

THE CLARION

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

Mission Statement

*Christ Lutheran Church exists to share the Good News of
Jesus Christ with members, community and the world."*



Pastor's Corner

By Rev. Daniel A. Hinton

Dear Saints of Christ Lutheran Church,

A word we probably don't use enough anymore is *eschatology*. Eschatology is the discipline within theology that studies the last things — or as we might call them, the last days. These last days lead up to the end of this world, and the inauguration of the world to come, which we confess in the Nicene Creed. Usually when we think about the end times we picture a crazy man in a tin foil hat and sandwich board ranting about prophecies. But like so many things in the Christian religion, we should be ashamed or afraid of talking about these things, since the Bible teaches us quite a bit about these topics. In fact, we should realize that hesitation comes from the unbelieving world and repent of being ashamed of the gospel.

Eschatology in the Bible, contrary to the way it gets taught by dispensationalist heretics and Chiliast errorists, is shockingly simple. I would say most of our children have a good, solid handle on it each time they confess "He [Jesus] will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead." That's the most important thing you need to know about the end of the world: Jesus is coming back, and when He ends the world, He will be on our side.

I bring this up because we begin the season of Advent this Sunday (this is the latest possible date to begin Advent, by the way). In Advent, we consider Christ's coming in three ways: His past coming in His birth in Bethlehem, His present coming in Word and Sacrament, and His future coming at the end of this world. We just heard about the five foolish and five wise vir-



December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

December 3rd - Christmas Party @ Zachman's
2pm-5pm

December 5th - Advent by Candlelight @ 7pm

December 6th - Midweek Advent Service @
6:30pm. Adult bible study will follow.

December 9th - Candlelight at the Ranch at the
Ranching Heritage Museum from 6:30pm-9pm

December 13th - Midweek Advent Service @
6:30pm. Adult bible study will follow.

December 16th - Community Sing-In at Lubbock
Cooper High School PAC @ 3:00pm

December 16th - Santa Land in Mackenzie Park
6:00pm-10:00pm

December 20th - Midweek Advent Service @
6:30pm. Adult bible study will follow.

December 21st - Church Christmas Party in the
church fellowship hall @ 6:30pm

December 24th - Divine Service @ 10:15am

December 24th - Carols & Lessons Service @
6:30pm

December 24th - Candlelight Divine Service @
10:00pm

gins, and were reminded to keep our lamps full of oil (that is, our hearts full of faith) as we wait for the return of the Bridegroom, who is Jesus Christ.

This arrangement of the year of grace (that is, the church year) is strategic. It means we go from hearing about the Last Day to meditating on His coming. Advent — from the Latin *adventum*, “coming” — places us where the Church was in the days of the Old Testament. We have received the promise, we have seen God’s goodness and faithfulness, and now we pray and wait for Him to fulfill this climactic promise to us at some unknown point in the future. So we wait and pray, and while we wait and pray, we believe.

That sounds simple, but as you probably know it’s a tremendous calling to live as a Christian in an unbelieving world, and it’s only been getting tougher. Living life as a Christian is intense. It is a life full of joys and sorrows. The joys are great, and the sorrows are heavy. We will be mistreated by others, and our enemies will refuse to make things right. We will miss out on things because we refused to participate in sin. We will see people we love refuse to believe and refuse the salvation Christ gives.

None of this is easy. It wasn’t easy for the Christians of the Old Testament who were waiting on Christ’s first coming either. This Advent we are going to draw strength from the same prophecies that sustained the Church in the centuries before Christ’s birth, particularly from the prophet Isaiah — “for unto us a Son is born,” “the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son”, “comfort, comfort My people.”

*Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. - Zechariah 9:9*

...our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. - Philippians 3:20

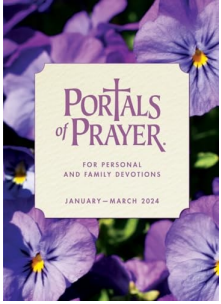
Most of us have probably given thought to what happens if our fragile just-in-time supply chain should break. We store up a couple or a few weeks of food to feed ourselves and others, and this is an excellent practice. In fact, Joseph the patriarch shows us this in Genesis 41 when he stores food for an entire nation. But no amount of prepping with physical supplies is as important as making sure we live each day in the Christian faith. So while you wait for Jesus’ return this new church year, while you pray for His return this Advent, and while you wait for His second coming every day of your life, make sure you’re ready in the only way that matters. Remind yourself that *the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, and also repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15)*. And if the world starts to look more and more like it can’t hold together much longer, it is especially than that you need to remember the words of Jesus: *when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28)*. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Lord be with you this Advent.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Hinton

Both Braille teams will break for the holidays in December. They will return to regular schedule in January 2024.

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Portals of Prayer for January - March 2024 are already in the church office.

If you'd like to pick one up before your holiday travels, please let us know.



Church Leadership

Church Council & Elders for 2024

Church Council

- President: Kelly Kensing
- Vice President: John Keinath
- Council Secretary: Jana Taff
- Treasurer: Elijah Jackson
- Director of Properties: Erwin Merz
- Director of Education: Susan Rowe
- Director of Evangelism: Kandice Ballman

Elders

- Phillip Guengerich
- Darryl Lippe
- Jon Armstrong
- Max Fisher
- Bob Faber
- Wally Glab
- Bradley Barrette

Holiday Parties and Fellowship Events

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
the whole earth is full of his glory*

Advent by Candlelight

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 at 7:00pm
Donations will benefit the Church Nursery



Ladies, mark your calendars for Advent by Candlelight. This is a time of fellowship and faith-building for Christ Lutheran Ladies, ages 16 to 106 - a night to come together in worship and thanksgiving for the birth of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our theme is Angels: *The Messengers and The Message*

Doors will open at 6:30pm for table viewing.

Ladies will take their seats at 7:00pm.

Table hostesses decorate their tables and provide dessert and beverages. The evening will include readings and music by candlelight. The event will close with prayer and singing "Silent Night".

Ladies who are willing to host a table will need to sign up at church beginning November 5th. All guests must register. Seating is limited. We look forward to sharing this evening together.



Join the tradition on Friday, December 8 & Saturday, December 9 from 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock.

The event is **FREE** (suggested donation of \$5) and does not require a ticket. 3121 4th Street | Lubbock, TX 79409

Volunteers bring the ranch to life in each structure, play live music, sell hot cocoa, make kettle corn, help Santa with his visitors, serve meals to the volunteers, keep pathways safe, sing Christmas carols, oversee the parking lot and much more.

The lighted pathways are wheelchair and stroller accessible as visitors pass cowboys camped out near their horses and brewing coffee over a campfire. Visitors can purchase refreshments in the decorated 6666 Barn and on the Campbell patio while they listen Christmas music with a Texas swing.

Holiday Parties and Fellowship Events

HANDEL'S MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING-IN

Saturday, December 16th @ 3:00pm at Lubbock-Cooper High School Performing Arts Center
910 Woodrow Rd

Several members of our congregation will be singing in Lubbock- Cooper Community Sing-In featuring the Lubbock-Cooper ISD Combined High School Orchestras.

They will be singing 3 chorus' from Handel's *Messiah*
Chorus No. 4, *And the Glory of the Lord*, Chorus No. 12, *For Unto Us a Child is Born*,
and Chorus No. 44, *Hallelujah*.

This concert is free to attend but seating is limited.



Saturday, December 16th from 6:00pm - 10:00pm
We will meet at the entrance at 5:45pm

Santa Land is open every evening from
December 10-23, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. nightly.

Each evening at 6:00 p.m. during this 14-night event, a sleigh with tiny reindeer bring Santa and Mrs. Claus to Santa Land to hear the Christmas wishes of area children.

The entrance to Santa Land is located off of the East Broadway entrance into Mackenzie Park east of Avenue A and the South Plains Fairgrounds.

We will have a Christmas party at the church on
Thursday, December 21st at 6:30pm.

There will be food, fellowship and a gift exchange,
price limit \$20.



MEMBER CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We were blessed to receive five new members on October 29, 2023; Linda Bolland, Ayres Cermin, and David and Gretchen Fuhrman were received by transfer in from their former congregations, and Elena Jackson was received by Confirmation. Ayres' photo is not yet available – watch the Christ's Family Board for his picture soon. If you haven't already, you'll want to meet and welcome these folks!



Linda Bolland

David & Gretchen Fuhrman

Elena Jackson

FORMER MEMBERS

We received word that two of our former long-time members, Sam Erwin and Travis Simpson, both received their Crown of Life on Reformation Day, October 31, 2023. Sam and his wife, Susan, were living in Edmond OK; Travis had retired and he and Carol returned to Lubbock recently. Neither departure from this life was expected. Please remember their families and friends in your prayers.



<https://matthewsfuneralhome.com/james-samuel-sam-erwin/>

<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Travis-Simpson/#!/Obituary>

BRaille WORK CENTER #148

by Joyce Kuhl

Recently, a plaque was received from the National office of Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. allowing us to help celebrate 80 years of freely sharing the Gospel with all people who are blind or visually-impaired. For the past 41 years (1982 – 2023), current and former members and friends of Christ Lutheran Church, with assistance from members of some other churches, have printed a large number of those books and mailed them to the countries who have requested them.

Through the years, countless hours of volunteer service have provided a valuable mission product to “preach and teach the Gospel to all nations” as God instructed. There are currently two Braille groups, each working several hours twice a month. Braille group #1 on the left, is headed by Rebecca Barrette (on the right), and the other members are (left to right) Glenna Warrick, Grace Taylor and Chris Larson. Group #2 on the right is headed by Sue Huenergardt (center), and the other members are (left to right) Marsha Baxter, Barbara Merz, Wyoneta Buckner, and Amber Moore.





Sue Huenergardt was trained and certified as a Volunteer Braille Transcriber in June, 1994, and she has been an active volunteer since that time. Wyoneta Buckner has been a volunteer for the Braille Center for almost 30 years. The slogan of the Lutheran Braille Workers is “Hold High the Cross”, and all these ladies have certainly upheld that slogan. If you think you might be interested in helping with this project, please contact either Rebecca Barrette (210-355-0158, or becca4184@boozla.com) or Sue Huenergardt (806-797-2552, or suehue927@gmail.com) for more details.



DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:30am - Choir Practice
3 9:00am-Sunday School 10:15am-Divine Service w/Holy Communion <i>Advent begins</i>	4	5 7:00pm - Advent by Candlelight 	6 11:00am - Adult Study 5:10pm - Youth Catechesis 5:30pm - Youth Bible History 6:30pm - Midweek Vespers Adult Study after	7	8	9 10:30am - Choir Practice 6:30pm-Candlelight at the Ranch
10 9:00am-Sunday School 10:15am-Divine Service w/Holy Communion	11	12	13 11:00am - Adult Study 5:10pm - Youth Catechesis 5:30pm - Youth Bible History 6:30pm - Midweek Vespers Adult Study after	14	15	16 10:30am - Choir Practice 3:00pm- LCISD Community Sing-In at LCHS 6:00pm - Santa Land at McKenzie Park
17 9:00am-Sunday School 10:15am-Divine Service w/Holy Communion	18	19	20 11:00am - Adult Study 5:10pm - Youth Catechesis 5:30pm - Youth Bible History 6:30pm - Midweek Vespers Adult Study after	21 6:30pm - Church Christmas Party CHRISTMAS PARTY	22	23 10:30am - Choir Practice
24 9:00am-Sunday School 10:15am-Divine Service w/Holy Communion 6:30pm-Carols & Lessons Service 10:00pm-Candlelight Divine Service	25 10:15-Divine Service w/Holy Communion 	26	27 No regular Wednesday classes today	28	29	30 10:30am - Choir Practice
31 9:00am-Sunday School 10:15am-Divine Service w/Holy Communion	