



# CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

## DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

### BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Nicholson	12/4
Haleigh Roberts	12/8
Gabriel Olson	12/9
Sharon Boelman	12/11
Don Knee	12/14
Marilyn Woolard	12/17
Shirley Theil	12/19
Marilyn Nickols	12/25
Rich Olson	12/29

### ANNIVERSARIES

Leonard & Fern Zechmann 12/29

### PASTORAL ACTS

Nov. 11, 2018—Baptism of Rand Luther Petersen, son of Jeff and Connie Petersen

**I want to thank** the congregation for all the wonderful gift cards I received from you as part of Pastor Appreciation Month. I am blessed in so many wonderful ways and each of you is one of them.

*Pastor Steve*

**Thank you for all** of the support of our family over the years and especially as we faced Rand's surgery. We appreciate all of your kind words and prayers.

*The Petersens*

**Warmth, Peace and Pajamas**—The Salvation Army will collect new pajamas until Dec. 17. Most needed is children size 5 through adult medium. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Salvation Army, 112 North 7th Street. Checks payable to Norfolk Salvation Army Pajama Project.

## Sunday Worship - Advent

A Season of Waiting

The month of December begins the new church year with our gospel readings from the book of Luke. Advent begins the new church calendar every year as we rotate between the gospels in a 3 year cycle (Matthew, Mark, Luke with John interspersed throughout all three years). Luke was a physician who emphasizes Jesus' healing miracles and pays special attention to Jesus' teachings on prayer. He also has a travel narrative (chapters 10-19) where Jesus travels into the land of the Samaritans and tells stories of Jesus recorded only by Luke. Travel with the physician Luke this year as we learn his perspective in writing his gospel story.

December 2 – (Luke 21:25-36) **Advent 1**

The church is decorated for the season of Advent/Christmas

Watch for the coming of the Son of Man

December 9 – (Luke 3:1-6) **Advent 2**

Join us after worship for our monthly potluck meal

Prepare the way of the Lord

December 16 – (Luke 3:7-18) **Advent 3**

New members Sunday

One more powerful is coming

December 23 – (Luke 1:39-35) **Advent 4** Mary: Blessed are you among women  
Sunday school children reenact the Christmas story during worship

December 30 – (Luke 2:41-52) **Christmas 1** Jesus increased in favor with all  
Join us for a Christmas carol singing service

## **Midweek Advent Worship**

Wednesdays (December 5, 12, 19)

Our midweek Advent worship services will be held on the Wednesdays in December before Christmas. We will begin with a free-will offering meal which will be served between 6:00 and 6:45 p.m. We will continue with a short worship at 7:00 p.m., followed by a fellowship craft project and discussion questions for conversation with coffee and refreshments. Our theme will be "God with Us" with a weekly theme from the book of Isaiah and fellowship project. "Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8-9)" – project: air-dried clay to make a Christmas ornament. "Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:10-11)" – project: paper and cotton sheep. "Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1-2)" – project: grow a little Bethlehem field from grass seed. "Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3, 5)" – project: Bible bookmarks. Come and experience "God with us" (Immanuel).

## **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 23

On Sunday, December 23, during our 10 a.m. worship service, the children will be reading the Christmas story with a narrative that tells the story as prophecy fulfilled from the Old Testament. As they tell the story, the children will reenact the story in costume in a stage setting. Their story proclamation will set the stage for our Christmas celebrations throughout the coming week. Please join us and give encouragement to our children as they tell the story of Jesus come to earth with great joy for all the people!

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Monday, December 24 (5 p.m. and 11 p.m.)

Once again we will have two Christmas Eve candlelight services with communion on Monday, December 24. Our first service will be held at 5:00 p.m. and will be a traditional candlelight service with the singing of Christmas carols, scripture reading, prayers, and a short message. We will share the Lord's Supper and end our service with the lighting of individual candles as we sing "Silent Night." Join us with your family in a warm, traditional Christmas candlelight service. Our second service will be held at 11:00 p.m. as a reflective candlelight service with Christmas carols, scripture, prayers, and a short meditation to end our day in anticipation of Christmas Day. Again, we will share the Lord's Supper and light individual candles with the singing of "Silent Night."

# My Letter to the Congregation

## "Congregational Daily Texts for 2019"

Once a month I conduct a worship service at The Meadows on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the afternoon. During the service it is their practice to take an offering and give it to the pastor who is leading worship to use at his or her discretion. The offerings average \$25 each Sunday. In the past I was saving the money to use to purchase manuals for the Embrace Grace curriculum we were using with our Teen Moms at our childcare. Since our numbers have decreased, the program is no longer being used. As a result I have been discerning another use for these monthly offerings I receive. Mount Carmel Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota, publishes a yearly book on the Daily Texts from the Moravian church. Each day a verse from the Old Testament and the New Testament are written followed by a written prayer for the day. In the back of the book are appendixes to further your time in the Word – the T.R.I.P. Prayer Pattern, Listening to the Shepherd's Voice, the *Lectio Divina* Prayer Pattern, Sharing with Your Family, FAITH5™ and Topics for Daily Intercession, The Small Catechism, Luther's Private Confessional, and a List of Hymns.

As we begin a New Year, I am using these offerings from The Meadows to purchase this annual Daily Texts for the entire congregation – one per family. My hope is that we can create a group sharing site where we interact with the texts and prayers as we move through the year of 2019. I do not expect that you keep up with every day (although that would be great!). Each Sunday we are given a watchword for the week to guide us and a hymn to sing or say. Then each day takes only a minute or so to read two verses and say a prayer. In the back are the appendixes to grow more in your relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Prayer requests can be recorded each week as we watch God at work in our lives and the lives of others. My hope and prayer is the same as when the original two year cycle of texts was developed by Nicolaus Ludwig Count von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) as he offered his property to provide shelter for religious refugees arriving from Bohemia and Moravia. This community of believers shared morning and evening devotions, consciously placing their lives under the Lord's watch by sharing Bible verses together. During the evening service Zinzendorf gave his congregation a *losung*, or "watchword." These texts would shape the conversation in the homes the next day. Thus was born the notion of the daily texts. These texts would shape the life of this community where 365 watchwords would be compiled. Since then the Moravian Church has established all the watchwords for the *Daily Texts*.

It is my prayer that each family unit at Christ the Servant would begin using the Daily Texts in the coming year, starting on January 1. It is my hope that it will open more conversations among us and around the tables when we gather together. On our tables in the fellowship hall plastic table holders will be the printed watchword and hymn for the coming week. My prayer is that some of you will meet weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly with 2-3 others for coffee, conversation and prayers around the Daily Texts. My prayer is that many of you will use the back appendixes and find your own personal time with God in one of several suggested ways. In other words, there is an opportunity for ALL of you to participate, from simply reading 2 verses and a prayer to reading through the Bible and using some tools in the back of the book to grow closer in your walk with God. A word of caution: don't make this a burden or duty where you feel you must do something every day. Just take one day at a time and let the Holy Spirit lead to where He wants to bring you during the week. I sense as you read the 2 verses and prayer you will be eager to do more.

The books will be arriving the end of December. If one per family is not enough, you can order more on your own. I pray we all can grow in our relationship with the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Living daily in the living Word of God,

*Paster Steve*

### **QUILTERS NEWS**

Special thanks to all of you who “Clanked the Cans” to send our Lutheran World Relief quilts. The total was \$94.74. Prior to a couple years ago, Brown Transfer took them to Minneapolis free. A younger manager now needs to be paid. Now St. John Lutheran made arrangements with Northeast Community College to transport our quilts to Brown Transfer in Omaha. Any donations to help defray costs are appreciated since the trailer drivers are NECC students working for their CDL. St. John’s collects quilts, health, and baby kits from at least a 100-mile radius of Norfolk. We sent 27 quilts to LWR. We gave two quilts to the Rescue Mission and two quilts to the Orphan Grain Train and a \$30 donation from 2017. We kept \$20 to buy batting for two senior quilts for 2019. We gave two senior quilts in May 2018. We sent a “bird” quilt to the camp at Okoboji as they have a summer auction and our quilt was sold for \$235 for their camp. Wanda Muhs made the camp quilt and she also makes our senior quilts. Cherlyn Hillrichs sews together some cut squares for special quilts. Marilyn Nickols sews most tops and Doris Hoffart prepares the insides and the backs. Thanks to many of you, we received a lot of mattress pads, blankets and flannel sheets, which make great insides. Then our quilters tie the knots that secure the quilts together. They are Arlis Lind, Marilyn Woolard, Marilyn Nickols, Kris Lee, Linda Sheppard, Nell Finkral, Wanda Muhs, Rhonda Beed, Wendell Hahne and Doris Hoffart. (Hope we didn’t miss someone.)

We encourage more of you, men too, to come help us on the first Thursday of the month from 9:00-12:00. The fellowship is spectacular AND we get things done. Not to mention the treats that we bring if we wish for coffee time.

We are in need of more material. Leave it in the quilters area. Thanks!

## **Christ the Servant Council Meeting--November 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Steve Lund, Emily Svitak, Doug Witte, Al Boelman, Steve Freese, Jan Puls, Steve Morton, Warren Bennett, Richard Hillrichs, Deb Olson, Steve Jessen

Jan Puls opened the meeting with a devotion from *Reflection* on 2 Cor. 9:6-15, with the theme of thanksgiving.

### Approval of Agenda Items

Steve Freese moved to approve the agenda items. Steve Morton seconded. Motion carried. Al Boelman would like to address the kitchen fund/process at some point. Steve Morton asked if an account could be given. Pastor Steve suggested that this be put in new business for the meeting tonight. It will be added to the agenda. Warren Bennett would like to address the broken window in the youth room.

### Approval of minutes

Doug moved to approve October 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as printed. Steve Morton seconded. Motion carried. Doug moved to approve October 29<sup>th</sup> minutes as printed. Steve Morton seconded. Motion carried. Steve Freese moved to approve the November 18<sup>th</sup> budget meeting minutes with the correction of a spelling error. Doug Witte seconded. Motion passed.

### Financial Report

Jan Puls reported the checking account balance is \$20,220.58. Doug Witte moved to receive the financial report. Steve Freese seconded. Motion passed and the report was received. Bill for HVAC from Volkman Heating and Plumbing for \$269.64. Steve Morton moved to approve and pay the bill. Al Boelman seconded. Motion passed.

### Pastor's Report

Advent services will start around the themes of "God With Us: Our Potter, Our Shepherd, Our Living Branch, and Our Guide". Adult Sunday school class is going through the Truth Project by Del Tackett. Books/other resources have been ordered for youth. The youth are being encouraged to attend midweek Advent service. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month. *Who Broke My Church* is the book that has been given to the council members. The council may meet for a retreat in January/February to go through and process this book more.

### Old Business

The bookkeeping service has not been budgeted for, so therefore the bookkeeping service will need to be taken over by members before January 1<sup>st</sup>. Al Boelman will be contacting Carol Olson, Greg Moen, and Susie Lutz to confirm that they are willing to take on the responsibility of bookkeeping, and see how they/we are able to move forward. The council may tentatively meet with them, if they are agreeable to setting up and beginning the program, on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for a special meeting. Doug Witte moved to accept the audit report as submitted, and then wait to discuss the implications of the report with those who conducted the report at the special meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jan Puls seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### New Business

Childcare Oversight Committee will be meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>. Doug Witte mentioned that an inventory will be taken of items with in the daycare. Items that were bought would be able to be sold to reduce the deficit in the budget. Items that were donated will be re-gifted. Families and staff will be notified of the closing by a letter written by Doug on behalf of the council. Doug will be notifying the state of our actions. Records of the center will need to be kept for four years past closing. Doug asked if it would be okay to give Danita ten days in January to complete paperwork for reimbursements/state requirements as well as the inventory. Jan Puls moved to take all of the actions suggested by Doug Witte in relation to the daycare. Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried. Kitchen Fund: Doug and Al offered to attend the meeting on November 27th to ask for an account of the funds and gather more information. More discussion on this subject will continue with the discussion of the audit report. (Kitchen fund meeting was moved to January 22<sup>nd</sup> due to illness. Updated 12/3).

Warren Bennett brought up the broken window (broken from the outside) in the youth room. Not only is the window pane broken, but the frame is also in need of repairing. Many of the other windows will also be in need of replacement as well. Warren will be looking into some estimates. Pastor Steve tabled the discussion of the book *Who Broke My Church*.

Upcoming Events

- November 21 – Thanksgiving Eve Service
- November 28, December 5, 12, 19 – Midweek Advent Services
- December 2 – Advent begins
- December 23 – Sunday School Christmas Program (part of worship service)
- December 24 – Candlelight services at 5 and 11 pm
- January 6 – Annual Lund family Christmas in Twin Cities

Warren Bennett closed with prayer. Next month’s meeting is December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Tentative special meeting regarding bookkeeping will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Richard moved to close the meeting. Jan Puls seconded. Motion carried.

Emily Svitak, Secretary

<b>2018 Income &amp; Expenses</b>		
	<b>October</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Member Offerings	13,813.44	138,077.63
Non Member Offering	1,050.00	3,360.00
Coffee Hour Donations	30.65	366.89
Miscellaneous	39.00	2,174.04
Designated Church Property	300.00	5,555.26
Designated Memorials	-	2,560.00
Designated Day Camp	-	550.00
Designated Missions	125.00	2,342.00
Designated A Cyboron	50.00	560.00
Designated B Cyboron	50.00	500.00
Designated Weich	-	110.00
Designated Rystrom	-	50.00
Designated Day Care/income	6,831.32	48,984.29
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00	500.00
Designated Tanzania & Travel	-	5,246.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,339.41</b>	<b>210,936.11</b>
Interest Income	1.27	23.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,340.68</b>	<b>210,959.94</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	8,292.08	89,635.00
Church Building	3,342.97	33,243.47
Parsonage	346.19	4,108.77
Discipleship	70.84	5,399.83
Fellowship/Evangelism	134.39	2,075.83
Church Mission Giving	1,200.00	12,755.00
Local Benevolence	265.32	3,665.06
Stewardship		183.64
Worship	571.00	2,531.50
Miscellaneous		722.36
Day Care	5,143.61	57,894.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,366.40</b>	<b>212,214.48</b>
<b>Income Statement</b>		
	<b>October</b>	<b>YTD</b>
General Income	14,934.36	144,002.39
Less General Expenses	14,222.79	154,320.46
Church General Income	711.57	(10,318.07)
Day Care Income	6,831.32	48,984.29
Less Day Care Expenses	5,143.61	57,894.02
Net Day care Income	1,687.71	(8,909.73)
<b>Net Church Total Income</b>	<b>2,399.28</b>	<b>(19,227.80)</b>

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Advent 1</i> 9 Sunday school 10:00 Worship Fellowship Decorating	3	4 5:30 Childcare meeting 6:30 Worship committee	5 5:30 Confirm. 6:00 meal 7:00 worship	6 9A Quilting 6:30 MOPS steering	7 5:30 Girl Scouts	8 12:00--?? Fellowship hall reserved (Michelle A.)
9 <i>Advent 2</i> 9 Sunday school 10:00 Worship Potluck Youth group 6P mission meal	10 5:00 Hospitality 7:00 Ultreya	11 4:30 Stewardship meeting	12 5:30 Confirm. 6:00 meal 7:00 worship	13 9:00 Agape	14	15
16 <i>Advent 3</i> 9 Sunday school 10:00 Worship Fellowship Mission/ministry meeting	17 6:30 Council meeting	18	19 5:30 Confirm. 6:00 meal 7:00 worship	20 2P Card club 6:45 MOPS	21 <b>Newsletter deadline</b> 5:30 Girl Scouts	22
23 <i>Advent 4</i> 10:00 Worship/ Sunday school Christmas program Fellowship	24 Christmas Eve services 5:00 & 11:00	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	26 No evening activities	27	28	29
----- Pastor Steve -- vacation -----						
30 <i>Christmas 1</i> (no Sunday school) 10:00 Worship Fellowship	31	January 1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	2 No evening activities	3 9A Quilting 6:30 MOPS steering	4 5:30 Girl Scouts	5