***The Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church***

***Lindy, Nebraska***

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**The Rod and Staff**



**November and December 2021**

**North, South, and Now East!**

***All Good Things…***

This is the title of the final episode of my favorite television series of all time: *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. I remember when the final episode aired in the year 1995. It was quite an emotional experience as I said goodbye to a show that occupied two hours of my time each weeknight on the *FOX* network. The show was inspirational for me. Watching those characters travel the galaxy in search of new life and new civilizations filled my young mind with a desire for discovery and adventure. The characters on the Starship Enterprise were role models for me as well. My fifteen-year-old mind knew from observing such characters and their technical expertise that if I wanted to do something with my life, I needed to get serious and focus on my studies. I did. But rather than exploring the galaxy, I became a pastor and a history professor. I might not travel at warp speed through the galaxy, beam down to other planets, and meet extraterrestrial life forms, but my life since my ordination on August 6, 2006 has certainly been an adventure. You just never know what is around the corner.

Right now, my family and I are about to embark on a new adventure, and for that reason I was reminded of the last episode of my favorite show. The antagonist of the series, the mischievous character called “Q,” tells the captain, “All good things must come to an end.”

It is with a complex mixture of emotions that I announce that I have received and accepted a call to serve as the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville, Ohio, which means that my family and I will be leaving this area at the end of this year. Thornville is a small town of around a thousand people in central Ohio, less than an hour from Columbus. Theresa will be taking a break from pastoral ministry for the moment to focus more on being a mother. She will also be doing some part time work with Sola Publishing, one of the ministry partners of the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. In addition to serving as the pastor of Grace Lutheran in Thornville, I will continue my part time teaching with the Institute of Lutheran Theology.

Theresa and I look back on the last ten years with gratitude for both the Menno, South Dakota and Lindy, Nebraska communities, especially the congregations of Grace Lutheran, Our Savior’s Lutheran, and Good Shepherd Lutheran. We will be forever grateful for the way that we have been welcomed into these communities, for the many good friendships we have developed, and most especially for the opportunity to serve these communities with the good news of Jesus Christ. Though we are excited for what lies ahead, we will miss these congregations, and you will remain in our prayers as you move forward. My last Sunday will be December 26, and I hope this will provide you with adequate time to prepare for the future.

Since we moved to this area in 2012, our family has grown as has our list of other responsibilities. These have all been wonderful blessings. Yet we have simply realized that we as a family have reached a point where we have become stretched too thin. We believe that this new call opportunity will allow us to devote more attention to our children in their most formative years. As we faced the reality a few months ago of our need for a new situation and wondered where God might be calling us, a series of events that I consider to be more than a coincidence led us to look at the town of Thornville, Ohio. We had never before considered Ohio as a possible destination, but looking back I realize that most of the significant things in my life have been unexpected. Hence, we kept an open mind

I began my work as a pastor far north in Minnesota. After a time, we moved south to South Dakota and Nebraska. Now, we set our course east for Ohio, where I will assume the captain’s chair (pulpit) of Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville. Ohio isn’t exactly the vast, unexplored expanse of the galaxy, but it is a new environment for us. As we move into the unknown, we are filled with gratitude for what lies behind us, trusting also that God has promised to remain faithful into the future, whatever our surroundings might be (Psalm 139).

Though we will be preparing for our upcoming move in the following weeks, I look forward to being among you through this coming Advent and into the Christmas season, rejoicing in the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Above all, I pray that you remain rooted in that faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints. All good things must come to an end, but I trust we will meet again, likely in this world, but because of our shared faith in Christ, also in the next.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present. They form a “great cloud of witnesses” as we remain pilgrims and strangers on earth (Hebrews 12:1).



For November and December, we remember **Martin of Tours**. He is commemorated on November 11.

We often hear about the man named Martin Luther, who lived around five hundred years ago. But in November, we have a chance to familiarize ourselves with the man for whom Martin Luther was named: Martin of Tours.

Back in the time of Martin Luther, infant mortality rates were high. Parents wanted to make sure that their children had the opportunity to be baptized shortly after they were born. They did not wait until family and friends could gather for the event. Luther was born on November 10 of 1483 A.D. His parents took him to the local church in Eisleben the very next day, November 11. That day was set aside to commemorate the man named Martin of Tours, and so the Luthers named their son Martin.

Martin of Tours died in 397 A.D. He was a member of the Roman army stationed in what is now France. He began the process of learning about the Christian faith in preparation for baptism. One day, he approached the city of Tours, and a blind and naked beggar sat beside the gate. Martin took his cloak and cut it in half, giving one half to the beggar. Later that night, Martin had a dream in which he saw Jesus wearing the half of the cloak that he had given the beggar. Martin was baptized shortly thereafter, and he entered a monastery. Eventually he was elected the bishop of Tours.

The life of Martin of Tours served as an inspiration for many. A book about his life became widely read during the Middle Ages, and through this book Martin set an example for others of what true leadership in the church is about: being a servant and caring for “the least of these.”

*Lord God of hosts, who clothed your servant Martin the soldier with the spirit of sacrifice and set him as a bishop in your Church to be a defender of the Christian faith: Give us grace to follow in his holy steps, that at the last we may be found clothed with righteousness in the dwellings of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.* (prayer from justus.anglican.org)

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson



**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Ten Commandments**

***The Seventh Commandment***

*You shall not steal*

***What does this mean?***

*We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbors of their money or property, nor take from them by unfair dealing or fraud, but help them to improve and protect their property and means of making a living.*

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Dear members of Good Shepherd,

The church Calf Project Committee has had several offers for donations from people who would like to be involved with the Calf Project but are not able to house or care for the livestock. Unfortunately, some of these offers to pay for vet supplies and other care items have had to be declined because they have already been taken care of.

As a way of making the project open to participation by everyone, we have come up with an idea for a “Sponsor a Calf Program.” This program would allow anyone who would like to be involved in the project be involved. There have been suggestions to expand the project, but with an aging population, there are fewer homes for the calves. By sponsoring a calf with your donations, these funds will go directly into the Calf Fund, thereby expanding the project without having to deal with the daily chores of livestock. Even with these donations, the Calf Project will remain ongoing as it functions today.

If you would like to sponsor a calf, simply mark your donation along in your weekly envelope or send it to the church. There are no set amounts required to sponsor a calf, just a free will donation. Whether it be monthly or yearly, whatever you are comfortable contributing is appreciated. This way, it keeps the project fun and available to everyone.

The calf project has evolved over many years from a single donated calf to a current 35 head. The money raised from this project helps the church pay for larger expenses and, from time-to-time, daily expenses and upkeep. This has been an important part of keeping Good Shepherd Lutheran Church a vibrant place to worship in our community.

Sincerely,

The Calf Project Committee and Church Council

**Shepherd’s Garden**

The Shepherd’s Garden began years ago and has been supported by the dedication of many church members in that time. We include this reminder that the Shepherd’s Garden, located behind the church building, is available in the spring, summer, and autumn (or even winter!) for anyone, church member or not, desiring a quiet place for prayer and reflection. In the Bible, gardens appear at significant points. It is our hope that the Shepherd’s Garden can be of service to our world in encouraging people to pray and listen to God.

Earlier this fall, we also planted some new trees in the garden with worn out Bibles at their roots, symbolizing how we are rooted in God’s promise in Jesus Christ.

**“Phishing” Scams**

As we all know, we live in a sinful world. That means, unfortunately, that there are those people who try to take advantage of others. Sometimes this behavior takes the form of “phishing” scams. These are online scams where people send alluring emails or text messages to people in an attempt to gain sensitive information or money. Perpetrators of these scams sometimes impersonate public leaders, including pastors and other church leaders. The impersonator will often send a message to people claiming that they are tied up and cannot talk on the phone, but they need financial assistance or gift cards. If you receive such an email or text claiming to be from Pr. Tom or some other denominational leader, know that it is a scam and you should delete the message.

**Quiet Joseph Is Example of Faithfulness and Discipleship**

*Note: This devotional article was written in 2018 by the now former bishop of the North American Lutheran Church, John Bradosky. I share it with you now, a few years late!*

Dear Disciples of Christ Jesus,

Martin Luther had much more to say about Mary, the mother of our Lord, than Joseph. Yet Luther gives thanks for this guardian of our Lord. He commends Joseph as a saint who strengthens our faith by his faithful obedience, his sacrificial love for Mary and his protective care for Jesus.

Some consider him “the silent partner” in the Christmas event, a mere passive observer, relegated to the background or scenery. He doesn’t have a line in the Christmas narrative. In fact, there are no words of Joseph recorded in Scripture.

There are many people in our congregations who seem to be silent and passive observers, longing to get through life by blending into the background. They often wonder, “Do I have any part to play in God’s redemptive plan of salvation in Christ Jesus?”

The answer is a profound “Yes” — for Joseph and for all those wondering about their part in the proclamation of the Gospel.

In the course of my ministry I must admit that I have falsely labeled people as “silent” and “passive.” Their lives only seemed to be that way in comparison to the cacophony of noise around us and the meaningless busyness that consumes our time and energy.

What I have discovered is that they are not silent, but quiet. They are not passive, but focused and intentional in their actions. I believe this is the nature of Joseph’s life and faith.

The quietness of people like Joseph is often overwhelmed by the noise of blaring Christmas music, concerts, television specials, parties, celebrations and unceasing commercials. Through all the noise, it can be difficult to hear the proclamation of a profound love, calling us to respond. Through all the sounds of this season, Joseph reminds us of how important it is to be quiet enough to hear God’s voice.

The obedient actions of people like Joseph seem insignificant when compared to the all-consuming busyness of shopping, preparing foods, hosting parties, scheduling events, baking, decorating, cleaning, traveling and caring for a host of other details.

There seems to be no time — even in Advent and Christmas — to focus on Jesus or being truly present with those we love. Through the harried pace of life in this season of the year, Joseph reminds us to be focused, intentional and obedient to Christ in our actions.

Yet the Gospel accounts remind us that God’s plan for the Incarnation, and Jesus’ birth, included Joseph from the beginning. Joseph is a faithful husband and a caring father. He is a man of faith who listens to God’s messages and then obeys God’s commands, trusting in God’s promises.

Joseph’s involvement begins with conflict and embarrassment. The woman he loves, but has not yet married, is pregnant. He has the right according to the law to register a complaint and have her executed for adultery.

Think of how difficult it was to explain this to family and friends. Yet Joseph is compassionate and decides to divorce her quietly — before the Lord intervenes.

In spite of public pressure to the contrary, Joseph stays with Mary, marries her and becomes Jesus’ guardian and father. This was because an angel told him to take Mary as his wife since her child was from the Holy Spirit.

Luther comments that “Joseph had nothing to go by save the Word of God and he accepted it. A godless man would have said it was just a dream, but Joseph believed the Word of God and took unto him his wife. Thus, he is for us an emblem of faith and virtue.”

This situation must have produced a tremendous sense of loss for Joseph. This was not what he was hoping for. This was not his plan or expectation for life as a husband and father.

Profound loss can cause us to become quiet and focused. Scripture reminds us that Joseph’s moral dilemma about divorcing Mary was only the beginning of his sense of loss. Many difficulties and persecutions would follow.

In the Christmas season we are reminded of the evil rage of a paranoid King Herod who slaughtered innocent children and the weeping mothers who refused to be consoled. As Joseph listens, he hears the voice of alarming concern from an angel. There are military-like instructions, commands to flee to Egypt, protecting Jesus even when it meant becoming a refugee.

We even read of the experience that is a parent’s worst nightmare — to lose your child in the crowd. Luther considers how our Lord’s guardian let his guard down and lost track of Jesus. Luther writes that since Joseph “had received a solemn mandate to care for the child … it was a great fright and an especial heartache when they could not locate the child.” Luther goes on to write about what a painful three days they endured before locating him in the temple.

Often those we consider to be silent and passive are people who are grieving. They have experienced the same sense of loss and despair that Joseph experienced. Broken relationships, children who have wandered off, the experiences of children in tears and the lament of parents is all around us.

For many in this world the joy of Christmas stands in sharp contrast to their overwhelming sense of loss. Perhaps it is the place setting for Christmas dinner that remains empty as a son or a daughter has died or children whose lives were taken at the bomb blast of terrorists, children sold into sexual slavery, addicted to drugs, suffering from malnutrition, poverty, disease and other forms of exploitation.

What a contrast this is to the sounds of Christmas, but it is the sounds of the world around us. In such a world, it is easy to become silent and passive, overwhelmed and without hope.

The very thing I love about the Scriptures, I also hate. They are wonderfully true and painfully honest! So quickly the Bible moves from the celebration of Jesus’ birth to the stark reality of the world into which He was born — a world filled with suffering and pain, with grief, terrorism and despair, the abuse of power and the victimization of the innocent.

Keeping such passages so close together in our readings for worship during the Christmas season reminds me that Jesus came for a purpose! Jesus came to be with us in that suffering. Jesus came, not to remove our suffering, but to bear it with us!

Jesus entered a world in which there is uncertainty and death and He came to offer the certainty of His love and His glorious resurrection that overcomes death. In the Church Year, it isn’t much past Christmas before we see Jesus suffering and dying on the cross. It isn’t long after Christmas until we celebrate Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

It is impossible for Kristi and me to get through a Christmas without some measure of grief. There on our bedroom wall is our son Joshua’s last school picture, taken before he died. There are the ornaments he created that still make it to our tree, year after year. There is the hymn, “Away in a Manger” that was also sung at his funeral — “Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven to live with you there.”

While there is always pain and grief, we also know that Jesus is here to face it with us. Because of Jesus’ resurrection we also know that Joshua is with Him forever as well. It is the cross and the empty tomb that proclaim the real joy and meaning of Christmas.

In all that followed the birth of Jesus, Luther considered Joseph and Mary to be missionaries under persecution. He writes: “There is no doubt that Mary and Joseph and perhaps others with them that had come to know the child were not silent while in Egypt over the great miracle which had occurred with this child. They preached and brought others to faith and salvation.”

Luther uses this episode of Mary and Joseph to teach about how the Church grows when it is under persecution — something Luther found comforting during his day and which we can also appreciate today.

Luther speculates that Joseph had to tell the story of God’s involvement in their lives. He had to speak of God’s commands and his obedient response. He had to tell others of God’s warning and His provision. He had to tell others about this One he was called to love and guard. He had to tell others about Jesus.

Even those who are quiet are not speechless. Even those who seem passive are willing to respond obediently. In the midst of all the sounds I hear from the world and the variety of sounds of life in the Church, I have learned from Joseph to be quiet enough to listen to God’s Word and to trust in His wisdom above all others. Amid a hectic schedule and the busyness of Christmas preparations, I have learned from Joseph to be focused, intentional and to obediently respond to Christ Jesus, proclaiming the truth and wonder of who He is and all that He has accomplished for us.

Ignoring God’s Word always puts us in great danger and on a pathway that leads to destruction.

Joseph’s example calls us to faith. Being obedient to Jesus is the life of trust and faith. This is the very nature and meaning of discipleship — not a new law but the loving response of obedience, true faith! The example of Joseph’s life also reminds us to listen to what is happening around us. Hear the evil, the cries of those in need, the pain and the grief of those who have been wounded, terrorized and murdered so senselessly!

Joseph not only listened carefully but acted on God’s instructions. Joseph did exactly what God asked him to do. He didn’t wait until morning. He didn’t wait for better weather. He took immediate action.

Jesus said, “Blessed … are those who hear the Word of God and obey it” (Luke 11:28 NIV). In another place He said, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them” (John 13:17 NIV). Through Joseph, God provided protection and care. It was obedience motivated out of faith and love of God that moved him to action.

God is still speaking through His Word. God is still giving us ears to hear the cries of people in need in our community, city, state or province, nation and world. He is still expecting our faithful response through obedient action. Joseph is more important than we can imagine to this Christmas story, and his example should inspire and guide us even now!

May you find hope and direction for living by taking time this Christmas to be quiet enough to listen to God’s voice in His Word and respond with faithful obedience, taking every opportunity to tell His story!

With you following this One born in a manger in Bethlehem, Bishop John Bradosky

**Featured Hymn for November and December**

***Of the Father’s Love Begotten***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 120*

1. Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see, Evermore and evermore.
2. This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord, Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word; Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore.
3. O the heights of heav’n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing; All dominions, bow before Him, And extol our Lord and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore.
4. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, with Holy Ghost, to Thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be; Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-410 A.D.

*Note: Written in the early fifth century, this beautiful Christmas hymn emphasizes the theology of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 A.D., that the child born in Bethlehem is one in substance with God the Father*

**Monthly Watchword for December**

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord.”

* Zechariah 2:10 ESV

**Ushers for November and December:**

* Head Ushers (November):
	+ Randy and Karen Hanson
* Ushers:
	+ Les and Amy Johnson
	+ Tim and Annie Jessen
	+ Jim and Sarah Petersen
	+ Dave and Diane Kumm
	+ Ashley Guenther
* Head Ushers (December)
	+ Keith and Donna Nielsen
* Ushers:
	+ Gene Eckmann
	+ Tony and Brenda Petersen
	+ Kris True
	+ Kathy Koops
	+ Dylan Kauth

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**Martin Luther’s Morning Prayer**

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I ask you to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that in all I do today I may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all that is mine. Let you holy angel watch over me, that the wicked foe have no power over me. Amen.

**Birthdays for November and December**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* November 5: Richard Beckmann; November 5: Jesse Eisenhauer; November 26: Natalie Cross Peetz
* November 27: Tony Petersen; December 4: Regg Eckmann; December 9: Margo Poppe
* December 13: Jaiden Johnson; December 21: Patty Kumm; December 25: Doug Stewart
* December 31: Samantha Stewart

**Baptismal Anniversaries for November and December**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, “a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* November 1: Tim Jessen; November 11: Perry Kolterman; November 12: Madisen Petersen
* November 13: Beverly Kumm; November 15: Jeff Barger; November 18: Connie McDonald
* November 23: Jake Eckmann; November 29: Sarah Arens; December 9: James Carlow
* December 18: Jesse Eisenhauer; December 24: Del Cross

**Weekly Watchwords**

Note: These “watchwords” for each week can be considered “theme verses” on which to reflect for the week.

**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (11/7/21):** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* – Matthew 5:9 ESV

**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (11/14/21):** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.* – 2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

**Christ the King Sunday (11/21/21):** *Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning.* – Luke 12:35 ESV

**The First Sunday of Advent (11/28/21):** *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he.* – Zechariah 9:9 ESV

**The Second Sunday of Advent (12/5/21):** *Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.* – Luke 21:28ESV

**The Third Sunday of Advent (12/12/21):** *A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.* – Isaiah 40:3 ESV

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent (12/19/21):** *Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.* – Philippians 4:4-5 EHV

**The First Sunday of Christmas (12/26/21):** *The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* – John 1:14 ESV

**Important Announcements**

* We will continue having a time of coffee and fellowship before worship each Sunday, beginning at 9:30.
* Once again, please take note of the announcement in this newsletter regarding “Adopt a Calf” as a way for people to make contributions to the church’s Calf Project if they are unable to participate in the traditional way involving donating and caring for calves.
* **The church council has decided to resume Sunday school in 2021-2022. For now, Sunday school will be offered on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, beginning at 9:30. There will be a break over Christmas. See the calendar for details.**
* **For Sunday school, we need teachers, of course! There is be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for people to commit to particular Sundays. It is not difficult, and curriculum is provided. Contact Pr. Tom with any questions. Thank you for your participation in this important part of the congregation’s life!**
* The last confirmation class meeting for 2021 will be on December 15.
* November 17, 2021, there will be the Women's meeting at 10:00 A.M.
* December 1, 2021, there will be time to decorate the church for Christmas at 1:00 P.M.
* December 8, 2021, there will be the Christmas luncheon for ladies of community at 12:00 P.M.
* **The Thanksgiving worship service will be held on November 24 at 7:00 P.M. Join us as we remember in a special way the things for which we are thankful.**
* **Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be held on December 24 at 5:00 P.M.**
* We will continue using a different set of Bible readings (lectionary) on Sunday mornings. This “Narrative Lectionary” includes a single main preaching text along with an accompanying reading. It is an opportunity to become more familiar with the Holy Scriptures, hearing the stories of the Bible in chronological order, beginning with the book of Genesis.

**Martin Luther on Christmas**

*Martin Luther (1483-1546 A.D.), for whom Lutherans take their name, loved Christmas. Here are some quotes from his sermons and writings that demonstrate this love and what the observance of Christmas meant to him, and can mean for us:*

“If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Savior, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now.” – Sermon on the Nativity, 1530 A.D.

**“Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the Baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.**

**Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother, still a virgin. What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! What fairer than her youth! What more gracious than her virginity! Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. See how God invites you in many ways. He places before you a Babe with whom you may take refuge. You cannot fear him, for nothing is more appealing to man than a babe. Are you affrighted? Then come to him, lying in the lap of the fairest and sweetest maid. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.” – Sermon on the Nativity, unknown date**

**November 2021**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3  Pr. Tom in Lindy Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 |  4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30White (All Saints’ Sunday) | 8Pr. Tom at NALC Deans meeting, Dallas, Texas | 9Pr. Tom at NALC Deans meeting, Dallas, Texas | 10Pr. Tom at NALC Deans meeting, Dallas, TexasNo confirmation classChurch council meeting, 7:00 ? | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Sunday school, 9:30Worship, Service of the Word, 10:30Green | 15 | 16 | 17Pr. Tom in LindyWomen’s meeting, 10:00Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30White (Christ the King Sunday) | 22 | 23 | 24Pr. Tom in LindyThanksgiving Eve service, 7:00(No confirmation class) | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Sunday school, 9:30Worship, Service of the Word, 10:30Blue (First Sunday of Advent) | 29 | 30 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**December 2021**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  |  1 Pr. Tom in Lindy Confirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30Blue (Second Sunday of Advent) | 6 | 7 | 8Pr. Tom in LindyChristmas luncheon, 12:00Confirmation class,5:15-6:45Church council meeting, 7:00 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Sunday school, 9:30Worship, Service of the Word, 10:30Blue (Third Sunday of Advent) | 13 | 14 | 15Pr. Tom in LindyConfirmation class, 5:15-6:45 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19Coffee and fellowship, 9:30Worship with Holy Communion, 10:30 Blue (Fourth Sunday of Advent) | 20 | 21 | 22Pr. Tom in LindyNo confirmation class | 23 | 24Christmas Eve worship, 5:00 | 25Christmas Day, the Nativity of our Lord |
| 26Coffee and fellowship, 9:30No Sunday schoolWorship, Service of the Word, 10:30White (First Sunday of Christmas) | 27 | 28 | 29 30 31 |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

89039 539 St.

Bloomfield, Nebraska 68718



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