

December Newsletter 2016



The Advent & Christmas Season

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From the Pastor's Desk:

"A True Love's Gift"

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus" (Luke 1:31)

Most of us are very, very busy around Christmas time.

Still there are those who apparently have too much time on their hands. On that list I would place the people who have done the calculations for the 31st annual PNC Wealth Management Christmas Price Index.

For those of you who don't know anything about the PNC Wealth Management Christmas Price Index, I can tell you these are the folks who keep track of that song about the "12 Days of Christmas." You know the song that has "lords-a-leaping" and "golden rings" and "swans-a-swimming." Well, these folks are able to tell you what such things would cost your true love. More than that, they can tell you if, during the last year, those things got more expensive or cheaper.

You probably won't be surprised if I tell you, this past year things have gone up slightly in price, about \$300. While some items stayed the same, there was a sizable increase in the cost of those six "geese-a-laying."

Now, if your true love gave you everything on the list, but did it only once, the total would be \$42,959. On the other hand, if your true love purchased all the items on the list each time that item was mentioned, the price would zoom up to \$116,273.

Now I don't know if your true love is going to spend \$116,273 on you for Christmas this year. I'm inclined to

doubt it. But you should hardly feel badly about having a true love who is a bit cheap on holiday expenditures.

I say that because you and I have received a gift from our Lord that can never be measured in dollars and cents. It's true. In the Person of Jesus Christ, God's Son came down to earth. Here, as one of us, He obeyed all of the Lord's commandments, and He did so perfectly. As one of us, He declined all the devil's temptations, and He did that without slip or stumble. Then, once again, as one of us, He died the death our sins said we deserved.

In His true love, the Lord gave His Son to be our Ransom and Restorer.

This is why this day and every day, God's elect have been given cause for rejoicing, celebration and thanksgiving.

Prayer: Dear Lord, for Your great gift of grace, may I always be truly grateful. This I ask in the Savior's Name. Amen.

**7:00 PM Wednesday Evening & 10:00 AM Thursday
Morning Advent Services**

Wednesday Evening Advent services begin November 30, at 7:00 PM and continues every Wednesday night till December 21.

Thursday Morning Advent services begin December 1, at 10:00 AM in the Church Fellowship Hall and continues every Thursday morning till December 22.

As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, let Martin Luther's beloved hymn "From Heaven Above" speak to you in our special Advent worship series. Each service in

the 4-part series focuses on the divine gifts that come down to us through the birth of Jesus.

Service 1 Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 (The Gift of Hope), based on Matthew 12:15-21, looks at how the people of Israel waited in hope for the promised Messiah, and how we now wait in hope for his return on the Last Day.

Service 2 December 7 & 8 (The Gift of Love), based on John 3:13-17, looks at how the steadfast love of God is revealed in the gift of his Son and how we, as the redeemed people of God, have the privilege of sharing his love with others.

Service 3 December 14 & 15 (The Gift of Peace), based on John 14:25-27, reminds us that we have peace with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that we are now ambassadors of that peace to all the world.

Service 4 December 21 & 22 (The Gift of Life), based on John 1:1-5, invigorates us with the message that we have been given a life of faith here on earth in Christ's name and eternal life in heaven with him through his precious birth among us.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE 3:00 PM

Since Christmas falls on Saturday this year we will continue our regular Saturday Schedule at 3:00 PM. It will be a Candlelight service and will be the same as the Christmas Candlelight Service at 11:00 PM. The theme of the service will be "Silently Ponder the Mystery"

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 PM

***The Friendly Beasts* - Children's Christmas Service presents the Christmas story through scripture readings and hymns. All**

children from Pre-school to 8th grade are invited to participate in this beautiful Candle Light Service. The children will read the Christmas story, sing carols, act out the Christmas story, and have the congregation participate in praise to our Savior, Jesus Christ. Special musical numbers will be performed by our high school and junior high youth.

Please note that the rehearsals for this service are:

December 3, 10:00AM – 11:00 AM

December 10, 10:00AM – 11:00 AM

December 17, 10:00AM – 11:00 AM

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT HOLY
COMMUNION SERVICE AT 11:00 PM**

Worship will be held at our church at 11:00 PM with Holy Communion. This Christmas service of light will be led by Pastor with special music provided by members of our congregation. The theme is **“Silently Ponder the Mystery”**

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

Since Christmas Day is on a Sunday we will have a regular Sunday Schedule with Sunday School at 9:00 AM for those who would like to come. It will probably be held together as one class in the basement where we will meet together as one class. This will depend on the numbers.

On Christmas Day worship will be at the regular time at 10:00 AM.

The theme of the service will be “God Speaks.”

We focus our attention Christmas morning on a very different part of the Christmas message than we highlighted yesterday. Gone are the details of Luke’s account, and in its place is the grand expression of a cosmic event, long promised and now

fulfilled. God's own Son has come to wear human flesh and blood, to be born as a man of the blessed Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He has come as the Word made flesh to fulfill the promise laid down before the foundation of the world and rescue His lost creation. That same Word remains among His people, the living voice speaking to bestow what He has won, summoning sinners from guilt to righteousness and from death to life. So we come on Christmas morning to rejoice in what the Lord has done to save His people.

Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon

The Ladies Aid of Ebenezer would like to invite all ladies of the congregation to our annual Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 2, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Please feel free to join us as our guests. **Men too!** We are pleased to have Bonnie (nee Bauche) Matzat as our special guest. Bonnie will role play "Katie Luther" the wife of Martin Luther. Hope to see you there. Dinner will include, fried chicken, homemade desserts and all the fixings.

Senior Christmas Dinner December 4, 12:00 Noon

Christmas Dinner served by our youth will be held in the church's dining hall Sunday, December 4 at 12:00 noon. A scrumptious, Christmas dinner will be served by the families of our children and youth. All seniors are encouraged to attend.

Contribution Envelopes

The contribution envelopes for our members will be ready to be picked up sometime before the end of December. We will notify our members in the bulletin when they are ready to take home.

MISSION SOCIETY NEWS

Ebenezer Mission Society had their quarterly meeting November 21. We decorated the church for Thanksgiving and separated the LCFS and Leslie Food Bank collection. Thank you to all who so generously donated items. We had devotions, singing, reports and correspondence. The Lutheran Family and Children's Services dinner had a collection of \$402 plus clothing items worth over \$300. The Cookie Sale brought in \$246 to benefit the Ecuador Hurricane Relief. Officers elected were Kathy Scheer, President and Barbara Kassebaum, Vice President. \$2600 of Country Store receipts and mites were allocated to our Mission Projects.

LCMS World Relief-Disaster Response	\$250
Lithuanian Ministry	\$250
Lutherans for Life	\$250
Amigos de Cristo	\$250
LCMS World Mission-Robin McCoy	\$250
With God's Little Ones	\$250
Lutheran Family & Children's Services	\$250
Lutheran Bible Translators-Rob Hilbert	\$250
Light of Christ Chinese Ministry	\$250
Emergency Fund	\$200
Orphan Grain Train	\$150

Our next meeting will be February 20, 2017. We will meet at 6:30 pm to sew warming bags for Mercy Hospital prior to our meeting. All women of the congregation are welcome to join in our mission efforts.

Thank You From Ebenezer Mission Society

Thank you to all who donated food and toiletry items for Lutheran Family and Children's Services and the Leslie Food Bank. Your generosity has filled many needs.

December Birthdays *(If your name is not listed or listed incorrectly, please let Mary know)*

Adam Brune	12-1
Sara Unnerstall	12-3
Emma Hudnell	12-4
Peggy Voelker	12-5
Penny Schreiner	12-5
Nicholas Gilbert	12-6
Paula Gleitz	12-7
Wilbert Baumann	12-7
Sophia Door	12-7
Dale Summers	12-9
Susan Hoemann	12-11
Barbara Bolm	12-11
Susan Kassebaum	12-16
Lynell Glosemeyer	12-16
Tracey Bade	12-17
Denise Walkenhorst	12-17
Debbie Brune	12-17
Isabelle Rose Gilbert	12-18
Adam Wesche	12-20
Babs Kormeier	12-21
Travis Gardner	12-21
Kate Walkenhorst	12-21
Lanette Bunge	12-21
Barry Kormeier	12-22
Jeff Brunkhorst	12-22
Judy Luecker	12-24
Nancy Satre	12-30
Meredith Gardner	12-31

December Anniversaries

Mark and Susan Kassebaum	12-4
Paul and Judy Creek	12-10
Marvin and Mary Sprick	12-11

Bell Ringer Schedule for December

December 4

Cody Adams

December 11

Trent Huellinghoff

December 18

Corey Adams

December 25

Jeff Hohlt

Usher Schedule for December

1: Corey Adams

2: Matt Kassebaum

3: Albert Bade

4: Philip Pelster

5: Harvey Quinn

Alternate: Bryan Adams

Head Usher: Wilbert Baumann

Altar Guild for December

Barb Kassebaum and Jenny Huellinghoff

Monthly Treasurer's Summary October 2016

Beginning checking balance	\$10,772.07
Receipts	\$16,816.63
Disbursements	\$10,555.67
Ending checking balance	\$17,033.03
LCEF savings balance	\$30,378.31
Thrivent FPDA balance	\$21,028.67
Pledged to Missouri District for year	\$4,800.00
Paid to Missouri District this year-to-date	\$4,000.00
Year-to-date income less expenses	-\$10,850.06

36 Christian Ways to Reduce Stress

An Angel says, “Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn’t happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.”

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say “No” to projects that won’t fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time, don’t lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can’t do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don’t use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, or an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut) This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the “Kid in You” everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough rest.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.

20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
 21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
 22. Every day, find time to be alone.
 23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
 24. Make friends with Godly people.
 25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
 26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
 27. Laugh
 28. Laugh some more.
 29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
 30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can.)
 31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most.)
 32. Sit on your ego.
 33. Talk less; listen more.
 34. Slow down.
 35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
 36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.
- GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS
AROUND FOR YOU.**
- "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) 2017



New Year Country Church Tour

Our church has been invited to participate in an open church tour of country churches in Franklin County. We will have our sanctuary open on New Years Day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for people to tour and see our holiday decorations.

The organizers of the tour are aware that we have a worship service on January 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. and it is open to the public. It is quite a honor for us to be included.

The
Joy
of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			31 Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM	1 Advent Worship in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM	2 Ladies Aid Luncheon 12:00 Noon – Katie Luther enactment	3 Christmas Rehearsal 10:00 – 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM W/ Holy Communion
4 Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00 Senior Dinner 12:00	5 Adult Class 6:30 PM	6 Elders 7:00 PM	7 Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM	8 Advent Worship in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM	9	10 Christmas Rehearsal 10:00 – 11:00 AM Cub Scouts Holiday Luncheon Worship 3:00 PM
11 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 AM	12 Adult Class 6:30 PM	13	14 Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM	15 Advent Worship in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM Phelps/Brune Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM	16	17 Christmas Rehearsal 10:00 – 11:00 AM Phelps/Brune Wedding 1:00 PM Worship 3:00 PM
18 Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	19 Adult Class 6:30 PM	20 Washington Circuit Pastors Luncheon 11:00 AM	21 Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Advent Worship 7:00 PM	22 Advent Worship in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM	23	24 Worship 3:00 PM Children's Service 7:00 PM Candlelight Ser. 11:00 PM
25 Christmas Sunday School 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:00	26 Pastor & Margaret to Minnesota	27 Pastor & Margaret to Minnesota	28 Pastor & Margaret to Minnesota	29 Pastor & Margaret to Minnesota	30 Pastor & Margaret Return from Minnesota	31 New Year's Eve Service 3:00 PM