



**NEWSLETTER OF  
LAKELAND LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2022  
JANUARY 2023**

Cold Lake, Alberta  
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Church Office Hours:  
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Rev's Words:

**With thoughts for the season**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight.’” <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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“The kingdom of heaven has come near!

John the Baptist’s message is urgent, telling people that now is the time to pay attention. Now is

the time to change. He is equally clear about who people should be preparing for so that they know the appropriate activities. When my daughter was young, in one of my less-than-stellar parenting moments, I said that Christmas wouldn't come if her room didn't get picked up and she didn't go to sleep.

My very young theologian reminded me that Jesus would indeed come, and he probably didn't care if her room was picked up! The kingdom of heaven and Jesus continue to draw near to us in our daily lives.

What do we urgently need to pay attention to, and what activities ought we be engaged in so that we are focused on welcoming Jesus into our lives rather than satisfying our own desires for perfection, organization, status, or tradition?

**Let us continue in prayer:**

Jesus, you come into our lives desiring our time and attention for you and for our neighbour. As the busyness of Christmas preparations swirls around us, continue to remind and show us how to engage in these activities in a way that brings your welcome and love to those we encounter each day. Amen

**With thoughts and memories of parents and all who learn so much from children.**

**May we recognize the lessons children teach us. May we have open hearts and a willingness to learn from them. May we listen.**

**Come Lord Jesus, come.**

Pastor AnnE



## December 2022 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

Do you have a relative who keeps track of the family tree? Someone who knows who all the second cousins are, what became of Aunt Anna, and where your middle name comes from? Someone who knows the heroes, the tricksters, and the secrets? Maybe that person is you. If you are a genealogy adventurer, you are going to love the genealogy according to Matthew 1:1- 17.

Matthew is getting ready for a birth. To prepare, our host has pulled out charts and yellowed family photos to demonstrate that this baby comes from an established bloodline tracing all the way back to Abraham, right down to a carpenter named Joseph. It is quite a feat, really, diagramming forty-two (42!) generations of a family tree.

As Matthew moves through his chart, a pattern unfolds, "Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel." So-and-so was the father of so-and-so, and on and on. Traditionally, one's lineage was traced from fathers to sons. Curiously, wonderfully, Matthew's genealogy breaks this cadence and includes the names of five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary, each with a story to tell. Several of the women were gentiles, some had experienced great trauma, and each was tenacious in their loyalty to Yahweh.

When we get to the carpenter from Nazareth the gospel writer breaks cadence again. "Eliazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary." Matthew does not describe Joseph as "the father of." He is a husband – a husband to Mary, the woman who gave birth to the Messiah.

Matthew makes it clear that Joseph has no biological connection to the baby born in Bethlehem. And he does it again when he tells Joseph's story. On learning that his fiancée is pregnant, Joseph is visited by an angel. The angel explains that Mary's baby is not Joseph's child. This babe belongs to God.

This is, of course, the story of Christmas. But it is a bit of a headscratcher. Perhaps Matthew is saying out loud what we all know to be true: families are messy. If you look at our genealogies, you will find separation and abandonment. You will see places where names have been crossed out, scribbled over, and downright erased. Some of us belong to families where diagramming our relationships requires a degree in ancestral calculus.

At this time of year – this "family time" when all is supposed to be jolly and perfect – our flawed trees stand out in our minds. So we do what all normal Christmas tree owners do: we spin the greenery around until the best side faces the room. We live in the hope that no one will notice our hidden imperfections.

But Matthew actually refuses to hide the imperfections! He spins the scruffiest parts of the baby's family tree toward the room. His genealogy highlights disreputable moments in the family's history.

In effect, the angel tells Joseph, "God is in the middle of the mess that you find so disconcerting. The same God who was there in all the not-so-pretty, difficult events shaping your family tree, is in the midst of this moment."

Illuminated Bibles from the Middle Ages often depict the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel as an elaborate family tree. Men and women perch on each branch like ornaments. At the top of the tree stands Mary, holding the infant Jesus. Alongside the tree, Matthew stands, holding a scroll and a pen, still adding names to the genealogy.

In a nutshell, this is Christmas. Here the holy infant presides over our trees. I'm not talking about the ones with glass balls and tinsel. Here Christ embraces our families in all their messiness. Here Matthew stands, waiting for you, pen in hand. He is going to write your name on a branch. Protest all you want. Matthew is going to scribble away!

"This," he will say, "is how God operates: forever grafting our flawed families and our fractured selves into a story of immeasurable hope."

In Christ Jesus -

Shalom, +Larry

## Worship Service Lessons for December

Sunday Dec 4 – Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday Dec 11 – Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday Dec 18 – Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday Dec 24 – Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Sunday Dec 25 – Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP INFORMATION

### Services in Advent:



Nov 27th ADVENT I, 10am Worship with Communion

Dec 4th ADVENT II, 10am Worship with Communion followed by Congregational Meeting

Dec 11th ADVENT III, 10am Worship with Communion

Dec 18th ADVENT IV, 10am Service of the Word including "A Great and Joyful Event" led by the Education Committee

Dec 21st- 7pm Longest Night of the Year Service (**Blue Christmas**)

Dec 24th- 3pm Candlelight Service; 7pm Candlelight Service

Dec 25th- 10am Worship with Communion

Jan 1st- 10am Lay Worship Service Led by Shirley Kirstein (Scripture & Carols)

Jan 8th- 10am Worship with Communion

### Here is the order for the lighting of your Advent candles.

Nov 27th one **blue** candle for HOPE

Dec 4th two **blue** candles for PEACE

Dec 11th two **blue** candles and one **pink** candle for JOY

Dec 18th three **blue** candles and one **pink** candle for LOVE

Dec 24th all the candles are lit including the white one as your Christ Candle.



## Family Prayer as you light your Advent Wreath

### First Sunday of Advent.



Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all your people to your peace. Amen

### Second Sunday of Advent.

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until non hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.



### Third Sunday of Advent.



Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand. Amen.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.

Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Saviour.

Amen.



## Worship

Advent is the preparation that believers undergo to prepare their hearts and homes for Jesus's birth in today's world. Here it is already the second week in Advent. Last Sunday we lit the candle of HOPE to pray for those facing despair, conflict, and loneliness. May they receive comfort and joy knowing one is not alone. This Sunday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> we light the candle of PEACE to calm our anxious hearts around the world. Jesus was called the Prince of Peace. The third Sunday honours Mary, the mother of Jesus, with the candle of JOY to give us comfort from knowing Jesus Christ. The fourth Sunday is the candle of LOVE to draw people together in unity.

The Worship committee has several bouquets to pass on:

Thank you to Gordon, Cornell & Grant for their help with the dowels for the banners, the Paschal Candle, and installing the wooden cross.

Thank you to Shirley & Jim Kirstein for taking the banner off the fence and changing the time on the current fence banner.

Thank you to Gale Strong for her patience in making all the book marks for the hymnals.

Thank you to the altar guild, Leanne, Chantel & Cheryl for making the bread and setting up for communion.

Thank you to all the people who have offered to lead services when Pastor AnnE is away; also the ushers, readers, counters & communion helpers.

Thank you to Kathy for just always being so willing to help out when ever help is needed.

As we await the arrival of the Messiah again may our hearts open with compassion and care to heal our troubled world. May you have a Blessed Christmas with family and friends and a safe trip if you are travelling.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

## Service & Care

Christmas "FINGER FOOD" pot luck lunch on December 18th!!! Some suggestions would be sandwiches, sausage, cheese, crackers, veggies, etc. and your favourite Christmas baking. Cold food that requires no oven or silverware just fingers! Come join in the fellowship!

**Save the date!** Friday January 27th , 7pm to 9pm. Service and Care will be hosting our Adult games night. Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship! Snacks are supplied!



### From the Office

If you are planning to come to the Office during normal office hours (Tue –Fri 9am – noon) please call ahead to ensure that I am here to let you in. There have been several occasions when I have been in a meeting and have not heard someone at the door or that I have been out running errands or even at home sick. I hope this will help prevent any future visitors from being stranded at the door.

Kathy

### Witness and Outreach Committee

Witness supports an Adopt-a-Family program where we help a family in need to have a Merry Christmas. We provide gifts for the children, a Christmas hamper and a grocery gift card for milk and fresh veggies. This is an anonymous program where only Pastor AnnE and the Witness & Outreach Committee members know who the recipients are. If you are able, please donate to this worthy cause. You can use your regular offering envelope by marking it 'Adopt-a-Family' and it will be included in your giving. Thank you to the Sunday School who is also supporting this program.



Gifts of the Heart is a program from Canadian Lutheran World Relief. There are catalogues at the church where you can choose a gift to give to programs around the world in honour of someone on your list who is hard to buy for. You will be sent a card that you can give them telling them about the gift you chose for them. CLWR will also send you a tax receipt.





## Reverse Advent Calendar

Please remember to take your grocery bag, once you have completed the calendar items, to the church on or before Christmas Eve to be blessed and then delivered to the Cold Lake Food Bank.

|                                  |                               |                       |                           |                                   |                              |                              |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                  |                               |                       |                           | Dec 1<br>Box of Cereal            | Dec 2<br>Peanut Butter       | Dec 3<br>Box of Stuffing Mix |
| Dec 4<br>Box of Instant Potatoes | Dec 5<br>Macaroni & Cheese    | Dec 6<br>Canned Fruit | Dec 7<br>Canned Tomatoes  | Dec 8<br>Canned Tuna              | Dec 9<br>Jam or Jelly        | Dec 10<br>Jar of Applesauce  |
| Dec 11<br>Coffee                 | Dec 12<br>Tea                 | Dec 13<br>Canned Peas | Dec 14<br>Box of Crackers | Dec 15<br>Package of Rice         | Dec 16<br>Package of Oatmeal | Dec 17<br>Package of Pasta   |
| Dec 18<br>Canned Spaghetti Sauce | Dec 19<br>Chicken Noodle Soup | Dec 20<br>Tomato Soup | Dec 21<br>Canned Corn     | Dec 22<br>Canned Mixed Vegetables | Dec 23<br>Canned Carrots     | Dec 24<br>Canned Green Beans |
|                                  |                               |                       |                           |                                   |                              |                              |

## YOUR OFFERING

You are now able to e-transfer money to the church.  
If you wish to do this please use the following email to etransfer  
from your account.

[financialsecretary@lakelandlutheran.com](mailto:financialsecretary@lakelandlutheran.com)

You can also drop your offering at the church during normal office hours or mail to us at Box 456,  
Cold Lake, AB T9M 1P1. Thank you for your continued support of our church.



### Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for the 2023 year have been re-ordered as, unfortunately, they were lost in the fire earlier this year. They will be placed in your mailbox as soon as they arrive. Please watch for them and pick them up. If you do not already have envelopes and would like some, please talk to Anne Tucker. You can contact Anne by text: 780-812-0208 or email: [a\\_tucker@telus.net](mailto:a_tucker@telus.net). Income tax receipts are issued for all donations to our church, these will be in your mailbox in January.

Offerings can be donated by the envelope system, through the PAR (pre authorized automatic withdrawals from you bank account) system, or through etransfers. Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

### Directed Giving

Breakdown to the end of October 2022

|                                  |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cold Lake Food Bank \$2065.00    | Anglican Church \$385.00         | CLWR \$5215.00               |
| Synod \$450.00                   | Seminary \$105.00                | Fall Supper \$3685.61        |
| John Howard \$200.00             | Pastor Rude \$25.00              | Adopt a Family \$255.00      |
| Support \$650.00                 | Campus Ministries \$15.00        | Sunday School Bibles \$85.00 |
| Fire Recovery Building \$3824.37 | Fire Recovery Contents \$1625.00 |                              |

Thank you for your generous gifts to others

Anne Tucker

Financial Secretary

## BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES in DECEMBER & JANUARY



Dec 29 – Molly Pedersen

Dec 31 – Cal Gerber

Jan 9 – Anne Tucker

Jan 10 – Reegan Singleton

Jan 16 – Lisa Broussard

Jan 21 – James March

Jan 22 – Josephine Sinclair (106)

Jan 27 – Nancy Gerber

Jan 29 – Dana Petterson



Dec 23 – Bernie and Keith

Dec 24 – Wayne & Irene

Dec 30 – Helen and Tom Stolfa

### CHECK OUT THE DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023 CALENDARS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

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

Please make sure that any inclusions for the February Newsletter reach the church office by **JANUARY 24th.**

### Assumption Jnr/Snr High School Christmas Band Concert.

For anyone interested in going to the Christmas Concert, there will be performances at 5pm and 7pm on Wednesday 14th December.



# KURIAKOS

## MENS RETREAT

18+

**With Rev. Mick MacIntyre, military chaplain at CFB Edmonton**

Arrive 8-8.30pm on Friday      Wrap-up 12.30pm on Sunday

Think camp is great in the summer? We've saved a beautiful winter weekend for our Men's Retreat! Come with your friends, sons, father, buddies, or pals to enjoy time with God and each other. We provide great meals, space to relax, time to learn, and opportunities to use power tools.

Options include hockey, ice fishing, sitting by the fire, service projects, or telling stories. Interested in tackling a larger project? We have a fairly well equipped shop. Bring your own idea, or we can provide a service project of our own.

REGISTER NOW on our website: [info@kuriakos.ab.ca](mailto:info@kuriakos.ab.ca)

