UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***One in Spirit; One in Christ;***

 ***One God We Serve***

*December 2023*

 It is December and with December comes Advent, that liturgical season marked by eager waiting, which often brings with it a frenzy of busyness. Getting overwhelmed by events and activities tempts us to forget that we are, in fact, preparing for both Jesus’ birth and Christ’s return. Imagine if Christians took Advent as an invitation to slow down, rather than speed up, to ponder instead of purchase, to look for God in all things even as we wait for the Word made flesh to appear.

 Scripture bears witness to the fact that our God chooses to work through all creation, through worldly, unnoteworthy things and people. Moses hears God’s voice in a burning bush. Jesus says that if people keep silent, the rocks will cry out. A star guides the magi and on-duty shepherds are the first to get word of the Messiah’s birth. Noticing the everyday things we encounter as we go about our day and connecting them to Scripture, we become aware of Immanuel, God with us, past, present, and future.

 This Advent, each Sunday, we will focus on particular objects, allowing that tangible item to point to the sometimes-indescribable work of God in our lives and world. May this Advent season be one where your anticipation of Jesus’ birth and your expectation of Christ’s return allow you to see God in all things and at all times. My prayer is that we will feel surrounded by the love of the One who came to save the world.

In Anticipation of The Christ Child’s Birth,

Vicar Kim

**COUNCIL NOTES**

* With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, council decided there will be no morning service and the evening service will be held at 5 p.m. and no Christmas day service.
* The council is looking for ideas from members on how to approach solving the odor problem that is often quite strong in the east entrance and the church study.
* Council officers and committee heads are: President, Todd Glasnapp; Co-Vice Presidents, Shelley Anderson and Bill Hansen; Secretary, Ros Gunderson; Evangelism & Worship, Connie Wilson; Property & Maintenance, Diane Nelsen & Bill Hansen; Parish Education, Liza Bollig
* The website: [www.NazLutheran.com](http://www.NazLutheran.com) is on line and it includes cemetery information for both of United’s cemeteries, a link to United’s Facebook page, and a Bible Study.

**Based on the approved 2023** **budget** of $**92,940** our monthly goal is $7,745 ($1,787 per week)

Our total through November 19 is $95,075 so we are

 **$9,880 ahead of the budget**!

Circle will meet Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the kitchen. All women are welcome to join us for Bible study and social time.

**Christmas Program:** The Sunday school Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 10th during worship. Worship will be held in the social room and a meal will follow. The free will offering will go to support the Sunday school.

**Christmas Eve:** If you would like to share your musical talent during worship Christmas Eve, contact Vicar Kim with the details.

**Contribution Statements:** If you would like to know your contributions to date, ask Gayle for the information.

**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO ….**

 1 – Erica Krantz 20 – Pauline Solberg

 3 – Kirsten DeVary Miles Petersen

 4 – Jim Miller 26 – Greg Fink

 5 – Tharen Jensen Jacob Rogers

 Kolton DeVary Jonathan Rogers

 6 – Jen DeVary 27 – Lynn Petersen

 10 – Jamie Paulsen Amy Stouffer

 13 – Kay Glasnapp 28 – Berdine Paulsen

 14 – Don Minier 29 – Cathy Wikert

 18 – Heather Winterfeld

 19 – Leigh Weber

**HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO …..**

 2 – Glen & Robin Hansen 27 – Ray & Shirley Ohrtman

 6 – Laverne & Linda Jensen

 Al & Sarah Fothergill

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

![MC900048046[1]]()**Nursing Homes:** Berdine Paulsen, Greg Fink - Valley Vue, Armstrong

Russell Handeland – Good Sam, Algona

Carole Liljedahl – Heritage, Council Bluffs

**Ill or Recovering:** Bill Hassel, Lyric Schultz, Patti Paulsen, Norma & Wayne Richard, Rita Yager

**Our military people:** All military personnel.

**The only way we know when someone is hospitalized and/or in need of a visit is if the family calls the church at 866-0881, Vicar Kim Kacmarynski at 712-298-1077 or Gayle Petersen at 712-866-1326 or 712-363-1200**

**Ringsted Community Improvement Organization** is taking orders for Almond, Apricot, Strawberry and Prune Wienerbrod, $20 each, until December 15th. See Gayle Petersen to place an order. Delivered before Christmas Eve.