December Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church 328 George St., West Chicago, IL 60185

Church Office: 630-231-1175 www.trinitywc.org



"18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ[e] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She

will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." Matthew 1:18–25

We are probably more familiar with the Christmas narrative from St. Luke then we are with the one from St. Matthew. St. Luke begins with those familiar lines, "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered..." But whether it is the extended account from Luke, the shorter one Matthew, we all know and love the story of Christmas.

As a side note, St. Mark, in his rush to get directly to the ministry of Jesus, didn't feel it was necessary to include the Christmas narrative in his Gospel. Most likely the Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew were already being shared among the early Christian churches, so Mark didn't feel the need to repeat what was already well known. And St. John, in his divinely poetic style, simply handles the Christmas story by saying "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

As we prepare ourselves this December for Christmas, I thought it would be good to look at the two names we see in the Matthew account, "Jesus" and "Immanuel."

Before we knew if our first child would be a boy or a girl, my wife and I went through a long list of names. If it was to be a girl, what would it be? Heather? Grace? Betsy? If it was a boy, then what name? A family name like Frederic? A popular name, like Jared? There were names that I liked on the list and others that I did not. Like all parents, when thinking of a name, we wanted to make sure that the name we chose would fit the child.

In the case of our Lord, His names fit Him perfectly. The fact is, the two names we have in the Matthew account not only define who our Lord is, they tell us what He is.

The name Jesus is derived from the Hebrew name Yeshua/Y'shua, which is based on the, meaning "to deliver; to rescue." This is of course, the perfect descriptor of who Jesus is and what He does. Jesus is our deliverer, He is our rescuer. Jesus came as a child in a manger so that He could live a life of perfect obedience,

(Pastor's Message Continued)

obedience to the Law and to His Father. By fulfilling the Law perfectly, He did what we are unable to do. And then, by dying in our place on the cross, He delivered us—He rescued us—from the penalty of our sins. Now, because of Jesus, we need not fear eternal damnation. Because of Jesus, we have been put right with the Father. Jesus, our rescuer, is our righteousness.

The explanation of the name Immanuel is right there in our reading. "and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). What comfort this name gives us! Our Rescuer and Deliverer is with us, He is always with us! In our baptisms, we were united into the death and resurrection of Jesus. As Paul says in Galatians chapter 3, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Jesus has wrapped Himself around us. He has united Himself to us. He will never let us go. And He comes to us regularly in Word and Sacrament to touch our ears, our lips and our very souls!

As we celebrate Christmas, we do remember and look with wonder at the events of the past. We are humbled to think that the Almighty would love us so much that He would send His Son into this sinful and rebellious world to rescue it from its sinfulness. But we do not only remember the past. We also celebrate the present. We celebrate, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, that our Lord is "Jesus," our rescuer and deliverer, as well as that He is our "Immanuel," that He is God with us now and forever.

Merry Christmas. Pastor Gaede



Trinity Youth at Heart

DATE & TIME CHANGE

Due to a scheduling conflict with many Trinity members we are going to combine this gathering with volunteers for Church Decorating.

Saturday December 7th at 9am

Christmas ornaments and crafts

We will update/repair some of the church tree ornaments and presents around the tree

Cookie exchange - still bring cookies

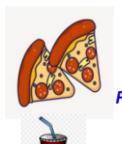
Please bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite Christmas/holiday cookies (baked or bought) to sample and then to share. We will have tins for selecting a few to take home at the end of the evening.



Light snacks/refreshments will be available

Please RSVP to Tracy Kotke 630 386 7646 tlck@sbcglobal.net





Trinity Youth (at Heart) Group is hosting a Game Night



Pizza, Pop, Plenty of Fun & Fellowship



Please RSVP to Tracy Kotke at TLCK@sbcglobal.net or 630-386-7646

Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

The **Advent bags** and giving "guide" will be available in the Narthex starting today, December 1st. Bags may be returned as soon as Christmas Eve, and no later than Friday, December 29th. An Advent devotional booklet titled "His Name Shall Be Called", which focuses on the names of Jesus (*Pastor's Advent theme*), will also be available to bless your Advent season. God's Christmas peace to all.





Do you know of anyone that should be included in our **Prayer Chain**? If so, please contact Rita Dauber at 630-293-0518 or rita.dauber3@gmail.com



Luncheon and Bake Sale. We had a lovely afternoon and served lunch to just over 50 members, former members and guests. Jaiden Behrend, Peggy O'Leary, Millie Planek, J.T. Adams and Dean Mennecke were our Door Prize winners. We collected \$1,135.50 and will be making donations to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the West Chicago Food Pantry each in the amount of \$567.75.



Thank you to Sharon and Greg Garcia for securing the \$250 donation from Thrivent which covered the expense of this event and allowed our total amount collected to be donated within our community.

A special thank you to all the bakers, salad makers and volunteers who helped with the event we couldn't do this without you!

Thank you to all who contributed mites for LWML. A total contribution of \$155.10 was received from the congregation. Combined with the \$567.75 from the Grateful Gathering Luncheon and Bake Sale and a total donation of \$722.85 will be made to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

There are many wonderful events planned for the Advent season:

12/01/24	Advent Food Drive begins for West Chicago Food Pantry
12/04/24	Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, Advent Service at 7:00 pm
12/07/24	Church Decorating/Youth at Heart Christmas Crafts & Cookie Exchange 9:00 am
12/11/24	Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, Advent Service at 7:00 pm
12/13/24	Setup and decorate Fellowship Hall for CCC 3:00 pm
12/14/24	Christmas Choral Celebration 5:00 pm, potluck immediately following
12/18/24	Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, Advent Service at 7:00 pm

Christmas Schedule:

12/24/24	Christmas Eve Divine Worship Service at 7:00 pm
12/25/24	Christmas Day Divine Worship Service at 10:00 am

AND HE SHALL BE CALLED...

Please join us for our Christmas Choral Celebration (CCC) as we praise the One who is Name Above All Names on Saturday, December 14, at 5:00 pm. A potluck will follow the CCC; a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please invite your families and friends for this special celebration!



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry December Newsletter Article



Repenting of "Yours" and "Mine"

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness" (*LSB* 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider "equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself" for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine," assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is "mine!" But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

(LCMS Newsletter Continued)

We are led to repent of the "yours" and "mine" and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.



Assistants.... If you aren't available for your assigned Sunday, it is your responsibil-Worship Assistants ity to find a substitute.

Nancy Westra and Ron Benes	Jim Grobe	Dan Rakow	Nancy Westra	Ron Benes
Greg & Sharon Garcia	Mayor Mataika	Androw Crowhol	Charan Caraia	Name Dlamak
and Cheryl Perkis	wayne watejka	Andrew Greubei	Snaron Garcia	Nancy Planek
Laura Grobe, Sue Mennecke and				
Jeni Siekmann	Doug Schmidt	Wayne Matejka	Sue Mennecke	Eldra Rakow
Nancy Westra and Ron Benes	Ron Benes	Doug Schmidt	Eldra Rakow	Lois Kovarik
To be counted with 12/29/2024	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Nancy Planek	None
To be counted with 12/29/2024	Ron Benes	Dan Rakow	Nancy Planek	None
Greg & Sharon Garcia				
and Cheryl Perkis	Larry Kotke	Ron Benes	Nancy Planek	Marvin Boorsma
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Find us on 📢 **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

West Chicago

Have something you'd like to post? Email secretary@trinitywc.org or Darcy.l.lee@gmail.com

FYI—The current Trinity page has no comma in it's name. If the picture associated with the account is of the outside of the church, you're on the wrong page.



From Erin Mackenzie <erin.mackenzie@lcms.org>

Date Sat 11/16/2024 2:52 AM

To secretary trinitywc.org <secretary@trinitywc.org>

Dear saints at Trinity--

Words can't express my gratitude for all of the ways you walk with me in God's mission. Next week, I'm looking forward to gathering with colleagues from the US, Puerto Rico, the Czech Republic, and Kenya to talk about how we can better support our short-term volunteers and educate them in Lutheran missiology. There's always room for improvement, and I love how we sharpen one another.

Know that I'm thankful for each of you all the time but especially as our nation pauses to reflect on God's faithful providence later this month. ¡Feliz día de acción de gracias (un par de semanas temprano)! Erin

1 of 1 11/16/2024, 11:13 AM

SERVING THE LORD IN Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC





News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | from volunteer | from

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

My fellow missionaries all know that anything they say or do may be used against them...in a future blog post! I'm not the only one reflecting on and documenting what Spreading the Gospel, Planting Churches, and Showing Mercy in LAC looks like, though. The post-trip evaluation all volunteers complete asks "How would you be interested in supporting the mission work in the place where you served?" The 7th of 8 options? "Write a blog post for the LCMS site about my experience." Enjoy the perspectives of these five takers:

- 1. God's Mercy Never Ceases Caitlin Moudy (January 2020,
- 2. Lights of the World | Christina Hergenrader (August 2022, DR)
- 3. Come to the table | Samantha Hoyt (February 2020 and October 2023, Peru)
- 4. Divine Disruptions | Jason Groth (January 2024, DR)
- 5. Where do missionaries come from? | Patrick Randolph (February 2024, DR)

Sweet Nothings

Given the choice I wouldn't plan a resort vacation, but they sure are luxurious. There's the rooms themselves: maid service is standard at the most basic of motels, but flower petals and towel animals not so much. The minibar doesn't charge an arm and a leg for water AND gets re-stocked daily? Count me in. Then, there's the amenities: lounge chairs, tennis courts, nightly entertainment. The toughest decision facing you all day might be which pool to hit first.

But the dining is truly where it's at. You're never far from a bar, even in the lobby. If you're lucky enough to score reservations, a three-course sit down dinner ain't nothin' but a thing. And a buffet whose options span the globe paralyzes you with decision fatigue.

The desserts are a sight to behold. From whole cakes to amuse-bouche sized morsels (so you can sample more, obvs), there are layers of sponge filled with tangy jam, gooey dulce de leche, or cloud-like mousse. And that's just the "naked" offerings; others are ensconced in glazes so shiny you can see yourself, rich ganache, or silky frosting. Atop are perched glacé berries, tempered chocolate swirls, or dollops of pillowy cream.

And yet, for all their outward appeal, I've found resort desserts...lacking. No matter which rainbow color I'm expecting a distinctive fruity pop from, I'm met with fake, generic sweetness. My taste buds crave decadence but get buttercream that tastes more like air than butter or cream.

The allures of this world are likewise superficial, but Scripture tells a contrasting story. Paul describes a God who provides in abundance (Phil 4:19), a God who sent His Son to be the very Bread of Life (Jn 6:35) and fountain of living water (Jn 4:14). To eat and to drink of Him is to neither hunger nor thirst. In summary,

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. (Psalm 107:9).

My Bible's study notes say that in Hebrew, "to long" can also be translated "to run or rush about." Story of my life! Thanks be to God for the sweet satisfaction that comes with the fear of the Lord (Prov 19:23).





Praises and Petitions

- 1. Thanksgiving for the 10/6 ordination & consecration of CMSCR grads Rev. Carlos Ventura & Deac. Berkis Brito (Venezuela).
- 2. Thanksgiving for a clean bill of health for Freddy at his first Dominican vet appointment.
- 3. Thanksgiving for the faithful service of my home congregation's senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas, who retired this month.
- 4. That God would provide a new location for the downtown mission in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- 5. For the Littig (Mexico) and Logston (DR-based regional team) families, who deployed to their permanent fields of service this month.

Regional Roundup: Puerto Rico

As I write this, there's a Youth for Life (Y4L) conference, the first of its kind in the commonwealth of PR, afoot in San Juan. Loaded with plenaries on topics ranging from gender roles to IVF, it's simultaneously the culmination of missionary Ashley Lehr's and local member Daniela's summer Y4L training AND the kickoff of a movement that looks to support Puerto Rican Lutherans, especially young people, in advocating for a biblical view of life from conception to natural death. In



Y4L Director Michelle and her assistant Diana.

addition to two Y4L staffers, parent organization and conference sponsor Lutherans for Life sent Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink and COO/CFO Rev. Scott Licht as speakers. You can "attend" vicariously or be encouraged by life-affirming facts and Scripture verses by following Puerto Rican Lutherans for Life on Instagram.



A new-to-me fruit: craboo. In Belize in August, I sampled it fresh after I took this pic and in ice cream form, though I ultimately opted for cake batter.



I heart spontaneous Saturday afternoons with the ladies of Cerro Alto.

Waiting for your

food to come (at Hala Madrid in

Belmopan, Belize,

with 3/4 Wildauer

waiting for your



Quote of the Month

"Laughter has no foreign accent."

—Paul Lowney, author and humorist

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- online, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone:** 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text *LCMSMACKENZIE* to 41-444;
- by **sending a check** (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



SERVING THE LORD IN Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC





News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | **f** erin.mackenzie5



(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

Fun fact: Official documents in the Dominican Republic must be signed in **blue** ink, NOT **black** or blue. This has come into play for me recently because I'm the newest signatory on the LCMS-Dominican Republic bank account. This means that accompanied by a colleague and with a letter of authorization that bears my sapphire-hued John Hancock—I can withdraw cash to replenish what's in the office safe. (No, I don't work in the business office now, but given most missionaries' travel schedules, it's good to have a backup...and a backup for the backup!)





Flashback! Me on visits in August 2018 with Marcelo (Chile, far left) and Mario (Spain, 2nd from right).

Traveling Companions

Among my earliest DR memories, I'd list being sandwiched by 2 then-seminary students in an airless backseat, a steeply inclined road with a sheer drop-off, neon-colored chicks, and a little boy nestled between his grandmother's legs in prayer posture. These snippets add up to one thing: visits.

Recognizing that grads often step into grassroots situations, Concordia the Reformer Seminary (CMSCR) forms students to be shepherds, teachers, and evangelists. From day 1, they're assigned a fieldwork congregation, with duties that always include visits.

They aren't random. Church planting teams carefully craft each week's schedule: perhaps 2-4 members, catechumens, neighbors, or contacts. Families are consulted in advance, and there's a templated liturgy, of sorts: shoot the breeze, recite an invocation, read a portion of Scripture, share a meditation, and close with a prayer and benediction. More often than not, dog-eared copies of Acompañamiento para el cuidado pastoral (Pastoral Care Companion) emerge from back pockets and backpacks. Equally as often, there are tiny cups of high-octane coffee with a heavy-handed dose of azúcar crema.

All missionaries are invited to go on visits anytime, but I most often do when hosting volunteers. Even non-Spanish-speakers can glean much from observing homes, communities, and nonverbal interactions and can intercede specifically on behalf of the families whose patios and living rooms they grace. In fact, LAC habitually gifts copies of the Acompañamiento to Mission Education teams of future pastors, such that they might have a toolkit for reaching out to the diverse subsets they're certain to encounter as they enter the ministry.

I also remember the people from my first "visit" experience – some of whom I now gather with weekly to receive Christ's gifts. Only He knows the untold others He will bring into His fold, all because someone took the time to share a cafecito and **Making** a few life-giving words from a tattered black book.

*Adapted from my most recent CPH "Serve" blog post.





Praises and Petitions

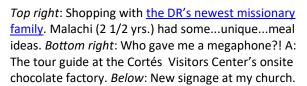
- Thanksgiving for the first national church Asamblea (assembly) held in PR this month.
- Thanksgiving for recent Baptisms in Belize (11/3) and confirmations in Uruguay (11/3 & 10).
- For new DR
 missionaries <u>Abby</u> and
 <u>Aaron</u> as they complete
 their 2nd week of in person orientation this
 month.
- 4. For Deac. Melissa Pflug, Eurasia's Regional Care Coordinator, as she shadows her LAC counterpart in the DR (with a field visit to Peru!) this month.
- 5. For all newly (re)elected US officials at the municipal, state, and federal levels.

Net Worth



Connecting people to Christ occurs in a variety of settings, as people's physical, mental, and emotional needs are met alongside opportunities to hear the Word preached in truth and purity. Iglesia Luterana Pueblo Nuevo (DR) recently took on such an endeavor thanks to a member couple who coaches volleyball at a park in a sector of Santiago not

currently served by a Lutheran church. Practices happen multiple times/week, but Fridays are unique in that a cadre of pastors and students is invited to come and lead a devotion and prayer for players. The church's presence is already bearing fruit. In mid-October, the Rev. Ross Shaver connected with an expat couple who had come to play; at his invitation, they came to the DRLM's joint Reformation service. I'm on the hunt for chances to see this particular witness in action, on my own and with future short-term volunteers—you?!







Quote of the Month

"Learn as much as you can from those who know more than you, who do better than you, who see more clearly than you."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Larry Kotke	2 Sara Jensen	3	4	5 Autumn Adams	6	7
8	9 Heather Giacomo	10	11	12 Donna Brothers Santo Lee	13	14
15	16	17 Jared Schneider	18 Nancy Planek	19	20 Grayson Matejka Chapman	21
22	23	24	25 Jamie Norusis	26	27	28
29	30 Darcy Lee John Siekmann	31	1	2 George Kotke	3	4



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jimmy Kline	2	3	4	5	6	7 Jennifer Grobe Trevor Bartels
8	9 Rita Dauber	10	11	12	13	14 Corey Brothers Shawn Brothers
15 Sara Jensen	16	17	18	19 Ron Rakow Tracy Kotke William Bruce	20	21 Dean Mennecke
22	23	24 Katherine Gregory	25 Jessica Leeseberg	26	27 Daniel Greubel	28
29	30 Ashlee Dameron	31	1 Caroline Planek Donna Brothers Larry Kotke	2	3	4



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9		11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			25	26	27	28
29 Val and Fred Gaede		31 Ashlee and Tyler Dameron	1	2	3	4

TRINITY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FIRST SUNDAY in ADVENT 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	2	3	4 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm - 8:00pm Advent Midweek Service	5	6	9:00am Christmas Decorating/Youth at Heart Cookie Exchange and Crafts
8 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	9	10	11 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm - 8:00pm Advent Midweek Service	12	13 3:00pm Christmas Choral Celebration Setup	14 5:00pm Christmas Choral Celebration Service (CCC)
9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	16	17	18 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm - 8:00pm Advent Midweek Service	19	20	21
9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	23	7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26	27	28
9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	30	31	1	2	3	4