

Christ Lutheran Newsletter

Official Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Augusta, MO 63332

<http://www.clcaugustamo.org>

December 2018

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...

Many people have a "Santa Claus" understanding of God. You know the song: "he's gonna find out who's naughty and nice..." Nice people go to heaven; the naughty ones don't. And Jesus' own words in Matthew 25 seem to agree. The sheep are the nice ones and the goats are the naughty ones. The sheep, according to Jesus, did nice things during their life; the goats failed to do such niceties.

This "Santa Claus" understanding of God is quite revealing. If this is someone's religion, what need do they have of Baptism, the Word, the Sacrament? They would have no need of the church or a pastor. In other words, they have no need of Jesus. Just be nice. The rewards come, even the reward of heaven, to all who are nice.

"It's not about being naughty or nice. It's about Jesus. Heaven is yours not if you are nice, but because of Jesus and what He did, and does, for you."

There is a flaw with this belief system, and it's fatal. When mom and dad tell their children to behave if they want Santa to bring them presents at Christmas, the children comply by being nice and not naughty. This is not true of Jesus' sheep. In Matthew 25 He tells us that the sheep aren't even aware of the nice things they did during their life on earth. They weren't nice in order to gain rewards. They lived as they did because they are sheep. Yet the sheep are as naughty as the goats. And there are goats who, in the world's eyes, are much nicer than sheep. The difference between them is Jesus. The sheep love Jesus; the goats do not. The sheep show their love for Jesus; the goats cannot. The sheep trust Jesus and desire Him; the goats do not. Jesus declares all forgiven: sheep and goats. He died for all sinners. The sheep take Jesus' word to heart, cling to it, and live it; the goats do not.

It's not about being naughty or nice. It's about Jesus. Heaven is yours not if you are nice, but because of Jesus and what He did, and does, for you. When you're nice to others, it's Jesus doing this through you. Santa may not set aside any presents for those who are naughty, but Jesus forgives the naughty, and He gives this gift of Absolution to the undeserving. You and I don't have to live in a certain way to gain the reward of heaven. Rather, we want to be nice because heaven is already ours through Jesus.

Christmas Services

The Christmas Eve Service will be Monday evening, December 24, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a Christmas Day service at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor's Office Hours:

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

Prayer Service

Wednesday morning
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.



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



Attendance

October 28 - 41
November 4 - 61
November 11 - 49
November 18 - 45
Thanksgiving Eve - 42
November 25 - 53

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

Church Decorating

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 2 immediately following the Voters meeting. We will take down the decorations after the service on Sunday, January 6. Thank you in advance for helping with this!



Augusta Christmas Walk

This year the annual Augusta Christmas Walk will be held December 7 and 14 from 5:00-10:00 p.m. We have opportunities for members to help staff our booth at the Train Station and/or donate cookies to share with the community; please indicate on the signup sheets in the Education Wing if you can help with either of these outreaches. Thanks!

Christmas Caroling

Here we come a-caroling! We will meet at church on Sunday, December 16, at 1:30 p.m. to caravan together to Washington to visit three nursing homes/assisted living centers. We should be done between 4:30-5:00 p.m. and usually enjoy dinner together afterwards. Please sign up on the sheet in the Education Wing if you are planning on attending. Hope to see you there!

Poinsettias

As the Christmas season approaches we once again have the opportunity to make a donation for a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please see the display table in the Education Wing for details. Thanks!

Christmas Eve Candy Bags

We will be taking a door collection for Christmas Eve candy bags after the service on Sunday, December 2nd. On Sunday, December 9th, we will be assembling the bags immediately following the service in the Adult Sunday School room. If you are able to assist with this activity your help would be greatly appreciated!

Altar Guild Update

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Baravik to the position of Altar Guild Chairman and appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity. Thanks to all who attended the November meeting; if you haven't gotten copies of the meeting notes, revised 2018-2019 schedule, and funeral/baptism guidelines please take as needed from the table in the Education Wing. Thanks!

Thanks to all who so generously donated to the Marthasville Food Pantry during this Thanksgiving season - may the Lord bless you as you have blessed others!

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree project for this Christmas Season is a hat and mitten drive to benefit the Augusta Elementary School. Gloves, mittens and knit type hats for boys and girls 5-12 years old are needed for those who don't have any to use at recess or when traveling to and from school. You may donate items or make a monetary gift - please see the Giving Tree display for details. Thanks for keeping the children of Augusta warm this winter!



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday mornings 9-12	Prayer Service: Wednesday mornings 11-11:30	Ladies Quilting & Needlework: Tuesdays 9-3				1
2 Scott Jacob Voters Elders Decorate	3 Dan & Abby Rinne	4 Vernon Borgmann Scott Toedebusch	*5 7:15 Men's Brkfst Samantha Ballmann Jackie Nadler Quinn Weirich	6	7 5-10 Christmas Walk	8
9 Diane Pieper	10 7:00 Council	11	12	13 Scott & Amanda Jacob	14 Carol Latham Nancy Little 5-10 Christmas Walk	15 Gaige Ford
16 1:30 Christmas Caroling	17	18	19 7:15 Men's Brkfst Madonna Warnecke	20	21	22
23	24 6:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service	26 (no Office Hours or Prayer Service)	27 Bob & Glenda Drier	28	29
30	31		*No Office Hours or Prayer Service December 5			