

Mt. Calvary Messenger



MT. CALVARY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Mt. Calvary is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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December 2023

WEATHER ALERTS –

With winter weather approaching, here are ways to receive cancellations. The TV stations, WMBD, WEEK, and WHOI will be notified, an e-mail will be sent out (if I don't have your e-mail and you want these notifications, please let me know) and it will appear on our web-site (www.mtcalvarypeoria.org) and facebook page.



about waiting for Jesus to return in glory. We know the Day is closer now that when we first believed, but we can get impatient. We look at the mess of the world – or the mess of our lives – and wonder: “Lord, could You hurry up?” Yet, we know that His patience in waiting for the Day is so that as many as can will come to faith and find new life. So, as He waits, we wait. And the conceit of the season is that we can learn how to wait – and how to prepare! – by remembering how Israel once waited for Jesus’ birth and the beginning of His public ministry.

So, again I invite you into the shelter of the season that offers you hope and consolation over against all the shrill voices of the culture at large.

So, here’s the plan for the season... We will offer our traditional mid-week prayer services, centered on the theme: “YHWH Remembers His People.” Each of the mid-week services will focus on the Old Testament reading for the week (all from Isaiah this year) and how they shed light on God’s promise to remember, and deliver, His people. The first week gives us Isaiah 64, with the promise that God meets the one who remembers Him, and the prayer that He not remember our iniquity. The second week gives us Isaiah 40 and the promise that God will come to gather His people. And the third week gives us Isaiah 61 with the promise that God will send His Anointed One to heal



Advent and Christmas

At

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace to you, and peace, from Him Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, even Christ the Lord! Amen.

Advent is here again – which means we are called once again to step back from the culture’s mad dash to Christmas, take a deep breath, and learn to wait....

One of the central themes to the Advent season isn’t about waiting for Christmas, but rather is

(Pastor’s Column continued on page 2)

(Pastor's Column continued from page 1)

His people. As always, the rest of our regularly scheduled services will continue as well. Note the plan for the Women's Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:30am, and the Sunday School's "Birthday for Jesus" during the Sunday School hour on December 17th.

With the conclusion of Advent, we will enter the Christmas season proper - celebrating Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the First Sunday after Christmas, and the Epiphany of our Lord. As Pr. Long will be away, there will be no New Year's Eve service this year. And note there will be only one morning service on both December 24th and 31st.

So, I urge you - come and participate in these special seasons of worship as is appropriate for you and your household, and let us all prepare to adore Him, let us learn to wait and live with His promises, and let us rejoice in His birth and celebrate what that means for us and the world - for in Christ, every promise of God is "yes and amen!" May God richly bless you through Christ, "Immanuel," the Babe of Bethlehem.

Yours in His Name,



Rev. Barry A. Long, Pastor

PASTOR & FAMILY GONE

Pastor and his family plan to fly to Florida to celebrate Christmas with Sherri's mother. They will be gone December 27th through January 3rd. If you are in need of Pastoral Care during that time, please contact the church office (309-688-4321) and a pastor will be notified for you.

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH -- The Peoria Youth Christmas Gathering invites you to come for a night of festive fun on Tuesday, **January 2, 5:30-9:30 pm** hosted at Redeemer Lutheran Church (6801 N. Allen Road, Peoria -- drop-off at the rear entrance).



We're gathering all JH & SH youth and friends for an evening to celebrate Christ's birth and His presence in our lives as Savior & Lord. The cost is \$5/person for dinner, playtime & games, and devotional worship. Sign-up on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. Deadline is **Wed., Dec. 27**. Questions? Contact Michele at 693-8095.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC -



Things are being handled a bit differently this year. Mr. Tagge will not be working with the pre-service music this year. If you or someone in your family wish to present music for the Christmas

Eve Pre-Service music please bring a copy of the music to the office, and it will be given to the accompanist. Then you can set up a time with her to practice, probably on Saturday, December 23rd or Sunday, December 24th.

HELP WITH LIGHTING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CANDLES

We thank the Crosiar's and the Horman's for reading the dialogue and lighting the candles, but... we need help for December 17th and 24th as well as the Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Will someone step up please and say they will help? We'll send you the readings ahead of time so you can familiarize yourself with them.



DECEMBER Birthdays

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Kristi Wickwire
2. Carole Hoffman
Bruce Tagge
3. Mackenzie Riebel-Greenberg
7. Leanne Sturtevant
Jerry Horst
10. Reagan Barr
Gavin Maske
Jonathan Tagge, Jr.
11. Andrew Tagge
17. Laurel Ruskusky
Jayla Szold
20. David Riddle
Logan Gavic
Milo Kovash
23. Carolyn Pauli
24. Debbie Hoffman
26. Lou Ann Cooper
29. Lydia Adcock
30. Marcia Riddle

DECEMBER Anniversaries

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

- 31 Paul & Jordan Horst

COUNTERS

Anna Keehner & Teresa Brusick

ALTAR FLOWERS

- December 3 —
Jeff & Cheryl Riebel
- December 10 —
Jerry & Paula Horst
- December 17 —
Robert Frericks
- December 24 —
LaVelle Borders
- December 31 —
Linda Khattar



Worship Notes

LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 3rd – 1st Sunday in Advent

Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 64:1-9;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 11:1-10

December 10th – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Psalm 85; Isaiah 40:1-11;
2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

December 17th – 3rd Sunday in Advent

Psalm 126; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th – 4th Sunday in Advent

Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29; 2 Samuel 7:7:1-11,16;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38;

December 31st – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 119; Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

ELDERS FOR DECEMBER



December 3 – Dr. Joel Eckert

December 10 – Tom Brosowski

December 17 – Gary Beenders

December 24 – Phil King

December 31 – Dr. Joel Eckert

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LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads

What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



Prayer List

Prayer Notes: Folks have asked from time to time “who all are we praying for?” Here’s a partial list with reference to their relation to the congregation. **If you know of anyone who needs to be added, or who can be removed, please let Pr. Long or Judy know. Help us keep the list manageable!**

- † Jacob Achterberg - grandson to Ron, nephew to Linda Khattar
- † Phyllis Basquin - mother to Luann Claudin
- † Mary Bonesteel - friend to Long family
- † Ethan Saunders - grandson to Roger and Carole Hoffman
- † Gail and Jonathan von Holten - friends of Jessica Horman
- † Sharon Wenger - daughter to Sally Taylor
- † Cathy Hafley - daughter to Sally Taylor
- † Pr. Hoech & family (Ivy, Noah and Kayla) - our “TIM” partners
- † Gordon Adams - Lynn Laredo’s father
- † Dave Maxwell - husband to Tina
- † Pr. Glenn Niemann - circuit pastor, disability
- † Jonathan Stutz - grandson to Donna
- † Maureen Leuba - Concordia parent
- † Christiane Ramahi - member
- † Ruth Leibel - friend to Mark Manthey
- † Yasmin Ramahi - daughter to Christiane
- † Kathy Gruben - sister to Jan Heien
- † Gloria Carter - friend of Nancy Meyer
- † Eric Puterbaugh - friend of a member
- † Patty Reck - sister-in-law to Carole Hoffman
- † Michael Teeter - friend to Long Family
- † Dale Warren -
- † Ward & Cathy Lenz - sister and brother-in-law to Paula Horst
- † Jennifer Lenz - their daughter, niece to Paula & Gerry
- † Shannon Wilson - friend of Maxwell family
- † Alex Zook - military, grandson of Barb Zook
- † Faith Zook - granddaughter of Barb Zook
- † Jenna Zook - granddaughter of Barb Zook
- † Derrick Foote - military, husband to Wendy (nee Crook)
- † Josh Crosiar - member
- † Anne Maske - member
- † Steve Brinkmann - son to Dale & Vonnie
- † Braylynn Davis - friend to Brill family
- † Steve Brown - family to Josh and Michelle Joseph
- † Gordon Dupres - family to the Tagges
- † Shane Cremeens - brother to Brande Ruskusky
- † Lil Mulvaney - friend to Pauli family
- † Ginny Preston - friend to LaVelle Borders
- † Clara Riddick - friend to Brill family
- † Jackie Brant and Family - Member
- † Neil Barnhart - friend to Long family
- † Max Wessler - father-in-law to Carol Wessler
- † Bill & Pam Barr - members
- † Megan Primmer - cousin to Ginger Abel
- † Karen Stabler - mother to Tracie Johnson
- † Sally Taylor - member
- † Kenneth Garner - acquaintance of Jan Pacey (Phyllis Knebel’s daughter)
- † Sally Leon - mother to Joe Leon (husband to Susie)
- † Lorrie Kaspar - member
- † Constance Danage - former cleaning person for the congregation
- † Rod Pauli - member, son to Harold & Carolyn
- † Gary Ruckle - member
- † Gloria Teeter - friend to Long Family
- † Mark Buettner - associate of Carol Wessler
- † Tamesha Gates - friend to Szold family
- † Sandra Boyer - daughter of food pantry contributor
- † Mark Leon - brother-in-law to Sue Leon
- † Shirley King - mother to Phil King
- † Rebecca Sierra - friend to Linda Khattar
- † Virginia Tackmann - mother of Michele

(Prayer List continued on page 5)

Prayer List (Continued)

(Prayer List continued from page 4)

- Keehner
- † Kris Taylor – Josh Joseph’s aunt
 - † Delcie Lane – member
 - † Mark Manthey – member
 - † Sherry Emberton – Vonnie Brinkmann’s sister
 - † Earl Boyett – father of Theresa Brusick, grandfather of Nick
 - † Sharon Rumbold – member at Bethel, Morton, occasional organist for us
 - † Brian Kelly – uncle to Josh Joseph
 - † Luann and Shelby Cooper – members
 - † Victoria Buschard – family of Michael Marshall
 - † Ms. Ellen Rytter – teacher at Concordia
 - † Cheryl – friend to Linda Khattar
 - † Jenny & Olivia Bradley – family to Lynn Laredo
 - † Theo Norman – member, child of Cole and Brooke
 - † Harriet Nora – member
 - † Becky Richards – mother of Kim Carver
 - † Daryl Claudin – member
 - † Natalie Brusick – member, wife to Nick
 - † Deb Alig – co-worker of Theresa Johnston
 - † Carol Loughridge – member
 - † Anne & Miguel Bolwerk – daughter and son-in-law to Dave & Jan Heien
 - † Cheris Hofmann – member
 - † Harriet Caughey – member
 - † Carole Hoffman – member
 - † Maureen and children – extended family to Roger & Carole Hoffman
 - † Teresa Kerrick –
 - † Mary Dowds – occasional visitor
 - † Pr. Drews – member of our local circuit
 - † Joann Bettinghouse – mother to Abbie Matson
 - † PJ Comacho – friend to Mark Manthey
 - † Lorie Livingston – wife to Ty
 - † Patty Caughey – member
 - † Linda Perrone – friend to Patty Caughey
 - † Ada Becker – mother of our custodian,
- Michelle
- † Pr. Mark Matthews – brother in law to Tom Brosowske
 - † Jessica Horman – member
 - † Scott Wilson – custodian Michelle’s boy friend
 - † Ron Achterberg – member
 - † Elizabeth Auer – military, daughter to Doug
 - † Tomi – mother to Chris Brusick
 - † Nancy Meyer – member
 - † Bill Parrott – Brad Parrott’s father
 - † Diane Norris – friend of member
 - † Marty Liex – friend to LaVelle Borders
 - † Ann Jacobson – sister to Richard & Harold Pauli
 - † Lee Mauschbaugh – member
 - † Doug Auer – member
 - † Hugh – friend of member
 - † Ray Khattar – husband to Linda
 - † Dale & Vonnie Brinkmann – members
 - † Harold & Carolyn Pauli – members
 - † Jane Wood – mother to Sherri Long
 - † Ryan & Carol Stetzler – friends to the Tagges
 - † Sue Elder – friend of Theresa Johnston
 - † Ben Claudin – member
 - † Roger Woolsey – Carolyn Pauli’s brother
 - † Tricia Smith – sister to Marcia Riddle
 - † Chris Walker – brother-in-law to Vicky Jones
 - † Brett Parrott – relative of Brad & Erin
 - † Paul Fager – member
 - † Diane Freeman – member
 - † Don Moran – Judy Norman’s brother
 - † Bruce Tagge – member
 - † Bev Hoffman – niece to Gordon
 - † JayCee Grier
 - † Norah Rossman – friend to Riebel family
 - † Nan Borunda – sister to Lou Ann Cooper
 - † Chris Pacey – son to Jan Pacey (daughter of Phyllis Knebel)

(Prayer List continued on page 9)

An illustration of five lit candles in blue, white, pink, and blue, arranged in a semi-circle. Behind them are green pine branches and brown pinecones. The title "Advent Schedule" is written in a large, elegant cursive font below the candles.

Advent Schedule

Advent: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel....."

Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

Voters' Meeting, 10:30 a.m. (in-person or via Zoom)

Wednesday, December 13 - *2nd Wednesday of Advent*

Mid-day Prayer, 11:15 a.m.

Soup and Salad lunch to follow

Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

December 14 - *2nd Thursday of Advent*

Spoken Divine Worship, 6:00pm

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sung Divine Worship, 9:00 a.m.

"Birthday for Jesus" during Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

More Church Decorating after the late service....

Wednesday, December 20 - *3rd Wednesday of Advent*

Mid-day Prayer, 11:15 a.m.

Soup and Sandwich lunch to follow

Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 21 - *3rd Thursday of Advent, St.*

Thomas the Apostle

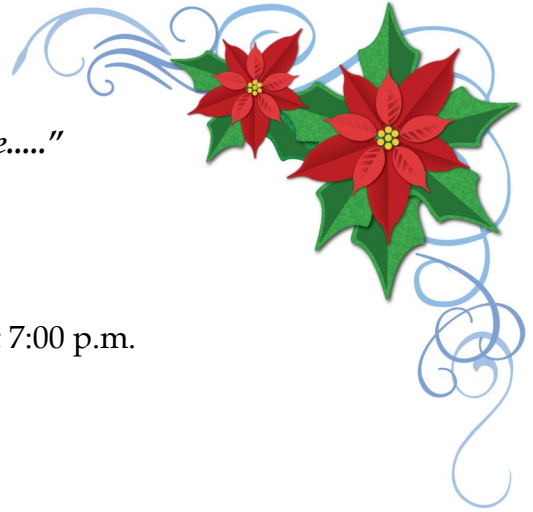
Spoken Divine Worship, 6:00pm



Advent & Christmas Schedule (Continued)

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Single Service – Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.



Christmas: “Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace.....”

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Spoken Communion Service at 3:00 p.m.

Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-service music will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Chorale Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

Sung Divine Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 6: The Epiphany of our Lord

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

May God richly bless our keeping of the season by making us to grow ever more sure in the knowledge of our Savior, and ever more open to sharing His works of grace!



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BABY JESUS

On Sunday, December 17th, at 10:30 am, during the Sunday School hour, the teachers have planned a Birthday Celebration for Jesus. Party games, treats, the Story of Christmas and more. This is open to all Sunday School age children whether they have attended Sunday School this fall or not. So...please come! You may find that you like the teachers and other students and stay for the New Year to come.



Holiday Hope Chest for Lutheran Social Services (LSSI)

LSSI is hoping to make this Christmas very special for their agency families. With the help of many churches and congregations, LSSI is able to supply gifts, food baskets and gifts cards to families, children and adults during the Christmas season. This year in central Illinois, LSSI has 775 children and adults needing services and can use help in providing items to make their Christmas season brighter. The Women of Mt. Calvary ask for your support in helping to sponsor the following specific items:

- \$15 Gift Cards to Kroger or Aldi for food baskets**
- \$15 Gift Cards from Wal-Mart or Target to be used for gifts**
- Small Blankets**
- Hats & Gloves**



Please select a tag from the Christmas tree in the parish hall starting November 26 and bring back items to church on or before Sunday, December 10. Return your purchase accordingly:

- Physical Items under the Christmas Tree**
- Gift Cards in the Holiday Hope Chest envelope in Eckert's mailbox**

Thank you for supporting this valuable Christian charity and making the holidays a little brighter and joyful for the children, adults and families of LSSI. **Thank you!**

PASTOR LONG'S TURN AT CONCORDIA –

Yup, it's his turn again. He'll be teaching 8th grade religion, and leading Chapel this month. This means he won't typically be in the office until 9:30 am or so.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – the family and friends of:

- † Sandra Kissner, Grandmother to Ashley Gavic and Robert Kissner, who was called to her eternal rest on Monday, October 30, 2023. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023.
- † Joshua Zook, grandson of Barb Zook, who was called to his eternal rest in a tragic car accident.
- † Jerry Jungck, who was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, November 23, 2023 and given Christian burial on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

May his family find comfort, hope and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMORIALS FOR DR. JUNGCK – may be given to Mt. Calvary. Envelopes are on the table by the offering plate just outside the sanctuary.



News from Concordia

PACK THE DEN! – On December 16th Concordia Lutheran School will hold their annual Pack the Den! celebration. Join Concordia Lutheran School as we “Pack the Cougar Den” with a day filled with basketball and cheering on your Concordia Cougars! Basketball games begin at 10:00 am with four games in total. Girls and Boys JV play at 10 and 11 am, followed by Girls and Boys Varsity beginning at 12:00 noon. There will be performances by our CLS band, and our cheerleaders. Join us for a day of basketball and help us “Pack the Den!”

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT CONCORDIA – On December 20th, Concordia is having a coffee time **from 8:00 am to 8:30 am** with the principal, then **Chapel to 8:35 to 9:10 am** and then we will have an all school Christmas Carol sing-a-long following for about 25 minutes. We would like to invite members from Mt. Calvary on that date to join us for coffee, chapel, and an all school Christmas carol!

Mt. Calvary News and Announcements



(Prayer List continued from page 5)

- † Bob Burdin – neighbor to Patty Caughey
- † Donna Kirkman – sister to Lynn Laredo
- † Kevin Gartley – nephew to Tom Brosowski
- † Rachel Johnston – niece to Theresa
- † Ilsa Adams – stepmother to Lynn Laredo
- † Karla Boorum – sister to Bruce Boorum
(regular visitor)

CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ as Concordia Lutheran School presents their Christmas Concert Series on **December 8 and 10!** All school bands and orchestras will perform on **Friday, December 8 starting at 6:30 pm** in the CLS Ruppert Center. All choirs and classroom music ensembles will perform on **Sunday, December 10 starting at 2:30** in the CLS Ruppert Center. Both concerts are open to the public and we invite you to join us as we “deck the hall” with joyful music!

ADVENT LUNCHESES

Wednesday lunches are back for our Advent Season, December 13th and 20th. Soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts. Check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastors' office to see where you can help out. Questions call Abbie Matson (309 -274-6722)



Poinsettia Garden Orders

*Help us beautify the chancel on Christmas Eve
by ordering Poinsettias.*

*Then take your plant home on Christmas Day,
or leave it to be used during the rest of the Christmas Season.*

Envelopes will be placed in your mail boxes for ordering.

Cost for Poinsettia is \$8.00 per plant.

Deadline for ordering is December 17th.

*Checks should be made out to Mt. Calvary Altar Guild
and placed in Linda Khattar's mailbox.*

Attendance		Com.	General Fund Weekly Offering
October 29	107	81	\$3,651.01
November 5	96	69	\$8,705.00
November 12	75	29	\$6,059.00
November 19	81	57	\$4,303.00
November 22	17	16	—
November 26	54	18	\$24,417.00
		Total	\$47,135.01

In His Service

PASTOR:
Rev. Barry Long 243-2042

MINISTER OF MUSIC
Mr. Bruce Tagge 361-9821

SECRETARY
Mrs. Judy Honig 688-4321

CONCORDIA SCHOOL
Mr. Andrew Monkemeyer 691-8921
Principal

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS
Chairman.....Gerald Horst
ViceChairman.....David Heien
Secretary.....Judy Honig
Treasurer.....Carol Wessler
Finan. Secretary.....Theresa Johnston

MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS
Marcia Riddle, LaVelle Borders & Eileen Benne

WOMEN OF MT. CALVARY
Chairperson Luann Claugin
Vice Pres: Theresa Johnston
Secretary: Marcia Riddle
Treasurer: Dawn Henderson

ALTAR GUILD
Co-Presidents: Abbie Matson & Linda Khattar
Treasurer: Marcia Riddle

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Pre-School-1st Grade — Linda Crook & Linda Khattar
2nd-5th Grades — Teresa Brusick & Kelly Eckert
6th Grade-High School — Paula Horst & Tom Brosowske

CONCORDIA SCHOOL BOARD
Kelly Eckert & Erin Green

CONCORDIA FOUNDATION
Alex Kroenke & Eileen Benne

CONCORDIA TRUSTEES
Jarrod Horman

Boards of Mt. Calvary

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teresa Brusick, Paula Horst,

BOARD OF EVANGELISM
Jan Heien

BOARD OF YOUTH
Michele Keehner Erin Parrott


BOARD OF LONG RANGE PLANNING
Dormant

BOARD OF PROPERTY
Chris Brusick, Lisa Cornelius, Lee Mauschbaugh, Josh Joseph, Jarrod Horman, Vicky Brosowske

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP
Theresa Johnston, Kim Beenders

BOARD OF ELDERS
(families under each Elder's care)
Achterberg - Brusick Tom Brosowske
Carver — Grinslade Phil King
Halverson — Kroenke Daniel Keehner
Lampton — Norman Gary Beenders
Parrott — Zook Dr. Joel Eckert

FOOD PANTRY
LaVelle Borders
Paula & Jerry Horst

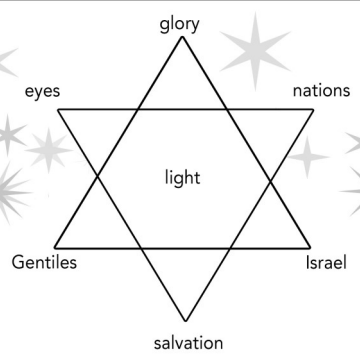


PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."


Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1) _____ (2) _____ in the (3) _____, and the (3) _____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above



Answer: B (See John 1:5.)





CURRENT BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Youth Sunday School Classes – Sunday School has begun again. Sunday School has a new look, new activities, new lessons, new fun. Please bring your students, ages 3 through 8th grade, and encourage them to participate every Sunday from 10:30 to 11:30. We will have 2 or 3 levels for classes depending on our turnout and hope to add more if needed. Any high schoolers interested in starting a class please let Pastor or Paula Horst know. We hope to see you all this Sunday. **On December 17th the Sunday School will have a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus.**

Sunday Morning Adult Class – “The Just shall live by Faith.” These words drive the whole of Paul’s Letter to the Romans, as he is inspired to show them both how we are justified and the life that flows from that. Join us Sunday mornings as we read Romans together.

Men’s Bible Study Topic – Isaiah 40-66 – “The Book of Consolation” – Join us as we read through the portion of Isaiah written for exiles before they were even born! God promises deliverance to them – and promises a greater deliverance with the Messiah, and points us all to the final deliverance that comes the Last Day. **Men’ Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am at Gebby’s Family Restaurant at 726 East War Memorial Drive in Peoria Heights.**

Thursday Lunch Together and Bible Study! – You have to eat anyway, and it is always good to feed the heart with fellowship and the spirit with God’s Word. So – do all three with us on Thursdays. We gather to eat at Noon (bring your own – but desserts are sometimes provided), and if you need to run after that, fine. We generally start our Study at 12:30, (and if you can’t come until then, that’s good too) and spend about an hour discussing whatever comes up. This week we begin the Old Testament Book of Jonah.

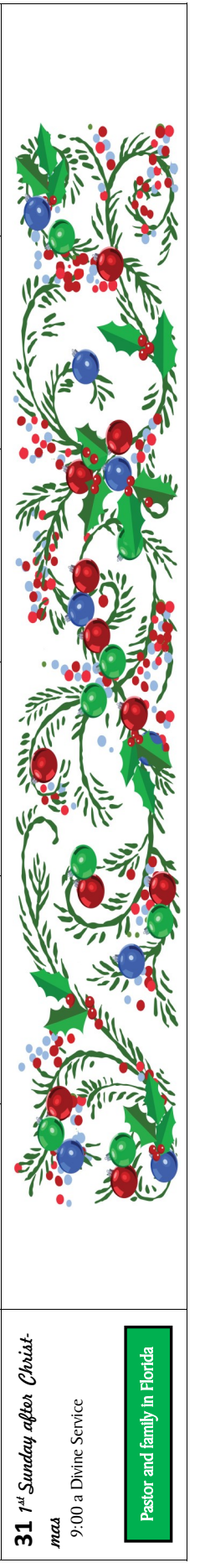
November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>3rd Sunday in Advent <i>Plodge Sunday</i> 9:00 a Divine Service 10:30 a Sunday School/Bible Class 11:45 a Spoken Divine Service 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9-11:00 a Food Pantry 6:30 p Board meetings 7:30 p Administrative Council</p>	<p>6 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:30 p Advent Vespers</p>	<p>7 10:00 a Crafts & Conversation 12:00 p Lunch Together 12:30 p Bible Study 6:00 p Divine Service</p>	<p>8 6:30 p Concordia Band & Orchestra Concert</p>	<p>9 9:30 a Women of Mt. Calvary Christmas Party</p>
<p>10^{2nd} Sunday in Advent 9:00 a Matins Service 10:30 a Sunday School Dec. Voters' Meeting 11:45 a Spoken Divine Service 2:30 p Concordia Choirs Concert</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:30 p Advent Vespers</p>	<p>14 10:00 a Crafts & Conversation 12:00 p Lunch Together 12:30 p Bible Study 6:00 p Divine Service</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17^{3rd} Sunday in Advent 9:00 a Divine Service 10:30 a Bible Class/Birthday Party for Baby Jesus 11:45 a Spoken Divine Service 1:30 p Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 3:00 p Worship & Music Comm. 4:45 p Board of Elders</p>	<p>20 6:30 a Men's Bible Study 8:00 a Christmas Carols at Concordia 11:15 a Mid-Day Prayer 6:30 p Advent Vespers</p>	<p>21 St. Thomas, Apostle 10:00 a Crafts & Conversation 12:00 p Lunch Together 12:30 p Bible Study 6:00 p Divine Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24^{4th} Sunday in Advent 9:00 a Matins Service 3:00 p Spoken Christmas Service 6:30 p Pre-Service Music 7:00 p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day 9:00 a Chorale Divine Service</p>	<p>26 St. Stephen, Martyr</p>	<p>27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist 3:00 p Executive Committee</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
Pastor and family In Florida						



Pastor and family In Florida



**"... prepare
the way of
the LORD, make
straight in the
desert a highway
for our God."**

Isaiah 40:3, NRSV