



A Christ-focused Word-centered Family

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 52

NUMBER 12



Living Between the Two Advents

By Pastor Matt Quanbeck

We have a difficult time living in the present, don't we? It seems we are either looking back at the "good ol' days" or looking ahead, dreaming of a better tomorrow. Christians may be especially prone to this. We look back longingly to a time when more people attended church and Biblical values were highly honored, or we look ahead to the next election or the next movement which might reform society. We complain about what is going on in the world now and assume that any other time in history would be a better time to live.

Advent is a time for Christians to both look backward and look forward but not in the ways that we usually do. Instead of looking back or looking forward because we are discouraged about living now, we look back and forward with confidence and hope so we can live now with purpose.

Looking backward – During Advent, we look back to Christ's first coming. We remember how God was faithful to fulfill His promises to send a Savior to save us from our sin. Because God fulfilled those promises, we have confidence that He will also fulfill His other promises – promises like that He "will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) and that "all things work together for good" for "those who love God" and "are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). Also, as we look back at Christ's life, death, and resurrection, we have confidence that He indeed defeated sin, death, and the devil for us. We have confidence that God declares us righteous through faith in Christ.

Looking forward – Because of Christ's first coming, we have confidence that He will come again, like He promised. During Advent, we also look forward to Christ's second coming. As we experience

the sin-induced brokenness of our world, this future reality gives us a sure hope. One day, Christ will return and usher in the new heavens and new earth where believers will enjoy His presence with no more pain, suffering, death, or grief (Revelation 21:4).

Now – There are many things about our world right now that are discouraging for Christians. During the season of Advent, as we look backward and forward at Christ's two comings, may God give us confidence and hope to live in the present with purpose. Believers do not need to give into skepticism and despair. Instead, we know that the Savior who has come and is one day returning has called us to live our lives purposefully for Him now. God is with us and He is working through us to bring Him glory and to help others know Him.

Advent reminds us that now is a time of hope, confidence, and purpose because Christ has come and He is coming again.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to the congregation for your generous financial gift for pastor appreciation month in October. Throughout our time here you have been generous to our family both as a church and as individuals. Your generosity has included finances, a great parsonage, food, serving our family with your time, and a variety of other gifts. Thank you for the many ways you have cared for us.

*Sincerely,
The Quanbecks*

Already/Not Yet

LIVING BETWEEN THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST



Advent 2023



SATURDAY, December 2

9:00 a.m. WMF pack Cookie Plates
Fellowship Time to Follow

SUNDAY, December 3

9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Program Practice
Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

TUESDAY, December 5

7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 6

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
4:00 p.m. SS Christmas Program practice
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Supper and Youth Group

THURSDAY, December 7

9:00 a.m. Sarah Circle at Assisted Living

SUNDAY, December 10

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Program Practice
Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

WEDNESDAY, December 13

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
4:00 p.m. SS Christmas Program practice
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Supper and Youth Group

THURSDAY, December 14

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY, December 15

TBD-Youth Group Christmas Party

SUNDAY, December 17

9:00 a.m. SS Christmas Program
Fellowship Coffee follows Program
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

2:30 Church Services at Hillcrest

MONDAY, December 18

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE

for Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Parish Ed, WMF

TUESDAY, December 19

6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Meeting
7:00 p.m. Parish Education Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 20

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:15 p.m. All Church Caroling

THURSDAY, December 21

Deadline for Poinsettia order and Information

SUNDAY, December 24

9:00 a.m. Worship
Fellowship Coffee follows Worship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, December 27

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
No Confirmation or Youth

SUNDAY, December 31

9:00 a.m. Worship
Fellowship Coffee follows Worship
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



MONDAY, January 1

FINAL DAY FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

from Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Parish Ed, WMF
ALL FINANCIAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 12th!

TUESDAY, January 2

7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting

WEDNESDAY, January 3

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
No Confirmation or Youth

THURSDAY, January 4

9:00 a.m. Sarah Circle at Assisted Living
6:00 p.m. Young Adult Group
6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle

SUNDAY, January 7

9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Fellowship Coffee follows Worship

6:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, January 10

9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 p.m. Supper and Youth Group

ALTAR GUILD for December:

*Mina Young, Linda Klausen,
Mandi Swanson & Teresa Granquist*

December 3 (Purple) Communion

First Sunday in Advent

LECTOR - Jon Mullen

COMMUNION STEWARD - Kody Urwiler

GREETERS— Jim & Elizabeth Erwin

USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
Urwiler, Greg & Deb Urwiler, Don & Erica
Diediker

MUSICIAN - Glenda Johnson

ACOLYTE - Payton Swanson

NURSERY - Amy Kort

COFFEE - Gary Schmitt & Marlene Jussel, Jack &
Rozanne Hintz, Jerry & Glenda Johnson

December 10 (Purple) Second Sunday in Advent

LECTOR - Doug Olson

GREETERS - Kody and Stephanie Urwiler & Family

USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott &
Evan Urwiler, Tom Bierbaum

MUSICIAN - Anita Gade

ACOLYTE - Jacob Kolar

NURSERY - Kayla Detlefsen & Kalin Olson

COFFEE - Kody & Stephanie Urwiler, John & Nancy
Abts, Sharyl Luedtke

December 17 (Purple) Third Sunday in Advent Sunday School Christmas Program

GREETERS - Verneal & Anita Gade

USHERS - Verneal Gade, Les Owen, Gabe Abts,
Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose, Nick Kort

MUSICIAN - Sherie Lundahl

ACOLYTE - Mason Kort

COFFEE - Doug & Keila Olson, Jacob & Mandi
Swanson, Mary & Joe Ankney

December 24 (White) 9:00 a.m. Service

GREETERS— Verneal & Anita Gade

LECTOR - Diane Peterson

USHERS - Steve, Jacob & Cody Luedtke, Ron Lundahl,
Drew & Koby Detlefsen, Jon Pehrson, Craig
Karnes

MUSICIAN - Glenda Johnson

ACOLYTE -

NURSERY- Teresa Granquist

COFFEE - Verneal & Anita Gade, Tom & Pam
Bierbaum, Scott & Diane Urwiler

Please *find a substitute*
& notify the church office
if you are unable to be present.

December 24 (White) Communion

5:00 Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday In Advent

LECTOR - Steve Luedtke

GREETERS— Mike & Cathie Jacobsen

COMMUNION STEWARD - Tom Bierbaum

USHERS - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Kody & Bradyn
Urwiler, Greg & Deb Urwiler, Don & Erica
Diediker

MUSICIAN - Anita Gade

ACOLYTE - Treyten Lawyer

December 31 (White) First Sunday after Christmas

LECTOR - Stephanie Urwiler

GREETERS - Drew and Kayla Detlefsen & Family

USHERS - Lathan Detlefsen, Robert Patefield, Scott &
Evan Urwiler, Tom Bierbaum

MUSICIAN - Sherie Lundahl

ACOLYTE - Aliya Detlefsen

NURSERY - Stephanie Urwiler

ALTAR GUILD for January

Jo Owen & Judi Harrington

January 7 (White) Communion

Epiphany

LECTOR - Mindy Christensen

GREETERS-Matt and Mindy Christensen & Family

COMMUNION STEWARD -

USHERS - Verneal Gade, Les Owen, Gabe Abts,
Jon Mullen, Marlin Bose, Craig Karnes

MUSICIAN - Glenda Johnson

NURSERY - Amy Kort

COFFEE - Mike & Cathie Jacobsen, Heath & McKenzie
Roeber, Nick & Amy Kort

Come let us
Adore
Him





**ANYONE WISHING TO
SHARE A POINSETTIA**
with the church may do so by
purchasing one or contacting
Sharyl Luedtke to order one.
Please contact the church office
by December 21st for any
announcement you want to have
included in the bulletin in regards
to your plant.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to all who donated
to the WMF Fall Fundraiser.
We pray that these funds will
encourage those who work to
show the love of Christ to the
least of His brethren.

**Matthew 25:40 "And the King shall answer
them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you
have done unto one of the least of these my
brethren, you have done it unto me."**



**All Church Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 20th**

5:30 p.m. Supper

6:15 p.m. Leave the Church to go Caroling

Please sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall
if you plan to participate so the coordinators know
how much food to prepare for supper.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17, 2023
During the Regular Worship Hour

Practice Times:

Wednesday, November 29, December 6
 and December 13
 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16 - TBA



Over the course of the past year the youth group has much to be thankful for! We have had some great lessons and many volunteers help out. Thanks to Arlys Monson for coordinating a Pickleball Tournament. The youth had a great time! We will also be having a guest speaker in the month of December from Her Health. She will be teaching our youth about healthy relationships. Of course, many of our youth are planning to participate in the All Church Christmas Caroling Group and we are planning a Christmas Party at Deb & Greg Urwiler's home. The youth have been working on serving others this past year as well. We are also thankful to those who have provided wonderful meals every Wednesday evening. We thank you for your continued support of our youth group over the past months and the months moving forward!

Spotlight on the United Lutheran Church Youth Group



Youth Service Project at the
 Nursing Home



Youth Members at
 Trunk or Treat



HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is here. That means more time to spend with your family and friends. However, it also can mean the spread of flu and its potentially serious outcomes, especially among certain higher risk groups, such as pregnant people and children. Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk from flu. Here are five things you should know about flu vaccination.

Flu shots benefit you, your family and your community

The most important action to protect yourself against flu is getting a flu vaccine each year. CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get a flu vaccine to reduce your risk of getting flu and lessen its symptoms if you do get sick.

Getting vaccinated against flu can also help protect loved ones, like adults 65 years and older and people living with chronic conditions, both groups of people who are at higher risk of having serious flu complications. Bottom line? Getting an annual flu vaccine is important to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community against flu.

Flu shots benefit pregnant people and babies

Flu can be especially serious for pregnant people because of changes in the immune system, heart, and lungs during pregnancy that can make them more vulnerable to flu and its potentially severe complications. The good news? Getting a flu vaccine can reduce your risk of getting flu and lessen flu symptoms if you do get sick both during and after pregnancy. A flu shot during pregnancy also can help protect your baby from flu for several months after birth, when they're too young to be vaccinated themselves.

Flu vaccines have safely protected millions of pregnant people and their babies from flu for decades. One study showed fewer cases of infants with flu in mothers who got a flu vaccine compared to mothers who were not vaccinated. This is because, when vaccinated while pregnant, you pass antibodies on to your developing baby.

Flu shots benefit young children

Did you know flu can be more serious for children than a cold? That's why it's also important to get your children vaccinated against flu this year. Children younger than 5 years old – especially those younger than 2 – and children of any age with certain chronic health conditions, like asthma and diabetes, are at a higher risk of developing potentially serious flu complications. Because these groups of children are at higher risk, it is especially important they get a flu vaccine to reduce their risk of getting sick or being hospitalized or dying from flu if they do get sick.

Flu vaccines are safe and effective – and there's still time to get vaccinated.

Every year, experts update flu vaccines as needed to best protect against the viruses expected to spread during the upcoming season. During seasons when the vaccine viruses are well-matched to the viruses that are spreading, flu vaccine has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness by 40 to 60 percent. And if someone who is vaccinated gets sick, vaccination has been shown to reduce severity of illness, reducing the risk of serious flu outcomes.

The best time to get vaccinated is before flu has begun spreading widely in your community but vaccination can still be protective later. Flu most commonly peaks in February, and significant flu activity can continue into May.

You have options on which flu vaccine to get and where to get it, including at a health care provider's office, at work, a pharmacy, some stores, or even supermarkets. Speak with a health care provider today about getting a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Learn more about the benefits of getting vaccinated against flu at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccinations.htm>.

