**FESTIVAL**/COMMEMORATION **DAYS IN DECEMBER**

Dec.4 John of Damascus, *Theologian & Hymnwriter*

Dec. 6 Nicholas of Myra, *Pastor* (“Santa Claus”)

Dec. 7 Ambrose of Milan, *Pastor & Hymnwriter*

Dec. 13 Lucia, *Martyr*

Dec. 17 Daniel the Prophet & the Three Young Men (Shadrach,

Meshach, & Abednego)

Dec. 19 Adam & Eve

Dec. 20 Katharina von Bora Luther (Martin’s wife)

**Dec. 21 St. Thomas, *Apostle***

**Dec. 24/25 The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve/Day**

**Dec. 26 St. Stephen, *Martyr***

**Dec. 27 St. John, *Apostle & Evangelist***

**Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents, *Martyrs*** (baby boys of Bethlehem)

Dec. 29 David

**Dec. 31 Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus** *– New Year’s Eve*

**“Growing as One”**

 The following memory items can be used within the **daily office services** in the ***Lutheran Service Book***: Matins (pp.219ff.), Vespers (pp.229ff.), Morning Prayer (pp.235ff.), Evening Prayer (pp.243ff.), Compline (pp.253ff.), Responsive Prayers 1 (pp.282ff.) & 2 (pp.285ff.), and **Daily Prayer for Individuals & Families (pp.294ff.)**.

**Week Passage *Catechism* Hymn(s)\***

Dec. 1 - 7 Matt. 21:9 Lord’s Prayer – Introduction *LSB* #332

Dec. 8 - 14 Luke 21:36 Lord’s Prayer – 1st Petition *LSB* #336

Dec. 15 - 21 Matt. 11:10 Lord’s Prayer – 2nd Petition *LSB* #345

Dec. 22 - 28 John 1:23 Lord’s Prayer – 3rd Petition *LSB* #357

Dec. 29 – Jan. 4 Luke 2:38 Lord’s Prayer – 4th Petition *LSB* #389

 (\*at least 1st stanza)

**OFFICIAL ACTS:**

Confirmation, 10-27-19: Hunter Michael Iseler, Jordan Matthew Schave

Holy Matrimony: Courtney (Piotter) Jones, 11-2-19 (Bay City)

**“You Put on the Suit …”**

 Go ahead and admit it: Most of you have scoffed a little, winced a little, groaned a little, and then enjoyed quite a lot of the Disney movie ***The Santa Clause***. Yes, you know the story: Scott Calvin, played by Tim Allen, witnesses Santa’s sudden demise, accidentally falling off his roof! But a card in Santa’s pocket directs Scott – Tim Allen – to put on the Santa suit, and with the reindeer knowing what to do, he completes Santa’s rounds. Little does he realize that this clearly places him under the “Santa Clause” – no, **not Santa “*Claus*” the man, but Santa “*Clause*” the clause**: the legal contract that now obligates Scott henceforth to become Santa.

 As the chief elf, Bernard, explains: **“You *put on the suit*, you’re the *big guy*.”** After that, there’s ***no stopping things***: Scott’s beard begins to turn white, and shaving it three times a day does no good; he’s gaining weight by the hour; and, quite magically, he develops a sense about everyone he passes on the street: “Naughty; nice; naughty; nice.” Once he puts on the suit, it’s all set in motion.

 Now it may sound a bit far-fetched, but that’s very much what really **happened at Christmas**; except for an **important reversal**: “*You* put on the *suit*, *you’re* the *Big Guy*”? Rather, “***You*, *O Lord***, are the *eternal God*, the *Creator* of the Universe! ***You*** ***put on the suit!***” Yes, **God “put on the suit!”**: God became a **real human being, “put on” our human flesh**. And that set everything in motion.

 From here, from **Christmas**, there’s ***no stopping it!***: God in the flesh will *grow* from manger to Nazareth, will *Preach*, work *Miracles*, *Reveal* to the world just **who the True God is and what He’s like**. God who wears humanity will **Fulfill the Law Perfectly** for mankind. God, stripped even of His peasant’s clothing, will **die on the Cross for us**. From eternity, God bound Himself to that **“Contract Clause”** with us, and at Christmas we see it all begin to play out. **He took *our* “*naughtiness*” and gave us *His* “*Niceness*.”**

 My family and I extend to all of you the Hope of a **Blessèd Advent and Christmas** Seasons, and the Blessings that come from **“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”** (John 1:14).

 In His service & yours,

 ***Pastor Dodge***

**YOUTH NEWS**

 The **Higher Things “Watermarked” Lutheran Youth Conference** next Summer will be **July 21-24**, at **Calvin University** (formerly “College,”) **Grand Rapids, MI**. All Confirmed youth through high school are eligible to attend this Conference. Registration began **Nov. 1**, and materials were mailed to all eligible youth. Please get your registration form and money **($100 non-refundable** out of pocket deposit) to **Sandy Landenberg** as soon as possible so we can reserve our spots and make travel plans.

**“*ASK THE PASTOR*”**

Please note that what had been the **“Suggestion Box”** in the entryway is now an **“Ask the Pastor”** box. Questions submitted in the box (anonymously if you wish) may be used for this section of the newsletter.

**Q: Why are the paraments purple for Advent this year instead of blue?**

**A:** As you may remember, with the old ***The Lutheran Hymnal* (and in all liturgical churches), the Advent paraments were purple/violet, the traditional/historic color** of the season. Both Advent and Lent were purple/violet as they’re both penitential seasons when we remember the reason Christ had to “Come” to us – our sins. When the **3-year cycle of Readings** was introduced in the 1970s (for our Synod, the previous *Lutheran Worship* hymnal in 1982), the color for Advent was **changed to blue** (or churches could retain purple/violent). Blue symbolizes royalty, as we look forward to our “King Coming/Adventing,” both at Christmas and on the Last Day. As explained in my November newsletter article, **since we’re changing back to the historic One-year Series of Readings for the next three years, the Advent color also reverts back to the traditional/historic color of the Season – purple/violet.**

**Q: Please explain the new Communion cloths.**

**A:** The member-family of a recently deceased former-member desired to give a **memorial donation** toward something in the Sanctuary. Since we already have most things, I had to think about something we didn’t have. First of all, I want to make clear that there’s nothing wrong with what we’ve been doing – covering all of the Communion vessels with a large white “Communion Veil,” both before and after the Consecration. And, the change we’ve made was discussed with, and approved by, the Elders.

 Most (or, at least, very many) Missouri Synod congregations, however, set up their Communion vessels as you now see ours: ***Prior to the Consecration*** – when the elements of bread and wine are still merely that, *bread and wine* – **most of the vessels** (individual cups trays, host/wafer cup/“chalice” and plate/“paten,” and wine pitcher/“flagon”) **are left uncovered**; while **only the wine chalice is covered in the middle front of the other vessels.** Sitting on top of the chalice is a **7” square “chalice pall”** (thin cardboard inserted into a white linen with an embroidered cross on the middle top). Over that is placed a **“chalice veil”** – a roughly **20” square colored cloth** **which matches the paraments color** for whatever Season. This is what the family donated: the “chalice pall” and a set of colored “chalice veils.” During the Offering, the pastor will remove these items (as I do now the large white linen) and prepare the vessels for Consecration and Communion distribution. **After Communion, the entire Communion set is covered by the large white linen** (same as we have done, symbolizing that *since the Consecration* the bread and wine are now – and remain till after the Service – the *Body and Blood of Christ*), while the “pall” and “veil” are left to the side.

 NOTE: The new Chalice pall and veils will be/were Dedicated for use on Dec. 1, the “1st Sun. of Advent.”

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, school building; miscellaneous

 materials

Adult Bible class: Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, church basement; Epistle

 Reading

Junior Confirmation classes: Mondays: 7th-grade = 5:30-7:00pm; school building; *Small Catechism* & *Workbook*; hand-outs, videos, etc.

Bible study: Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am, school building; Luke

Adult *Catechism* instruction: various days/times (ask Pastor)

**ADVENT SCHEDULE**

(**Mid-week Advent services** will be held at **noon and 7:00pm**. Each **7:00 Wednesday** service will be preceded at **5:30 - 6:45** by a **soup & sandwich supper** sponsored by various groups within the congregation, and available for a free-will donation; take-outs are also available.)

“*The LORD OPENS THE WOMB*”

Wed., Dec. 4: “Is Anything Too Hard for the LORD?” Gen. 18:1-15; 21:1-7

Wed., Dec. 11: “His Name Is Wonderful” Judges 13:1-24

Wed., Dec. 18: “Heard by God” 1 Sam.1:1 – 2:11

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

Tues., Dec. 24, 7:00pm: “The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve”

 Sunday School Christmas program “A Shepherd’s Christmas”

Tues., Dec. 24, 11:00pm: “The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Midnight”

 Candlelight Service, with Communion

 “A Thief in the Night” Luke 2:1-20

Wed., Dec. 25, 10:00am: “The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day,”

 with Communion

 “Great Joy for All People” John 1:1-14(15-18)

Wed., Dec. 31, 4:00pm: “The Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus –

 *New Year’s Eve*,” with Communion, & “Commemoration of the Faithful Departed”

 “The Shedding of Blood & the Name of Jesus” Luke 2:21

***Church Attendance***

Average Church Attendance for the month of October 2018: 133

Average Church Attendance for the month of October 2019: 112

***Report of Contributions: For the month of October 2019***

***Budget Income:*** General Fund: $6,583.00 Loose: $2,970.55
 ***Total: $9,553.55***

***Non Budget Income:*** Missions: $455.00 LWML: $5.00
 Stained Glass Window: $4,960.00 Trustees: $480.00

 ***Total: $15,453.55***

 **Acolytes December 2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December 1 | 8:00 | Tanton Babcock | 10:30 | Jordis Pitts |
| December 8 | 8:00 | Jordan Schave | 10:30 | Tori Iseler |
| December 15 | 8:00 | Olivia Woodke | 10:30 | Carson O’Brien |
| December 22 | 8:00 | Tanton Babcock | 10:30 | Jordis Pitts |
| December 24 | 11:00pm | Jordan Schave, Hunter Iseler, Tanton Babcock |
| December 25 | 10:00 | Tori Iseler |
| December 29 | 8:00 | Jordan Schave | 10:30 | Carson O’Brien |
| December 31 | 4:00pm |  Olivia Woodke |



 Vicki Koglin

***December Birthdays***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Terry Friedland  | 2 | Ryan Finkel | 3 | Michael Schave |
|  | Douglas Howard |  |   |  |   |
| 4 | Dennis Pleiness  | 5 | Ashley Koglin | 7 | Darlene Tyler |
|  | Easton Iseler |  |   |  |  Leroy Schave |
| 8 | Heather Schultz | 9 | Jennifer Iseler | 10 | Fred Hasen |
|  | Melvin Hartz  |  | Todd Maschke  |  | Sarah Birchfield |
|  | Holly Iseler  |  | Donald Pitts  |  |  |
|  |   |  | Carol Young |  |  |
| 11 | Joyce Harwood | 15 | Shirley Piotter | 16 | Nathan Pawlowski |
|  | Howard Griffore  |  | Joshua Polly |  |  |
| 17 | Amy Babcock | 18 | Jeffrey Schave | 19 | Chauncey Koglin |
|  | Michael Reinke |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Cynthia Woodke  | 21 | Carol Hunter | 23 | Elaine Eggert |
|  | Joel Gaffke  |  |  |  | Jordan Schave  |
| 24 | Brittany Smaglinski | 25 | Eric Reinke  | 28 | Weston Koglin |
| 31 | Brenda Friedland |  |  |  |  |

**![C:\Users\Secretary\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\230RMF3T\happy-birthday-sign-with-cake-77c055[1].jpg]()**

***If there are any corrections or additions for the Birthday***

***Calendar, please call the Church Office 428-4140.***

***Thank you.***

 ***December Anniversarys***

***![C:\Users\Secretary\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\A5J3RAMJ\anniversary_graphics[1].gif]()*** 3: Willard & Ramona Reinke

 13: Elwyn & Phyllis Will

 20: Melvin & Beverly Hartz

 30: Howard & Della Finkel

 ***----------------------------------------------------------***

**120th Anniversary**

**of the Dedication**

**of the current**

**Church Building of**

**St. John Evangelical**

**Lutheran Church**

4527 Second St.

**Port Hope, MI**

Sunday, December 8, 2019

(will be highlighted at both Services)

Our current building was Dedicated on the “2nd Sunday of Advent” – Dec. 10, 1899.

***Come join the celebration!***

***-----------------------------------------------------------***

**SERVICE WINTER WEATHER NOTICE**: In the case of severe Winter weather, a decision will be made as early as practically possible by Pastor and the head Elder on whether or not to officially cancel a worship Service. If a Service is to be cancelled, the decision will be disseminated on local media (WLEW AM/FM and website, and FM 103.7) and, if possible, added to the new church Facebook page.  If, however, you don’t get the message of a cancellation, know that Pastor will be present to conduct some sort of service so that you didn’t venture out for nothing.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the entryway. Please sign up on the numbered clip-board sheet on the bulletin table to receive the corresponding numbered envelope box.

**St. John Ladies Aid** invites all ladies to come out for an evening of laughs on Monday, December 2nd at 7PM to the **Annual Christmas party.** Wondering what this is all about? All you need to do is bring at least one $5 gift (or you can bring as many as you want). An Auctioneer (Pastor or a gent from our congregation) randomly grabs a gift off the table and the ladies bid on it. Ladies Aid will match the amount raised and proceeds are donated to charity. Last year we donated to our Barnabas Fund, Huron County Safe Place and the Harbor Beach/Port Hope Food Pantry. Sometime things get a little competitive, but it is all in fun. So why not joint the fun while helping to raise funds for wonderful causes. Oh, and bring a dozen cookies. We will eat some and save the rest for the Christmas fruit baskets for our members age 80 and over and our shut-ins.

**Zion Lutheran Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk**, in Harbor Beach Saturday Dec. 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Available will be Gift Baskets, Homemade Crafts, White Elephant Sale, Baked Goods (including Famous Zion Homemade Springerle) and Lunch.

Quilting at the school will not be held on Dec 25th through the Jan 15th 2020.

**Choir:** The choir will plan to sing on the following dates: **November 28th** (Thanksgiving), and **December 24th** (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service).

**AMVETS and Auxiliary Christmas party** on December 14, 2019. At AMVETS post 115 in Port Hope. $20.00 per person, for dinner and dance, refreshments will be furnished No Dinner Tickets at door Have to know how many coming by December 9, 2019 for dinner Tickets. Just for the dance the price is $15.00 for a single and $20.00 for a couple after 7:00 p m. The Natural Tones will be playing from 7:30 p m till 11:30 p m, 50/50, silent auction and door prizes.

**Church Christmas Program** sign up is taking place now and we are looking for all ages to participate.  No one is too young or too old!  Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin table.  The Program will take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm.  Practices will be held on Sundays at the church on the following dates at 9:15 am:  December 8, 15, and 22nd.  If you have any questions, please call Albert at (989) 553-4484 or Sally at (989) 553-4386.

***December Baptism Birthdays***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Otyllia Abraham  | 3 | Justin Belt  | 4 | Tori Iseler |
|  | Tracy Terassi  |  | Vicky Mazza | 5 | Howard Finkel |
|  |  |  | Frank Gaffke  |  | Elaine Reinke |
| 6 | Jacob Naeyart | 7 | Charlene Scharrard  | 8 | Dylan Burton |
|  |  |  | Sharon Joy |  | Stacy Gaffke |
|  |  |  | Ricky Finkel |  | Christopher Golden |
|  |  |  |  |  | Cheryl Neuenfeldt |
|  |  |  |  |  | Brenda Prange |
|  |  |  |  |  | Jonathan Maschke |
|  |  |  |  |  | Bridget Goretski |
| 10 | Blake Bender | 11 | Jodi Bender |  |  |
|  | Nelson Erbisch  |  | Ellie Bender |  |  |
|  | Jeffrey Bucholtz |  |  |  |  |
|  | Eleanor Hall |  |  |  |  |
|  | Kari Verellen  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Tina Osentoski  |  |  |  |  |

**December 2019**

**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**

**Ushers 8:00 Ushers 10:30**

Marvin Woodke Greg Woodke

Larry Johnsonl Ty Woodke

Jeff Kowaleski Robert Schulte

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

 **8:00 Divine Service w/Communion**

 **9:15 Sunday School & Bible Class**

**10:30 Divine Service w/Communion**

**St. John Ev. Lutheran Church**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 27:00 Ladies Aid Christmas Party  | 3 | 410:30 Bible Studynoon Advent service1:00 Quilting 5:30 Soup/sandwich supper7:00 Advent service | 5 | 6 | 7 Pastor’s Day Off |
| 8120th anniv. Of church building  | 95:30 7th Grade Confirmation Class7:00 Finance Board  | 1010:00 “Winkel” @ Fairgrove | 1110:30 Bible Studynoon Advent service1:00 Quilting 5:30 Soup/sandwich supper7:00 Advent service  | 12 | 13Pastor Vacation  | 14Pastor’s Day Off |
| 15Pastor Vacation   | 165:30 7th Grade Confirmation Class | 177:00 Elders7:00 Trustees  | 1810:30 Bible Studynoon Advent service1:00 Quilting 5:30 Soup/sandwich supper7:00 Advent service  | 19 | 20  | 21Pastor’s Day Off  |
| 22 | 237:00 Finance Board | 24The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve7:00 S.S. Program11:00 Candlelight Service w/Communion | 25The Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day10:00 Worship w/Communion | 26St. Stephen, *Martyr* | 27St. John, *Apostle & Evangelist* | 28Pastor’s Day OffThe Holy Innocents, *Martyrs* |
| 29 | 30  | 31Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus -New Year’s Eve4:00 Worship w/Communion “Comm. Of Faithful Departed” |   |   |   | Elders: Gary Eggert 479-6251Joe Landenberg 551-9899Larry Reinke 551-4203Greg Schave 428-3034 Les Weiss 551-4148Greg Woodke 550-5931Galen Young 550-3053 |