

D

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

E

For centuries upon centuries, God's people of old waited. They waited in hope for God to move His hand and deliver them from slavery in Egypt. They waited in hope for four hundred years. It's hard to imagine. It's hard to wait. Yet, God always fulfills His promises. God is faithful.

C

I can be so impatient. I don't like waiting at stoplights. I look for the shortest line at the grocery store. I am tired of this pandemic. I can be impatient with people in my life as well. Impatience is not good. Impatience is actually sin. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Patient waiting is what Advent is about.

E

It wasn't a few hundred years that mankind waited. It was several millennia. At the dawn of creation, after the fall into sin, God made a promise: Through the seed (offspring) of the woman, Satan's head would be crushed! It was thousands of years later that the Spirit of God made a visitation to Mary, miraculously conceived God's only Son in her womb, that God's wonderful promises of old might be fulfilled.



M

Therefore, over the next few weeks we have a new verse at the beginning of worship service: **"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."** (Galatians 4:4-5, ESV) Yes, indeed, God makes us wait. God teaches us patience . . . and trust! Those who wait on the Lord *in hope*, they renew their strength and soar like eagles the prophet Isaiah proclaims.

B

E

So we wait for Christ to come at Christmas, to fill our souls again with Holy wonder. So we wait for Christ to come again in glory, to take us from the darkness of this sinful world into His glorious light. As we wait, we are not idle. We have many opportunities to let our lights shine for Christ.

R

So come to Advent services on December 1, 8, and 15th; services are at 10am and 6pm each Wednesday. We will again have Advent suppers before services starting at 4:45pm. Come and enjoy fellowship with Christian friends. We have other Advent activities! Pick up a

"Celebrate Advent" sheet at the Welcome Center in the narthex or in the elevator room. Do many if not all of the activities. There is one activity for each day of Advent, starting on Sunday, November 28.

May God bless us all with patient waiting as we approach the celebration of the Holy Day of Christ's birth . . . and look and long for His coming again in glory.

2	December Worship Times
3	Voters Meeting, Ladies Groups
4	Bible Studies & Playground Update
5	Holy Land Trip, Divine Connections
6	Social Media & Music Notes
7	Sharing God's Bounty
8	School News
9	Youth
11-12	Ferry Family Update
13	December Calendar

Patiently waiting with you, *Pastor Bender*

Worship With Us This Joyful Season

December 1 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

December 4 at 5:00pm

December 5 and 8:00 & 10:30am

December 8 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Pre K-K Christmas Program

December 11 at 5:00pm

December 12 at 8:00 & 10:30am

December 15 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Grades 1-8 Christmas Program

December 18 at 5:00pm

December 19 at 8:00 & 10:30am

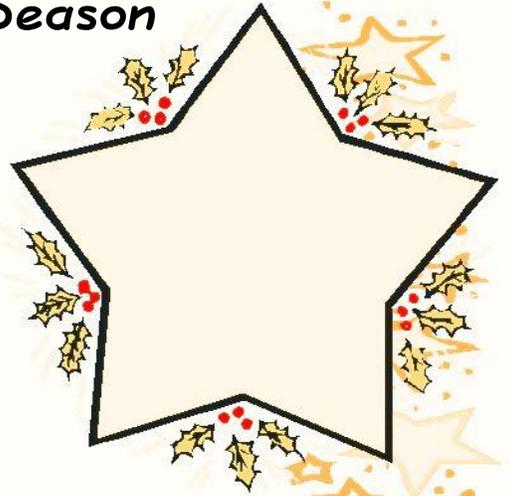
December 24 Christmas Eve at 3:00 & 5:00pm

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight at 11:00pm

December 25 Christmas Day at 9:00am

December 26 at 9:00am

December 31 New Years Eve at 6:00pm



Advent Dinners will be served on December 1, 8 & 15 beginning at 4:45pm. Join us in our Fellowship Hall for great food and fellowship during this wonderful season.



VOTERS MEETING

DECEMBER 5 AT 9:15AM IN THE CHURCH

We will be placing a call for our Associate Pastor, and Nominating people to the South Wisconsin District Positions.

Ladies Guild

The Mitten Basket is in the narthex to receive hats, mittens, scarves & socks. The items will be taken to Hope Lutheran Church – Milwaukee.

Widows Lunch



All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at the Panther Pub in Greendale on Wednesday December 8th immediately after our 10am Advent worship service.

Quilter's Patch

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We will be off in December for the holidays and will start meeting again in January. If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com



Christmas Joy

*We may have Christmas joy always, if we daily remember,
thank and praise God for his wonderful gift to mankind, yes to you and me.*

Baby Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Then you will have the Christmas joy within you – always.

Elaine Lemke



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Breakfast – The Letter to the Colossians

Jesus is to be preeminent in all things. That's why about 10-15 men get up every 2nd and 4th Saturday morning to study God's Word!! In the month of November we will finish up the study of chapter 2 of Paul's letter to the Colossians. We will learn to be guarded against man's philosophy, his empty deceit and the elemental spirits of the world that seek to draw us away from Christ. We are to be *rooted and ground in the true faith*.



In December, we will only gather on the 2nd Saturday, December 11. (The 4th Saturday is Christmas Day!) Come and eat a wonderful breakfast, have fellowship with brothers in Christ, and study God's precious Word. The 79th street doors are open; All men are invited. Bring a friend!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: Romans

Paul's letter to the Romans is one of the most important epistles in the New Testament. It is filled with God's Truth that helps us grow in both faith and life. During the month of December we will meet on December 12 & 19. December 5 we have a Voters' Assembly for the calling of our Associate Pastor and December 26 there is no Bible Class or Sunday School. During the month of December we will be working through Romans 12, a wonderful chapter with many wonderful teachings relating to serving our Lord as living sacrifices! (Romans 12:1-3).

We meet at 9:15a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you in class! You will be spiritually blessed by God's truth!!

Thursday Morning Bible Class: The Book of James

In the month of December we begin a brand new study on the Book of James. The subtitle of the study is "The Practical Disciple." James is filled with many exhortations to Christian living and many words that convict us in our sins. It is a humbling yet blessed epistle to study. The study was written by Pastor Tasler, who happens to be one of the pastors that served at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church where Pastor Bender grew up in the faith.

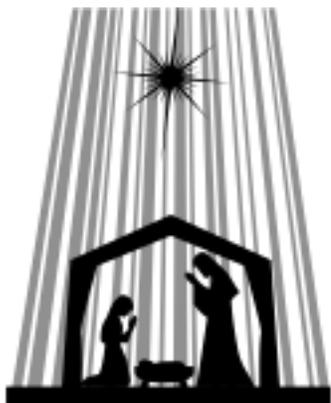
As we begin a new study at the beginning of a new church year, what a great time to join this group of 25 to 30 people. In December we will meet on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th of the month. We are cancelling class for the 23rd and 30th of December. (The class voted to give Pastor Bender a break!) Come and grow in faith and life!



God Granted Us Success!!!

The City of West Allis Common Council meeting on November 16th resulted in the *approval of our Playground project* by a vote of 8-1. We give thanks to God for answering our prayers. The playground committee is meeting in late November to make plans for the timeline as we move forward.

Looking forward to a playground in the summer of 2022!



A Visit to the Holy Land of our Lord Jesus

“Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” So the old Good Friday spiritual asks regarding the cross our Lord bore for each one of us. In Baptism, the spiritual answer is “Yes.” Check out Romans 6! However, what a blessing it would be to actually walk and see where Jesus lived and ministered!!

I, Pastor Bender, have always longed to visit the land of Israel, to walk the way of sorrows to Golgotha, to see the temple mount where a great temple once stood, where Jesus drove out the money changers, where sacrifice was made year after year. What joy to see Bethlehem, the birthplace of our Lord, to see Nazareth where Jesus grew up, to walk the shores of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus taught the crowds and once calmed the sea. It would bless my heart to stand on the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed, “Not my will, but Thy will be done” the night before He died on the cross for our sins. My wife, Jo, has the same longing.

Well, that is our hope for the year of our Lord, 2023. We hope that many of you would like to make the trip with us. If you are interested in going or if you have other questions, please send me an email to me at harold@splcwa.org or give me a call at church, 541-6250.

May God grant us to make this journey and bless our hearts to see the actual places on God’s earth where Holy History took place. Our tour will be led by the Rev. Nabil Nour; Israel is his homeland. Pastor Nour is a Palestinian by blood, and citizen of Israel by birth, baptized into Christ in the Catholic church, and now a faithful Lutheran pastor. He is a joy and has great passion for our Lord!

Divine Connections

Thank you to all who participated in the Thanksgiving Box food drive. We are happy and grateful to report that all 50 boxes were quickly taken and all 50 boxes were returned full. Divine Connections has decided to delay any group activities at this time because of the current CDC health concerns. Need still remains, so Divine Connections will organize various collections to help in our community so please stay tuned.



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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/>

Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org

Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

Music Notes



What are your gifts? What did you receive? What did you give?

Have you been asked these questions? Have you asked others these questions? During worship Pastor has been sharing about using our gifts to serve the Lord. I pray you have been considering

what gifts you have received and how you are able to use them to serve others here at St. Paul. Please consider sharing your gifts of singing or playing an instrument to supplement in one of our musical groups here at St. Paul. Contact Michelle Prince, our Director of Parish Music, michelle@splcwa.org or (text) 414-552-4938 or call: 414-541-6250 ext 3013, if you are willing to share the gifts you have received. We have a place for you in our Evening Vocal Choir, our Bell Choir, Praise Team or as a soloist. Thank you for praying about sharing your gifts with all of us!

Sharing God's Bounty

Gold, Incense, and Myrrh . . . and a Message to All

How much do babies appreciate the gifts they receive when they are born? Did Jesus, being the Son of God as well as the son of Mary, value the gifts the Magi brought? We would think those gifts impractical for a baby, but then this was not an ordinary baby. That gold bought food and lodging and everything that was needed by the holy family as they fled to Egypt and then got established in a new home. The incense was burned as their prayers ascended to the Father in Heaven, and the myrrh was used some thirty years later to anoint the body later of the Baby grown to be our Savior.

“The gifts are traditional gifts of the East,” the Concordia Commentary on Matthew 2:11 tells us. We can be sure that these gifts were appreciated by our Lord, for St. Paul writes, *“If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have”* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Were the gifts of the shepherds that first Christmas night acceptable as well? What did the shepherds bring? The Bible does not record their bringing any gift at all – except, that is, the gift of their running to the stable with anticipation, the gift of their humble worship as their anticipation turned to realization, and the gift of their *“spread[ing] the word concerning what had been told them”* as they returned to their flocks, *“glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen”* (Luke 2:17, 20). It is obvious the willingness was there as the shepherds brought gifts according to what they had. Therefore, according to Scripture, their gifts were acceptable.

We, too, can be sure that our gifts are appreciated by our Lord – the gifts of our treasures – our gold and silver and the gifts of our praise and adoration as we witness to what we have heard and seen. Like the Magi and the shepherds, we are drawn to the manger bed. Like them, we kneel in awe and adoration. Like them, we use the gifts God gives us, wherever we are, wherever God places us, to *“spread the word concerning what [has] been told [us].”*

“If you want to live longer give the other driver the right of way.”
“There will always be roses, but someone has to take care of them.”
“People who spend their time finding fault usually have little else to do.”



School News

My mom's favorite holiday was Christmas. As a young boy, she taught and instilled in me the REAL meaning of Christmas.



You see, Margaret Irene Rehberg was a member of The Greatest Generation. A child of the Great Depression. She grew up with next to nothing. Her family was, “*on the dole*”, as she put it and existed solely on government issued food, clothes, and shoes. For Christmas in those days her gifts would be: an item of clothing that her mother had lovingly repaired and “spruced up” to look like new, a broken toy that her father was somehow able to repair, and a ribbon for her hair.

Yep.

That was it.

Existing in conditions like that would cause most of us today to lose hope and to despair, but Margaret Irene Rehberg thrived, and developed into the most kind-hearted, appreciative, generous, and wise person that I have ever known. In addition to that, her faith never faltered. In fact, her faith grew deep roots in those dark days that kept her anchored and firmly grounded through the storms she was to face later in life.

You see, my mom knew the Christmas secret, she knew the Reason for the Season. She knew that the best, and in fact, the only gift she really needed, she already had. She knew that no matter what her life circumstances might be or become, she possessed something far more valuable than many might ever hope to possess. That gift was her Savior, Jesus, who came to this Earth so long ago, to save people like my mom, Marge Burkee, and all other believers, and to make them rich beyond measure!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Our school is blessed again this year by being in-person and by being able to safely offer a wide variety of activities for our students and families. Below is a sample of some of the many things that have been taking place:

- Increased enrollment
- Successful NLSA Accreditation
- Expanded educational support services available to students
- Partnered with LCFS to provide in-school counseling services
- Completed volleyball and cross-country seasons
- Hosted our Annual Holiday Classic girls' basketball tournament
- Sweeping technology upgrades, funded by government grants
- Obtained State licensure for our childcare center
- Managed and navigated the ever-changing landscape of education and COVID
- Preparing to return to live Children's Christmas Services
- Christmas Store for school children
- Raised \$15,000 at our Color Run



Youth News



High School Youth

❖ It's Time to Serve!!

Advent Suppers are back and all High School youth are encouraged to help serve at our supper on **December 8, 2021**. Please show up at **4pm** or shortly after that. Shelly Mueller will be in the kitchen and she will instruct you and put you to work! Then after serving (and eating), come upstairs and enjoy the little school kids Christmas program!

❖ Christmas Gathering at the Rudig's House



Praise God for Chelsea Rudig stepping up to host a Christmas gathering at their house for our High School youth. The gathering begins at 4pm. The Rudig's live at 12261 W. Verona Court in West Allis. Watch for more information in weekly bulletins!

❖ Parents and Youth Meeting: January 2 @ Noon!!!

This is a required meeting for youth who are attending the NYG and their parents. The following important items will be on the agenda:

- Family Group Meetings. We will be forming three "Family Groups" with at least two adult leaders and six youth in each of these groups. We will be picking some dates for us to meet and have bonding and devotional time in preparation for attending the NYG!
- Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser. Pledge forms and instructions will be given to our youth. This is one of our three big fundraisers and we hope to raise over \$3,000!
- Auction Fundraiser. This is our final huge fundraiser and it will be important that all our youth and parents get involved. Kelly Crist, one of our NYG Adult Leaders will share about "procuring" items for the auction and others ways both youth and parents will need to be involved.

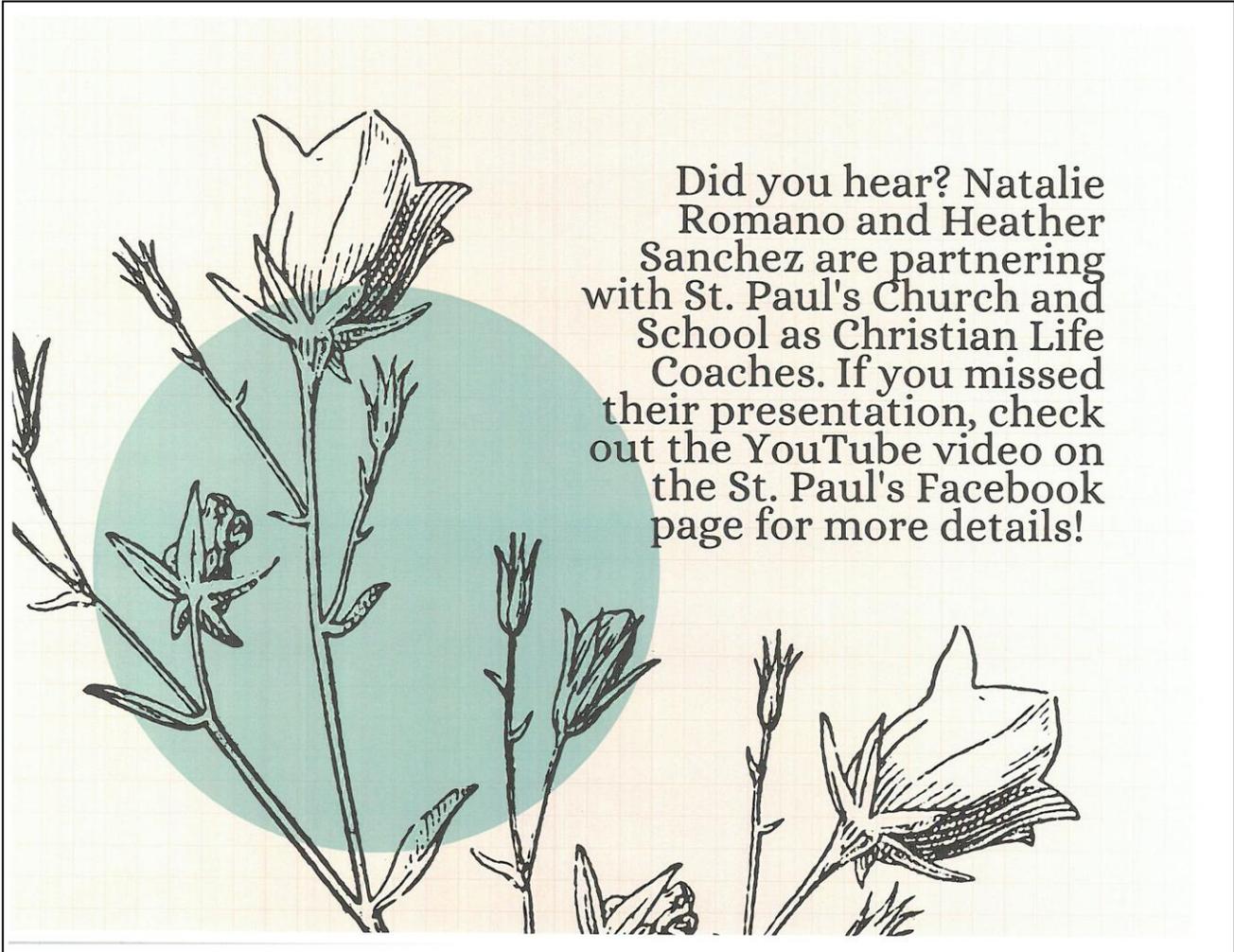


A light lunch will be served. Hope to see you all there!

❖ National Youth Gathering Registration

We are up to 19 youth and six adults heading to the gathering next summer. ***It's not too late to register. We can add participants over the next few months. If you want to come to the NYG, speak to PB soon.*** If you need any financial assistance or have questions, please speak about those issues with Pastor Bender. Additional registration forms are available from Mary in the church office.





Did you hear? Natalie Romano and Heather Sanchez are partnering with St. Paul's Church and School as Christian Life Coaches. If you missed their presentation, check out the YouTube video on the St. Paul's Facebook page for more details!



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11



SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY

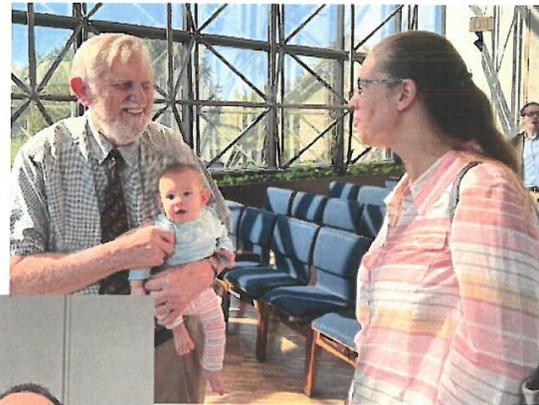


End of the Church Year 2021

At long last, the Ferry Family has returned to the USA. We weren't sure it would happen at all, what with the restrictions, border controls, and other requirements. But after three years of being gone, we are finally back on US soil. Here are some highlights of visits and reconnects we've been blessed to enjoy recently:



Above: Pastor Robb Roloff at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Tipton, Indiana.



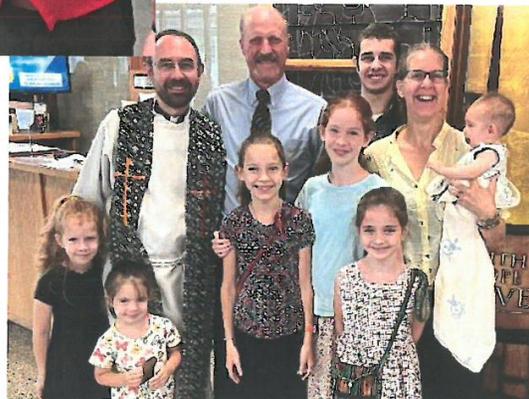
Above: During a visit to St. Louis, Caylee gets introduced to Rev. Dr. Hånk Rowold, a true pioneer and legend in LCMS Taiwan mission work.

Right: Pastor Jon Conner at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa on Reformation Sunday.



Below: Pastor & Mrs. Binz at West Portal Lutheran Church in San Francisco, California.

Below: Ferry family together with good friend Brian Thompson during a visit to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour, Indiana.



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The people of Taiwan as they struggle with emerging from Covid lockdowns.*
- *Safe travels as our family continues to visit various places in the USA.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *A joyous opportunity to gather with many of our partners in person for the first time in three years or more.*
- *Carissa's faithful confession of faith in Taiwan.*
- *Our incredible network of partners who provide such gracious and generous resources.*

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit our newsletter web page: ferrys.asia/newsletter

Ferry Family Updates

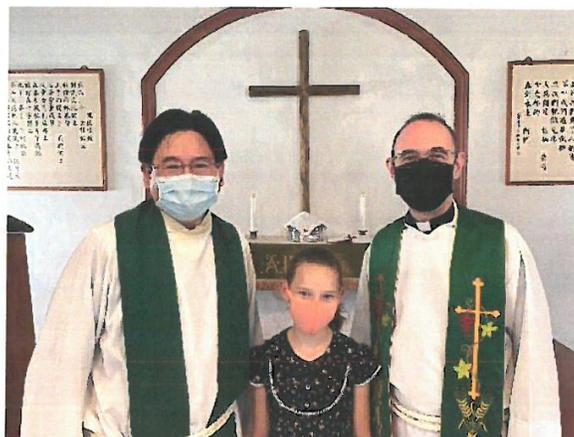


← Caleb turned sixteen in September, and loved being able to celebrate his birthday with his grandfather in Milwaukee. They competed over who got to blow out the candles, and generally had a great time.

Caitlin → turned twelve years old in August and took an active role in making her own birthday cake. It was important to her that it be decorated with her favorite animal, the Red Panda. She's growing up into a fine young lady, right before our eyes.



Carissa ↓ made the good confession of faith in Jesus, and our Lutheran theology, capping off three full years of catechesis. After an examination by one of our LCMS pastors, she was confirmed and admitted to the Lord's Supper for the first time in our local Taiwan congregation. She's not done studying, but has a good foundation.



To support the LCMS through the work of The Ferry Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Ferry Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/ferry.

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December 2021

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p><i>1</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 PM Finance</p> <p>6:10 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>5</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Voters Meeting</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> 	<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Board of Christian Education</p> <p>7:00 PM Board of Missional Community @ Sanchez</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>11:00 AM Widows Lunch</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:10 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Mens Bible Breakfast</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>12</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Council</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:10 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>17</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>19</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>4:00 PM Youth Christmas Party @ Rudig's</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Divine Connections</p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>6:10 PM Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>Worship 3:00, 5:00, 11:00pm</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p><i>Christmas</i></p> <p>Worship 9:00am</p> 
<p><i>26</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Elders</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>New Years Eve</p> <p>Worship 6pm</p>	

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