The season of Advent and a new church year begin on Sunday, December 1. Come, and together we will experience this beautiful blue season of yearning and hope as we await the coming of Christmas – our yearly midwinter celebration of God’s incarnate love among us. You are welcome to everything!

- **Sunday, December 1** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit and we begin to hear from the Gospel of Matthew, symbolized by a winged human.

After worship, an Intergenerational Advent Fair in the gym for everyone! Local artist Sandy Spieler will be with us, teaching us how to make Advent Stars and telling us about “We Come Bearing Peace,” an Advent processional walk being planned for Sunday, December 15, at Powderhorn Park at 4:00 p.m. The Advent Fair will include good food and other crafts, too!

- **Wednesday, December 4** – 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer. See page 5 for more details.

- **Sunday, December 8** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. A Forum with the Church Council — Q&A before the congregation meeting next Sunday.

- **Wednesday, December 11** – 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer. See page 5 for more details.

• **Sunday, December 15** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary – Approve the budget for 2020 and elect congregation leadership for next year.

• **Wednesday, December 18**– 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer. See page 5 for more details.

• **Sunday, December 22** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. Intergenerational Pickup Christmas Pageant at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary; take a part or join the audience!

• **Tuesday, December 24** – 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Welcome the Christ child with carols, candles, special choir and instrumental music, and the Holy Meal. During Christmastide, the Advent blue makes way for festive white and red, the great Christmas tree is lit, and Christ’s incarnation is celebrated in scripture, sermons, song and meal.

• **Wednesday, December 25** – 10:00 a.m. Celebrate the ChristMass with more special music and the assembly gathered around the table for communion.

• **Sunday, December 29** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship for the First Sunday of Christmas.

• **Sunday, January 5** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship for Epiphany. The Eastern Church celebrates January 6 as its principal feast of the Incarnation. We will celebrate it at Christ Church, too, remembering the story of the star that led the Magi to the Christ Child. Come back that afternoon at 4:00 p.m. for an Epiphany party with special treats, activities for children, a blessing of our church building, and a procession of stars and Magi!

• **Sunday, January 12**– 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship for the Baptism of our Lord. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. Forum.

**Check Out What’s Inside!**

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December & January Birthdays

12/2 Traci Boson
   Ina Ziegler
12/3 Isis Faulk
12/5 Clayton Jelinek
12/8 Jeremy Gustafson
12/14 Nate Perbix
12/15 Cheryl Leuning
   Rita Schoenike
12/21 James Bartsch
12/23 Elena Hilding
12/29 Cathy Sieving
   Gary Wahlstrom
12/30 Del Kneibel
1/2 Ray Peters
1/3 Nick Goddard
1/4 LeAnn Bergquist
   Marudas
1/6 Evelyn Wermager
1/10 Meyer Schoenike
   Christian Schoenike
1/11 Alana Young
1/12 Nora Katz
1/18 Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
   Pamela Krueger
1/20 Daniel Holmgren
1/21 John Christianson
1/26 Caleb Jenkins-Buegel

If you are not named above, and should be, or your birthdate is inaccurate, please call the church office 612.721.6611

Helping Hands for December and January

December (and November)
Bob Anderson & John Schmidt
Jason Bergquist
Sarah Brunsvold & Jeff Weispfenning
Ernie Calvvard
Sari Calvvard
Kristine & David Denton
Hilary Gebauer & Marc Katz
Barb & Ron Johnson
Jodi McGuire & Aaron Amosson
Marge Meffert
Kevin Olsen
Yi-ru Chen-Sarkin & Simo Sar-kanen
Clayton Jelinek
Bob Victorin-Vangerud

January/February
Dawn Dankers & Michelle Hovey
Donna & Pete Gawreluk
Nick Goddard
Liz & Roger Gomoll
Tim Hokkanen
Anna Mason & Kevin Kniebel
Robyn & Marcus Nooney
Claire Rosenkvist
Rita & Ken Schoenike
Susan & Levi Stugelmeyer
Cathy Sieving
Karen Woestehoff

B.A.S.I.C.
Brothers And Sisters In Christ
No meeting in December. Look for publicity on the January event in upcoming Sunday bulletins!
Lectionary Readings for December

**December 1**
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

**December 8**
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

**December 15**
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

**December 22**
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

**December 24**
Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14

**December 25**
Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4
John 1:1-14

**December 29**
First Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Lectionary Readings for January

**January 5** Epiphany of Our Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

**January 12** Baptism of Our Lord
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

**January 19**
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

**January 26**
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Joulu: A Magical Finnish Christmas
Saturday, December 14, 1:00 p.m.

The Finnish community invites you to a service of Christmas carols in the Christ Church sanctuary. Afterwards you are invited to the gym to purchase Finnish treats and shop the Tori (market) until 5:00 p.m. All are welcome!

From the Church Council
Update for December

Pastor Carlson provided our devotion by reflecting upon the Festival of Christ the King, a relatively new festival in the church, that originated after World War I -- the “war to end all wars.” We sang together “Lord Our God, with Praise We Come,” by Petter Dass. She reflected upon the barren Norwegian landscape where the hymn was produced and how our communities of faith inspire us despite apparent precariousness in our individual lives.

We discussed the pastoral transition and heard from the Executive Committee about potential transition pastor candidates. More information will be shared with the congregation as it becomes available, but we are on track to have a transition pastor to serve us in December.

The Council developed a draft church budget for 2020, which will be finalized in the first week of December. We agreed to hold the annual December congregation meeting on December 15 after worship. Council will host a forum after worship on December 8, where we will provide information to support the Congregation meeting’s agenda, which will include the 2020 budget and election of Council officers and members. As required by our Constitution, a letter will be mailed to all voting members to provide notice of the meeting.

We discussed and approved a final vision statement that will guide the Council and church leadership as we enter this transition period. The statement will also support the Call Committee’s work as they work to call our next lead pastor, and will be shared at the December 8 Council forum. We adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Stewardship Follow-up
(Stewardship committee — Clayton, Gerry, Matthew, Pastor Carlson)

The Stewardship Committee reminds us to prayerfully fill out and submit our 2020 pledges. So far, **72 pledges with 48% of households deciding to grow in their giving for 2020.** The congregation’s generosity is greatly appreciated and makes a difference every week in the ministry of Christ Church Lutheran. If you need information about this, call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.
Celebrating Pastor Kristine Carlson upon her retirement from ministry, with the children on October 25, the staff and leadership on November 8, and on Christ the King Sunday on November 24 with festival worship, followed by a banquet and program in the fellowship hall.

The children had a pizza party with Pastor Carlson to celebrate with her all by themselves.

Joanne Seltz cooked meatballs for the Sunday banquet.

Staff and leadership celebrated over dinner in the Luther Lounge.

The beautiful morning sun in the sanctuary. Welcome to the light!

Pastor Carlson and Bishop Ann Svennungsen.

“Holy Eucharist”

“Beloved child of God,” an important reminder to children of any age.

Flowers by new member Matthew Kunnari.

Pastor Carlson’s dog, Saga, who accompanies her on morning “prayer walks” for the Christ Church kids.

Banquet guests.

A Sermon on the Steps gift to the kids: “Beloved child of God,” an important reminder to children of any age.

Pastor Carlson’s dog, Saga, who accompanies her on morning “prayer walks” for the Christ Church kids.
Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, November 10, five new members were welcomed into the Christ Church congregation. They are (pictured here, left to right) David Moen, Matthew Kunnari, Drew Benson, Anna Murphy and Ian Thackray.

Stationery Group Update

The November meeting of the Stationery Group had a double celebration: We celebrated Lucille Buelow’s birthday with an ice cream cake, candles, and singing! We also honored Pastor Carlson before her retirement (even though she was providing pastoral care elsewhere) by including her framed photo in our gathering around the table.

Stationery Group enjoyed creating new designs for fall and Thanksgiving with our newest thread colors. We hope you got to see them before they sold out! Christmas cards are now available and we are already working on cards for 2020. Remember, our cards are available for purchase throughout the year. If the stationery table is not out on a Sunday, near the yellow classroom of the Education Building, you can still order cards! Contact any Stationery Group member or Stephanie Gustafson (612-724-6206 or email: stephsaddress@att.net).

Thrivent Choice Dollars have impact!

Thank you, Thrivent members for directing your Choice Dollars® to Christ Church Lutheran. To date, in 2019, Christ Church Lutheran has received $3,467 through the Thrivent Choice® program. To find out more, contact your Thrivent agent or click on this link: https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/

Christ Church Book Discussion

*Home* by Marilynne Robinson

January 18 - 10:00 a.m. in the Luther Lounge

The Christ Church Book Group announces its next book: *Home* by Marilynne Robinson. All are welcome to a time of discussion and conversation about the book, 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 18th, in the Luther Lounge. Hundreds of thousands of readers were entranced by the luminous voice of John Ames in *Gilead*, Marilynne Robinson’s Pulitzer Prize–winning novel. *Home* is an entirely independent novel that takes place concurrently in the same locale. It is a moving and healing book about families, family secrets, and the passing of the generations, about love and death and faith. Considered Robinson’s greatest work, *Home* is an unforgettable embodiment of the deepest and most universal emotions.

ELCA Good Gifts

Looking for unique gifts this season? Give ELCA Good Gifts!

These gifts represent your support of development and justice ministries made possible by the global work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

During the month of December, look for the ornament tree near the main entrance to Education Building. Choose an ornament, make a gift to ELCA Good Gifts (online or with a check made out to Christ Church Lutheran—“Good Gifts” in the memo line) and then give the ornament as a sign of your gift.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Haaland.

Fall Cleanup Party, Saturday, October 26

Volunteers swept and polished pews, washed windows, drained and stored the fountain, raked leaves, mowed, and many other tasks to spruce up the church. Participants were Darrell Anderson, Pastor Haaland, Mark Jensen, Bethany Schowengert, Chuck Merrill, Gary Wahlstrom, Martin Seltz, Dave Kutzbach, and Matthew Courtney. Other volunteers have helped throughout the fall, including Gary Skrivseth, Ken and Rita Schoenike, Mary Bode, Joanne Seltz, and many others...

Thank you for making the church property look terrific!
Cookies! Come and bake!

Do you love baking Christmas cookies?

Would you like the experience of fellowship and baking with the cooks of our church?

We have an opportunity for you!

Cooking, baking volunteers and cookie eaters needed for a fundraiser for South Metro Meals on Wheels.

The Christ Church Baking Group is planning their annual Christmas Cookie Box Sale and will be baking Christmas cookies in the kitchen during November/early December (see dates below). If you would prefer, you can bake and donate a batch or two of cookies to help fill the boxes (we can supply a recipe and/or ingredients), or make one of your favorites.

Are you more of a cookie eater than baker? We can use your help too. ORDER A $14.00 BOX OF COOKIES! If you have a red container from last year – please return it and we will reuse (leave it on one of the treat tables in the Education Building). If you are not an eater or a baker, cookie boxes make great gifts!

To order your box of cookies, look for the sign-up sheet in the education building starting December 1. Boxes can be picked up on Sundays, December 8 & 15.

2019 Christ Church Lutheran Christmas Cookie Baking Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 11/30</td>
<td>10:00-3:00</td>
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<td>Saturday 12/7</td>
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<td>Monday, 12/9 Bake at home (ingredients can be picked up at church in advance)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12/10</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12/11</td>
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<td>Baking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/12</td>
<td>10:00-3:00</td>
<td>Pack Christmas cookie boxes</td>
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Come when you can, and stay as long as you want. For scheduling, it would be great if you would call or talk to Rita (651.681.9975) or Marilu (612.978.4566) when you will be able to help.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Partnering and Sponsoring us in this project through their Thrivent “Action Teams LiveGenerously program.

O Come, Emmanuel: Advent Midweek Worship at Christ Church

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 at 7:00 p.m., followed by treats in the narthex

O Come, Emmanuel: Advent midweek worship at Christ Church Lutheran — Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18, at 7:00 p.m., followed by treats in the narthex

Come to three Wednesday evenings of worship this Advent.

We will gather with candles at the front of the sanctuary to sing the service of Evening Prayer and to hear reflections on our Advent theme — “O Come, Emmanuel.”

After worship, stay for hot cider, cookies, and fellowship in the narthex before heading out into the wintry night.

Our theme this year comes from an the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257), which is based on the ancient “O Antiphons.” These are short prayers intended to surround the singing of the Magnificat (Mary’s Song) at evening prayer the seven days before Christmas. They take enigmatic images and words from the Hebrew Scriptures and let them sing with yearning for the coming Christ.

O Wisdom… (December 17)
O Lord of might (O Adonai)… (December 18)
O Branch of Jesse… (December 19)
O Key of David… (December 20)
O Dayspring… (December 21)
O King of nations… (December 22)
O Emmanuel… (December 23)

Along with Evening Prayer, we will sing these Antiphons over the course of these three Advent midweek worship services, and preachers will connect these ancient prayers to our yearnings and hopes for today.

Come for these Wednesday evening Advent times together, a rich, contemplative respite from the busyness of these weeks.

The Christ Church choir is growing! Here they are, rehearsing for Advent. If you love to sing and can read a bit of music, you are invited to join in the song!
Jesus said, “Let the children come!”
At Christ Church Lutheran, we welcome children and their families to the font, to the table, and to worship.

Come One, Come All!
On Sunday, December 22, we are having our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant, and we are in need of actors of all ages and all abilities! Immediately after church that morning, we will meet in the sanctuary to pass out scripts, put on costumes, and get a rundown of how the whole thing will work. It will be a lot of fun for very little commitment!
If standing up in front of people isn’t quite your thing, please join us back in the sanctuary at 11:15 am to watch the Christmas pageant, as we mark the transition from Advent to Christmas. Come join us for this special event!

Advent Traditions from around the world
Advent is here! Advent is the time during the church year that we wait for Jesus to be born in a manger in Bethlehem. How do you and your family celebrate Advent? Here are a few Advent traditions and observances from around the world that your family might be interested in trying out:

- **December 6 is St. Nicholas Day.** One way that this day is celebrated is by putting a boot or a shoe out before bed on December 5 and waking up on December 6 to find that it is filled with candies and treats!

- **Sankta Lucia Day,** also known as Saint Lucy’s Day, is a holiday celebrated in Scandinavian countries on December 13. Communities ask someone to dress up as St. Lucy to process around town followed by people singing songs. This day is also celebrated with special treats and breads (like lussekatter—or saffron bread).

- **Las Posadas** is a multi-day event, starting on December 16 and ending on Christmas Eve, December 24. Las posadas means “the inns” in Spanish, and this celebration remembers when Mary and Joseph couldn’t find a place for them in an inn in Bethlehem. Las Posadas is observed by having two people dress up like Mary and Joseph and traveling to an “inn” (the house of a friend or family member). At the “inn,” a piñata with candy or fruit is broken and a feast is shared.

- Many people around the world observe Advent by lighting an **Advent Wreath.** Even if you don’t have a special Advent wreath, you can make your own by putting out four pillar or taper candles. One candle is lit—with the help of an adult!—at the start of each week, so all four candles are lit by Christmas.

Baptism Birthdays
*Isis was baptized in the month of December, and Matias and Viivi were baptized in the month of January. Be sure to wish them all a happy baptism birthday!*
### DECEMBER 2019

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<td>11:15 Advent Fair</td>
<td>7:00 Committee</td>
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<td>14:30 Forum</td>
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<td>11:15 Sunday School &amp; Pre-Confirmation</td>
<td>7:00 Council</td>
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<td>11:15 Cong. Mtg.</td>
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<td>11:15 Intergen1 Pickup</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
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<td>9:30 Eucharist</td>
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### JANUARY 2020

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<td>10:00 B.A.S.I.C.</td>
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### Holiday Food Drive for Roosevelt High

For the past 48 years, students, staff, and teachers at Roosevelt High School have organized “Operation Holiday Basket,” which provides a turkey and holiday food items for 400 families in the community. Over the years, they have brightened the holidays of over 12,000 families!

This year we’ve received an invitation to help them collect funds and non-perishable items for their holiday baskets. Please bring in any of the following items by Sunday, December 15 and place them in the barrel at the back of the church. Or, make out a check to Christ Church Lutheran (memo line: “Holiday Basket”) and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

**Non-perishable Desserts:** Cake mix, brownie mix, pudding (shelf-stable)  
**Canned Fruits and Vegetables:** Pineapple, peaches, pears, green beans, corn, peas, carrots

Thank you for your support of this wonderful tradition at Roosevelt High!