

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6

Messenger

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Saved to Share
Called to Care

From the Desk of Pastor Tanney

This has to be the busiest time of the year.

Advent Midweek services, Compass Christmas Program, Sunday services and a special Christmas Eve Service. It's the preparing and time involved to try to make it new and fresh, a child's birthday over two thousand years ago. Children can't wait. But those who plan for the event work hard to make it the best birthday ever. As birthdays go children wait for the day they receive gifts, cards, money have family and friend

over, and eat cake and ice cream. There is an excitement especially with younger children. The wonder, anticipation and expectation are all part of the fun before the great event.

We are reminded this year by another birthday, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the reformer Martin Luther whose focus was on the gift that came down from heaven. Lived and died among us to bring us forgiveness, light and life.

We are unwrapping several gifts this season that come from Heaven above. They are good and perfect. They are not normally on our



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Christmas' lists. But they are gifts that were promised to us while we wait for Jesus to come back.

Advent gifts of *hope, love, peace, and joy* are given to bring us closer to the Christ Child, who brought us the greatest gift – himself, so that the *life and glory* would be shared with us forever. **Merry Christmas!**

Pastor Tanney

*Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies
Who is this child, so young and fair
It is the Christ Child lying there.*

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" stanza 7



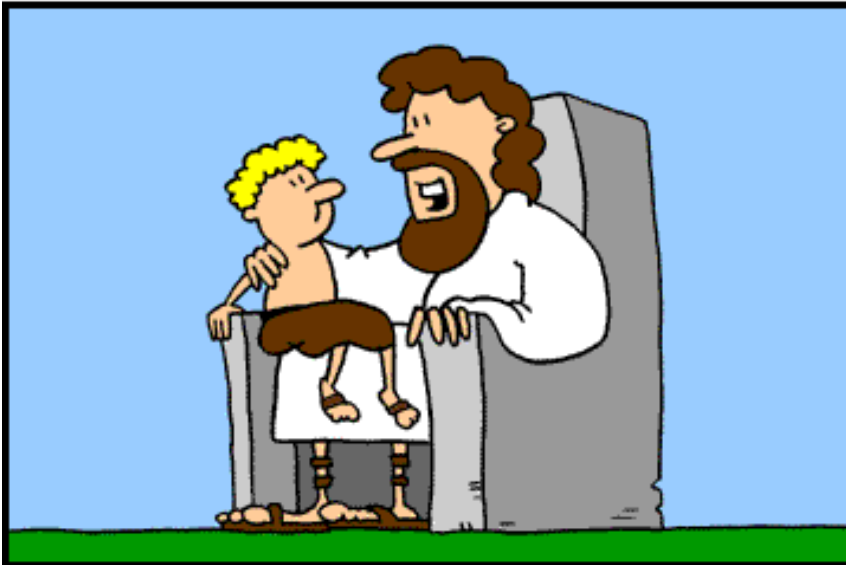
Poinsettias are available to purchase for \$10 each. Contact the church office or Ruth Evers at 314-306-5887.



BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAYS @ 6:30 PM
CALL CHURCH OFFICE
FOR INFORMATION
314-773-0126

*Young Adult Bible Study will resume
Thursday, January 5.*

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

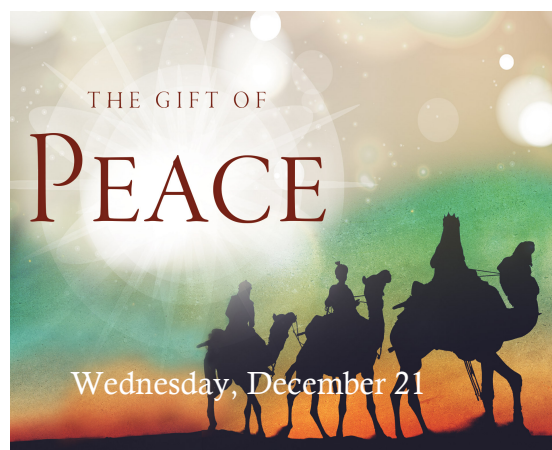
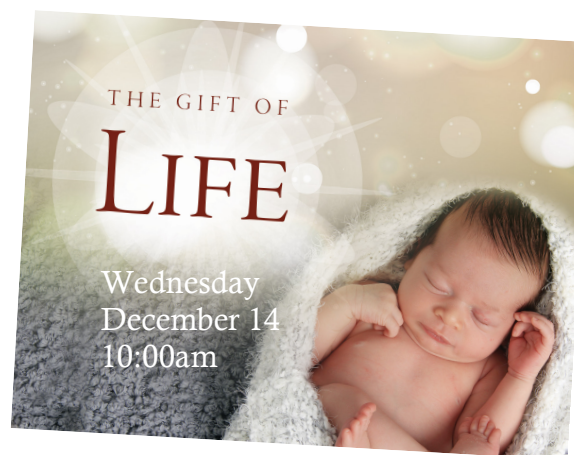


*Evangelism team making Candy Cane gifts for
Compass Christmas Program.*



Midweek Advent Series of Heavenly Gifts

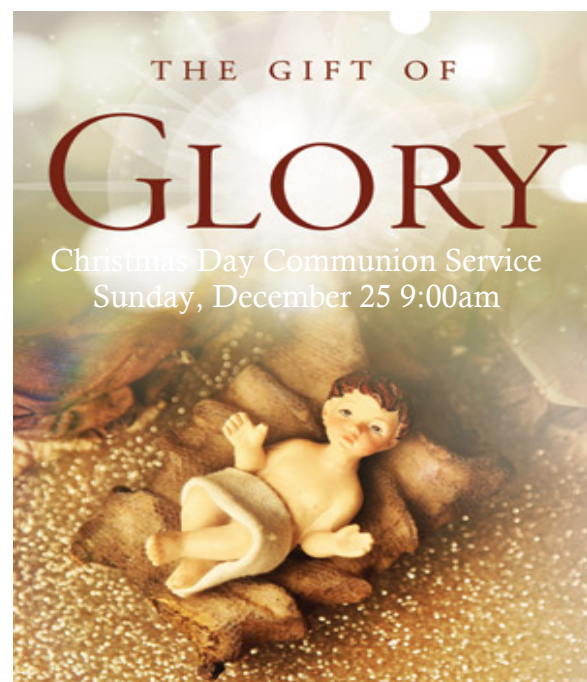
**10:00am & 7:00pm
Supper 6:00pm**



Christmas Worship

**ST JOHNS CHOIR
AND
INSTRUMENTALISTS**

will present a cantata-
style telling of the
Nativity Gospel
according to St. Luke on
Christmas Eve
at 5:00pm. Hear the
Good News in music and
song! Bring a friend and
enjoy hearing and
singing the story of our
Savior's birth.



Parish Health

This will be my last official article for the Parish Health program. I am a certified Parish Health nurse, so I will continue to be and always will have that title. Therefore you may continue to confer with me on any medical problems or questions you may have.

I will no longer take blood pressures on a scheduled date or time. If anyone needs their blood pressure checked I will be willing to do that whenever asked. I will continue to leave blood pressure equipment at church, so it always will be available.

Time constraints with health problems, and work with Social Ministry are the main reasons for this change. May God bless each of you with good health in the New Year.

If you have any medical problems or questions you can continue to call Maureen Rehmer at 352-6266.

Social Ministry

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving food drive at church.

We are also grateful to Eagle Prep school who collected over 700 items for the food pantry.



Food pantry will be closed December 24th and December 31st.



The "Giving Tree" will be in the narthex of the church until December 11th. Please take an ornament off the tree with a suggested gift to buy. After buying the gift, place the ornament on the gift and return.

Psalm 107:1, "Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."

LSS Aging Answers: Tips for Season's Eatings

The average American can gain as much as 10 pounds during the holidays. This year, fill up on low-cal, energy-dense foods like raisins, apples, and carrots to help you feel full before you hit the Christmas buffet table.

To get your questions answered on any aging topic call: [314.446.2475](tel:314.446.2475) – a free service offered through Lutheran Senior Services; where older adults live life to the fullest.

Stewardship

Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.



And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.



And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.



Preparing for Winter Weather

Winter's coming, and there's no better time than right now to make sure your heater is in working order. Dust and dirt in your furnace's heating coil can impair its ability to keep you warm. So change your air filter and think about calling in a technician to make sure you're in good shape this season. (And for more Aging Answers, visit www.LSSLiving.org today!)



12/2 *Eileen Wehrheim*
12/9 *Barb Jackson*
12/14 *Tamara Bohannon*
12/20 *Jennifer Brevard*
12/24 *Stephen Schmaltz*
12/27 *Kathlyne Holdenried*
12/31 *Donald Meyer*

Upcoming Board Meetings

Voters

December 18

Executive Council

December 18

If you would like to send Christmas blessings to our shut-in members, addresses are below.

Bobbie Kepford
Avalon Gardens
4359 Taft Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Jeanette Creamer
3629 Oak Hill
St. Louis, MO 63116

Mel Frentzel
6900 Lake Park Circle
St. Louis, MO 63123-1600

George & Virginia Turner
400 S. Station Rd., Rm 502
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Carmen Hobson
4443 Delta Queen LN
Godfrey, IL 62035

Dennis Solomon
Woodland Nursing Home
100 Woodland Ct. Rm 203
Arnold, MO 63010

December 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:00am Bible Study	3 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry
4 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class	5 7:00pm Elders 6:00pm Boy Scouts	6 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	7 8:00am Eagle Coffee & Conversation 10:00am Advent Worship 11:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Advent Worship	8 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	9 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Pack gift bags for Compass Children	10 8:30am Food Pantry
11 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	12 6:30pm WOW Christmas Party 6:00pm Boy Scouts	13 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	14 10:00am Advent Worship 11:30am Bible Study at Avalon 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Compass Program	15 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	16 8:00am Bible Study	17 8:30am Food Pantry
18 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class 11:00am Executive Council 11:30am Voters	19 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Evangelism	20 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Adult Information Class	21 NO SCHOOL 10:00am Advent Worship 11:00am Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Advent Worship	22 NO SCHOOL 2:00pm Home Bible Study	23 NO SCHOOL	24 Christmas Eve Food Pantry Closed 5:00pm Christmas Eve Cantata
25 Christmas Day 9:00am Christmas Worship w/ Communion	26 NO SCHOOL Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation	27 NO SCHOOL Pastor on Vacation	28 NO SCHOOL Pastor on Vacation	29 NO SCHOOL Pastor on Vacation	30 NO SCHOOL Pastor on Vacation	31 Food Pantry Closed