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Parish Notes

Welcome to Worship

December 6, 2020

Pastor Debra Jimenez
Cell: 770-841-7610
Email:
pastordebratrinity@gmail.com
Office Hours:
To be determined

Gathered and gifted to celebrate and share the love of Jesus

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Thank you all so very kindly for the thoughtful and completely practical gifts as we move into our new home! For weeks to come, each time I open a cabinet or reach in the refrigerator, I will be reminded of your hospitality and enthusiastic welcome into your community and our home. This is a custom that I was unfamiliar with and must say that I'm planning to sing your praises far and wide!

James and I would love to be able to say that once the boxes are unpacked that we would open our doors to welcome you into our home. Of course, the pandemic does not make that practical or safe. We look forward to the day when it will be safe to host an open house and invite all of you into the place you are helping make our new home.

Until then, please know that I look forward to our finding ways to get to know one another. In the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to you by phone. The purpose will simply be to say hello, to provide the opportunity to get to know one another and for you to share your hopes and dreams for Ascension.

I will be establishing office hours and will be sharing those with you soon. At the same time, if you would like a pastoral visit, please don't hesitate to let me know. You may reach me directly by calling my cell – 770.841.7610.

I'm excited to be here with you as together we share the love, grace, and joy of Christ! Hope to see you Sunday!!!

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Debra

2nd Sunday of Advent

Mark 1: 1-8

An Attitude of Discipleship—Prepared

Focus Question: *How is confession and preparation a part of your daily life?*



December Birthdays

Deanna Brown	2
Don Brown	4
Janet Kilhefner	13
Mark Hughes	14
Steve Rhees	31



Worship Service for December 6, 2020

Our new pastor, Pastor Debra Jimenez will join us for her first worship service at Ascension Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 6th at 9:30 am for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. Please note the time change!! Due to feedback, we will revert back to a 9:30 am start time for our worship service. At this service, we will bless the 44 plus quilts that our Friendly Tie Quilters have made this past year. Congratulations to that group for the number of quilts made during this pandemic year!! We will also light the second "Candle of Peace" on our Advent Wreath and welcome Pastor Debra and James Jimenez to Ascension Lutheran Church.

Amazon Smile

Just a reminder, if you're shopping online this year, and haven't signed up in Amazon Smile, you still can. If you have questions, call Sharen, she'll be happy to help you sign up. It doesn't cost you anything, or change how you order from Amazon, except that you order from smile.amazon.com. Every little bit counts. Here's what we've received since the program started.



Your current charity
Ascension Lutheran Church
has received

\$336.03
as of November 2020

Together for Joy" Stewardship

If you were not able to get your pledge information to the church, we are still collecting pledge cards for the next week or so. You can still take a picture of it and send it to Pat or Sharen or, if needed, you can also call Pat Refsdal, 908-625-2039, with your pledge details, and she can complete a pledge card for you. There are also pledge cards available at church.

We have received 16 pledges that pledged a total of \$79,380 towards our church expenses and ministries for 2021. An additional \$3000 was pledged towards the lease-to-own printer payments and \$1560 was pledged towards debt reduction on the church building. In 2019, we received 28 pledges for a total of \$120,560. We could still use more pledges as council begins the process to develop a budget for 2021. Thanks to Kelly Martin who headed our Stewardship Team this year. Thank you for your pledges and generosity!

†Please Lift Up in Prayer:

- Family of Barbara Edisinger Brenton
- Family of Mildred Tolle
- Lillian Hughes & Family
- Tracie Truitt, friend of Alyson's
- Kristy - Shari Morosky's daughter
- Joan Marlow
- Stephanie, niece of Gloria
- Cory, Nancy Byrne's son
- Pam Burbank
- Jessica Stewart, Dick Graves daughter
- Dan Harkin, Lillian Hughes cousin
- Delilah Sell, Lillian Hughes cousin
- Rebecca Rens and the Eyre Families
- Patti, Shari Morosky's sister
- Roy Zimmerman
- Randy and Janie Karas
- Jefferson Barrett
- Kyle and Kristen - friends of Kelly
- Karla and Lynn Davis
- Maylan Chugg, Don & Dee's granddaughter
- Julie Jensen, Mike Williams' sister
- Heather Nolting, wife of Arliss' nephew
- Holly & Libby, friends of Kim Engelby
- Gloria Mike
- Chris, friend of Alyson W.
- Judy Sherman

- Sean Zeller, Pastor Gene's nephew
- Cheryl, friend of Alyson
- Mark Hughes and family
- Richard, Shari Morosky's husband
- Harold and Mary VanDehey, friends of Leo Seeber
- Shelley, Diana Warkentin's friend
- Ardis, Elaine Shelburne's sister
- Jason Shepherd, Nancy Byrne's nephew
- Heidi, Diane Shultz' sister-in-law
- Don Hughes
- Dick Graves
- Jim Johnson, Sharen's brother-in-law
- Karen O.
- Marijka, Grace and Dallas
- Paula and Dave Stuart and Paula's Dad
- Steve Morlan
- Ruth Ann Hudspeth, friend of Dick G.
- Butch and Lou, Pastor Lisa's parents

†Praying for Loved Ones in the Military:

- Kaleb Tarr
- Dariyan Edsinger
- Mason Bushey and his wife Ida, and family
- Brody Wilcock
- Renee Kiel
- Justin Kiel
- Kris Kiel
- Matt Malde
- Jason Chugg



Please send any prayer chain updates or requests to Kelly Martin. jeffnkelly2@msn.com

The Advent and Christmas Seasons

We begin this new church year the way we ended things last March.....in disruption.

When this pandemic began in the spring, we thought we could handle the two or three weeks it would take to subdue the virus— but the virus had other plans. Now we find ourselves many months later still in disruption in every aspect of our lives.

Our Advent wreath this year will reflect this disruption in our plans for the Advent and Christmas seasons: no perfectly coordinated candles and liturgies, rather using what we already have on hand to remind us of the Light coming into the Darkness. Our wreath may be a symbol of our disruption...but the Light hasn't changed. Join us this Sunday as we light the second candle

During the Advent Season, and in keeping with the disruption we are all feeling, we are asking our members to bring in sturdy candleholders of all types with your name on the bottom so they can be returned after Christmas. We are also asking you to bring in your used, mismatched, or broken candles of all colors and shapes. The candles need to be unscented and will not be returned. There will be a container in the narthex where these items will be collected. Thank you for your participation.

Future Worship Services

As our Covid-19 numbers continue to rise in Weber County and in Utah, we want to emphasize the importance of everybody following the safety protocols we have implemented. Based on member feedback, we will continue with in-person and online worship services throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons unless the risk becomes too great. It is anticipated that we will have at least two worship services on Christmas Eve, giving enough room to social distance. More information on registration for Christmas Eve Services will be available soon. Covid-19 safety protocols are as follows:

- Encourage those that are at risk or those who are unsure, to remain at home
- If you have a cough, sore throat, fever, or other symptoms, do not come to church
- Emphasize that even with precautions, we are not able to eliminate all the risk
- Since we need to tape a full service at church anyway, let those who want to be at church attend as we tape the service
- There will be 6 feet between family groups - you must wear a mask at all times inside the church
- We will not say prayers aloud - follow along with your heart in silence
- We will not sing aloud - sing in spirit
- Continue to post the service online on YouTube and continue to use Facebook Live
- Please respect everybody's decision to worship as they feel comfortable to do

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan

All the documentation has been submitted to Zions Bank for forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$13,100. So now we wait for the forgiveness calculation, reconsideration, final submission and Zions Bank approval. This process could take up to 90 days before Small Business Administration approval is received.



- To everybody who brought household items for the Jimenez Kitchen Shower
- To everybody who donated the items for our 15 Operation Christmas Child boxes
- To everybody who pledged in our "Together for Joy" Stewardship Campaign
- To our quilters for the stunning quilts made during this pandemic year
- To all those who helped to spruce-up the pastor's office
- To Arliss Zimmerman who organized the Kitchen Shower and made a floral arrangement for pastor's office
- To Kelly Martin who organized our Stewardship Campaign
- To Nancy Otto who prepared the sanctuary, the liturgy and the theme for this Advent Season
- To Melinda and Robert Tolle for the additional communion kits received - so now we have white and red grape juice