



Pastor's Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I know this is the December newsletter, but I have to start off with a huge thank you. Thank you to my elders for taking over the services this year. I know the first one did not happen like we planned, but you have done a remarkable job. Thank you.

To all the members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Thank you for being you. Your kindness to us and your love is very evident and I really appreciate it (so does my wife, thank you.)

Now to the December newsletter.

In Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he writes in Chapter 4:

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Have you ever read that passage and wondered what Paul meant?

Why was Jesus born when he was? Why was Jesus not born in 600 BC when the Israelites needed him to save them from the Babylonians? 300 BC When Alexander rose to power and conquered the Babylonians?

Why did God choose 4 BC for Jesus to be born (all dates approximate)?

If you look at the history of the world 4 BC is the right time. At the time of Jesus' birth, the world was at peace. (I mean a relative peace.) Rome had conquered the world. All of the middle east was under one rule and the world was at a relative time of peace. It was even called Pax Romana.

In Wikipedia it says: The *Pax Romana* (Latin for "Roman peace") is a roughly 200-year-long period of Roman history which is identified as a golden age of increased and sustained Roman imperialism, relative peace and order, prosperous stability, This is despite several revolts and wars, and continuing competition with Parthia. It is traditionally dated as commencing with the accession of Augustus, founder of the Roman principate, in 27 BC and concluding in AD 180 with the death of Marcus Aurelius, the last of the "Five Good Emperors". (*Britannica Online Encyclopedia. 23 February 2024.*)

Paul also writes in Romans 5:

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—

At just the right time. We often forget how involved God is in our lives and in our world. He doesn't just sit there in Heaven and play games with us like the Roman God's. Have you ever wondered why when that huge bill comes your way all of the sudden work hands out bonuses? Or you get a job offer right when that lay off notice hits your hand?

I have seen this play out in my own life with my call to serve Trinity. At just the right time God moved you folks to call me. How it works is anyone's guess, But God knows what he is doing.

It just proves what I wrote about last month. God is in control.

God is always in control. We may not realize it or see it, but God does know about what happens to us and cares.

Jesus says in Luke 12:

⁴ "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

God has numbered the hairs on our head (Easier for some than others) So what does all this have to do with Christmas?

We celebrate Christmas, because God cared to send his son, born of a woman to live, grow and die on our behalf. God cared enough to send us the very best (I know I am ripping off Hallmark) Because he cared, we celebrate the birth of His son, who became our savior, at just the right time.

So this year as we gather to celebrate the Birth of Christ, remember God cared and sent his son for us in the fullness of time.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Marshall

OTHER NEWS



Birthdays for the month of December

- 10 Joyce Anne Green
- 12 Betty Rice
- 12 Ainsley Reiderer
- 12 Dorothy Herrod
- 18 Megan Raddle
- 19 Pat Baughman
- 20 Adam Shorts
- 21 Andrew Raddle
- 31 Carole Michael

If we forgot you, we apologize, it means we most likely don't have it. Please see that the office receives it. Thanks



Baptismal Anniversaries for the month of December

- Rachel Clinton
- Isla Piper Burrus
- Bettye Johnson
- Bran Burrus



Orders need to be turned into the office no later than December 15th. They are \$15.00 and we are again trying for white poinsettia's this year.

Perfect Attendance!

Sunday School Attendance for the month of October

Adults:

- Margaret & John Alexander
- Tricia & Harold Jacobs
- Pat Baughman
- Phyllis Dunger
- Pastor & Donna Marshall
- Cathy Webb

Everyone needs a little help during the holidays! Rada is helping all our wonderful fans by giving away a FREE Paring Knives Gift Set with every qualifying purchase from now through the end of the year. Just add \$55 of product to your cart along with the S01 Paring Knives Galore Set and apply code HOLIDAY55 at checkout. Offer ends Dec. 31st.



Please support our group **Trinity Lutheran Church**, through this Rada Cutlery fundraiser! Click this link <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=5544767.dbcf947> start shopping. Thank you!



Monthly Offering

Sunday Average Attendance for last Sunday of October & first half of November— 30

Sunday Average Attendance online for last Sunday of October & first half of November— 6

Views — 8

Last Sunday of October & first half of November Offerings — \$12,964.66

Craft Day in the Fellowship Hall

There will be a craft afternoon on December 7th in the fellowship hall starting at 1:00 pm. These are such enjoyable afternoons with other crafters from our church. We really enjoy creativity and fellowship.

Please join us with whatever craft you like and a snack.

If you would like to come to the craft afternoon but don't feel you have a craft, there is a simple project for twindlemuffs we would like to share with you. The supplies will be provided.



LWML NEWS

MARY GUILD

Mary Guild began with a devotion by Karen Witt. The devotion was based on Job 11:7-9. Verse seven asks "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can You probe the limits of the Almighty?" From these words alone we can understand that there is no limit to God's power. He can help us handle the most difficult situations that we experience.

Arleen Parsley, secretary, called the roll which was answered by a Bible verse from each member present. She then read the minutes which were approved as read. Vice president, Julie Shorts, brought forth a slate of officers for the coming year. They were voted on and accepted.

During the business portion of the meeting, the group discussed the progress we had made on our December mission project--to provide 750 packages of cheese or peanut butter crackers for the inmates of Tucker Prison. We had collected 550 packages of crackers and some candy. We felt confident that we would reach our goal. Pastor Marshall and Donna, along with other Lutheran pastors, toured an orphanage in Cozumel, Mexico. They were impressed by the Christian studies and atmosphere that was provided for the children. They asked if we would send a monetary donation and we voted to send one hundred dollars to aid these missionaries in teaching the children the Gospel message.

Kaye Meins passed along an appeal from the Zone asking for volunteers to run for Zone officers. There were three November birthdays--Millie Kroll, Pastor Marshall and Kaye Meins. Julie Shorts presented the topic about a wife and mother whose efforts to please her family and others went unnoticed. After discussing her plight with a friend and studying the Scriptures, she realized that as long as we do things for others in the right spirit we do not need fanfare all the time. She became more at peace with herself.

Our mission project for November was a donation of money to the food banks at both of our seminaries. We gave three hundred dollars.

In December Cherrie Bradley has the opening devotion. We will all be hostesses for our Christmas party. The mission projects are gifts for senior members and the Tucker Prison's "crackers for prisoners."

We closed with the League Pledge.

Submitted by
Kaye Meins



Esther Guild Mailbox Member Program

Esther Guild mailbox member group is The November LWML Mailbox Greeting email had the theme of Thanksgiving. There was a copy of the devotion "Total Praise". Since it is always the right time to give praise, here is the link to that devotion [Y2-11-November-Total-Praise.pdf](#). There were also Thanksgiving note cards and bookmarks to color and hand out. All these resources can be found on the website [LWML.org](#) using the "Search" button on the upper right of the website.

The fall rally on November 9th was promoted. As of this writing, we have 6 ladies from our church attending. These include women from both Esther and Mary Guild. South Arkansas Zone officers will be elected at this rally.

An E-news letter from the national LWML organization was provided to the recipients. The letter included news of mission grants that were paid, giving thanks for our church workers, and prayers for the election in November. If you do not get the e-newsletters directly to your mailbox, you can sign up for them on the [LWML.org](#) website.

If you are not on the Esther Guild mailing list and would like to be, please let Erin Foster know and she will add you to the group.

Submitted by
Erin Foster



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	()	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ (% , to us a) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 % , and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ (,

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4 .

He will reign on David's - 8 (^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$,

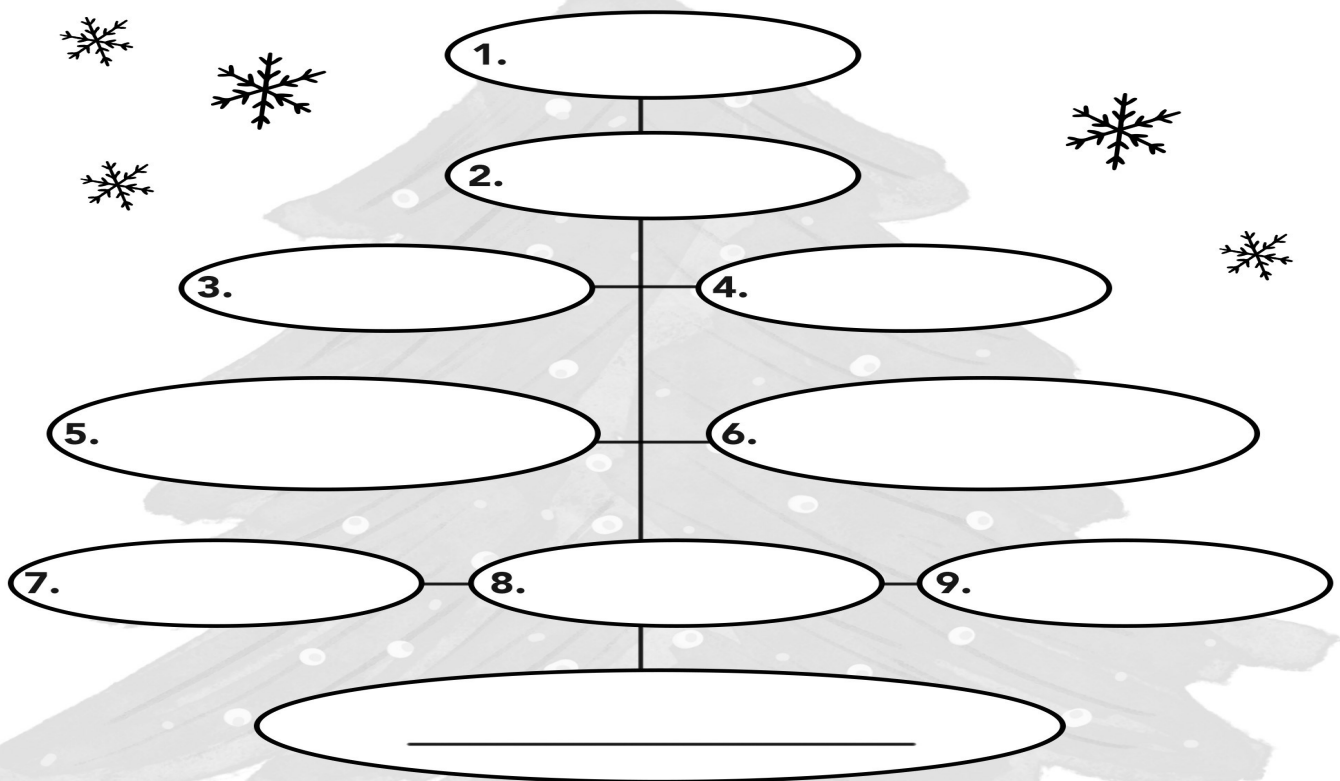
establishing and upholding it with ! ?) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ (5 > 5 (. *Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV*

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



BLESSINGS ON YOUR FALL!

Warm greetings in the name of the Lord. We pray that all of you had a blessed Reformation service. All of the Lutheran churches here in Santiago celebrated a combined Reformation service that took place at the seminary. A great time of worship and fellowship was celebrated by all.

A new seminary student, Francisco Orastegui, who hails from Chile, recently joined our seminary community here in the Dominican Republic. He is accompanied by his wife and three children. Keep Francisco and his family in your prayers as they adapt to seminary life.

The healing of Dan's ankle is progressing slowly but surely. He is now able to put little bit of weight on his injured ankle and this gives him a little more mobility. The therapy has helped a great deal. We have our next follow up appointment in three weeks. In the meantime the seminarians are coming to our home to receive their classes.

Our seminarians continue to put out a great effort both in the classroom and in the local congregations where they are serving. Their field work activities include: evangelistic visits, teaching, assisting in the worship services, and church planting activities.

The missionaries are preparing for our upcoming Thanksgiving celebration. No such holiday exists in the Dominican Republic but we continue to set aside this special day to thank God for all the blessings that he has bestowed upon us. In reality every day is a day of Thanksgiving. Accordingly the Psalmist exhorts us: "O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good and his mercy endureth forever."

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SANTO DOMINGO

- + It was founded in 1496 by Bartholomew Columbus, brother of Christopher Columbus.
- + Santo Domingo is the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in the Americas.
- + This city has a population of over 3 million people.
- + Santo Domingo is a major economic and financial hub in the Caribbean region.
- + The city is home to several prestigious universities and educational institutions
- + Santo Domingo has a well developed transportation system.
- + The city is surrounded by beautiful beaches and many natural attractions.



Dan and I posing with seminarian Francisco Orastegu and his family.



We Pray For

- + The health of Dominican pastor Yban Navarro.
- + Political stability in the country of Haiti.
- + New seminarian Francisco Orestegui and family who arrived recently from Chile.
- + The deaconesses who are in formation.
- + The new missionary families that are beginning their overseas service.

We Give Thanks For

- + Dan's progress with his broken ankle.
- + Our mission donors who make our mission possible.
- + The future pastors who are in formation



Personal Notes

On Veterans Day Dan and I remembered two very special veterans; our fathers who served their country during their younger days. They have passed from this world but the service to their country will always be remembered.

We thank God for the mission in Latin America. Your support provides Biblical training for national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses. Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for his mission efforts through the donations of His local churches and its individual members. Through your financial donations national pastors and deaconesses will be formed and mentored that they may spread the Gospel throughout Latin America. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far ends of the earth. We thank you for supporting the mission in Latin America. God's richest blessings! Happy Thanksgiving!!



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3)

Soli Deo Gloria
Daniel and Kathy



National pastor Yban Navarro preaching at the All Saints Day worship service.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 631 79-0089 Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Daniel Conrad."

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at www.lcms.org/conrad or call 888-930-4438 to speak with one of our Donor Care representatives.

You may also donate through Mission Central:
<https://missioncentral.us/conrad/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

December 2024



	Elder	Ushers	Lector	Flowers by...	Counters
SUN 1	Phillip Dunger Steve Lochmann	Harold Jacobs	Erin Foster	Judy & Rachel Clinton "In Loving Memory of Ray"	Judy Clinton Julie Shorts Sharon Calabretta
SUN 8	Steve Lochmann Phillip Dunger	Andrew Raddle John Alexander	Steve Lochmann	Lynne Russell "In loving Memory of her mother", Claudette Russell"	Phillip & Amanda Dunger
SUN 15	Steve Lochmann	Robert Floyd	Robert Floyd	Pete Smykla "In loving memory of Sylvia"	Tricia Jacobs Cherrie Bradley Lynne Russell
SUN 22	Steve Shorts Steve Lochmann	Steve Lochmann Andrew Raddle	Cherrie Bradley	Christmas Poinsettias	Joyce Anne Green Charleen Weathers
SUN 29	Bill Witt Steve Shorts	Phillip Dunger	Steve Shorts	JP & Phyllis "In thanks to God for another year"	Joyce Anne Green Charleen Weathers

Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Service Attendants

Altar Care: Kaye Meins & Phyllis Dunger

December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Elder's Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg 1 st Sunday in Advent	2	3	4 6:30 Midweek Advent Worship	5 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study 12:00 Mary Guild Christmas Party	6	7 1:00 Craft Day Fellowship
8 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Choir Practice 2 nd Sunday in Advent	9	10 9:00 Pastor's Circuit Meeting St Matthew, Conway	11 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Midweek Advent Worship	12 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Choir Practice 12:00 Voter's Meeting 5:00 Worship in Hamburg 3 rd Sunday in Advent	16	17	18 10:00 Newsletter Committee 6:30 Midweek Advent Worship	19 10:00 Thursday Morning Bible Study	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)
22 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:45 Worship w/Communion 12:00 Choir Practice 4 th Sunday in Advent	23	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas 10:00 Christmas Day Worship 	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 10:45 Worship w/Communion LWML Mighty Mites Sunday 1 st Sunday After Christmas	30	31				

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Trinity Lutheran Church

Pine Bluff, Arkansas



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