

The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church

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2022

Celebration is a part of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Celebration!

At-A-Glance in December

**Dec. 3 —Church Decorating—
(10am-Noon)**

**Dec. 4—WORSHIP TIME CHANGE
To 10AM!**

**Dec. 6 —Detroit Handbell Ensemble
Concert - 7pm**

Dec. 7—Crafty Connections—7pm

Dec. 10—Mens Ministry—8:30am

Dec. 10—Finance Comte.—10:30am

**Dec. 10—Christmas Dinner
—5pm Appetizers
—6pm Dinner**

**Dec. 14 — Women's Bible Study
— 1pm**

Dec. 16—Blood Drive

**Dec. 18—Angel and Warming Tree
Deadline**

Dec. 19—Cookie Ministry

**Dec. 24—CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP AT 7PM**

**Dec. 25 — CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP AT 10AM**

**Dec. 28—Crafty Connections—
—10am**

FROM THE PASTOR

Once while on vacation, a family with five children went to a church that was a little more emotional than we Lutherans are used to. The minister was shouting and pounding the pulpit... and he began to look around the congregation for someone to single out... and he spotted the father.

The preacher pointed dramatically to the dad and this conversation took place...

‘You there... Do you have faith?’

‘Yes, I have faith,’ the dad answered.

The preacher said, ‘If I put a 2 x 4 board down there on the floor, do you have enough faith to walk across it?’

‘Yes, I could do that.’

‘But,’ said the preacher, ‘what if I took that same 2 x 4 board and placed it across the top of the two tallest building in New York City... would you have enough faith to walk across it then?’

‘No, I don’t have that much faith,’ Dad answered.

‘But what if somebody were standing on the other end,’ said the preacher, ‘and dangling one of your children off the side... would you cross the board then?’”

The father turned and looked down the pew at his 5 kids, and said, “Which one?”

The father turned and looked down the pew at his 5 kids, and said, "Which one?"

When it comes to us, God doesn't say, "Which one?" He doesn't say, "Which one should I lay my life on the line for?" For God so loved the world... God wants to bring us all into the circle.

God comes with the open arms of acceptance for all of us. To each one of us, he says, "You are valued. You are included. You are wanted. You are precious to me. This is for you."

The greatest gift any could receive for Christmas, the gift of God's only Son. The greatest gift of all!

Socrates taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Aristotle for 40, and Jesus for only 3. Yet the influence of Christ's 3-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching of these greatest philosophers of all of antiquity.

Jesus painted no pictures, yet the finest painting of all of antiquity.

Jesus painted no pictures, yet the finest painting of Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo da Vinci received their inspiration from Him.

Jesus wrote no poetry, but Dante, Milton, and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by Him.

Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in the hymns, symphonies, and oratorios they composed in his praise.

Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble carpenter born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Precisely! The gift of Christ... no question about it... that is the best Christmas gift of all. Patrick Henry understood that in how he closed his will.

He said, "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one more thing that I wish I could give them and that is Jesus Christ... If they had Christ... and I had not given them one shilling, they would be rich indeed; and if, they had not Christ... and I had given them all the world, they would be poor."

In 1985 the Dean of Agriculture of the American University in Beirut, Thomas Southerland, was kidnapped by Islamic Jihadists outside his home in Beirut. After being held hostage for 2,353 days, he was released in November of 1991. He thought he had been forgotten and that nobody cared as he flew home to San Francisco. However, when his plane landed in San Francisco and he saw all the people and the lights and the cameras he thought there was a celebrity on board the plane... but his wife said to him, "It's you! This is all for you."

Well, that's what I want you to know this Advent and Christmas Season....it's all for you!

The Christmas Gift of love and acceptance, the Christmas Gift of Forgiveness...

The Christmas Gift of Christ.

... ALL THESE GIFTS, ALL FOR YOU!

Have a truly blessed Advent and Christmas!and, of course, see you in church!

Pastor Fogle

Lessons & Carols Worship

Join together on **January 1st** for the traditional lessons and carols worship. During this worship service we will sing favorite Christmas hymns and hear God's word as well as partaking in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Angel Tree

We at Celebration Lutheran Church are pleased to continue supporting our community, so we have adopted five families again this year.



The Angel Tree in the welcoming area is loaded with various colored tags listing items our chosen families need. Please take a tag or two. Each family is color coded and has their own set of numbers. When you take a tag, write your name on the board by the tree to help us with sorting and delivery.

Place your wrapped gifts under the tree (with the tag attached) by **December 18th** and we will deliver them for you just in time for Christmas. If you prefer to simply make a donation, we will do your shopping for you!

Questions? Contact Cindy Sweier 248-408-7563 or email her email is cynthiasweier@yahoo.com

Warming Tree

In order to help our local residents stay warm this winter, we are collecting coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves.



- **NEW** items
- Variety of sizes
- Variety of genders
- Please no used items

Cash donations are accepted

Donations are delivered to the Wayne County Family Center.

Deadline for donations is December 18th.

Good Hope Food Pantry

God's goodness is all around us. Help us be a blessing to the people in our community by donating non-perishable food items appropriate for a holiday meal. All families deserve to have a special meal this holiday season. The Good Hope Food Pantry needs your donations. "Bring One Sunday" is the second Sunday of the month, December 11th. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make your checks out to the Good Hope Food Pantry

If you have any questions, call Gloria or Greg Tapper 734-427-1142, or email them at getapper@yahoo.com.



Vital News

from the Florist

The wreaths you ordered will be available for pick up starting Thursday, December 8th. 6pm-8pm, Sunday December 11th, or the following week during office hours M-F 9am-12pm.

Poinsettias

Many Thanks to everyone who purchased poinsettias for our holiday decorating. While they are lovely in December, they don't do so well in January, so please take your plants home after the Christmas Eve or Christmas day service.



Detroit Handbell Ensemble Concert at Celebration

Ring in Christmas with us on December 6, 2022 at 7:00 by coming to the concert by the Detroit Handbell Ensemble at Celebration. This holiday concert is sure to stir up your Christmas spirit. Familiar carols and original music make up the entertaining program. Conducted by Brenda E. Austin and comprised of the finest handbell musicians from southeast Michigan, the Detroit Handbell Ensemble celebrates more than 20 years of outstanding performances showcasing the brilliance of the Motor City.

The concert is free and open to the public, however, an in-kind donation will be taken to be used to benefit the Celebration music program and the DHE education programs. Bring your family and friends and come and enjoy the Detroit Handbell Ensemble!

Samaritas Refugee Foster Care Gift Cards

Again this year we have the opportunity to share a little Christmas joy to some young people who are in foster care through Samaritas.

Hung on the Christmas tree in our welcome area are 10 tags asking for \$25 gift cards from either Meijer, Target, Walmart or Dick's Sporting Goods a young man from Rwanda, Eritrea, the Ivory Coast, five from Guatemala, and three from Honduras.

Please consider gifting a little something extra to

Crafty Connections



Our small but mighty group of crafters continue to meet the second Monday (7pm), December 12th and the last Wednesday (10am), December 28th, of the month. Please consider joining us for some fun and fellowship. You may want to consider donating some of your crafts for the Craft Sale on December 10th. The sale will occur during the Christmas dinner, and on the Sundays following.

Or you may want to knit or crochet hats, scarves, gloves, or mittens for the Warming Tree. We have plenty of yarn you can use. It's located in the wicker chest under the



Decorating time

Get ready to 'Deck the Halls'

Volunteers are needed to help decorate our beautiful Church for Christmas: this will be on Saturday December 3rd.

We will begin at 10:00am and should finish by noon, with enough help.

Lunch will follow in the Gathering room.



Congregation Christmas Dinner

A big event here at Celebration!

Saturday, December 10

Appetizers at 5:00 Dinner at 6:00

Meal prepared by Ciro Troncoso,
Silver Strings Dulcimers, Entertainment

Menu

Chicken Marsala
Roasted Herbed Beef Tips
Baked Potato Station
Seasonal fresh veggies

KID ZONE CHRISTMAS!

The children in Kid Zone are busy preparing for the BIG event coming in December - the birth of Jesus.

They are working to find the perfect recipes and will be "Cooking for CHRISTmas". Their Christmas special will be December 18th during worship.

Get ready for our video/live program brought to you by the Top Chefs in the Celebration kitchen. You can also look forward to enjoying the deliciousness after the service.



A Handy Shopping Venue...

In connection with the Christmas Dinner gathering, we'll have a bake sale and some of our crafters will offer their creations for your gift shopping, the proceeds going to WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church) for their outreach projects. Crafters who have items to share should speak to Debby Hoepner.



Women's Cookie Ministry Meeting

The Annual WELCA "Cookie Ministry" meeting will be held on Monday, December 19 at 7:00. To participate we bring 3 dozen cookies, that are then distributed and packaged for delivery to folks who just aren't able to get to church for health or other reasons. This meeting double as a general meeting for the membership—all women of the congregation - where vital facts and shared and decisions made regarding actions for the coming year.

You are encouraged to join in this vital ministry and enjoy some fellowship as well.

We pray for our members

December 4

Dave and Laureen Preston
Luan Purcell
Marian Pye
Rick, Jodi, Nicholas, Elizabeth, & Victoria Reed

December 11

Dan, Tina, Lauren, and Katie Reid
Sandra Reidenbaugh
Mark Roffi
Marge Ross

December 18

Frank Ruohonen
Gerald and Roberta Schmucker
Robert Scott
Gladys Seeger

December 25

Kim and Ron Shollack
Barb and Ray Smith

Live-Stream Broadcasts

Please consider sponsoring a week or more live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, or mailed directly to the church.

The Sunday live streaming's for December have been sponsored by Stew Israel. The Christmas Eve livestream has been sponsored by Pastor and Heather Fogle

Altar Flowers

Please consider sponsoring a vase of flowers for the altar for \$23. The flowers may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up on the Communication Board, call the office (734) 582-4112 or email the office (office@celebrationlc.com).

Flowers This month are sponsored by...

December 4

Marge Ross
Linda and Mike Bierbaum in celebration of Linda's birthday.

December 11

Tim and Debby Hoepner in memory of Evelyn and Sonny.
Charlene Tennant in memory of Jim Tennant

December 18

Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Joseph Grasley

December Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Linda Bierbaum |
| 2 | David Holt |
| 4 | Katie Frank |
| 8 | Madeline Crile |
| 9 | Arne Wommer |
| 12 | Lois Zilka |
| 14 | Mark Roffi |
| 15 | Georgia Hartsell |
| 17 | Cheryl Williamson |
| 18 | Rowan Hardy |
| 21 | Karin Klein |
| 24 | Pat Villemure |
| 27 | Terry Tarr |
| | Maureen Switzer |
| 31 | Josh Livingston |

December Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 7 | Larry and Marge Flores |
| 8 | Fred and Cheryl Williamson |
| 23 | Jon and Karen Call |

DECEMBER DEVOTIONALS

Thursday, December 1
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 4:2-6
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Friday, December 2
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 30:19-26
Acts 13:16-25

Saturday, December 3
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 40:1-11
John 1:19-28

Sunday, December 4
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday, December 5
Psalm 21
Isaiah 24:1-16a
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 6
Psalm 21
Isaiah 41:14-20
Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 7
Psalm 21
Genesis 15:1-18
Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 8
Psalm 146:5-10
Ruth 1:6-18
2 Peter 3:1-10

Friday, December 9
Psalm 146:5-10
Ruth 4:13-17
2 Peter 3:11-18

Saturday, December 10
Psalm 146:5-10
1 Samuel 2:1-8
Luke 3:1-18

Sunday, December 11
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalms 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Monday, December 12
Psalm 42
Isaiah 29:17-24
Acts 5:12-16

Tuesday, December 13
Psalm 42
Ezekiel 47:1-12
Jude 17-25

Wednesday, December 14
Psalm 42
Zechariah 8:1-17
Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

Thursday, December 15
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Galatians 3:23-29

Friday, December 16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:18-22
Galatians 4:1-7

Saturday, December 17
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:23-29
John 3:31-36

Sunday, December 18
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Monday, December 19
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 17:15-22
Galatians 4:8-20

Tuesday, December 20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 21:1-21
Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wednesday, December 21
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 37:2-11
Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, December 22
Luke 1:46b-55
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

Friday, December 23
Luke 1:46b-55
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29
Galatians 3:6-14

Saturday, December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Sunday, December 25
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalms 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Monday, December 26
Psalm 148
Wisdom 4:7-15
Acts 7:59—8:8

Tuesday, December 27
Psalm 148
Proverbs 8:22-31
1 John 5:1-12

Wednesday, December 28
Psalm 148
Isaiah 49:13-23
Matthew 18:1-14

Thursday, December 29
Psalm 20
Jeremiah 31:15-22
Luke 19:41-44

Friday, December 30
Psalm 20
Isaiah 26:1-9
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Saturday, December 31
Psalm 20
1 Kings 3:5-14
John 8:12-19

