

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

January 2017

Bible Study/Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Church Phone: (636)228-4642
Pastor's Phone: (636)228-4773

From the Pastor... (Christmas Eve sermon)

We hear the words of the angel to the shepherds in Luke 2: *"Fear not...for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."*

These shepherds were more than shepherds. They were shepherd priests. They tended the sheep which were brought into the temple. To be more specific, they were in charge of the lambs used as sacrifices. These lambs had to be males without blemish. And so these shepherd priests would carefully take these lambs, as soon as their mothers gave birth, and quickly wrap them in strips of their undergarments, known as swaddling clothes, so that these baby lambs would not become bruised and blemished. And then they would separate these lambs from the rest of the flock by laying them carefully in the feeding trough - the manger.

"Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger because He is your sacrificial Lamb."

These shepherds did this day after day, night after night. And so when the angel told them, *"This shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger,"* they knew exactly what he meant. This was a sign they understood. The child born that night in the city of David was the holy, unblemished Lamb of God, born to be sacrificed for them and for all sinners.

Whether tonight is your very first Christmas Eve service, or your 90th, or somewhere in between, God wants you tonight to believe that the sign the angel gave to the shepherds is also for you. *"Unto you...is born a Savior."* Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger because He is your sacrificial Lamb. Unless He had come, you and I would have to pay the price for our disobedience, and that price is separation from God in heaven forever. But He did come - your Savior, the unblemished Lamb of God. He made payment for you. He was born to suffer your punishment. Friend, God forgives you. He is at peace in His heart with you. I know your life is blemished; so is mine. But the unblemished Lamb was born to be sacrificed for you. If you are a sinner, one thing is absolutely certain - you are a forgiven sinner. God says so. *"Unto you...is born a Savior, Christ the Lord!"* This is glad tidings of great joy, and it's yours now at Christmas and always. Merry Christmas.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prayer Service

Followed by Bible study
each Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



Inside this Issue:

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"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105



Attendance

December 4 - 43
December 11 - 59
December 18 - 20
Christmas Eve - 102
Christmas Day - 44

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1

*Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of Heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given.*

*Christ our Lord and Savior dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.*

LSB #390 - Let Us All with
Gladsome Voice vs. 1,4

Christmas Decorations Removal

This year we will be taking down Christmas decorations on Wednesday, January 4 at 4:00 pm in the afternoon, as the Sunday after Christmas is New Years Day. There is a sign up sheet in the Education Wing for anyone who is able to help. Thanks in advance for your support!



Church Directory

If you have any changes to your contact information (address, phone number, email) and have not noted the changes on the directory sheets in the adult Sunday School Room, please contact Marcy Menke at 636-228-4092 by Monday, January 9, so that these changes can be updated for the 2017 church directory. Thanks for your help with this project!

Augusta Christmas Walk

Thanks to everyone who donated their time and talents toward making the 2016 Christmas Walk such a success! Over \$700 was raised as we welcomed hundreds of people to our booth with cookies, wassail, church brochures and invitations to our Christmas Eve service. Special thanks to Glenda Drier for overseeing this event and to all who assisted with bread baking, bread wrapping, cookie donations, manning the booth and purchasing items. We couldn't have done it without you!



November 2016 Financial Update

Loose Plate and white envelope only	\$5,628.00
Operating Expenses	(\$9,988.06)
Operating Loss	(\$4,360.06)

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This and That

- Officer Installation will take place during the service on Sunday, January 8.
- If you have a birthday or anniversary you would like to include on the monthly calendar, please let Pastor Bell know.
- Two door collections will be taken for disaster relief in the coming weeks. Please check upcoming bulletins for more information.

News from the Trustees

Chairman – Kelly Latham – 2nd year, George Baravik – 1st year, Bill Warnecke – 3rd year

Over the past year, the Trustees made some progress on a few projects, most notably:

Furnace Replacement – There are four furnaces and air conditioners that heat and cool the church and education building. During the preventive maintenance winter tune-up, a decision quickly needed to be made on the two furnaces in the church basement due to cold weather coming. Since the air conditioners still worked, it was decided to replace the two furnaces only and also improve the duct-work for proper airflow. An added benefit of this configuration will allow future replacement of the air conditioners when the time comes. The cost for this equipment was approximately \$5,685. Funds for this equipment are reserved in the endowment fund.

Looking to the future, the Trustees hope to make more progress on the goals remaining from last year while adding more to the list. Due to funding, timing, and volunteer availability, we are not promising to complete all these projects but we are communicating the needs. In no particular order, the goals are:

- Install a new playground dusk to dawn pole and light. (Estimated cost \$750.)
- Pour concrete in front of the parsonage garage. (This is Phase III of the parking lot. Estimated cost \$2,500. Finishing this will complete the parking lot project.)
- Replace the parsonage cellar door. (Estimated cost \$600.)
- Painting (kitchen and basement bathroom floors, touch up at various locations, metal doors, back entrance walkway and stairs, and a few others.)

To inform the congregation of items that will require much more investment, here is the 2-5 year out Long Term Project List.

- HVAC – Replace the air conditioning units in the church basement. (Estimated cost is \$6,000 - \$9,000 for 2 units depending on the efficiency and style.)
- Steeple Painting – Have a bid to repaint for approx. \$10,000.
- Parking Lot Sealing and Restriping – Estimated cost is \$6,000.
- West Entry Deck – Will need to seek bids to replace since this structure is near the end of its life.

There will always be little projects that come up throughout the year that must be dealt with. As we work to complete these projects on the list, or other projects come along, we may ask for extra hands to help out. Again, we do want to thank all of those who have given of their time, skill, or donations to make these improvements possible and we hope for continued support in the future.

Men's Bible Breakfast

The Men's Bible Breakfast meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:15 a.m. at Kate's Coffee Shop in Augusta. They discuss a variety of topics, as well as enjoy good food and fellowship. The men of the congregation and community are invited to attend. Plan now to attend the next Bible Breakfast on Wednesday, January 4. *(Please note: the Bible Breakfast will not meet on January 18).*



Christmas Eve



A special thank you to Al Landes for coordinating the musical selections. Thank you to those who shared their musical talents on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

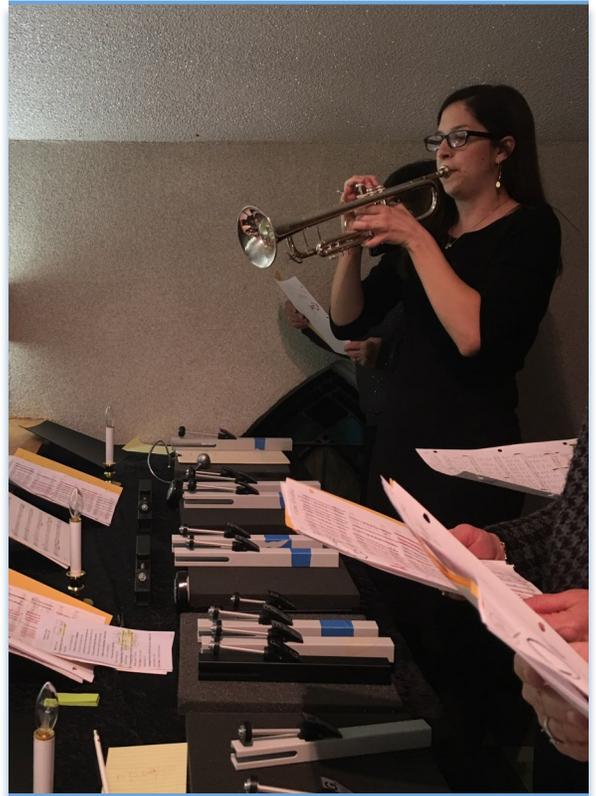
Instrumentalists:

Oboe: Ann-Renee Gargrave
Saxophone: Eric Gargrave
Trumpet: Sarah Bell
Cello: Julia Bell
Violin: Brian Bell

Choir:

Pastor Bell
Ruth-Ann Brown
Vic Brown
Glenda Drier
Julie Figura
Julie Kurtz
Jill Landes
Peggy Recktenwald

Christmas Eve



January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 (no office hours)	3 Wesley Wissmann	4 7:15 Men's Bible Breakfast 4:00 Remove decorations	5 1:00 Sound System testing	6 Al Landes	7
8 Officer Installation	9 6:00 Elders 7:00 Council	10 Bobbie Baravik	11 Al Jacob	12	13	14
15 Voters Meeting	16 (no office hours)	17	18 (no office hours or prayer service)	19	20	21
22 Tom & Cathy Kluesner	23	24 Mackenzie Bean	25 Laverne Beumer	26 Ronald Beumer Tanner Molitor	27	28 Shirley Toedebusch
29 Darrell Nadler Kevin Nadler	30	31			Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday mornings 9-12	Prayer Service: Wednesday mornings 11-11:30