

The Messenger

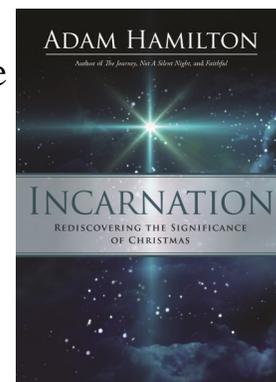
Christ Lutheran
Church
5356 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS



December 2020 Newsletter [Contact us at office@Christ-Lutheran.org](mailto:office@Christ-Lutheran.org)

ADVENT 2020: INCARNATION

Because we cannot worship together in-person, for Advent this year we are focusing on the Incarnation of Christ—the ways that Jesus does show up and is embodied in our lives outside of church. Each Sunday and Wednesday in Advent we will be exploring an aspect of Christ’s incarnation revealed in the titles & names that Jesus is given throughout scripture. We will be leaning heavily on a book called **“Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas”** by United Methodist pastor, Adam Hamilton. You are encouraged to order your own copy of the book, which is available in lots of online outlets.



Beginning Dec 2, on each Wednesday in Advent we will have a short online worship/devotional time at 7:00pm. We hope you can join us!

In addition, we have put together an **“ADVENT-IN-A-BAG”** for each household. These are ready to be picked up at any time. We will be using bits from the bag each Sunday morning and each Wednesday evening through Christmas & even Epiphany. Please swing by church to pick up your bag, and if you live close to another CLC person/family, feel free to grab their bag and deliver it to them as well.

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays	10:00 am	VIRTUAL	Facebook Live
Wednesdays	7:00 pm	VIRTUAL	Facebook Live

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be virtual. The time is still to be determined.

ADVENT MEALS: Since we cannot eat together in-person for Advent, you are encouraged to share a virtual meal with your fellow brothers & sisters at Christ Lutheran. Here’s a possible menu for you to use so we can at least be eating the same things on Wednesday nights:

Dec. 2	Soup & Salad Night	Dec. 16	Spaghetti Night
Dec. 9	Baked Potato Night	Dec. 23	Pizza Night

STAFFING UPDATES

SECRETARY— Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to introduce myself. I am Maria Contreras. I am a self-motivated and disciplined soul. I am always excited to better myself by learning new things whenever I get a chance. I am grateful to work for a worship community. If there is anything I can help with please don't hesitate to ask!



Pastor Chad Langdon

E-mail: pastor@Christ-Lutheran.org

5356 N. Hillside, Wichita, Kansas 67219

Phone: 316-744-1242 **Fax:** 316-425-8875

www.Christ-Lutheran.org

Secretary: Maria Contreras

E-mail: office@christ-lutheran.org

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

Each year Christ Lutheran's Endowment has a little over \$600 to distribute in the form of grants. These grants are often used for new ministry ideas or to support existing ministries in new ways. If you would like to apply for one of these grants, there are applications available at the Opportunity Table at church, or you can contact Larry Cross or Jean Beal. The committee will be meeting in late December to disburse the funds, so apply ASAP.



2020 Bookkeepers Report

Building Fund Update

October Giving: \$4,792.35

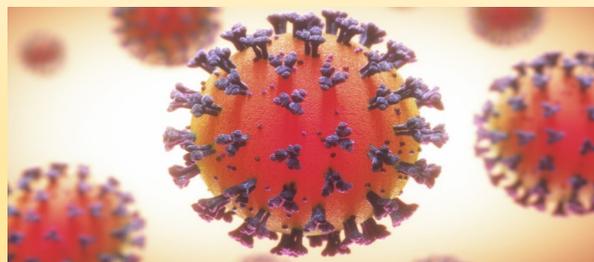
2020 Total: \$30,108.66

	October	YTD	Rolling 12
	2020	2020	Months YTD
Receipts	\$15,337.85	\$150,433.70	\$226,340.38
Expenses	\$16,733.75	\$159,949.71	\$197,655.71
Variance	(\$1,395.90)	(\$9,506.01)	\$ 27,684.67

COVID TESTING AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

On Monday, December 14, our building will be used again as a mobile COVID testing site for the Sedgwick County Department of Health.

**Please avoid coming to the church that day
(unless you need to get tested).**



DRIVEWAY COMMUNION

Would you like Communion brought to your home?

Pastor Chad is always willing to do home Communion visits for those who are shut-in or cannot get to church. During this pandemic we are trying a new thing—DRIVEWAY COMMUNION. If you would like to participate in a short home Communion service, Pastor Chad will come to your location and offer the sacrament. It can be in a driveway, garage, backyard, or other suitable location (like a community center).

Simply email Pastor Chad (pastor@christ-lutheran.org) and arrange a time.

For where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am with them.

~Jesus in Matthew 18:20

ST. PAUL'S BREAKFAST

Our next date to serve St. Paul's Breakfast is Saturday, December 26. Because people are still hungry during this time, we will still be serving this meal to our community. There will be no preparation on Friday night and everything will take place on that Saturday morning at St. Paul's. We will need about 8 people who are willing to meeting down at St. Paul's at 7:00am on Saturday, December 26 to prep and serve the meal. We'll be doing biscuits & gravy, along with some other sides. Please contact Donn Bischoff if you are willing and able to help. Thank you!



The risk level for this event is

HIGH

Blood Drive at CLC!

On Tuesday, December 1, we are hosting a blood drive. While most of our current programs are meeting virtually, we continue to use our building to benefit the community. If you would like to give blood, you can sign up with the American Red Cross or just walk-in. They will be open from 8:15am—2:00pm. As an added bonus, everyone who donates receives a free COVID antibody test to see if you've had the virus.



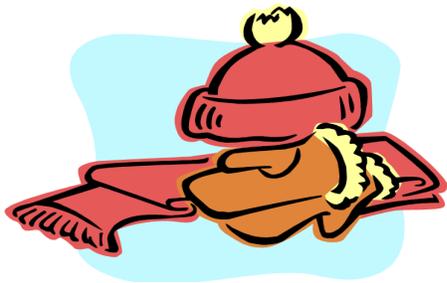
UPDATE FROM FAMILY PROMISE

If you are a Family Promise volunteer, it is important that you participate in a training session every year. This year they are offering the volunteer training online, and it takes about an hour or so. There is one more training opportunity on:

Thursday, December 17 @ 6:30pm

To register for this session, please email Adam at adam@familypromisewichita.org and also let Elaine Miller know that you are participating. Family Promise has had a lot of people apply to use their services recently, so we can anticipate that Christ Lutheran will need a full complement of volunteers for next year. We're always looking for new folks who want to help by cooking meals, driving families to & from the day center, being an evening volunteer, or sleeping at church as an overnight volunteer.

Please contact Elaine if you're interested in helping: millerelaine72@gmail.com.



Cheryl Shaw is collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and socks to pass out at St. Paul's Breakfast in December. She especially needs men's hats & gloves. If you would like to help her in this effort, you can leave these items up at church.

Women's Bible Study

Please contact me for meeting information for December.

Rosie Harder at 316-200-3233 or
Email: ma28rr77@cox.net.

Have a blessed and safe December!



Men's Breakfast & Quilt Day
Men's breakfast & Quilt Day for December are cancelled.

Parish Nurse - Mary Garrelts

For any medical questions or concerns please contact

Mary Garrelts at mbgarrelts@cox.net



SOME PICS FROM OUR CONGREGATION'S ADVENT-IN-A-BAG

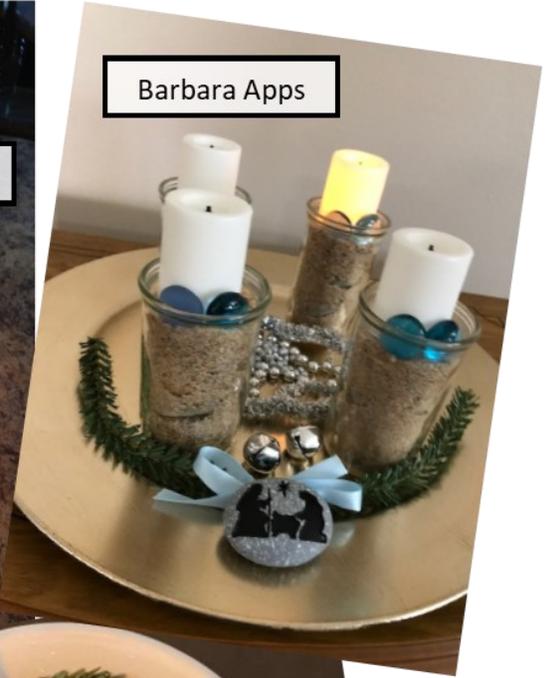
ADVENT WREATHS



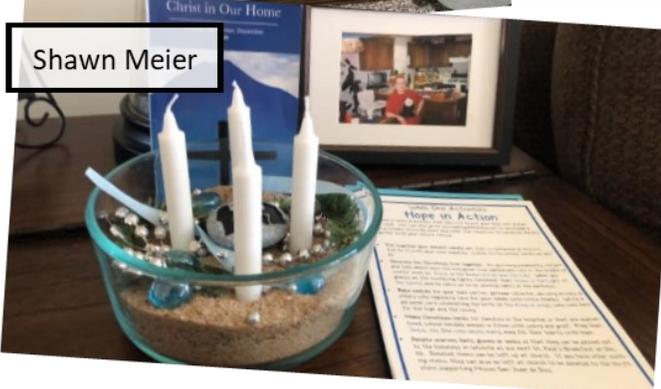
Steve & Jeannene Schweitzer



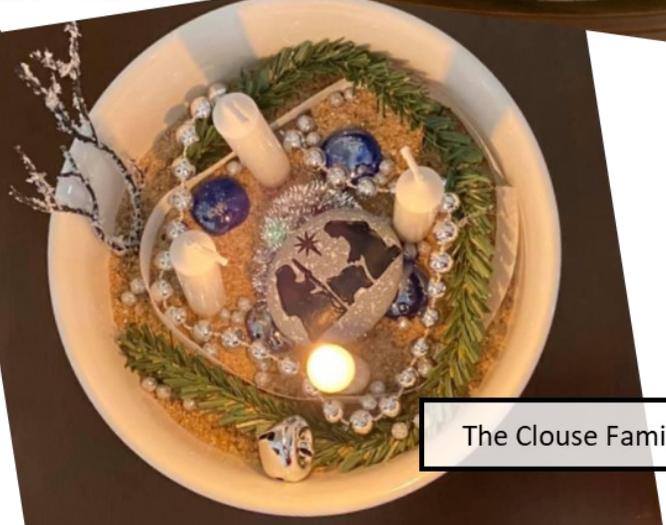
Jean Beal



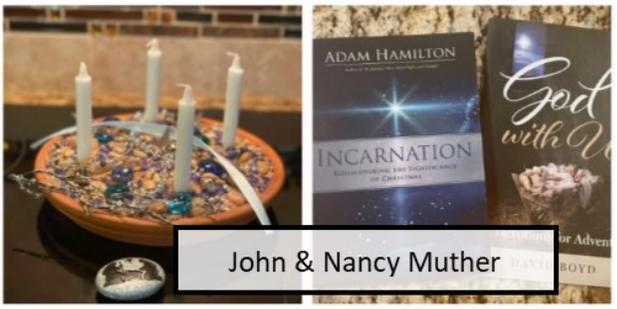
Barbara Apps



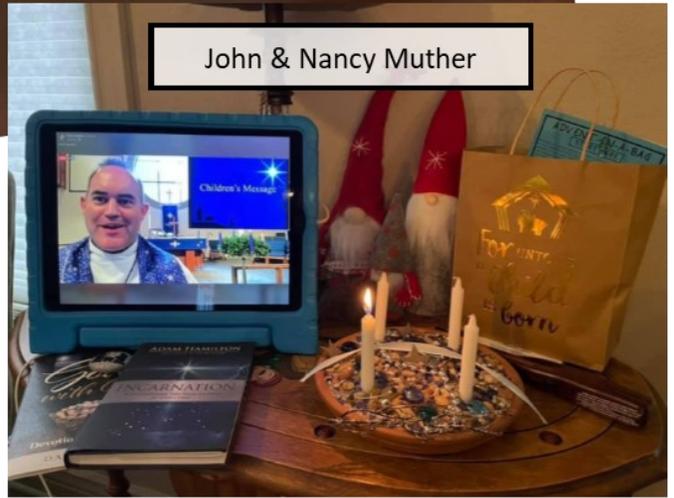
Shawn Meier



The Clouse Family



John & Nancy Muther



John & Nancy Muther

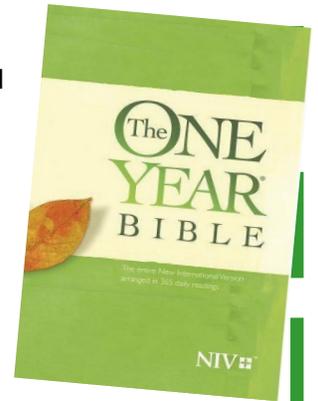
Pastor Chad Recommends

If you or someone you love is looking to deepen your spiritual walk in 2021, here are a few ideas that would make great Christmas gifts.

ONE YEAR BIBLE

This Bible is separated into 365 daily readings. Each day you read 10-15 minutes and by the end of the year, you've read the entire Bible! There are a couple different versions and translations:

- Versions—Most versions will give you a daily reading from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms & Proverbs. This is a great way to get a variety of scripture readings each day. There is also a version called “One Year Chronological Bible” and this breaks the Bible apart from its normal order and sets up all the readings chronologically in the way that they actually happened. For example, the psalms that David wrote are set next to the stories about David, and the various prophetic writings are set next to the kings that they are prophesying against. The chronological version is an interesting way to read the Bible and can help you understand the greater biblical story.
- Translations—Just about any One Year Bible translation is easy to read & understand. Some common, easy-to-find translations include the NLT (New Living Translation), NIV (New International Version), NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), and ESV (English Standard Version). But I would stay away from any KJV (King James Version) because, while it is poetic, it is much harder to understand and is like reading Shakespearean English.



COMMON PRAYER: A LITURGY FOR ORDINARY RADICALS

By Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okoro

This is a daily devotional that provides a little worship liturgy for each day of the year. Most daily devotions include:

- A remembrance of a saint or something important that happened that day in the Church
- A song suggestion
- Some Old Testament & New Testament reading suggestions
- A psalm, prayer & blessing

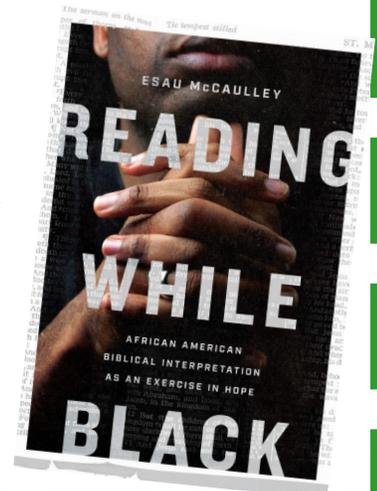
In addition to daily morning, midday, evening, and occasional prayers, there are monthly themes that the liturgy follows. These monthly themes highlight the marks of new monasticism, including faith practices like: reconciliation, celebrating singleness & marriage, peacemaking, hospitality, care for creation, and contemplative prayer.

Note: After at least 6 years of reading through various versions of the One Year Bible, I think my faith practice in 2021 will be to read through Common Prayer. I would welcome others at Christ Lutheran to read it & pray through it with me. Let me know if you do! ~Pastor Chad

READING WHILE BLACK

By Esau McCaulley

This book is especially for anyone who read “Dear Church” by Rev. Lenny Duncan this summer and found it difficult or unsettling. Similar to “Dear Church,” Dr. McCaulley’s book is also about seeing, reading and interpreting Scripture from an African American point of view, but I (at least) found Dr. McCaulley’s take much more hopeful and encouraging. Like Duncan, he comes at the church from a place of love and weaves his personal journey into his theological interpretations, but Dr. McCaulley’s book has a much different feel. One of the purposes of this book is to help those of us in the white church discover and explore how the black church reads the same Bible but comes to many different conclusions. It is a great read for anyone interested in racial justice issues and the church.



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, & BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Name	Special Event
1	Jean Beal	Baptism Birthday
2	Vivine Langdon	Birthday
3	Jan Cross	Birthday
3	Terry Leonard	Birthday
6	Chris Smith	Birthday
8	Brett Albright	Baptism Birthday
8	Alan Schmidt	Birthday
9	Nancy Muther	Baptism Birthday
10	Norma Langner	Birthday
11	Rhonda Moravec	Baptism Birthday
11	Kris & Clay Zecha	Anniversary
11	Haley Ketchum	Birthday
12	Sandra Zabel	Baptism Birthday
13	Becky Dykstra	Birthday
14	Jean Mertins	Baptism Birthday
14	Rosie Harder	Birthday
14	Julie Stiebner	Birthday
15	Wanda Unruh	Baptism Birthday
15	Dorothy DeMent	Birthday
15	Thane Martin	Birthday
16	Leo Brown	Baptism Birthday
16	Jim Garrelts	Birthday
16	Holly Smith	Birthday
17	Andrew Clouse	Baptism Birthday
18	Juanita Freed	Baptism Birthday
18	Michelle Stucky	Birthday
19	Jeanette Harding	Baptism Birthday
19	Cheryl Shaw	Baptism Birthday
19	Matt & Kelsey Helmick	Anniversary
20	Dionne Becker	Baptism Birthday
20	Darinda Leonard	Baptism Birthday
20	Terry Leonard	Baptism Birthday
23	Michael Carlstedt	Baptism Birthday
23	Walt Dietz	Baptism Birthday
23	Jody Nelson	Baptism Birthday
23	Kari Clouse	Birthday
25	Mike & Ana Lechner	Anniversary
26	Forrest Ehmke	Birthday
27	Victor Harding	Baptism Birthday
27	Kris Zecha	Birthday
27	John Foster	Birthday
28	Dwight Boyce	Birthday
29	Bonnie Johnson	Birthday
29	Jodi Basart	Birthday
29	Kristina Hysell	Birthday
31	Cathy Ehmke	Birthday

Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Tue	7:15-2:00pm	Blood Drive
2	Wed	7:00pm	Advent Service
6	Sun		Girls Scouts
7	Mon		Girls Scouts
9	Wed	7:00pm	Advent Service
12	Sat	11:00am	Axman Baptism
14	Mon	8-11am	COVID Testing
16	Wed	7:00pm	Advent Service
24	Thurs	TBD	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
25	Fri		CHRISTMAS
26	Sat	7:00am	St. Paul's Breakfast

“The inn was full... There are many of you who think to yourselves, ‘If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby!’ Why don’t you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve your neighbor, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.”

~ Martin Luther, from his 1543 Christmas Sermon