



## First of the Month Letter-November

It is November, Halloween and our Harvest Festival are concluded, and now our attention turns to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

All of us are used to the Advent count down of the last four Sundays prior to Christmas. This year those Sundays are December 1, 8, 15, and 22, with Christmas Day on Wednesday this year. Did you know that previously in church history the Advent Season was not just a countdown of the last 4 Sundays before Christmas, it was a full seven-week season like Lent that leads into Easter? Advent used to start every year on November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is the day the church remembers St Martin of Tours. Advent would run from Nov 11 through Dec 24, regardless of which days of the week they fell on.

This year, we are going to observe Advent very traditionally, starting on Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>. We are going to do a new and different thing as well: Twice daily services of prayer everyday Monday through Saturday. Sunday services will remain at their normal times. Every day we will have a very brief service of prayer at 8:30am and 5:30pm. These services will be very brief, only lasting between 5-15 minutes each. If you count out the number of services doing two a day Monday through Saturday between November 11 and Christmas Eve Morning, the number comes to 75 services. Of course, these are not mandatory for anyone to attend, but everyone is encouraged to try out any of the services. This focus on prayer is meant to help us remember the reason for the season.

What will we pray for during these services? At each service we will pray for 3-4 households of people who make up the Christ Lutheran Church family. This is meant to include members and friends. We will also pray for the other congregations that make up our synod, and ministries that we are involved with.

Just because the Advent Season is longer, it doesn't mean you can't use your 4-week Advent Wreath as you have in the past, as we will be also. The slightly longer Advent Season gives us more time to sing some of our favorite carols. It is my hope that this season and all of the worship opportunities provide you with times of respite in what can be a chaotic time of year.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy,

*Pastor Sean*