

# ST. LUKE'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH 10:30 a.m.

208 11<sup>th</sup> Street E.

Lemmon, SD 57638

*We are affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).*

*Richard Kanzenbach*

*Pastor*

## *Sunday after Christmas*

Ruth Wiechmann, organist

December 27, 2020

### **WELCOME!**

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery [goods for grabbing] to be equal with God, but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*  
--- I Timothy 2:5-11

### **ORDER OF SERVICE:**

Page 5 (*omit pp. 7, 8, 9 top*)

**Hymn 645** Behold, a Branch Is Growing

**EPISTLE: Titus 3:3-7** To us who are foolish, hateful, headstrong sinners by birth, God demonstrates kindness and love in His Son. Jesus, His eternal Son, took our human flesh and blood. In mercy He saved us by His death and resurrection. Now we are justified, not by our own deeds, but by faith in Him! The Holy Spirit showers this new birth upon us in the washing of baptism. We have forgiveness and eternal life! -- There is reason for great joy at Christmas!

**GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25** Prior to his marriage to Mary, Joseph learned that his beloved Mary was expecting a baby. He knew he was not the father. He planned to call off the marriage. However, God sent an angel to tell Joseph that this child was conceived by a miracle of God and that he Joseph should indeed marry Mary. The angel also instructed Joseph to name the child "Jesus;" – that is, "Savior!" In faith, despite all human logic, Joseph went forward. --- We have much to learn from Joseph!

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**Hymn 712** What Child Is This?

**SERMON: John 1:1-14**

**WHO?? TOOK UP OUR FLESH AT CHRISTMAS**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

*That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

**Hymn 707** On Christmas All Christians Sing!

Benediction

**Hymn 715** Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

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THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT CANDLE is the "Christ Candle." It marks the day of rejoicing! It reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World. He has come, bringing forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation for all people!

**CHRISTMAS**

Every year at Christmas, we hear about the same gift: *God sent forth His Son ...* Can you imagine opening a package every year for thirty years and finding a pair of socks, always the same kind and color? Even though they were expensive and warm, how easy it would be to yawn and say, "Yep, here are the socks again." You might quickly lay them aside and look for something that was a surprise, something a bit more spectacular. "God sent forth His Son" -- No surprise there.

So how can you enjoy Christmas with the same warmth of faith and love you had at the beginning? Well, think of those socks again. What if they were the only socks you received each year? What if your feet had been freezing for a month and a half now. Then you might enjoy the socks more,

might not be able to get them on fast enough! And knowing that the pair of socks was coming, you would not shop for other socks—least of all worthless socks! The fact is, that when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, His One and Only Son---to give His life in place of ours.

Let us put on Christ swiftly! When only cold death awaits without Him, can we yawn and lay Him aside like an old garment? Or go out and “shop” for some good intentions or victorious living over faults, pains, and sufferings to give us “standing” before God? The blood of Jesus alone cleanses us from all sin. What a gift! There is nothing we need more! There is nothing more surely given to us. May all of our Christmas celebrations point to this gift, and so increase our appreciation of Him!

--- *from CLC Daily Devotions, 12/15/17*

THANK YOU: “We thank you for your Christmas gifts. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity are heartwarming and appreciated!”

--- *Pastor & Judy K.*

VIDEO-RECORDINGS: St. Luke's has begun taping worship services. Services may be viewed at *St. Luke's Lutheran facebook page*. It may take a few weeks for us to get the recordings to the desired level. We thank Phil Larson for leading this project!

NEW YEAR 2021: By God's grace, we will enter another calendar year on Friday, January 1. The same Lord who has been with us in His Son our Savior each day of 2020—and has forgiven us, blessed us, guided us, and carried us—will continue to be with us in 2021. Hold tightly to Jesus in faith!

VOTERS MEETING: The 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Oct.-Dec.) voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, after Service. This January meeting is also the annual meeting for the year.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

01/03 New Year's Sunday

10:30 Worship with COMMUNION 9:30 B.Class & S.Sch.

01/10 Epiphany Sunday

10:30 Worship 9:30 B.Class & S.Sch.

01/17 Sun. 10:30 Worship with COMMUNION 9:30 B.Class & S.Sch.

CHURCH CLEANING: January—Myrna Erhardt. We thank all cleaners for their dedication and faithfulness to the Lord!

#### CALL NEWS:

**Teacher Paul Tiefel III**, Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call from Messiah, Hales Corners, WI. to serve as principal and upper grade teacher

**Teacher Neil Bernthal**, Winter Haven, FL, has been called by Faith, Markesan, WI, to serve as principal and upper grade teacher.

**Teacher Joshua Ohlmann**, Sleepy Eye, MN has been called by Holy Trinity, West Columbia, SC to serve as principal and upper grade teacher.

**ABORTION'S INSIDIOUS NATURE:** After reviewing one of his own bulletin articles from forty years ago, retired CLC Pastor Paul Fleischer writes, "Approaching another anniversary of the Roe V. Wade court decision legalizing abortion, January 22, 1973—which is now so long ago that even our Christian consciences get calloused to it—who can be surprised at our current *declining domestic and foreign position in this nation*. Dr. John Warwick Montgomery maintained that very thing in an article forty years ago. Following is an abridged commentary which I wrote back then regarding Montgomery's article."

---Pastor Paul Fleischer

*Dr. John Warwick Montgomery wrote on the subject of abortion in the current [1980's] issue of Christianity Today magazine. He points out that abortion might well be one of those sins which "are such an affront to the divine majesty that they are very likely also to trigger imminent judgment in the course of human history itself." As examples he says, "In the Old Testament, for example, we read that Uzzah was struck down on the spot for touching the ark of the covenant (2 Sam. 6:6-7). Also the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira for attempting to deceive in spiritual things (Acts 5) is not a dissimilar incident in the New Testament."*

*Montgomery does not wish to categorize sins, but "at the same time," he says, "it would appear that there are some acts that by their very nature kindle the divine wrath and are likely to lead to immediate retribution." Among such sins he gives the perversion of the marriage estate and the destruction of God's chosen people, and thirdly, abortion.*

*He writes: "Since Scripture teaches that the child's life begins at the moment of conception (Ps. 51:5) and that he is a genuine person no less while in the womb than after birth (Luke 1:41, 44), early Christians likewise protected prenatal life and regarded abortion as homicide...." He speaks of the high regard that Jesus has for little children when He says, "for of such is the kingdom of God," and he adds, "Destruction by the horror of being thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck is associated with godless Babylon in Revelation 18:21 and specifically with those who do harm to little children in Matthew 18:1-6..."*

*This is Montgomery's serious conclusion: "The time has come for American Christians to bring this eschatological (end-time) perspective to bear on our society. If God did not tolerate the Nazi extermination of six million Jews, what makes us think that He will continue to ignore our daily mounting toll of infanticides? I am not a prophet [Montgomery], nor the son of a prophet, but I see as less than accidental our simultaneous slaughter of the innocents and declining domestic and foreign position. In baldest terms, the life we can save by a right-to-life amendment to our federal Constitution may well be our own."*