

# LOVE NOTES

December 2020 January 2021 February 2021

## GREETINGS TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Here it is nine months since we closed our church doors to protect our health and only God knows when we can worship together again. Be patient, positive, and keep an open mind.



Our mission work with Runn Elementary does continue. In August we purchased some school supplies: cost \$1,055.11. November 19, 2020 Thanksgiving food baskets were delivered to 20 needy families: cost \$1120.00. December 7, 2020 Christmas gifts will be delivered for the 260 students: Cost approximately \$3,000.00. December 17, 2020 Christmas food baskets will be delivered for 40 needy families: Cost approximately \$2,250.00. Thanks to Forrest Zemlicka for ordering the food from HEB and to Jon Schwartz for arranging drivers. Thanks to LuRae Schwartz and her volunteers for purchasing and packing the student Christmas gifts. We may purchase more school supplies if needed and uniforms and shoes for students in need. The pandemic has made it impossible to host Feast of Thanksgiving and probably Spring Fling, our money makers for our mission work. If you choose to make a financial donation to assist with these costs, please write Runn in the memo of your check. Your participation is deeply appreciated.

Hang in there! We will worship together again I promise! Love your neighbor and help one another. *Submitted by Shirley Nelson*

## ICICLES

Before you begin, I must confess I have had very little experiences with icicles unless it was on a decorated Christmas tree. I read a little about an icicle some time ago and I became intrigued with the formation of an icicle.

The dictionary defines an icicle this way: *i·ci·cle. (ī'sī-kəl). n. 1. A tapering spike of ice formed by the freezing of dripping or falling water.*

Icicles typically form on days when the outdoor air temperature is subfreezing but sunshine warms and melts some snow or ice. As it drips off your roof, a water droplet freezes when it loses its heat to the cold air. This sort of freezing, thin film of water is what leads to the eventual icicle shape.

An icicle is water in its solid form or state and it keeps its shape when frozen. An icicle is different from most solids because its molecules are not packed as closely together as they are in



liquid water. This means ice takes up a little more space than the same amount of liquid water.

I then put my imagination to work and I began to think of water dripping off of a roof as the temperature outside reaches freezing and below. So drip, by drip here the water comes looking for lower ground, but as it does it gathers with other drops of water which is also looking for lower ground.

So as the temperature continues to be below freezing eventually all of these itty-bitty drops of water gather one by one to becoming

something different, solid, and beautiful.

Now consider this, I would guess that no two icicles are exactly alike, they form in different locations, and as the weather changes they also change. Is this not a good description of the body of Christ? We are all different, we become who we are by the “drips” of many influences or people who have been part of our lives, and as the weather (conditions) change we become different.

I challenge you this beautiful season to be aware of the influence you are or can become as we become part of the ICICLE of Christ’s body.



Our local partners are still working harder than ever to continue building wells. They have also taken up the additional work of:

👐 implementing hand-washing stations at Water to Thrive wells

📈 educating the public on COVID-19 prevention techniques, like social distancing

🧥 delivering personal protection equipment and soap to rural health clinics

🧼 distributing hand sanitizer and soap in communities

🚽 constructing pit latrines in households

🚚 providing transportation for essential health workers



“We are still traveling more than 3 hours round trip to fetch water from an unprotected pond. I have to wait in long lines at the pond in the morning and night times. Scavengers like hyenas are common so women and young girls prefer to walk in groups. Waterborne diseases are common among the infants and young children.

Regardless of the challenges we have now, I see a glimmer of hope because the construction is started to build a new well and the digging crew is busy and eager to strike water. I believe when this well is completed our life will be changed dramatically. We continue to pray for the success of this well.”

–**Meseret Negero, wife, mother of five and future beneficiary of this project.** She is pictured above with her children.



# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

## December Anniversaries

- 02 Bob & Jo Degener
- 17 Bonnie & Larry Vollmar
- 20 Catherine & Mark Sederquist
- 23 Gene & Marian Johnson

## January Anniversaries

- 01 Ernie & Lorraine Harrell
- 03 Helen & Gerald Lamson
- 28 Gloria & Mike Jensen

## February Anniversaries

- 04 Ann & Harlan Thompson
- 20 Adeline & Rodger Olson

## December Birthdays

- 01 Carole Kangas
- 02 Lois Tanula
- 13 Wayne Winter
- 14 CB Shields
- 15 Arlys Buland
- 18 Joyce Klindt
- 19 Gene Hasselquist
- 19 Wendy Haught
- 23 Ed Haught

## January Birthdays

- 01 Mike Jensen
- 03 Helen Lamson
- 05 Garry Rhoades
- 07 Bonnie Cahoon
- 09 Cathy Graham
- 10 Lee Nelson
- 10 Eleanor Scott-Meyers
- 10 Betsy Sutton
- 11 Bonnie Moore
- 13 Gloria Jaegler
- 22 Jon Schwartz
- 24 Bob Chaloupek
- 26 Beverly Telfor

## February Birthdays

- 01 Marilyn Sill
- 05 Larry Vollmar
- 06 Marilyn Rounds
- 13 Mark Sederquist
- 14 Mary Nelson
- 22 Robert Boelter
- 22 Ken Tanula
- 28 Lorraine Harrell

## Christmas Giving at Runn School

This "Spirit of Gift Giving" by Love of Christ Church will be a very **Joyful** and **Joy Filled** event on December 7, 2020. Due to Covid-19 there will be no Christmas party this year. Delivery of Christmas gift bags will be transported to Runn School Teachers for their dispersing to the students. Ladies are helping to put together the Christmas bags consisting of:

headphone with microphone (a request from Runn School), a gift, red/white stripe candy cane, cookies, hats and socks.

A shout of **Thanks** to: Marcy Shoemaker, Lois Tanula, Raye Chandler, Amy VanDeest, Shirley Rhodes, Carolyn Buswell and LuRae Schwartz. We

all know that **244** Runn School students will feel the "Love" from Love of Christ Church.

**Thank you for making this all possible for  
our Ministry at Runn School!**



## Advent Word Search

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

Words to  
Find

Words can be  
found left to right  
and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



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## Things Kids Say

**DEATH** While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cottonwool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he gooos.'

**BIBLE** A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'



**ELDERLY** While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

# The “W” in Christmas

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience.

I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending.

Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant."

I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation.

All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer.

So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads.

Those in the front row- center stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song.

As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWASLOVE"

And, I believe, He still is. Amazed in His presence... .humbled by His love.

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
SEASON!**



ANNIVERSARY



# MERRY CHRISTMAS 2020

The Christmas Season is always special as memories of loved ones come to mind. Some one has said that Jesus came to be one of us that we might become one with him. The message of love and hope brings joy to all believers.

Two special events occurred in my life this past year. At a Spring Fling Banquet at the Cortez Hotel in Weslaco, TX, sponsored by The Love of Christ congregation, the mayor of Donna awarded the Key to the City to me for my 20 years of work with the children at Runn School. And then on the first of October I moved to the Downtown Plaza in Red Wing. After 50 years, down-sizing to a one bedroom apartment was quite a challenge.

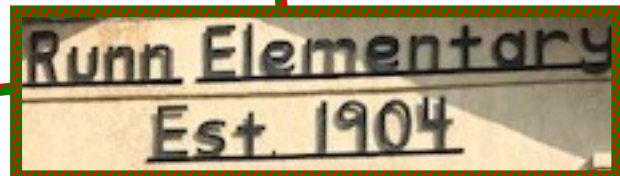
It is still a privilege to be involved in all kinds of work with the church. This is my 70<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry. It has been my hobby and so have never really gone to work. Life has been great with failures, health issues, challenges and blessings. Life continues to be exciting.

Due to Covid-19 this will be the first time in 32 years I will not be going to Texas. This means I will have to adjust to the snow and cold.

My prayers and thoughts surround you. May the blessings of God be yours to be enjoyed and be appreciated.

Love,

Gene Hasselquist  
434 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #606, Red Wing, MN 55066



# ELCA feeding ministries grow to care for their neighbors during COVID-19

**A**s businesses closed their doors and states began implementing stay-at-home orders to slow the spread of the coronavirus, ELCA congregations around the country knew that God’s work wouldn’t stop. Many congregational feeding ministries faced increased and urgent need in their communities due to COVID-19 and its secondary effects. Neighbors were losing their jobs, and parents who relied on free meals at school were suddenly left wondering how to feed their kids. In response to this crisis, ELCA World Hunger launched an emergency round of Daily Bread Matching Grants. This equipped 200 ELCA congregations to fundraise online toward their ministry of providing food for those in their community facing hunger and matched each with a \$500 grant. Your gifts supported these grants. Thank you.



## “You find life by giving it away”

In Huntington Station, N.Y., for example, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church continued the work of its food pantry.

“The way the pandemic has shown the disparities in health care and response in our country, we’ve got a microcosm of that right here in Huntington,” said the Rev. Joel Brandt. **“Our food pantry has doubled its distribution. It’s the only ministry on-site that we’ve been able to keep operational, and we did that deliberately because we thought it was really going to be needed in our community.”**

Gloria Dei grew its ministry by working with food banks and other partners in its community – and with the help of the Daily Bread Matching Grant. Pastor Joel explained that the congregation had never used its Facebook page for fundraising.

“Within a day or two, we’d already reached that \$500 matching goal,” he said. “By the time we were done, we were up over \$4,000.”

Thanks to the generosity of Gloria Dei’s community – and your gifts to ELCA World Hunger – the food pantry was able to serve more people who were facing hunger due to COVID-19. In fact, the congregation was so inspired that they decided to pay it forward – sending an extra gift to another congregational feeding ministry that hadn’t quite met its \$500 goal yet.

“One of the generosity principles at Gloria Dei that we’ve been trying to teach is that when we’ve been blessed, we should figure out ways to share that blessing,” Pastor Joel explained. **“You find life by giving it away, and when you’ve been blessed, you discover that the abundance in a time of scarcity and fear is a tremendous spiritual blessing to you.”**



Food pantries, soup kitchens and meal programs provide immediate support to those in need, while community gardens and agricultural programs help communities grow food to nourish themselves. During the COVID-19 pandemic, your support has been critical to help families keep food on the table.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**December Council Meeting Thursday the  
10<sup>th</sup> 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Love of Christ Lutheran Church**

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Office Manager Julie Knutson 651-335 7655 - c

**All Church Services and Activities are cancelled until further notice  
due to a message from Bishop Sue Briner.**

**2020-2021 Church Council**

President - Shirley Nelson 956-358-6690 - c

Vice President - Jon Schwartz 712 540-3555 - c

Secretary - Jo Coyle 651-470-8190 - c

Treasurer - Lauren Coyle 651 434-1694 - c

Associate Member at Large - Don Van Deest 715 340-5570 - c

Finance Secretary/Prop. & Fin./Stewardship - C.B. Shields 956 330-7426

Music/Worship & Discipleship/Prayer - Dean Garnett 712 579-2233 - c

Social Ministries & Outreach – Open Position