

Weekly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 30, 2023



Part -1

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A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*'Tis the Season to **INVITE!***

*"Star child, Earth child, go between of God,
Love child, Christ child, heaven's lighting rod..."*

Friends,

Church stats tell us that people who do not attend church are more likely to visit a church for the first time on Christmas Eve, followed closely by Easter morning. Perhaps it is because they have memories involving a connection to God through a church when they were young. Maybe it is because their soul hungers for a sacred expression of a holy celebration that otherwise markets Santa and the Easter Bunny. Or maybe it is because increased stress and anxiety that often accompanies the holidays can make old wounds ache a little more, or new wounds come completely undone. A search for relief brings people to the doors of church in hopes of a healing God-encounter.

Whatever is the reason, it happens that our friends, neighbors, and relatives, who otherwise might turn you down when asked other times of the year, might surprise you by accepting your invitation to church during the Christmas season. This year, we offer a number of special worship services in this Advent season. Perhaps one of them is just the right worship event to invite someone you know to attend with you.

Dec. 3	10:30am	The Advent Journey Continues Come share Holy Communion and Prepare your Heart
Dec. 10	10:30am	March to the Manger Celebrate with a Living Nativity
Dec. 17	10:30am	Christmas Cantata A Musical Celebration of the Birth of Jesus
Dec. 21	7:30pm	Christmas with the Mountain Service An early Christmas Celebration for those unable to Worship 12/24
Dec. 24	10:30am	Family Friendly Christmas Eve Worship Created for the Children
Dec. 24	7:30pm	Traditional Candlelight Christmas Worship Scripture and Carols led by our Chancel Choir
Dec. 31	10:30am	New Years Eve Café in Fellowship Hall Relaxed Worship with Coffee and Treats



Friends, sharing a connection to Christ is the most beautiful gift you can offer another, and you don't even need to wrap it. It has the potential to be totally life transforming in a way that no other gift can. Take a moment just now to think about who you might invite this Christmas season to accompany you or meet you at one of our worship services. Then take a deep breath, pick up the phone, and call/text/tweet them.

*...this year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

Grace & Peace +
PASTOR SHARON



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please Pray For

Nancy Phillips-Kuelker and Natalie Kuelker;
Stacy Ponder; Traci Stuart; Mary Taylor;
John and Sharon Wersching; Pat Delf, Teri
Ann Wallace, and Joanne Kannewurf (Marcia
Kennon); and world leaders.

SYMPATHY TO...

family and friends of Michael Kuelker, especially wife Nancy and daughter Natalie. Michael was liturgist on November 19th and died in his sleep two nights later.



Baptism - Nov. 19

Jeremy Henson and sons Nico and Luke were baptized Sunday, November 19. Jeremy and wife Andrea Zepeda joined WUM with his brother's family in attendance.

A Blessed Christmas Present!

Staff-member, Monica Jasper welcomed son Elijah, on November 1st. Baby and the mother are doing really well.





The Advent Wreath

Dating back to German Christians in the 1600s, the Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of time leading up to the birth of the Christ Child.

On this First Sunday of Advent, Barbara and Denny Sarich lit the first purple candle, the candle of Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.



Meet Pastor Cassandra Lenoir

Pastor Cassandra is a first-year student at Eden Theological Seminary. She grew up in St. Louis, but comes most recently from Atlanta, Georgia. She loves music, cars, dogs, and God. You will see Pastor Cassandra in many areas of the church, including worship and children's ministries. Welcome! We are glad to have you with us!



CLIKE HERE
FOR PART 2 OF THE
NEWSLETTER.