

December

St. John's Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

As we look to December 2021, and to the seasons of Advent and Christmas what is on your heart? Are you excited? Anxious? Hopeful? Worried? Joyful?

Last year I wrote about how the past 8 months have been a time like no other. And here we are, December 2021, some 20 months later, still living with a virus that just won't quit and has hit our communities especially hard in recent weeks. We are still in a season of fear, uncertainty, pain, death, and grieving. But then, in reality, that is a part of life. At least we have, thankfully, added more joy in the midst of things over the past year.

And now we find ourselves, barely done putting away leftover turkey and most have turned their thoughts to Christmas. I am however, thinking about Advent. But for many this season of slowing down in expectant waiting and listening is passed over for the "big event".

The season of Advent calls us to slowdown, so we notice what is happening around us. What is happening around you? Could there be an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with someone who may desperately need it right now? Are you noticing that there is a chance for growth and change in the midst of the challenges?

The season of Advent calls us to wait expectantly, not only for Jesus' birth but for what God is going to do next here and now. And because we are slowing down maybe we won't miss it!

The season of Advent calls for us to listen. Listen for what God is placing on your heart and for that quiet voice encouraging you to act on it. Listen, really listen to those around you. Not necessarily to what they are saying, but to what they are not saying. You may discover that they need your help, your prayers, your gift of time, your support & encouragement.

For so very many of us the holiday season will be different this year as loved ones will be missing from our celebrations. And even though our hearts may be hurting, perhaps we can honor their love and their light gaining fresh insight, a new perspective, or possibly even finding a piece of yourself that has gotten lost in the *hustle and bustle* of life. When we slow down and take time in prayer, in expectant waiting and listening, special things do happen.

That night, some 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, the hustle and bustle of life slowed down long enough for a baby to be born in a stable. Our Savior, Christ Jesus, born to save us from the sin of the world and to be with us forever. Did you notice?

As our family takes time to celebrate all God's blessings in our life, including you, our parish members, we'd like you to join us at our home for our Christmas Open House on Sunday afternoon, December 19, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy Christmas goodies, coffee, hot cider, and a hot chocolate bar. Hope you can stop by. Our address is 1040 90th Ave SE, Clara City.

*Wishing you an expectant Season of Advent & a Blessed Christmas!
Pastor Michelle*



December



2:30pm - Old Mamre
 4pm - Hope
 5:30pm - Bethesda
 7:00 pm—Monson Lake



9 am
 Buffalo Lake

January Service's

9th at 8:15 a.m.

30th at 8:15 a.m.

Church council on the 9th
 following coffee fellowship.



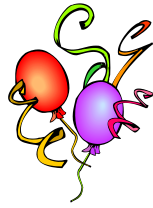
Saturday, January 22nd

6:30 at St. John's.

Bring your favorite appetizer!

Winter Storm and Cold Weather Information:

During the winter months church will called off no later no later then 7 a.m. on Sunday morning. So listen to the radio after 7 a.m. If the temp is more then 20 below there will be no church.



Happy Birthday to
 Holly Haug—4th
 Mike Arends— 28th

Usher for December: Rick Torkelson

Reader for December: Kathy Torkelson

Christmas Story told with Carols



December 12th

5:30 Soup and
 Sandwich Dinner



Free will offering going to Salvation Army

6:30 Service

Sign up sheet on the bulletin board for soup,
 treats or money to cover expenses.



If changes need to be made or you would like to volunteer for one of the open spots please let Nancy know.

2018	Reader	Usher
January	Nancy Stredde	Mike Arends
February	Barb Ruter	Mike Arends
March	Loree Moller	Robert Moller
April	Christa Pattison	Ben Pattison
May	Loree Moller	Robert Moller
June	Mary Lindquist	William Lindquist
July	Paula Stredde	Curtis Jacobson
August	Nancy Stredde	William Lindquist
September	Kathy Torkelson	Rick Torkelson
October	Paula Stredde	Ben Pattison
November	Sheila Stredde	William Lindquist
December	Kathy Torkelson	Rick Torkelson