ladies of LWML wish to thank you for your participation in our annual bake sale. We had such wonderful delicious choices! 10% of the proceeds will be sent to KS District for mites for Project #9 – Lutheran Valley Retreat in Colorado \$5,000.

God's blessings overflow...we give thanks to Him who provides for our every need and glorify His majesty!



Yes, it is holiday season and all sorts of cookies, candies and seasonal treats appear! There are extra meals, open houses, and parties. Usually, just an invitation to get together with friends or relatives results in more temptation.

Here are 10 holiday nutrition tips to tame temptation from the Mayo Clinic News Network.

- Don't skip meals. Skipping a meal with the goal of saving calories prior to a holiday event can often backfire and lead to overeating due to ravenous feelings of hunger.
- Contribute a healthy dish. Ensure at least one nutritious choice is available at potlucks.
- Choose your splurges. Scan the buffet or dinner table and choose a couple of holiday favorites to splurge on instead of foods that you can have any other day of the year.
- Think color. Make a plate look festive by including fruits and veggies. Aim to cover half the plate.
- Choose drinks wisely. Stick to calorie-free drinks, such as water, tea or seltzer instead of high-calorie festive drinks. Alcoholic beverages contribute empty calories and can cause you to make poor judgments with food. If you do choose to drink alcohol, do so in moderation, and alternate each alcoholic drink with a glass of water.
- Visit the people, not the food. Move socializing away from the buffet or appetizer table to prevent mindless eating.
- Say no to food pushers (politely.)
- Savor seasonal treats. Having treats once a year will not make or break your weight. Make sure you take time to really taste and enjoy that special treat when you have it.
- Eat until you are satisfied, not stuffed. No one likes that icky, stuffed feeling after a meal. Remember, there are always leftovers!
- Don't feel guilty. If you did overindulge, don't beat yourself up. Just make sure your next meal is healthy, and be sure to incorporate exercise into your routine.

Also, be sure to get enough rest and take time to enjoy the season.