



## Fear Not: The Dawn Is Breaking!

By Pastor Gayle Pope

Advent is a time of waiting – for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas, for the coming of Christ at the end of time, and for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives each day we live on this earth.

Sometimes, while we wait, we find ourselves in darkness – the darkness of suffering, of loss, of confusion, anxiety, depression, worry – all those things that tend to rob us of peace and joy. And if we're not in a time of darkness ourselves, chances are, we're walking along with someone else who is.

And yet – there is hope. God's word is filled with promises and assurances that light will break through the darkness – that love will win the day. *"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us."* (Luke 1:78) *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5) *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12).

**"From Darkness to Dawn" is the focus of our Advent daily devotional and Wednesday evening prayer services this year.** Meditations on scripture and personal faith stories will help us focus on the light of Christ. Midweek services begin at 6:30 and will last from 30 to 40 minutes. We will again use the "Holden Evening Prayer" liturgy. Luther Memorial will again join us in worship, with Pastor Tony Metz presiding on Dec. 5 and me on Dec. 12 and 19. Here's what to expect each week:



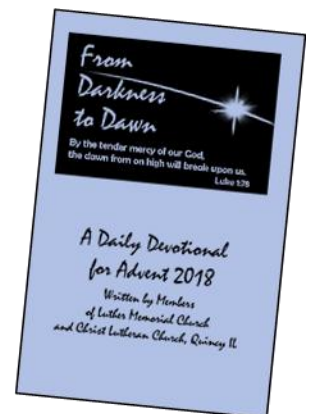
- ❑ Dec. 5: Chaplain James Riley from Good Samaritan home will talk about the need to acknowledge the dark, from Psalm 109. Special Music is To Be Determined.
- ❑ Dec. 12: Jim Dunn will talk share about an experience of darkness and light in his life. Special Music by Amy Stollberg and Cathy Flick.
- ❑ Dec. 19: Brandon Ross will give testimony of the light of Christ in his life. Special Music by Roger Wegehenkel and John Moore.

**These midweek Advent services are a wonderful way to quiet your mind** from all the hustle and bustle of the holidays and turn your thoughts to the real "reason for the season." Please plan to join us, and bring a friend!

### Pick Up a Daily Devotional

Advent Daily Devotionals written by members of Luther Memorial and Christ Lutheran are available for pick-up at church. If you aren't able to get here, contact the church office and we will see that you get one.

We will have links to the devotional on our website and facebook as well. Thanks to the we writers from CLC and LMC who shared their faith!



## Nov. 13, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes

We had so much news this month that we don't have enough room for the November Council Minutes! Most of the news from the council meeting is covered in other articles. Plus, the minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you would like to receive a copy, check with the church Secretary!

## OFFICIAL NOTICE Annual Meeting Jan. 27

Our 2019 annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 27 following our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Elections will be held for four open positions on the church council and the 2019 budget will be submitted for approval. Officers and committee chairs are asked to have their reports for the Annual Report to the church secretary by Jan. 12. The printed report will be available to pick up Jan. 20.



### President's Message Getting Ready for Our Annual Meeting

*By Jerry Spurgeon  
Congregational President*

Greeting fellow congregational members! Can you believe

Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is right around the corner? After last weekend's snow I would say, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." Some of us may groan a bit because of the snow, but these things are inevitable.

I consider it a blessing to be healthy enough to shovel snow. I thank God each day I can get up and see the snow outside. As much of a mess as it may be, I understand the farmers need several good snows to continue hydrating the soil.

Speaking of next year, our annual congregational meeting will also be here before you know it. Currently it is set for January 27 (weather permitting). As usual we will meet following our worship service. If you are a rostered member, have made a donation of record at communion at least once in 2018, then you are eligible to vote. We

appreciate your voice in these matters. You have been an active congregation for a number of years and your guidance and support has shown with the progress and growth we have made.

Also, as a reminder, if you have not done so, please make sure your time and talent as well as your financial pledge card is submitted as soon as possible. Church Council meets again Dec. 11. At this time we will use our estimated pledge totals to balance the budget and bring this to the congregational meeting for approval of the entire assembly. For the last several years council has prided itself on bringing a balanced budget that is in the black to the congregation. We would like to do this again this year.

As always, you are more than welcome to attend any council meeting. We look forward to the new members who will be joining us in January. I know the nominating committee has reached out to several and I hope that you all decide to participate in the leadership and guidance of this wonderful Church!

## Stewardship Drive Wrapping Up

*By Matt Futhy, Stewardship Chair  
and Congregation Vice President*

I can't believe that it's December! Just three months ago I started meeting with my Stewardship Team to plan this campaign. Honestly, I was a little nervous at my first meeting. However, my Team of Bonnie Scranton, Jerry Spurgeon, Dick Tabb, Helen Pagel and Pastor Gayle kept me in check throughout the campaign. Thank you!

Also, I would like to thank Tracy Goings, Stu Bell, and Dick Tabb for agreeing to give temple talks. I think my team and I picked perfect people to speak on the theme of "Building for Mission-People, Place, Purpose." Now, I would like for you to ask yourself this question: How can I serve at CLC in the coming year? Even though we would like to have your time and talent sheets in as soon as possible, take your time. You can always join a ministry team when you choose. I remember joining a ministry team in October of the year!

We're still a little behind last year's total number of pledges. So, if you haven't turned in your pledges and/or time and talent sheets, please do that as soon as possible!

In conclusion, I would like to say thank you to the following people for being “behind the scenes” of the campaign: Char Tooke, Dick Tabb and Katie Rupp for organizing and setting up the dinner; Council Members for helping serve and clean up after the dinner; Tafi Lathrop for making the box to put the pledges in; and Ministry Teams for providing displays for the stewardship fair.

## SERVICE TEAM UPDATES

### Salvation Army will be December's Food Recipient

By Sue Hobbins



The Salvation Army Food Pantry will be the recipient of our gifts in December. Each month of 2018 you have faithfully purchased and given food for a pantry. Helping to feed the hungry in our community is one way we can support our neighbors. We all know that a healthy diet pays dividends in many ways. The child who consumes a healthy, balanced diet will do better in school. A healthy adult misses fewer days of work or is able to look for work. An elderly person who is healthy spends less for medicine and can continue working, volunteering and living in their own home. Your gifts mean so much more than a full stomach. Thank you for your continued support for the hungry and needy in our community.

Suggested food donations are:

1. Protein items (includes baked beans, chili beans)
2. Canned meats (chicken, tuna)
3. Canned meals or boxed meals (chili, stew, mac and cheese, meals with all the ingredients in them)
4. Macaroni & cheese, spaghetti & spaghetti sauce
5. Soups, especially chicken noodle & vegetable
6. Canned fruit and vegetables
7. Nuts (especially English walnuts, dry roasted almonds, peanuts)
8. Bisquick (or similar mixes that make a variety of dishes with little or no additional ingredients)
9. Fresh apples, potatoes
10. Small boxes of powdered milk & canned evaporated milk
11. Dry cereals
12. Paper products (toilet tissue, facial tissue, diapers)

13. Laundry detergent, cleaning products
14. Deodorant, shampoo, toilet soap
15. Hotel size soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc.

### A Great Day for the Virgene Project

By Jim Hobbins

The Virgene Project's distribution of clothing to veterans Nov. 12 at the Quincy Senior Resource Center was, in all ways, very successful. We doubled the number of veterans served and, I think, all branches were represented.

Volunteers abounded. Andrew and his two elves, Roger, Dave and Char, Marcia and four hard working people from a Chicago veterans advocacy group gave their time. Hats off from us to all of you who kept the Virgene box crammed full with used clothing. The press, radio and TV coverage was also good. Contributions came from all over the tri-state area. In fact, we exceeded the previous quantities.

To top it all off, Glenn Swick, realtor with an office behind the old Tony's restaurant, offered us permanent storage space which we will be converting into a retail shop for veterans. A special shout out to my wife, Sue, who kept the train running on time! So, from this grateful vet, thank you all for your service.

### Service Team News Briefs

By Connie Hornsey

- ❑ **Operation Christmas Child:** We collected 17 shoeboxes this year for Operation Christmas Child. We had \$210 in cash donations from our Second Sunday-Second Basket Offering. This year's collection is a wrap, with 2,724 shoebox gifts from the Quincy area! So very thankful for our church's contribution to this amount!
- ❑ **Lutheran Disaster Response:** Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we collected \$592.64 for Lutheran Disaster Response in our Second Sunday-Second Basket Nov. 12. This donation was sent along with a request for these funds to stay in the US to help with hurricane relief. The Service Team wishes to thank our congregation for again sharing your “Treasures” for the greater good.
- ❑ **Second Sunday-Second Basket for December:** On Dec. 9, we will pass the Second Basket for donations to go to the ELCA Fund for Leaders which provides scholarship assistance for seminary students.

## Missionary Corner

### “Go and Make Disciples”

By Katie Rupp, Service Team Council Liaison



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

These words of Jesus, found in Matthew 28:18-20 and often called the Great Commission, were spoken to the eleven disciples after the resurrection. They are the command to all followers of Christ to go forth and share the good news, and each day through our words and deeds we show the light of Jesus to others as we move through our daily lives. Not all of us are called to be “...disciples to all nations...” but we may be called to provide financial support for those who do go forth.

Last April, we as a congregation pledged our support to Pastor Kristin Fryer, who serves in Egypt. Over the past months we have received news of Pastor Kristin’s work with the multicultural congregation at St. Edwards in Cairo and with the refugees that flood into Egypt from the war torn nations of Africa and the Middle East.

It is now time to consider giving the funds for a second year, we are committed to a \$1,500 donation due in March 2019. We will be working on raising the additional funds needed before that time.

As we progress through this season of giving, remembering the generosity of our God and celebrating the birth of His only son, our savior, let each of us prayerfully consider how we can respond to the call to go forth when the time comes to fulfill our commitment to Pastor Kristen. The Service Team thanks you for your generosity & are pleased for the opportunity to serve.

## ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



Missionaries • Young Adults in Global Mission • International Leaders • Global Ministries

## COMING EVENTS



### Dec. 2: Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to stay after worship for “Hanging of the Greens.” We’ll eat together after we get the church decorated for Advent and Christmas. The Coffee Hour group for this Sunday (Group 3) is asked to help with serving/clean-up.

### Dec. 8 & 9: Madrigal Dinner

Quincy University’s Music Department will present a Madrigal Dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9 in the Connie Niemann Center for Music at 17th and Seminary Road. The Renaissance-style dinner will be accompanied by choral, instrumental, dance and dramatic entertainment. A cash bar will be available with a selection of German beers and wines. Tickets are \$25 each and cover the price of dinner. All proceeds benefit the study abroad program to Germany in May 2019. Seating is limited. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Amy Stollberg, director of choirs, at 217-228-5090 or [stollam@quincy.edu](mailto:stollam@quincy.edu).

### Dec. 12: Blessing Buddy Event

Corrine Sutcliffe is planning our next “Blessing Buddy” event for Wednesday, Dec. 12, starting at 5 p.m. A light supper will be served and the group will participate in an activity involving the letters of C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S and their meanings and a couple of songs. We know that adult Buddies who work until 5 will have to come late, but that’s OK. We wanted to get started because we will be done in time for Advent Service at 6:30. You can sign up on the sheet at church or call or text Corrine to let her know if you can be there.

### Dec. 10: Create-A-Card Class Christmas Party

By Bonnie Cox

Create-A-Card class will have a Christmas party at my house on Mon., Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. with the Prayer Shawl group. We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.



## MORE COMING EVENTS

### Dec. 4 & 18: Prayer Shawl Group

By Bonnie Cox

Prayer Shawl will meet the first and third Tuesday of December, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. following the coffee & devotion time. We still have about five fleece tied blankets to tie and they will be available if anyone is interested in working on them at this time. We have another five blankets to deliver. We welcome any interested parishioners who would like to help with this mission project to join us. The Prayer Shawl group will join the Create-A-Card class for a Christmas Party on Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. for appetizers and refreshments at my home. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

### Dec. 11: Birthday Lunch



This month's Ladies Birthday Lunch is at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at Dunbelly's. If you can come, sign up in the church narthex or call the office and we'll add your name to the list. Ladies with

December birthdays are treated by the rest! Judy Heilmann has agreed to take over the job of making reservations and sending a reminder.

### Dec. 17: Books and Brew

By Pat Bell

Since December is such a busy month we are going to meet earlier in the month – Monday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at my house. Our pick for discussion is "The Woman in Cabin 10" by Ruth Ware. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped book to exchange and a snack (appetizer or sweet) to share.

We collected \$48 at our November meeting to go to the December food pantry. Thank you to all our bookies for their generosity.

### Dec. 18: Paddles for a Purpose

By Jennifer Stollberg

We at "Paddles for a Purpose" are excited to continue giving and have partnered with KidzPacks for our December event!! They are an amazing group that is helping fight



hunger in our community! They send home 1,100 bags of food with kids from school every week! Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 18 for "Paddles for a Purpose" at Christ Lutheran. Doors open at 5:30 and bidding starts at 6:30. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

We are happy to announce, that those who attended our November event helped raise \$1,032 for the Quincy Neighborhood Federation! Plus the whole \$116 that was raised for the 50/50 drawing!! What an amazing way to help the kids in our community!

### Dec. 23: "We Are the Reason" Concert

Doris Sanders and members of the Quincy Community Theatre will be presenting an afternoon concert of Christmas music right in our sanctuary at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, followed by a soup and sandwich supper. The first half of the program will feature secular Christmas songs, such as "Silver Bells," and the second half will be the Christmas story told through song. About 20 children and adults of all ages are participating. The performers are putting this concert on for friends and family, but members from Christ Lutheran are all welcome.

### Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with Holy Communion will begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24. Amy Stollberg will grace us with a solo of "O Holy Night," and of course we will join together in singing "Silent Night" once all our candles are lit. Plan to attend, and remember, it's always a good time to invite someone to church!

## BRIEFLY . . .

- ❑ **As of Thursday, Nov. 29, 60 people had responded to our CAT survey** out of 141 possible, a response rate of 43%. We hope to get a few more before the survey opportunity ends on Monday morning, Dec. 3. Many thanks to all who took the survey. If you haven't, there's still time! Council and Mutual Ministry Team members will have a two-hour interactive on-line session with representatives from Holy Cow Consulting on Jan. 17 to review the results.

## F&I Team Looks Ahead to Future Capital Improvements

By Bonnie Scranton

In an effort to be proactive in taking care of the financial aspects of maintaining our church property, the Finance & Investment Committee met Oct. 15 to develop a set of recommendations for funding identified capital improvements that will be needed over the next few years. Individuals present at that meeting were: Joan Kammerlohr, Richard Klusmeyer, Norma Tofall, Robin Lentz, Stu Bell, Jim Hobbins, Bill Wolters, and Bonnie Scranton. The committee recommendations, as noted below, were subsequently approved by council at its November meeting.

The 2019 operating budget will include \$6,000 for landscaping on the south side of the sanctuary and the resurfacing/stripping of the east parking lot. Non-budgeted funds of about \$4,000 will need to be used to replace the fellowship hall floor. Council will need to determine the source of those funds.

The 2020 operating budget will include \$3,000 to upgrade both the women's & men's restrooms in the original structure.

In 2021 and beyond, at least \$20,000 per year currently used to pay the mortgage will be placed in a capital improvement sinking fund. The first projects to be paid for out of these funds should be a new roof on the entire structure (at least \$75,000) and new carpet in the narthex and the sanctuary (at least \$20,000).

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*Jessica (front left) working with some youth on a previous AdventureServe mission trip.*

## Mission Trip 2019: The Opportunity of a Lifetime!

By Jessica Dunn

Hi y'all! As cool weather is on the rise and the spirit of Christmas is approaching, take some time to think about the hot summer sun and an opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ.

Since our survey last spring showed sufficient interest in a mission trip for CLC, we are planning one for the week of June 2-8. We will go through AdventureServe Ministries, an organization with which I have done many mission trips and also served on staff for two years. Our mission trip will take place in the Appalachia area of KY and TN. This is a very poverty-stricken area where we get the opportunity to do home repair projects for families in need.

I encourage anyone who is interested to give it a try or seek me out and talk about it if you are unsure. Home repair might sound intimidating to some, but we need all of God's children to help build a team. Junior high through adults can go. Youth are welcome to come on their own – with or without parents. We will have enough chaperones. There will be fundraising opportunities to help assist with funding.

We will soon send out a new google survey and there will be a sign up in church to get a preliminary head count by Dec. 30 of those planning to go. If we have enough, the group will begin to plan details of transportation and fundraising. I will be at church Dec. 2 to talk about the mission trip a little more and answer any questions anyone has after church. Please never hesitate to contact me at [jessica.dunn.793@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.dunn.793@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing what God has in store.



# Worship Team Gets Ready for Advent and Christmas

*By Bonnie Scranton*

The holiday season is upon us. Preparations for the special holiday time spent with family and friends fill our calendars. It is so easy to get caught up in our earthly activities and forget that it is time to turn our faith lives to preparing for that miraculous birth of God's son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent and the arrival of Christmas are also some of the busiest weeks of the year for the Worship Ministry Team, including Pastor Gayle. In addition to extra services and sermons to plan for and multiple changes in sanctuary banners and decorations, we're also focused on all of the little things that will make each worship service meaningful and spiritually fulfilling, with the culmination of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will be getting together multiple times in December to make sure everything is just right.

It is work we enjoy as a team and it frequently includes a bit of laughter. In prior years we could never remember which of the Advent candle banners would go up first. We finally resorted to writing it down. That didn't seem to help much, either! So this year we are using a new set of Advent banners which will remind all of us of the Hope, Love, Peace, & Joy that are such a special part of our Christian lives as we await the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Eve. We hope you like them!

We continue to need your help, as well, during this season of hope and expectation. There will be numerous opportunities in December to help decorate the sanctuary, to serve as a worship leader in any of our eight worship services (including Wednesday evening Advent services), to help change banners and paraments, to welcome our holiday visitors, or to just pitch in wherever someone might need a hand.

The Worship Ministry Team hopes you will join us in reading this year's Advent devotional booklet, and in attending Wednesday evening services, Sunday worship, and Christmas Eve's candle light service. We also want to take this opportunity to wish all of you your friends and families a most blessed Christmas!

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

Month	2017	2018
January	99	73
February	94	88
March	96	90
April	111	118
May	95	99
June	93	86
July	89	102
August	98	93
September	95	95
October	100	101
November	87	93
Year To Date	98	96