



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—as we look forward to the celebration of our Lord’s birth at Christmas and His glorious return when the Father will call us all home to be with Him forever!

Thank you for your good and faithful ministry and for your partnership in the work of the Gospel. It is my deepest and most sincere desire and prayer that this Christmas season will be one in which the love shown to us so clearly in the birth of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, will be at the center of the proclamation we offer and the witness we give to a world.

With every passing year, rather than the story of our Lord’s birth becoming more familiar, I find myself being struck more intensely by its significance. The divine became human. The infinite became finite. The eternal became temporal. Not only that, but our broken relationship with God was repaired. It was restored in the person and work of Jesus, put back together and made right when Jesus became one of us and walked the path of the cross.

I am not yet convinced that we can fully understand all of what that means. I am convinced that we can be assured of what has been done for us in Jesus. That’s the good news. That’s what Christmas is all about. And that’s why we need to speak with clarity and conviction of the love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, so that the world for which He gave His life might come to believe.

One of the most basic and fundamental needs we have in this life is to be loved. From the moment we are born until the day when we leave this world, to love and to be loved is central to how we were created. It’s basic to what our life on this earth is all about. It keeps us going. It tells us that we matter. It says to us that we belong and that our life on this earth really counts.

When God came into this world in the person of Jesus, it was God's way of declaring that we are loved and will always be loved by Him. It's the very reason Jesus was born as a baby. It's the motivation in the heart of God behind the entire Christmas event.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son." Christmas is God's declaration that we do matter, that our lives on this earth really do count, and that no matter what else might happen in this life, there is always and forever a reason to live.

Christmas is the story of God's love for us. It's the story of God's individual and personal love for you and for me. And it's not love wrapped in a package. It's love found in a person. It's not a gift placed under a tree, waiting to be opened when the time is right. It's love placed in a manger, working to make right a relationship that had gone wrong.

"You will call His name Jesus," the angel said, "for He will save His people from their sins." And so, it was. And so, He did. And so, we celebrate that good news again this year.

Where does God meet man? He meets us in our sin. He comes to us where we are. He forgives us and He loves us, and He promises to never leave.

Our task, as His followers, is to point the world toward Him. Beginning in our families and our churches, from there into the relationships we have with our neighbors and co-workers and in our schools, and from there into the surrounding communities and beyond. There is no better remedy to the troubles we face in this life than to face those troubles with the remedy given to us two thousand years ago in the person and work of Christ.

Will we ever fully comprehend what that saving event was all about? Probably not, at least not this side of the grave. But that doesn't matter, because it does not depend upon how much we understand but solely upon what He has done. God's love, down to earth. That's what you have been given. Where God meets man. In our sin. At Christmas. In Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your faithful witness. Thank you for the partnership we share in Christ. Thank you for the love you share and the witness you offer, pointing people to the love of God revealed to us in Jesus.

Have a blessed and a love-filled Christmas!

In Christ,

Bishop Dan

North American Lutheran Church

JANUARY

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Sunday Morning
Adult Study

All are invited:
Adult Sunday School
will resume Jan. 7



January 21, 2024

Immediately after Worship
Reschedule date Jan 28

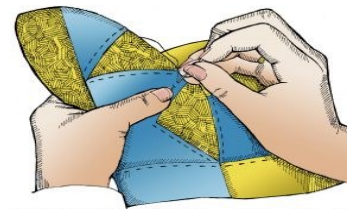


January 3
SLCW & Bible Study
10:00am

January 17
Bible Study
10:00am

Quilting

Every Tuesday 9:00am
Coffee Fellowship 10:00am



QUILTING GROUP



Children's Sunday School
resumes January 7

Reminder -
Quarters4Christ every 3rd Sunday
Singing at RSL every 3rd Sunday

Confirmation resumes
January 10th
2:00pm

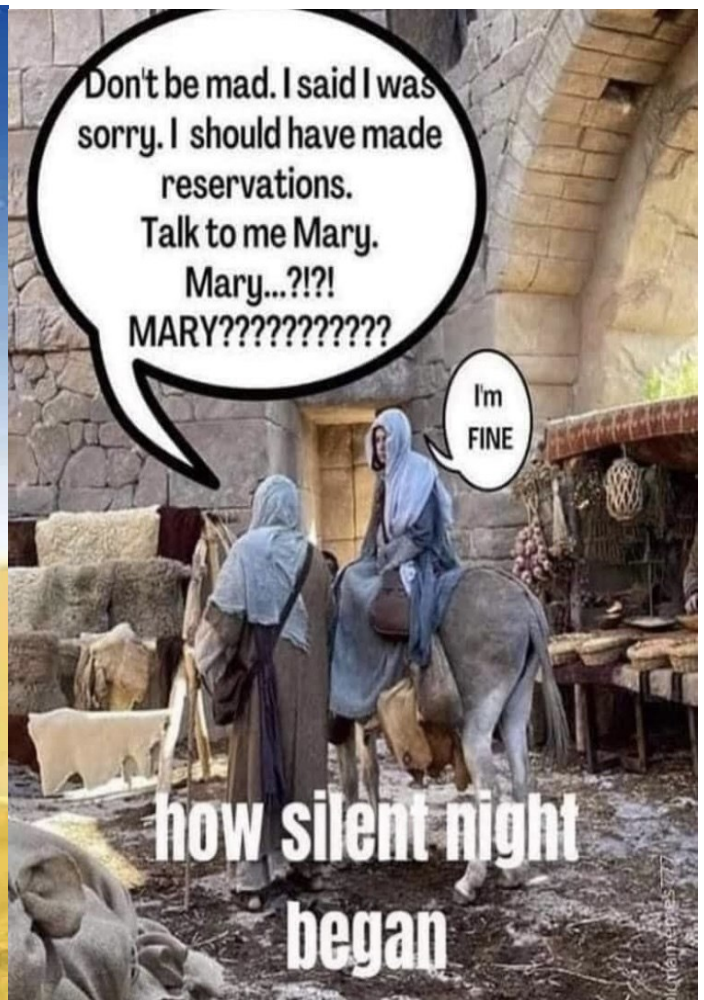
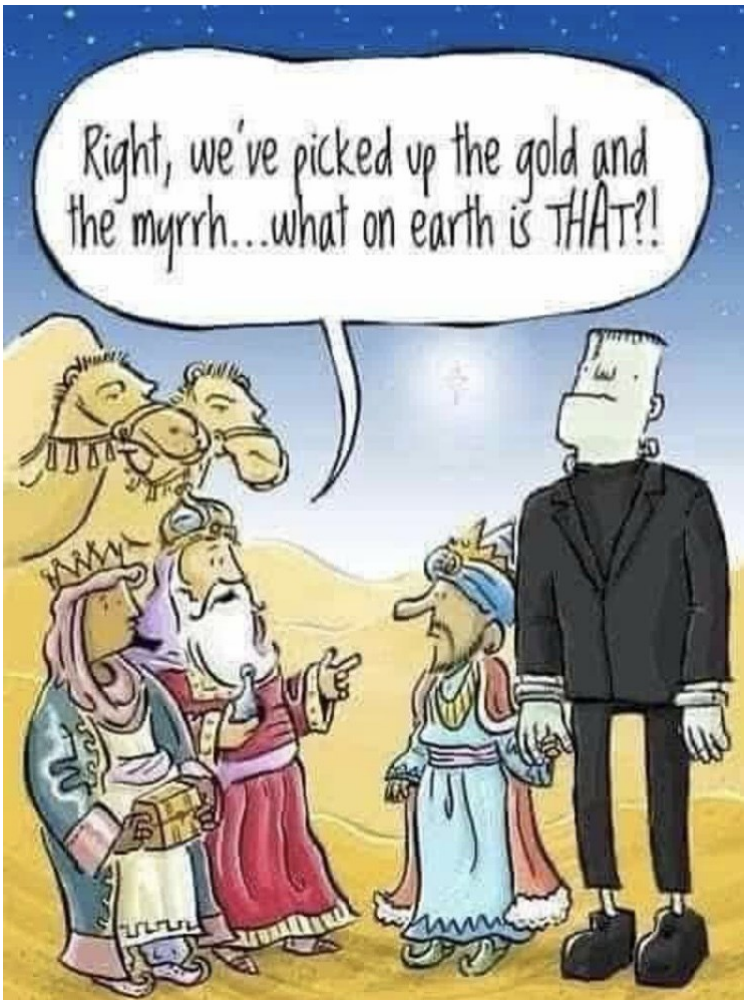
We will be studying the
New Testament
All are welcome to join us



© 2022 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndicate



7/4





**Samuel Lutheran Church
Sunday School
Christmas Program
"The Meanings of Christmas"**

Angels

Adley Rutherford
Eilen Rutherford
Croix Rutherford

Shepherds

Kayden McClelland
Leslie McClelland
Cruze Morgan

Kings

Gavin Groth
Cash Morgan

Animals

Avery Dooley - Horse
Elsie Groth - Sheep
Layla Dooley - Chick
Aubrey Dooley - Camel

Readers

Mack Morgan
Mya Morgan
Reece Demuth
Hayden Pedersen/Dooley
Brooke Demuth
Tytan Kleppe

Leaders

Barb Dooley
Tim Dooley
Melanie Olson
Gayleen Rutherford
Vicki Wagner

Thank you to our Sunday School Children for helping us celebrate our Lord's birth by presenting the Christmas Story.

THE GIVING MANGER



You did it!
You filled the manger
by helping others.
The Bible tells us that
Jesus had no crib for a
bed, but you gave
him this manger
full of love instead!



January Birthdays

4th—Cody Ramsey

12th—Alana Ketchum

15th— Kati Olson

21st -Marge Brown

23rd— Darin Grandgeorge

24th— Phyllis Hansen

28th-Shawn Baack

29th-Croix Rutherford



Thank you for making our sanctuary beautiful with poinsettias
given in memory of a loved one

Given by Tim & Barb Dooley & Family

In Memory of:

Rev. Marvin & LaVonne Dooley

Toby & Miriam Thompson

Given by Darron & Denise Baker

In Memory Of:

Gerald & Margie Nickles

Darlene Baker

Given by Andrew, Rachel, Archie & Wyatt Wagner

In Memory of our loved ones no longer with us

Given by Dave & Sue White

In Memory of:

Lawrence & Tootie White

Given by

Bev Jacobson, Sue White, Jolene Jacobson

In Memory of

Paul Jacobson

Carl & Anna Jacobson

Given by Dale & Randy Baack & Family

In Memory of

Robert & Bonnie Flatequal

Albert & Thea Baack

Given by The Geisinger Family

In Memory of

Gary Geisinger

Given by Pat Schultz Family

In Memory of

Jerry Schultz

Given by Jean Lehman

In Memory of

Mel Lehman

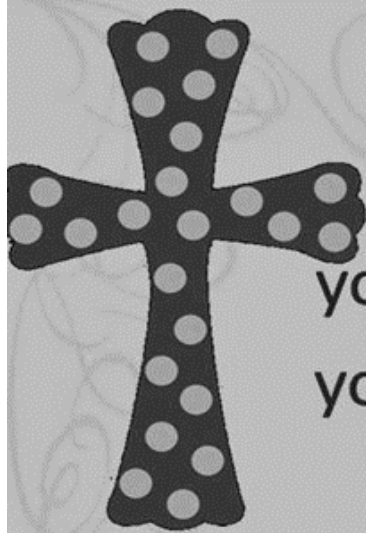
Given by Mark & Alana Ketchum

One in Memory of

Richard & Isabelle Ketchum

Forrest & Darleen Marsh

One in Honor of sons & grandchildren
Clay, Alex, Lexi, Natalie, Andrew, Belle



*We remember
before our God and Father
your work produced by faith,
your labor prompted by love,
and
your endurance inspired by hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:3

I am very thankful for so many willing and gifted hands joining together to do what is necessary to continue the ministry at Samuel Lutheran Church.

It has been a privilege and a blessing that God has brought us together to serve on the Church Council.

As we approach the Annual Meeting,
I would like to recognize our Church Council.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Kerry Elston	Melanie Olson	Sue White	Barb Dooley
Paul Tokheim	Dale Baack	Mark Ketchum	
Andrew Wagner	Drew Dooley	Tim Dooley	

We may not always realize it, but everything we do affects not only our lives, but touches others, too! It takes a lot of behind the scenes time and energy to assist with the many tasks required to keep Samuel Church running smoothly.

Thank you Pastor Paul for your commitment serving our congregation.

Thank you Vicki Wagner for your commitment to playing the organ.

We are indeed blessed to have you.