

December Calendar 2022

<u>Events</u>		<u>Anniversary & Birthdays</u>	
Sat.	3-Dec	3-Dec	(B) Andrea Meadows (B) Shane Gephart
Sunday	4-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Mon.	5-Dec (E) 7pm Ladies Aid	5-Dec	(B) Bella Austin (B) Jeff Schaal (B) Joe Schaal
Wed.	7-Dec	7-Dec	(A) Brian & Amanda W (B) Shanna Stewart
Sunday	11-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service	11-Dec	(B) Judy Wasmuth
Mon.	12-Dec	12-Dec	(B) Ethan Gephart
Fri.	16-Dec	16-Dec	(B) Gary Schmid
Sunday	18-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service	18-Dec	(B) Chris Craig
Fri.	23-Dec	23-Dec	(B) Karen Cearlock
Sat.	24-Dec Christmas Eve (E) 6pm Christmas Eve Childrens Service (E) 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	24-Dec	(B) Eric Dothager
Sunday	25-Dec Christmas Day (E) 10am Worship Service	25-Dec	(B) Greg Schaal
Mon.	26-Dec	26-Dec	(B) Kora Wasmuth
Tues.	27-Dec	27-Dec	(B) Aubrey Dothager
Wed.	28-Dec	28-Dec	(A) Charles & Judy Was
Sat.	31-Dec New Year's Eve		

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December, 2022

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

Waiting. Waiting. Waiting. It seems that's all we do. Waiting for the doctor. Waiting for tests. Waiting for a diagnosis. Waiting for treatment. Waiting for surgery. Waiting to feel better. Waiting for the baby to be born. Waiting for help. Waiting for traffic. Waiting for a family member who's talking to someone else. Waiting in line somewhere, almost everywhere. Waiting for things to get better. Waiting for dinner to get done.

Waiting. That's what Advent is all about. Waiting for God to keep His promise to send a Savior. Waiting to be rescued from our sin, from death, from the devil. Waiting for Christ to return in glory and judgement to usher us into the eternal banquet.

Waiting. And while we wait we work, we hope, we pray, we feast – on God's Word and Sacrament. We do what God has given us to do – at home, at school, at work, in the community, at church. We trust in God's promises and the certainty of Christ's return and our resurrection. We pray for our family, our friends, our enemies. We pray for repentance (especially for ourselves), for forgiveness, for patience as we wait. We feast as we read, study, hear God's Word of life and salvation every chance we get.

Waiting. For Christmas. For decorating. For singing favorite hymns and carols. For presents. For joy and gladness. For the warm feelings of family and candlelight and Silent Night. For peace on earth. For goodwill toward man.

Waiting is hardly enjoyable. We want what we want and we want it now. Yet, when we know the end-point, it often makes the waiting a little easier. We know that Christmas Eve will be here on December 24 and the Christmas season begins. We'll have a Children's Program at 6:00 pm. We'll hear Scripture readings and sing hymns galore at the 11:00 service, lighting candles and singing "Silent Night." We know that we'll gather again on Christmas morning at 10:00 to again receive our Savior and celebrate His birth. We wait with patience and joy and hope knowing the gift of a Savior is worth celebrating and waiting for.

But waiting for Christ's return is more difficult. We don't know the day or the time. It's easy to become complacent or lackadaisical and lose focus. It's easy to forget the joy, the gladness, the bliss that await us. It's easy to let down our guard against the devil. It's easy to think only of ourselves. So, be aware of that. Be ready at all times. The Lord is coming. And when He does, all the waiting will be worth it.

As we wait, we watch. Even more than children watching and waiting for Santa Claus, we watch and wait for Christ's return. That Day will be much more spectacular than anything we

can imagine. That's why we gather as God's holy people around Word and Sacrament as often as possible. We prepare for Christ's return by eagerly receiving His gifts, hearing His Word, singing His praises, and praying. For while we wait for Christ's advent, we celebrate His coming even now in His Word, His Body, His Blood. We wait and we watch with joy and gladness which has no end.

Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him. (Hebrews 9:28)

According to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (2 Peter 3:13-14)

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21)

God bless you always.

Pastor Landskroener

P.S. The saints of Augsburg are invited to gather with the saints of Holy Cross for their Advent midweek services at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 7 & 14. We'll hear more about the connection between the Creed and Christmas as we see focus on the Second and Third Articles of the Creed.

Ladies Aid will meet at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall on Dec. 5th.

Dec. 24th – Children’s Christmas Eve Program – 6:00 pm

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 11:00 pm

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Divine Service – 10:00 am (Sunday)

Dec. 31st - New Year’s Day Service – 10:00 am (Sunday)

Salem Lutheran to Offer Christmas Cantata: The Adult Choir and Children’s Choir of Salem Lutheran Church have been practicing hard for their upcoming Christmas cantata entitled “Christmas Changes Everything.” There will be two performances. The first will be on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. The second one will take place the following morning, December 18th at 10:15. The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend this very special presentation that will feature both traditional selections and contemporary ones that are sure to become among your favorites.

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s topics include: Decision Theology; The Incarnation of God & the Value of Man; 4th-Century Bishop Nicholas of Myra; Man & the Metaverse and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

The Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School music program will be presenting a musical reflection and celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus on Sunday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoffman. We invite you to join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for this Advent and Christmas season with a participatory program of God’s Word through music!

The Church will be sending some of their unused materials to the Butler mission. There will be a table in the Parish Hall to view the materials that will be sent. If you would like to take any materials for home use, feel free to do so. We will be collecting materials till the end of October, at that time they will be taken to Butler.

LCMS Central Illinois District - A Dollar for Missions For more information on DFM, contact: Dr. Ken Schurb, Stewardship Executive LCMS Central Illinois District 1850 N. Grand Avenue West Springfield, IL 62702-1626 (217) 793-1802 www.cidlcms.org

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.

For a Pastorial visit, please contact Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180

Parish Hall reservations – If you would like to plan an event or meeting to use our Parish Hall for any reason, this also includes Church activities, you will need to contact Scott or Karen Torbeck. If not asked, we don’t know. Use of the Parish Hall will be determined by the first reservation made.

Do you have a cell phone? Do you text? Do you have a home phone? Some do some don’t. How do you want to be contacted by the Church? The Church would like to contact you via text with any info, updates or closings. To receive a text message, you will need to give us your cell number. Normal text fees will apply. Please provide info to Scott with a note or email storbeck@augsburgchurch.com or text 618-367-3355

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 or phone number changes? Have you noticed a birthday or anniversary that is incorrect or missing? Please notify Scott Torbeck to get our Church records updated.

63. Mary, Mother of Jesus

Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiance, being a just man, decided to break the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace her publicly.

As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All of this happened to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,

and he will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us)."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. He brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25 NLT)

"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? (Matthew 13:55 NIV)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger ...

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:13-19 KJV)

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25 KJV)



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63. Mary, Mother of Jesus

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|-----------|------------|-----------|
| AHEAD | CROSS | MANGER |
| ANGEL | DISGRACE | MARY |
| ASLEEP | ENGAGED | MESSIAH |
| BABE | FIANCE | PEOPLE |
| BETHLEHEM | HIGHEST | SHEPHERDS |
| BORN | HOLYSPIRIT | SIMON |
| BREAK | IMMANUEL | SISTERS |
| CARPENTER | JAMES | SON |
| CHILD | JOSEPH | VIRGIN |
| CLEOPHAS | JUDAS | WOKE |