

CHURCH ELCA

TIDINGS 2020



Advent Devotionals

For years, members of the congregation have volunteered to write a short devotional message on an Advent theme. Depending on the year, there has been anywhere from 25 to 30 different devotionals published in a booklet and made available to the congregation.

Of course, like many things this year, the pandemic has made this a big challenge. Normally, we have a signup sheet posted after worship and people would signup. Well, that hasn't been an option this year!

Instead we are going to hear 'Voices from the Past''. Devotions selected from the former years, reflecting different themes and different times. This Advent season listen to a word given by some who are no longer with us, some a few years younger, some in different places today from when they first wrote, all reflecting on a passage from scripture.

These won't be published into one book, but sent out to those on our email list as well as posted week by week on our website and Facebook page. Each week's devotions will also be available in print form at the church office. The first week in Advent will feature reflections from three individuals who have died since writing a devotional in past years.

Also available, will be a printed devotional entitled 'Our Hope and Expectation'. You can find a copy in front of the Church office. Feel free to stop by the church and pick up either devotional during normal office hours.

Virtual Christmas Eve Service @ 5 p.m. Communion & Candles Available, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Due to continued high Covid-19 numbers in our area, it is with great sadness and disappointment that we are presently planning for our *Christmas Eve Service to be Online Only this year via Facebook Live at 5 p.m.* As part of our Christmas Eve



worship, we will also be *providing Holy Communion from 3 to 4:30 p.m. as well as providing candles and drip protectors for you to use at home* during the traditional candle lighting part of the service. Should you wish to receive Holy Communion outside the 3 to 4:30 p.m. time frame; talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl. Please note: should Covid-19 numbers unexpectedly drop below the 20 per 100,000 threshold set by Bishop Maas for in-person worship, and we are able to have in-person Christmas Eve services, we will notify you of our change in plans as soon as possible.

Create Your Own Advent Wreath or Tray at Home

As we begin our Advent journey this year while worshiping at home, we want to invite you to put together your own Advent wreath or tray for use during our worship times together. If you don't have an Advent wreath, you can create one simply by taking a plate or tray and placing 4 candles (traditionally blue, but any color can be used) on the plate or tray; arrange them however you wish. You could also place a blue cloth underneath your advent tray, especially if you don't have blue candles. Then during worship on Sundays, when we light the Advent candles during worship,

light your Advent candles at home and, feel free to light your advent candles during devotion times or meal times as a way to remind ourselves of the light of the world whose birth we await and celebrate on Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve or Day, you may add a white candle to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel." Is probably one of the most well known and most sung hymns of the Advent season. Certain verses have even been marked to use on certain days in Advent. The original version is a Gregorian chant from the 9th century. When sung in that manner the song is a haunting plaintive cry—O Come....

A plaintive cry, fitting for Advent this year. We are weary, we are anxious, we are frustrated and we long for this thing called 'pandemic' to be over. It has pulled at the fiber of strained relationships. It has clouded what is referred to as executive function. (the process and ability to make even simple decisions.) It has driven us into corners such as maskers and unmaskers, each vilifying the other side as either wanting to control or not caring about others. We are all hurting. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel."

The people of God, bearers of God's creative and redeeming work in the world, are in need of redeeming, now more than ever. This refrain is a reminder really, that the church, (FYI, this hymn was born in Christian monasteries and the poetic references speak to the notion of the church longing for Christ to come again.) is called to bring God's salvation to the rest of the world, the church, and the people of God who remain in need of redemption. This is Advent.

Maybe it's finally time to reclaim Advent for what it was intended. No, it is not a countdown to the big day. It is not a time to make a list and check it twice. It is a time to live out the Lord's Prayer: thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The kingdom of God has not fully arrived, the world still sits in darkness. Christ the King Sunday is New Year's Eve in the Church year and Advent tells us again that the church imperfect and frail as it is in an imperfect and dark world awaits the coming of our Redeemer, who will free us from our captivity (our sin included).

So as healthcare workers labor to keep their heads above water and teachers valiantly and anxiously pull together lesson plans, and laborers in homes, offices and factories try to decide what's best for family, work and community, and all of us struggle with exhaustion and disappointment let us join our voices plaintively, recalling we don't have all the answers, we still see as in a mirror dimly, and so we cry out together,

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive us." trusting that Jesus, Emmanuel, the Word made flesh, will indeed come.

Only then can we find our Christmas cheer and proclaim, "Merry Christmas!"

Pastor Chris

COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

November 9, 2020

Board/Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Becky Martin and Lynn Margheim will be co-chairing the Parish Ed Committee with Angie. Outreach and Worship & Music committee members are returning. Mary Jo Huelle has accepted to stand for the Vice President position. She will be replaced on Outreach. Barb Gorr has agreed to chair the Audit Committee.

Scholarship Committee: Kaetlyn Todd attending Concordia has been granted \$1,488 for the semester. Dennis Gorr moved to grant the money; LaDonna Schmidt 2nd; Motion accepted

Outreach: Did not meet due to Covid numbers. Christmas plans will need to be made at the last minute.

Elders: Youth protection piece has been completed; pastor appreciation weeks handled.

Social Ministries: Winnie Voss will attend a meeting about bell ringing; also working on Angel tree things.

Trustees: Face guard for the choir is in place. Have recorded anthems for the church service. Did edging on outside; little church is to cover the stand pipe; replaced the window broken in the men's bathroom; snow removed as needed.

Worship & Music: Advent candle stand is ready to go; waiting to see how and when the Christmas services can happen – ready for either way.

Stewards: Doing Consecration Sunday November 15th; send in pledges and they will be blessed. Theme of keeping life simple during the struggles we are presently experiencing.

Parish Education: Have suspended JAM and EPIC temporarily to limit the number of gatherings. Angle is recording 5-minute children's sermons to be sent through email.

Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$36,690.10 Ending Balance: \$38,604.45 The Portico payment was not made, Grant will get it to Christy. Have received forgiveness for the PPP loan – it will be shown as regular income. We are in a very positive position. Some fund transfers have not occurred yet, they will be resolved before the end of the year.

Pastor's /Staff Reports: Confirmation doing online both Holy Apostles and Calvary together – with NO interruptions! Had Confirmation for the 2 youth and their families. Thank you for the Clergy Appreciation receptions. Checks the numbers each morning, today it is 274 per 100,000. Governor mandated inside mask wearing; churches are included in the gathering space is mandated at 6' distance, which limits our population to 60 people. Trying to figure out what to do with Christmas Eve services.

Old Business:

Moved to approve that Calvary work with Lutheran Family Services to establish a telehealth site at Calvary: moved by LaDonna Schmidt 2nd by Mary Jo Huelle. Discussion followed talking about location within the church. The best location at the moment is Room 8, directly down the hall from the side entrance. There was discussion about cameras monitoring the hallway and room. Expense should not be a problem. Agreed it would be a generally good security idea to put some in with a monitor available for Christy in the office. Motion accepted.

New Business:

Budget process – print out the worksheet from Grant; pencil in the numbers scan/email it back to Grant before December 5 for him to create a budget for discussion.

Budget Forum – There will be no face-to-face budget forum. The budget will be emailed out the week before the Annual meeting. People can contact a council member if they have a question.

Annual Meeting Date – Proposed January 31, 2021. Moved by Dennis Gorr; Jim Dorn 2nd. Date accepted. Information from the Bishop allows for an electronic meeting unless our constitution prohibits it. Ours does not. Would have to be via Zoom since people must be able to be heard as well as seeing it.

We should update our constitution to include changes passed by the national assembly, will need to be adopted at Annual Meeting. Done every 3 years.

Next Council Meeting: December 14, 2020

A complete copy of the Council Minutes are available in the church office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Even though we are worshipping virtually this year, we invite you to **bring a poinsettia** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia *in honor of or in memory* of a loved one, forms will be available December 1 outside the office door. The remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please bring your poinsettia sometime the week before Christmas and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.





BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Safeway on **Saturday, December 12th from 9 am through 7 pm**. Masks are required. If you are willing to volunteer, please stop or call the church office to sign up.

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

The social Ministry Board is again sponsoring the Angel Tree. Paper ornaments will be on the Angel Christmas tree outside the Fellowship Hall with first name, age, and gift idea. Names are from the Lakota Lutheran Center.

Don't forget to sign out your ornament on the table next to the tree and be sure to MATCH the number on the ornament with the number on the sheet. Suggested value of the gift is around \$25.

While we encourage consistency, we know some like to throw something 'extra' into the gift. It's the nature of a child to think everything should be fair and equal; therefore the Lakota Center distributes the gifts at their celebration and then sends them home to open them. Because of this, the gifts need to be <u>securely sealed</u>, preferably boxed so that the children are not tempted to 'look' and reach into a gift sack that is simply covered by colored paper. While the gifts are certainly valued and appreciated, the Lakota Center would really appreciate your help in this small way to make sure the children have a joyous gathering celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Please bring your gift NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th.

If you are unable to purchase a gift, you may donate cash and a gift will be purchased. Simply mail or drop off your monetary gift to the church office by Monday, December 14th, so we have enough time to get the gifts bought.



THANK YOU FOR SHARING AND CARING!



Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list.

See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit https://goodgifts.elca.org/ for your gift options.



December Mission Project

The WELCA project for December is the Angel Tree.

Please see page 4 for detailed information
on our Angel Tree ministry.

Pick a name or make a donation to give families a happy time this Christmas.

We also will continue to receive any **Thankofferings** that haven't been turned in yet.





We need to stock up on kitchen items: SOS pads, scratchies, dish rags, dish soap, paper towels, aluminum foil, quart and gallon Zip Lock baggies, napkins, Country Time Instant Lemonade, coffee creamer, and artificial sweetener (packets). Items may be left in the kitchen or in the box by Pastor Chris' door. Thank you from the Women's Board.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUPS

Our December study will be "Singing, writing, moving, connecting" - Advent rituals for uncertain times

The theme verses are Luke 1:41-45, Luke 1:39, Luke 1:46-55, Luke 1:26-38.

Ruth Study Group - We will not be meeting in December Priscilla Study Group - Monday, Nov. 9 @ 2 p.m. at Calvary's Education Wing Hannah Study Group - Monday, Nov. 9 @ 7 p.m. at Calvary's Education Wing Esther Study Group - We will not be meeting in December

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Each Tuesday at noon a group of women meet at the church to study scripture together.

Please consider joining us for a study and some great conversations.

We will not be meeting in December.

All ladies are invited to join any of these groups!



<u>MEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY</u> — Every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall and on Zoom. The study is on the book of Acts, a study by Warren Wiersbe, Be Dynamic. Please come share an hour of your time with us.

OWLS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

We will **NOT** be meeting in December. Please stay safe & stay healthly!!



Pastoral Care/Prayer Requests

<u>Prayers for healing</u>: Bill Steele (COVID-19 recovery), Ardella Miller (COVID-19 recovery—Lonnie Miller's mother), Greg & Judy Hinze (COVID-19 recovery—Grant Hinze's Parents), Harlan Meyer (Lonnie Miller's Uncle), Shelia Colson (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), Claudia (bedrest for pregnancy), Amber (fighting COVID-19), Myron Loseke, Jerry Weekes (recovering from a horse accident), Reuben & Gloria Gorr (health issues), Alan (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), Jordan Hein (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), Michael Dietrich (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), Julie (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), Barb (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), Joan (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), Patty (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

<u>Prayers for comfort and peace for</u>: Family and friends of **Linda Halley** (sister-in-law of Kent & Pam Halley), **Wilma Buchhammer** (mother of Mark Buchhammer), **Dorothy Kraft** (Trisha Foote's mom),

<u>Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world</u>: in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!

If you have Prayer Requests, please contact Nancy Steele through her e-mail—steelenlynne@gmail.com or phone her at 632-7558.



Tammy Lutz	12/2	Janie Voss	12/18
LuVerne Knoedler	12/6	Julie Aschenbrenner	12/19
Donna Judd	12/6	Jessica Laughlin	12/20
Val Rahrs	12/6 ·	Wes Sell	12/25
Linda Hauschild	12/12	Sid Henderson	12/26
Brock Nikont	12/14	Vicki Schmidt	12/26
Jim Zier	12/14	Alec Sibal	12/27
Kolten Burgner	12/16	Tracy Steele	12/28
Mary Ellen Kropp	12/17	Jack Schmidt	12/31

If we missed your birthday, please let the office know.



Thank you to the many helping hands which collected, packed, and prepared to ship all the items for Lutheran World Relief!

Because of your hard work, we have helped others around the world this year with

84 school kits

270 quilts

We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Brown Transfer which, for many years, has provided free shipping for our items to the Synod Office in Omaha.

Today and every day, Lutheran
World Relief Quilts and Kits of Care
give families around the world
some of life's essentials, as well as a
reminder that they are not alone.
From chronic poverty and conflict
to drought and typhoon, the
intensity of humanitarian needs
continues to increase.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON YOU ALL!



Support our local Food Programs.

The Food Pantry and BackPack Programs provide important services to those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

This month's requested items are:

Food Pantry: PACKAGED COOKIES Backpack Program : APPLESAUCE



Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!

Worship With Us Online

To worship with us online, simply log on to Facebook and go to our Facebook page: *Calvary Lutheran Scottsbluff*, a few minutes before the worship start time. You will need to scroll down our Facebook page until you see a video with a red button that says live, click on the 'play' arrow to activate the live video, and then make sure the sound isn't muted. **DON'T HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT?** There is a link on our website:



<u>calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org</u>, that will allow you to watch our worship services live event without an account (look for the underlined word <u>LINK</u> and

click on it. Please feel free to ignore Facebook's attempt to have you log-in or create an account!) We will also save the video to our Facebook page for viewing at a later time. Bulletins with congregational responses and hymns for the worship services will be placed on our website and also emailed to everyone who is on our Calvary Lutheran email list, so you may download or print off the bulletin ahead of time to more fully participate in the worship service wherever you may be. The bulletin will also include weekly announcements and prayer lists. Not on our Calvary email list? Contact the church office, and give us your email address and we will be happy to add you to



Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text — right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

- 1. Go to your device's App Store.
- 2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
- 3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
- 4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.





Prayer Requests



If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.

Please save your
Main Street Market
(Panhandle Coop)
receipts for the
backpack program.
\$100,000 in receipts
= \$1,000 for the
program!

Main Stre	et Market
Milk	2.50
Eggs	3.25
Muffins	4.50
Lettuce	1.50
Total	11.75
Thank you fo	or shopping!



Hymnal Available to Borrow

Do you miss being able to follow along with the music when we sing a hymn or song during worship? Hymnals are

available to borrow for those who wish one. We only ask, per Governor Ricketts health directives if worshiping with us in person, that you bring it with you to worship and take it home with you after, rather than leaving it in the pew. Want to borrow a hymnal talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or one of the ushers.



REMEMBER D.O.V.E.S when traveling please bring back any hotel/motel unused shampoos, soaps, and lotions and place them in the D.O.V.E.S. box by Pastor Chris' office.



Drop those odd dollar bills in the offering plate to benefit Lutheran World Hunger, Cat/Pup Pack Backpacks Program, Lakota Lutheran Center

WANT TO SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING?

Scan the QR code to the right or go to our website: www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org to set up your giving to Calvary electronically.





Lutheran Disaster Response Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the

headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100%

Thrivent Financial

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hun-



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

dreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community. For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to: https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-







Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus

On the very first Christmas, God graciously gave the ultimate gift of his son so people could experience the healing touch of Immanuel – God with us.

And he remains with us. By the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, he touches us and moves through us in surprising ways to bring the wonderful gift of his love to others.

Christ is with us, and he is also with others through us. We are his hands and feet – those who represent him with gentleness, with humility, and above all, with compassion.

Especially during the holiday season, many people are in need of a word or a touch or just someone to listen to help heal their brokenness.

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen's Minister, please contact Nancy Steele (632-7558) or (641-7619) or Marsha Bueide (635-1469).



HOSPITALIZED? PLEASE LET US KNOW

If you are hospitalized, please contact (or have a friend or family member contact) the church office and let us know so that we can visit and pray with you. Providing pastoral care is an important part of our ministry, however, we cannot visit if we don't know, so please don't hesitate to call or email the church office, so that we can be there for you. Thanks!

Pastors Sheryl and Chris

Calvary's Church Office Phone number: (308) 632-8023 or 632-8024

Contact the Office by E-mail at: calvarylutheranscottsbluff@gmail.com

Send physical mail / offerings to: 17 E. 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

Pastor Chris Kester Beyer (402) 694-9189 pastorchriskb@gmail.com

Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer (402) 694-9182 pastorsherylkb@gmail.com

Youth & Family Ministry Dir. Angie Hinze: 631-2768 adhinze@gmail.com

Nancy Steele, PMA 632-7558 steelenlynne@gmail.com



Deadline for weekly announcements is Wed. at 5 PM. Deadline for Tidings newsletter is the 20th of each month. Please send your items to Christy the church office.

Find us on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranscottsbluff

WEBSITE

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

FIND US ONLINE!!!!

Worship videos and bulletins as well as the "Taking Faith Home" inserts are all available on our website.

Just go to www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the worship tab.

*		31	30	29	28	27 10am-Worship
26	25 Anerikas	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3-4:30pm-Drive-Up Communion 5pm-Candlelight Services on Facebook Live	23	22	21 5pm-Elders 6pm-Stewards 6pm-Worship & Music	20 10am-Worship 10:45-11:15am-Drive-Up Communion
19 5:30pm Worship (TBD)	18 Newsletter DEADLine	17	16 7pm-Choir Practice	15 8:30am-Men's Study 1pm-Quilting 7:30pm-Confirmation on Zoom	14 2pm-Priscilla Cirde @ Calvary's Education Wing 6pm-Council Mtg	13 10am-Worship 10:45-11:15am-Drive-Up Communion
12 9am-7pm-Bell Ringing @ Safeway 5:30pm-Worship (TBD)	П	10	9 5:30pm-Social Ministry 7pm-Choir Practice	8:30am-Men's Study 12pm-Women's Study 1pm-Quilting 7pm-Pastor's Bible Study	7 7pm-Hannah Circle @ Calvary's Education Wing	6 10am-Worship 10:45-11:15am-Drive-Up Communion
5 5:30pm Worship (TBD)	4	ω	2 7pm-Choir Practice	1 8:30am-Men's Study 1pm-Quilting 7pm-Pastor's Bible Study 7:30pm-Confirmation on Zoom		
Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun



WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2020

Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Andi Dorn	Bill Huelle	Chris Jensen	Kent & Dawn Holub	10:00 a.m.	December 27 Traditional Service
	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Jeff Van Patten	Dennis Gorr	Jack Martin		5:00 p.m.	December 24 Christmas Eve Service
Abby Newsom Maunette Loeks-Van Patten Barb Jensen Nannie Walsh	Jeff Van Patten	Matt Payne	Colter Burkey	Susan Martin	Dennis & Barb Gorr	10:00 a.m.	December 20 Celebrate Service
Andi Dorn Carmen Kleager Shelly Koehler Jessica Laughlin	Maunette Loeks-Van Patten	Mary Jo Huelle	Bill Huelle	LaDonna Schmidt	Deb Brown Jack Martin	10:00 a.m.	December 13 Traditional Service
Deb Brown Vicki Howell Tracy Steele	Colter Burkey	Shawna Payne	Dennis Gorr	Angie Hinze	Chris & Barb Jensen	10:00 a.m.	December 6 Celebrate Service
ALTAR GUILD	MEDIA	POWERPOINT	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	LAY READERS	USHERS	TIME	DATE





If you are unable to serve,

please find a replacement and inform the church office. Thanks!



Calvary Lutheran Church 17 E 27th

Scottsbluff NE, 69361 308-632-8023

www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

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