

Love of Christ Lutheran Church

Love Notes

December 2019



★
FOR
FOR
unto us a
Child^{is} born,
unto us a Son
is given; and the government
will be upon His shoulder. And
His name will be called
Wonderful
MIGHTY & COUNSELOR,
HIGH & GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE
PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
9:6


A Bit of Christmas Trivia The Twelve Days of Christmas

The “Twelve Days of Christmas” are the days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6).* *Epiphany* comes from the Greek word “epiphaneia” which means “appearance,” “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Western Christians generally celebrate Epiphany as the day the Wise Men first saw Jesus (when Jesus first “appeared” to them).













In the past, the greatest celebrations of the season happened after Christmas. Authors Joe Wheeler and Jim Rosenthal note: “It was not so long ago that most everyone in Christian nations celebrated the twelve days following Christmas Day. A common misconception is that the twelve days of Christmas are the days before Christmas when they are actually the days after Christmas. Furthermore, the notion of the twelve days of Christmas is known to many Americans only by the popular carol of the same name. Ironically, though the importance of the actual twelve days of Christmas has been lost, the song has been infused with significant spiritual meaning that did not originally exist.


History of the Song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”

There are widely circulated claims that the “true love” of the song refers to God and that each verse represents a point of Christian doctrine as follows:



The Twelve Days of Christmas

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | A Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God |  | Swans A-Swimming = Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit - the Seven Sacraments |
|  | Turtle Doves = Old and New Testaments |  | Maids A-Milking = Eight Beatitudes |
|  | French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity - the Theological Virtues |  | Ladies Dancing = Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit |
|  | Calling Birds = Four Gospels and Four Evangelists |  | Lords A-Leaping = Ten Commandments |
|  | Golden Rings = First Five Books of the Old Testament - “Pentateuch” |  | Pipers Piping = Eleven Faithful Apostles |
|  | Geese A-Laying = Six Days of Creation |  | Drummers Drumming = Twelve Articles of the Apostle’s Creed |



Anot
bless

t your

We would appreciate 100% participation in our new picture directory. Remember if you live at Rio Valley Estates or Southern Comfort or John Knox Village you may use that picture from this last year. The next photos will be taken January 27, 28, and 29 and Betty Piper will begin

taking appointments the first of the year, 2020. The cost is \$15.00 which is due when you receive your directory.

The Sunday morning Bible Study will begin December 22, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the church conference room. Paul Anderson will again lead this study. Bring your bible!

Volunteer and participate in our many activities. Remember many hands make for lighter work!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Shirley Nelson



Here are the before, during and after photos of the driveway replacement.
The Workers completed the job in two days!

Cookie Packing for Runn School

On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, we had a terrific turnout packing all of the donated cookies for the Runn School Children and Staff. Volunteers were at Love of Christ by 9:00 a.m. and with all the help filling the bags, cleaning up and having a little coffee, everything was completed 10:00 a.m. It was a happy whirlwind of working together!



the joy of
h o l i d a y
giving

Runn School Elementary Christmas Program

The Annual Christmas program was held on Thursday, December 12th. It was fantastic! The children sang their hearts out and delighted us with a dazzling show. So much energy was put forth in a happy, positive way. Enjoy the following photos.



Come join the Love of Christ Women of the ELCA. You will be fed by the fellowship of Believing Women. We Gather on the first Saturday of each month (November through April) at 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thank Offering's will be collected at the end of the Service on the third Sunday of the month in January. We as a people have been Blessed many times over. These offerings will be sent to the SWO and then 50% of this special offering will be sent to CW (Church Wide) offices. Checks should be made out to Love of Christ Lutheran Church and in the memo field "Thank Offering".

Saturday January 25th, Love of Christ will be hosting the Rio Grande Conference for the Women of the ELCA. We encourage all women who attend worship to come. Learn about what we as W-ELCA do in our organization. This year we will be focusing on Runn School. And how important and vital our congregation is to Runn School. For more information please contact Sharon Newcomer at 414-915-3874

Winter 2020: We are called! by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Reformer Martin Luther used the word "vocation" or "calling" to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God's call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us—and how God may be calling others through us.

Session 1: Hearing God's Call (01-04-2020)

This session focuses on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God's call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do. What can we learn from their stories?

Session 2: The Call of Jesus (02-01-2020)

This session focuses on Jesus' calling of the disciples, on Jesus' call to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and on Jesus' call to all Christians to take up the cross and follow. As Christians, how do we see ourselves in these stories today? How do we respond to the call of Jesus?

Session 3: Called to Serve (03-07-2020)

Jesus is clear that one of the central ways we respond to God's call is by serving others. When we serve others, we are recognizing Christ present in their need. When we serve others, they see Christ visible in our loving service. This session engages scriptural texts that help us focus on the questions, "Who is my neighbor, and what does my neighbor need?"

Session 4: Calling Networks (04-04-2020)

The title of this Bible study, "We Are Called!" reminds us that calling is not something private or individualistic. Our callings are always interwoven with our relationships and our communities.

This session focuses on how we support others in hearing and responding to God's call. The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D., serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING FOR:

Carrie Anderson (cousin of Dean Garnett), **Eloy Avila III**, **Reb & Heather** Baker (son and daughter-in-law of Will & Anne Baker), **Jim** Boese (brother of Sharon Newcomer), **Ethan** Bowen (brother of John Bowen), **John** Bowen, **Harold** Buland, **Renate** Chamberlain, **Geoffrey** (grandson of Lee and Mary Nelson), **Charles** Hubbell (brother-in-law of Dean & Marilyn Garnett), **Rosalinda** Huerta (sister of Maria Mendoza), **Carole** Kangas, **Vince & Arlene** Lange, **Donna** Lidtke, **Dorothea** Malloy (sister of Bill Brandt), **Maria** Mendoza, **Mary Ann** Mudge, **Anita** Nelson, **Evelyn** Nelson, **John** Peterson (father of Pat Winter), **Ed** Puder, **Sidney** Pugh (granddaughter of John & Shirley Bowen), **Ryan** Rounds (son of Marilyn Rounds), **Staff and children of Runn School**, **Isabella** Waldschmidt, **Bruce** Weidner (Mary Ann Mudge's son-in-law), **Jean** Wiedenfeld, **Elaine** Wisely (daughter of Lou Vitek), **and people experiencing violence in their lives, the people of Mexico and the rest of the world experiencing the violence of terrorism, all the men and women of the police, fire, EMS, and all the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families.**

Sharing Place

On Monday, December 16 we will continue unpacking boxes at the Sharing Place 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. We need you!!! We will assemble again after the New Year on January 6th 2020. Questions: contact Kathy Whitney (515) 778-3347 Thanks in advance for your assistance.

The Christmas Baskets

will be picked up on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. The food will be picked @ 7:30 a.m. at HEB Westgate and then sorted and distributed at Runn School. We really need more volunteers as the food boxes are large and we have 40 to transport. Please contact Forrest Zemlicka if you would like to help. 612-226-4698-c

Aurora House

Aurora House is a hospice facility located in Weslaco. The patients are NOT charged to stay there. They operate entirely on donations of money, food, paper goods, adult diapers, and other needed items. Goodwill Offering Jars are located in the back of the sanctuary where you are invited to drop in your loose change or bills after the service on Sunday. All of this money goes to the Aurora House to help with their costs and we have been told by a member of our congregation that donations are down this year and there is GREAT need.

There is a box in the area between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall where you are asked to donate any items you may wish to go to the Aurora House. This is a wonderful asset for this part of the valley and it is vital that we help in any way we can. Thank you.

Sunday Parking

Parking is available each Sunday morning in the McCaleb Funeral Home parking area to the Southwest of the church. We appreciate their kindness in sharing their property with us. Please remember to NOT block the open space between the ally and the parking lot.

Church Office

The office is open Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The cut-off time for announcements, prayer requests, etc. for the Sunday bulletin is **Wednesday*** at 10:00 a.m. *note new day for announcement deadline.

Coffee & Goodies

are in abundance in the Fellowship Hall from 10:15-10:45 each Sunday. Please stop by and see for yourself! It is a great way to get to know others at Love of Christ.

Prayer Shawl Ministries

There are several beautiful prayer shawls, made with loving hands, ready for those in need. If you know of anyone that can use the comfort of a shawl and want it delivered, please contact Cathy Johnson at (772) 834-1845 or Jerry Shields.

If you would like to deliver it yourself, please take the shawl of your choice from the table. On the table you will also find some gift bags and special cards that go with the shawls. We would just ask that you write your name in the book on the table, so that we can keep track of the number of the shawls distributed by this ministry. Also, please take a minute to read the cards from those that have received shawls. The cards will move your heart

Prayer Chain

Love of Christ has a faithful and strong working Prayer Chain. If you wish to be included as a Prayer, or if you have a prayer request, contact: Anne Baker:956-929-0260

lthspopie2@sbcglobal.net

Shutterfly

View and download photos of past church activities or updates at:

<http://loveofchrist.shutterfly.com>. If you wish to receive notices of special activities or updates, you by sending your name and email address to Betty Piper at **bjpiper@yahoo.com**. The site is free and open to the public for viewing.

Bell Ringing

Anyone interested in joining the Bell Ringers? Jane, the new Organist, would like to start a group that would meet on Fridays. Please let Julie in the office know if you want to become a member. 956-447-1337-O locmailbox@yahoo.com

Flowers for Sunday Services

If you wish to honor a birthday or anniversary or loved one, you may place a bouquet near the alter before the Sunday service. You are welcome to remove it immediately after the service to take home. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Bike Fixing

Many bikes have arrived on the semi and we plan to start working on them on Tuesday, January 7th. If you have skills and would like to join in on the fun, please contact Marvin Hedlund. 701-739-3305-c

Pot Luck

Bring your favorite dish to share on Wednesday, January 8th at 5:00 pm. Meet in the fellowship hall for good eats and treat☺

Church Picture Directory

The cost of the directory will be \$15.00, due when your photo is taken. There is an option to use a previous photo, which is indicated on the form. The next photo days will be January 27, 28 & 29, 2020.

Spring Fling

Mark your calendars! The Spring Fling will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2020. More information will follow as the date draws nearer. We hope you will plan to attend this fun event!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15 Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Hall 10:15a.m.
Worship Service-Service of the Word 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 16 Unpack Boxes Sharing Place 9:00 a.m.
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 17 Deliver Christmas Baskets to Runn School
7:30 a.m. @ HEB Westgate

Thursday, December 19 Ladies Bible Study led by Lou 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22 Bible Study w/Paul A Conference Room 9:30 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Hall 10:15a.m.
Worship Service-Holy Communion 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 23 Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24 **LoC Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.**
Faith Lutheran Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 **Christmas Day**

Thursday, December 26 Ladies Bible Study led by Lou 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29 Bible Study w/Paul A Conference Room 9:30 a.m.
Coffee & Conversation Fellowship Hall 10:15a.m.
Worship Service-Service of the Word 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 30 Church Office Closed

January 1st **Happy New Year 2020**

2nd Ladies Bible Study led by Lou 9:00 am

4th W-ELCA 9:00 am

5th Bible Study w/Paul 9:30 am
Coffee & Conversation 10:15 am
Service of the Word 11:00 am

6th Unpacking of the Semi Sharing Place 9:00 am
Church Office Closed

7th Happy Stitchers 9:00 am
Bike Fixing Begins w/Marvin

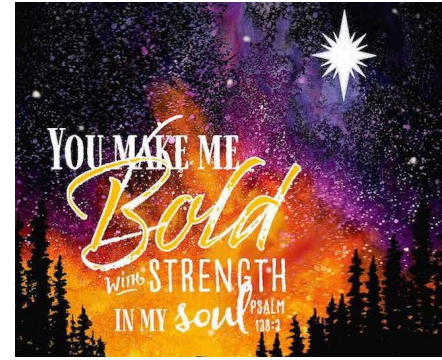
8th Pot Luck 5:00 pm

9th Bible Study w/Lou 9:00 am
Council Meeting 2:00 pm

11th Faith DKG Meeting 11:30 am

12th Bible Study w/Paul 9:30 am
Coffee & Conversation 10:15
Holy Communion 11:00 am

13th Unpacking of the Semi 9:00 am
Church Office Closed



Love of Christ Lutheran Church ELCA

914 W 3rd Street

Weslaco, TX
78596

We worship in the facilities of
Faith Lutheran Church
Corner of Border & Third Street
Phone: 956-447-1337-Office
Email: locmailbox@yahoo.com

Pastor: Sylvia De La Garza
956-655-5508-cell
Office Administrator: Julie Knutson
651-335-7655-cell

OFFICE HOURS
TUES, WED, THUR 9A.M.-1 P.M.
FRIDAY 8A.M.-12 NOON

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Council meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m.

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 c

Music/Worship & Discipleship/Prayer - Dean Garnett

712 579-2233 c

Social Ministries & Outreach - Teona Henry

956-447-9664 h