



DECEMBER 2018

NEWS LETTER of LAKELAND LUTHERAN Church

Cold Lake, Alberta

780-639-4673

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12pm

Pastor's Office hours

Wednesday-Friday 9am-12pm

lakelandlutheran@telus.net

Interim Pastor:

AnnE Zimmerman



From the desk of AnnE....

Dear Friends,

I think Christmas changes us - and so it should. More than that, perhaps we know it should. Even today, when our lives have become frenzied dashes to complete a never-ending list of tasks - fuelled by demands to buy and consumer, to achieve and compete - we yearn for a different kind of Christmas.

Our hearts call us to seek something that we vaguely perceive as the Christmas spirit. It smacks of good cheer; hospitality, compassion for the poor and the stranger, warmth towards our family and friends. But our minds don't listen all that well to our hearts.

Our minds listen to the world instead. And the world tells us we can only satisfy this yearning by buying things. If we buy the hottest new digital toy, the most expensive trinket or the grandest fashion statement for our nearest and dearest, 'we will feel loved'.

In Advent, our liturgies point to "preparing the way" for our hearts, urging us to find time for prayer. Winter, especially our northern winter, lends to fostering silence. The deep, long, dark nights of December speak to our internal longing. Advent itself, those four weeks of preparation for the coming of Emmanuel (God with us), provide the opportunity. If we allow ourselves the chance, we can find the silence we need to hear that still, small voice of God.

Then, we can experience that sweet day of December 25th. Jesus birth 'day' comes ... for a hurting, longing, struggling world. Christmas ... helps us 'stop'... take a breather 'after the baby is born' ... in the quiet of the morning forcing us to clear our minds... to step away from commercial clutter...disengage from our too-hectic lives...and...give ourselves over to the ultimate Gift. We are reminded that "yes" ... not by feeling but knowing - 'we are loved'. The knowing changes us to know: Jesus is with us. That's a promise.

May you make time this Advent. Be silent. Listen to that still, small voice of God. You are worth it. Know you are loved ... always.

AnnE



December 2018 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

We are taught by the morning newspaper headlines and by the evening news broadcasts to know names like: Donald Trump, Theresa May, Emmanuel Macron, Kim Jong-un, Vladimir Putin, Emperor Augustus, Quirinius - governor of Syria. Important people. Politicians, some of whom use power, who keep records - who announce that the world should be registered - and the entire world moves at their command - even the poor and the pregnant!

Rome reaches out its long arms to the little towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem and tightens its grip on its subjects through taxation and military might and population control – the empire-building business!

But the name Augustus meant more than just an inconvenient government decree for an imperial document carved forever in marble heralded the birth-day of Augustus as the birth-day of a god! Set in stone, this declaration announced the birth of Augustus as good news to the world! As emperor he was called *soter*, which means, “savior.” He was: “god on earth in human form, protector of the state, cause of peace and of blessing in the inhabited world!” His laws were presented in official propaganda as, “good tidings of great joy.”

The official party-line proclaimed that if you want to see deity at work look to the Emperor, savior, god, the rising star, the bringer of peace, the one who brings “good tidings of great joy!” And yet, what the record tells is of organized violence, militarism and exploitation of the poor. Of an emperor - a savior - who killed three of his sons and one of his wives, and a number of close advisors because he feared their disloyalty.

This is how the Christmas gospel begins - with a word of power - a decree - with powerful, important people in the powerhouse cities of Rome and Jerusalem. But the gospel writer doesn't stop there instead the writer tells of a bunch of politically powerful nobodies - like Joseph and Mary from the backward town of Nazareth - in a stable, in a dot-on-the-map-town called Bethlehem, surrounded by a group of scraggy low-life shepherds who lived in the fields and who, likely as not, smelled to high heaven!

The gospel writer invites us to listen carefully and to look closely as the stone-cut declaration about Emperor Augustus is countered with another word - this one delivered by heavenly messenger rather than Roman decree.

This gospel writer, you see, is busy re-arranging and contrasting our ideas about power, about history, about good news of great joy - in this child lying in a manger - heard against the backdrop of empire builders, power brokers and census takers.

To people suffering under unbelievable oppression, under the thumb of imperial Rome - Luke proclaims that they will hear and see truly good news not in imperial decrees, but in a manger -

in this “good news of great joy for all the people” - in a birth announcement which calls forth worship and adoration, amazement and awe, wide-eyed wonder and running feet - and hope.

If we are not stunned by this declaration, perhaps it is because we fail to see what God is up to for when God chooses to challenge the empire and the idolatry of imperial power God comes as a helpless infant; when God chooses to bring hope God comes not as a declaration cut into marble but as a babe wrapped in strips of cloth; and when God chooses to embrace us and all of humanity with the gift of love God comes not as a decree but in flesh.

This gospel writer invites us to ask the very real questions. The very real questions during the candle lighting and the gathering with family and friends, with strangers and friends; in the midst of our very real grief, and our very real concerns for our family and friends and for this world: who saves and who gives peace? And who claims our ultimate loyalty? And who is it that brings good news of great joy?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

“The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

WOULD YOU LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR CHURCH?

Our Church Council is looking for new members to serve. Service would begin (after voting for council members) at the Annual General Meeting this coming February 2019.

*** COMMITTEES PLEASE REMEMBER TO PREPARE YOUR REPORTS FOR THE A.G.M.**

Confused what a Church Council Member actually does?

Speak to our Council President Keith Scheidt. He will give you any information you need together with an opportunity to come and see what actually does happen at a Council meeting.

FYI all Church Council meetings are open to all church members.



Upcoming Events

Announcements



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ALL MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH GROUP, SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONGREGATION ARE INVITED TO COME AND JOIN IN THE SANTA PARADE. PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH ON FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER @ 4.30 PM.

Praise Team

The praise team is meeting again! If you want to be involved, please feel free to come! All are welcome! We will meet at 7 PM every Wednesday!



CHECKOUT THE DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR FOR ALL ACTIVITIES.



Are we missing anything in our newsletter? Or is there something you wish we would have in our newsletter on a ongoing basis?

Remember all inclusions for the January newsletter must be to the church office by December 22nd.

Please phone the church office with your ideas or necessary inclusions. Kathy is waiting for your call or email.

Calling all Youth Group - CLAY!

Join us on Friday 14th December @ 5PM. We are having a Pizza Party followed by handing out Christmas bags to the Seniors at the Lodge. Fun for All....





On December 9th our children from Sunday School have a beautiful performance planned.



Christmas Potluck

Please join us for our annual Christmas Pot Luck on Sunday 9th December – After the Children's program.

Ham, beans, perogies and punch are all provided. Please complete the pot luck with your favourite salads, buns and desserts. It would be wonderful to see you all.



They Are Here!!!! Please collect one from the office and continue to give throughout the Christmas period.



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Witness, Outreach and Mission Projects for 2018 – 2019

JANUARY: Pack up items from Mitten Tree, have them blessed and delivered.

FEBRUARY: Refuge Support

MARCH & APRIL: Lenten Project – We Car Bags (CLWR)

MAY: Missionary Support – Pastor Brian Rude, missionary to El Salvador

JUNE: Cold Lake Food Bank Drive

JULY: Support for Lac La Biche Congregation

AUGUST: Adopt a Family – Back to School Expenses

Community Registration

SEPTEMBER: Campus Ministries

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday School Kick-off

OCTOBER: CLWR Soap Drive

NOVEMBER: Gifts from the Heart

DECEMBER: Mitten Tree – Donations of warm mitts, hats, touques, scarves & socks for LAMP

Ongoing donations for the Disaster Fund, Joie's Phoenix House, Seminary and Discretionary Fund.



SAVE THE DATE:


Friday 25th January from 7 to 9 PM is our Games night for the Adults. Bring a game and join us for a night of fun and fellowship.





DECEMBER

Mitten Tree - Support Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ADVENT 1;  10 AM Worship with Holy Communion	3 AnnE's Day Off	4 AnnE's Day Off	5 9.30 AM – Noon & Noon – 2.30 PM Food Bank 4.30 PM Worship Committee Meeting 6 PM Witness & Outreach 7 PM Praise Team	6 9.30 AM Service & Care Meeting 7 PM Bible Study	7	8 10 AM Sunday School Rehearsal + Lunch
9 ADVENT 2;  10 AM Worship with Children's Program 11.30 POT LUCK	10	11 AnnE's Day Off	12 7PM - Praise Team <i>7 PM – AA Meeting</i>	13 11.30 AM Ministerial Meeting 7 PM – Bible Study	14 AnnE's Day Off 5 PM CLAY - Christmas sharing bags and Pizza party	15
16 ADVENT 3;  10 AM Worship with Holy Communion; Blessing of the Mitten Tree - The Rev. Daryl Roste – Guest Preacher Away	17 AnnE's Day Off	18 AnnE's Day Off	19 7 PM Council Meeting 7PM – Praise Team <i>7 PM – AA Meeting</i>	20 7 PM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE	21 5PM – Anglican Community Supper	22 Pastor AnnE visiting the Soholts (leave a card by the 16th Dec and she will deliver)
23 ADVENT 4;  10 AM Worship Service of the Word	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3 PM Long Term Care Christmas Service 7 PM Christmas Eve Service OFFICE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10 AM Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion CLOSED	26 9.30 AM – Noon & Noon – 2.30 PM Food Bank <i>7 PM – AA Meeting</i> FOR C	27 4 PM Long Term Care Service HRISTMAS	28 BREAK	29
30 1ST Sunday of Christmas; 10 AM Worship with Holy Communion & Carol singing NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	31 OFFICE	Jan 1 CLOSED	Jan 2 <i>7 PM - AA Meeting</i> NEW YEAR	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5

REGULAR OFFICE OPEN HOURS – MON – THURS, 9AM –NOON

**All words in italic print are friends in Cold Lake who use our building.*



JANUARY EPIPHANY BEGINS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	OFFICE	CLOSED	NEW YEAR			
6 Epiphany of Our Lord 10 AM Worship with Holy Communion	7 AnnE' Day Off	8 AnnE's Day Off	9 4.30 Worship Committee 6 PM Witness & Outreach 7PM Praise Team <i>7PM AA Meeting</i>	10 9.30 AM Service & Care 11.30 AM Ministerial Meeting 5 PM Pub Theology @ TAPS 7 PM Bible Study	11 10.30 Caregivers Meeting	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord 10 AM Worship, Service of the Word	14 AnnE's Day Off	15 AnnE's Day Off	16 9.30 AM- Noon & Noon - 2.30 PM Food Bank 7 PM Council Meeting 7PM Praise Team <i>7PM AA Meeting</i>	17 7PM Bible Study	18 5PM Anglican Community Supper 5 PM CLAY (at Pastor AnnE's house)	19
20 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship with Holy Communion	21 AnnE's Day Off	22 AnnE's Day Off	23 4 PM Education Meeting 7 PM Praise Team <i>7PM AA Meeting</i>	24 4 PM Long Term Care Service 5 PM Pub Theology @ TAPS 7 PM Bible Study	25 7-9 PM Adult's Game Night	26
27 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship, Service of the Word	28 AnnE' Day Off	29 AnnE's Day Off	30 7 PM Praise Team <i>7PM - AA Meeting</i>	31 7 PM Bible Study	Feb 1	Feb 2

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