



# THE VOICE

Of Pentecost Lutheran Church

[www.pentecost-racine.org](http://www.pentecost-racine.org)

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*As forgiven children of God, we, the Pentecost Family of Faith, are committed to show everyone Life in Christ.*

Happy Advent everyone! One of my favorite things about this time of year is all of the decorations. Decorations are wonderful as they bring us so much joy and happiness to so many people. However, our decorations are also used to teach us. So, during this Advent season as we look at our decorations consider why we use the color Blue.

We use Blue during Advent because Advent is a preparatory time of waiting and watching, and blue communicates the message of hope. Blue is also the color of the sky and this is important since our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.

May God bless you this Advent Season as we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus on Christmas Day and as we await His any day return in His second Advent.

Blessing,

Pastor Brady

# DECEMBER Birthdays

Tim Barthel – 12/01	Elizabeth Lisowski – 12/21
Joyce Hasko – 12/02	Sue Hasko – 12/29
Carrie Schurrer – 12/08	Tom Hasko – 12/29
Bekah Smith – 12/09	Jonathan Lisowski – 12/29
Jay LeGath – 12/17	Mike Mueller – 12/30
Debbie Honore – 12/20	Adam Hernandez Jr – 12/31

# DECEMBER Anniversaries

*Noah & Tyler Barclay  
3 years – December 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Pastor & Karen Luchterhand  
41 years – December 19<sup>th</sup>*



**POINSETTIAS** - If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the Christmas services, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Each plant is \$9. We are in need of 13 plants to fill our wooden cross. Place your money in the offering plate labeled “poinsettia”.

## ***KWIK TRIP***

Kwik Trip gift cards make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers! You will also be donating to Pentecost when you purchase. The church purchases Kwik Trip cards at a discounted rate and sells them to you at face value! We are now offering “grocery only”

Kwik Trip cards. Pentecost can buy these at a 15% discount and sell them at face value to you! If you would like to purchase gift cards, please see Tim Hasko after Saturday night services, or Tom Hasko after Sunday morning services.

### **COMMUNION AT THE RAIL**

We would like to start having Communion back at the rail very soon. However, with the added time it will take to provide Communion in this way, we are considering changing our worship time to 8:30am. Starting a half hour earlier would provide us with enough time to provide Communion at the rail and also allows more time for Bible Study and Sunday School to take place between the two services. We will discuss this more at the Annual Voters Meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Let us know of your thoughts and concerns at that time.



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Pentecost Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app).



**POP TOPS** – We are currently collecting soda can tabs for Concordia Lutheran School to add to their collection for the Ronald McDonald House. You can place your donations in the container located on the table in the narthex.

### **HELP SPREAD THE WORD GRAB A CHURCH BUSINESS CARD!**

We recently printed some Pentecost “business cards” that feature items like our contact information, social media, and even a QR code to our website! If you’re a visitor, feel free to take a card with you as you leave today. If you’re a member, grab a few to pass out to members of our community! Business cards are located on the table in the narthex by the guest book.



**PEW BIBLES** – In your pew this morning you will find a brand new Bible! These are available for you to use anytime during the worship service. We hope you find them helpful. If you would like to help defray the cost of these Bibles, you can sponsor a Bible by having a label placed on the inside front cover in dedication or memory of someone for \$20. If you are interested in this, please place your \$20 donation in the offering, along with your name and who you want to dedicate it to and we will make sure that a label will be placed in a Bible near you.

## Heavenly Voice Mail

*(Imagine if God responded to our prayers as many companies do in our computer based society. WE could imagine the following.)*

“Thank you for call My Father’s House. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for requests.

Press 2 for thanksgiving

Press 3 for all other inquiries.

A quick callback to escape the recording would go something like this:

I’m sorry, all our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayers are important to us and will be answered in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1

Jesus, press 2

The Holy Spirit, press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, please press 4.

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, please press 5, enter his or her Social Security Number, then press the pound key.

For reservations at My Father’s House, please enter JOHN followed by 3-16.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah’s Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computer shows that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray Monday after 9:30am. If you need emergency assistance when this office is closed, contact your local clergy.

Fortunately, the above amusing imaginative scenario is not true. God in a very special way is everywhere, and Scripture tells us that we actually live in Him move and have our very existence in Him! How wonderful to be so close to the One who made us and loves us more than mother or father, sister or brother, husband or wife ever could! Indeed, Our Father knows the number of hairs on our head, the number of cells in our body, and exactly what we need to make us complete and happy. So pray any time anywhere...He is always available...without using an answering machine!



### NEW AND IMPROVED SPIRIT WEAR IS NOW

**AVAILABLE!** We are currently taking orders for new Spirit Wear. If you are interested in purchasing some, please sign up on the order form in the narthex. Adult sizes small thru 4XL, women’s cut short and long-sleeve T-shirts and children sizes S thru XL are available. Colors to choose from are white, grey, black and navy blue. Short sleeve T’s are \$10, long sleeve T’s and crew neck sweatshirts are \$15, and hooded sweatshirts are \$25. You can view the design and try on most sizes in the narthex. Special thanks to Brian Hlavka for helping refresh our original logo to a much improved one. Deadline to order is Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you will not be at church in person before the deadline and would like to place an order, email the church office at [pentecostlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:pentecostlutheran@gmail.com). Checks can be made payable to Pentecost Lutheran Church and write “spirit wear” in the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Hasko at 262-939-7390 or [danmansader@gmail.com](mailto:danmansader@gmail.com). Orders should be received approximately two weeks from when the order is placed on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



*God is like: Bayer Aspirin—He works wonders*  
*God is like: Ford—He’s got a better idea.*  
*God is like: Pan Am—He makes the going great.*  
*God is like: Dial Soap—He gives round the clock protection*  
*God is like: Coke—He’s the real thing.*  
*God is like: Scope—He makes you feel fresh.*  
*God is like: G. E. Bulbs—He lights our path*

*And*

*God is like: Hallmark Cards—He cares enough to send the very best.*

*Submitted by Janet Greco*

*Submitted by Mike Mueller*

# Stewardship Corner



WOW! It's December already. Time to look back at our Stewardship over the last year. Looking at our *All Saints Day* banner, we are truly blessed by both "the saints on earth and those above". The material in each figure on the banner was given/chosen by a member of our congregation to represent them on the banner the year it was made.

We started this year with *Share His Love* as we collected money to help with medical expenses for Pastor Luchterhand's granddaughter. That ended with a *Stone Soup Supper*. A team of workers cleared out the balcony so new carpeting could be installed and then carried everything back up after the carpet was in. *Clean Up Day* followed with a special clean up around the church and church grounds. Next came the *Dessert Derby* sponsored with the Board of Education at the end of Sunday School. (cookbooks are now available) Volunteers trimmed the shrubs, cut the grass, shoveled snow, cleaned the church, organized Advent and Lenten meals and the chili supper. Our *Noisy Offering* helped pay for new candlelabras. October saw *Pastor Appreciation Month* where we showed our appreciation for our pastors. **AND** many continued to use EFT and PayPal as well as their offering envelopes to make sure our church had enough money to pay its bills.

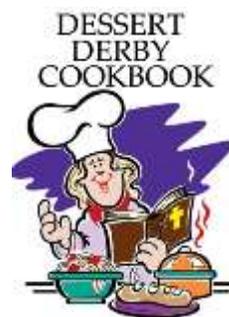
Thanks to all for your help this year.

## Business Card Thanks

Thanks to Dan Hasko for the new church business cards. The M&E Board asked Dan to design a business card. When he told us what he had in mind, the council asked him if he could also include a QR code to our website. The finished product is on the table in the narthex.

## Candlelabra Update

The new candlelabra came. However, one has a few problems which we will be checking out.



The Boards of Missions and Evangelism and Stewardship have come together again! In the narthex above the mailboxes you will find Dessert Derby cookbooks and mugs! The cookbook features all of the recipes from our Dessert Derby and a few mug recipes. For a free will offering, you may take a mug or a cookbook, or both! If you

would like a certain mug gift wrapped with a cookbook, please reach out to Jenna Geyer at 262-995-5253 or [geyer.jenna@gmail.com](mailto:geyer.jenna@gmail.com). The free will offering from this project is going towards our Prison Bible Ministry. Please mark an envelope saying "Cookbook" and place it in the offering when taking a cookbook and/or mug. Thanks, Jenna

## Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes will be available soon. The question has been asked why we have envelopes for those who use EFT offerings. There are some reasons. It is less expensive to order in larger quantities and the boxes contain envelopes for special services and projects as well as the Sunday envelope. Also, the giving record you receive at the end of the year for tax purposes is kept under your envelope number.

## A collaboration across time and place

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it. Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, "Joy to the World," needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts' Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel's work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as "Joy to the World."

So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love