



Dear Friends,

Grace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Samuel, we are told that the holy man erected a monument in thanksgiving for God’s gracious help, calling it Ebenezer, Hebrew for stone of help. Just about a month ago, we gathered out on Broadway to dedicate what I called our “Ebenezer”, the historic marker that celebrates our history as First Lutheran Church. It is already as if it had always been there. It looks “right”. Some of you may know while others may be surprised to know, that erecting the marker was not something I supported. Even now, I’m not sure that I would change my mind but I must confess that the dedication was an occasion of joy and hope.

It was a joyful thing to note how important this church is to its members and how much we make a difference to our neighborhood. It was a joyful thing to see our members who were present express pride in not only what we have been but who we are now. It was a joy to have others from the community recognize our history and our service.

The occasion was also an experience of hope. I felt energy that afternoon that I had not felt since coming as pastor. It was not the energy of a nuclear blast, really something more akin to a flickering candle. But still, it was energy born of sense that God is indeed not finished with First Lutheran. That energy is no guarantee of survival, and it is certainly no guarantee that we can survive as we are. It is, however, a guarantee that the Holy Spirit is here.

Living Lutheran, formerly known as The Lutheran, is the official monthly magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is pleased to be able to offer subscriptions to our members. If you are not receiving this publication and wish to, there is a sheet in the back of the church where you can sign up.. The same is true if you are receiving it and do not want it. Please let the secretary know.



As chair of the History Marker planning committee, I want to thank everyone who participated in making it a great event and especially thanks to Nola Lillie for the research work that was needed in the application process.

Paul Nellis



Table Talk will be on break until Tuesday, January 8, 2018.



God Bless Us Everyone!

We had a warm month in November - no snow whatever. The front of the church looks Magnificent! Thank you Bill and Wanda Schffrick for you care and generosity.

We continue in our mission to serve Christ. Another group is meeting in our building trying to help people recover from an addiction.

The next major problem is to fix the front landing in front of the men's restroom. Termites have wrecked havoc with the wood floor. It is currently blocked off for fear of collapse. The first bid to fix the area was over \$5,000.00. This project will be done this year.

We have a good group going to lunch together after church, on the second Sunday of each month. We have been going to Ditto's on Bardstown Road. It is a great time to sit around and talk to each other, while we stuff our faces!

There is a Bible Study on Wednesday's at 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm for all that care to attend. I have heard good things are discussed by all who come.

We still need a President candidate to step forward; I cannot be Council President for another year by the constitutional By-Laws.

I want to thank all the current council members for their faithful service the last two years. IT has made my term a wonderful experience. Thank You!

Ron Caron



10:30 am *Service of Lessons & Carols*
(No Communion)

7:30 pm *Pre-Service Music*

8:00 pm *Evening Service*
(With communion)

Bring the whole family!



Cost of Flowers for the Altar

Beginning in January 2018, the cost of flowers for the altar will go from \$15.00 -to \$20.00 per Sunday. This is still a good price for flowers!



**December Birthdays
of the Month**



- 4 Alivia Frank**
Jenise Ishmael
- 6 Chris Watschlager**
Jay Lillie
- 7 Kyley Blincoe**
- 10 Ed Gephart,**
Kristy Peavey
Vicky Frank,
Cora France
Austin Newberry
- 18 Caroll Russell**
- 19 Ron Schneider**
- 26 Betty Ficks**
- 29 Harley Butler**
- 30 Drew Watschlager**



The sign-up sheets for flowers and the eternal candle for 2018 is on the bulletin board.



A Note from David

December brings the season of Advent, the season of celebration anticipating Christ's coming. We are anxiously watching and waiting for the coming of the Savior. Our worship reflects this time and you may notice that the liturgy changes to reflect the seasonal emphasis of Advent and Christmas. We add the lighting of the Advent Wreath to the liturgy, one of the most visible signs, along with the change of colors of the paraments and worship banners to blue, that we are in the beginning of the Christian Year. We change to Liturgy Setting 9, which is slightly chant-like, with an air of mystery and expectation quite appropriate for Advent. As we sing familiar Advent hymns of hope and expectancy, we look forward to Christ's arrival. As we journey through this Holy season let us remember the words of hymn #238, People Look East, "People look east, and sing today – Love, the Guest, is on the way.

David



A huge Thank You to Bill & Wanda Schaffrick for the beautiful landscaping in front of the Church!! Isn't it beautiful?!



What is the symbolism of the Advent Wreath?

SHAPE: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

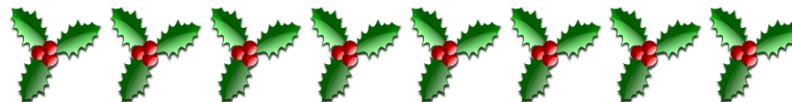
The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

As I continue to think about that day, I've been focusing on the founders of this congregation. They were like the slaves in the parable who invested with wild abandon and received a hundred fold. They were willing to do something different, much more radical than we now realize, in creating an English speaking and worshipping Lutheran Church. They were willing to take a risk to make the good news of Lutheran theology available to a changing city. They were willing to give up some of their most sacred traditions in order to make a space for the people in their changing neighborhood. I think it is safe to say that they were people of joy and hope.

As we look forward to 2018, let's move ahead in joy and with hope, confident that God will bring to fulfillment the good work begun in us 145 years ago.

Pax,
P. Austin



Remember our shut-ins through the busy month of December. Send them a Christmas Card - call them up or go for a visit!

Bill Erdman
1237 Sandstone Terrace
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367-2303

Virginia Kelley.
5907 Camelwood Circle
Louisville, KY 40229-2223

Christian Christmas Word Search List

- Angels***
- Augustus***
- Bethlehem***
- Birth***
- Blessed***
- Camel***
- Candle***
- Cantata***
- Christmas***
- Christ***
- Donkey***
- Family***
- Frankincense***
- Gold***
- Heaven***
- Herod***
- Innkeeper***
- Jesus***
- Joseph***
- Judea***
- Love***
- Kings***
- Manger***
- Mary***
- Myrrh***
- Peace***
- Savior***
- Shepherds***
- Star***
- Straw***

Terms associated with the Christian teachings of Christmas from the Bible comprise this word search, which includes backward words. It's a large puzzle.

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