



LUTHER MEMORIAL

lutheran church

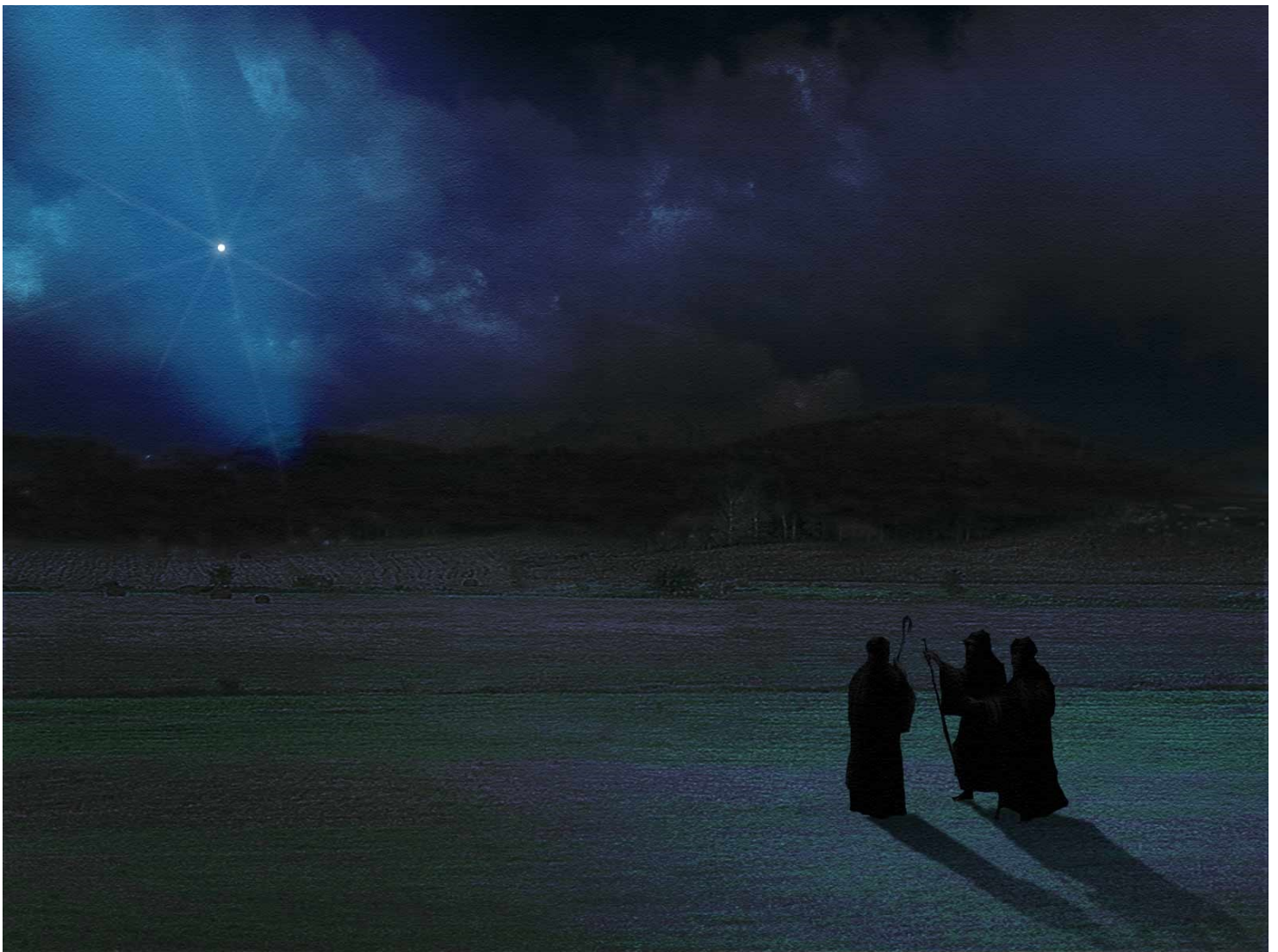
Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community



Messenger

December 2019

All are welcome at Luther Memorial.



THE LUTHER MEMORIAL *MESSENGER* is published by
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December 15 is the deadline for articles in the January issue.

PJ's Page

It hardly seems possible that it is the end of 2019. As a culture, we are looking at a new decade (the roaring twenties?) and as always, this season offers us a time for reflection on what has been and hope for what is yet to come.

In the Church, Advent begins on December 1st this year. The season of Advent includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This is the BEGINNING of the liturgical year in the Church, not the end of the year. Once again, as God's people, we find ourselves upside down against the rhythms of the world.

Many of you know that Advent is one of my favorite times in the Church year. This fresh beginning beckons us toward new visions. We hear stories of the most unlikely things happening in the most unlikely ways through the most unlikely people. John the Baptizer, the young Mary, an infant savior, shepherds in the fields, astrologers following a bright star to a stable. If God can set just such a stage, with just such people, imagine how God might use us as well.

It is my hope for each of you that you will find spaces and places for some reflection in your days. I know that you are busy with all of the things that this season brings. Perhaps, though, you can find a space in the course of your day for an Advent pause. I like to do this as dusk falls (so, around 4:00!) A cup of tea and some small sweet treat and maybe a candle and some reflection. If you don't have time for tea, perhaps an intentional walk or even just a pause.

Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for Jesus to come. For God to show up. For the world to change. For justice to reign. For angels to sing.

This Advent, we also invite you to Listen. Listen to what God is saying and to the ways grace is being spoken into life. Our gathering litany will be about listening as we light the candles and watch the light shine forth in the shadowed places.

As we wait, know that Bruce and I wish you and those you love the deep blessings of this sacred season. May your Advent be a time of reflection and may Christmas be full of joy.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Julie Hutson+

DEDICATION OF THE CHAPEL

On Sunday, December 8th, we will bless and dedicate the new chapel space at last. Join us during worship at 10:30 for this special time in the life of this community of faith!



Outreach Ministry



Welcome to our Year of Listening!

One of my favorite Bible passages is Psalm 46 as it depicts a God in whom we can trust. Psalm 46 poetically visualizes a God of justice who is with us even when the Earth changes and the mountains shake. This Psalm moves from scary scenes of war and earthquakes to reminding the readers to, “Be still and know that I am God!”. So, I invite us as the worshipping to community to be still and know. Be still and know that God is in this place. Be still and know that we are called to be the people of God together. Be still and know.

It is often in stillness that we can feel and notice God’s voice. That we become aware of the quiet things around us that are usually drowned out by busy-ness. Being still offers rest and rejuvenation. So, I invite you this coming year to be still and know that God is present. As a community we will engage together the theme of “A Year of Listening”. We will start this practice in Advent and examine what it means to listen. Who do we listen to? What are we listening for?

This year of listening will grant us the opportunity to be still and see where God is active in our personal lives and the life of Luther Memorial. After all the busy-ness and activity in this place it is important to re-group and re-center before our next mission opportunity is set before us and who knows maybe that mission opportunity will spring up in our listening! So, as we listen together throughout this year, I invite you to be still and know that God is with you.

Peace,

Laura Harris-Ferree

Join the new Community Inreach Team! This team will meet quarterly to plan events for the LMLC community. This team is not designed as a committee where you are required to serve for a certain term rather you are invited to join any time you would like. Keep your eyes peeled for our first meeting in January!

LMLC News and Events

HELP US DECORATE THE GIVING TREE

This year the Giving Tree in the narthex during Advent will provide two ways to support and care for our neighbors.

1. During the cold, wet winter months, our lunch guests are grateful for the chance to enjoy a warm meal while sitting inside out of the weather. This is especially important to those without homes. Gift cards to area fast food restaurants, in \$10 increments, will be handed out to them. You can gift those through the Giving Tree. Please make your checks out to Luther Memorial and include Giving Tree lunch in the notation. You can also donate through the web site.

2. Gift cards for shopping will be given to the Program Manager at Compass Broadview to distribute to families at the holidays. Please make your checks out to Luther Memorial and include Compass Broadview Giving Tree in the notation. You can also donate through the web site.

Ornaments to hang on the tree will indicate donations given. Help us decorate the Giving Tree and love and care for our neighbors in this Advent season.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



5:00pm and 9:00pm — December 24th

Carols, Story, Special Music, and a Brass Ensemble will make this an evening to remember as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

This is a wonderful time to invite friends, family, or neighbors to worship.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING - DATE MOVED IN DECEMBER

Please note that Prayers for Healing has been moved to December 22nd, in the Chapel, immediately following worship.



Help Deck the Halls This Christmas!

It happens every year, on or about January 10th. The caretaker removes the last of the leftover poinsettias from the sanctuary, their leaves (if there are any left) drooping toward the ground.

This year, we will decorate the sanctuary as usual, and if you'd like, you CAN take a poinsettia home! There will be additional seasonal décor as well.

As usual, your donation to our **seasonal beauty** can be offered in memory or honor of someone by filling out the form below, at the Welcome Center, or online, by the December 16th deadline.

All dedications will be listed in the bulletins on December 22, Christmas Eve, December 29th and in the January Messenger.

Seasonal Beauty

Your Name: _____

I wish to donate: _____

Please circle whether you wish to donate in memory or honor of

In memory/honor of: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

In memory/honor of: _____

Please circle payment form: Cash Check Online

Checks can be made payable to LMLC with *Seasonal Beauty* in the memo line, cash can be put in an envelope similarly marked.

Please place completed form along with check or cash in the offering plate on Sunday or turned in at the church office.

Deadline is December 16.

LMLC News and Events

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SETS

Bring your favorite nativity set to worship on the first Sunday in Advent, December 1st, for the Blessing of the Nativity Sets! We will display them AND bless them during worship!



PAGEANT SUNDAY: TOO MANY SHEPHERDS!

Mark your calendars for the annual Advent/Christmas pageant on December 15th, when we tackle the problem of TOO MANY SHEPHERDS! This delightful production will take place during our 10:30am worship service! Plan to stay after worship for Soup and Song (details below).



SOUP AND SONG

Plan now to stay for a bowl of warm soup and even warmer time with this community of faith at the annual Soup and Song event! We'll gather in Celebration Hall immediately following worship on December 15th for a soup lunch and the singing of Christmas carols!

LMLC News and Events



**Blessings this season
of Advent and
Christmas**

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Mark your calendars and invite a friend to these December events in this community of faith:

December 1: First Sunday in Advent

Blessing of the Nativity Sets

December 8: Second Sunday in Advent

Blessing & Dedication of Chapel

December 15: Advent/Christmas Pageant

Soup & Song Lunch

December 22: Prayers for Healing

in the Chapel, immediately following worship

December 24: Christmas Eve

Worship, 5pm and 9pm

December 29: Lessons and Carols for Christmas



SABBATH KEEPING

You may have noticed that Pastor Julie keeps a day of Sabbath every Monday. This is a day intended for deep and restorative time...for renewal, for rest, and for rejuvenation. If you send Pastor Julie an email, message, or text that day, it is likely you will not receive and should not expect an immediate response. If you have an emergency requiring pastoral care, you are encouraged to call the office during office hours (9am-2pm) who will know how to reach them or to call 206-948-5068 and leave a voicemail, which will be checked and returned promptly. Your clergy staff is appreciative of your care for these guidelines.

ELCA Prayer Ventures



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1 *First Sunday of Advent* Lift up prayers of thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, remembrance and celebration of Jesus Christ — God's awesome gift of love and redemption for all humanity.

2 Pause each day to reflect prayerfully on the symbols, traditions and practices — ancient and new — that we see and experience throughout Advent and Christmas. Give thanks for everything that centers our attention on the good news of Jesus Christ, deepens our faith as loved and redeemed children of God, and inspires and guides our baptismal journey.

3 Today has become known as Giving Tuesday, a day for encouraging generosity and charitable giving. Pray that the Spirit will always inspire us to be generous with our resources, money, gifts and time for the sake of our neighbors in need.

4 Pray that we awake each day, putting on Jesus Christ and shining as a light in the world, a brilliant light that shines with good news, love, justice, compassion and peace.

5 Remember in prayer Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) and the other hospitals in East Jerusalem. AVH is owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation and supported by several of its member churches, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pray that our government will restore funding vital to the safe and effective operation of the East Jerusalem hospitals as soon as possible so that patients — especially children, who are particularly at risk — will continue to receive the treatment and care they need.

6 Give thanks for the young people who have served or are currently serving as Young Adults in Global Mission, working alongside our global companions to share the gospel, grow the church, care for people in need and strengthen communities in the name of Christ. Pray that these young adults will inspire others to respond to God's call to ministry and service — locally and globally.

7 When you see an Advent wreath, reflect on the circle of evergreen branches and give thanks for the gift of eternal life we have in Jesus Christ — the promised Messiah, born for the sake of the world.

8 Pray for clarity and faith in the lifelong baptismal journey for which the Holy Spirit calls, renews and equips us — a journey for the sake of the world.

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

9 The "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent" is a public apology offered by our church in the context of the quadricentennial remembrance of slavery in this country. With faith in God's forgiveness and mercy, pray that we will be unconflicted in our repentance, committed to understanding injustice and racism, and bold and persistent in working to end racism and white supremacy wherever they exist, including in the church.

10 Give thanks that we are freed by our faith to serve our neighbor and affect change in our communities, nation and world — change that is grounded in the gospel and God's vision of justice, compassion, healing and peace for all people.

11 Pray that God's righteousness, justice, peace and compassion for the poor and oppressed will flourish in the world, and that we will be bold and persistent in doing God's work together.

12 Remember in prayer people, especially women and children, who live in refugee camps and immigration detention centers. Pray that they will soon return home or move to a community or country where they are welcome and safe, able to reunite with family and reestablish their lives. Give thanks for our church's and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's commitment to advocate and care for refugees and immigrants everywhere.

13 Remembering that we have been welcomed without hesitation into the body of Christ, pray that we will exercise, without judgment or partiality, grace and hospitality toward our neighbors— friends, antagonists and strangers alike.

14 Give thanks to God for the gifts, service and ministry of women as we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

15 Give thanks for being reminded and reassured — through the word of God, the sacraments and the witness of one another — that Jesus is the promised Messiah, our savior, teacher, life and hope.

16 Pray for ELCA missionaries and young people serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program who are separated from their families and home congregations during the holidays yet celebrate the good news and gift of

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

Jesus Christ with our companion churches and brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

17 Pray that wherever the weather turns cold and damp, all people will have the warmth and safety of shelter, and that where shelter is absent or difficult to find, the love and generosity of God dwelling in us will move us to create and open shelters in our congregations, community spaces and homes.

18 Give thanks for ELCA Good Gifts, an opportunity to support ELCA ministries and programs in nearly 80 countries around the world, including the United States. These funds and gifts support work being carried out by our congregations, companion churches and ecumenical partners.

19 Over 47,000 people in the United States died by suicide in 2017, and there were approximately 1.4 million suicide attempts. Pray for hope, relief from suffering and skilled, compassionate care for people who struggle with loneliness, isolation and depression, especially during the holidays. Ask that the Spirit will move us to see and respond to the people around us and to engage in and support suicide-prevention efforts such as the work of the Suicide Prevention Ministry, an independent Lutheran organization.

20 Give thanks and praise to God, who lifts up those bowed down and oppressed, watches over strangers and sets free the bound and imprisoned.

21 Remember in prayer the many people who work and serve during the holidays, including first responders, care providers, law enforcement, medical personnel, pilots and attendants, truck drivers, men and women serving in the military, seafarers, social service staff, and people serving in stores, restaurants and hotels.

22 In the story of Mary, Joseph and the humble birth of Jesus, we sense God's love for humanity and God's understanding of the diverse contexts in which we live. Praise God for loving us as we are and for reaching into the world in ways that we can relate to, understand and embrace.

23 Ask that we will be strengthened and inspired by the Holy Spirit for sharing the story of God's love and mercy — the story of Jesus — in today's world and culture.

24 *Christmas Eve* What draws you to Jesus? What are you looking for in God's promises? Give thanks to God for revealing to us through Jesus Christ the gifts of fullness of

life and the one true light that illuminates God's ways and truth.

25 *Christmas Day* Join with our sisters and brothers around the world and with all creation in lifting up prayers and songs of praise and thanksgiving for God's gift of love and life, manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ — a light in the darkness that cannot be overcome.

26 "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things." Pray for enthusiasm and courage in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions each day.

27 Remember in prayer people who struggle to meet the costs of living, students and seminarians graduating with long-term student loans, and people experiencing ongoing or unexpected medical expenses. Ask God to help us exercise understanding, empathy and generosity in our support and care for people struggling with financial debts and needs.

28 Pray that the good news, joy and faith that live in us will not diminish with the passing of the holidays and special celebrations but will grow deeper and pervade every aspect of our life.

29 Reflect on Mary and Joseph fleeing one country for another with the baby Jesus; lift up in prayer all people who suffer injustice and persecution and have become refugees and immigrants seeking safety and acceptance.

30 Pray that God will bless the experiences of college and university students participating in J-term courses and service-learning experiences, and that these will enrich their faith, knowledge, wisdom and discernment of vocation.

31 On the threshold of a new year, ask that the Spirit will instill in us a sense of time and life that is unrushed, observant and appreciative of the people, community, creation and gifts given by God for our sustenance, use, enjoyment and sharing.



NWWA Synod

The Spirit

Volume 35, Number 12
December 2019



by the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee,
Bishop NWWA Synod

Recently I had a meeting at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. As I walked on campus I had to take a deep breath. You see, I had to prepare myself for how much different Luther Seminary is now then when I was a student almost

thirty years ago. When I attended Luther, there were 800 students on campus. Lots of faculty. Almost everyone lived on campus. The cafeteria was stuffed full with people. On Wednesdays you had to arrive early for chapel or you wouldn't be able to find a seat.

This is not what Luther is like now.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

I have the same experience when I drive past a soccer field and see kids playing. I have an urge to stop and watch the game. (I need to tell you, this is very strange for me to WANT to watch youth soccer.) Back when I had kids playing soccer I often complained that I was too hot or too cold or too wet or I had laundry to do or ... whatever ... and now when I drive by I think, "Oh, I just want to watch kids play soccer."

Obviously, it is not that I want to watch youth soccer. It is that I miss having younger kids at home.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

So often we look backwards and hold something up as "the best time" and wonder how to get back to that place. And this is understandable. As humans we need to acknowledge the grief that we are carrying. If we don't do this careful and important work, grief can fester and come out as anger or apathy or just become so deeply imbedded we are unable to live in the present or into the future.

We in the synod office have been wondering how to acknowledge this grief about "what once was" in order to move forward into the future. We're wondering if some sort of get-together or some holding space would be helpful to talk about this. One suggestion is to collectively read Bishop Michael Girlinghouse's book, *Embracing God's Future Without Forgetting the Past*. I have started reading it and find it a useful and lovely book. I would be interested in hearing if you would be interested in reading this book together and discussing it.

Going back to that visit to Luther Seminary, while I took a deep breath and prepared myself for things "not as they once were," when I arrived on campus and listened to students, after I talked with administration and professors, after worshipping together in chapel, I realized that God is acting and moving in the life of Luther. Through the new webtools at Faith+Life, through the correct sizing of their campus, through their new pathways towards MDivs, through their emphasis on student formation and, especially, through their listening, they are dancing with the Spirit in this new day.

Dear Beloveds of God, I encourage you to have deep, sometimes hard, conversations about who you have been and who you are called to be. I encourage you to tell the stories of your life and your congregation. Record them. Remember them. And I encourage you to dream into the next stories of your place. What is next?

For this is what we trust and hold: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

In God's Peace and Joy,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Worship servers are scheduled on the 15th of the preceding month by Pastor Julie. If you have dates when you do NOT wish to be scheduled, please let her or the office know before the 15th. If there is a scheduling conflict, please find a substitute from among the additional names on the schedule.

	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24—5pm	12/24—9pm	12/29
Assisting Minister	Steve Olson	Laura Harris-Ferree	Andrew Wesly	Cathy Fransson	Laura Harris-Ferree	Laura Harris-Ferree	n/a
Lector	Cathy Fransson	Steve Olson	Sunday School	Andrew Wesly	Donna Smith	Cathy Fransson	various
Acolyte	Jed TerHark	Lillian Long	Donna Smith	Stacie Jamieson	Joshua Lingappaiah	Kate Harris-Ferree	Josh Lingappaiah
Communion & Altar	Laurie Meade						
Greeters and Ushers	Bill & Laurie Meade	Laura Harris-Ferree Bruce Hutson	Ardene Adams & Cathy Fransson	Lollie Ellingson Lynne Greenup	Lollie Ellingson Lynne Greenup	Bill & Laurie Meade	Diane Chapman Donna Smith
Song Leader	Julie Moe	Leia Smith	n/a	Shirley Teuber-Goins	n/a	n/a	Chrade Younkin
Children's Time	Pastor Julie	Laura Harris-Ferree	n/a	Pastor Julie	n/a	n/a	n/a
Closer	Bill Meade	Bruce Hutson	Raj Lingappaiah	Donna Smith	Raj Lingappaiah	Bruce Hutson	Bill Meade
Musician	Chrade Younkin						

Readings for December

December	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 25	December 29
Advent I	Advent II	Advent III	Advent IV	Christmas Eve	Nativity of Our Lord	Christmas I
Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate) James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

Happy Anniversary!

Marilyn & Bob Enloe

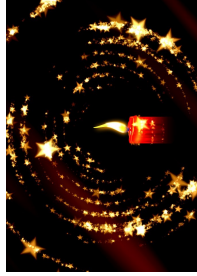
December 16

Happy December Birthdays!

1	Karen Hunt	11	Benjamin Smith	20	Cathy Franssone	24	Leia Smith
	Emma Long	16	Stephanie Bloom		Marilyn Enloe	28	Anne Jamieson
	Audrey Long	18	Janice Sherlock		Taylor Martin	31	Erika Skovron
4	Jonathan Stever				Megan Meade		Pam Stever

December 2019

See our live calendar online for any changes or updates: www.luthermemorialseattle.com/calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1 ADVENT 9:30 Sunday Church School 10:30 Worship	2 6:30 N/A <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i>	3 10:00 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn 6:30 Seattle Photo-graphic Society	4 9:30 Seekers 7:00 NarAnon	5 1:00 Step-Study Group	6	7
8 2 ADVENT 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday Church School 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 N/A <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i>	10 10:00 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn 7:30 Seattle Photo-graphic Society	11 9:30 Seekers 7 NarAnon	12 1:00 Step-Study Group 7:00 Broadview Garden Club	13	14 10:00 Compass Housing Annual Meeting
15 3 ADVENT 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday Church School 10:30 Worship	16 6:30 N/A <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i>	17 10:00 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn 6:00 Church Council	18 7 NarAnon	19 1:00 Step-Study Group	20	21 7:00 Longest Night Service
22 4 ADVENT 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Prayers for Healing	23 6:30 N/A <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i>	24 10:00 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn 5:00 Worship 9:00 Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office CLOSED 7:00 NarAnon	26 Church Office CLOSED 1:00 Step-Study Group	27	28
29 1 CHRISTMAS 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday Church School 10:30 Worship	30 6:30 N/A <i>Pastor Julie's Sabbath</i>	31 10:00 Kaleidoscope Play & Learn				

1/1/2020
 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
 Church Office CLOSED