



THE NUGGET

December 2016, from Pastor Dan

Fear not, for today I bring you good tidings of great joy. These were the words to the shepherds out in the fields as they see the heavens swirl out of control and wonder what is going on. Life had gone on, day after day out in those hills. Each night the same passing of the stars, season after season until, until this night. In days of old it was understood that an encounter with God would herald the end, but this night was different.

Starting the end of November and moving on into December is the season of Advent. Advent is the beginning of the church year and the texts assigned to these four Sundays leading up to Christmas tend to take on an ominous tone. It used to be that Advent was like a mini season of Lent, a time of preparation leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, similar to Lent being a time of preparation leading up to the celebration of the gift of new life for all in the resurrection. Christmas began on December 25th and extended into the season of Epiphany, or the revelation of who this Jesus is, on January 6th. Times have changed however. For many in our world Christmas starts on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and for the most part we are done with it on what in England is called boxing day, or December 26th.

So we have this odd bit of emotional and calendar conflict each year. The world tells us to not worry and be happy, Christmas, complete with Santa and all those gifts is right around the corner. Our heart calls us to find something special for those loved ones, not just some plastic thing off the shelf they already have. For many the reality of economics and time bump up against it all and create tension and disappointment.

This year, consider Advent boxes and water wells. Support of building water wells is a tradition in this congregation. In some parts of the world having a water well near a village can mean an extra 3 to 5 hours a day to spend growing, harvesting and preparing food and caring for children. It often means freedom from the fear of abduction, rape or murder for many of those tasked with making the long and difficult journey through sometimes unsafe territory. Advent boxes are for something closer to home. Remember those advent calendars where each day you got to open a little window and get a piece of candy or little toy? An advent box is the reverse of that. It is an empty box and a list of scripture readings for each day. Instead of getting yet another piece of candy we don't need, we get a scripture reading about caring for others in this world and an opportunity to place one or more items of food in the box for those in need. It is a way of participating in, and teaching our children about, the joy that comes with giving. The candy in the Advent calendars is often gone in a gulp. Participating in and learning to be giving caring people of God is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

So join us this year as we work to reclaim Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. A time when we not only hear the words, "fear not," but also help reduce fear in the lives of others. Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, and ask you to share that in word and deed with others. Amen!

COUNCIL MINUTES—Annual Congregational Meeting November 6, 2016

The meeting was called to order after a lunch of salad and pizza. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of minutes from 2015 congregational meeting
 2. Constitutional changes- Jan Brewer presented the language changes made to the constitution in order to keep it up to date and in compliance with the Synod. A vote was taken to accept the changes and all were in favor of accepting them, the vote passed.
 3. Budget passed as written.
 4. Council Member nominations accepted with thanks- Casey Olson, Kate Veh, Jim Delker, and Rye Cross.
 5. Mission Site Task Force Presentation- Marlene and Roger Pearson, chairpersons, reviewed the process to search for a pastor. Their committee's portion of the process is the Site Profile which is like a resume for the church. The committee is made up of Lee and Andrea Frey, Jon Lillivek, JoAnn Hagen, Mark Larson, Brenna Belluomini, and Roger and Marlene Pearson. Lee and Andrea Frey shared the community information portion of the profile and what that entails. Mark Larson shared the community use of the building. Roger shared the population breakout of the church. ELCA Survey Questionnaire- What is the Congregation's Vision for Mission? The committee reviewed the results of the Sunday Survey Questions that have been included in the Sunday service pamphlets these past weeks. The committee shared the background and reasons for the Congregational Survey. They shared that the survey is available online but can also be completed by hand. The link for the survey will be posted on our Facebook page as well as our website. Click on Call Process. Then click on the survey link. The committee is hoping to have the Ministry Site Profile completed by mid to late January.
 6. Homelessness- Kathy Gensel shared that Love Inc. is having a meeting to discuss homelessness in the Soldotna area on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 10-11 AM. She suggested that someone from our congregation attend the meeting.
 7. Interim Minister- Pastor Dan shared what some of his duties are as an interim pastor. He specifically shared that the listening sessions are going well.
 8. Construction Projects were updated: All should be completed by the new year.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

WORSHIP/MUSIC COMMITTEE PLANS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

Month of November: "Color-coded" Food Drive: Bring Food to Match Colors

November 27th: Brown and White

Of course, food of any color is always appreciated and green \$ are especially nice!

November 27: Beginning of Advent-Wednesday Advent Services at 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM

December 18: Christmas Pageant at 11:00 Service Costumes provided.

We'll put on our own pageant in an impromptu fashion and sing carols.

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00 and 7:30 PM

NEEDED: Someone to coordinate cookies and hot chocolate between services

NEEDED: Someone to help with set up, cleanup, serve

December 25: Christmas Day Services at 11:00 AM

Wear your pajamas and come sing carols.

CHRISTMAS EVE CARESHARE

Looking for some to coordinate the cookie, coffee, hot chocolate, and cider set up, serve and clean up on Christmas Eve between the two services. We will be sending around a list in church for a cookie sign up and all other items will be in the kitchen. If you can help in this ministry, please contact Brad Nyquist 283-1683.



MINISTRY SITE PROFILE (MSP): SURVEY

One of the key requirements of the MSP is to provide a survey on a number of topics related to the congregation and the type of pastor it seeks. The survey is now available for you to take on both the CLC web site and the CLC Facebook page. Please complete it at your earliest convenience.

To access the web site, go to: <http://www.christlutheransoldotna.org/> and then click on "Call Process". That will take you to the survey.

To begin the survey, click on:

1. Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Profile Survey

The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

If you need help with the online survey, please call Roger Pearson (776-8304) or John Lillevik (398-4611). If you prefer to have a paper form of the survey mailed to you, please call or email Roger Pearson (rpearsonak1@gmail.com)

You may also complete a paper form of the survey at Christ Lutheran Church on Sunday morning or evening. There will be a box available where you can leave you completed form.

NOTE: The survey is anonymous.

We encourage all family members (about 14 years on up) to complete the survey.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION PROFILE

As an ELCA church, calling a pastor is a purposeful process. A key component of the call process is putting together for Bishop Shelly a profile of our congregation to present to a prospective pastor. We have begun the process with the Sunday survey questions that you have found in your bulletin. A longer survey is being put together and you will receive that in a few weeks.

We very much appreciate the answers to the questions that we have received so far. If you have missed any of those questions and wish to make your thoughts known, extra copies can be found in the church entryway. If you have questions or want to make comments contact any of us on the Mission Task Force Committee or Pastor Dan.

The committee: Roger and Marlene Pearson, Mark and Elaine Larson, Jon Lillevik, JoAnn Hagen, Lee and Andrea Frey, and Brenna Belloumini.

REMEMBER IN PRAYERS

The "Remember Prayer" list comes from prayer concerns heard during our worship service or via email requests sent to the pastor/church for prayer. If you have a prayer concern that you would like shared on our email prayer chain or if you would like to be on the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Dan at 262-4757.

October 30th

Joys: gift of performers, Dave and Jane Stein's birthday

Concerns: Comfort for the Pearson's daughter-in-law, healing for Donna Alder, Charlie Simons not feeling well

Passings: family of the Fairbank's police officer killed, Bill Thompson's sister Carol passed away

November 6th

Joys: opening the churches doors and sharing our space, blessings of Polly be present in her life

Concerns: successful surgeries, family of the two people killed in the Funny River trailer, "Miss Sherry" comfort and peace, our country reconciliation and healing, Ander's Nyquist moving to Colorado, physical and financial issues Marilyn is having, Jerry having surgery, John recovering from knee replacement surgery, Roland as he faces his final days

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Perhaps some of you have begun your Christmas shopping or are considering starting soon. As you begin making your plans, please consider the Advent Conspiracy. The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and revolutionary love. So what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it is all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose. What if Christmas were to become a life changing event? Welcome to the Advent Conspiracy. This year, as in the previous three years, we don't want to change the whole world, but we do want to change one village. More than a billion people worldwide lack access to clean water. A woman or child in sub-Saharan Africa will walk an average of 3.7 miles every day to get water, not all of it clean. Helping a community construct and maintain a well opens a world of opportunity. This year we would like to collect enough money to furnish one village with a well and change their world. The cost is \$2,500. If you want to see what difference a well can make in the life of a village and what some of the conditions are in sub-Saharan Africa read [Along Walk to Water](#) by Linda Sue Park. It is a quick read, but one certainly that will touch your heart. There are also copies of [The Advent Conspiracy](#) in the entryway. Take one, read it, share it, and try some of the ideas to make your Advent and Christmas more meaningful.

ADDRESS CHANGES

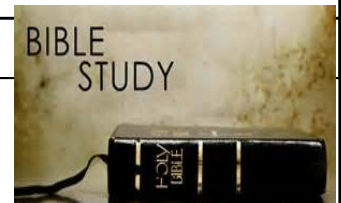
Mary Showalter's new address:
PO BOX 206, Sterling, AK 99672



Change of
Address

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Please join "The Bad Girls of the Bible" bible study group at
10:00 AM in the Senior High room.
Contact Kate Veh for information 260-4669.



PODCAST



Christ Lutheran Soldotna podcasts are available on iTunes!
On your mobile device open your podcasting app
(IOS would use iTunes Store) and search
christ lutheran soldotna or go to www.christluthेरansoldotna.org
and subscribe by going to the top menu:
Listen-Subscribe to iTunes!
Now you won't have to miss a single message.

LUNCH BUNCH - CALLING ALL LADIES!!!

Ladies: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, December 13th, 11:30 AM
at Gingers in the Peninsula Center Mall.



CHOIR

For all of you who like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, the church choir practices on
Sunday, at 9:45-10:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please Join us!
If you have any questions contact Anna Veach (334)349-3046.

FIRST THURSDAY BLUE GRASS JAM

We invite you to join us at the
"1st Thursday Blue Grass Jam"
to be held at Christ Lutheran Church on
Thursday, December 1st At 6:30 - 9:30 PM.
This evening is for those wanting to "jam" or for those
wanting to listen to great music.
Please join us, you will love it!



COMMUNION DATES—NOTE CHANGE IN DATES FOR THIS MONTH

11:00 AM Service, 1st and 2nd Sunday, December 4th and 11th
6:00 PM Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday, December 11th and 25th

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES		FOOD PANTRY	
Elio Stuive	12/1	<p>The Food Pantry is a joint project of Soldotna United Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran Church. Additional support comes from generous individuals, organizations, local businesses, as well as help from the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. We are collecting items for the Soldotna Community Food Pantry. In October a total of 127 boxes were distributed serving 216 adult and 90 children. Watch for upcoming events to help this much needed cause in our community. If you wish to help with the staffing you can any Wednesday (10:00 AM—2:00 PM), please call Cosette at 262-7610.</p> 	
Herman & Jan Stenga ♡	12/1		
Keziah Simons	12/1		
Brooke Belluomini	12/2		
Scott & Rachel Thomas	12/3		
Jenna Jensen	12/7		
Carol Clonan	12/8		
Abby Smola	12/8		
Corina Stone	12/9		
Hans Rinke	12/10		
Katie Ford	12/12		
Benjamin Veh	12/13		
Peter & Carmen Triana ♡	12/15		
Brad Carver	12/15		
Peter Micciche	12/17		
Steve & Aleja DeVito ♡	12/19		
Sue Stein	12/21		
Aleja DeVito	12/23		
Clyde Johnson	12/23		
Drysta Schneider	12/23		
Janet Brewer	12/24		
Scott Thomas	12/26		
Sam Janorschke	12/28		
Tom & Joyce Duwe ♡	12/29		
Dan & Carol Johnson ♡	12/29		
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY!		CROCHETING THEIR WAY MINISTRY	
		<p>We are collecting yarn for the women at Wildwood Prison who are crocheting articles for people in the community.</p> <p>There is a tote on the donation station for any donations of yarn.</p> 	



Non Profit Org
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Soldotna AK 99669

PO Box 568
Soldotna AK 99669
Return Service Requested

Christ Lutheran Mission Statement:

Knowing Christ

Empowering His Followers

Making Him Known To Others

Please contact us ...

Phone: 262-4757, Web: www.christlutheransoldotna.org or Email: clchurch@alaska.net

We want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits, and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate. Please notify the church office as soon as possible when:

- A member of your family or someone you know dies.
- You or someone you know is ill or grieving.
- You or someone you know is in the hospital.
- You or someone you know wants to plan a baptism, wedding or celebration.
- You move or change telephone numbers.