

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**



She exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

*Luke 1:42*

**WELCOME!** We extend a cordial welcome to everyone in the name of our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Visitors are always welcome in our midst and are asked to sign our guest book in the entrance to our church sanctuary.

**AS WE GATHER**—*“Blessed Is the Fruit of Mary’s Womb”*

In the Holy Gospel, Mary, already pregnant with Jesus, meets with her aunt Elizabeth. Elizabeth is pregnant with the one who will be called John the Baptist. Still in his mother’s womb, John recognizes Jesus at the voice of His mother. Jesus’ incarnation is so profound that it reaches even the unborn. Likewise, Jesus’ resurrection is so powerful that it reaches even the dead. All human creatures, no matter in what stage of humanity, are loved by this Jesus. And He is coming soon.

**Budget Update:**

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts:	\$ 19,404	\$ 225,433
Expenses:	\$ 22,170	\$ 226,216
Over/(under):	\$ ( 2,766)	\$ ( 783)
CLC Loan Balance:	\$ 10,600	
Operating Loan:	\$ 29,685	
Savings Borrowed:	\$ 11,480	
Total Debt:	\$ 51,765	

**ALERT:** Beginning in November, until further notice, all contributions given in the Special Offering and Building and Maintenance envelopes will be directed towards replenishing our Savings Account. We need to make that account whole so we can make payments for the pew cushions which are in process of being made. Please use these envelopes to help with this.

Treasurer: Jerry Kobiske

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**ORDER OF SERVICE:** *Divine Service, Setting 1, page 151*

**OPENING HYMN** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB 384)

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** page 151

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** (Please greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "*Peace be with you,*" as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.) [Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3]

**THE INTROIT, COLLECT OF THE DAY, GRADUAL, AND SCRIPTURE READINGS CAN ALL BE FOUND IN YOUR BULLETIN INSERT**  
**KYRIE** page 153

*During Advent the HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted...*

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY** page 156

**ALL:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

+ **FIRST READING**—*Micah 5:2–5* (The ruler of Israel shall come from Bethlehem.)

**GRADUAL** (*Read responsively*)

+ **EPISTLE LESSON**—*Hebrews 10:5–10* (“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”)

**ALLELUIA & VERSE** “*Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.*”

+ **HOLY GOSPEL**—*Luke 1:39–45* (Mary visits Elizabeth.)

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED** page 159

**CATECHISM** page 322–323  
Martin Luther’s Small Catechism— Second Article

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357)

**SERMON**—“The Lord Comes Through,” (Genesis 22.1–18)

Sermon Text: Genesis 22.1–18, <sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand

the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**OFFERINGS & OFFERTORY**

page 159-160

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Each petition of the prayers ends by the pastor saying: “Lord, in Your mercy” and the congregation responding: “Hear our prayer”*

**LORD’S PRAYER**

page 162

**CONCLUDING COLLECT**

page 166

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your presence we may be defended from the attacks of Satan; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

page 166

**CLOSING HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come”**

(LSB 332, vs. 1-

6)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!!!**

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**Attendance in Worship Last Sunday: 55**

**Officiant:** Rev. John M. Taggatz

**Organist:** Ila Robbert

**Elder:** Jerry Strey

**Ushers:**

**Altar Guild:** Karen Tesch

**Acolyte:** Ethan Marquette

**Church Information—**

**Pastor's E-mail:** [jtaggatz@yahoo.com](mailto:jtaggatz@yahoo.com)

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 715-467-1231

**Pastor Taggatz on Twitter:** @jtaggatz

**Pastor Taggatz's Blog:** [www.thewordendures.blogspot.com](http://www.thewordendures.blogspot.com)

**Church Body's Website:** [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

**Church Websites:** [www.clcms.org](http://www.clcms.org) (Calvary)

[www.christlutheranwestbloomfield.com](http://www.christlutheranwestbloomfield.com) (Christ)

**Julie Decker, MA, LPC—Clinical Christian Psychologist through Lutheran Counseling & Family Services at Calvary Waupaca—**For appointment call: (715) 524-4840 or (toll free) 888-867-4840 or online at [www.lcfswi.org](http://www.lcfswi.org).

**REMINDER! Pastor's Office Hours for Christ & Calvary**

**Monday (Christ) 9:30 am-1pm**

**Tuesday (Christ) 10:15 am-1pm**

**Wednesday (Calvary) 9:30am -1pm**

**Thursday (Calvary): 9am - 1pm**

**Friday (Pastor's Day Off)**

**Visitations: Monday through Thursday afternoons**

***For Appointments, Call Calvary or Christ Office or Pastor's Cell Phone.***

***For an Emergency, Call Pastor Taggatz: 715-467-1231.***

**Our Prayer List:** Judy Wurm (blood disorder) Roxanne Taggatz's Aunt; Andy Handrich (cancer); Tracey Vetrone; Samuel Cartwright; Sherry Blomberg; Bob & Bev Buchholtz; Darin Triplett (cancer) son-in-law of Elvis Behm; Dirk Niebaum (cancer) friend of the Taggatz family; Sam Ives, friend of Ms. Reindl (needing a liver and heart transplant); Ron Wurm (heart problems) oldest son of Pastor Bill Wurm; Bud & Judy Keller; Michael Felske (rehabilitation), father of CarrieAnn Rohm; Daryl (cancer) friend of Richie and Beth Robbins (school family); Todd Monroe (cancer) Rene Dorsett's brother; Judy (brain tumor) friend of Fred Monroe, Rene Dorsett's father; Connie Selle (cancer) Angie Lund's mother; Jim Robbert (healing), Verona Lipke (healing); Chris Schliepp (healing).

**In the Military:** Kaitlin Young, Fort Campbell, KY.

**Our Shut Ins:** Doris Buchholtz, Louis Hartzke, Mary Grambsch, Lisa Liepert, Stanley Behm, and Elvis Behm.

**We pray for those who mourn**—Give to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care, especially the family of Paul Roland, who was recently called home to heavenly rest, the brother of Rodney Roland—that casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Help them to know that because Jesus lives, they shall live also and have eternal life in His name. Amen.

**The 2019 offering envelopes are in the mailboxes. Please** make it a little easier for the financial committee by writing your name and the amount on your offering. This helps because it is a check of names and entering the data into reports. Thank you in advance for doing this.

**WDUX will play the Christmas Eve Service on AM 800 on Christmas Day at 12:30 PM.**

**THIS WEEK AT CHRIST**

<b><u>Sunday – December 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b> 8:30 AM Worship Service
<b><u>Monday – December 24<sup>th</sup></u></b> 5:00 PM Children’s Christmas Service
<b><u>Tuesday – December 25<sup>th</sup></u></b> 10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship
<b><u>Wednesday – December 26<sup>th</sup></u></b> No confirmation class
<b><u>Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Pastor on Vacation</b>
<b><u>Sunday –</u></b> 8:30 AM New Year’s Eve Worship Service

**LCMS Missionaries Visiting Christ & Calvary Lutheran Churches on Epiphany Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**—Pastor David & Rachel Baker and their family, LCMS Missionaries to Mongolia will be visiting Christ & Calvary Lutheran Churches on Epiphany Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Pastor Baker will be preaching a sermon on that Sunday morning at both churches, at Christ at 8:30am & Calvary at 10:30am, and after worship at Calvary Lutheran Waupaca at 11:30am, there will be a free-will offering collected for the Bakers, as well as a potluck meal with a presentation on the mission work that the Bakers are doing in Mongolia. Please join us as we learn about what the Lord is doing in building His Kingdom through the mission work of the Baker family! Calvary is located at: E1887 King Road Waupaca, WI.

**In the case of inclement weather please check with WDUX radio 92.7 FM to see if our congregations worship has been cancelled.**

**The Board of Stewardship wishes to thank Mr. & Mrs. Orville Behm** for the memorial gift of \$1000 in memory of their parents, Mr. Reinhold Nehring and Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Behm. This will go to the cushion fund.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:**

*We would like to thank all who donated the beautiful Christmas plants:*

**In memory of Eris Hartzke, Bob Hartzke & Norma Howard...** Given by Tom and Diane Hartzke

**In memory of Art, Linda, Roger and La Van Radichel.....** Given by Ann Radichel and family

**In memory of Ed Pflug.....** Given by Joanne Pflug and family

**In memory of Robert Brazil.....** Given by Marian Brazil and family

**In memory of Dennis Robbert.....** Given by John & JoAnn Robbert

**In memory of Ida Ebert.....** Given by Vera Frederick

**In memory of Mike Bruesewitz.....** Given by Joh & Joann Robbert, Matt Bruesewitz, Jeremy, Crystal, Brook, Rylei & Kolten Bruesewitz.

**In honor of Jesus' Birthday.....** Given by Myron and Lydia Wacker

**In memory of Mark & Tammy Highlander.....** Given by Delma and Joan Behm

**In memory of Laura Boelter .....** Given by Wally Boelter & family

**In memory of Werner & Clarice Kempf.....** Given by Bob & Rose Cartwright & family

**In memory of Cody Mitchell Loehrke.....** Given by David & Charlene Loehrke, Ryan & Stacey Marquette & family, Brad & Cassie Konen & family

**In memory of Carl & Bernice Boelter.....** Given by Tom & Susanne Utecht

**CHRISTMAS BAGS:** Donations of money or healthy treats are gratefully appreciated by the Board of Education for the Christmas Eve children's treat bags. We traditionally make up about 65 bags each year for the children in our congregation. Please drop off your donation or let Jennifer in the school office know what you would like to donate by December 15. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Jennifer's office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BIBLE STUDY?** Pastor John is leading Bible Study on Thursdays at Calvary Lutheran Waupaca at 10:00am. Come join us as we study God's Word together! We are currently studying, "Bringing Christ to the Neighbor," a Bible Study on Christian Evangelism.

**"The Challenges of Islam"** is the topic of the Adult Bible Study which is held at 9:45 AM on Sundays here at Christ Lutheran. This study is part of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible Study topics. Please join us!!!

**Children's Quiet Bags are available for your kids here at Christ and Calvary Lutheran Churches.** These bags are full of coloring books, Bible Story books, and various other items for your child to play with during the worship service. Please ask an usher and we will be sure to get you one before the worship service.

**CALLING ALL USHERS FOR CELC--**We are in need of ushers here at Christ Lutheran for this month of December 2018 into the new year of 2019. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to help out. If interested, please contact Bryan Brazil at: [920-867-3646](tel:920-867-3646).

**FLOWER COMMITTEE:** You will find a Flower Committee sign-up sheet. We are looking for one or two people to take care of flowers/plants for a month. The person(s) would be in responsible for Altar flowers and watering the green plants. If you are interested, please sign up or contact Susanne Utecht.

**SCRIP AT CELC—**SCRIP is being sold following the 8:30am service in the church basement. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR—"The King's Strength"** Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56 ) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

5:30am The Lutheran Hour, WTMJ (AM 620)

7:30am The Lutheran Hour, WJMQ (FM 92.3)

8:00 am The Lutheran Hour, WDUX (AM 800)

10:00 am The Lutheran Hour, WRVM (FM 102.7)

“Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus’ birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) (For those who have made an abortion decision, there is a [Word of Hope](http://www.word-of-hope.org), Lutherans For Life’s post-abortion healing ministry. Call 888.217.8679 or email [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org).)*

**The Congregation at Prayer Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**Catechism:** Lord's Prayer— Second Article

**Verse of the week:** John 1:14, "*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.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 96

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 382) "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth"

**Bible Stories for the Week:**

**Sunday**—"Make Straight the Way of the Lord"—John 1:19-28

**Are you celebrating a baptism, birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, or remembering a loved one who has gone to be with the Lord?** If so, you can donate flowers on the altar for that particular week you are celebrating a special occasion or remembering a loved one. Please call Susanne Utecht if you are interested in donating flowers at: (920) 867-4225.

**Stewardship Minute**— The Apostle Paul writes, "*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God*" (2 Corinthians 10:11). Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to extend God's kingdom and to help those in need both locally and in the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. "*Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift*" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**LIKE THE SHEPHERDS, WE KNEEL IN HUMBLE ADORATION OF THE NEW-BORN KING AND THEN GO TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS.**



"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:20).

**If there's a prayer request for Christ or Calvary please be sure to keep us updated as to how they are doing.** If someone is feeling better, we would certainly want to give a prayer of thanksgiving for their healing as well...

**Christ & Calvary Holiday Worship Schedule for 2018**

1. Monday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve:

-Christmas Eve Worship:

-Christ Lutheran Children's Christmas Service 5pm

-Calvary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm: "Stir Up the Power of Joy," Luke 2:1-20

2. Christmas Day Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> @ Christ West Bloomfield 10am: “Stir Up the Power of Promises Kept,” Matthew 1:18–25

**POINSETTIAS:** For all those who wish to donate Poinsettia plant(s) or Christmas flowers in memory or honor of - you can find the forms on the table in the Church's Narthex. We are also accepting monetary gift toward larger plants. You can leave the form in my (Susanne Utecht) church box, I'll be checking it often.

You may drop off your plants in the church basement. I appreciate if you could leave your name and form with the plant. This way I can get the correct information in the church bulletin. Looking forward to decorating the church with all the beautiful plants. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

If you have any question, please contact Susanne Utecht at 920-867-2554 or leave a message with Jennifer Hansen, our Secretary at 920-867-3263 or email her at: [celcschool@centurytel.net](mailto:celcschool@centurytel.net).