

DECEMBER 2021

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

A holiday newsletter from Nazareth Lutheran Church

What's inside this holiday
newsletter?

**CELEBRATE AND LEARN
ABOUT JESUS BY
PASTOR MARCIA**

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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Celebrate & Learn About Our Life with Jesus

When you arrive at Church for November 28-April 17 you will notice lots of decorations and lights. Some may consider it decoration over load but I wish for us to take time in the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter to teach each other about our relationship with Jesus and God's people.

We will have all around us at church tree's and light to remind us about our growth with Jesus and each other. From the wooden manger that holds the baby Jesus to the wooden cross waiting for his death and rising. A large tree in the shape of a cross reminding us all of God's son sacrifice for our life.

We have had a difficult time through the pandemic so let us walk through these upcoming seasons and yes grow together as a family. We understand people being hesitant in attending worship in person but know we all are in this together guided by the Holy Spirit. Text, write a note, give a call to let us know how you and your family are doing and how we can pray for each other.



A year of no worship services during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent or Easter has opened my heart to want to shine and “over do it.” Join us if you will and let’s celebrate and learn about our life with Jesus from Advent to Easter.

Pray for each other and know that God is with us as we grow in each season.

Pastor Marcia

Holiday Traditions

There are so many different holiday traditions that are observed around the word during the Christmas and advent seasons. These traditions are either faith-based or family-based traditions. The advent wreath is one tradition that many Christians observe annually.

The Advent wreath began as a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Families would light a candle for each week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles. What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

The wreath began to be displayed in churches during the early to mid 19th century. The move from home to public use also made it important in the eyes of some for the candles to be given a meaning more than simply marking time and increasing light. This led to special ceremonies being developed for lighting these special candles each week. Those themes were Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, in that order.

The importance of the advent wreath is to help mark the time until Jesus' birth and to prepare for his second coming.

Trivia answers: Charles Dickens, Italy, UNICEF, Three, St. Stephen, True, "Silent Night", Bethlehem, "The Nutcracker", Poinsettia

Advent Trivia: The resurrection of Jesus, Sunday, three, Joy, True, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Christmas Eve, Purple and Blue, False

Candy Cane Legend

In the 17th century, a candy maker took a piece of candy and shaped it like a shepherd's crook to be a secret symbol of Jesus. The three small stripes were for the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit; the large red stripe was the life of Jesus, that he gave up for us. The candy cane was a double gift, a sweet treat, and a symbol of Christmas.

Legend of Poinsettias

Maria, a small orphan, had no gift for the Christmas altar. With no other choice, she placed a carefully selected dry weed on the altar reverently and lovingly. Just as she placed the weed on the altar, the dry leaves became a rich green and the top bloomed to a flaming red. In this legend, the poinsettia was born and became known as "the flower of Christmas Eve."

Christmas Tree Tradition

The history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome and continues with the German tradition of candlelit Christmas trees first brought to America in the 1800s.

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.

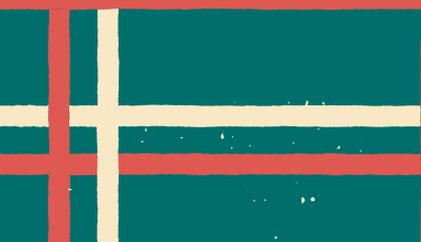
It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Cookies and Milk for Santa

While leaving treats for Santa and his reindeer dates back to ancient Norse mythology, Americans began to sweeten up to the tradition during the Great Depression in the 1930s, as a sign of showing gratitude during a time of struggle.

Twelve Days of Christmas

Even though most hear the song between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, the Christian 12 days of Christmas, which span the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, actually take place December 25 to January 6. The earliest version of the poem-turned-song is thought to have been published in *Mirth Without Mischief*, a children's book from 1780. Each year the PNC Christmas Price Index totals up the total cost of the 12 gifts named in the song based on current markets. For 2019, everything from a partridge in a pear tree to 12 drummers drumming would run up a bill of \$38,993.59.



Christmas Eve Service

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Friday, December 24, 7:00pm. The service will be a candlelight service with special emphasis on familiar Christmas scriptures, singing the beloved carols. On Christmas Eve all the rushing and the busyness of the season is over. There is a holy hush all about us as we come to church. In the beauty and quietness of the night, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord once again. Come and join with millions of other Christians around the world as we meet for this traditional candlelight service.

November Church Council

There was no Council meeting in November.

Monthly income and attendance

October	Attendance	Offering
10/3	18	\$ 1,651.00
10/10	15	\$ 779.00
10/17	22	\$ 862.75
10/24	20	\$ 1,005.00
10/31	26	\$ 470.00
Total		\$ 4,767.75
November	Attendance	Offering
11/7	14	\$ 1,976.00
11/14	15	\$ 379.00
11/21	17	\$ 735.00
11/28		
Total		\$ 3,090.00

The church needs \$5,604.17 monthly to meet budget and does so through your generous giving.

Happy BIRTHDAY

December

11 Kris Bartleson
16 Kevin Lewis
29 Tim Smith

12 Steve Lewis
23 Winter Ringgenberg

January

1 Pat Bartleson
11 Joyce Allen
22 Elaine Barker
30 Haylee Hovland

8 Jane Rohde
18 Lerin Hermson
27 Jamie Lewis

I have not received very many responses for the updated Church directory. If you have not already sent in your info, please send your name address phones and birthday.

What to donate to the foodbank

It's that time of the year that our spirit of giving is out in full force, and we are trying to share our good fortune with those in need. Here is a list of things to think about when we are making donations to the food pantry. Keep this list for all year long and donate the items that will really come in handy.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for rice a roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meet.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

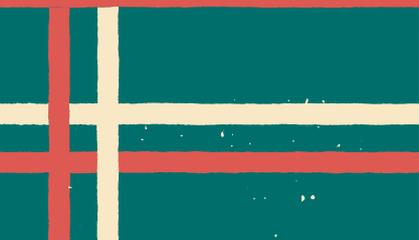
In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more

Merry Christmas

Pastor Marcia and the church council wish you all a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with joy and happiness. We hold you all most dear and wish you the best of everything. May the love of Christ fill your hearts and homes at Christmas time and always. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

' T I S T H E S E A S O N T O B E

J O I L L Y



December and January Calendar

Wednesday Dec 1	Confirmation	Sunday Jan 2	10:15 Worship Service
Sunday Dec 5	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School	Tuesday Jan 4	6:00 Food Pantry
Tuesday Dec 7	6:00 Food Pantry	Sunday Jan 9	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School
Wednesday Dec 8	Confirmation	Tuesday Jan 11	6:00 Food Pantry
Sunday Dec 12	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School	Wed Jan 12	Confirmation
Tuesday Dec 14	6:00 Food Pantry	Sunday Jan 16	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School
Wednesday Dec 15	Confirmation	Tuesday Jan 18	6:00 Food Pantry
Sunday Dec 19	10:15 Worship Service Sunday School Program	Wednesday Jan 19	Confirmation
Tuesday Dec 21	6:00 Food Pantry	Sunday Jan 23	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School
Friday Dec 24	7:00 Christmas Eve Service	Tuesday Jan 25	6:00 Food Pantry
Saturday Dec 25	Merry Christmas Happy Holidays	Wednesday Jan 26	Confirmation
Sunday Dec 26	10:15 Worship Service	Sunday Jan 30	10:15 Worship Service 11:15 Children's Sunday School
Tuesday Dec 28	6:00 Food Pantry	Tuesday Feb 1	6:00 Food Pantry



Christmas Trivia

For each question, choose the best answer. The answer key is below.

1. Who wrote the story "A Christmas Carol"?
 - Alexander Pope
 - Charles Dickens
 - William Shakespeare
2. "Buon Natale" is the Christmas greeting in which country?
 - Greece
 - Italy
 - France
3. Which organization produced the first charity Christmas card?
 - UNICEF
 - Salvation Army
 - St Vincent de Paul
4. According to the Bible, how many gifts did the Magi give Jesus Christ after his birth?
 - Two
 - Three
 - Five
5. December 26th, also known as Boxing Day, is the feast day of which saint?
 - St. Nicholas
 - St. Stephen
 - St Francis
6. Saint Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Lycia.
 - True
 - False
 - Don't Know
7. Joseph Mohr wrote a poem in 1816, and it became one of the best-loved Christmas carols. What is it?
 - "Joy to the world"
 - "Silent Night"
 - "Away in a Manger"
8. In which town was Jesus born?
 - Bethlehem
 - Jerusalem
 - Nazareth
9. What is the most famous Christmas ballet?
 - "A Christmas Carol"
 - "Les Miserables"
 - "The Nutcracker"
10. What is the name of the popular red Christmas flower?
 - Chrysanthemum
 - Rose
 - Poinsettia

Advent Trivia

1. Which of these events does Advent NOT anticipate?
 - The resurrection of Jesus
 - The birth of Christ in Bethlehem
 - The second coming of Christ
 - The reception of Christ in the heart of the believer
2. On which day of the week does Advent always begin?
 - Wednesday
 - Friday
 - Thursday
 - Sunday
3. How many purple (or violet) candles will you typically find in an Advent wreath in a modern Anglican church?
 - four
 - two
 - one
 - three
4. What does the pink (or rose) candle symbolize in the Advent wreath?
 - Joy
 - Love
 - Peace
 - Death
5. The liturgical church year begins with Advent.
 - True
 - False
6. Which of these is the best example of an Advent hymn?
 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel
 - The Old Rugged Cross
 - We Three Kings
 - Breathe Upon Us, Holy Spirit
7. What is the last day in Advent?
 - Christmas
 - Christmas Eve
 - Epiphany
 - Easter
8. Which two colors are most often used in liturgical churches to represent Advent?
 - green and red
 - purple and blue
 - silver and gold
 - white and gold
9. In most western liturgical churches, Christians fast during Advent, refraining from meat for the forty days before Christmas.
 - True
 - False

