



FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

It seems the Christmas Season becomes longer every year! Years ago, you didn't see anything Christmas until after Thanksgiving. Now the Christmas Season starts before Halloween and many people mostly ignore Thanksgiving or "Turkey Day." What can we do to give Thanksgiving the attention it deserves?

Deuteronomy says "Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

God knew that people would have the tendency to forget where they came from and who delivered them when they started living more comfortably. Sometimes we can be like that. We get comfortable and can lose sight of what's important. We can become out of touch with what we need to be thankful for and who we need to be thankful to.

Thanksgiving is also a season along with Advent. The month before Christmas can be a time to pause and consider the things we are blessed with and the people we have in our lives. It's also easy to forget God when our days are hectic, and we have a million things to do. So, if we find ourselves forgetting to be thankful, we are invited to pray for that to change.

One way we can change is keeping the focus on where it deserves to be. Psalm 100: 4-5, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise, give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Think about it, if we try to focus on being joyful as much as we can, and thankful in most circumstances, then that includes having a spirit of thanksgiving and praise wherever we go. When we attend school, work or some other activity, is there a feeling of thanksgiving and praise? We may not like our job, school or activity, but are we able to focus on the fact that we could be thankful for something? Is there something about our environment we can be thankful for?

So, how about we stretch our Thanksgiving/Advent season to remember to be grateful instead of focusing on Christmas too early? This year let's try not to gloss over Thanksgiving and let's give the attention to Giving Thanks!

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Cindy



Bell Choir to Play at Old World Christmas Market

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will be hosting the Old World Christmas Market December 2 and 3, 2023. The Bell Choir will play in the Rozek Grand Hall during the event on Saturday, December 2 from 7-8pm. During this hour, the Bell Choir will play Czech folk songs, Christmas carols, as well as, the pieces prepared for "bell" Sunday at OSLC December 10, 2023. Come shop, eat and enjoy the music!



Christmas Service Schedule

December 10th – 10:00 am Christmas & Advent Music by our Bell Choir

December 24th – 10:00 am Youth Christmas Program

December 24th – 5:30 pm Candlelight Service with Communion

Phil and Andy's Pantry

In December OSLC is going to help Kenwood School by collecting winter items like gloves, hats and Goodwill gift cards for families that need extra items for winter. We will also collect easy to prepare food items such as pop tarts, instant oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, canned fruit and pudding cups. These will be useful when children are out of school for the holidays and are not receiving school prepared meals. Please let Dorothy know if you have questions.



Women's Joint Circle Christmas Brunch

The Circles are planning on having their joint Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 7th at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hal at church. All OSLC women and friends are invited. Everyone is to bring a potluck dish to share. Please let Jan Zuber or Ann Larson know if you have questions.

Fellowship Time After Service

Please sign up for Fellowship Hour after service on Sunday. Pat Ask has graciously offered to make coffee, so we just need treats. This is an awesome time enjoyed by many to catch up with your Christian Family, Sign-up sheet is on our fabulous bulletin board across from Therese's office.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Parish/Staff Ministry has made arrangements to purchase poinsettias to add to the beauty and celebration of the Christmas season. The Poinsettias will be displayed on the altar for the Christmas Eve services. All orders must be turned in and paid for (cost is \$14.00) by Sunday, December 17th and you may take them home after the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve to enjoy at home.



Mitten Tree



OSLC Mitten Tree is up and ready to receive your gifts. All donations will be going to the Linn County Child Development Center located at 1020 6th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. The Linn County Child Development Center works to advance the dignity and well-being of at-risk and low-income children, youth and families by providing access to high quality, comprehensive, strength-based services that equips them with a sound foundation for lifelong development, family success and tools for a thriving and meaningful future. They are in need of hats, socks, scarves, mittens (they work better than gloves because it is hard to get those little fingers into gloves) and underwear for ages 3 – 5. We will be collecting items until the Women’s joint Christmas brunch, which is being held on Thursday, December 7th.

Youth News

Annual Christmas Program - Our youth Christmas program will be Sunday, December 24th at the 10:00 AM service. The program has yet to be decided but it is always fun to watch our kids teach about the birth of Christ through skits and songs. Please reach out to Hannah with any questions.

Adult Forum

Pastor Cindy is leading Adult Forum starting at 8:45 am. Forum will run till 9:30ish so those who need to go to choir practice can do so and won’t need to leave early.

OSLC Book Club

Book club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 after Bible Study in the IMC. Books are chosen from the Cedar Rapids, Marion or Hiawatha Library “Book Club Kit”. Please feel free to join us for casual conversation – everyone is welcome. Please contact Lori Hayes if you have questions.

Readers

December 3 – Dorothy Medlang
December 10 – Suzanne Schmitt
December 17 – Sue Clapp
December 24 - Children's Program
December 31 – *Lessons & Carols*
Laurene Case
Dave Case
Therese Plummer
Rachael Sindelar
Derek Sindelar

Nancy Trout***Readers can pick up their reading in the "Reader" mailbox located between the offices in the back hallway*

Assisting Ministers

December 3 – Nancy Greer
December 10 – Jeremiah Miller
December 17 – Jeremiah Miller
December 24 - AM - Youth Christmas Program
PM - Nancy Greer
December 31 – Jeremiah Miller

Acolytes

December 3 – Evy Fiester
December 10 – Eric Strottman
December 17 – Jeremiah Miller
December 24 - AM – Lexi Flockhart
PM - Evy Fiester
December 31 – Korver Sindelar

Ushers/Greeters

December 3 – Strottman's
December 10 – Fiester's
December 17 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt,
Ann Larson
December 24 - AM - Youth Christmas Program
PM - TBD
December 31 – Dave Sampson, Marv Houg,
Tom Zuber

Prayer for Pastor

December 3 – Ardy Erickson
December 10 – Therese Plummer
December 17 – Diana Emig
December 24 - AM - Youth Christmas Program
PM - Ann Larson
December 31 – Lessons & Carols

Serving Our Congregation

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor
Sue Clapp– Congregation President
David Sampson – Treasurer
Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary
Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth Ministries
Director
Forrest Green – Music Director
Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Have you checked out our new website?

Please take time to log-in to this website often as the more "clicks" it receives the more popular it becomes for others searching church websites. Tell your friends to check it out, too!! You should be able to log-in to the website from Facebook or use this search address - crsavivors.org

We hope you enjoy the new website. We would appreciate your input, let us know if you see anything that should be changed, updated, added, or deleted. Also, if you have information that should be added to this site, send your information to any of our core team members. We will gladly add or change content and information as we hope to keep the website updated often!

A Big Thanks to the Website Team – Mark Schmitt, Nancy Trout, Sue Clapp, Hannah Plummer, Therese Plummer, and Pastor Cindy McKenzie!

Save the date – OSLC 2023 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 21st** with a snow date of Sunday, January 28th. Please make attending this meeting a priority in your busy schedule. The minimum attendance requirement is forty-five confirmed church members. While we will be having the meeting in the Sanctuary, for those that are uncomfortable or unable to come to church we will be offering the meeting on Zoom. Therese will send out the Zoom link to everyone several days before the meeting. If you do not receive the link, and plan to join us on Zoom, please contact Therese for the link.

Items for discussion will be:

- Synod Assembly
- Nominating Committee
- Budget Approval
- Audit Committee

A quick reminder to ministry chairs that board reports are due to Therese no later than January 4th. Annual Meeting books will be available for the congregation on Sunday, January 14th. We hope everyone will be able to join us in person or on Zoom.

More wine? Yes please!

Our wine supply is low. If you would like to contribute funds to be used for the purchase of wine it would be greatly appreciated. Please note “wine fund” on your check and include with your offering. Or, you can leave your donation at the church office. Thank you!



Images from August 20th Service



Kids perform VBS songs

