



The HERALD

Your Messenger of Encouragement and Hope

December
2022

“O come, O come, Emmanuel.” Advent—the liturgical season which comes before Christmas, the season we are in, right now. A season of waiting, of hope, and of expectation.

Waiting—for what? Waiting for the Christ child, to be born in Bethlehem. But, that is not all. No! Several of the Advent Scripture readings also talk about the Second Coming, that time in the future when the glorified Christ will return in the clouds. That time when the fearsome King of Kings and Lord of Lords will take His seat on the throne to reign forever. What an awesome thought! We do not talk about it too much, partially because we are so excited about the first coming. You know, the Babe in Bethlehem, and shepherds, and angels, and Mary and Joseph, and then the visit of the Magi

All that happened two thousand years ago. Yes, it is precious, and joy-filled, and glorious! Yes, thank God, Jesus broke into this fallen, sinful world as a baby, and walked the road to the Cross to die for our sins. Thank God for that indescribable gift! And, yet—there is more for the Bible to tell us about Jesus. More about Jesus and His triumphant return in glory. When we say, “Come, Lord Jesus,” that Advent invitation, we are inviting Jesus to return into our midst. True enough! But did you ever think about saying those words and inviting Jesus to come into your heart? Come into a personal relationship with you, to be your best friend and loving Savior? Giving Jesus the gift of your heart? Absolutely valid, and absolutely possible.

This is another side to the coming of Christ in Advent. When we wait for that Gift of all Gifts to arrive on Christmas morning, that is a big reason for us to give gifts to one another. (Did you ever wonder why we all exchange gifts on Christmas? That is a big reason.) What is more, we give gifts to others in need at this holiday time of the year. Giving gifts—giving holiday donations—is another part of Christmas. We give freely to others, because God gave us the Gift of Jesus Christ. That indescribable Gift.

Yes, we in the St. Luke’s congregation are giving gifts to family and friends. One outreach I have in mind is the Maine Township Food Pantry. This year, we will be providing personal items, like soap, deodorant, tooth brushes and toothpaste to the Food Pantry. These are much needed items, too. Consider collecting an Advent basket of these personal items, one small item every day. You can put in a bar of soap, a toothbrush, a package of combs, or a small bottle of shampoo each day. On Sunday, Dec. 18 (the fourth Sunday in Advent) and on Christmas Day, we will gather all of these baskets together. When we combine all of our daily gifts, what a wonderful donation we will have for the Maine Township Food Pantry!

What a joy to give out of our abundance. We are truly blessed by God. What a blessing to give to others, just as God gave us the most wonderful Gift of all—Jesus Christ. Have a blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

Rejoice! Rejoice! From Pastor Elizabeth Jones

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS



Clean your hands often with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact, putting distance between yourself and other people.



Stay home if you're sick, except to get medical care.



Cover coughs and sneezes.



Wear a face mask if you are sick.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

CHECK OUT! Facebook Live!

Each Sunday (In-Person) morning at 10 am.

We are on Facebook Live at our Facebook page St. Luke's Christian Community Church - Morton Grove

Also, study the Bible with us at our Midweek **ONLINE Bible Study, each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm**

**Join Us for:
BLUE HOLIDAY SERVICE
Tuesday December 20,
7:30 pm
Open to the community
All are welcome!**

Happy December Birthdays!

4 Lois Kresch
7 Jieun Kwon
22 Carol Metler
31 Joshua Padrid



In-person service:

Due to a significant downturn in the Coronavirus and variants, the State of Illinois no longer requires the wearing of masks and social distancing. However, if you are in the preschool area on a weekday, masks are required. Continue to take extra care of yourselves, your families and anyone in fragile health.

Paper towels with disinfectant sprays are available at entry to worship space to wipe your hands and seats before and after the worship service.

Thank you for your cooperation to ensure everyone's health and safety!

Thank you for your faithful giving! Your contribution is needed for 2022 more than ever!

St. Luke's Church Council appreciates you and your faithfulness. The Lord loves a cheerful giver!

December 2022

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

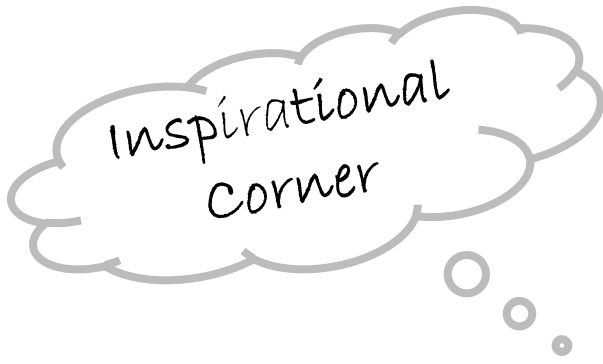
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

In-person – We resume our in-person worship service. Please ensure proper safety measures are addressed when attending an in-person service. We pray that you, your family and friends are all safe and healthy. God’s blessings to you all.

				1	2 CMA Zoom Pastors' Meeting 1 pm	3
4 In-Person Worship Service 10 am- Advent Communion	5	6	7 ONLINE Facebook (FB) Live Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm	8	9 CMA Zoom Pastors' Meeting 1 pm	10
11 In-Person Worship Service 10 am	12	13	14 ONLINE FB Live Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm	15	16 CMA Zoom Pastors' Meeting 1 pm	17
18 In-Person Worship Service 10 am	19	20 BLUE HOLIDAY SERVICE 7:30 pm- <i>Open to the community!</i>	21 ONLINE FB Live Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm	22	23	24
25 In-Person Worship Service 10 am on CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 	28 NO FB Live Adult Bible Study Happy Holidays!	29	30	31 Happy New Year's Eve! 



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Click "Like" and join to see updates and News Feed.



Follow St. Luke's on
Twitter!
@StLukesChurch2

St. Luke's Christian Community
Church, Morton Grove

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(847) 966-9233

Church E-mail: saintlukesccc@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Jones' e-mail: elizajon@aol.com
Cell phone: 847-476-0612
New Website: www.stlukesccc.net

December 2022

Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 pm

*A progressive Bible-centered church
reaching out with God's Good News.*



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAILING