



CROSSingPATHS

DECEMBER, 2016

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3595 W Belleview Ave
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***“Through Christ, Centennial Lutheran Church fosters growth in faith
by being a home to all, a source of strength to those in need,
a retreat for the weary and a beacon of hope for all.”***

Advent. The season of preparation, of waiting for the Lord, watching for signs, hearing of wonders. For most Christians this season begins four weeks before Christmas Day. But, for those who work in churches, those who serve on councils, Sunday Schools, or worship ministries. For those who work in retail, those who plan parties, those who prepare food and give gifts. For all *those* Christians (and probably many of you) The season of preparation started days or weeks or months ago. I've been planning since July (and humming Christmas tunes since then, too). This Advent season you are invited to participate in what so many people in the congregation have spent time preparing. Here are some of the new (and old) activities we have prepared:

Hanging of the Greens: Sun, Nov 27, 10 am. This may happen before you read the newsletter. We will hang our boughs and wreaths, deck the halls and trees. The more the merrier! (We plan to be done well before the Broncos game.)

Advent Devotions & Kare Kits: We will hand out an Advent calendar as well as directions for doing daily devotions during Advent. Each week, we ask that you consider donating specific items for winter Kare Kits (which will be distributed in January).

Advent Worship: Sundays at 9 am. Our music team has crafted a morning prayer and communion with music from *Holden Evening Prayer* as well as some traditional Advent and Christmas songs. Each week a different family will lead us in lighting our Advent wreath, the choir will sing a new verse, and we will hear the good news.

Angel Tree: Keep an eye out for information on when and where and what to donate for our neighbors in residential care over the holiday.

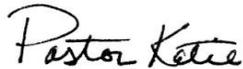
Coffee, Cocoa & Christmas Card Writing: Tues, Dec 6, 9-11 am. Join volunteers in writing Christmas Cards, having a cup of coffee or cocoa (or tea), and enjoying each other's company. If you've got extra time you might even get put to work filling bags in the food pantry! If all goes well, we'll be turning this into a regular volunteer and fellowship time to get small church work during the new year!

Christmas Eve: Sat, Dec 24, 7 pm. As always, we will worship with scripture, song, and candlelight on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day: We will not hold worship on Sun, Dec 25. Instead, you will find a prepared devotion with readings, prayers, and a reflection for Christmas day. Pull this out, fold it in half, and use it on your own or with family or a friend. Regular worship will be held on Sun, Jan 1.

Please take time to read this newsletter and be part of these activities celebrating both Advent and Christmas.

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Katie

A "NOTE" FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

The choir continues to rehearse Sunday mornings to lead our singing during Advent. If you are interested in joining this group, please let me know. We rehearse in the sanctuary at 8:15 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us, all ages, all voices! I am also looking for information from any of you that wish to share your musical talent on Christmas Eve – let me know now!

I'd like to personally thank all the various musicians that have made 2016 a year filled with God's message through song. Even if you haven't personally joined a choir or a small group or the band, your presence in worship makes you a part of the *Sound of Love* that is heard and felt each time we gather together!

A CHRISTMAS VERSION OF 1 CORINTHIANS 13

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do

not show love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have

to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.



Vee Ann Sattler, Centennial Lutheran Music Director

NOISY OFFERING!

The November "Noisy Offering" weighed in at 14 pounds for a total of \$152.79. We will have another noisy offering on Sunday, December 11, so save up those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters!!

CLC HAPPENINGS

Coats for Colorado:

Oops – with this beautiful fall weather, we missed Coats for Colorado. We will definitely

collect next October and November. If you can keep those gently used coats until then, that's great. If your closet is full and coats must go, please donate to ARC or Good Will.

IRA Charitable Contributions:

These could help Centennial budget for the future. Individuals who are 70½ or older can make gifts of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA accounts to one or more qualified charities, without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. If you wish to make a gift to benefit the church, you may want to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Here are the specifics I received from another qualifying organization:

- Donors must be age 70½ or older at the time the gift is made.
- Donors must request a direct transfer of funds to a qualified public charity. It is important not to withdraw the funds before making a gift.
- Gifts cannot be used to fund a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- Each donor may give up to \$100,000 per year.
- Gifts can be used to satisfy the donor's required minimum distribution.
- Donors who choose to exclude the distribution from income on their federal tax returns will not receive a charitable income tax deduction.
- To qualify for tax-free treatment, donors cannot receive goods, services, or a personal benefit (such as tickets for events) in return for the IRA rollover gift.

That's all I know folks. Please consult your financial advisor or tax consultant if you have any questions.

Women's Bible Study:

Our Women's Bible Study decided to practice lessons from our last study guide – *Living a Life of Balance* – and not meet during the busy holiday month of December. We will restart the 2nd Monday in January – January 9th. Save the date – details to follow.

Angel Giving Tree:

In our long-standing tradition we will be collecting gifts to give to seniors who have no one to remember them at Christmas. The Angel Giving Tree recipients this year are residents at Julia Temple Healthcare. You will also receive a personal invitation to participate. If your family would like to remember one or more of these people there will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall after services in Advent. Your gifts need to be at the church, wrapped, labeled, and under the tree by December 18. The names have several suggested items – you do not have to buy all the items. Lynnette Reveling and Jackie Prue will have the sign-up sheet and can answer any questions. Lynnette = 303-986-6428 and Jackie = 303-903-1184.

BE SURE TO LABEL GIFTS WITH THEIR NAME AND NUMBER

Save the date - February 9, 2017:

ANNUAL MEETING – SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY

Bring a can of soup and enjoy homemade soup while we recap 2016 and elect/project 2017. The Super Bowl game is not until 6:30 p.m. so we will have plenty of time to conduct this very important meeting and still make it home in time for the pre-game festivities!!

Articles for the Annual Report:

All articles for the 2016 annual report are due in the church office no later than January 15. This year we are printing the reports in-house rather than out sourcing them to the print shop of one of our members. It will help tremendously if you'll help out by getting your articles turned in by the due date. The year-end financial summary will be made available several days prior to the meeting so that we all have sufficient time to review the figures and jot down any questions/concerns we might want to address at the meeting.

Winter Kare Kits

Wow, the “inventory” for the Winter Kare Kit” project is building up more and more each week thanks to all of you who have donated purchased or hand-made items. With the focus on adult sizes and needs, we’re hopeful to distribute these in January to recipients in the Englewood/Littleton area.

There will be an Advent calendar posted on the hallway bulletin board with examples of the items we’d like to include in the Winter Kare Kits that include not only warm clothing items, but things like deodorant, small packets of Kleenex, hand warmers, hand sanitizer, hand lotion, a small snack such as a candy bar, a mini flashlight with batteries included.

You can bring an item each week, or save up till the last week and bring whatever you are able to bring. Many of these items are available at the Dollar Stores, so it’s not necessary to spend a great deal of money. If you knit or crochet, please consider picking up some yard from the many choices that were so generously donated to CLC by the Shawl Ministry and Bernice Palm’s family.

A collection basket is in the hallway next to the Food Bank basket. We’ll put these kits together in January just like we did last time. Thanks to the Thrivent Action Card, we were able to purchase knap sacks to place these items in, making it easier for the folks who receive them to keep everything together. Your generosity is what makes this happen, so thank you very, very much!!

*“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.”
Proverbs 19:17*

HAPPY NEWS!!

December is such a special month. Not only do we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we also get to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the following:

Birthdays – Lorreta Arduser, 12/6; Tom Leonard, 12/11; Norma Starr, 12/13; Kathy Reynolds, 12/15; Lindsey Crozier, 12/16; Lorraine Krieiensieck, 12/17; Jean Oleson, Kari Wisk, and Bradley Bagshaw, 12/20; Linda Bushman, 12/24; and Cliff Cox, 12/28.

Anniversaries – Jan and Gary Johnsen, 12/2; Inga and Howard Sunde, 12/5; Diane and Marshall Spezman, 12/17; Pat and Rod Smallfoot, 12/27; and Bootie and Ron Seeders, 12/29.

We hope all of you have a blessed day on your special day!!

CLC FINANCIAL STATUS

OCTOBER OFFERINGS RECEIVED

October 2	\$ 1,555.00
October 9	\$ 1,898.60
October 16	\$ 3,001.00
October 23	\$ 1,015.00
October 30	\$ 852.00

Total Offerings <i>Received</i> through October 30:	\$ 8,321.00
Total Average Offerings <i>Budgeted</i> through July 24	<u>\$10,932.00</u>

Total Short for October: **<\$2,611.00>**



	Jan - Oct 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
Givers of Record/Loose Plate	97,598	113,471	(15,873)	86.01%
Other Income-(Rental, King Sooper Cards, Etc)	4,765	4,736	29	100.61%
Total Income	102,362	118,207	(15,845)	86.6%
Expense				
Church Office - Personnel	91,489	89,181	2,308	102.59%
Church Office - Non-Personnel (Tele, Util, Etc)	5,340	6,740	(1,400)	79.22%
Property & Grounds	20,682	20,655	27	100.13%
Other Expense-(Muisic,Evangelism, Etc)	5,907	7,330	(1,423)	80.59%
Total Expense	123,418	123,906	(488)	99.61%
Net Income	(21,055)	(5,699)	(15,356)	369.46%
Designated Income	3,422			
Designated Expense	26,013			



Merry Christmas

Pastor Katie

Karen

Vee Ann

Roberta

Chuck