

December Calendar 2024

<u>Events</u>		<u>Anniversary & Birthdays</u>	
Sunday	1-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Tues.	3-Dec	3-Dec	(B) Andrea Meadows
Wed.	4-Dec (E) 4pm Bulletin Deadline (E) 7pm Advent Service		
Thur.	5-Dec	5-Dec	(B) Bella Austin
Sat.	7-Dec	7-Dec	(A) Brian & Amanda Walk 2004 (B) Shanna Wiseman
Sunday	8-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Wed.	11-Dec (E) 4pm Bulletin Deadline	11-Dec	(B) Judy Wasmuth
Sunday	15-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Mon.	16-Dec	16-Dec	(B) Gary Schmid
Wed.	18-Dec (E) 4pm Bulletin Deadline		
Sunday	22-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Mon.	23-Dec	23-Dec	(B) Karen Cearlock
Tues.	24-Dec (E) Christmas Eve (E) 6pm Children's Service (E) 11pm Candlelight Service	24-Dec	(B) Eric Dothager
Wed.	25-Dec (E) Christmas (E) 9am Christmas Service (E) 4pm Bulletin Deadline	25-Dec	(B) Greg Schaal
Fri.	27-Dec	27-Dec	(B) Aubrey Dothager
Sat.	28-Dec	28-Dec	(A) Charles & Judy Wasmuth 1968
Sunday	29-Dec (E) 9am Bible Class & Sunday School (E) 10am Worship Service		
Tues.	31-Dec (E) New Year's Eve		

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Pastor Timothy J. Landskroener
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December 2024

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

We think of time in both a linear way and a circular way. That is, time is viewed as a line of one thing after another from beginning to end, from (conception and) birth to death, (then beyond that to resurrection and everlasting life). Yet, we also see it as a circle with re-occurring events, such as celebrating (or at least observing) the anniversary of our birth, our wedding, and perhaps other events.

So, as we enter another Advent season, we may get a sense of whiplash as we look back and as we look forward. The end of the Church year we just concluded called us to repentance and faith as she proclaims the advent (coming) of Christ at the end of time for the final judgment. It's the conclusion, or fulfillment, of all history that began with the creation of the world and will end with Christ ushering in the new heavens and the new earth, and separating the sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers). There's a beginning and an end. And our Lord wants us to be ready for that day and hour which no one knows.

Then, as Advent comes around each year, we look back and hear of Christ's first advent when He came as our King to save us. It happens every year. Advent is about both looking forward to Christ's return and looking back as we celebrate His coming into this world as the Child born of Mary. As we look forward to celebrating once again the anniversary of His birth at Christmas, we are actually looking back on something that has already happened.

You see, celebrating Jesus' birth is not the end or the goal. It's part and parcel of the repeated celebration of Jesus' life and all that He has done for our salvation. For as we look back on the days of our lives and remember important, or significant, events, so we look back (over and over again) to Jesus' life. As we celebrate Advent, we once again look back on the past, even as we look ever forward to His second and final advent. I've heard it said that God's people walk into the future backwards, always looking to Jesus and His saving death on the cross. At the same time we are going forward, anticipating eternal life with Him because of all that He has done for us.

God bless you always as you prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas, in Word and Sacrament, and at the end of the world.

Pastor Landskroener

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

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 am - First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 pm - Advent midweek Vespers

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am - Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 am - Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 22, 10:00 am - Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

Tuesday, December 24, 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am - First Sunday after Christmas

Here are the readings for the upcoming Divine Services:

December 1 Advent 1

Jer. 33:14-16

1 Thess. 3:9-13

Luke 19:28-40

December 22 Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a

Heb. 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

December 8 Advent 2

Mal. 3:1-7b

Phil. 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

December 25 Christmas Day

Is. 52:7-10

Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12)

John 1:1-14 (15-18)

December 15 Advent 3

Zeph. 3:14-20

Phil. 4:4-7

Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

December 29 Christmas 1

Ex. 13:1-3a, 11-15

Col. 3:12-17

Luke 2:22-40

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, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

Mid-Week Advent Service will be held on Dec. 4th at 7:00 pm.

Everyone is invited to the Christ Our Rock Christmas Music Program on Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 p.m. held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoffman. The theme is "Come! Follow!", and we hope you will come and take part in this vocal and instrumental event as we share the Good News of our Savior's coming who calls us to "Follow Him"!

St. Paul Lutheran Church Blue Point Ladies Aid will host their Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 10 am to Noon. They will have pre-boxed, holiday cookie assortments available for free will donation. Proceeds will go toward the Playground Renovation Project at Blue Point.

Contact Pastor Landskroener 330-204-4180 or email lawandgospel@hotmail.com for a Pastoral visit.

Prayer Request – When prayers are requested, we ask that we are informed of the relationship of the person with our congregation. There has been concerns about names on prayer list & who they are. We will add the relationship to the prayers. This will allow members to ask about the individual's progress in recovery. In an effort to manage the list more effectively, individuals will be placed on the list for a period of four weeks. If at the end of that time, those people still need additional prayers, they may be re-added to the list for another four-week term. This may be done as long as the individual continues to need the added strength of the church prayer for their special need.

Please Sign attendance books in the pew, so Pastor is better able to serve you.

Nominations forms for elected positions of leadership in the Central Illinois District are available in the narthex. All are asked to help with this process. If you are aware of someone who could serve the District in one of the positions where nominations are being sought you are encouraged to fill out the form and mail it to the District Office. Please get the consent of the person you are nominating. All nominations forms are due at the Central Illinois District Office, 1850 N. Grand Ave. W., Springfield, IL 62702-1626, by December 31, 2024. An electronic nominations form is also available: <https://www.cidlcms.org/nominations/>

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@augzburgchurch.com or text 618-367-3355

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.

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.

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.

Bible Word Search:

CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

N C O Q B T X D T P S U J L S
O E O O F F N U B A J C J N T
I C A M S U O E L U E L O S R
T N O L P V Q V M G L I R I E
A E V O L A A P A G S D W N S
I I X U D T S R J S D E V N P
L T R W I S U S E O Q U T E A
I A A O D O V R I Q Z H J R S
C P N K C F G P E O S M D S S
N P W B N S J W D V N L N R E
O A W E N E M I E S E D P M S
C F O A F O R G I V E N E S S
E P R Z B N R C X O T R G K S
R T N E R H T E R B C E G E B
J M P N X R B M J Y M B E J G

BRETHREN	COURAGE	COMPASSION
ENEMIES	FORGIVENESS	JUDGMENT
LOVE	MERCY	PATIENCE
RECONCILIATION	REVENGE	SALVATION
SINNERS	TRANSGRESSIONS	TRESPASSES