

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE RISEN SAVIOR**

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**Sunday Worship Themes-
December**

4th: “Prophetic Voice of
Preparation”

John 1:19-28

11th: “Rejoice: Sanctified and
Sent”

John 17:13-19

18th: “Unity for the Sake of
the Gospel”

John 17:20-26

25th: “Light over Darkness”

John 1:1-5

*We invite you to read, pray and
prepare for each time of
worship.*

jws

**New Service of “Rest,
Reflection
and Renewal”
in December**

Have you been separated from a loved one or close friend? Have you lost employment? Are “things” not going well and you feel at a loss? Sunday, 11 December, 3:00PM, we will conduct a meaningful, personal, informal service of “Rest, Reflection and Renewal.”

During this time, we will read Scripture, sing hymns and songs, pray, hear a brief message, write about our losses or separations, meditate and recommit ourselves to the Lord. No one will be asked to speak publicly; however, each one will be invited to light a memorial candle.

The Rev. Granger Westberg, Lutheran pastor, authored *Good Grief*, a 1962 book that chronicles stages of grief. He concludes his book, “It is not right that a person should try to carry on his grief work alone. We say ‘Grieve—not as those who have no hope,’ but please, when you have something worth grieving about, go ahead and grieve.”

Knowing that the “holiday season” is often difficult for those who have experienced loss, we trust this service will assist those who mourn.

Our pastor, deaconess and Stephen ministers will be present and available for confession, counsel or prayer. Members and guests are invited to join us. If you have questions about this new service, please speak with Pastor Stieve or Deaconess Jeri.

**Advent Midweek Services
Wednesdays at 5:30PM**

Special Wednesday Advent services will be conducted on November 30, and December 7, 14, and 21 at 5:30PM. Please note the new time for these Wednesday services. Our theme will be “Jesus – Son of ...” seeing His relationship to David, Abraham, Adam, and (of course) God.

The services will include seasonal hymns, prayers and special messages. A light supper will be served after each service. On the 30th, 7th and 14th, they will be hosted by groups in the congregation. December 21st is planned as a “pot luck” ... with drinks and breads furnished.

Please join us in worship during this holy season of preparation for our Christmas celebration!

**Hanukkah – What is it – Why is
it -**

**Special Jews for Jesus
Presentation – Dec 4**

You are invited to a special presentation by Jews for Jesus on Sunday, 4 December, 5:00PM. Bruce Rapp will present a “Hanukkah Message” that centers on this key celebration in the Jewish tradition, birthed out of the tumultuous Inter-Testamental Period.

For many Christians, this Jewish holiday carries a darkness of ignorance. After the presentation, all in attendance will be invited to stay for light refreshments and fellowship. He will be available for further information and conversation.

Please join us – and bring a friend or neighbor. We will gather in Fellowship Hall.

The Parson's Paragraphs

"We gather together" to: ask the Lord's blessing; give thanks; build up one another; encourage each other; strengthen the Body of Christ; testify to the world of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith; and - first and most - honor God! Are you with me --- more importantly: are you with us?

"Fellowship" is 'front and center' in the life of God's people. Adam did not wish to be alone, and God made him a "helper" - another human, fit for him. God raised up a people - out of Abram - but promised they would be so numerous, they would be beyond counting. Throughout the generations, there would be many others with whom to have fellowship.

As we begin a new Church Year, please make some "spiritual" resolves, including, "I will join with the worshiping fellowship of believers on a regular basis." What is "regular"? I think of it as on the "first day of the week" (or the evening before) ... as we gather to hear the Word, receive the Supper, and promote Christian fellowship.

Those who gather for Bible and topic studies are engaged in wholesome Christian fellowship. Those in areas of service - on and off campus - as they use Godly talents and gifts, are involved with Christian fellowship. Those who reach out to others - by phone or email or mail, etc. - are extending the hand of fellowship to others - members and neighbors.

God-willing, in coming weeks, we will be enlarging our circle of friends, acquaintances and "neighbors" as we offer lunch meals and Christian fellowship to members and community participants. I encourage you to consider joining one of the S.O.U.L. Lunch teams . . . this is a beautiful way to show "the world" that God's people in Christ do not only "tell," but they also "show." We represent Christ to them!

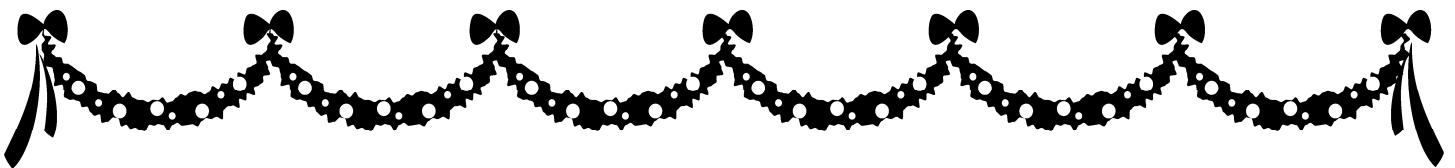
"Fellowship" is a loving, humble, service among others, because the Spirit of Christ is present and the focus is on people - not events, activities or things. In its most beautiful form, we celebrate "fellowship" at the altar of the Lord, as His people confess their sins and receive the true Body and Blood of Christ for forgiveness, new life and salvation. This is truly a "foretaste of the Feast to come."

As noted elsewhere, we are beginning a new Church Liturgical Year. Please take time and opportunity to worship with us on Advent Wednesdays and Sundays, as we prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Please note, also, a new and special service --- with a focus on those who have experienced and still live with a loss in life. This is a "Service of Rest, Reflection and Renewal." You are invited!

Happy New Year . . . in our everlasting Lord!

John Wm Stieve

"Following Christ into People's Lives"



Light in The Darkness

The Lord is Peace

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6 KJV)

What do you think of when you hear the word “peace”? Maybe the absence of war; maybe a calm, cloudless day or the remembrances of watching a baby sleep. But, this is not God’s peace because these things are all within our comprehension and Philippians 4:7 says “the peace of God surpasses all understanding”.

God’s peace is Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5). It is a gift from God, available to us every moment of every day regardless of what the world throws at us. Did you know that the word “peace” occurs in the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible 367 times. That’s more than one for each day of the year- even leap year! Notable phrases include: the Angel of the Lord said, “Peace, do not be afraid” (Judges 6:23), Jesus spoke to the storm and the disciples “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39) and the verse above where Jesus is prophesied to be the Prince of Peace.

There are many other verses that teach us to ‘be anxious for nothing’ even when one of the Lord’s beloved saw His face in the Old Testament, or when a New Testament person was imprisoned or enduring harsh suffering for the sake of the Gospel. How can one have peace in the midst of such a fear-provoking situation? Another example is Gideon, who after realizing he was talking to the Angel of the Lord and had seen His face became terrified. This visit from the Lord came because Gideon was afraid that God had abandoned His people and wondered if God could still be trusted to protect His people. Gideon was hiding in a winepress because the Midianite raiders were advancing. The Lord not only quieted Gideon’s fears, but appointed him to deliver Israel from the enemy warriors. Then Gideon built an altar and called it “Jehovah-Shalom, The Lord is Peace”.

Gideon learned quickly that true peace only comes from the true God. We know Him as the Prince of Peace, our Messiah who will come again. He gives us peace that doesn’t alter, regardless of circumstances. Jesus promised that “Surely I Am with you to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20 NIV). Did you catch that, “I Am with you”; Immanuel: God with us!

May the Peace of God, the Prince of Peace, make Himself known to you, and to others through you as you worship Him, study the Holy Scriptures, and serve in His name.

First Tuesday Women’s Bible Study

“He Only Has Eyes for You”

This study is not about the “Christmas Story”, but it is about the Christ of Christmas. Following a brief discussion on “This World’s Mirrors” we will study more closely how our value is determined and “Who is the Lord to place value on us?” He isn’t a system, a force, an idea, a movement, a doctrine, or a higher power. In Isaiah 40-55 we learn that the Lord is fully human at the same time He is fully divine.

All women are invited to meet me in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM, December 6th. The study guide is available on the table with the sign up sheets.

Tip of the Month

Rapid Entry is a lock box containing a key to your home, accessible ONLY by the fire department. Every home should have one in case you need to call 911 and can’t get to the door to let them in, or if your neighbor calls to have them do a safety check to see if you are okay. The cost of the box is about \$100 (but prices change) and the fire department will install it for you for \$25. This is much cheaper than having to replace your door and frame.

If you are interested, please contact the Green Valley Fire District Administration: 625-9400

Lutheran Malaria Initiative

I am privileged to be serving on the English District LMI team. This is a synod wide effort to work toward eradicating malaria. This sickness is completely preventable and treatable, yet over 800,000 people in Africa die of it each year, mostly children. It is the goal of the team to have a “LMI Champion”/ advocate for every congregation and school. Please speak to me if you would like to be the Champion for LCRS.

Together in His service,
Deaconess Jeri Morrison

The Gospel according to St. John --- Our Focus for Next Year

In a departure from the three-year lectionary focus on the Gospel according to St. Mark, Risen Savior will spend a year with John. During the Sundays of the next liturgical year (beginning Advent Sunday, 27 November), every verse of this Gospel will be read. Often, this will be the text for the sermon.

We encourage you to read this Gospel more than once, in different translations. We will discover and appreciate the different approach it takes compared to the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Each chapter has a basic theme, and we will look for "signs" as well as "hour."

John's Gospel underscores many fulfillment and replacement sayings and actions concerning Jesus Christ. As many of us did six years ago, we will review and understand the "I AM" sayings of our Lord. It all begins November 27th!

Last Call --- CPH Bible Sale: Order Now!

Concordia Publishing House has begun a fall Bible Sale. Included are the ESV Study Bible, the NIV Self-Study Bible, and children and youth Bibles. You can save \$5.00-\$20.00 on a given book. In addition, you will not have to pay for postage.

If you wish to place an order, please visit or phone the church office during office hours (not Sunday!). You may compare Bibles --- and we have many available for immediate purchase.

Risen Savior Member Honored

Jim Mefford, member of Risen Savior, was on an "Honor Flight" to Washington DC in November. It was all paid for by contributions.

"Honor Flights" are for those who served during a wartime of our country. He toured DC and Arlington, memorials of the service theaters, etc. A doctor and nurses were on board the flights.

We thank Jim for his service – one of many LCRC veterans – and congratulate him on this special honor!

"Shepherd Psalm" Verse in December

During November, we have grown to know and appreciate our "Mercy" verse from Lamentations. Our God is "faithful," and his "steadfast love" and "mercies" continue forever. Please continue to say, share and use this verse!

In December, we become reacquainted with the final verse of Psalm 23. Here we are assured that the Lord's "goodness and mercy" will be with us throughout our lives. By His grace, in the person and work of Christ, we rejoice in the promise of dwelling in the Lord's house forever.

This should be an easy verse during a busy month. Let's find joy and promise as we recite it together ... and be prepared to share it with others!

Saturday Informal Services

Saturday services will be conducted on December 3, 10 and 17. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 3rd and the 17th. Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are on Saturday, there will be special services on Christmas Eve at 7:00 & 9:00PM and New Year's Eve at 5:30PM.

We invite and encourage our Saturday worshipers to join us on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve!

LWML/LADIES GUILD

The LWML/Ladies Guild of Risen Savior will meet on December 13, 2011 at 12:30PM with a potluck luncheon. Husbands or guests are invited. We will have our cookie exchange so please bring 3 dozen cookies and then you may take 3 dozen home with you. Bring the recipe for your cookies, also. Also, bring a canned good item for the food bank. We will have readings and sing Christmas carols.

A special thank you to all that helped make our Bean Soup/Bake Sale a success.

As we approach the Christmas season invite family, friends and neighbors to attend Advent and church services with you.

Blessings to all this joyous Christmas season!

SAFE – LUTHERAN

SAFE – Lutheran is a private school tuition organization in Tucson which was formed as a result of a 1990's State of Arizona law. This law authorizes Arizona Income Taxpayers to contribute money to private school tuition organizations and receive an equal credit on their State of Arizona income tax liability. The funds collected by SAFE are distributed as scholarships to students attending the three Missouri Synod Lutheran schools in Tucson - - Faith, Ascension & Fountain of Life.

In 2011 the maximum credit for taxpayers who are married filing joint (MFJ) is \$1,000. The maximum credit for single taxpayers is \$500. Keep in mind that this is a dollar-for-dollar credit. In other words, instead of sending your money to Phoenix you can contribute it to SAFE – Lutheran for use as scholarships to children attending Lutheran schools in Tucson. If you itemize deductions you can also claim your contribution as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return.

For the 2011 tax year the law was revised to include the following changes:

NEW! Effective January 1, 2011, School Tuition Organizations cannot award, restrict or reserve scholarships solely on the basis of a donor's recommendation. A taxpayer may not claim a tax credit if the taxpayer agrees to swap donations with another taxpayer to benefit either taxpayer's own dependent.

NEW! Contributions, made on or before April 15, may be applied to either the current or preceding taxable year and are considered to have been made on the last day of that taxable year. Donor is responsible for indicating which tax year donation is to be credited.

SAFE brochures, which include the donation form, are available from the rack in the narthex or you can download it from "www.safelutheran.org". If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Rod Brown at 625-0334.

Adult Christian Education (ACE) **Sundays: 9:25 AM**

December 4 & 11: An Overview of the Gospel According to John This Gospel will be the one from which we take our readings from this year and so we would do well to study it. Unlike Matthew, Mark and Luke; John is not a synoptic Gospel. Come and learn what makes this account Jesus' life different from the others and prepare for another "John Year".
Taught by: Pastor Stieve in the Fellowship Hall.

December 18 (Last class in 2011) "**The Real St. Nick: Leader, Legend or Lie**" a DVD Bible study from Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Teacher/ Leader _____ (Please let me know if you are willing to lead this) _____ Fellowship Hall

This **single-session** Bible study, hosted by the Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus-Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, examines a man who, next to Jesus Christ, is the most visible figure during the holidays-St. Nicholas or Santa Claus-as we know him in Western culture. Dating back to the third century, St. Nick is attributed with the doing of many benevolent and charitable acts of kindness and generosity.

This seasonal Bible study surveys St. Nick and the age-old traditions surrounding him. You'll learn about the persecution he faced under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. You'll also see how-using ancient relics and modern science-a team of forensic specialists has reconstructed an image of St. Nick's face.

In the end what St. Nick has set down for us all is a lifestyle of service and going the distance for the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether it's staying the executioner's blade from the neck of three innocents, bailing out a man's daughters with gold from certain prostitution, or simply giving children gifts, St. Nick took his faith to the streets and made a difference-a worldwide difference-as a follower of Christ.

***Special Worship Services for Advent,
Christmas & New Year's Eve – AD 2011***

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIMES</i>	<i>WEEK / DAY</i>	<i>THEME</i>
Wednesday November 30	5:30 PM	Advent I	<i>"Jesus – Son of David"</i>
Wednesday December 7	5:30 PM	Advent II	<i>"Jesus – Son of Abraham"</i>
Wednesday December 14	5:30 PM	Advent III	<i>"Jesus – Son of Adam"</i>
Wednesday December 21	5:30 PM	Advent IV	<i>"Jesus – Son of God"</i>
Saturday December 24	7:00 & 9:00 PM	Christmas Eve with Candlelight	<i>"Thank You, Father, for Jesus"</i>
Sunday December 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Divine Service	<i>"Light Over Darkness"</i>
Saturday December 31	5:30 PM	New Year's Eve Divine Service	<i>"God's Saving Love"</i>

Please note the trees in the chancel. On the right is the Tree of the Law, the Tree of Sin and Death. On the left is the Tree of the Gospel, the Tree of Forgiveness and Life. Look closely at the *Chrismons* and other symbols, and you will see the Biblical record from the Garden of Eden through the life of Jesus to His final return. From the Fall into sin (apples) until Judgment Day (crown), we note God's Plan of salvation!