



## **THE SERVANT**

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ron Voss, Pastor

\*\*\*\*\**December*2017\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Servants of Christ,

The word “advent” means “coming.” It is a good word with which to begin the Church Year, when we are tempted to ask, “What’s coming?” A more correct question would be “Who’s coming?” The answer is “Jesus!”

The entire Old Testament points to Jesus as the One who was coming, when God’s time was right. For many centuries, prophets had foretold the coming of God’s Messiah, the one whom God had promised to save God’s people from their sins and teach us God’s will. Some of the Scripture readings in our Advent season quote those ancient promises. As the four weeks of Advent move ahead, the coming gets more specific. We learn who Jesus’ mother will be, for example, and how God’s angel told her so. We learn about other members of the family as well, the family of John the Baptist.

All of this happened in history, of course, about 2000 years ago. Another message of the Advent season is that the One who has come is coming again. How does the Creed put it? “To judge the living and the dead.” How did Jesus Himself put it? “To take you to myself, that where I am, there you may be also.” So the Advent season actually deals with two comings of Christ, one when Jesus was born hundreds of years ago, and one when He comes again in the future to reveal Himself as our Savior.

But there is a third coming of Christ, the Advent season announces. That is when Jesus comes into our hearts and lives right now by His Word so that we may believe in Him. All three of these comings show up in the Church’s Advent readings, almost stumbling over one another to make sure we get the point.

Many will light the candles on their Advent wreaths to mark the four weeks. As Christmas gets closer, the light gets brighter, and the Church prays, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” May God bless your Advent journey and deepen your faith in the Lord Jesus.

Expectantly waiting with you,

Ron

**S T A Y I N F O R M E D**

## ALL ABOUT JESUS Bible Study

Bible study *meets each Sunday at 10:15, following worship. As we study All About Jesus, we'll learn about:*

- Christianity's shocking truth claims
- Redemption and atonement
- The real meaning of Christianity
- True God??
- True Man???



. . . And much more.

### December Servants

Called to *Serve*

Greeter/Usher: Becky Cooper

Communion Assistant: Tami Gerdemann

Snacks:

\*\*December 3: Mary Collins

\*\*December 10: Tami Gerdemann

\*\*December 17: Cliff & Judy Waugh

\*\*December 24: Dan and Lenore Heckart

\*\*December 31: Brunch, Ron Voss

### ***Mission-Minded . . . Mission Committed***

Here is the 2018 Spending Plan approved at our October meeting:

\*\*1/3 of our offerings and gifts goes to support national and international outreach efforts of the North American Lutheran Church . . . beyond our local borders.

\*\*1/3 is directed to local operational expenses.

\*\*1/3 is saved for a future facility and/or rental space.

Specifically, we send \$333 each month to support the General Fund of the NALC. The 2018 plan calls for \$500 to be directed to the Iowa Mission District.



**Christmas  
Eve Candle-  
light Worship  
will be at  
4:30. Invite  
family and  
friends to  
join us as we  
celebrate the  
birth of  
Christ!**

# Advent Images and Words

**Prepare the Way:** This is the message of the Old Testament Prophets who called God's people to repentance and of John the Baptizer who announced Jesus' arrival. We hear this message in the Scripture readings during Advent.

**Messiah:** This is the Hebrew word meaning "anointed one," that is, the "chosen one." The Greek name "Christ" means the same thing.

**Son of David:** This is the title of a descendent of the great Old Testament King David. From David's family and town the Lord God raised up the Messiah, Jesus.

**The Advent Colors:** Purple is the ancient color of royalty (as well as penitence), signaling the coming of our King. The more recent use of blue among Protestants symbolizes the hope of God's people who trust in their unfailing Lord and King.

**The Angel Gabriel:** He announced to Zechariah and Elizabeth and to Mary and Joseph that each couple would experience the miraculous birth of a child. One child would be born to elderly parents, the other born of the Spirit of the Lord. John would become the prophet and forerunner. Jesus would be God-with-us, who would save God's people from their sin. (Luke 1:18-38)

**Emmanuel** (or Immanuel) is the prophet promised that people. As a sign of this was called, "God is with us."



Hebrew for "God is with us." Isaiah the Lord would come to be with His promise, the baby in Isaiah 7:14

**Stir Up:** These words resonate throughout Advent. We pray that God would "stir up His power, and come," come to save His people from sin, death, and the power of Satan.

**Oh, holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great, glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**



- Our Congregational Constitution & Bylaws will become effective January 1, 2018. This will govern all our decisions as a congregation.
- The State of Iowa has approved our application to be a non-profit corporation in the state.
- Advent devotionals are available on the information table. Help yourself to any materials of interest to you. Take one for a friend.
- Consider making an end-of-the-year mission gift to the North American Lutheran Church, The Great Commission Fund of the NALC, the North American Lutheran Seminary, Friends of Madagascar Mission, or Water Mission.
- Prayer Requests can be made at any time. Speak to Ron or email him.
- Outreach visitation is one way we invite people to know and believe in Jesus and to consider our congregation as a faith community they could call home. Consider tagging along with Ron and see if God could use your gifts in this area of evangelism.
- The bi-monthly brunch will be held December 31 following worship. Join us for fellowship, discussion of congregational business, planning for the future.

*Bits and Pieces*