

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

December, 2020



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have lived through a year that none of us will forget. From the spread of Covid-19 to the close of a divisive political season, we all look for that place where we can retreat. I have been very intentional about some of my reading the past few months. I love to read and to hear about various Christmas stories and legends. It fascinates me how someone can take something seemingly so simple and weave a whole story around it.

This last week, someone shared with me a legend that I had not ever heard. It is the legend of the Christmas spider. The legend states that when Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem to escape to Egypt to keep baby Jesus safe when Herod was after them, a spider overheard Joseph praying to God to keep them safe. As they traveled, Herod's soldiers came after them.

Mary and Joseph soon became exhausted traveling with an infant and trying to outrun Herod's soldiers and looked for a safe place to hide. They found an empty cave where they huddled in fear and prayed. A spider who lived in the cave overheard their prayers. He wanted to help but wasn't sure how. Then it suddenly hit him – he could cover the entrance of the cave with a spider web.

The spider quickly proceeded to spin and spin a great beautiful web that covered the whole entrance to the cave. He had just finished the web when they heard voices approaching outside. Mary and Joseph held their breath. The spider waited with great anticipation.

When the soldiers got to the cave, they looked at the giant spider web and turned away because they said no one would have been able to enter the cave without having broken through the web. The soldiers moved on, and baby Jesus was spared.

One of the reasons I like to hear new Christmas legends is because they cause me to pause and to think. I know the Christmas story inside and out, but does that lead me to take it for granted? Do I sometimes forget about the real meaning? Do I get so wrapped up in all the extra worship services and exhausted from all the extra activities that my attitude goes south (I truly hope not, but....)? When I read and hear new legends about this very familiar story, I am grateful for the opportunity to pause and to reflect and to remember the real reason we celebrate this holy day.

Welcome to the new church year. It is my prayer that life will return to some semblance of normalcy for you. May your Christmas be filled with stories and celebrations and remembrances about the meaning of the Christmas season. Meet you at the manger!

Servants together,

+ Pr. Paul +

p.s. Did you know? In keeping with the legend theme - Legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas. One crisp Christmas Eve, about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ's birth.

p.s.s. – Did you know that Luther said. . . ??? “What man, if he were God, would humble himself to lie in the feedbox of a donkey or to hang upon a cross?”

Personal Worship continues in December!

All Saints Lutheran Church will continue to worship in person with less than 50 persons in attendance.

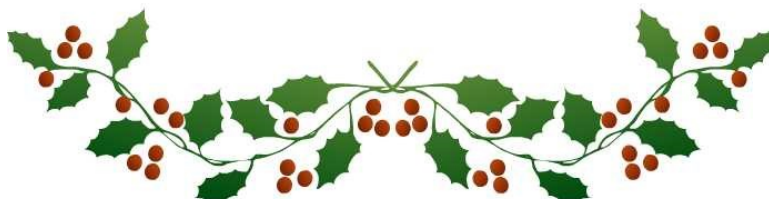
Procedures for worship:

- ◆ **Please come to worship before 10:00. Since seating distance is important, arriving on time helps all of us stay safe. Please do not visit before or after worship in the sanctuary or narthex.**
- ◆ **Masks are mandated by the state for the next 30 days. Please enjoy worship with your mask in place. Beverage only fellowship will resume after the mandate has been lifted.**

Please understand that the council and worship committee are working to provide a safe environment for each of you. You may be asked to do things a bit differently. Please have patience and understanding as we navigate our new procedures. Most importantly, **if you do not feel comfortable joining in person OR if you feel ill OR have a temperature, stay home.** We will pray for you in your absence. Please follow the guidelines that the council has established. Each of us is responsible for our own health, so please exercise common sense.

- ◆ When arriving at church, expect the greeter to have hand sanitizer for you to use before entering.
- ◆ You may be asked to pick up your bulletin.
- ◆ Your offering may be dropped into offering plates at the sanctuary door before worship begins. In this prolonged closure, regular giving is needed now more than ever. The usher will present the offering as usual.
- ◆ The ushers will direct you and your family to a specified seat. Even if it is “not your seat,” please sit as the ushers direct you.
- ◆ Communion, as always, is optional. Communion will begin from the back rows of the church. Please stay seated until the usher allows you to enter the center aisle. Please maintain distance in the center aisle. You will be offered hand sanitizer before taking communion.
- ◆ At the end of service, ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows. Please wait until your row has been dismissed. Maintain distance from others when exiting.
- ◆ Leave the Sanctuary and the Narthex immediately after worship. Visit outside of the church and follow recommended spacing.

Please do not bring any food or beverages into the sanctuary.



Council Meeting Highlights November 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Don McMillan.

Members present: Sharon Johnson, Marilyn Liebetrau, Don McMillan, Don Ranta, Pastor Paul, Marj Seely, Wyatt Smith and Michelle Specht.

Individual silent prayers were followed by devotions by Pastor Paul.

The meeting agenda was presented and approved.

The October minutes were approved.

Committee Reports were given.

- ◆ The Worship Committee is planning for Advent season depending upon restrictions.
- ◆ Adult Sunday school has been studying the Case for Christ with Don Ranta leading. The next study may be The Case for Christmas.
- ◆ Pastor shared the possibility of services for Lee Martinson.

New Business:

- ◆ The annual meeting is scheduled for December 6.
- ◆ The council approved a budget to be presented at the annual meeting.

Old Business:

- ◆ November 14 from 9 to noon has been set to clear weeds before winter. Please volunteer.
- ◆ The council thanked Bret and Michelle for updating the roster which will improve mailings and notifications to the congregation.
- ◆ Don McMillan is preparing a letter to be mailed to the congregation notifying them of the annual meeting.

Sharon Johnson presented the treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded to approve. Motion passed.

Financial Report

January 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020

Total Income: \$78,187.00
Total Expenses: \$75,479.00
\$2,708.00

October, 2020:

Total Income: \$7,554.00
Total Expenses: \$7,531.00
\$23.00

Praises and prayers followed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting is December 8, at 6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting December 6, 2020

Plan to attend the annual meeting following worship on December 6. The congregation will have an opportunity to elect up to three new council members, approve the 2021 budget and receive an update on the progress of All Saints.



Looking For a Way to Deepen Your Worship Experience?

For many people, looking at the Bible readings before Sunday helps put the message in the context of their lives. As you read the lessons, ask yourself: Is there anything in the readings that relate to your life right now? Is there anything that surprises you in the readings? Disturbs you? Try doing this and see if following this on a weekly basis strengthens your personal faith life, and deepens your worship experience.

The Lessons for Worship in December

These are the Bible readings we will hear during our worship services this month. They are provided for personal devotion and meditation.

December 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Second Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
First Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20, - 4th Sunday of Advent December 24, Christmas Eve

2nd Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

December 25, Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20

December 27, 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62: 3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Please pray for those from our congregation and our friends

From Our Congregation:

Sonja Anders Christine Garner
Roger Grudt Joyce Jensen
Ardis Kelly Marilyn Liebetrau
Nancy Mills Jack Prosser
Pastor Paul John Realph
Peggy Saxton Marj Seely

Our Family and Friends:

Robert Cederberg (Son of Nelson and Marilyn)
Dick Hamilton (Friend of Pastor Paul and Jesse)
Barbara Howdershell (Paul Howdershell's daughter)
Kathleen Yeater (Carolyn's friend)
Rev. Ralph Nelson (Reever's friend)
Maggie Brady (Patzner's grand-daughter)
Everette Johnson (McKinney's friend)
Marilyn McDonald (Friend of All Saints)
Fire Victims
Alice Briggs (Marj's sister)
Hatsuko West (Shannon's mother)
Cristi Rivero (Barb's daughter)
Nadine Bell (Doris Babel's aunt)
Maria Martinez (Wendy Harrah's friend)
Craig Tutura (McMillan's friend)

Gary Erbes (Pastor's cousin)
Shirley Hughes (Rosalee's daughter-in-law)
Mandy Colbaugh (McMillan's friend)
Mark Hausman (Marj's son-in-law)
Adam Kamerzell (Pastor Paul's cousin)
Father Tom
Ernie Puls (Arlene's husband)
Bill and Carol Braun (Kellogg's friends)
Lyle Moldrem (Sharill's brother)
Susan Martin (Mindy's mother)
Lee Ann Brewer (Gigi's friend)
Dallas Jensen (Joyce's husband)
Mike Calhoun (Kellogg's friend)

Our Service Men and Women:

Austin Applekamp (Scott and Gail's son)
David Boyd (Don & Gigi McMillan's nephew)
Jeremiah and Joshua Specht (Specht's sons)
William Westcott (Marj's grandson-in-law)

Traveling:

In Mourning, Family and Friends of:

Lee Martinson
Jim Heit

Advent Worship Services

December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Worship service will begin at 6:00 on these Wednesdays in December. There will be no soup suppers this year. Join in the journey to the birth of Christ!

Movie Night,

December 17, 6:30 p.m.



Fact-based World War II story set on Christmas Eve, 1944, finds a German Mother and her son seeking refuge in a cabin on the war front. When she is invaded by three American soldiers and then three German soldiers, she successfully convinces the soldiers to put aside their differences for one evening and share a Christmas dinner. Please consider joining us for this special story and fellowship.

Thank you!!!

Thanks to everyone who assisted with the craft fair and bake sale. We raised over \$3,000 in the two-day event. Miriam Circle will designate how those funds will be distributed to Delta County non-profits at the January meeting. You are appreciated for donating hand crafted items, baked goods, time for setting up and cleaning up, and assisting customers.



Book Bible Study

December 8, 2:00 p.m.

Join in the second part study of the Book of Isaiah. This study will focus on comfort, Chapters 40 through 55.

If you were unable to join us in November, please come in December. The studies are connected, but also independent.

DECEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	6 Communion	13	20 Communion	27	Christmas Eve
Worship Leader	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul
Liturgy Assistant	Joel	Don	Marj	Diane Haupt	Joel
Communion Assistant	Joel		Marj		Joel Marj Don Diane
Communion Bread	Marj		Marj		Marj
Organist	Don	Don	Don	Don	Don
Pianist	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda
Altar Guild	Shannon		Alice		
Readers	Michelle	Brandy	Steve Grewe	Carolyn	Duane Michelle Carolyn Wyatt
Acolytes	Amber	Robert	Jordyn	Amber	Amber Jordyn Robert Brecken
Ushers	Bret	Lloyd	Niles	Don	
Greeters	Michelle	Marilyn	Janell	Linda	
Stewards	Glenn/	Don R/ Erich	Lloyd/ Michelle	Lloyd/Janell	Don Mc/ Don R

This newsletter was made possible by contributions from: Carolyn Goller, Sharon Johnson, Claudia Kellogg, Marilyn Liebetau, Joel Magnuson, Carol Martinson, Don McMillan, Olinda Patzer, Janell Riese, Niles Riese, Cristi Rivero, Pastor Paul, Marj Seely, and Bret Specht.

All Saints Special Occasions for December

Birthdays: 12/18 Danielle Saxton

12/22 Jenna Rule

Anniversaries: 12/30/1967 Don and Linda Ranta



ALL SAINTS QUICK INFORMATION

Church—(970) 835-3667

Church Email: PastorPaul@AllSaintsLutheranCO.org

Pastor Paul Rosin

Cell Phone: 303-564-0265

Council Officers & Committee Chairs:

Don McMillan, President and Building and Property Chair

Joel Magnuson, Vice President and Worship Chair

Michelle Specht, Secretary

Sharon Johnson, Treasurer

Marilyn Liebetrau, Outreach Chair

Don Ranta, Stewardship Chair

Wyatt Smith, Education Chair

Marj Seely, Financial Secretary

Memorial Fund: Executive Committee

Finance Committee: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Executive Committee

Non-Council Committee Chairs:

Fellowship, Janell Riese

Readers, Olinda Patzer

Ushers and Greeters: Niles Riese and Bret Specht

Altar Guild: Alice Spika, Shannon Fritchman, Claudia Kellogg

Prayer Chain, Claudia Kellogg

Weekly Bulletin:

Carolyn Goller

Joel Magnuson

Janell Riese

Newsletter:

Janell Riese, Carolyn Goller and Claudia Kellogg

Marquee:

Joel Magnuson

Jesse Rosin

Please notify Pastor Paul if you or someone
in your family is entering the hospital or needs pastoral care.

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.allsaintslutheranco.org



CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS

Info@allsaintslutheranco.org