

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church

ETCETERA



...Our Mission Continues

Celebrate the Savior



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

Holiday Worship Schedule

Children's Christmas Program

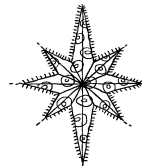
December 15
9:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services

December 24
4:30 PM & 9:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

December 25
10:00 AM



INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Debra Trakel
Office: 414-281-0414
Mobile: 414-339-9266
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STAFF

Lori Hamilton.....Secretary
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Barb Regent.....Music Director
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Janet McGinty.....Choir Director
Email: jlmcginty@tds.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00

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A word from the Pastor...

Dear ones:

It's my favorite season: Advent. It's a season where special words abound: waiting, darkness, reflection, expectation, wonder, preparation, longing, anticipation, promise. It's a season where those of us who are Christian are extra vigilant for signs of God—and the God of wonder seems somehow nearer. But wonder and despair are opposite signs of a coin; and sometimes they turn on a dime.

Some years ago now, I had a man come to my church door, his name was Harold and he was one sorry looking man. He smelled like last night's binge drinking and he was still a bit wobbly in the knees. He didn't fall down, but he sort of swayed and tried to focus his blood shot eyes on me as he stood at the door when I answered it late one afternoon. He took in my clerical collar and said, "Pastor? Is you the Pastor here?" I said that I was and he held out a large paw of a hand to me. "Pastor, my name is Harold and I am mighty cold and hungry. Does you have anything for a man to eat here?"

Internally, I sighed. It was a frequent question. And I always felt inadequate to it as I still do today. I told him that we had some crackers and cheese and he was welcome to them. I also told him about the meal program that evening at St. Benedict's where he could get a hot meal. He smiled and nodded. I think he already knew about it. But he was hungry right then and there.

He asked if he could come in. Since I was alone I had to tell him that he couldn't, but asked him to wait for me in the shelter of the doorway. Taking in his lack of gloves and a hat, I went back in and got him the promised cheese and crackers along with a pair of gloves and a watch cap. When I went back to the door, he was still there, waiting patiently, sort of shifting from side to side and humming softly to himself.

I asked him what he was humming and he said it was some song he had heard at the mall—something about Jesus, he said. But he didn't know the words. It was cold and I was freezing myself as I stood in the doorway so I don't know what made me ask him, but I asked, "do you believe in Jesus?" And he said, with a smile revealing more teeth missing than present, "Oh yes, Mam, I surely do. And I believe in His angels, too. And you are just one of those angels today!" And out cackled a laugh.

I handed him the watch cap, gloves and the crackers and cheese. He immediately put on the cap and gloves, tore open one of the cracker packets and started down the steps. He threw a "thank you, Mam" over his shoulder as he went and I stared after him knowing that Jesus had just come to my church that day. I did not have to wait until Christmas.

May this Advent find us standing on tiptoe, expectantly scanning the horizon, waiting to greet the Holy Child and receive the gifts for which we so desperately long, and for which the world groans and strives—love, healing, justice, peace.

With love, Pastor Debra

M.E.T. Update

The M.E.T. has been faithfully working with the rich data that you, the members of Adoration, have provided. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us via all of the ways that you participated. We now are going through the questions on the M.S.P. (Mission Site Profile). This is a lengthy and complex document that congregations use to help them take the information provided by their members to create an accurate profile of their church community. That is, the form helps a congregation describe who they are and what their specific mission and needs are in their search for a new Pastor.

The answers to the questions on the form take time to discuss and articulate correctly. As the MET we need to come to consensus on our answers before we fill in the various sections on the form. Our goal is to honestly and accurately reflect Adoration's needs to the synod. This process is difficult but rewarding as we explore and work through each question.

When we finish the M.S.P. we will meet with the Council to present it to them for review and discussion. If they make suggestions for change then the MET has to take it back and incorporate those changes. Once the MET has an MSP document in a form that we all agree on then we are ready to hold our "Town Hall meeting." The Town Hall meeting is when the whole congregation is presented with the full results of our work and has the opportunity to make comments or suggestions. Pastor Kristin Nielsen, our liaison from the Synod; the Bishop; and the newly selected Call Committee are all in attendance at the Town Hall meeting.

Our "Town Hall Meeting" is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 2, 2020. Please keep us in prayer as we continue this process.

Wendy Haas, member of the Mission Exploration Team (M. E. T.)



Stewardship

Thanks are expressed to all who have supported the ministry at Adoration this past year with their time, talents and financial contributions. With special gifts of the motorcycle and car for the raffle, a member contribution to cover a year of payments on our mortgage, and cost of installation of windows on our offices and classrooms, we were able to meet our expenses.

November 3, Consecration Sunday was a celebration of our blessings from our God. The worship service and the celebration luncheon were well attended. God's people here at Adoration pledged their gifts to support His Ministry here, in our community and throughout God's world. These gifts represent our response to God's abundant love and generosity in our lives.

As of November 20, we have received 53 commitments totaling \$138,266. Thank you to all the members who have completed their commitment cards. If you have not returned your commitment for 2020, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you make your contributions through electronic giving (Simply Giving) and wish to change the amount you give, new authorization forms are available in the narthex or the church office. Thank you for your commitment to Adoration!

Church Council Highlights

Here are some of the items discussed at the **NOVEMBER** Church Council meeting:

- * We have lost some congregational members this past month. Pastor Debra stated as a gentle reminder that this often happens during an interim period. As power dynamics shift, members sometimes do not like the changes, or they may see this as a time to make a move they have been contemplating. Pastor Debra wanted to make clear that none of the members left because of Adoration's R.I.C. status.
- * Pastor Debra let every committee and individual know that they need to communicate with the Pastor. You can never over communicate. Not communicating to the Pastor is an ongoing challenge at Adoration, that we need to continue to work on, especially when we are calling a new Pastor.
- * Adoration's website: For the month of October, we had 383 views and 106 separate visitors. Thanks were expressed to Rich Regent for maintaining our website.
- * At the present time the church is being cleaned by Ultra Kleen. Adoration has decided to go with a new cleaning service that will save us \$100 per month.
- * A temporary compressor has been installed in Ruth's supply room. There was a major problem with the old compressor and we had to make an emergency call.
- * Jeanette Nowakowski has agreed to lead the Education Department. She is looking for any volunteers, help or suggestions for Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and the Annual Church Picnic. Sandy Eigner has offered to teach her class.
- * Motorcycle update- there will be no raffle for the motorcycle, we will wait until Spring to advertise and sell the bike.

For more information on any or all of these items, please check the complete Council minutes posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space or contact one of your Council representatives.

Funeral Pre-Planning

Several months ago many of you took home some funeral pre-planning sheets. But few of them have been returned. I have heard that some of you have found them hard to fill out. So, let me offer this advice: Do what you can, not what you can't. It's good advice for most of life, but also applies to funeral pre-planning sheets. And, as you have frequently heard me say: there is no magic to filling them out.

There are no perfect "funeral hymns" or music. There is only music that has meaning to you, or that your family might find comforting at a funeral. So, listen for it as the church year unfolds. As we sing hymns on Sunday—if you are listening for it—I guarantee you that you will have moments when you say "THAT'S a hymn I would like played at my funeral!" At that point in time you can then give that information to your Pastor who can update your file.

The same is true about Holy Scripture or other readings. You may find a poem, or a passage from a book, besides something from the Bible. And you will think, "THAT'S something I would want read at my funeral!" If you are reading your Bible, or just even listening on Sunday, or reading other literature you may find things that you would want to be part of your funeral. When that happens, you can give that information to your Pastor who can update your file.

If you don't know, or even really don't care what music or readings are done at your funeral, then that's what you say on your form. It's fine if that's the truth. For a Pastor, that is great information and tells them and your family that you want your Pastor and church to plan the details of your funeral. And that is truly just fine. But if you don't let anyone know ahead of time then your family has the challenge of trying to figure out what you might have wanted—when, perhaps, you really did not care.

Funeral pre-planning is not supposed to make you anxious trying to figure things out that you don't know. It's meant to capture those things that you do know. It's also meant to get you thinking about your funeral so that as time goes by, as you begin to know, you can add to the file that your Pastor will keep for you.

So, relax with these forms. Fill out what you can. Leave blank what you can't. And, as always, if any of you want to talk, you have my numbers. ~~Pastor Debra

Wishing our Adoration Family a Blessed Christmas & a Joyous New Year!

BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Heather Kokalj
12/02 Lori Wargolet
12/07 Frank McGinty
12/08 Carol Glisch
12/11 Nicholas Young
12/17 Makayla Lewitzke
12/18 Kerri Cwiklinski
12/21 Jeremiah Faltersack
12/22 Dave Krueger
12/24 Scott Wood
12/26 Brenda Schneider
12/29 Marlene Hale
12/30 Jeff Schneider
12/30 Zachary Young

ANNIVERSARIES

12/05 Dick & Kelly Kaquatosh
12/07 John Jr. & Kathy Imp

OUR SYMPATHY

is extended to the Krebs family. Jeanette Krebs died on November 5, 2019. Pastor Debra officiated a Memorial Service at Adoration on November 15.



As we come to the close of another year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers.

There are many people who see a need and fill it. Thank you all for keeping God's house in order!

Do you have new Contact Information??? A new address, telephone number or email? Please notify the church office of any changes so we can update our records accordingly. Thank you!

AAA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 3

11:00 AM Musical Entertainment by Pam & the Accidentals
12:00 PM Potluck Luncheon and \$5.00 Gift Exchange

WE LOVE OUR CHURCH AUCTION

Sunday, December 8

Show your love of Adoration by supporting our auction. Either by donating baked goods, craft or specialty items or by making large bids on items up for sale. You are helping the ministry of our church. Tables are set up for your generous donations. Please make sure to mark down your item(s) on the donations sheet. Thank you again for your continued support! ~Ted & Mardy Lazaris

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Saturday, December 7

Join us as we share the carols of the holiday season with some of our homebound members. See Janet McGinty if you would like to come along to spread some holiday cheer. The more the merrier!

FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

*Sunday, December 8
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM*

Bring any cookie dough and pans to church and have fun baking and decorating cookies! We will have frostings and sprinkles for cookies. Cookie tasting will be allowed. Cookies may also be made for the cookie sale the following week. We are also showing the family friendly film "The Star." So bring a friend or two and come join the fun! The Evangelism Committee

NEEDED: Rummage Sale coordinator

After many years of good and hard work, Wendy Haas has given up the role of coordinating and organizing the Adoration rummage sale. It's about that time of year when people begin to think about the new rummage sale and what they might want to bring to the church for it. Before that happens, we need to know if someone is willing to take on the responsibility for coordinating it for 2020. Wendy is willing to offer assistance in terms of what she has done in the past. If you are interested in possibly coordinating the 2020 rummage sale, feel free to talk with Wendy about what that might entail and please

let Ted Lazaris or Pastor Debra know as soon as possible. In the meantime: **please do not bring rummage items to church!**

The Season of Giving

JOY HOUSE AT THE MILWAUKEE RESCUE MISSION

We will be collecting unwrapped toys for Christmas for this worthwhile organization. Your holiday gift donations can be placed in the boxes in the gathering room. Legos, blocks, games, dolls, action figures, books, hand held games, card games, arts/crafts, nail polish, make-up kits, hot wheel cars, ear buds are a few gift suggestions. Each gift should be a \$10.00 minimum gift. They are also looking for gift wrap, tissue paper and gift bags. Your generosity is so important to these children. Please see Sandy Eigner for more information.

*"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done"
(Proverbs 19:17)*

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Donations help 48 states and 63 Countries. Your giving makes a world of difference. Year to Date offerings of \$2,357.00 for World Hunger. Thank you!

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES THE MITTEN TREE

Our special tree is set up and ready to be filled with your gifts of holiday warmth. Scarves, hats, caps, mittens and gloves either purchased or homemade can be placed on the tree.

ASCENSION FOOD MINISTRY

As you prepare to celebrate this holiday with family and friends, please remember our neighbors who rely on donations to the Ascension Food Ministry cart in the narthex. Consider picking up a few extras to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need. Thank you for your continued support.

FAITH IN ACTION, MILWAUKEE

(Formerly Neighborhood Outreach Program)

Volunteers are needed to provide rides to run errands, shopping, appointments, and other transportation needs. Help is needed with minor household repairs, yard work and snow shoveling. Volunteering is on a flexible basis, (when you are available). For more information call the Faith in Action outreach office at 414-488-6930.

Consider sending a Christmas card to our homebound members during the Christmas season to cheer them. A current list is posted on the kiosk in the gathering room.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

*Saturday, December 14
8:30 AM—1:00 PM*

It's time to start buying your butter, sugar and sprinkles and begin looking in your cookbooks or online for some yummy baked good recipes! Our Bake Sale is quickly approaching and we need many volunteers to bake for our sale to make it a success. Cookies, breads, pies, fudge, and candy all sell very well.



Sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering room and we encourage everyone to participate to bake as well as pack cookies. We will be packaging baked goods on Friday, December 13, starting at 9:00 AM. Proceeds from the sale will go to Adoration's General Fund.

Thank you in advance for your support and donations.
The Evangelism Committee

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

CHRISTMAS RESALE

*Saturday, December 14
8:30 AM—1:00 PM*

As you bring out your decorations for the Christmas season, please consider donating unwanted items to our Christmas Resale. Items may be brought into church, and placed in old youth room. Please label your box "Christmas Resale". Thank you for your support and generous donations to help our Tanzania partnership.
The Partnership Committee



Meru & Mulala—Our Partners in Ministry

Mt. Meru Coffee Project Holiday Sampler

This year the Mt Meru Coffee Project has put together sample packs of their premium coffee as a special holiday treat for you and your loved ones to purchase. For \$18 you will receive a sample pack that includes six 2 oz packages of peaberry, chocolate raspberry, French vanilla, hazelnut, butter pecan, and regular premium coffee. Proceeds from coffee purchases not only bring a smile to the faces of those who receive these wonderful gifts, but also strengthen our partnership with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and provide them with the economic opportunity to support their families and strengthen their communities. This truly is a gift that keeps on giving. Get yours while supplies last!



~ The Twelve Days of Christmas ~

From 1558 to 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. This popular carol was written as a catechism song. It has two levels of meaning, a surface one and one known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol was a code for a religious reality, which all ages could remember. Of course, the meaning of these words can be affirmed by all Christians, including both Catholics and Protestants.



1. **The partridge in the pear tree** is Jesus Christ.
2. **Two turtledoves** are the Old and New Testaments.
3. **Three French hens** stand for faith, hope and love.
4. **The four calling birds** are the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. **The five golden rings** recall the Torah, the first five books of the Bible.
6. **The six geese a-laying** stand for the six days of creation.
7. **Seven swans a-swimming** represent the seven fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.
8. **The eight maids a-milking** are the Beatitudes of Jesus.
9. **Nine ladies dancing** are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
10. **The ten lords a-leaping** are the Ten Commandments.
11. **The eleven pipers piping** stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. **The twelve drummers drumming** symbolize the twelve points of belief within the Apostles' Creed.

Adoration Lutheran Church

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Debra Trakel

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning 9:00 AM

Wednesday Evening 6:15 PM

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Mission Statement:

Living in God's love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.

Reconciling in Christ:

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church identifies itself as a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation and publicly welcomes all persons to full membership and participation in the ministry we share without regard to race, ethnicity, social status, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

KIDS PAGE



Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.



Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.

shepherd's staff ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

tree that keeps its leaves ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

shines to lead the way ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

green for eternal life, ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

red for Jesus' blood ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

sounds to announce ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

good news ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

has no beginning or end ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Th ☐ ☐ ks b ☐ to ☐ od fo ☐ ☐ is

indesc ☐ ☐ ☐ ba ☐ le gif ☐ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV