

DECEMBER 2015

CHURCH NEWS

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The four weeks preceding Christmas are called ADVENT. By now, it has been very well taught among us that the meaning of Advent is "coming". We remember how the early saints awaited the Birth of Jesus Christ. Of Course since Easter we no longer await the Birth of Jesus; we await Jesus to return in glory to judge both the living and the dead. How is it we do this waiting? Do we sit around and just stare at the sky like those who witnessed Jesus ascending into heaven? Nope. You'll remember the angel told them to "stop gawking and to go about their lives". More accurately: **"And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.""** Acts 1:10-11 And that's exactly what they did. They went about their lives in faith, hope, joy and love.

How about Christ Lutheran? How are we waiting for Christ to return? Waiting for Christ means waiting in **HOPE**. In 1 Peter 3:16 we are told to be prepared to give an account of the hope that is in us. What does that mean? Does it mean that we should all be SUPER DUPER THEOLOGIANS with the ability to discuss every fine point of doctrine in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod? Well... the answer is no. Since Christ Lutheran has so many people who have become interested in our identity as more than some sort of generic Christians, I am preparing more advanced studies in the specific doctrines of the orthodox Lutheran faith. We will begin with an evening study for women in January. I am also considering ways to do this in all the studies I lead. The prayer of St. Paul is our prayer as well **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."** (Romans 15:13) Christ Lutheran is a Church filled with people who have HOPE.

Christ Lutheran has also been waiting in **FAITH** as well. When the angels dismissed the people from standing there looking at the spot where Jesus ascended, they went about their lives (many of them to their deaths) because they trusted that come hell or high water Jesus would return for them. This is how we wait. We go about our vocations... we go to Church... Bible Study... Midweek Services... to school... meetings... and all the other parts of the day in **FAITH**. This is our life together, by **FAITH**. As St. Paul paints a picture of faith and life in Ephesians 2:8-10 **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are**

his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. " We have seen some of these good works of faith in the can food drive which our Members and school gave generously to. Even this year when our School District funding was cut in half, our Church members gave to make sure our teachers would be able to continue their education!

Christ Lutheran also waits in **Joy**. Yes, joy. This has always been a very strong feature of our Church family. Whether it's work around the Church, Bible studies, snacks after Church or any other part of our lives together. This also brings us back to the Matthew 25 passage where it reads **"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."** Whether it has been visitors or new members, Christ Lutheran remains a warm and wonderful place to go to Church. This year marks the first official "Joy" Sunday. To mark this, members even hand-made the pairments for the altar, pulpit and lectern! The Sunday of "Joy" or "Gaudete" is on December 13th this year and everyone is invited to wear pink to mark the day. It should be a joyful day indeed!

Last but not least, this Advent, we'll see Christ Lutheran waiting in **Love**. What is love? If we listen to the Bible, we get this picture from 1 Corinthians 13: **"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."** During this time of year, this is the one that suffers, right? We are so busy. We are trying to do everything that needs to be done. Unfortunately, it is love that suffers. During this time of year and every year, it is important to remember we love because Jesus loved us first. (1 John 4:19) What a joyful thing to wait in love. It means that the love of Christ for

us is clear and obvious to everyone around us. For my dear and beloved brothers and sisters, let us let the words of St. Paul fill our ears and hearts this season and every season: **"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."**

A Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you!

In His service and in yours,

Pastor Steffensen



Advent Events

Advent is a time to prepare and focus on the "real" reason for Christmas. At Christ Lutheran it has become a tradition to come together for a soup supper meal, family activity (craft) and worship. Advent Events will take place on the three Wednesday evenings preceding Christmas, December 2, 9, and 16. We will start with a soup supper at 6pm, followed by a family craft activity, ending the evening with a Worship Service at 7pm. What a wonderful way to prepare for your family Christmas celebration!! Please join us!!



Christmas Treats

- This year we would like to put together Christmas bags for the Sunday school children and any other visiting kids that are here for Christmas. We will be assembling approximately 20 bags. Anyone that would like to contribute items to add to them can bring them anytime between now and December 17, 2015.



Some suggested items: tangerines, nuts, individually wrapped candy, small toys, note pads, pencils, crayons, small coloring books, stickers, and small ornaments, use your imagination!



Christmas Eve Fellowship



Following the 7pm Christmas Eve service there will be hot cider, coffee and Christmas cookies in the fellowship hall. If you have some cookies or bars or other good things to share, please

bring them. They would be most welcome and appreciated!



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS



There will be an all-school Awards Assembly on Wednesday, December 2 at 8:30am to recognize the students that have attained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher for the first quarter

of school.

Don't forget to log in your volunteer time in the log book located outside the office. The first drawing will be at the Awards Assembly this month!

No holiday celebration would be complete without some Christmas caroling!! Here is your opportunity!! We are scheduled to sing at Shore Acres on Friday, December 7th, at 7:30 - 8:00 p.m. It will be preceded by a soup supper in the fellowship hall at 5:45 p.m. You are all invited to come eat with us prior to driving out to Shore Acres for caroling. There are tickets available for free parking. They will be distributed at the soup supper. If you cannot attend the soup supper, please see me for tickets, and we'll see you there.



Christ Lutheran Parent Teacher League (PTL) meets every second Tuesday of the month. Child care is provided by Preschool Plus and After Care Club.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 3:30pm. Come join us and see what we are all about!!

Fundraiser News

UPDATE: Box Tops for Education



Thank you for the contributions! A review of how the box tops are helpful/useful: Please cut them out on the dotted line - NO tearing them out. Please package 50 box tops per ziplock bag OR 25

attached to the 8x10 papers available at school. Please make sure they are not expired.

Some other ongoing fundraisers are Good Search (internet search engine), Fred Meyer Community Rewards, and McKays/Fresh Mart receipt.








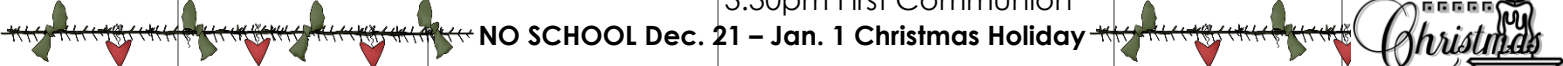


Some important dates in December are:

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Dec. 6 | 4pm Christmas Concert at SWOCC |
| Dec. 8 | 3:30pm PTL |
| Dec. 11 | 6:30pm Caroling at Shore Acres |
| Dec. 21-Jan. 1 | No School - Christmas Holiday |



December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Birthdays Claire Mullanix – 10 th Dorothy Stearns – 10 th Harper Baker – 19 th Lyra Kokel – 30 th Donna Tyler – 30 th		5:45pm Choir 1	8:45am Chapel 2 10am Ladies Bible Class 11:30am Bible Class at NB Senior Center 3:30pm First Communion 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 	9:30am Esther Bible Class 3	4	5
9:15am Sunday School 6 10:30am Divine Service 4pm School Christmas Concert	3:30pm Faculty/Staff Meeting 7 5pm Elders	3:30pm PTL 8 5:45pm Choir	8:45am Chapel 9 10am Ladies Bible Class 11:30am Bible Class at NB Senior Center 3:30pm First Communion 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 	10 9:30am Esther Bible Class	11 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Christmas Caroling at Shore Acres 	12
9:15am Sunday School 13 10:30am Divine Service	14	5:45pm Choir 15	8:45am Chapel 16 10am Ladies Bible Class 11:30am Bible Class at NB Senior Center 3:30pm First Communion 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Advent Service 	17 9:30am Esther Bible Class	18	19
9:15am Sunday School 20 10:30am Divine Service 11:30am Voter's Meeting	21	5:45pm Choir 22	10am Ladies Bible Class 23 11:30am Bible Class at NB Senior Center 3:30pm First Communion	7pm Christmas Eve Service 24	10:30am Christmas Service 25 	26
 NO SCHOOL Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 Christmas Holiday						
9:15am Sunday School 27 10:30am Divine Service	28	29	10am Ladies Bible Class 30 11:30am Bible Class at NB Senior Center 3:30pm First Communion	31	 <div style="border: 1px dotted black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Back to School January 4, 2016!! </div> 	

New Year

December, 2015 Newsletter

Christ Lutheran Church and School



Christ Lutheran Church and School
1835 N 15th St.
Coos Bay, OR 97420