



SECOND of the Month Letter for December

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

I am struggling to find the words to express how happy, excited, and comforted I am to be sharing my first Christmas here at Christ Lutheran Church with all of you. I am very grateful to be here. I considered using this first of the month letter to communicate more fully about many exciting things going on around the church such as the incredible response to the Capital Funds Campaign or our new Preschool Director (Tiffeny) and the promising new direction Christkids is heading.

Look for more information about both of those elsewhere as I decided to use this forum to talk about worship opportunities this month.

Every day, Monday through Saturday, now through Christmas Eve morning, we have a brief prayer service lasting normally just under 15 minutes. During this time, we are praying for everyone who is a part of this congregation and for the other ministries of the synod and wider church. Feel free to drop in on any one or more of these.

Wednesday's schedule looks like this for the next three weeks.

- 5:30pm prayer service
- 6pm Soup Supper
- 6:30 Advent Program that differs from week to week

December 4 was a musica/carol/singalong festival.

December 11 was the CLIPArts Suessical the Musical program

December 18 is the Children Youth Program

Each promise to be wonderful, even as they are varied.

December 21 is a Saturday this year, and at 5:30pm, we are having a service on the Longest Night. I think all of us know that the holiday season can be a difficult time, filled with grief for many. This service, often referred to as "Blue Christmas", helps us recognize the myriads of emotions, thoughts, and feelings that swirl around us and then find a way to pray about them and move forward with them. Being on the longest night of the year, we focus on the hope seen in the return of the light.

Christmas Eve, we have three evening services. The first at 5pm is designed specifically for families with kids. 6:30 and 11pm are basically identical with Christmas Carols, Candlelight, and Communion. Please come to whichever best fits your schedule.

Of course, Sunday morning worship is filled with Advent themes as we move through the story in Luke's Gospel. December 8, we hear the angel Gabriel bring the Good News to

Mary, on December 15 we listen in on Mary and Elizabeth (John the Baptists mom) as they wonder together at what God is doing, and then on December 22, we are present for John's birth, naming, and his father Zechariah's song.

This promises to be a deeply moving and wonderful season together. Let's gather and celebrate what God has already done, is doing, and promises yet to do!

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,

Pastor Sean