

CHURCH CONNECTIONS

Messages for God's People

Morgan United Methodist | St. John's Lutheran | St. Luke's Lutheran
on the web at luthadist.webstarts.com and facebook.com/stjohnmorgan

Worship Times

Worship times for December and January are:

8:15 MUMC
9:30 St. Luke's
11:00 St. John's

Special Worship

Our Christmas Eve worship schedule on Tuesday December 24 will be:

4:30 PM MUMC
6:00 PM St. Luke's
7:30 PM St. John's

Dates for Communion

St. John's and St. Luke's will celebrate Communion December 1 and 15. MUMC will gather at the Lord's table on December 1. All congregations will celebrate the Eucharist during worship on Christmas Eve.

Council Meetings

St. Luke's council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM.

Confirmation Classes In December

Confirmation classes will be held on December 4th and 18th in the St. John's basement beginning at 6:30.

Colors on the Altar

This year as we turn the calendar to December we start a new Church year. This begins with the season of Advent. Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation of the coming of the Lord. We wait not only for the birth in Bethlehem but also Christ's coming again. We hear from John the Baptist proclaim, "Prepare the way of the Lord." and hear stories of Mary and Joseph as they prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus. The sanctuary is colored blue for the hope that fills this season. December 24th, Christmas Eve, begins the Christmas season with white on the altar announcing Christ's presence among us. Just like the song Christmas lasts for twelve days.

Ushers for December

Morgan United Methodist Church:
Char Carlson and John Dallenbach

Prayer Concerns

Please continue to pray for the members of our congregation and those we know that are in need. Jeri Forbrook, Sandy Schroeder Long, Pam Shefland, Jim Nielsen, Paul DeGrote, Dorothy Thompson, Brent Sandmann, Butch Zempel, Raynette Hansen, Todd Sherman, Landen Grejtek, Alice Wood, Irene Landgraff, Dianne Larson, Jan Rodvik, Kathy Potter, Sandy Stokesbary, Sandy Seehausen, Julie Wendinger, Dee Johnson, Glen Seifert and Curt Christensen.

Holiday Cookie Baking at St. Luke's

Join us for Coffee and Christmas Cookie Baking on **December 4th and 18th** starting at 9:00 AM. Bring your recipes and special ingredients and enjoy a day of fellowship and baking. Come and go throughout the day as you need to. If you have any questions please call Mary Sullivan and James Kanne at 507-430-1917.

Sunday School at St. Luke's

St. Luke's Sunday School will meet from 10:00 to 10:45 on the first and third Sundays of each month. In December they will meet on December 1st and 15th.

Bible Studies

We will have Bible Study at Gil-Mor Haven beginning at 1:45 on the following Thursdays in December, 5th, 12th and 19th. All are welcome.

Men's Bible Study will meet on Tuesday December 3rd at 7:30 in the basement of St. John's.

St. Luke's WELCA Meeting

The St. Luke's WELCA will meet on December 5 at 4 o'clock. Please feel free to bring a sweet Christmas treat to share.

Devos at the Depot

Devos at the Depot is an opportunity to gather in the middle of the week to share with others in food fellowship and we will even sing a few of your favorite hymns. We meet at the Franklin Depot. We start around 6:30. Join us on **December 17th** for this lighthearted gathering.

Parish Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please wish these people a happy birthday and anniversary as they celebrate another year of living and loving in God's world.

St. John's

Ardis Schiller 1, Tayte Hultquist 7, Parker Kerkhoff 13, Christine Schumacher 19, Randy Lemcke 20, Brennan Schafer 27, Austin Christensen 28, Lilah Kettner 28, Keith Christensen 30, Doug Hillger 30, Dave Simonson 31 and Isobel Schumacher 31.

St. Luke's

Linda Nissen 4, Bob Landgraaf 5, Paula Mogard 10, Jackson Meyer 13, Connor Castle 13, Aiyana Anderson 14, Mitchell Tonak 25, Natasha Okins 25, Steven Sherman 27 and Tiffany Mullen 31.

MUMC

Cub Hoffman 1, Brook Christensen 7, Kristina Janke 10, Brian Ziegenhagen 10, Christopher Malecek 12, Rick Dallenbach 16, John Dallenbach 17, Taylor Rose 17, Jeanie Christensen 22, Becky Sell 22 and Nicholas Malecek 24.

Anniversaries:

Rick and Melissa Dallenbach 7.

Email Addresses Wanted

The cost of mailing letters continues to climb and we as a parish are noticing the increase as we try to send out the *Church Connections* each month. If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and have an email address and can save us the cost of a stamp each month that would be helpful! If you are receiving this newsletter and are not interested, please let us know that too! Please send any and all changes to addresses and emails to prlowellk@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Desk

As I sit down to write this there are a few snowflakes in the air. The temperature has dropped a little bit. We have not had Thanksgiving but a step inside any store will tell you that Christmas is right around the corner. It is easier to think about now that this morning feels a little more wintry but it still seems a long way off. But the stores have started pushing. "Christmas is coming!" They say, "Don't wait until the last minute!"

I am not sure why it happens, well, that might not be entirely true. It happens because of the hope they have that by starting to spend earlier we will spend more. The stores prepare all the displays and get everything ready for us and then wait. Wait for us to come and fulfill their hopes by buying everything.

As much as I hate the practice of having Christmas decorations out on the shelves before the Halloween ones have been used I get what the stores are up to. They are preparing for what is to come. They are getting ready and waiting for our arrival. Hoping for success. They in their own way are having Advent.

Because of the hype that Christmas gets every year in the commercial world Advent is often overlooked and forgotten in the month of December. Yet without it Christmas seems less impactful.

The Church year begins with Advent and covers a lot of ground in the four Sundays that lead up to Christmas Day. I have heard it said (I don't know who said it first) that in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming in history, mystery and majesty. And we prepare for his coming now and at the end of time as we await his birth in Bethlehem. Like I said, that's a lot!

Probably the place to start is what we think of when we think of preparing for Christmas. We prepare for Christ coming as a baby, born to common parents in lowly circumstances in a dusty corner of the Roman empire. We prepare for how this one birth has changed our world and who we are as people of God. That is the history part. How do you prepare for Christ's birth?

Even as we prepare for Christ's birth we are aware that Jesus did not only come to us as a baby but also as the Son of God, the Word of God with skin on. The one to lead and guide us as we follow him. Even now, he comes to us in many ways, through the Word as it is taught and preached, scripture, gathering in the body of Christ and so many more! That is the mystery part. As we walk in this world Christ shows up. How do you prepare to greet him every day?

One of Christ's promises to us is that he will return. There is much speculation around the visions that we see in scripture as to what exactly that will look like. What we can be assured of above all else is that Christ will fulfill the promises that he has made. Christ will come again. How are you preparing for his return?

As we do all of this preparation we can be sure of one thing. Because of Christ and how he comes to us we can have hope. Hope in Christ, hope in ourselves, hope in the world.

May you have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

God's Peace,
Pr. Lowell

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December

2024

Morgan United Methodist St. John's Lutheran & St. Luke's Lutheran

on the web at luthadist.webstarts.com and
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 St. John's		7:30 Men's Bible at St. John's	9:00 Holiday Cookie Baking at St. Luke's 6:30 Confirmation Class at St. John's	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven 4:00 St. Luke's WELCA	Pastor's Sabbath	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 11:00 St. John's		7:00 St. Luke's Council Meeting		1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 St. John's		6:30 Devos at the Depot at Franklin Depot	9:00 Holiday Cookie Baking at St. Luke's 6:30 Confirmation Class at St. John's	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 11:00 St. John's	Newsletter items due	<u>Christmas Eve Worship</u> 4:30 MUMC 6:00 St. Luke's 7:30 St. John's	Christmas Day		Pastor's Sabbath	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<u>Worship</u> 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 11:00 St. John's		New Years Eve				

Return Service Requested

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MORGAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF MORGAN
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN OF FRANKLIN



Merry Christmas!