



**ST. LUCAS LANTERN**  
**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**  
**We Bring People to Christ, Nurture People in**  
**Christ, and Equip People for Christ**

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**Is Christmas a Christian Holiday? Or not?**

When you title your lead article for your congregation's December newsletter

something so controversial, you better follow it up with A-game material. Christmas is not a Christian holiday. But how could it not be; after all, it has the word CHRIST in it?!

Well, first, there's history. In 1870, President Grant declared Christmas to be a National Holiday. A fact for which Federal Employees remain grateful. School children are also glad that Christmas is recognized as a holiday at the local level. (Give us time, kids; we'll try to get them to give you Reformation Day off. October 31st. And yes, I know there's competition for that day.)

But there's also sound doctrine behind wanting Christmas not to be recognized as a Christian holiday. If we say that Christmas is a Christian holiday, what we are saying is that people who do not identify as Christians should not celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. But people who do not identify themselves as Christians should celebrate the birth of Jesus, even if their understanding of what his birth means still needs some work.

The Jesus whose birth we celebrate on the holiday called Christmas would go on to live a perfect life, die miserably on the

cross, conquer death in his resurrection, ascend into heaven, and send the Holy Spirit to bring all people to faith and repentance. And he is the same Son of God who will come again to judge the living and the dead, to whom all knees shall bow, and who reigns forever and ever.

If his grace and mercy, love and compassion extends to all people, why would we say that his birth should only be celebrated by a few? Our call as Christians is not to keep the uninformed from celebrating the birth of the one we know has saved them from sin and death, but to give them the reason why his birth is worth celebrating.

God bless you as you celebrate the birth of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Yours in Christ,  
Phil Miksad, President  
St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church*



### **Gifts for our Newborn King**

I was recently reflecting on our vibrant church community and wanted to take a moment to say thank you for being a

valued and essential part of St. Lucas. I'm honored to have been selected to lead our church's Stewardship Committee, but make no mistake, I couldn't do it without you.

Soon we will see again Immanuel, "God with us!" in the manger. As you reflect on the wonderful blessings Christ has brought to you this year, you may be moved to honor Him with a year-end gift. To be included in your 2023 contribution statement, gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023.

I know that with the change of the seasons comes chilling weather, sickness, and travel. I want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way for you to give a gift to our Newborn King more easily.

You can make such a gift by visiting our Giving Portal ([stlucascms.org/giving](http://stlucascms.org/giving)) or by scanning the QR code below. Choose the "Year End Gift" fund at the Giving Portal. "Year-end Gift" envelopes are also available at the back of the church.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and your thoughtful consideration to join us in our mission, "Bring, Nurture and Equip People for Christ."

Christmas joy and blessings,  
Carol Miksad,  
Stewardship Director



Wednesdays of Advent

Join us December 6, 13 and 20 for the activities below.

6:00 – 6:45p.m. – Light meal (free will offering)

**7:00p.m -- Advent Services**

7:45p.m. – Choir Practice

Christmas Services

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Morning, 9 a.m. (one service)

**Christmas Eve Service -- 5:00 p.m.**

Christmas Day Service - December 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. (Communion)

New Year's Day, Regular Sunday Services (No Sunday School)



**ECC:** Have you seen the playground? Jordon Wade, from Wade's Landscaping (ECC parent) installed much needed rubber mulch for us. It looks great, thank you Jordon!





**BUNCO CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Come to the Christmas Party and then play a little Bunco on Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. We will have heavy snacks (don't eat dinner) and we play rob your neighbor (\$10-\$15 gift).

Our charity this month is Toys For Tots. They are asking for UNWRAPPED toys. The cost is \$5.00 to play. Bringing snacks & toys as well as playing rob your neighbor is purely voluntary. Would love to have you join the festivities! Please let me know, Sharon Majoros at (314) 922-4678 or Sharon.3845m@yahoo.co, if you are planning on attending, if you will play Rob your Neighbor and if you are bringing any guests.

If you are unable to attend but would like donate, please place your **unwrapped** toys by the black & white tote in the back of the church.

**WOMEN' S GUILD:** Our Christmas Luncheon will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Bar Roma on Gravois. All ladies are welcome. Please RSVP to Nancy Roach at (314) 401 8046



**POINSETTIAS:** The Women's Guild will be ordering 14 Poinsettias for the Altar for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services..

We would appreciate members to sign the sheet to place an order for one or more plants. The Poinsettias can be taken home or given as a gift after the Christmas Day service. The price will be announced at a later date.

The order sheet will be in the back of church after Thanksgiving. Thank you.

The St. Lucas Women's Guild



**GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!:** And BASIC would like to help you with all your gift card needs. All proceeds go to assisting in Christian education.

A list of local merchants that we either have or can get quickly for your gift card giving convenience is available in the narthex and will be available in the weekly E-News. There are also hundreds of other retailers available. Please see Bill Bartlow for other information and for denominations. Call (314) 283-0049 with your order or email [billandmary@msn.com](mailto:billandmary@msn.com). Please get your orders in before December 15th.

***Shut in labels will be available in the narthex to send to St. Lucas's Shut Ins***

**PUBLICITY:** If you want assistance publicizing your ministry activity, please contact Stan Shurmantine at [sshumantine@gmail.com](mailto:sshumantine@gmail.com)



**TOYS FOR CHILDREN:** Sometimes life is not kind to people. An accident at work, a layoff, sickness, a mistake with the law can put a burden on a family. What would Christmas be like for children if they would not get presents? St. Lucas Men's Club is collecting toys for distressed children and giving them to Feed My People for distribution. Give unwrapped new toys and place them in the collection box in the narthex of the church by Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!

**BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS:** Sunday December 10, 9:15 a.m.  
**COOKIE WALK AND BAKE SALE:** Sunday December 10, 9:00a.m. - Noon  
*Check E-News for more information.*



**BASIC BINGO:** To Support St. Lucas BASIC Come Have Fun and Win Prizes!!!

Please join us Saturday February 3, 2024 @ St. Lucas Evangelical

Lutheran Church for a fun evening of Bingo, Raffle baskets, 50/50 and other games to win prizes!

All proceeds go to support Christian Education for students attending Word of Life Lutheran School and Lutheran High School South!!!

Doors open @ 6:00 p.m. and Bingo Starts @7:00 p.m.

Single Tickets \$25.00 or a table of 8 for \$200

Bring food and drinks for your table! Soda and chips will be complimentary!

For tickets please contact :

Nancy Kramer at 314-580-4298 [nancyhighway61@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyhighway61@yahoo.com)

Stacy Bewig at 314-391-3785 [stacyl0215@gmail.com](mailto:stacyl0215@gmail.com)

Stacey Wellman at 314-297-7456 [dswellman@live.com](mailto:dswellman@live.com)

Liz Kurtz at [emdunsford@att.net](mailto:emdunsford@att.net)

St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church

7100 Morganford Rd. St. Louis MO 63116

**WOL RESTRAUNT NIGHT:** Tuesday, December 12th

Hampton Location, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

No flyer needed - Just mention WOL Spirit Night!

If you order online, add either Word of Life Lutheran or Spirit Night in the special requests section.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Trivia night Saturday March 23rd to benefit ECC playground shading. More details soon!

## December

Date	Early Service	Late Service
DEC. 3	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Diane Dymond ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Steven Kulifay ( <b>Reader</b> ) Judy Willenbrock Sharon Majoros ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Timothy Adams Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Robert McNiel ( <b>Elder</b> ) Kenneth Ely ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Reader</b> ) Laurie Riley, ( <b>Usher</b> ) Dalton Costick ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Stacey Wellman, Liz Kurtz ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
DEC. 6	ADVENT SERVICE	Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Dorothy Arbet ( <b>Greeter</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Reader</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Usher</b> ) Riley Roper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> )
DEC. 10	Nancy Roach ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Judy Willenbrock ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Reader</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay, Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Dorothy Arbet ( <b>Greeters</b> ) Nancy Roach ( <b>Reader</b> ) Ron & Joan Shebik ( <b>Usher</b> ) Riley Roper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Travis Lawson, Caylin Schlesselman ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
DEC. 13	ADVENT SERVICE	Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Reader</b> ) Judy Willenbrock, Sharon Majoros ( <b>Usher</b> ) Tracy Jasper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> )
DEC. 17	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Joyce Kolnik ( <b>Greeter</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Reader</b> ) Stan Shurmantine, Jane Solovic-Townsend ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steven Kulifay, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Bob Sadlon ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Travis Lawson ( <b>Elder</b> ) Charlotte Brewer ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Michael Schuster ( <b>Reader</b> ) Robert McNiel, Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Usher</b> ) Tracy Jasper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Nancy Kramer, Liz Kurts ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )



<b>DEC 20</b>	ADVENT SERVICE	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Charlotte Brewer ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Bill Bartlow ( <b>Reader</b> ) Art Matia, Kenneth Ely ( <b>Usher</b> ) Angel Jasper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay ( <b>Video Tech</b> )
<b>DEC. 24 Christmas EVE 9AM, 5PM</b>	Barb Morrison ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Deb Rose ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Sue Hasselbring ( <b>Reader</b> ) Tom and Nicole Buffington, ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Carolyn Crump, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Robert McNeil ( <b>Elder</b> ) Travis Lawson, Judy Willenbrock ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Don Howell ( <b>Reader</b> ) Ron & Joan Shebik, Kenneth Ely ( <b>Usher</b> ) Zach Schlesselman ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Caylin Schlesselman Travis Lawson ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
<b>DEC. 25 Christmas Day</b>		Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Pat Carlton ( <b>Reader</b> ) Robert McNeil ( <b>Usher</b> ) Johnny Bewig ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay ( <b>Video Tech</b> )
<b>DEC. 31</b>	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Robert McNeil ( <b>Reader</b> ) Judy Willenbrock Sharon Majoros ( <b>Ushers</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steven Kulifay, Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Myrna Land ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Nancy Roach ( <b>Reader</b> ) Laurie Riley ( <b>Usher</b> ) Zackary Aguado ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Stacey Wellman, Caylin Schlesselman ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )





## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 – Jane Solovice-Townsend<br>Janet Wheatley              | 19 – Joyce Bruss                          |
| 2 – Nicole Buffington<br>Caylin Schlesselman              | 20 – Gracie Hardesty<br>Anna Grossius     |
| 5 – Patricia Carlton                                      | 21 – Barbara Baranovic<br>Anthony Bierman |
| 6 – Matthew Pirtle  | 22 – Nanama Adu Sesay                     |
| 8 – William Shackelford                                   | 23 – Sophia Melton<br>Jane Mihalevich     |
| 9 – Kayleigh Rogers<br>Christopher Currie<br>Akosua Sesay | 24 – Jeff Barnes                          |
| 12 – Stacy Bewig  | 25 – Ronald Shebik Jr.                    |
| 14 – John Hertel<br>Steve Roach                           | 27 – Jason Dunajcik<br>Delaney Kurtz      |
| 17 – Leon Hoyt<br>Kathleen Moffett                        | 30 – Avery Heppermann                     |

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSIERS**

- 18 – Tom & Nicole Buffington 2 years

Please check Bulletin Board above the refreshment table for more local events.

# Reading Through the Word

## DECEMBER

- 1... **Zechariah 10 & 11 & 12; Psalm 126; Luke 14**  
1... **Romans 5 & 6 & 7 & 8**  
2... **Romans 9 & 10 & 11 & 12**  
3... **Romans 13 & 14 & 15 & 16**  
4... **Ephesians 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
5... **Psalm 119:1-80; Ephesians 5 & 6**  
6... **Philippians 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
7... **Colossians 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
8... **1 Timothy 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
9... **1 Timothy 5 & 6; Titus 1 & 2 & 3**  
10... **2 Timothy 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
11... **Philemon; Hebrews 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
12... **Hebrews 5 & 6 & 7 & 8**  
13... **Hebrews 9 & 10 & 11**  
14... **Hebrews 12 & 13; Jude**  
15... **James 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5**  
16... **1 Peter 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5**  
17... **2 Peter 1 & 2 & 3; John 1**  
18... **John 2 & 3 & 4**  
19... **John 5 & 6**  
20... **John 7 & 8**  
21... **John 9 & 10 & 11**  
22... **John 12 & 13 & 14**  
23... **John 15 & 16 & 17 & 18**  
24... **John 19 & 20 & 21**  
25... **1 John 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5**  
26... **Psalms 117 & 119:81-176; 2 John; 3 John**  
27... **Revelation 1 & 2 & 3 & 4**  
28... **Revelation 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9**  
29... **Revelation 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14**  
30... **Revelation 15 & 16 & 17 & 18**  
31... **Revelation 19 & 20 & 21 & 22**

