

Augsburg Church

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 (A) Murlin & Floene Klukis 60 (B) Andrea Meadows (B) Shane Gephart	4	5 (B) Bella Austin (B) Jeff Schaal (B) Joe Schaal
6	7 (A) Brian & Amanda Walk 04 (A) Keith & Sandy Ehrat 91 (B) Shanna Stewart	8	9	10	11 (B) Judy Wasmuth	12 (B) Ethan Gephart
13	14	15	16 (B) Gary Schmid	17	18 (B) Chris Craig	19
20	21	22	23 (B) Karen Cearlock	24 (B) Eric Dothager	25 (B) Greg Schaal	26 (B) Kora Wasmuth
27 (B) Aubrey Dothager	28 (A) Charles & Judy Wasmuth 68	29	30	31		

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm Advent Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	7	8	9 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	10	11	12
13 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	14	15	16 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	17	18	19
20 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21	22	23 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Program 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 9:00 am Christmas Day Service	26
27 9:00 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28	29	30 4:00 pm Bulletin Deadline	31 5:00 pm New Years Eve Service		

Immanuel Lutheran Church Augsburg
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Pastor Timothy J. Landskroener
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December, 2020

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

Advent is a season of preparation, though not necessarily as you suppose. For it is, first of all, preparation for our Lord's return in glory and judgment at the end of time. At the same time it is a time to prepare to receive Him as He continually comes to us in grace in His Word and Sacrament. Therefore, it is a time of self-examination and repentance, as is every day of our lives.

And, yes, Advent is also a time to prepare to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' birth, for it is no small matter that God became man to save us from sin, death, and the devil. And that blessed incarnation sets the stage for Christ's coming in grace now and in glory and judgment at His return.

So, are you ready for Christ's return at the end of time? Perhaps what's more on your mind is, "Are you ready for Christmas?" That's the question you'll hear more and more as the month goes on. And as that holy day draws ever nearer, we may begin to feel the pressure of preparing for that great day (I know I certainly do). There are cookies to bake, trees to set up, and decorating to be done. There are family gatherings and meals to plan, made even more difficult this year. There are presents to buy and wrap, made easier with online shopping and gift cards. There are parties(?) and extra church services to attend. It seems that more and more needs to be done to get ready for Christmas.

Yet, getting ready for Christmas needn't be so hectic. After all, we know when it will come—and it's the same time every year. With some advance planning, much of the headache and rushing around can be greatly reduced or eliminated. Indeed, there are countless articles in newspapers and magazines, and on the internet with advice to help reduce the stress of the moment.

But these articles all miss the best way to get ready for Christmas. For, indeed, they miss the very purpose of Christmas itself. They focus on the flurry of activities which surround us. They claim to help us have a peaceful time by doing the right things at the right time.

But the best preparation for Christmas is to not be in a rush to get to Christmas. Let Advent be Advent. That's demonstrated by a prophet named John many years ago. He came "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and pointing people to Jesus. So, the best way to get ready for Christmas (and for all times) is to

focus on Jesus and attend to receiving God's gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. For it is His gifts to you that bring you true and lasting peace. He saw your stress (and the sin which causes it) and He sent the antidote—His own dear Son. That precious Child, whose birth we celebrate, is the Prince of Peace. He came to save you from your sins by dying on the cross for you. He suffered hell for you so that you may enjoy eternal life in heaven.

So be sure to get ready for Christmas by focusing on Jesus. Attend worship each week to receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. In addition, attend the extra services we'll have (more on that below) to hear even more of your Savior. Commune at His Table to receive His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. Daily spend time reading God's Word. You will find that when Christmas comes, and when Christ comes in glory and judgment, you will be ready to celebrate with joy.

God bless you with His gifts and give you the peace that passes all understanding.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Landskroener

Here are the opportunities we'll have to gather as God's people in December:

Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 pm - Midweek Advent Vespers

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 am - Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 am - Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 am - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 24, 6:00 pm - Christmas Eve Children's Program

Thursday, December 24, 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 25, 9:00 am - Christmas Day Divine Service

Sunday, December 27, 10:00 am - First Sunday after Christmas

Thursday, December 31, 5:00 pm - New Year's Eve Vespers

The Family of Violet Braasch would like to thank their Church Family for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, food, memorials and kind words at the time of their loss. God's Blessings to all, Violet Braasch family.

The Christmas Program will be Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm. We have started practicing our program today. Practices will be every Sunday morning at 9:00 am during Sunday School. We will only have four practices so please have your children at each practice.

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON... " Savior of the Nations, Come," "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry," "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." You can listen to sacred music for the Advent season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

SHOP EARLY, SHOP EASY with SCRIP cards benefitting St. Peter's Lutheran School. These are gift cards from a wide variety of retailers that you buy at face value and the school receives a percentage. If you would like to order gift cards, please pick up an order form in the narthex, complete it, and return it to Immanuel with your check made payable to St. Peter's Lutheran School. Orders need to be returned to us by Sunday, November 29. They will then be delivered to St. Peter's for the order to be placed on December 2. The cards should arrive by the beginning of the next week. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Urban at 618-267-3235 or via email at urbansix@frontiernet.net.

Special Service schedule & offerings – 11/2 @ 7:00 pm Advent Service) 12/24 @ 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Program (Lutheran Child & Family Services) 12/24 @ 11:00 pm Candle Light Service (Lutheran Child & Family Services) 12/25 @ 9:00 am Christmas Day (KFUO) 12/31 @ 5:00 pm New Year's Eve Service

Reminder – If you or someone in your household has been sick or not feeling well, please refrain from attending our worship service. We understand, this is out of love for one another.

For a Pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Landskroener

Bulletins are printed on Wednesday evenings. Contact me if you would like to have something placed in the bulletin. You can send emails to Storbeck@augzburgchurch.com or Church email augzburg@augzburgchurch.com call @ 349-6152, call or text 367-3355, hand me a note. Must receive bulletin note by 4:00 pm Wednesday afternoon to make in the bulletin for Sunday morning. Thank you.

Trimming Stamps for Mites -- Trim each stamp leaving paper measuring 1/8 of an inch or less around the stamp. Be careful not to trim too close to the stamp. No corners or edges should be cut. The stamps must be 100% complete. If there is a group of stamps trim around the whole group.

Augsburg is collecting Christian materials, bibles, Portals of Prayer, Sunday School and VBS materials, Lutheran Witness, books, etc., to be given to the mission in Butler to distribute worldwide. Please put them on the table in the middle of the basement.

Prayer request update – Due to our extended time away from Church services at Augsburg. We will be starting over with our prayer list. If you have someone you would like to have on our prayer list notify Pastor or Scott. Also let us know the relationship you have with them. We will remove names from the prayer list after 4 weeks, unless we are informed otherwise.

Church office is looking for help in maintaining accurate records for Augsburg. Have you moved since our last directory or had a change in marital status? Have you noticed a birthday or anniversary that is incorrect or missing? Please notify Scott Torbeck to get our Church records updated.