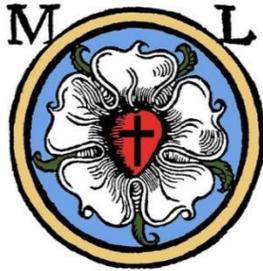


Cross of Christ

Crossties

December 2017



Our Mission Statement

To know Jesus Christ as Lord and make Him known.

Our Vision Statement

We are committed to reaching out to the local community and supporting world-wide ministries, as we embrace and nurture current and new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.

Statement of Faith

Cross of Christ is a congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We accept and teach the inspired word of God from the Bible.



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
3204 Hixson Pike
Chattanooga, TN 37415
✠ Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

Email: church@cocluth.com

Office: 423-877-7447

Info. Line: 423-648-0995

FAX: 423-870-2990

www.cocluth.com

Administrative Specialist – Lorilynn Baier

The Advent of Our King

The Advent Season is a time of anticipation and preparation. We anticipate the coming celebration of our Savior's birth in Bethlehem; we also prepare ourselves in body, mind and spirit for His Second Coming.

In contrast, the world and our own sinful nature would rather have us spend the holiday season in nothing but partying and decorating for social gatherings. Television commercials and all kinds of ads encourage the purchase of particular gifts from the latest "must-have" items and things "for the person who has everything". Santa and his helpers are busy holding children and taking photos, and generally turning heads and hearts to earthly concerns.

True Christian preparation is then short-circuited by the desire to be prepared with all the gifts and goodies necessary for all the holiday activities, as we scurry through the days preceding December 25, until all that we're anticipating is being finished with everything for another year.

What we as Christians need in all this hustle and bustle is to stop for a moment and consider what Advent is really about. As you will see this weekend, the altar paraments are not white or red or green as are most Christmas decorations. Instead they are royal blue – a sign of the special nature of our preparations for the King of Kings. This is a time to reflect on our lives and determine whether our priorities are consistent with His principles of the Kingdom. Will these coming days be filled with the oil of faith so that our lives will continue to burn brightly as lights in our world? Will this time of preparation enable us to be truly ready for our Lord's Return?

Don't allow your prep-time to be misdirected or cut short by this season's busy pace. Don't miss out on the joyful anticipation of Jesus' coming into our world. May we use the time God is giving us to get our lives in order, as each day moves us that much closer to our Savior's Second Coming. As we join for worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, as we make use of our Advent devotions, and as we follow family Advent traditions, may each of us focus on the true meaning of this holy season: First -- Christ's Birth...the promise fulfilled, and Second -- His Return...the promise yet to come. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would richly bless all that we do in these coming days!

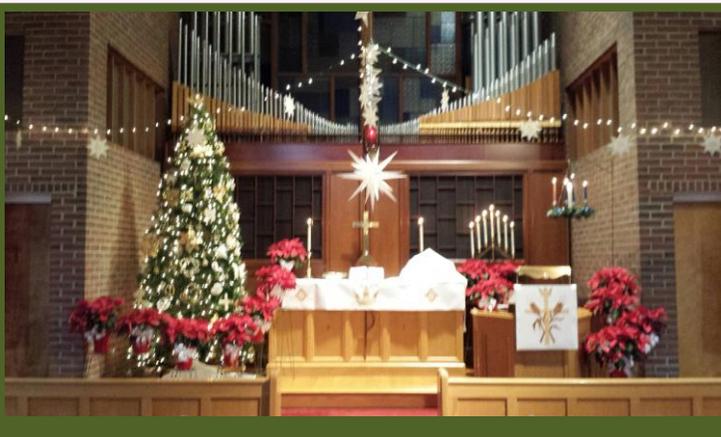
~~ Pastor Hildebrandt

Cross of Christ

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Decorating the Church and Property will be next Friday, **December 8th** at 7:00 p.m. Bring a snack and something to drink, as we will have some fellowship time in the Library, after the Tree Trimming. We look forward to seeing you there!



Together in Advent 2018

We celebrate together as the family of God the coming of his Son for our salvation. *"Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise"* (Psalm 106:47).

Join us at our Advent services as we focus on a different activity to put on our "to-do-list", one that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism.



NOVEMBER and DECEMBER

We will celebrate our November and December honorees at the December 9th Ladies' Christmas Brunch at 10:00 in our Fellowship Hall. (See more details about this annual event elsewhere in this newsletter.) Those having a November birthday are Donna Flippin (11-27) and Sue Willard (11-28). December birthdays are Bonnie Woodward (12-3), Joni Rennhack (12-9), Esther Hunt and Stephany Kegy (both on 12-19), Mary Alspaugh (12-25), and Margie Lee and Nikki Holcomb (both on 12-29).

Ladies... thank you so much for stepping up and volunteering to take over the planning of the birthday gatherings in 2017. I hope you had as much fun planning the event, as we did enjoying the meal and venue. We had some great locations this year and Chattanooga is always growing with places to dine, so we are excited to see where we go next. In January, I will have a sign-up sheet available for our 2018 gatherings... grab a friend or two, pick a date, put your heads together, and plan a gathering. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call me at the church office (877-7447) or you can always reach me on my cell...902-7699. Thank you in advance.

~~ Lorilynn Baier



Thank you to all those who helped pack snack packs in November and December. Your help was greatly appreciated!! (And you made many children very happy to have food in their tummy!)

Cross of Christ

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FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA!



Christmas Carolers Wanted! Dig out your warm clothes (you get to decide if it's your summer warm or winter warm with our ever-changing weather), warm up your voices, and bring on those cheerful smiles! Join us on **Friday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 PM** to make this Joyous Season a little brighter for some of our COC shut-in's! Being a choir member is not a prerequisite. **Just bring your love of singing carols!** No sign-up is required...just show up and we will provide the music sheets, you provide the melody, and those in the choir will provide four-part harmony. We will meet and warm up our voices in the church Fellowship Hall at 4:30 p.m. and head out at 5:00 p.m. to a few homes (via carpooling), ending up at the church for Christmas goodies/treats. Everyone is asked to bring a Christmas goodie/treat to share, but don't let that hold you back from coming!! Please call Judy Zehnder (875-3529) if you have any questions. *(Please note that the date has been changed from Saturday, as earlier announced, to Friday, December 15th.)*

THE LUTHER MILE...

Tour the cradle of the Lutheran Reformation with LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. In "The Luther Mile", President Harrison narrates a tour of historic Reformation sites. Along with historical facts, Harrison provides informative anecdotes during this tour of Lutherstadt, Wittenberg, Germany.

You can view this tour at:

<https://lutheranreformation.org/media-videos-podcasts/the-luther-mile/>



QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING, December 3rd

Our last and most important voters' meeting of the year will be held today, after Sunday School and Bible Class (stay and join us for that hour as Pastor shares more about Martin Luther). Prior to the meeting, which will start around 12:30ish, we will have a Fellowship Lunch starting at 11:45 a.m. (Ham will be provided, and we are asking everyone to bring a side dish of some sort to share.) This is an important meeting, as the 2018 budget will be discussed and voted upon. Please plan to attend the meeting, as your input is vital to the future of our church.



Cross of Christ

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IS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE LIFE IN YOUR FUTURE or THE FUTURE OF SOMEONE YOU KNOW... Do you have a loved one soon to graduate from high school, but doesn't fit into a typical college setting? Is someone you know not happy with conventional college and looking for more? Have you yourself decided to find a new second career? Do you want to stay connected with your faith during a college experience? In any of the above scenarios, does a Christian college which offers secular and religious degrees appeal to you? With over 600 Christian colleges in the country, it can be difficult for students to narrow down their decision.

We have received information in regards to the Best "Online" Christian Colleges and a link to their 2017 Guide to "[Choosing a Christian Online College](http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-christian-colleges/)" at the following website: <http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-christian-colleges/> In addition to connecting students with the top accredited Christian colleges, this guide provides actionable resources students can use to find the right college that fits their educational & spiritual needs. It also connects individuals with collegiate resources that help prospective students make informed decisions regarding their academic futures and keeping individuals engaged in their faith throughout life.

In the 2017 guide, we noticed that there were 3 Concordia colleges ranked in the top 25 Christian College On-Line Programs. Noted below is a short out-take from the website. Please check out the above website for more info.

Ranked #6 - Concordia University - Saint Paul (LCMS) ...private liberal arts college rooted in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod tradition; Concordia-St. Paul serves around 4,000 students of many faiths and backgrounds; one of the most affordable online Christian colleges in Minnesota, and online students incur no application fees; active duty military students receive significant tuition discounts; 92% of graduates find jobs in their field of study...

Ranked #20 - Concordia University - Wisconsin ...also operates programs in partnership with Concordia Ann Arbor Lutheran liberal arts education for more than 125 years; associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, with many in healthcare and human services; also available occupational therapy, family nurse practitioner, healthcare management, education, theology, and business; at the graduate level, MBA programs feature specialized concentration options in accounting, environmental studies, nonprofit management, and sport and entertainment business; students with an associate degree and currently employed in the healthcare field can get a bachelor's degree in nursing, diagnostic medical sonography, and radiologic technology...

Ranked #22 Concordia University - Chicago ...private Lutheran college with an annual enrollment of around 5,200 students; *Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked the school as one of the fastest-growing master's degree institutions; 40% of graduate students opt for an online degree; an array of programs from undergraduate to doctoral level can be completed fully online...

Or do you feel the desire be to attend a traditional, feet-on-the ground, Christian college? The Concordia University System (CUS) is comprised of 10 colleges and universities affiliated with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Located across the United States, the colleges and universities offer more than 160 undergraduate and 50 graduate programs. Their website is <http://www.cus.edu/>

While each institution is unique, all 10 campuses approach learning from a Lutheran context. The common goal is to develop Christian leaders for the church, community and world.

Recently a supporter of Lutheran higher education commented, "The Concordia University System is one of the most powerful and far-reaching tools the Lord of the Church has given The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to take the Good News of life in Jesus Christ to a world desperately in need of hearing and believing in Him, through professional church workers and those trained for other service in our communities."

Cross of Christ

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*You May Have Wondered...
What does this logo represent?*



This logo takes many elements from Luther's seal, which is the most easily recognized symbol for Lutheranism. It was common in Luther's day for people to create a seal or coat of arms for their families, and that seal told the world what the family cared about or did for a living. It's no surprise, then, that Luther's seal was all about Jesus!

At the center of Luther's seal, and at the center of the Reformation 2017 logo, is a red heart in the middle of a white rose. (The heart and rose together are commonly referred to as Luther's rose.) As Luther explained in one of his writings, "The heart in the middle of white rose shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. It immediately sets [the believer] into the midst of a white, joyful rose, not like the peace and joy the world offers. That is why the rose should be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and all angels."

At the center of that rose is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Jesus is the center and Rock of our faith. He has been since He came to Earth in the flesh, and He still is today. The word "still" bears witness to the ever and ongoing relevance of this one, saving truth for sinners.



Hygiene Kits for the Homeless: Thank you so much for your donations of items for Hygiene Kits for the Homeless! We will pack these kits (to be distributed by the Chattanooga Community Kitchen) on **Friday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m.** in the church Library.

We will continue to take donations of hygiene kit items (travel size shampoo, lotion, conditioner, soap, toothpaste; and disposable razors, purse size Kleenex, tooth brushes, wide tooth combs or hair picks, nail clippers, and individually wrapped handi-wipes), as this is an on-going need. (This is also an on-going LWML project, so if you are traveling during the holiday season, please remember to pick up lotions, soaps, etc... from your hotel room and drop them in the box outside the church office. Along the same line, if you are visiting your dentist for your last year-end checkup, ask if they would be willing to donate toothpaste or toothbrushes to our project, as we have had some dentists give us these items.)

Please let Joni know at joni.lee.rennhack@gmail.com or call her at 423-521-8839 if you can come help pack the kits, so we get an idea of how many to expect. It should not take more than an hour or so if we have several helpers. (We will pack the kits upstairs in the library due to Joni's knee injury making it difficult for her to go downstairs, so we will need some help bringing the supplies up from the basement.) Maybe we can go out to lunch afterwards if that works out. Thanks again for your support of this mission work to help the homeless here in Chattanooga!!
~~ Joni Rennhack



Thank you Cross of Christ members! I am so amazed at the generosity of our congregation. You have all been wonderful in the giving of clothes, shoes, coats, blankets, etc... even clean, used socks and underwear. The homeless are not worried about what the clothes look like, just that they are clean and warm. Last year's fashion to you, is this year's way to keep warm to them. We have had an unusually warm fall, but the cold weather is rapidly approaching. Call me if you ever have any questions about our homeless population and how you can help. Please continue to leave items by the church office. Again, thank you. God bless. -- Arlene Vickers

Cross of Christ

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Belvoir Christian Academy

BCA Dates to Remember for December

Dec. 4-8 - Candy Cane Shop is open

Dec. 11 - Pajama Day for students who donate two or more items for the Northside Neighborhood House collection

Dec. 12 - Toys due for Northside Neighborhood House collection

Dec. 14 - 7 p.m. Annual Christmas Program

Dec. 20 - 11 a.m. Dismissal for Christmas Holidays (Childcare closed only Dec. 25 & 26 and Jan. 1 & 2, school resumes Jan. 8)

Giving Tuesday is all month long at BCA!

Be sure to remember BCA's Annual Fund in your year-end giving this month! Each gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and our school! Easily give online through BCALIONS.org or send your tax-deductible gift to Belvoir Christian Academy Development, [800 Belvoir Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37412](http://800BelvoirAve.com).

From the President of our Congregation...

Hurricane Volunteers Still Needed

At a recent Mid-South District Board meeting I attended, it was announced that relief efforts set up by the Texas District of LCMS are still in need of assistance. There are many victims of the disastrous hurricanes and the resulting flooding that are still not in their homes due to property damage. If you or someone you know might be interesting in helping those less fortunate, the following relief site on the Texas District web site is a place you can go for all the appropriate information. The site is <http://txlcms.org/congregations/disaster-relief/> I understand there is a person by the name of Julie Tucker that is coordinating the program and she can be reached at her email address: juliet@concordia-satx.com

If you would like to call directly to area Lutheran Churches in the Houston area that are sponsoring volunteer efforts the following are specific contacts:

Trinity Klein Lutheran - Spring, TX (ph. [281-376-5773](tel:281-376-5773))
Salem Lutheran - Tomball, TX (ph. [281-351-8223](tel:281-351-8223))

Thank you for your consideration. Larry Zehnder

In the latest *Lutheran Witness Magazine*...trends, data and individual "snapshot" stories that, taken together, offer a detailed look at the state of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in 2017. What exactly *is* the state of our Synod? As the Rev. Heath Curtis points out, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod hasn't seen a year-to-year gain in member congregations since 2001. Numbers from the Association of Religion Data Archives are even more alarming: By their count (measuring individuals rather than congregations), the LCMS hasn't experienced a growth year since 1997. The hard task set before *The Lutheran Witness* this November is this: to tell the truth about the state of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 2017 by presenting data from this past year and, where possible, the past 20 years.

When we turn our gaze away from big data trends, however, and examine individual Lutherans and their congregations, the picture begins to look very different. In these stories, we don't find cause for despair. We see instead "love and faith and service and patient endurance" (REV. 2:19) as God's people hold fast to Christ crucified in the face of every adversity. No matter what storms may assail us - be they hurricanes or legal battles or long-term demographic slides - we will continue to weather them, joyfully, together. *You can review this month's Lutheran Witness on the back table. We only have a couple of copies that we keep in-house, but if you would like a copy of something, please call the church office and we will make a copy and mail it to you.*

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Calling All (acoustical) Guitarists at Cross of Christ

Recall last year at the Christmas Eve Service... the lights were dimmed, you walked up to the front of the church with your fellow guitarists as individual candles were being lit down each pew. Once all were in place, you all strummed together the intro chords for "Silent Night", and the congregation sang the three verses of the carol accompanied only by your playing. Please help make this beautiful worship moment happen again this Christmas Eve, by sharing your musical gifts with our congregation.

Contact Judy Zehnder for details at [423-875-3529](tel:423-875-3529).



THE ADVENT WREATH... is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World - he brought light and life to a dark world (John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

I just wanted to say thanks on behalf of the families living at the Family Housing and Learning Center at the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. The families were very grateful to receive the generous donations of food and paper products. Thanks for making Thanksgiving happier for these families.

--LaDonna Guffey

CHRISTMAS QUILTS ARE AVAILABLE - There are still beautiful Christmas designs to choose from (*plus, you asked, and we listened, we have added 'year-around' quilts to our display*). The cost is \$50 per quilt (cash or check... made out to LWML or Cross of Christ LWML). *The quilts are displayed on the quilting rack in the hallway.* Please give payment to Lanette Bagley, Eunice Timm, Jo Parham or Lorilynn Baier. (*The quilters are currently on break and will reconvene on January 9, 2018.*)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For the January newsletter, the deadline for submissions is **12:00 noon on December 27th**, please send items to newsletter@cocluth.com If you have any December or year-end articles, please turn them in by that date, along with any pictures. Please continue to submit photographs for the newsletter by e-mail, as these photos are greatly appreciated, especially for our homebound members! *Any information for the website should be forwarded to the church office (church@cocluth.com).* Thanks! ~~ Lorilynn Baier



7th Annual Ladies' Christmas Brunch is next Saturday! Our theme this year is '**Symbols of Christmas**'. Bring "your symbol of Christmas" to share with everyone, tell us the story behind it.

A free will offering will be collected for the Maclellan Shelter for Families, a homeless shelter for families, which is part of the Chattanooga Community Kitchen.

All ladies of the church and their guests are welcome to join us. Please invite a friend or family member to join you, as we kick-off the holiday season. Last day to sign-up for the Christmas Brunch is **December 8th at noon**, both for what you are bringing and who is attending, as there will be a small gift for everyone and we want to have plenty of seats and gifts for everyone.

Thrivent Financial is helping support this project for 2017. Questions or concerns, please contact Donna Flippin (423-521-8861) or email her at flippin95@hotmail.com

Cross of Christ

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The great date debate

In *Lessons of Christmas* (Xulon Press), Daniel Armah notes that ancient scholars expressed more than 130 opinions about Jesus' actual birthdate, covering every month of the year. "Even with a debatable date," he concludes, "the blessing of Christmas is obvious."

Likewise, our Christmas celebrations aren't diminished by the possible timing of Jesus' birthday with secular festivals. "If December 25th was chosen to rival other pagan worship activities ... for want of a real date," Armah writes, "then that decision has been successful. Indeed those ancient pagan festivals have all been swallowed up, and Christianity has been growing since."

CHURCH NOTICES

- **GREETERS** - We are signing up Greeters for 2018. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are willing to be a greet at our Saturday evening or Sunday morning service. You are the first face that a visitor or a member sees when they come in and we want to continue to make everyone welcome to Cross of Christ, both visitors and our members. Currently we are signing up to greet January thru June. We are also looking for a volunteer to assist with this ministry of the church. Please contact the church office if you can step in and lead this ministry or have any questions about being a greeter.
- **THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF "68" SHOEBOX GIFTS BEGAN RIGHT HERE AT CROSS OF CHRIST...WITH YOUR HELP!** Thank you to all who gave, helped pack boxes on Saturday, and helped to put the final touches on the shoeboxes and load them on Monday. Sylvia's SUV looked so colorful with '68' red and green boxes packed in the back.
- **DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL BACKGROUND?** We are searching for a few more counters to assist on two-people teams on Sunday after church. We would like to get a couple more teams, in order that everyone would only have to count once a month or every 5-6 weeks. Please contact Barbara Wyatt (875-8352) or the church office for further info.
- **KITCHEN ANGELS VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE** – Eunice will be compiling a new list for the upcoming 2018 year. Last year we had 12 volunteers which meant bringing in a fruit tray/bowl and one other item approximately one Sunday every three months. Esther Hunt willingly and skillfully organizes the remainder of the wonderful spread we share every Sunday morning. Please consider helping -and- if you have already talked to me, please remind me, because I didn't get everyone's name down. Please call me - [423-624-2588](tel:423-624-2588) or email me - 4betimm@epbf.com by Dec. 15. Thanks, Eunice Timm
- **WE ARE IN NEED READERS FOR 2018...** For The Old Testament Lesson and The Epistle Lesson Each Week (at each service)... *Can you read your cereal box? Did you pass the written part of your driver's test?* Then you are qualified to read the scripture readings. It's not hard and you're in a friendly audience. We also welcome our high school youth to sign up, (*maybe you can get speech credit!*). The 2018 sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You can read as many times a month or as many months as you want, we are very flexible. Currently we are signing up to read January thru June. (All readers will receive a copy of the scripture readings prior to that weekend's service for review and practice.) This year we are also putting together a sub list for both services, would you be willing to be on it? If you have any questions, please contact Lorilynn in the church office (877-7447).
- **THANKSGIVING BASKETS** – 15 families received Thanksgiving baskets this year. Thank you to all who gave to fill these baskets. We gave any extra items that were donated to the Chattanooga Food Bank.
- **THE FLOWER CHART for 2018 is up!** Jump in and pick your weekend or weekends to beautify the sanctuary. The cost is \$25.00 per bouquet. Sign-up is on the bulletin board. Thank you!
- **COMMITTEE CHAIRS...** please put together your **2018** calendars and schedules for Elders, Greeters, Kitchen Helpers, Readers, and Ushers. We are asking for the calendars/schedules to be turned into the church office no later than December 18th. (Thank you for Altar Guild and Organists for your 2018 schedules.)

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“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given...”~ Isaiah, 9:6

The perfect gift

Do you stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more a hassle than a joy? Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people, as if it were their birthday – or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus; it's his birthday, after all!

In *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon), Slaughter writes, “How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends – the people who seem to have everything – and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you – your time, your talent and your treasure – used in service to others.”

Our greatest need

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness and
acceptance,
so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown

The giver

Many Christian families struggle with what role – if any – Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, “The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.”

“The only blind person at
Christmastime is he who has not
Christmas in his heart.”

—Helen Keller

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Missionary Spotlight: Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

In Scripture, God is spoken of as a refuge. It seems only right then that His people should also be a safe haven. This was certainly the case for Amy Carmichael, who served as a missionary in India for 55 years.

Carmichael began serving the poor long before she left for India. As a young woman in Ireland, she ministered in the slums of Belfast. Her own family had fallen on hard times, yet she was constantly looking out also for the needs of others, especially factory girls.

In 1887, Carmichael heard Hudson Taylor speak and felt called to the mission field. She applied to the China Inland Mission, but was rejected due to health concerns. Undeterred, she applied to the Church Missionary Society and was sent to Japan, but had to return soon after because of her health. After her recovery, Carmichael set off for India in 1895 with the Zenana Missionary Society.

Carmichael joined the work of a missionary couple serving the people of South India. In particular, she ministered to girls and women, as she had back in Ireland, though here in Dohnavur she provided spiritual and physical rescue. Families in this area often sold their daughters to the Hindu temples to serve as temple prostitutes. Into this society dropped Carmichael with news of a loving God. Escaping however they could, girls would come to Carmichael, begging to be rescued. She took them all in until her household numbered near 50.

Carmichael wrote prolifically throughout her life, including during her last 20 years when she was bedridden. When she died, her girls placed a birdbath on her grave with the simple inscription: *Amma*, which means mother in Tamil. Her mission, the Dohnavur Fellowship, continues to this day.

Further reflection: In what ways has God equipped you to be a refuge for those around you?

~Board of Evangelism

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Whatever Loans and Whatever Line Of Credit

Do you have a purchase in mind or an upcoming project and need some extra money? Whether you would like to consolidate existing debt, pay tuition, finance a wedding or even plan a family vacation, LutheranFCU offers convenient personal loans at very competitive rates! Think of this as your "whatever you need" financing option.

Whatever Loans...

A flexible way to borrow funds for almost any lending need
Lump Sum loan with fixed monthly payments
Competitive interest rates starting at 6.65% (APRs starting at 6.79%)*
Our online application takes only 10 minutes to complete with quick decision response times.

Whatever Line Of Credit...

Borrow only what you need, when you need it.
Access your available credit at any time by transferring funds from your Whatever Line of Credit loan directly to your LFCU Checking account for immediate use!
Competitive APRs starting at 6.65%**
Our online application takes *only 10 minutes to complete with quick decision response times.*

What Will I Need?

Contact the Lutheran Federal Credit Union for detailed info.

LutheranFCU. Good for you. Good for the church.

Serving the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Community

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Office: 314.394.2790 | Fax: 314.394.2799 | 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CT) M-F

operations@lutheranfcu.org | www.lutheranfcu.org

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Dear Readers, Just a quick note to let everyone know that **"Cross of Christ Reads!"** will be taking December off to pursue Christmas festivities. We will meet again on Thursday, January 18th, at Panera Bread Co. in Hixson at 6pm. Our book of the month is "The Light Between the Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. All members of the church are invited to participate. Please come and join in our discussion. Feel free to attend, even if you do not wish to eat out that evening. There is always room at our table for interested readers. Meanwhile, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ~~ Sylvia Hildebrandt



THE Angel Tree - Angels Still UnAdopted!

Whether you are currently an Angel Tree Partners or have been in the past, I want to start out by saying thank you for everything that you have done and are doing for our Angel Tree program! We are so grateful for our partners and everything that y'all do for us and the families that we work with.

This Christmas season has been a really good one for The Salvation Army and our families, and so far around 3500 angels have been adopted in the Chattanooga and Cleveland area! However, things have also been a little different with our senior adoptions this year. For reasons that we are still unsure of, we had **TRIPLE** the amount of senior angels register with our program this year. Many of them are either taking care of their grandkids or alone and living on fixed incomes. **I still have 100 senior angels that need to be adopted.** Would anyone consider adopting a few more senior angels to help us get them adopted and provide their Christmas this year? I'm willing to work with y'all on the deadlines, drop offs, and pickups for these 100 angels, so please let me know ASAP if this is something that you would be interested in doing.

Again, thank you so much for your participation in our Angel Tree program! We are truly grateful for all of our partners!

Alissa Best
Director of Volunteer Services & Special Events
Greater Chattanooga Area Command
822 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403
Office: [\(423\) 756-1023](tel:4237561023) Cell: [\(423\) 505-9747](tel:4235059747)



December Worship Ministry

Acolytes (Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service)

03 Zachary Land
10 Nathan Pugh
17 Zachary Land
24 Nathan Pugh
31 Zachary Land

Altar Guild

Rhonda Duncan, Bernice Lagoo, Monica Witherby

Elders

Saturday Evening Service:

Scott Brewster

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service:

Dave Hook and Carl Hunt

Greeters

Saturday Evening Service:

Eloise Bartlett

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service:

Don Burrow

Readers (Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service)

03 Tony Pessini
10 Holly Clemmons
17 Jo Parham
24 Larry Zehnder
31 Nikki Holcomb

Ushers

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Service:

Scott Brewster

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Service:

Ray Veldman, Tony Pessini, Zachary Land



Merry Christmas



2017 Christmas Schedule

DECEMBER 3 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 a.m.
 Lunch prior to Voters' Meeting 11:45 a.m.
 Voters' Meeting 12:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 6 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (LWML Host) 6:00 p.m.
 Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 8 (Friday)

Decorate the Church & Property 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 9 (Saturday)

Ladies Christmas Brunch 10:00 a.m.
(open to all ladies & their guests, please sign up)
 Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 10 (Sunday)

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

DECEMBER 13 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (Pastor's S.S. Class Host) 6:00 p.m.
 Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 15 (Friday)

Christmas Caroling 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 16 (Saturday)

Worship Service w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 17 (Sunday)

Morning Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

DECEMBER 20 (Wednesday)

Advent Meal (Council & Elders Host) 6:00 p.m.
 Advent Service 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 23 (Saturday)

Worship Service 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 24 (Sunday) (Christmas Eve Day)

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.
(Christmas Eve)
 Candlelight Service
 w/Holy Communion 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 25 (Monday) (Christmas Day)

NO Christmas Carol Service

DECEMBER 30 (Saturday)

Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 31 (Sunday) (New Year's Eve Day)

Morning Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School & Bible Class 10:15 a.m.
(New Year's Eve)
 New Year's Eve Service
 w/Holy Communion 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 1 (Monday) (New Year's Day)

NO New Year's Day Service

PLEASE NOTE:

The church office will be closed on the following days:

*Monday & Tuesday, December 25th and 26th
 Monday & Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd*

Cross of Christ

December 2017

October/November Happenings



Photos from Top Left to Bottom Right: **And away goes our 'VBS/Reformation Fortress' to the downtown Chattanooga Library for their children's section. Larry Zehnder also transported the Italian backdrop to the same location for use in their teen section. Thank you, Larry! **Our church on Reformation Eve. **Filling up Arlene Vickers vehicle with items for our Homeless Neighbors. **Pastor with the shoeboxes as they head out after the 'Packing Party'. ** BCA Pictures Submitted: A Visit from Trinity Hope Ministries – BCA Thanksgiving Feast – Bonfire Night at BCA **The crew loading the quilts in the LWR CARE van. *Thanks to Cara Welsh, Jamie Mofsky, Emily Patton, and Lorilynn Baier, for the photos in this newsletter.*

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11 am Linda Rodrigues Memorial Service 4 pm Worship w/HC
3 9 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am S.S./Bible Class 11:45 am Fellowship Lunch 12:30 Voter's Mtg. 2 pm Bell Choir (approx.)	4 10 am Pastor @ Nursing Home Bible Class 7 pm Boy Scouts	5	6 5 pm Jr. Confirmation 6 pm Advent Meal 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Choir (approx.)	7	8 2-4 pm Brunch Setup 7 pm Decorate the Church & Property	9 10 am Ladies Christmas Brunch 6 pm Worship
10 9 am Worship 10:15 am S.S./Bible Class 2 pm BCA Town Hall Mtg. 7 pm Bell Choir	11 10 am Pastor @ Nursing Home Bible Class 7 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Boy Scouts	12	13 5 pm Jr. Confirmation 6 pm Advent Meal 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Choir (approx.)	14	15 10 am Hygiene Kits Assembly 4:30 pm Meet for Christmas Caroling to Our Shut-in's	16 6 pm Worship w/HC
17 9 am Worship w/HC 10:15 am S.S./Bible Class 7 pm Bell Choir	18 10 am Pastor @ Nursing Home Bible Class 7 pm Boy Scouts	19	20 5 pm Jr. Confirmation 6 pm Advent Meal 7 pm Advent Service 8 pm Choir (approx.)	21 First Day of Winter	22	23 6 pm Worship
24 Christmas Eve 9 am Worship 10:15 am S.S./Bible Class 11:30 am Bell Choir 7:00 pm Candlelight Svc. w/HC	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED NO Christmas Day Svc.	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7 pm Choir	28	29	30 6 pm Worship
31 New Year's Eve 9 am Worship 10:15 am S.S./Bible Class 11:30 am Bell Choir 7 pm Worship Svc. w/HC	January 1, 2018 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	January 2, 2018 OFFICE CLOSED			*NO 'Bibles 'n Brews' in December *NO 'Cross of Christ Reads!' In December	