



# CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

## DECEMBER 2021

### December Worship Attendants

*Thank you for assisting in worship. If you are unable to attend the Sunday you are scheduled, please find a replacement for that service.*

### Altar Guild

Connie Petersen, Doris Hoffart (bread)

### Membership Care

Marsha Burke, Deb Olson

### Acolytes

12/5 usher  
12/12 Delilah B.  
12/19 usher  
12/26 Lucas P.

### Greeters

12/5 Connie A.  
12/12 Dean & Doris H.  
12/19 Rich & Kay J.  
12/26

### Lectors

12/5 Kay J.  
12/12 Linda S.  
12/19 Connie A.  
12/26 Richard H.

### Ushers

12/5 Warren B., Wendell H.  
12/12 Danita B., Greg M.  
12/19 Steve & Julie F.  
12/26 Michelle & Katelyn A.

### Communion Assistants

12/5 Margaret S.  
12/12 Michelle & Katelyn  
12/19 Bob L.  
12/26 Louise S.

### Birthdays

12/4 Jeanne Nicholson  
12/9 Gabriel Olson (6)  
12/11 Sharon Boelman  
12/14 Don Knee  
12/17 Marilyn Woolard  
12/19 Shirley Theil  
12/23 Don Burke  
12/25 Marilyn Nickols  
12/28 Jeff Petersen  
12/29 Rich Olson

### Pastoral Acts

#### Confirmed Nov. 7, 2021

Colin Broders Emilee Olson

#### Funerals

Merrill Kullbom Nov. 15, 2021  
Nita Meyer Nov. 27, 2021

### Change of Address

Chuck and Jeanne Nicholson  
300 East Spruce Street  
Hooper, NE 68031

### Local Benevolence

\$148.59 Senior Center/Meals on Wheels (Oct)  
\$303.32 Mercy Meals (Nov)

#### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30 (closed 12:30-1:30)

Friday 8:30-12:30

402-379-1775

[www.christtheservantnorfolk.com](http://www.christtheservantnorfolk.com)

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# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6 Confirmation 6 meal 7 Advent service Bible study	<b>2</b> 9 PieceMakers	<b>3</b> 6:30 Girl Scouts	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <i>Advent 2</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6 meal 7 Advent service Bible study	<b>9</b> 9 Agape Circle	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Advent 3</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 potluck 11 youth group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Bible study potluck 6:00 study 6:30	<b>15</b> 6 Confirmation 6 meal 7 Advent service Bible study	<b>16</b> 2 Card club 6 MOPS	<b>17</b> 6:30 Girl Scouts	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>Advent 4</i> 9 Sunday school 10 worship 11 Cake reception for Marilyn Nickols' 90th birthday	<b>20</b> 6:30 Council	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7 Advent service Bible study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>5:00 Christmas            Eve candlelight            service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>MERRY            CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>26</b> <i>Christmas 1</i> 10 worship 11 youth group <i>(no Sunday school)</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>HAPPY NEW            YEAR</b>

## So Many Things To Be Thankful For . . .

It seems to me that it is so very easy to lose sight of what really is important in our lives; all the hustle and bustle, all the demands for time—kids, school, work, home, community, and yes, even the church. I can't help but wonder (using Luther's favorite instructional question) . . . "What does this mean?"

For a long time I wondered how we can help families slow down enough to see the wonders of life and God's presence all around us—especially during this time of year. Then it struck me—the problems we have faced over these past two years with the SARS-CoV-2 virus better known as the Coronavirus or Covid-19 has done that very thing. Although, I'm not sure too many people see it that way. Frankly, I am burned-out—exhausted, in fact, in dealing with this "pandemic" thing. And, aside from that, looking to scripture can be confusing. In Matthew, Jesus tells us not to worry about things; then in Luke Jesus tells us to stay on guard. But, I guess if this situation has taught us anything it should be to trust and have faith in God because nothing is too difficult for God to handle—and we need to rely on that.

Intentionally slowing down the pace of our lives is not an easy thing. But, we would do well to try—because when something terrible happens and our lives are unintentionally brought to a screeching halt it is often devastating. As a pastor, I have seen these terrible wrecks that play out in people's lives often destroying marriages, careers, friendships and, most tragically, children who are trapped in the destruction of a family. I have felt the sting of helplessness because one or more of the family members put their own desires above the needs of the family, or the elders of the family put the demands of outside influences above the health of the family system. But regardless of the reason the damage is far too often irreparable.

God asks Abraham in Genesis 18, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" We need to stop and ask ourselves that question as well. If God can do what was done for Abraham and Sarah, surely we can rely on God to help us through these difficult times. We need to take stock of those truly important things that make our lives worth living. Many of us have a difficult time slowing down enough to simply get enough rest—forget taking enough time to take stock! But God wants us to appreciate all that we have been given and we can't do that if we haven't taken the time to remember and celebrate the Lord's blessings. I think there are times when the true blessings (like children, spouse, friends, and family) overwhelm us and we may even begin to resent the blessings because they seem to demand so much of our time. But, I would bet that if a person slowed down enough to take stock of the truly important things in life they would discover that the real time wasters are those things like cell phones, computers, social media sites, etc., that feed on our vulnerabilities keeping us constantly connected to work and the wired world.

*(continued)*

Try leaving your cell phone in your desk drawer for a weekend, tell your co-workers you are going out of town and don't answer those calls from the office, lock your computer in the trunk of your car and put your keys in a drawer at home. Then . . . play games with your kids, go to the movies with your spouse or a loved one. Have a special candlelight dinner at home, go for a walk, write a letter to an old friend—that is if you remember how to write a letter! (No, texting doesn't count!) Play old records, dance with your spouse like you are once again teenagers in love, and above all take time to count your blessings. Give God praise and thanksgiving for all that you are, all that you have been blessed with, and all those you have been blessed by. Life is just way too short to waste it away being too busy or too angry or too tired or too anything that steals precious minutes of your life. Be thankful to the Lord for the joys and blessings our gracious and loving God has bestowed on us. Thanks be to God!

*~Pastor Dennis*

I am working on putting together some ministry teams to do member calling, visitation, prayer ministry, and the Eucharistic ministry. I would like to have them active the beginning of January. If you would like to help organize these groups or would like to be involved in one of the groups, please let me know. Without your participation, CTS will not survive. Please watch the bulletin for meeting and organization times.

I want to thank all of the members of Christ the Servant Lutheran for allowing me the opportunity to be part of this congregation and to serve as your interim pastor. It has been both a joy and an honor to be here with you. Donna and I have so enjoyed our time here and we wish all of you a most merry Christmas and a blessed and joyous New Year.

*~Pastor Dennis & Donna Reich*

CTS Council Meeting

October 18, 2021

Members present: Warren Bennett, Linda Sheppard, Greg Moen, Bob Lutz, Brian Anderson, Pastor Dennis

Members absent: Linda Shaffer, Laura Kowalski, Tara Peters

Brian opened the meeting with prayer.

Warren moved to accept the meeting minutes from September. Bob seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Committee reports reviewed.

Pastor's report: Pastor Doyle Karst will be guest preacher on October 31. November 7th we will be confirming Emilee Olson and Colin Broders.

Confirmation classes are scheduled for November 3, 17, and December 1 and 15.

First Communion classes are being held on Sundays in November in Laura's classroom.

Set date of November 21<sup>st</sup> for the Annual Meeting.

Remainder of meeting was working on budget for Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sheppard

		<b>Nov 3, 21</b>	
	<b>Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>		
	DG Church Emergency Fund	8,619.35	
	DG Good Samaritan Fund	1,516.51	
	DG Memorials	11,360.91	
	DG Missions/Growth	4,165.71	
	DG Parsonage Projects(Kitchen)	1,121.02	
	DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	9,436.01	
	DG SPECIAL PROJECTS (STAIN WIND	8,650.00	
	DG Tanzania Travel	9,088.20	
	DG Worship Fund	2,323.47	
	DG Youth Checking Account	3,382.65	
	Interest-Designated Checking	99.08	
	<b>Total Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>	<b>59,762.91</b>	
	<b>General Checking</b>	<b>52,886.23</b>	

## CONGRATULATIONS

BRIAN ANDERSON was recently honored with the 2021 Nebraska Community College Association's Faculty Member Award at the Association's annual conference in Scottsbluff. The award is presented annually to a full-time Nebraska community college instructor who has made significant contributions in the classroom. Brian is instructor of the media arts and broadcasting program he established at Northeast Community College. He is actively involved in SkillsUSA organizations, and several of his students have earned state and national championships at competitions.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The family of **Marilyn Nickols** will have a cake and coffee reception in the fellowship hall following worship on Sunday, Dec. 19, to celebrate her 90th birthday!

## THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your generous donation to the **Norfolk Senior Center**. What a great way to increase your ministry by assisting local service organizations! The NSC Meals on Wheels program provides over 500 meals in the Norfolk area each week, and your support is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your donation of quilts. We hope to share them with our mission recipients in Ukraine. **Orphan Grain Train** appreciates your support!

Thank you for your donation of \$303.32 to **Mercy Meals**. May God bless you. Happy Holidays.

## ADVENT SERVICES

Mid-week services begin Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. with meals served at 6 p.m. Other dates are Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. Meals will be served by: Women of CTS (Dec. 1), Council (Dec. 8) and Youth Group (Dec. 15).

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve candlelight service Friday, Dec. 24, at 5:00 p.m.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Closed Friday, Dec. 24, in observance of Christmas

Closed Friday, Dec. 31, in observance of New Year's Day

## WARMTH, PEACE AND PAJAMAS

The Salvation Army is again collecting pajamas through Thursday, Dec. 17. New pajamas for boys and girls can be dropped off at the Salvation Army, KEXL-WJAG offices at 309 Braasch Ave., and Anytime Fitness, 2118 Market Lane. Sizes needed are 8 through Adult XL. Checks payable to the Norfolk Salvation Army Pajama Project can be mailed or dropped off at 610 W. Norfolk Ave.