

# DECEMBER

## *In Nomine Jesu Christi*

*Come, you hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.  
LW 48:1*

We are looking for Christmas! No other holiday holds the anticipatory excitement of Christmas. As we make our way through the weeks leading up to Christmas we make lists, plan parties and family gatherings, and shop. But we, **“worthy folk of Christendom”** also do something else—we “renovate the heart.” Our excitement has to do with something much greater and more important than gifts or parties or gatherings. Our excitement has to do with what God has done to us and for us in Christ. We know and confess that Baby Jesus came to make us God’s peculiar people!

Of course we are not peculiar in the sense of being odd or eccentric. Rather we are made different by the presence of Christ in our lives. You see, dear friends, we belong to God. **“We are His people, the sheep of His pasture”** (Psalm 100:3). We are Christ’s **“who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness”** (Titus 2:14). The price He paid for us was death itself. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. The price He paid was damnation as He calls from the Holy Cross **“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me!”** Our separation from God that is death and damnation is totally healed. Life and a place in God’s Kingdom forever is given. And it all starts in the stable in Bethlehem.

Knowing the true Christmas miracle, **“the Word made flesh”**, give us Christians a wonderful perspective on life. We are made God’s peculiar people to do new things—as new and fresh as the baby Jesus in the manger. What a blessing we are for a weary old world at war!

These **“new things”** we do may seem like the **“same old stuff”** but its not. Each generation is called by Christ into a new relationship with Him. There are always new people to meet and **“tell the Good News about Jesus”**. Each day, each month, each year He gives each of us wonderful opportunities to make a real difference in the lives of others around us.

Here at CTK we have grand things to do. They are peculiar things to the world but for us they are the natural outpouring of God’s love. Peculiar things like sacrificial giving--sacrificing what is “ours” so that the Christmas Gospel may be spread in myriad ways. Peculiar things like **“turning the other cheek”**, loving our enemies and praying for them, volunteering our time and talent in our community at large and in our CTK family. And peculiar things like coming to God’s House CTK for Advent services 12/4, 11, and 18. We’ve got a great theme to consider **“His Name Shall Be Called”** from Isaiah 9. When we gather together to hear God’s Word of Christ and sing His praises we are living examples of His Lordship and our devotion. All these things truly reflect the joy of Christmas and draw others to Jesus.

Jesus was born in a barn, laid in a manger, sung about by angels, and worshiped by shepherds. Very peculiar! But these peculiar events have a purpose: to make us God’s peculiar people. Friends, make sure to be **“peculiar”** as you excitedly anticipate and prepare for Christmas. Worship often at the many worship opportunities that are presented at this peculiar time of year. Receive the Lord’s Supper as many times as it is offered and thereby proclaim Christ’s death destroying death and life giving resurrection to all the world. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to share in the incomprehensible, peculiar message of salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. He will bless you and richly! God bless you. **Merry Christmas**

Hear the broadcast available to our military at:  
[www.lutheranhour.org/AFN/listen.htm](http://www.lutheranhour.org/AFN/listen.htm).

For December we invite you to tune in and listen to hear:

December 1

"Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty, a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true.

(Jeremiah 33:16)

December 8

"Completely Ordinary Human"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again.

(Malachi 3:7)

December 15

"Sorrow Welcomed Here"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow.

(Zephaniah 3:14-20)

December 22

"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again.

(Luke 2:10-11)

December 29

"No Getting Better Than This"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be.

(Colossians 3:12-17)



Voters Meeting

December 8<sup>th</sup>

A logo for 'Advent Pot Luck December 8'. At the top are three lit candles in purple, pink, and blue. Below them, the word 'Advent' is written in a large, purple, cursive font. Underneath 'Advent' is the phrase 'Pot Luck' in a smaller, purple, cursive font. At the bottom, 'December 8' is written in a large, purple, cursive font. The entire logo is enclosed in a purple rectangular border.

Advent  
Pot Luck  
December 8

PORTALS OF PRAYER

(JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)

INFORMATION CENTER



# SERVICES

DECEMBER 1 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Tom Miagowicz/Jay Reaume  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley/Cyndy Higgins

DECEMBER 4 Mid-Week Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 DEACON          Tom Miazgowicz

DECEMBER 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Keith Fischer /Dave Mulligan  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley & Cyndy Higgins

DECEMBER 11 Mid-Week Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 DEACON          Brian Morton

DECEMBER 15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Jay Reaume/Dave Mulligan  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley & Cyndy Higgins

DECEMBER 18 Mid-Week Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 DEACON          Dave Mulligan

DECEMBER 22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Keith Fischer/Tom Miazgowicz  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley & Cyndy Higgins

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Tom Miazgowicz

DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

MUSIC            SOS  
 DEACONS       Tom Miazgowicz  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley & Cyndy Higgins

DECEMBER 29 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

MUSIC            SOS  
 I-TEC            Dave Mulligan  
 DEACONS       Brian Morton/Tom Miazgowicz  
 ALTAR CARE   Paula Cilley/Cyndy Higgins

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

7 Mary Lou Anderson    12 Judy Penn    16 Evan Bullard    18 Jacob Llewellyn  
 21 Ron Parisien    22 Sam Gossett    23 Beth Schmidt    24 Brenda Meggitt

