

## THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ronald Voss, Pastor cell: 563-206-4611; land: 563-682-7359

\*\*\*\*\*December 2020

Dear Advent Christians,

In 1959, a song hit the airwaves: *What a Difference a Day Makes*. The thought behind the song was, with changed circumstances, you feel so much better the next day than the day before. In December 2020, we could say, what a difference a year makes . . . . but it wouldn't be on the "up side." The differences between December 2019 and 2020 are too numerous to mention and too sad to voice. Do we decorate the house when fewer, if any, visitors will be coming? Guess baking those six different kinds of Christmas cookies is useless since there is no where to take them and few people to eat them. And where do I wear that favorite Christmas sweater?

Thankfully, one thing remains the same . . . and always will. Jesus is coming! November 29 begins four weeks of Advent, preparing for Jesus. The first Sunday proclaims He is coming again, coming back, in all His glory and power. And the banner He waves reads, in bold letters, **NO MORE**. No more tears, no more pain, no more sin, no more sadness, no more uncertainty, no more death. Go ahead, don that special Christmas sweater and read Revelation 21. A cause to celebrate.



The other three Advent Sundays announce and prepare for Christ's first appearance, over 2000 years ago, as a babe in Bethlehem. No Covid19 can change that, no lock-downs can lock out God's fulfilling His promise to send a Savior. We can sing the 1959 song but change the words to *What a Difference an Event Makes*. The joy, hope, peace, contentment, eternal promise that Jesus brings surpass the decorating and the cookies and that sweater. We may not be able to make all the Christmas goodies, but we are still able to feast on the meal offered by Jesus. Some of the decorations may remain in boxes but the night sky still shines with the most beautiful of stars. Perhaps the Christmas sweater won't put in an appearance in many festivities, but daily we done the robe of righteousness. All because of the eternal difference an event made. Proclaim the glad tidings of great joy.

Celebrating with you,

Ron

## PROPHECY

BETHLEHEM

SHEPHERDS

ANGELS



A promise, a place, the people, the proclaimers. It's all about Emmanuel . . .  
God with us~

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:30 PM

ROBINS CITY HALL

*Come and celebrate  
the birth of Christ.*



Be sure to read the Advent devotional booklet, "The Jesse Tree." Other devotional booklets are available on the back table.

### LEGACY GIFTS MATTER!

Prayerfully consider including the North American Lutheran Church and/or the Seminary in your will or estate planning. Pass on the love of Jesus to future generations.

### December Mission Giving

\$500 will be sent to The North American Lutheran Church General Fund.

### Bible study on Timothy & Titus continues through December

We are still focused on Paul's Pastoral Epistles. The Office of the Holy Ministry (or pastoral office) has always been of key importance to the life and vibrancy of the Church. That is especially true in our 21st century culture. With literally everything up for grabs, the strength, biblical rootedness and consistency of the parish pastor is vital.



As we study, let us be earnest in prayer for all Christian pastors . . . and leaders . . . and teachers. Join us on Sunday morning as we study and pray together.

# THE JESSE TREE

Isaiah 11

Each member was given a copy of a 2020 devotional booklet, "The Jesse Tree." This poem by Lois Scheer is on the back cover. Be sure to read.

It began long ago with a tree.  
Was it apple, persimmon or pear?  
God's people would not obey;  
God said, "NO!" but they didn't care.



***But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.***

God had to prune and God had to chop;  
His law he sent down on two stones:  
"Hear me and love me and follow my lead."  
From his children he only heard groans.



***But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.***

God gave them water and God gave them bread;  
God gave them a promise to share.  
From Jesse and David and on down the line  
A treasure will come—oh so rare!



***But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.***

"You need a Savior," our good God declared.  
"I think I will send you my Son.  
His life and his dying will pay for your sins—  
Your freedom will finally be won."

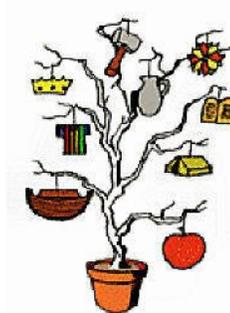


***But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.***

We thank you, O Lord, for the gift of your Son  
For our families, our laughter and tears;  
We thank you for tending your tree every day,  
For the promise you kept all these years.

***But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.***

*Lois Scheer*



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