

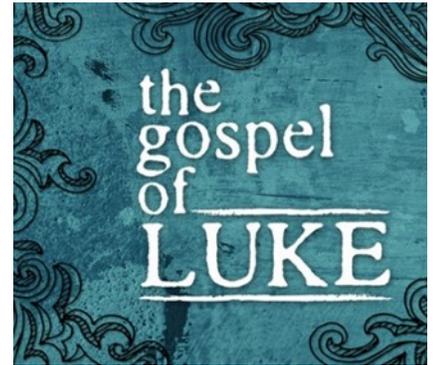
THE MESSENGER



January 2021 Newsletter

I want to introduce (or re-introduce) you to my favorite of the four gospels: LUKE.

Luke is a fascinating story, unique among the other three gospels in many respects. For starters, Luke was written specifically to a person named “Theophilus” (1:3). Whether Theophilus was an actual person or disciple, we don’t know. In Greek “theo” means “God”, and “philus” means “lover” or “friend”. So really, Luke was written to a “lover/friend of God.” Hopefully that’s you (and me). Luke also tries to take a more historical approach to his story than the other gospel writers. He ties his storytelling to the kings and emperors of the day, so they can actually be cross-referenced with archaeological facts and history. The author of Luke was a physician, and we learn that fact in the book of Acts of the Apostles, which was written by the same person. So actually, the Gospel of Luke is volume 1 of a 2-volume set and the two stories go together like any good pair of sequels. But that’s not to say that all of Luke is original material. The author of Luke obviously had a copy of Mark available to him while he was writing his story. He doesn’t place events in the same order as Mark, but he does include most of the same stories as Mark and, in many cases, copied them nearly word for word. (Lest you accuse him of plagiarism, Matthew also copied a lot from Mark – it was a fairly common practice in those days.)



In the next several months, you’ll notice several themes and commonalities among the stories that Luke tells. As Luke shares the story of Jesus, he is particularly concerned with the poor and the outcast, those at the fringes of society. Luke is the most social-justice-oriented gospel, and time and time again you see Jesus interacting, hanging out with, and lifting up those who are the least socially acceptable. Luke is also full of surprises, joy, unexpected stories, and food. Luke is the only gospel writer who shares some of Jesus’ most beloved parables (the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, etc.) and his most memorable life moments (the only story of Jesus as a boy, Zacchaeus, the Road to Emmaus, and the Ascension). In Luke, Jesus is found eating with all sorts of people – not just the sinners and tax collectors – but even the Pharisees, who were his enemies. Without a doubt, Luke wrote his gospel to tell the world that Jesus is for EVERYBODY, that Jesus has a universal message of grace for the entire world.

One last thing you might notice in Luke is that, in this book, Jesus is a man on a mission. Everything he does has purpose. About halfway through, in 9:51, it says that “Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem.” For the 10 chapters after that moment, Jesus is on a road trip, slowly but deliberately making his way towards Jerusalem, knowing full well what awaits him when he gets there. We will read that story on Ash Wednesday, and from that point on, there is no going back for Jesus. He was on a mission – to love, bless, and save the entire world.

As we read through this book in the months ahead, may Luke’s words bless us, as they have blessed the Church for centuries.

In Christ,

Pastor Chad

St. Lucia Day, December 13 was Santa Lucia (St. Lucy) Day and we remembered Lucia of Syracuse. She was a 4th century Christian martyr who used to bring aid to persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs under Rome. As she delivered food, she would wear a crown of candles to light the way. Particularly in Scandinavia & Italy girls will dress up like her to remember her courage & faithfulness. Recently our own Barbara Sodergren Apps dressed up like Saint Lucy and had a photo shoot with her daughter, Nancy Müther. They both have strong Scandinavian roots and we appreciate them sharing this special moment.



In December 12, we baptized Adalynn Axman and welcomed her into the family of faith. She is the daughter of Jenn Axman & Doug Axman, and the granddaughter of Karen Evans Wondra & Alan Wondra. Welcome Addy!



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

Women's Bible Study

Please contact me for meeting information for January.

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

Have a blessed New Year!
ma28rr77@cox.net.



The **Christ In Our Home** daily devotionals are now available at church. There are copies located in the lobby and in the outside dropbox for easy pickup. Come by anytime!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Children's Christmas Pageant this year, especially all the parents & family members who served as musicians & videographers. Our children did a great job in telling us the Christmas story in a new way this year. Thanks everybody!

~Pastor Chad

For anyone still interested in watching it, you can find the video on the church Facebook page.



Don't miss your chance to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars. Eligible members have until the March 30th deadline to direct any unused balance from the previous year.

For eligibility requirements and how to give go to www.thrivent.com/choice, or call financial associate, Justin Carlson, at (316) 729-2631 or Justin.Carlson@thrivent.com.



HUMAN NEEDS

I am starting on church council this month as the chairperson of Human Needs. After checking with committee members it was decided to collect items for Bags of blessing for the month of January. Feel free to drop any of these items off at church!



BAGS OF BLESSING FROM THE HEART

HELP US COLLECT "BAGS OF BLESSING"



FOR THOSE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN WICHITA AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Fill one or more gallon sized zip-lock bags with one each of the following items:

Soap (bag or liquid)	Lotion	Razor	Comb
Shampoo	Conditioner	Deodorant	Kleenex
Chapstick/Lip Balm	Washcloth	Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Emery Board or Clippers	Shaving Cream	Band-aids (3)	White socks

WE REQUEST NEW, TRAVEL SIZE, NON-FRAGRANCE ITEMS FOR ALL AGES IN COMPLETE BAGS. EXTRA ITEMS NOT IN BAGS AND ETHNIC PREFERENCE ITEMS ARE WELCOME.

Partners for Wichita 316-263-1389 info@partnersforwichita.org www.partnersforwichita.org



We are starting a new ongoing collection for the Union Rescue Mission. Brian Pressnall volunteers with the online bookstore "New Leaf Bookstore" that benefits the URM and he can collect books left at church. Please leave books in the entryway.

Children's books are welcome. Books that are usually scanned and "accepted" by the Union Rescue Mission are those with an ISBN code, usually published in the late 1970's and beyond. Books donated should be in good used condition.

PLEASE NO: MAGAZINES, DICTIONARIES, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, BIBLES

Items that the New Leaf bookstore rejects are sold to other booksellers, so New Leaf still benefits. We will continue to collect used clothing, also in the entryway at church, for the Mission San de Juan. Please let me know if you would like to be included on an e-mail list for the human needs committee. Rich will collect regular size brown paper grocery sacks for a food ministry he knows about. No plastic bags please. Have a hopeful January! The vaccine is coming!

Rosie Harder

316-200-3233

ma28rr77@cox.net



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
2	Noah Miller	3	Gwyneth Snow
6	Joshua Zecha	11	Caden Howell
12	Sarah Serio	13	Dorothy Peterson
18	Natasha Zecha	21	Christina Vingerud
22	Nancy Shaw	23	Melanie Barnhill
23	Charles Johnson	24	Richard Harder
26	Michael Carlstedt	28	Larry Cross
31	Gerald Christensen		



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
20	Elmer Hoyer	20	Sally Hoyer
24	Gerald Christensen	24	Nancy Christensen



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
1	Schmidt, Alan L.	12	Mihalcin, Melissa M.
2	Lechner, Brian M.	14	Ketchum, Haley E.
2	Lechner, Brittany D.	17	Freed, Sydney M.
5	Stiebner, Julie C.	19	Zabel, Larry E.
7	Albright, Blake A.	23	Clouse, Justin
7	Callison, Nora	23	Clouse, Landon
7	Lechner, Nicholas K.	27	Clouse, Kari R.
11	Ehmke, Forrest D.		



If you know your baptism date please notify the office.
The following people have unknown baptism dates, so we honor them this month:

Erica R. Ballard	Sally Hoyer	Pam Nanney
Ryan A. Ballard	Gordon L. Jones	Christopher W. Naranjo
Logan Barnhill	Norma Langner	Wes E. Nelson
Melanie R. Barnhill	David W. Lechner	Judy Parson
Morgan F. Barnhill	Ana I. Lechner	Nancy B. Shaw
Penelope Barnhill	David W. Lechner	Paul Shaw
Matt Becker	Laura L. Lechner	John Snow
Janet L. Clark	Michael A. Lechner	Terry L. Steinert
Dorothy DeMent	Buddy N. Martin	Teddy L. Thompson
Catherine I. Ehmke	Mary J. Martin	Norma Townsend
Helen M. Felzien	Barbara A. Mason	Chris A. Ward
Jamie L. Gibbs	Gene Moravec Jr.	John White
Alexander R. Haile	Greg Nanney	Kris Zecha



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SINCE 1951



WOW. All I can is “wow” and THANK YOU for your incredibly

generous Christmas gift this year. It has been a fascinating year to be a pastor and to be part of the Church. I am truly blessed to serve such a faithful congregation and I’m glad that it’s all of you that I’m going through the pandemic with. I so look forward to the day when we can all be together again in person!

Thank you, Christ Lutheran!

~Pastor Chad (& family)



NEW YEARS JANUARY 1, 2021

Parish Office

www.christ-lutheran.org

5356 N. Hillside

316-744-1242

Wichita, KS 67219

Fax: 316-425-8875

Pastor Chad Langdon

E-mail: pastor@christ-lutheran.org

Secretary Maria Contreras

E-mail: office@christ-lutheran.org

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00am-2:00pm

2020 BOOKKEEPERS REPORT
BUILDING FUND UPDATE
NOVEMBER GIVING: \$2,245.00
2020 TOTAL: \$32,353.66



November	YTD	Rolling 12
2020	2020	Months
		YTD

Receipts	\$14,646.31	\$165,090.01	\$217,053.00
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Expenses	\$21,080.77	\$181,030.48	\$202,006.62
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Variance	-\$6,434.46	(\$15,940.47)	\$15,046.38
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