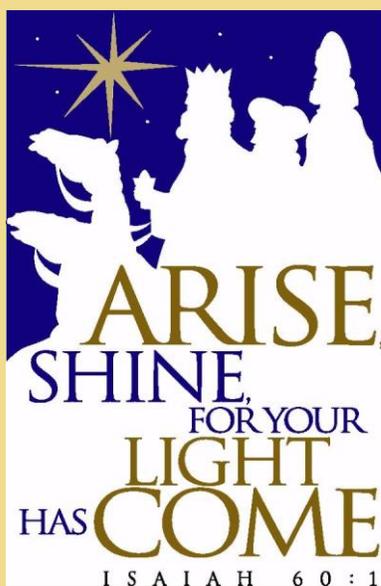


DECEMBER 2021

The MESSENGER

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Trinity Lutheran Church A Congregation
of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor is Reverend Doug Hudson

Church Office 229-436-5272

Web: www.tlcalbany.org e-mail: tlcalbany@gmail.com

Special Dates for December 2021 & January 1, 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1	6:00 PM	Advent Wednesday Supper Parrish Hall
1	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service
8	6:00 PM	Advent Wednesday Supper Parrish Hall
8	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service
15	6:00 PM	Advent Wednesday Supper Parrish Hall
15	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service
19	12:15 PM	Voters' Assembly/ Budget Lunch after
22	7:00 PM	Pray Service
24	7:00 PM	The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve Candlelight Service live & Facebook
25	10:00 AM	The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day Service live & Facebook
26	9:30 AM	Bible Study
	11:00 AM	First Sunday after Christmas live & Facebook
31	7:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service live & Facebook
January		
1	10:00 AM	New Year's Day Service live & Facebook

From your Pastor December 2021

If you've been in any of our services recently, you've heard me talk about the Church year; that is, the liturgical Church year, the rhythm and cycle of the year. The liturgical Church year exists to help the Church fulfill her mission: *"But all things should be done decently and in order."* (1 Cor. 14:40)

I have also talked about the meaning of Advent ("coming") and its significance as the start of the church year. In the hustle and bustle of the secularized, politically correct 'holidays' it's easy to forget what's really important about this season. As we move through the Time of Christmas, beginning with the Season of Advent, my prayer is that each of you will create the opportunity to intentionally, prayerfully meditate upon just what it is that we anticipate: not merely the remembrance of the first coming of our Savior as the Christ Child, but also the hope of the resurrection upon His second advent at the last day.

If you'd been to our adult Bible class on a recent Sunday, you also would have heard me refer to something I shared with you a number of years ago. I share it with you again now not only because it so simply and beautifully captures the essence of the coming into the world of our Savior Jesus Christ but, more importantly, in the prayerful hope that you will dwell upon it not only at the beginning of a new Church year—but that you would hold it in your heart every day all the year through.

The following was for many years used by long-time radio newsman and commentator Paul Harvey. It was written by his friend and fellow newsman, Louis Cassels, who worked for United Press International (UPI) and wrote a popular weekly newspaper column, "Religion In America."

The Man and the Birds

The man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a Scrooge. He was a kind, decent, mostly good man; generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to earth as a man.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. So he stayed. They went ... to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound, then another. Then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door

to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze. So he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

He quickly put on a coat and galoshes, and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light. But the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide-open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them ... he tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction ... except into the warm, lighted barn.

Then he realized that they were afraid of him. "To them," he reasoned, "I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me, that I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them." But how? Any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow ... they would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

"If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language and tell them not to be afraid and show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I'd have to be one of them ... so they could see ... and hear and understand ..."

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells ... *Adeste Fidelis* ... listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas ... and he sank to his knees in the snow.

In His service and yours, I am

Pastor

Pastor Hudson





Budget Committee Report

The 2022 Budget

Your budget committee consisting of Lynn McCracken-chair, Ted Soderberg-Trustee, Glenda Baker-Evangelism, Anna McCracken-member, Amy Bearman-member, Marie Grebel-member, Virginia Burkart-Financial Secretary. Have met several times for the development of the 2022 Budget.

Virginia Burkart, Financial Secretary estimates that the offering envelopes for 2022 will be \$95,388.00, loose offerings \$4,660.00, Special Services \$710.00, Extra Mile \$120.00. Total Estimated budget income \$100,878.00. The 2021 budget was \$112,324.00. This is a decrease of \$11,446.00. The decrease in offerings is caused by members moving out of town and re-locating to other churches. The Budget Committee is preparing a booklet to mail out to each member family for their consideration. These booklets will be mailed not later than the end of November

2021. Replies or comments on the budget are requested not later than December 12, 2021.

Ballots will not be included with the booklet. Prior to December 12, 2021, those voting members who will not be available for the Voter's assembly on December 19, 2021, are asked to call Lynn McCracken to have a ballot mailed to them in a return addressed, stamped envelope. Lynn McCracken can be reached at mccrackenmarl@gmail.com or 229-347-8207. All mailed ballots must be returned not later than December 12, 2021. Also voting members may come by the church office prior to December 12, 2021, to complete a ballot on any Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other times please send an email to tlcalbany@gmail.com to request a time or call Lynn McCracken at 229-347-8207

Lynn McCracken
Chair

Ladies' Bible Study

6:30 Tuesdays

Trinity Ladies' Fellowship

Have been busy.

Yard Sale

Coats given to several children & young adults charities.

Quilt Raffle for a cancer patient. Our Jan Walker was the winner.

Sunday Dec 5th, The Annual Christmas Luncheon. In the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM. Please bring a \$10.00-\$15.00 gift to exchange.

Prayer Request

Call Virginia Burkart
229-888-3788

Short Church Council Notes September

Secretary's Minutes from last meeting accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Jan -Aug 2021 Income: 81,687.78 Budget: 74,882.00
Disbursements:79,593.90. Budget: 83,819.98

For more in-depth information the minutes are posted in the Church

Pastor's Report: Welcome new members Michael & Carolyn Warren. Simon Abela family need to sell their home in Iowa prior to his family joining.

Elders': Should the TLC Constitution be changed regarding The Council Meetings. The Pastor's Retirement plan was discussed. See new business

Finance: Need input on budgetary need for next year.

Ladies' Fellowship: Yard Sale raised more than \$2,500.00 for their charities.

Stewardship

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – December 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also, the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them” (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, “If I just had this much then I would be happy.”

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

Continued on page 5

Stewardship continued...

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So, we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

[lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

Food For Thought

Thank you to everyone for contributing to our Neighbors in Need Project. Here are a few helpful tips to keep in mind when selecting items for the "basket". This is for the convenience of the recipients of our generous bounty. When giving can goods try to find items with pot tops (they may not have a can opener). Bread is good with peanut butter and jelly. Paper products of all types are always needed. Hygiene products are welcome as well as body soaps, shampoos, any grooming supplies.

Thank you again for your continued support of this important community project.



Special Days to Celebrate

Baptismal Dates for December

- 1 Heather Grebel Edwards
- 1 Emily Hoffman
- 4 Dolly Satherig Krupavavam
- 4 Lea Ann Burkart
- 8 John Troeger
- 13 Rev. John Dede
- 24 Grayson Logan
- 27 Monte Wilson

Birthdays for December

- 1 Rev. John Dede
- 4 Dolly Satherig Krupavavam
- 4 Lee Ann Burkart
- 8 John Troeger



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Divine Worship/Facebook w/ Communion 12:30 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:00 PM Catechism Class	29	30 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	19 :30 AM Sonshine Circle Ladies 6:00 PM Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Worship Evening Prayer	2	3	4
5 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Divine Worship/Facebook w/ Communion 12:30 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:00 PM Catechism Class	6	7 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	8 9:30 AM Sonshine Circle Ladies 6:00 PM Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Worship Evening Prayer	9 9:00 AM Worship & Music Committee Mtg	10	11
12 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Divine Worship/Facebook w/ Communion 12:30 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:00 PM Catechism Class	13	14 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	15 9:30 AM Sonshine Circle Ladies 6:00 PM Advent Supper 7:00 Advent Worship Evening Prayer	16	17	18
19 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Divine Worship/Facebook w/ Communion 12:30 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:00 PM Catechism Class	20	21 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	22 9:30 AM Sonshine Circle Ladies	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 Prayer	25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM
26 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Divine Worship/Facebook w/ Communion 12:30 PM Coffee Fellowship 1:00 PM Catechism Class	27	28 6:30 PM Ladies Bible Study	29 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Sonshine Circle Ladies	30	31 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Service	1 10:00 AM New Year's

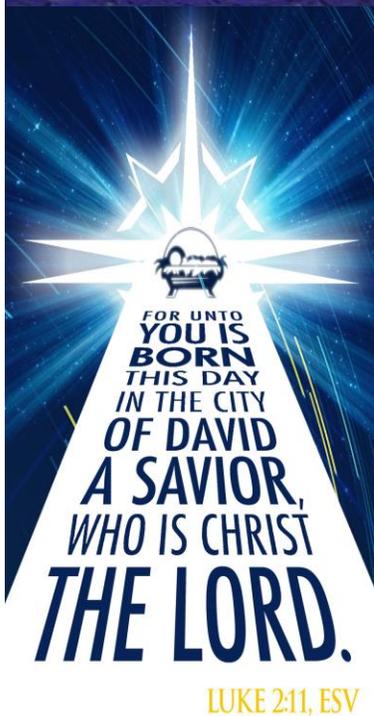
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The MESSENGER

December 2021



What We Believe, Teach & Confess

With the historic, universal Christian Church, we believe in one God, Who makes Himself known and works all thing through His Son Jesus, Christ; and in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, as confessed by the ancient Church in her creeds: namely, the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.

We believe that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and that God is therefore the true Author of every word of Scripture – meaning it is without error. We believe God comes to us and speaks to us through His means of grace – Word and Sacrament. Accordingly, our worship is sacramental and liturgical, following the ancient custom and practice of God's Church on earth. By sacramental we mean that we observe Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as the sacramental acts ordained by Jesus Christ Himself during His earthly ministry. By liturgical we mean that the calendar of the Church Year centers around God's marvelous acts of salvation completed for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. The Church Calendar is organized into three sections: Sundays and seasons, feasts and festivals, and commemorations. The Sundays and Seasons are Christmas/Epiphany, Lent/Easter, and Pentecost, followed by the Time of the Church. These seasons are marked by certain liturgical colors, with the five basic colors being white, red, green, violet or purple and black. Upon entering the nave – often called the 'sanctuary'- these colors are an instant reminder of where we are in the Church Year.

If you would like more information about our church, please speak with Pastor Hudson
www.tlcalbany.org