


# Light of Christ Lutheran Church



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Sunday School at 10 am (During school year)  
Coffee Hour at 10 am - Services at 11 am

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Williston, ND 58801  
Church Phone: (701) 774-3827  
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Pastor Kevin R. Beard  
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www.locw.org



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Prayers for this country, our leaders, law enforcement, fire departments, and EMTs around the country.

Prayers for our family, friends, and community.  
Pray for persecuted Christians in all places.  
Prayers for Ukraine.

Prayers for nursing home and assisted living residents as well as shut ins.



**SHORT VACA** – Pr. Kevin will be visiting family in MN from Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. Paul Bauer will preach on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION** - December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

### LOC SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to teachers for leading this. Please come and invite your friends and family.



### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SCHEDULE:

5:00 pm – Light of Christ  
7:30 pm – Trinity Lutheran



**Bible Study**  
December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.  
No Bible study on Dec 25th.

### LOC CHURCH BREAKFAST

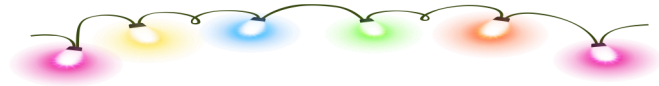
Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.  
Please come and invite a friend or two!



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

During the month of November, our congregation has prayed for the following parishioners. Please continue to pray for:

*Ruth Binde  
Coleeta Roth  
Larry Duckworth*



**WOMEN OF L.I.F.E. – Wed, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Mtg & Bible Study at 7 pm.  
All women are invited.



**PASTOR SCOTT YOUNT**

(Nov 28) Today I have a prayer request for the church in Bila Tserkva. There was a fire in their building in the floors above the church. One man was hospitalized. The fire caused their whole church to be flooded and left it unusable. Please pray for the man who was injured and for the Lord to provide this church a new place to worship and to help replace all that was ruined. If you would like to support Pastor Scott and Lena and their ministry to the handicapped in Ukraine, you can give



online by going to the following link. <https://SONetwork.org/give/>.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES**

LOC in Williston was a Drop-Off Center for this region and we collected 1075 shoeboxes! Thank you for participating.



**Worship Services, Bible Studies, Bulletins, and Newsletters are online!**

Light Of Christ Website: [locw.org](http://locw.org). Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/lightofchristwilliston](https://www.facebook.com/lightofchristwilliston).

**MEMBERSHIP** – Talk to Pastor Kevin if you are interested in becoming a member of our church. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to “come and see”.

**ONLINE OFFERING now available!**

We now offer ONLINE OFFERING on our church website. Just go to [www.locw.org](http://www.locw.org) and look at the bottom of any page. Click the button to securely give to the general fund of Light of Christ. Thank you!



**IT IS IMPORTANT** that the church has your correct contact information, cell phone numbers, home phone, email addresses, birthdays, and anniversary, etc.

**FIRST COMMUNION**

December 1<sup>st</sup> during worship service.



**SEMINARY SUPPORT** - American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS) is the seminary for the AALC. **SOLA 500** is a fundraising campaign to support their work of training up future pastors. You can support them at [www.alts.edu/sola\\_500](http://www.alts.edu/sola_500)



**DECEMBER 2024 READINGS**

DATE	1 <sup>ST</sup> LESSON	PSALM	2 <sup>ND</sup> LESSON	GOSPEL
Dec 1st	Jer 33:14-16	Psa 25:1-10 1	Ths 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 8th	Mal 3:1-7b	Psa 66:1-12	Phl 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)
Dec 15th	Zep 3:14-20	Psa 85	Phl 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
Dec 22nd	Mic 5:2-5a	Psa 80:1-7	Heb 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)
Dec 29th	Exo 13:1-3a, 11-15	Psa 111	Col 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40

## PILL BOTTLE DONATION UPDATE -

The empty plastic pill bottles we collect are used in shipments of medical supplies to disaster and less developed parts of the world. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and in disaster relief. **UPDATE:** If a pill bottle has a tamper resistant seal, it needs to be completely removed which is virtually impossible to do. Therefore, please do not include this type of pill bottle in the collection receptacle. Looking for a handy carpenter that would be willing to make a better collection box than the flimsy cardboard box currently used. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank you all who have made this LOC church ministry possible!



## STEPHEN'S MINISTRY CONTINUING ED

Tues, **Dec 3rd** from 6 to 7:30 pm. Caring for those going through a Major Medical Crisis.



## LOC SOUP MINISTRY!

You are invited to take a quart of soup to someone you think may need it. Someone living alone, recovering from an illness or surgery, someone experiencing loss or grief, or anyone in need who might benefit from some warm soup. The soup is located in the kitchen freezers. **THANK YOU** to the Women of LIFE for this ministry!



If you have anything for the bulletin or newsletter, you can send it to the following email address:  
kevinrbeard@gmail.com.

# THE UPPER ROOM®

## Abundant Fruit

DAILY DEVOTIONAL · DECEMBER 7, 2024

On a cool summer morning I eagerly strolled into a blueberry patch with my empty bucket. Rows of blueberry bushes lined the country landscape as birds sang sweetly in the distance....

*Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5 (NIV)*

On a cool summer morning I eagerly strolled into a blueberry patch with my empty bucket. Rows of blueberry bushes lined the country landscape as birds sang sweetly in the distance. Branches drooped with different shades of blueberries — green unripe ones, red developing ones, and bright blue ripe ones. I searched for the ripe blueberries and gingerly placed them in my bucket.

Then a large broken branch with wilting fruit caught my attention. I quickly picked the ripe berries, but I knew that the green berries on the broken branch would not ripen. They would not receive the nutrients they needed.

This broken branch reminded me of the importance of staying connected to God through faith in Jesus. In the same way, we can only produce the enduring fruit of the Holy Spirit (see Gal. 5:22) by abiding in a personal relationship with Jesus. On our own we cannot do anything of eternal value. Spending time in prayer and Bible study enables us to produce spiritual fruit so that we bless others and glorify God.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, thank you for producing spiritual fruit in us as we spend time with you. Help us encourage others and bring you glory. Amen.*

**BLUE SERVICE GROUP**  
(Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec)

Roger and Jody Bearce  
Kevin and Marilee Beard  
Marilyn Bell  
Dwight and Luane Ebel  
Gary Hansen  
Wendy Hansen  
Matt and Amy Haugen  
Holter Family  
Mayo Miller  
Dwight and Shelli Patch  
Cody and BreeAnn Shanks

Thank you for serving!



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Renee Ginther..... 12/07  
Donovan Fenster ..... 12/11  
Quentin Fenster..... 12/11  
Finley Park..... 12/11  
Kailee Patch ..... 12/18  
Cody Shanks..... 12/19  
Carson Holter..... 12/23  
Melissa Heller..... 12/24

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Josh & Erin Olson ..... 12/20  
Rick & Linda Tofte ..... 12/28

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary,  
please let Pastor know.



## LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

### DEVOTION from LHM.ORG

*Jeremiah 33:16 - [The Lord said] "In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"*

Those who write screenplays for holiday movies are often adept at connecting with a wide range of audiences, young and old. How do they do it? How do they amuse children *and* warm the hearts of adults with a cozy blanket of nostalgia? Consider the 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*, in which the adult narrator embodies his nine-year-old self, Ralphie, and immerses us in the world of a 1940's fourth-grade boy with "triple-dog-dares" and secret decoder rings and Red Ryder BB guns and a humiliating pink bunny-footed-onesie from his overbearing Aunt Clara. Notice how the storyteller puts himself in the place of his audience, including everyone from present-day nine-year-olds to those who remember being nine in 1940, and the rest of us somewhere in between. He connects with us by identifying with us.

So also, God called the prophet Jeremiah to identify with his people, to put himself in their place, to tell a story they can follow—but with one important difference. The purpose of a prophet like Jeremiah is to wake us up, to yank off the covers and get us ready for the new day. The purposes are as different as night at day, but the methods are similar. In both cases, the speakers put themselves in the place of their people to connect with them, to reach them.

Admittedly, Jeremiah's job is not as fun. He's got the thankless task of rousing people who'd rather stay asleep, and don't give a hoot if they miss the bus and get detention. And to make it worse, Jeremiah's not in a kids' movie. It's real life and the consequences are adult-sized. The people

have forsaken God. They've shackled up with the false gods of short gain and will find themselves in the hell of an abusive relationship, exiled into the evil empire of Babylon. So, God sends Jeremiah to wake them up. But Jeremiah doesn't just say, "I told you so." No, God sends him to identify with them, to suffer with them in the consequences of their choices.

So that he can identify with them when their families are ripped apart by the pain of exile, God forbids Jeremiah to start a family of his own. So that he can bear the shame of their enslavement, God has Jeremiah walk around with a yoke on his neck, humiliated like a beast of burden (see Jeremiah 27). God commands Jeremiah to so fully identify with the people that, when the Babylonians are invading Jerusalem, he buys a plot of land that will soon be worthless, so that he could know their loss, yet still have reason to hope in God (see Jeremiah 32). The work of a prophet is to identify with your people even when they won't listen, because you represent a God who humbles Himself to identify with us.

In the reading today, God promises a new day after the day of judgment. God will raise up the Messiah, His Son, Jesus, to restore them. God will give them a new name. And the name by which *the people* will be called is "The LORD is our righteousness." These words are a repeat from earlier in the book, chapter 23, verse 6. There, He said that name by which God's *Messiah* will be called is "The LORD is our righteousness." It's the same name. In other words, God's Son will so fully identify with His people that their name will be His, and His will be theirs—and by extension, yours, too. Because Jesus came to be with us under the consequences of our sins. He died for us and with us on the cross. And He rose from the dead to rouse us for life in His new creation, and also to cover us in His love like a warm blanket.

This Daily Devotion was written by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour.



# Christmas

## Come and See

Find the 45 **bold** words from Psalm 66:1-7 (ESV)

### Across

3. There is a Christmas movie Bad \_\_\_\_\_

6. What type of meat do we traditionally eat on Christmas Day?

8. What do we decorate with lights?

9. There were three of these who brought gifts

10. Children hang these out Christmas Eve

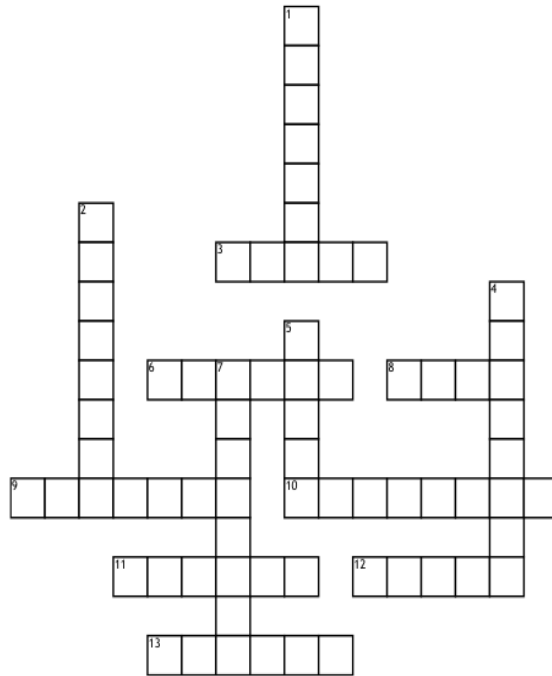
11. These are opened every day \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar

12. Who are Santa's helpers?

13. What do we usually sing in church at Christmas?

### Down

1. Children like to wrap up warm and make these in the garden



2. They usually have a hat, joke and toy in them

4. What do we give at Christmas?

5. Who was born at Christmas?

7. What animals pull Santa's sleigh?



E W H A T O O F R Y H E G G R  
 V A L L D R L E O A M D L D E  
 I N A M X A V J S O E O O E B  
 G N I G N I R C S E R R R N E  
 H E N D R O E E D I E E Y R L  
 A R T N Y X W S O D W J P U L  
 L D O H A A D U S E A O E T I  
 E L E L R E S E N E M I E S O  
 S I T S S O F P A E Y C K X U  
 W H M S I O U D I R M E H D S  
 A C A I R A R G O H T A E R G  
 T P W E G Q R E H N S H N Y E  
 C T V N L H O P W G E R L M G  
 H E S N O I T A N O S H O U T  
 R U L E S G N I S D P C T W J

**Shout for joy** to God, **all the earth**; **sing the glory** of his **name**; **give to him glorious praise!** Say to God, "How **awesome** are your **deeds!** So **great** is your **power** that your **enemies** come **cringing** to you. All the earth **worships** you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."  
*Selah* **Come and see what God has done:** he is awesome in his deeds toward the **children of man.** He **turned the sea into dry land**; they **passed through the river on foot.** There did we **rejoice** in him, who **rules** by his **might forever**, whose **eyes keep watch** on the **nations**— let not the **rebellious exalt** themselves. *Selah*

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1 First Communion. No Sunday School</i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3 6pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</i></p>	<p><i>4 7pm Women of L.I.F.E. Mtg</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8 10am Sunday School. 11am Worship. Communion.</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11 7pm Bible Study</i></p>	<p><i>12 6:30pm Confirmation</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14 9am LOC Church Breakfast</i></p>
<p><i>15 10am Sunday School. 11am Worship</i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19 6:30pm Confirmation</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p>
<p><i>22 10am Sunday school. 11am Kids' Christmas Program</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24 Christmas Eve</i></p>	<p><i>25 Christmas Day NO Bible Study</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29 NO Sunday School. 10:30am Next service group Meets. 11am Worship.</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31 New Year's Eve</i></p>	<p><i>1 New Year's Day 7pm Women of L.I.F.E. Mtg</i></p>	<p><i>2 6pm Stephen Ministry Supervision</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>

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