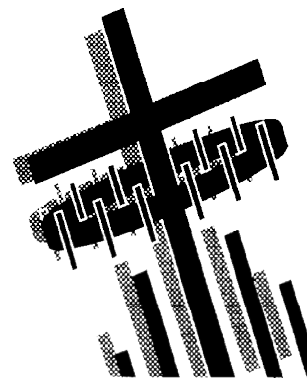


Comments



324 2nd Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ December 2024

O Come, Emmanuel

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, when we read that the angel told Joseph: “[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew then elaborates on this statement telling us: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

This child, Jesus, would be God with us, and he would come to save his people from their sins. It was an ancient prophecy, which had profound effects on the people of Israel during the time of the prophet Isaiah. Now, God would be at work again.

When God comes to be with his people, it changes the world. He brings righteousness and renewal, love and hope, judgment and correction. His world, that drowns in its own sin, is brought above water and is given a future. This is what happened when Jesus was born. That’s what happens as Jesus reigns over heaven and earth today. This is what will happen in full when he comes again.

During the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ. We also prepare ourselves for his second coming. We too pray that Emmanuel would come today.

In our Advent services this year, we will begin by reading the Emmanuel prophecy and reflecting on what that means for us. We will also be reciting the “O Antiphons”. These are ancient

prayers, which have been historically prayed during the seven days leading up to Christmas. They are also the basis for the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to deliver us.

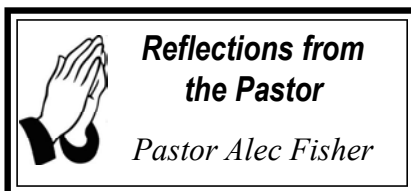
O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

For the sake of his creation, Jesus is coming.



**Reflections from
the Pastor**

Pastor Alec Fisher

CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

He's coming for you and for me to give us a future with him. AND he has already come. He rules over heaven and earth. The Emmanuel child watches over us every day. He protects us and walks with us, keeping so many of the sinful forces of this world away. While there will still be sin in the world and sin in our own lives until Jesus comes again, we are still so much better off today because of Jesus reign.

My prayer is that we would recognize this when we pray for Emmanuel to come. His work continues, and he continues to save us from our sins.

Blessed Advent!
Pastor Alec



Pastor Alec's Book of the Month: Have you ever wanted to read a book about Christian life or theology and just didn't know where to start? Maybe you're a regular and are just looking for a recommendation or would like to reread a favorite. Pastor Alec invites you to read books that he's now revisiting. Each month a new book will be recommended for your own enjoyment. For the month of December, Pastor Alec will be reading *The Great Divorce*, in which C.S. Lewis writes about Heaven and Hell. If that's a topic that might interest you, you're encouraged to pick up a copy and read along!

In memory of Ken Moser:

William & Karen Bollinger
David & Jane Thompson
Robert & Janice Thomson
Debby & John Windell



WINTER WARMTH MINISTRY PROJECT 2024: While our hearts go out to the people in Western North Carolina who were devastated by Hurricane Helene, we don't want to forget those in need in our immediate community. Watch for the **WINTER WARMTH CONTAINERS**. Last year, because of the generosity of our members and friends, we were blessed to be able to provide warmth and comfort to a good many of the less fortunate in our community. We have begun to collect WARM items to share. Here is a list of suggested items: small blankets, small tarps, warm hats, gloves and scarves, socks, warm coats, jackets, sweaters, warm overalls, reading glasses, hand and foot warmers, rain ponchos, sturdy tote bags, basic hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap and wash cloth).

Again, if you would like to participate but prefer not to shop, you may make a donation and we will shop for you. If you have questions, please feel free to ask Betsy Downs.



Thanks to my CLC family for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and visits since my heart surgery on October 23. My recovery is going well, albeit being a lengthy process. I'm still under some physical restrictions, but as the days go by each day is better than the previous day. I am thankful to our Triune God for guiding the surgeon and all my care staff. I should be fully recovered by the end of December. I have missed my CLC family deeply; such a wonderful spirit is truly healing. God is good—all the time.

Fred Abromaitis



The LWML will meet Wednesday, December 4, at 11:00am for their Christmas party. This is a special time for all of us, especially Shelley. We will be signing Christmas cards and remembering our Safe Harbor friends with a monetary gift. Cam Davis is in charge of a short program. We always welcome guests. Call Kathy Ludwig if you can come so that we will have your lunch item for you.

Guiding Through God's Love

Season's Greetings to those 65 and up

**It's Not What is
under the tree that matters!
It's who is gathered around it!**

Please gather around the tree with us as we usher in the Christmas Season with laughter, food, games, and fun. We ask that you bring a \$10 gift to exchange.

What: Secret Santa

Where: Family Life Center

**When: Saturday, December 7th
11:30am-1:30pm**

Call the Church Office to sign-up!

--- Altar Flowers ---

Nov. 24: The Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 57th wedding anniversary (Nov. 25) of Jim & Pat Hamby.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the needy in our community. Generous gifts like yours make it possible for us to help meet the increasing needs of those who are hungry in our area. We depend upon faithful friends like you to enable us to continue to address their needs. Thank you for putting your compassion into action. It has been a challenge this year, but with your help, we have had a great year so far. God bless you!

*Sincerely,
Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.*

Would you like to help with the Fellowship Coffee time? A new schedule of volunteers for the 10:00am coffee fellowship time will be published by the end of December. If you would like to help by bringing a snack and making coffee for the group, please let Nancy Rinehart know. If you are already helping with this but would like to take a break and remove yourself, let her know that too. Thank you to all who are willing to serve!



Toy Drive! We will be donating toys to a Toy Drive hosted by Emmanuel Baptist Church. The toys collected will go to the children of Western North Carolina. These are toys for all ages. (They request that we do not donate toy guns.) Please put new, unwrapped toys in the Christmas boxes located in the church narthex and the Family Life Center. If you have any questions, please contact Janie Lail (828-781-3408). Please consider giving to bring some joy to children who have recently gone through a lot!

THE CHURCH FAMILY

JOYS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

Mission outreach for:

- our ministry of Guiding through God's Love
- local outreach ministers: CCM, Soup Kitchen, University Christian High School, Pregnancy Care Center
- Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (malim.org)
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Surgery: Rebecca Locke (12/17)

Rehabilitation: Robert Sigmon (Mooresville Nursing & Rehab)

Recovering: Judy Baker (11/10); Tim Brewer (11/24); Carmen Divers (11/17); Lisa Smith (11/24); Rita Crotts (12/1 sister of Tony Lail); Eli (friend of Betsy Downs); Charlie McKelvain (11/10 grandson of Jennifer Hughes, son of Ashley); Sean Murphy (12/1 son-in-law of Jill Lafone)

Undergoing treatments: Teresa Mays; Joanne Moser (12/1); Doris Smith; Courtney Brown (11/13 friend of the Hamby's); Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt); Kevin Jones (11/17 son-in-law of Camilla Sain)

Under doctors' care: Kathie Albright (12/1); Shelly Baker; Becky Rimmer; Rita Roseman; John Sigmon; Sonya McLeod (11/17 daughter-in-law of Ken & Sue McLeod); Justin Crooks (11/17 son of Jim & Evelyn); David Pingel (11/24 father of Kathryn); Paul Gadd (12/1 friend of Betty Link)

For shut-ins: Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; David & Donna Lumb at home; Peggy Mays; Carolyn Smith (Autumn Care); Randy Smith; Alice Yount

For those who are suffering due to *Hurricanes Helene and Milton*

If not otherwise updated, prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for four (4) weeks. Some dates are listed next to names to indicate when a person has been added to the Prayer List. Please update the church office with any changes within four (4) weeks to help us keep the Prayer List current.



Financial Stewardship		
	Actual: Oct. 2024	Actual: Jan. – Oct. 2024
Income	\$ 22,435.63	\$ 233,659.44
Expense	\$ 20,206.69	\$ 233,866.20
Net Income	\$ 2,228.94	– \$ 206.76

December 2024

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Advent 1 9:00a 1st Service ☩ 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service 11:45a Sunday Lunch	2 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Matthew" w/ Pastor Alec	3 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	4 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML 12:30p Advent Service	5 7:00p CMT (FLC) Church Council	6 10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	7 11:30a Secret Santa 
2nd Advent 8 9:00a 1st Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service ☩☩ 11:45a Elders	9 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Matthew" w/ Pastor Alec	10 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom) 	11 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 12:30p Advent Service	12 7:00p CMT (FLC) 	13 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	14 
3rd Advent 15 9:00a 1st Service ☩ Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	17 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	18 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 12:00p Advent Service	19 7:00p CMT (FLC)	20 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	21 
4th Advent 22 9:00a 1st Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service ☩☩	23 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) NO Kenworth Mtg.	24 Bulletin Deadline 3:00p Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion 7:00p Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion	25 Church Office Closed 	26 7:00p CMT 	27 NO Zumba	28 11:30a Feed the Needy 
1st after Christmas 29 9:00a 1st Service ☩ Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service	30 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	31 				

*December 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries
 Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1 Johnathan Griffith | 17 Rick Lail | |
| 2 Nancy Rinehart | 18 Shant' Aaron Bryant | |
| 4 James Morton | 20 Betsy Downs | |
| | Pat Hamby | |
| 5 Jack Divers | 21 Hudson Hedemark | |
| | Juanita Isenhower | |
| 7 Bill Lail | Eric Yount | |
| 8 Tim Bolch | 22 Mindy Hamby | |
| 9 Dylan Kiziah | Teresa Mays | |
| | 23 Doggy Flores | |
| 11 David Abernathy | 27 Calvin Buchanan | |
| | Glenn Roseman | |
| | 28 Megan Lail | |
| 12 Bobby Spruill | 29 Preston Wall | |
| 15 John Abernathy | 30 Jackson Godfrey | |
| 16 Shirley Lee | Cecilia Shoup | |

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
1	Mason & Hannah Beard
20	Ken & Sue McLeod
29	Tim & Maria Gruppen
31	Christian & Ashley Hicks



	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Preaching	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Tucker
Lector	Britt Griffith	Robie Hillhouse	Adeline Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Zach Rose
Distributor	~*~	Kyle Donovan	~*~	Alison Matthews	Angie Ewing & Linda Bolick
Acolyte	Adeline Fisher	Jack Fisher	~*~	Adeline Fisher	~*~
Elder	Robert Kraay	Bill Lail	Jim Crooks	Sadie Lail	Nancy Rinehart
Counters	Darryl & Dot Grater	Jim Hunt Cam Davis	Darryl & Dot Grater	Jim Hunt Cam Davis	Darryl & Dot Grater
Audio/Video		Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	
Media	Karla Bolch	Kyle Donovan	Susan Fulbright	Karla Bolch	Rick Lail
Host	Mary Puett	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	Betty Link	Mary Puett
Altar Guild	Sadie Lail	Laura Fite	Sadie Lail	Laura Fite	Sadie & Laura
Security Team	Randall Mays	Jimmy Gantt	David Puett	Britt Griffith	Chris Mundy

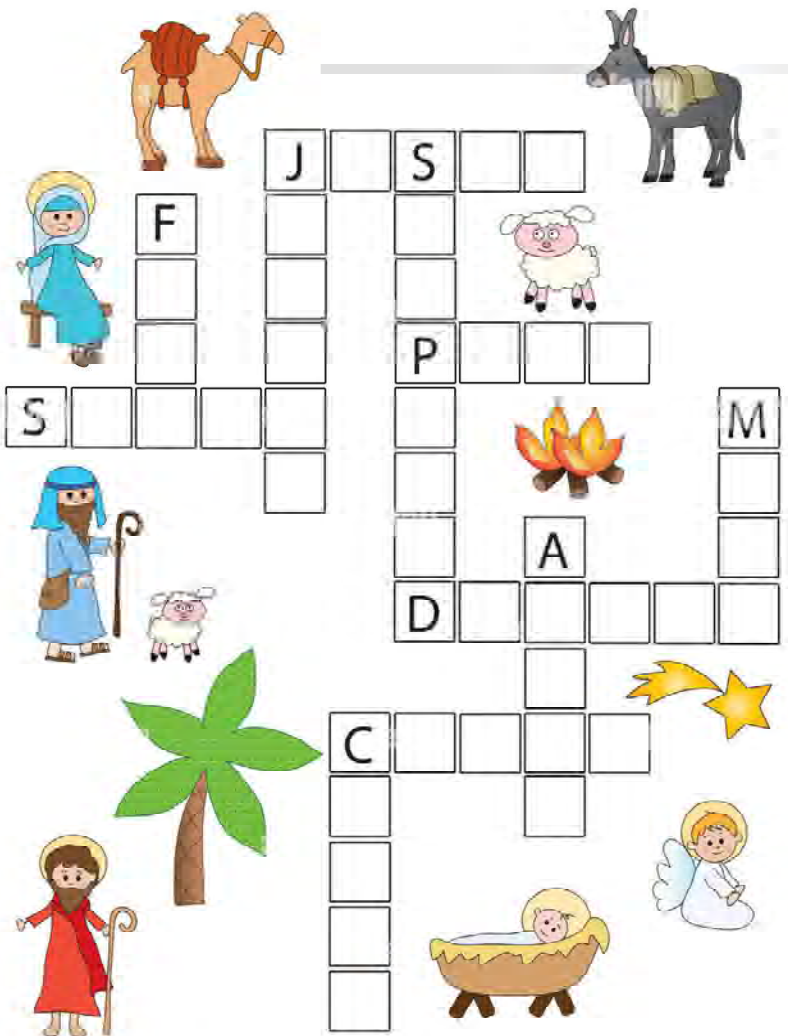
Connection

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Born in January 1932, Henri Nouwen was a Dutch catholic priest, professor, writer, and theologian. He authored hundreds of articles and published 39 books, including The Wounded Healer, In the Name of Jesus, and The Return of the Prodigal Son. CLC has used Advent devotional books based on his writings. Here is an Advent Prayer written by Henri Nouwen.

Lord Jesus, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the comfort of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.



Christ Lutheran Church

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Hickory, NC 28602

Comments

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Our Mission Motto is

Guiding Through God's Love

CHURCH STAFF

Adm. Pastor.....Rev. Alec Fisher
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig
Assistant Pastor..Rev. Richard Tucker
Organist.....Danny Foster
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart
and Jill Lafone
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends



Christ Lutheran Church

