

Messenger

Ministry Notables In December

Journey To Bethlehem: Walk with the Holy Family as they journey to Bethlehem. This intergenerational and interactive faith experience is on Friday, Dec 1 from 5:30-8:00pm. The public is invited.

Advent Candle Lighting: Each of the four Advent Worship Services will begin with the lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles. If you would like to be a part of this, connect with Pr. Jeremy.

Devotional Booklets: Advent Devotional Booklets will be available on Sunday, Nov 26 through the season. They will be located at the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall.

Advent Calendars: Advent Calendars, an adult and a child version, will be available on Sunday, Nov 26 through the season. They will be located at the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall.

Worship Services between Dec 24-Jan 2

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 9:00am (only) Blended service; Holy Communion is served.

2023 Christmas Eve Worship Services

****Holy Communion and candle light at each of these services**

December 24, Christmas Eve: "We Make Room"

4:00pm

6:00pm

10:00pm

2024 Christmas into Epiphany Worship Services

December 25, No Worship Service

December 31, 9:00am (only)

January 7, 8am & 10:15am, (return to regular schedule)

Holiday Office Information: The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Pr. Jeremy will be on call during the week for any and all pastoral emergencies. His cell phone for phone calls and text messages is 612-201-6382. His email address is associatepastor@worthingtonalc.org.



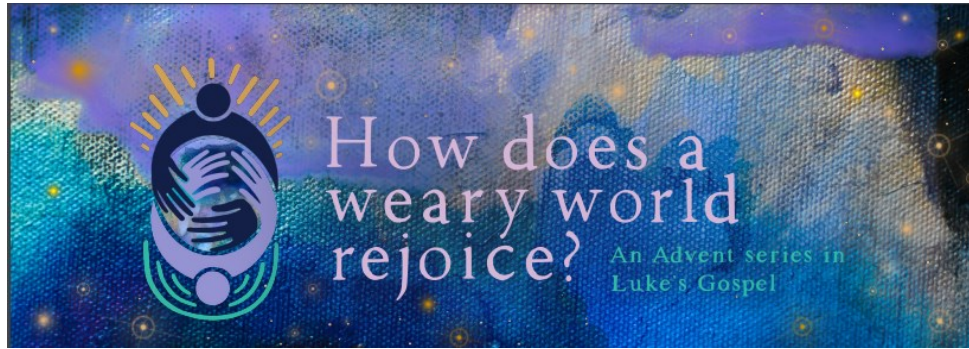
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Insert

- Pastor Anne's 30th year of Ordination
- Quilters
- Christmas Sharing Trees
- Scholarship Program

Advent & Christmas Scriptures & Themes



- December 3 **The First Sunday of Advent** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We acknowledge our weariness
Luke 1:1-23 (Zechariah & Elizabeth are promised a child)
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- December 10 **The Second Sunday of Advent** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We find joy in connection
Luke 1:24-45 (Gabriel visits Mary; Mary goes to Elizabeth) | Isaiah 40:1-11
- December 17 **The Third Sunday of Advent** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We allow ourselves to be amazed
Luke 1:57-66 (The birth of John) | Psalm 126
- December 24 **The Fourth Sunday of Advent** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We sing stories of hope
Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat) | Luke 1:67-80 (Zechariah's song)
- December 24 **Christmas Eve** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We make room
Luke 2:1-20 (Nativity story)
- December 31 **1st Sunday after Christmas** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We root ourselves in ritual
Luke 2:21-38 (Jesus is circumcised & presented in the temple)
- January 7, 2024 **Baptism of the Lord** | How does a weary world rejoice?
We trust our belovedness
Luke 3:21-22 (Jesus is baptized and beloved)

From the authors of Sanctified Arts regarding this series: "The series follows the birth stories of Jesus and John the Baptist, and culminates with John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan river. We hope this allows worshipers to understand more clearly the beginnings of Jesus' life and ministry. The series begins with weariness and moves through themes of connection, amazement, hope, hospitality, and ritual; we conclude by focusing on belovedness."



December Sunday Faith Forum Schedule, ***The December Faith Forums will focus on growing a spirituality of awareness through scripture, art, and guided reflections. We will be using a prayer practice called “Visio Divina.”

Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. (Sanctified Arts writers).

There will be Faith Forums on December 3, 10, and 17.

Noisy offering: We return to a fun and familiar tradition with the “Noisy Offering” on the 4th Sunday of each month. Donations will be dedicated to ALC’s support of the Every Meal program served weekly at the Intermediate School. Bring your change and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

New Fundraiser to Reduce Our Building

Debt: A group of visionaries from ALC have combined their financial assets to provide the seed money for this unique matching gift project to reduce our debt. Your gift, small



and large, will be matched dollar for

dollar up to \$100, 000. This matching gift program runs from Dec 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024. Write “Building Match” on the memo line. If you have questions, please contact one of the pastors, Sandy, or Marv.



DECEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEAD-

Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 3) Shauna Carroll, Laura Hoffman, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem

Ushers 10:00 AM (Team 5) Randy Thompson, Mark Prunty, Kay Prunty, Darren Ponto, Nicholas Raymo

Altar Committee: Judi Hoevet, Connie Voss, Karen Pfeifer

Busy Bag Monitor: Christine Bullerman

Church Lockup: Harlan Handevidt

Financial Counters (Team 2) Scott & Heidi Langerud, Jeanene & Maynard Townswick

Greeters:

3rd 8:00- Mike & Lisa Peterson
10:15- Mary Turner

10th 8:00- Marv Isder
10:15- Bill & Judi Hoevet

17th 8:00- Harlan & Pam Handevidt
10:15- Barb & Greg Raymo

24th 9:00-Kieth & Marj Olson
4:00pm-Dennis & Dee Hale
6:00pm-- Bob & Sandy Demuth
10:00pm-

31st 9:00am- Paul & Karen Henbury

Communion Servers:

3rd 8:00- Dennis & Dee Hale, Paul Landberg
10:15-Bruce & Karen Juber, Judi Hoevet

10th 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth, Lori Ailts
10:15- Jay & Melissa Jensen, Mary Turner

17th 8:00- Dave & Brenda Baerenwald, Karla Kirkeby
10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Jill Cuperus

24th 9:00am- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Mark Shepherd
4:00pm-Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Pfeifer
6:00pm- Bruce & Karen Juber, Marcia Basche
10:00pm- Jay & Melissa Jensen, Diana Kvilhaug

31st 9:00am-Aubrey Anderson, Mike & Lisa Peterson, Connie Voss

ALC BY THE NUMBERS:

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

The report of the monthly budget reflects the income and expenses. Changes occur daily.

This budget is brief overview of our financial gifts to God's church. We continue to meet our fiscal obligations. Each one of us is encouraged to give to support God's ministries.

October Monthly Donations

Gift Card Income	\$5,775.00
Parish Ed Income	\$7.00
Coffee Fellowship	\$307.50
Holiday/Spec Offering	\$1,100.50
Box 1 Income	\$31,251.63
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$500.00
Box 2 Income	\$6,030.19
Altar Flower Donation	\$264.00
New Youth Director Gifts	\$50.00
Box 3 Income	\$786.00
EJ Scholarship	\$510.00
Endowment Fund	\$10.00
Special Meals	\$1,008.25
Youth Donations	\$25.00
Lutheran Women	\$2,744.00
Parish Ed Income	\$7.00
Pie Sales 2023	\$30.00

Operating Finances October, 2023

Income	\$50,399.07
Expenses	\$40,557.31
Net Income	\$9,841.76

Building Debt Reduction Ministry

Debt as of 1/1/23	\$790,148.37
Interest paid October 2023	\$2,401.11

Current Building Fund Debt \$627,548.37

Worship Date	Worship Participants			
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 11/20
Oct. 29	95	81	43	228
Nov. 5	82	74	47	336
Nov. 12	90	78	60	218
Nov.19	86	54	NA	112

LUTHERAN WOMEN

December 2023

Outreach Minded

The Lutheran Women Board voted at its November meeting to disburse **\$4000** from the year-end treasury to various outreach activities. These are very worthy ministries we are fortunate to be able to support financially at the end of our fiscal year. What a joy at this time of year to give to these 17 ministries working locally, regionally, statewide and globally.

ALC – Youth Mission Trip/ Young Adult Ministry \$300
Church Building Debt - \$200

Bible Camp/ Children's Programming - \$500

Local - Helping Hands Pregnancy Center - \$200

Southwest Crisis Center - \$200

Love INC - \$300

Regional – Shetek Lutheran Ministries - \$400

Shalom Hill Farms - \$100

State - Lutheran Social Service MN - \$200

CRU Inner City MN/St. Paul - \$200

ELCA Leaders Fund Debt Reduction - \$100

ELCA Young Adults in Global Missions - \$100

Global – Lutheran World Relief (global needs) - \$400

Lutheran World Relief (shipping costs) - \$200

ELCA World Hunger - \$200

ELCA (where needed most) - \$200

Global Health Ministries - \$200

The fundraiser for this years Scandinavian Smorgasbord Specialties Sale is our primary source of income. The success of this event allows us to make these outreach decisions. Know that your generosity pays off as we are able to do mission outreach to all corners of the world!

P.S. In addition, during the past year Lutheran Women gave \$729 to Project Morning Star, which was collected as a free will offering during our Summer Salad Buffet. We also contributed \$200 to help with shipping costs for the Christmas Shoebox Program. This makes a total of \$4929 in outreach for 2023!

Thank you, Esther Circle, for donating \$150 to help with shipping costs for the Operation Christmas Child/Shoeboxes!

Smorgasbord Update

Our Scandinavian Smorgasbord Specialties Sale fundraiser was a huge success! Our total income to date is \$7696.75! This number includes cash donations, profit from the Meatball, Lefse and Pastries Sale, and profit from the Silent Auction. Thanks to all who helped make this possible! Once again, our organization has been richly blessed by your generosity! **MANGE TUSEN TAK! Many thousand thanks!**



Christmas Salad Buffet

Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

- * Meal in the Fellowship Hall followed by a program in the Sanctuary.
- * All women and their guests are invited.
- * To better insure a variety of salads, please use the following guidelines:
Last names beginning with:
A-H Meat I-P Vegetable Q-Z Fruit
- * Each salad should serve 8-10 people. Lutheran Women Board members will provide bread.
- * The Circles of our congregation will hostess the evening: Decorations – Mary Circle; Program – Martha Circle; Set up & serve – Esther Circle
- * **Clean up – Volunteers (men & women) are needed to help clean up.**

Next Lutheran Women Board Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 4:30 P.M.

Salad Buffet Cleanup

Once again, we are looking for volunteers (**men & women**) to help with clean-up after the Christmas Salad Buffet, around 7:00 p.m. on December 5th. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex to offer your services. Thanks so much!

Looking Ahead:

- Dec. 1—Journey To Bethlehem
- Dec. 3—First Communion Class (5th grade)
- Dec. 10—First Communion Class & Worship
- Dec. 13—Winter Wonderland Party
- Dec. 17—Sunday school Christmas Party (preschool-5th grade)
- Dec. 24 - Jan. 7—No Faith Formation



Grab some to-go cups of hot chocolate and head out for some Christmas-light sightseeing!



Confirmation Ministry- Small Group Leaders Needed

We are in need of some confirmation mentor support! As we have discovered in the last few weeks the kids need some extra support to help with guiding them during their small group time. We would love to have adults who are willing to help with the following groups:

- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade
- High School

We will provide the talk sheets and the prep material so you don't have to plan. We ask that you help facilitate discussion and to guide students in their time together. Pastor Anne and Pastor Jeremy are there to walk with you along the way. Please reach out to Pastor Jeremy if you can help!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pie Fundraiser! Because of your generosity we sold 226 pies! Thank you for helping make the sale a success and for your willingness to help with every step along the way. I am grateful for your participation.

-Pastor Jeremy

Mission 2024: Harrisburg PA!

Our 2024 Mission Trip has been posted! Join us June 16-21 (plus travel) in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. This trip is open to students who have completed 6th grade through 12th graders. Registration is on the youth board located in the Fellowship Hall. A \$100 deposit is due upon sign up to hold your spot. There will be a variety of fundraising options available for you to partake in. The money earned goes to your family account and can be used to help pay for the trip.



First Communion Classes

December 3rd

December 10th

- Instruction for 5th graders will be at 9:15 am.
- Held in a lower level classroom
- Celebration will be at 10:15 am on Dec. 10th.
- Connect with Kristin or Pastor Jeremy for more details.

December Confirmation Schedule:

- **Dec 6th:** Faith Formation
- **Dec 13th:** Faith Formation
- **Dec 20th:** NO Faith Formation, Longest Night Service 6:30pm.
- **Dec 27:** NO Faith Formation

Youth & Family Ministry Update

As some of you may know we did an initial interview of a candidate in early September. The candidate turned out to not match with the hope and expectations we had as leaders and so, with the help of the executive committee we opted to release the individual.

That process helped us name what we are looking and searching for in a candidate who could help us with family ministry, youth ministry, and support of our Children's ministry programs moving into the future. We continue to develop a job description, and search for the candidate who can help us meet our needs as a congregation.

Keep praying that God will open the door for the right person! As always, thank you for continuing to support this program and this church as we move forward.

Peace, Pastor Jeremy

December 2023



14 Keeley Island Drive
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www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



*Shop for your favorite apparel at
shetek.org/store*

These items make great gifts!

Mark your Calendar

Wish List

- Vest style life jackets
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers

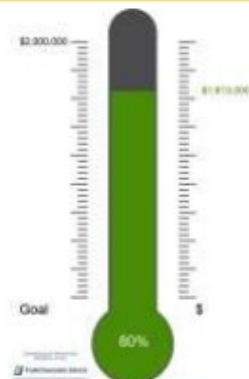
- December 3 Lodge Dedication 3:00
- December 3 Annual Meeting 3:30
- December 3 Scandinavian Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- December 28 Winter Fun Day 9:30-3:00
- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat

*We thank you for all your
generosity this year!*

Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,613,000 in gifts and
pledges! Our challenge
goal is \$2,000,000 and
with increased costs, our
budget has changed for
our different phases.
More info on our website.
[https://shetek.org/slm-
master-plan/](https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/)



**Help send kids to Camp...Become a
Pelican Club or Timber Society member
today. Pelican Club members support
the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a
year and Timber Society members give
\$500 or more a year. Thanks for your
support!**