

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

December Newsletter 2017

The GOOD NEWS

Contents

Like Lights on a Christmas Tree

Congregation Announcements

December Calendar

Our Savior Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Like Lights on a Christmas Tree

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:5 ESV).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

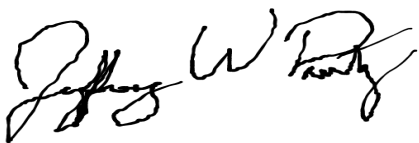
Tis the season to take down the Christmas lights from the attic and put them on the freshly cut Christmas tree. You wind the lights around the tree and look forward to seeing the beauty of all those lights shining together as one. You plug in the cord but to your dismay, several strands have failed to shine with the light you were expecting. You now must go through the tedious task of checking for a blown fuse and making sure that every light is connected to its socket.

We're a lot like lights on a Christmas tree. There are times when we get disconnected from God and each other by failing to live in accord with Christ Jesus. We blow a fuse by our sinful thoughts, words, and actions that darken life in and around us. On a strand of lights, a fuse unites the lights so that they shine together. If too many lights are out, the fuse blows. By analogy, this happens to us when we are overwhelmed by the darkness of sin and death.

During the Advent and Christmas Season we are reminded that Jesus comes among us to patiently put us back into the socket of His life and peace and to replace the blown fuses of our lives with His goodness and the fusing strength of His forgiveness. This is the encouragement we receive from God in Christ by His Spirit at work through His Word so that we live together in harmony and glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you enjoy the beauty of the lights on your Christmas tree, ponder how God has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light. “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV). Connected and fused together with Christ you are as Jesus said, “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14 ESV). So, like lights on a Christmas tree, “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16 ESV). Have a Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey W. Pautz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Jeffrey W. Pautz

Pastor

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DECORATING DAY is Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. Bring your children and/or grandchildren as together we set up the Christmas trees and nativity in the sanctuary as well as all the other decorations.

FIRST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE for the Sunday School is Saturday, December 2nd starting at 11:00 a.m.

LWML CHRISTMAS BRUNCH It's not too late you can still sign up today for the LWML Christmas brunch being held at the church this Saturday, December 9th at 10 am. In membership mailboxes today an envelope has been placed for our special Christmas mite offering taken at our brunch. If you are unable to attend and would like to contribute to our Christmas mite collection please bring your mite offering envelope and place in the large mite box as you leave the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10. If you have any questions please ask any board member Karen Schaub, Pres.; Becky Ernst,VP; Mary Francis,Trea. and Angie Banko, CG

LWML ADVENT SOUP SUPPER A sign-up sheet is posted on the easel in the narthex for the LWML Advent Soup Supper held on the first Advent Service Wednesday, December 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. You don't want to miss it; we promise you won't be sorry! The freewill donations will be given to the Muscatine Center for Social Action. If you can help with any of the needs listed in our serving this meal please sign your name where you can help. The items would need to be at the church by noon on Wednesday, December 6th. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM The birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ will be celebrated by this year's Sunday School children on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 p.m.

MISSION OUTREACH SUGGESTIONS An envelope with paper beside it for your mission outreach suggestions from the proceeds of our Apple Pie Mission Project this fall have been placed on the easel. Please put your suggestions of ways to reach out in the envelope by the end of December. We will vote at our January LWML meeting who we will support! Thank you!

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 09:00 Christmas Decorating 11:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
3 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Bible Study 11:15 Elders	4 10:30 Stonybrook 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service	5	6 06:30 Men's Group 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Group 05:30 Advent Supper 06:00 Catechism Class 07:00 Advent Service	7	8	9 10:00 LWML Christmas Brunch 10:30 Christmas Program Practice
10 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Bible Study	11 10:30 Stonybrook 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service 07:00 Council	12	13 06:30 Men's Group 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Group 05:30 Advent Supper 06:00 Catechism Class 07:00 Advent Service	14	15	16 10:30 Christmas Program Practice
17 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Bible Study 02:00 Christmas Program	18 10:30 Stonybrook 04:00 Office Hours 06:00 Service	19	20 06:30 Men's Group 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Group 05:30 Advent Supper 06:00 Catechism Class 07:00 Advent Service	21	22	23
24 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Bible Study 07:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 9:00 Christmas Service 06:00 No Service	26	27 06:30 Men's Group 09:00 Matins 09:30 Women's Group No catechism classes	28	29	30
31 08:00 Absolution 09:00 Service 10:30 Bible Study						

