“Be Born in Us Today”
by Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

Paul writes to the people of Ephesus: “I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.” Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”

I recently had a bit of a meltdown during worship one Sunday morning. I was deeply stirred by many things going on in my life and my ministry. My heart was overwhelmed with the struggles of being a Pastor and hearing again and again the discontent, sadness and pain of you, my people. I finished the service, but it was all I could do before I exited to my office to compose myself. Enough already I prayed. Enough of the burden of bearing so much. The rest of the morning went well, Rachel preached wise words, the bell choir played beautifully and about noon I headed home. But I couldn’t stop thinking about the morning; about my heart that was becoming cold and losing hope. I believe what I am feeling is exaggerated and exacerbated by our Nation’s climate of negativity and rage.

This morning, as I write this article for our Mountain Echo, I am given a new day. The sun is shining and the temperatures this week are expected to be mild with lots of sunshine and blue sky. During some quiet time and reflection, I found a song expressing a prayer for my life and yours that uses a line from the Christmas Hymn, “O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” Be born in us today keeps reverberating in my mind. Written by David Haas, a wonderful lyricist and musician, the words of this Christmas hymn are compelling in these days of preparation, anticipation and yes, desperation.

Haas writes:
“Through the winter and the cold, our faith can weaken and grow old; so we ache to find a song of a God, one to whom we can belong. Instead of power shown as might, a tiny baby is your light; we find a child who sings the way. Come now, be born in us today.

Christmas comes, and Christmas goes, yet pain and violence sadly grow. We cry and hurt. When will it end? Is there a savior, a messiah whom you’ll send? We pray in hope, please hear our cry, or is the story just a lie? We need the child to show the way. Come now, be born in us today.

The gift of Jesus, born in a lowly stable to parents unsure of their future and living in a chaotic time, is truly a gift of peace. Jesus comes to us to bring us hope; to be our hope. Jesus comes to bring us a spirit of power, positivity, joy and strength in a time when we feel powerless, negative, heartbroken and weak.

I’ve resolved to press on and take the good staff of ELC with me as we seek to regain a positive and hopeful perspective. I want our Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons to bring light and joy to you. Each and every day I want us to pray for Jesus to be born in us so that what stirs us toward darkness will be given a 180. We will instead, see and feel all that is good at ELC, in our community, nation and world. Be born in us. What an important prayer today and every day God gifts us with new life and abundant mercy. May Jesus be born in you so that nothing can separate you from God’s love. May Jesus be born in us today. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Blessed Epiphany my dear family in Christ.
Thursday, December 20
6:30pm—Worship Service of Healing & Hope

Sunday, December 23
9am—One Worship Service

Christmas Eve, December 24
All Services—Communion & Candlelight
4pm—A Service to Bless the Family
6pm—A Service of Lessons and Carols
8pm—A Service to Celebrate the Holy Night
10pm—A Service to Celebrate the Holy Night

Christmas Morning, December 25
9am—One Worship Service

Sunday, December 30
9am—One Worship Service
Advocacy: What it is and Why it’s Important

From day one, I have been shocked and humbled by the amazing work that ELC does in the Evergreen and the broader Colorado, national, and international communities. Our commitment to the well-being of all creation brings me such a deep sense of peace and hope. The members of ELC deeply care about the world and Christ’s presence in it and love for it. In light of that, and in light of a growing interest in finding even more ways to live that love, this coming spring, I will be leading a series of workshops on advocacy and what it might look like here at ELC. Below are some FAQs about advocacy. Read them over and join us in the spring to brainstorm ways ELC can continue to love our neighbors!

What is advocacy? - Simply put, advocacy is the act of using our voices to speak or plead on behalf of others, which we do in response to Christ’s call to protect, love, and serve the vulnerable. Advocacy often occurs in political arenas, when those with a voice advocate for or accompany or work for justice for those who do not.

Why is advocacy important for us as Christians and as Lutherans? - In his book The Heart of Christianity (Harper Collins, 2003), Marcus Borg outlines the difference between charity and justice. “Charity,” he writes, “means helping the victims. Justice asks, ‘Why are there so many victims?’ and then seeks to change the causes of victimization, that is, the way the system is structured.” (201) Both, he says, are critical to living a life as a Christian. Both express God’s love and redemptive power active in the world. And while churches often excel at charity, working for justice can take more effort or resources. Here at ELC, I believe that we have the resources, the compassion, and the general capacity to be living into both!

For members of the ELCA specifically, this is grounded in our social statement Church in Society (found here: https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Church-in-Society). Prioritizing the biblical values of “peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease” (ELCA Advocacy Website), the ELCA works through political channels to bring about God’s vision of abundant life for all. We at ELC are uniquely situated to join in that work.

Are we allowed to engage in politics as members of a religious institution? - Yes! Absolutely! We, as Christians and as U.S. citizens, have the great responsibility and privilege to hold our government accountable to taking care of those who are most vulnerable, however you want to interpret that. In fact, there are a number of ELCA bodies that are already active and doing just that. Nationally, there are people organizing to accompany migrant children through the immigration process as members of Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO). There are churches that advocate for community gardens in urban food deserts. There are some who advocate for fair housing in places where the cost of living is astronomical. Some advocate for more extensive disaster relief. The possibilities are truly endless. Follow the heart ache you feel most keenly. No doubt, in that pain and worry and anxiety, there is room for the loving members of ELC to join you and join others as we seek abundant life for all of God’s creation.

More information can be found at the ELCA’s Advocacy website: https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy
And at the Rocky Mountain Synod’s Advocacy website: https://www.rmselca.org/advocacy

Rachel Swenson
Pastoral Intern

SAS Celebration - Sundae Sunday

Come and join us in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the conclusion to our "Living in Grace-Giving with Gratitude" Appeal on December 2 after the Congregational Meeting. Your SAS Team will be scooping and serving delicious Sundaes with all the fixings.

Children’s Christmas Program

Be sure to come to the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 16 to see our children and youth perform this year’s Christmas program "Heaven and Nature Sing." Our kids will guide us through a one-of-a-kind Christmas experience with nativity sketches, worshipful narration, Bible readings and Christmas music.
From the Director of Adult Ministry

God is constantly calling us, coming to us and asking us to pay attention. Our lives are being changed every day. Being refined by God to live our lives as God’s chosen people. We are called to love, to give, to forgive, to accept forgiveness, to pray and to praise. This season of Advent is a time to prepare our hearts, to get ready for the coming of the savior. This prayer by Joyce Rupp gives us another reminder to look for where God dwells and what we are being asked to do. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

The many Disguises of Emmanuel.

Emanuel, God-with-us, long awaited, eagerly anticipated, delicious dreams of royal robes, a messiah enthroned with elegance. False notions and easily accepted illusions.

A few open ones, full of surprise, heard the flesh, full cry of life echo in the uninhabited haven, the only place ready for a birth that was ripe.

Shepherds, sages, and scribes, drawn by angels and stars, discovered this divine simplicity, then hurried from the hillside with news that amazed them all.

But many years later the cry goes unheard, stifled in the roar of unyielding opinions, submerged in the noise of hasty judgements, masked in the false folds of cultural glitter.

The surprising One continues to come, entering the world in endless disguise, concealed in those we have never forgiven, secreted in the hearts of people we despise, found in the rejected and unacceptable, hidden in the ones we ignore and criticize. by Joyce Rupp

Blessings to you this Holy Season.

Kim Williams, Director of Adult Ministry

New Member Classes

We love our guests, but if you are ready to join our congregation in full membership, please join our next class of New Members. Classes are January 13, 20, and 27, 9:15 a.m. In Memorial Hall.

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday Morning Offerings, 9:15 a.m.

- **Fellowship Hall:** We are studying “Names for the Messiah.” We will look at three royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. How were these titles understood, how did—or didn’t—Jesus fulfill the title and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. It is an interesting Advent study. Come and join us. Led by Kim Williams. A new study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s “Life Together” begins January 6.

- **Damascus Room:** Join us downstairs for a look at how Israel’s prophets dealt with the political authorities of their day. From Moses and Pharoah to Nathan and David, Elijah and The Omiride kings all the way to Isaiah and Ezekiel. We’re in for six hundred years of prophetic critique and monarchic hubris. Led by Tom McEwen.

- **Memorial Hall:** Parenting by Faith led by Terry and Jim Ritter.

Mid-Week Offerings

- **Tuesday Afternoon:** If you are interested in learning more about the Lutheran church and its theology, then join us Tuesdays, Fellowship Hall. Lutheranism 101 is for those who are new to the Lutheran church—especially the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). It is also for those who have been around for a long time and have questions; for parents who want a better understanding of the basics of the Lutheran church so they can help their children understand. Class and conversation will be led by Pastor Vera.

- **Wednesday Night:** Mountain Men Bible Study at 6:15 p.m., small conference room. Led by Connell O’Brien.

- **Thursday Night:** Faith and Culture, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

- **Thursday Mornings:** Java and Jesus, Women’s Bible Study 9:30-11:00 a.m. We begin a new Advent study on December 6. Come join us in a Bible study series that will inspire, encourage, and unlock our understanding of the Word of God. A new study will begin January 3. If you need a ride or you need child care for Thursday morning please let Kim know by calling the church office 303-674-4654.

- **Lunch Bunch** will gather Thursday, December 20 at Tuscany Tavern and January 17 at Lakeshore Café at noon. This is a no host lunch. Please call the church office if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know we are coming.
Would You Give Me a Hug?

Like you, I have been heartsick over the devastation the fires have caused in California. I’m overwhelmed with what it will take to restore whole towns, businesses and people’s lives in a physical way, not to mention the emotional toll it is creating. I can’t imagine the horror of waiting while hundreds of people go missing.

I was listening to an interview on the radio with the mayor of the town of Paradise which has been almost completely destroyed. She spoke of hope and the strength and resilience of her people. You could hear in her voice the power of her conviction and her faith in her community. They will rebuild.

The reporter also interviewed a woman in her mid-eighties who lived on a piece of land where she and her daughter each had a home. While she was deeply saddened and I think, still in shock over their loss, she was so grateful that they had survived. After the reporter expressed his sorrow over their loss, she tearfully asked him, “Would you give me a hug?”

The healing touch we receive from others is truly a gift from God.

We are needed in this challenging world as voices and beacons of hope. As we live into the season of Christ’s birth and revelation to the world, I pray we will find strength and joy in what we have to give to all of God’s children. Sometimes, a hug is a perfect gift.

Peggy Fetchenhier
Minister of Worship and Music

“The healing touch we receive from others is truly a gift from God.”

I would have loved to have seen his reaction. He responded, “Of course.”

The healing touch we receive from others is truly a gift from God. There is such hope and compassion in it. The choir sings a song called, “The Power of Your Love”. Each time we sing the refrain, I feel surrounded in comfort knowing that we have a loving God who provides us with the emotional support we need through the arms and love of the people in our lives.

This woman who was suffering so much loss, knew she needed reassurance and wasn’t afraid to ask for it – even from a stranger. I think God was present in the asking, giving and receiving.

We are needed in this challenging world as voices and beacons of hope.

As we live into the season of Christ’s birth and revelation to the world, I pray we will find strength and joy in what we have to give to all of God’s children. Sometimes, a hug is a perfect gift.

Peggy Fetchenhier
Minister of Worship and Music

The Power of Your Love

Hold me close -- Let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with you -- your Spirit leads me on
In the power of your love.

-Hillsong Music
AGENDA – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2018
10:30 AM

Welcome and Call to Order – Jon Johnson

Opening Prayer – Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of April 22, 2018 Congregational Meeting Minutes

3. 2018 Treasurer’s Report and Year-End Projections – David Hood

4. Election of 2019 Nominating Committee – Jim Ritter

5. 2019 Stewardship for All Seasons Report – Larry Patella

6. 2019 ELC Operating and Capital Presentation for Approval – David Hood

7. Quick Updates
   a. Roof Replacement Project – David Hood
   b. ELC Constitution Process – Larry Patella

8. Other New Business

Closing Prayer – Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward
Military Care Packages

Headed to Bagram

On Friday, November 16, eight members of Evergreen Lutheran Church packed 38 boxes for 30 marines in two separate squads based at Bagram Air Field, the largest US base in Afghanistan. Thirty boxes were for individuals and eight were “unit” boxes to be distributed to the squads as a whole. Total weight – 365 lbs.

Individual boxes each contained: an 8 oz. package of beef jerky; 5 foil packets tuna fish; snack packs of nuts; raisins; Craisins; granola bars; Via instant coffee; English breakfast tea bags; instant oatmeal pouches; hot chocolate packets; two 10 ct. boxes of drink flavoring; microwave popcorn; a 2019 calendar; a recent issue of the Canyon Courier; a couple paperback books and magazines; 20 Christmas cards for them to send back to the States; and a wool, troop hat, knitted by an ELC congregation member.

Unit boxes: Two boxes were filled with troop hats. About 100 hats total were shipped to these marines. Other boxes contained: LED lights for helmets; battery-powered LED Christmas tree lights; six tennis balls; two Frisbees; two ping pong paddle and net sets, along with 40 ping pong balls each. Toiletry items were concentrated on heel balm; foot powder; lip balm with sunscreen; and creams and salves for chapped skin.

Pastor’s pouch: Just before sealing the box, we lay Pastor Vera’s letter and a copy of the most recent Mountain Echo in a zip lock freezer bag on top of the contents so the marine will see this first when the box is opened. This time we added a two-sided sheet with words to Christmas hymns (they may have to sing them A Capella) and a note from an ELC confirmand to a marine.

Three of the packers for this shipment were first-timers: Bob Mosca, and Colleen & Bob Norrgard. We hope that everyone in our church eventually participates – it is much more akin to building something complex than just throwing some items in a box and taping the box shut. Fitting all the items in a large box takes Tetris skills.

We thank you for your contributions of food, goods and cash.

The next shipment is planned for some time in April – early June. Neil Whitehead, III
neil3@q.com
303-679-8573

Church Council
Jon Johnson – President
Jim Ritter – Vice President
David Hood – Treasurer / Stewardship & Finance
Melissa Krane – Secretary
Larry Patella – Lay Ministry
Kristi Kohnke – Christian Education
Dave Kirberg – Christian Outreach
Karla Briggs – Worship and Music
Dennis Johnson – Personnel
Wayne Lowe – Property Management
Patti Fuelling – Youth and Family

Board of Lay Ministry
Larry Patella – Chair
Mark Bly
Riley Hanback
Jon Johnson
Jan Petrocchi
Andy Riedel
D.J. Riedel
George Wittenberg

Pastoral Staff
Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward, Pastor
Rachel Swenson, Pastoral Intern

ELC Staff
Peggy Fetchenhier, Minister of Worship & Music
Kim Williams, Director of Adult Ministries
Dan Bock, Children, Youth, and Family Minister
Tara Alexander-Walker, Secretary
Ed Boettger, Property Manager
Linda Hollund, Nursery Attendant
Lloyd Peltzer, Librarian & Custodian
KarlaDee Ormsby, Custodian
Jacque Whyte, Kitchen & Church House Custodian
Outreach

Outreach Observations

With the winter season already upon us, the need for a safe, warm shelter, good meals, and fellowship for people experiencing homelessness in our community returns too. For half of the year, those folks who have no place to call home are able to live in the forests around us. For the other half of the year, the Evergreen Shelter Program is ready to meet the basic needs of food, shelter and some essential items of daily care for people living in their cars.

This is the third year of the shelter program and Evergreen Lutheran Church has been a participant and leader in this ecumenical mission. The program has evolved over the three years and we have learned much about how to serve the homeless population. This season we have made several significant changes to the program that seem to be helping both our guests and our volunteers.

The biggest change to the program is moving the low temperature to open the shelter from 20 degrees to 32 degrees each night. This was my paradoxical suggestion to the leadership team of ESP and was initially met with much skepticism by the other members of the leadership. It was a paradox because the program has struggled to get the volunteers needed to run the shelter when it was open. By increasing the low temp for opening, we have essentially doubled the number of open days during the October through March shelter season. Doubling the number of open days means we have doubled the number of volunteers needed to keep the program running each week.

Historically, the daily low temperature in Evergreen from the beginning of November through the end of March is 32 degrees or colder, meaning we are likely to be open every night this season. I believed that if everyone involved, guests and volunteers, knows we are likely to be open, the administration part of running the shelter would be easier than it has in the past, and blessedly, that has been true. As of Thanksgiving, the shelter has been open almost every night since the start in mid-October, and 4-6 people are attending every night. The shelter rotates the host site between five Evergreen congregations, one week at a time. This year, Evergreen Lutheran Church is the host site for four weeks; Thanksgiving week, December 31—January 6, February 4—10, and March 18—24. You can bless and be blessed by being volunteer or supporting the shelter in other ways.

Eating family-style dinners with our guests, sharing with them, playing games is a wonderfully fulfilling experience for the volunteers. It is a small part of changing the perception we may have of “Us and Them”, or “Haves and Have Nots”. We soon realize that those we serve are not people of homeless stereotypes, you know, “Just bums who don’t want to work, they just want to live off the government dole” type of beliefs. These are people who are every bit a child of God as any of us and they are among the “neighbors” we have been commanded to love.

There are many ways you can contribute to the shelter program and have your life blessed by the guests. I know that sounds like another paradox, but that is exactly what I have experienced. Not feeling much gratitude in your life? Volunteer in the shelter and that will change. Upset that things aren’t going the way you want? Volunteer in the shelter and that, too, will change. Always needing more to feel fulfilled or happy? Volunteer in the shelter...You get the picture.

The program can be supported in other ways, too. We always need travel size or small size items for hygiene kits for the guests. It is difficult to stay even semi-clean when living out of your car. We need donations of all winter wear, especially socks, hats and gloves. You can bless the program by cooking a homemade meal for the guests and volunteers.

There are many ways you can be an angel in the lives of those who are homeless in our community. I give endless thanks to many ELC members who have given their time and treasure to the shelter program. You are making a difference and being the face of Jesus to those in extreme need.

Peace,
Dave Kirberg

Stone Soup

We will make 5 gallons of soup for EChO clients
Sunday, December 2, 7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall.
Email Dale Knochenmus if you can help with this ministry, mdaulknochenmus@gmail.com.
Christmas/Advent Books and DVDs

This is a list of Christmas and Advent materials that are available in ELC's library. Please note that the list includes the title, author, and Dewey Decimal number of each item to make your search easier. For your convenience and enjoyment, all of the materials will be on display on the table and counter in the library throughout the Christmas season. If you can't find your selection, it's probably because it's been checked out. If you would like to sign out a book or DVD, please fill out a sign-out slip located in the card holder on top of the card catalog on the counter in the library and then put the slip in the black "recipe" box on top of the card catalog. Enjoy!

The members of the Library Committee wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!

Lloyd Peltzer
Librarian

A is for Advent by Charles W. Ferguson-230 Fer
Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen by Henri J. M. Nouwen-242 Nou
Advent Moments by Neil Strait and Stan Toler-242 Str
The Advent Wreath: A Light in the Darkness by Debbie O'Neal-242 One
Before and After Christmas: Activities and Ideas by Debbie O'Neal-249 One
Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson-Fic Robinson
Carols for Christmas by David Willecocks-783.6 Wil
Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury: Holiday Stories to Warm the Heart by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen-242.3 Can
Christ in the Carols by Christopher and Melodie Lane-242 Lan
The Christ of Christmas by Calvin Miller-263.94 Mil
Christmas: An Annual Treasury-Oversized 394.26 Chr
The Christmas Box by Richard Paul Evans-813.54 Eva
The Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens-808.3 Dic
Christmas Customs and Their Origins by Hilding E. Nelson-394.2 Nel
Christmas Jars by Jason Wright-Fic Wright
Day by Day in Advent by Christopher G. Milarch-242 Mil
The Days Before Christmas by W. A. Poovey-263 Poo
The Essential Christmas Book by Alan MacDonald and Janet Stickley-394.2 Mac
Esther's Gift by Jan Karon-Fic Karo
Eternal Seasons: A Spiritual Journey Through the Church's Year by Henri J. M. Nouwen-242 Nou
Evergreen Lutheran Church Children's 2010 Christmas Program by ELC Children-AV DVD 394.2 Eve
The First Christmas by Paul L. Maier-Oversized 232 Mai
God in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas by Dietrich Bonhoeffer-242.33 Bon
The Guidepost's Christmas Treasury -813.01 Gui
Home By Another Way by Barbara Brown Taylor-252.6 Tay
In the Days of the Angels: Stories and Carols for Christmas by Walter Wangerin-813 Wal
The Joy of Christmas-AV DVD 394.2 Aco
Joy to the World by Kenneth W. Osbeck-242 Osb
A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas by Max Lucado-231.6 Luc
Lucia: Child of Light by Florence Eckstrand-920 Eck
Lyrics, Legends, Lore of Christmas by Alice E. Adamak-394.26 Ada
Making Room for Christmas: Preparing a Place for the Christ Child by Herbert Brockering-242.23 Bro
The Man Who Saved Christmas by Joe Maurer-AV DVD Fic Maurer
Manger in the Mountains by James Arne Nestingen-242 Nes

“...The most original modern authors are not so because they advance what is new, but simply because they know how to put what they have to say, as if it had never been said before.”

~ Johann Goethe,
Grandpa Lee's Gems for the Fireside

Martin Luther's Christmas Book by Roland Bainton, ed.-252.6 Bai
Miracles of Christmas-263.9 Mir
The Mitford Snowmen by Jan Karon-Fic Karo
The Practical Dreamer and Other Stories to Tell at Christmas by Richard P. Olson-242.3 Ols
Prayers and Promises for Christmas by Jennifer Hahn-242.3 Hah
Preparing for Jesus: Meditations on the Coming of Christ, Advent, Christmas, and the Kingdom by Walter Wangerin-242 Wan

The Reader’s Digest Book of Christmas by Reader’s Digest-Oversized 394.2 Rea
Re redeeming Light by O.P. Kretzmann-263.91 Kre
Rick Steves' European Christmas by Rick Steves-AV DVD 394.26 Ste
The Shepherd of the Hills by Harold Bell Wright-Fic Wright
Shepherds Abiding by Jan Karon-Fic
Skipping Christmas by John Grisham-Fic Grisham
A Song for the Season by Darran Cloud-AV DVD Fic Cloud
Stories for the Christian Year by Eugene Peters-SC Peters
The Story of the Advent Wreath-242 Sto
The Story of the Christmas Tree-263.91 Sto
Swedish Toys, Dolls, and Gifts You Can Make Yourself by Ulf Lofgren-745.5 Lof
Through the Year with Martin Luther by Martin Luther-252.6 Lut
When Christmas Came to Bethlehem by Charles L Allen and Charles L. Wallin-225.9 All
Woodcutter's Christmas by Brad Kessler-Fic Kessler
The World Encyclopedia of Christmas by Gerry Bowler-Oversized 394.2 Bow
The World's Greatest Stories by Eric Posselt, ed.-394.2 Pos
December & January Calendar

December
2: 10:30am Sunday School during Congregational Meeting
5: 4:00pm & 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons
6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
8: 10:00am-12:00pm—Christmas Program Speakers Rehearsal
9: 9:15am—Sunday School and Christmas Program Rehearsal
12: 6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
15: 10:00am-12:30pm—Christmas Program Rehearsal
16: 6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
19: 4:00pm & 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons
28: 7:00pm—Middle School/High School Lock-in

January
2: No †ED
9: 4:00pm & 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons
6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
16: 6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
19-21: Middle School Youth Gathering in Estes Park
23: 4:00pm & 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons
6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED
26: 12:00-4:00pm—†ED Winter Sports Day
30: 6:00pm—Kingdom Kids, Confirmation, †ED

Be Present
As a church worker during the holidays, things can get pretty busy. Food drives, angel tree, Christmas Program gifts of thanks for our volunteers, worships on worships on worships, oh my! However, this year, I’m pledging to do something different this holiday season. I pledge to be PRESENT. It is so, so easy to let Advent just slip right past you.

Life gets busy. We need to prepare for company at our house, Christmas lists, grocery shopping, and more. I tend to get tunnel vision about busy stuff, so being present doesn’t come easily for me, especially in December. So this year, being present for me means paying attention to life in the Church as we march closer to the manger. I’m going to pay attention to the hymns and songs that Peggy and the Worship Committee have chosen so faithfully. I’m going to pay attention to the message that is given by Pastor Vera and our 3-P participants and try my best to apply them to my daily life. I’m going to pay attention to the faces of the strangers that walk into our doors this holiday season—some of those folks might be looking for a new home.

What would happen if we were to all pay attention? What would happen if we all tried to be present? If we all lived into Advent? Food pantries would be overflowing. The strangers and guests that walk into this place would no longer be strangers. Those who utilize our Evergreen Shelter Program sites would have homes. The world would be turned upside down.

I encourage you to be present this season. Look for Jesus in the faces of every single person you meet. Strive to do justice in the world in his name. Be present here at ELC, not just for Christmas Eve, but for all of Advent and afterwards! Jesus is coming. Pay attention—or you might miss him.

Dan Bock
Children, Youth, and Family Minister

Dan’s Contact Information:
Cell: 701-412-1695
Church: 303-674-4654
danbock@evergreenlutheran.org

Get hooked up with our ELC Youth News. You’ll get info for all ELC Youth events! Email danbock@evergreenlutheran.org if you want to get connected.

amazonSmile
You shop. Amazon gives.
Help Support Our Youth Through Amazon Smile! This Holiday, score deals at smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0595699 and AmazonSmile will donate a small percentage to Evergreen Lutheran Church's Youth Group as they raise funds for their 2019 mission trip to Puerto Rico! It's really that easy!
December Birthdays
1 Howard Ritter,
Shannon Holtmann
3 Karladee Ormsby,
Andrea Furlong
5 Anna Carswell,
Blake Haggenjos,
Zachary Haggenjos
7 Anah Fuelling, John Serfling
9 Andy Riedel
10 Don Ormsby
12 Adelynn Holtmann
15 Lindsay Fischer
17 Ryan Briggs, Sarah Grube
19 John Kohnke
20 Tara Alexander-Walker
21 Rocky Petrocchi,
Charlotte Konigsbauer
23 John Riscoe, Ann Bengtson
24 Andrew Queen, Barb Bender
26 Michael Theiss, Scott Sudmalis
27 Kristi Kohnke, Cody Knopf
28 Kimberly Nemmers
29 Jim Tellman
31 Devon Thompson

December Anniversaries
1 Tupper & Karla Briggs
6 Jeané & Rick Mitzelfelt
10 Beth Erlund & Dennis Johnson
19 George & Sunny Golder
27 Philip & Lynn Nestingen
28 Marlyce & Sig Brekke
29 Ruth & Tom McEwen,
Michael & Zoe Bergner
30 Don & Karladee Ormsby

January Birthdays
1 Linda Biery, John Harms
2 Carmen Julseth
3 Linda Walpole
5 George Hellmuth
6 Kara Halingstad
8 Ruth Krauss, Karrie Jones
9 Paul Stephenson
10 Aaron Dickey
11 Lyn Lewis
13 Shelley Harmon
14 Audrey Lein, Jim Brannan
15 Dominick Pucherelli,
Art Hogling
16 Carrie Diflumeri
18 Dave Kirberg, Sam Loeffler
20 Marlin Jung
21 Aryk Greenawalt
22 Karen Schutt, Jeannie Hawsey
23 Dick More, Quinn Biller
24 Lynn Nestingen, Annika Forbes
26 Bruce Campbell
28 Kathie Kuehn Stevens
29 Linda Walgren, Bill Lightcap

January Anniversaries
28 Greg & Joanne Miller

Applesauce Pumpkin Bread
From Marcia Henderson

- 2 c white sugar
- 1 1/2 c applesauce
- 2 c pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp ground mace
- 1/2 c chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1/2 c semisweet chocolate chips (optional)
- 3 c all-purpose flour
- 1/4 c confectioners’ sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease two 9x5 inch loaf pans.
Mix sugar and applesauce together in a large bowl; stir pumpkin puree and eggs into sugar mixture until smooth. Mix baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, ginger, cloves, and mace into pumpkin mixture; fold in walnuts and chocolate chips. Stir flour into pumpkin mixture until fully incorporated. Pour batter into the prepared loaf pans.
Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of each loaf comes out clean, 1 hour. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack. Sprinkle each loaf with confectioners’ sugar.

High Altitude Adjustments
For altitude I use only:
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda.
Also I added 1/3 c of oil
1/3 less applesauce
1/4 tsp nutmeg

2019 Women’s Retreat
This year’s women’s retreat will be held in a true, mountain setting. No I-25 traffic noise. No moving from venue to venue. No heavy traffic to and from the retreat. Just a peaceful, lodge setting less than a mile above the town of Winter Park.

Save the date:
WOMEN’S RETREAT
APRIL 26-28, 2019
Woodspur Lodge, Winter Park, Colorado

Transportation to and from the retreat will be by passenger van. More information will follow! Stay tuned!
Christmas Food Collection for Mountain Backpacks

The Mountain Backpack Program is collecting food for our holiday food boxes for Christmas. If you would like to help keep our kids bellies full this holiday season. Below are items that we need for our holiday food boxes:

- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Box of Cereal
- Box of individual oatmeal
- Mac and Cheese cups
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Canned black beans
- Heart Can of Soup
- Corn bread
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Cups
- Pudding Cups
- $25 Gift Card for family

Please place donations in the box in the narthex. Thank you for your help!

Mountain Backpacks is seeking volunteers to help with Packing Prep in the Church House, Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m.

We are also seeking a few people who can deliver backpacks to Clear Creek Middle School/High School and to Emory Elementary School in Lakewood. If your schedule takes you past either location on Thursday, we'd LOVE your help! Contact Kara Schmitt, kdschmitt13@yahoo.com, 720-363-2781, on how to help. Thanks!

California Wildfires—Lutheran Disaster Response

Through our partners in California, Lutheran Disaster Response has already begun addressing immediate needs, including providing food and other necessities to survivors. We are also preparing to address long-term needs, which might include rebuilding of structures and emotional and spiritual care. The need will be great. Consider a gift to Lutheran Disaster Response, www.elca.org, to help people whose lives have been impacted by the wildfires in California. The road to recovery will be long, but we have an opportunity to accompany survivors and let them know they are not alone.

Colorado Gives Day

Community First Foundation and FirstBank are presenting Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 4. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The $1 Million Incentive Fund created by the partners is one of the largest giving-day incentive funds in the country. Some of the charities that participate in Colorado Gives Day: Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Evergreen Christian Outreach Mountain Resource Center Lutheran Family Services Mt Evans Home Health and Hospice

Visit www.coloradogives.org to donate to your favorite charity.

Theatre and Theology

A fun Christmas present idea! Join Pastor Dan Bollman, retired ELCA pastor, for a performance of the following offerings at Denver Center for the Performing Arts. After the show, linger with audience and cast members for a talk back session that examines the show through a theological lens. Shows start at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are $35.

Contact Sydney Bernard-Hogling, 303-674-8058, syddelsol@aol.com or Brooke Kerns, 303-838-0026, brookie332@gmail.com to order tickets. Ordering deadline is Monday, January 7 for "Last Night and the Night Before" Make check payable to Rocky Mountain Synod - ELCA, and give it to the church office or Sydney three weeks before show date.

Upcoming shows:
January 29, Last Night and the Night Before
February 12, Anna Karenina
March 5, The Whistleblower
May 14, Sweat

Christ’s Body Ministry

This ministry blesses all involved, the recipients of the meals as well as the many volunteers who have purchased food, made the hot meals, and served on a Saturday.

Join us to make and/or serve a meal for people who are homeless in Denver with Christ's Body Ministries. On Saturday, December 1, we meet at ELC at 11:00 a.m. to prepare the food, head to Denver at 12:30 p.m., to serve the food and return to church at 4:00 p.m. For KP, a Kitchen Party to clean up. Sign-up to donate ingredients, make the food, or to serve the food.
December Worship Participants

DECEMBER LAY MINISTER: Andy Riedel

DECEMBER 2—(9:00 a.m.) One Service Only
Co-President: Jon Johnson
Assisting Minister: Ed Furlong
Reader: Mark Bly
Advent Wreath: Biller Family
Greeter: Fran Pallesen
Communion Servers: Barb & Jim Barclay, Dennis Johnson, Beth Kapner
Ushers: Matthew Harker, Eric Halingstad, Jim & Cathy Tellman

DECEMBER 9—(8:00 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Art Whyte
Reader: Jackie Lanning
Communion Servers: Jacque Whyte, Patti Vine, Janet Anderson, Sheryl Fick
Ushers: Ed Furlong, Deb Pucherelli, Barb & Fred Guist

(10:30 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Dave Kirberg
Reader: Rob Bender
Communion Servers: Joe Harker, Jonathan Harker, Linda Easton, Jennifer Swanagon
Ushers: Jo & Jon Powers, Anna Brooks, Isaac Brooks

DECEMBER 16 (8:00 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Jim Barclay
Reader: Paul Stephenson
Communion Servers: Jan & Dave Blumenstein, Pat Brewer, Kristi Kohnke
Ushers: Val Prolow, Lyn Lewis, Mark Bly

(10:30 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Dennis Johnson
Reader: Bette Warn
Communion Servers: Joe & Carol Brice, Carol Riscoe, Harriet Sear
Ushers: Larry & Sue Petroskey, Dave & Sue Plothow

DECEMBER 23—Advent 4 (9:00 a.m.) One Service Only
Assisting Minister: Tom Tracy
Reader: The Evans Family
Communion Servers: Carolyn & Scott Bergner, Herman Walke, Ed Furlong
Ushers: Janet Anderson, Paul Berteau, Lloyd Peltzer, Bob Mosca

DECEMBER 24 (4:00 p.m.) Lay Ministers: Riley Hanback & Larry Patella
Assisting Minister: Nick Walker
Reader: The Evans Family
Communion Servers: Kristi Kohnke, Jackson Kohnke, Michelle Foley, Bette Warn
Ushers: Deb Pucherelli, Beth Feldkamp, Jacob Foley, Anah Fuelling

(6:00 p.m.) Lay Ministers: Mark Bly & Larry Patella
Assisting Minister: Jon Johnson
Reader: The Evans Family
Communion Servers: Jim & Barb Barclay, Dave & Sue Plothow
Ushers: Shirley Russell, Nolan Bly, Lloyd Peltzer & Bob Mosca

(8:00 p.m.) Lay Ministers: Jan Petrocchi & Art Whtye
Assisting Minister: George Wittenberg
Reader: Joe Harker
Communion Servers: Joanne Miller, Alicia Harker, Jo & Jon Powers
Ushers: Phyllis Wittenberg, Paul Berteau, Matthew Harker, Jonathan Harker, Mark Guebert-Steward

(10:00 p.m.) Lay Ministers: Jon Johnson
Assisting Minister: Dave Kirberg
Reader: Mark Guebert-Steward
Communion Servers: Cathy & Jim Tellman, Sheryl Fick
Ushers: Mark Guebert-Steward

DECEMBER 25 (9:00 a.m.) Assisting Minister: DJ Riedel
Reader: Paul Berteau

DECEMBER 30 (9:00 a.m.) - One Service Only
Assisting Minister: Cathy Tellman
Reader: DJ Riedel
Communion Servers: Carolyn & Scott Bergner, Kristi & Scott Moriarty
Ushers: Chris & Gene Enebo, Jan & Dave Blumenstein
January Worship Participants

JANUARY LAY MINISTER: Larry Patella

JANUARY 6 —(8:00 a.m.)
Co-President: Tom McEwen               Greeters: Deb Pucherelli
Assisting Minister: Jim Barclay
Reader: Tom Tracy
Communion Servers: Shirley Russell, Sheryl Fick, Carolyn & Scott Bergner
Ushers: Lyn Lewis, Nolan Bly, Eric Halingstad, Mary Noonan

(10:30 a.m.)
Co-President: Tom McEwen               Greeters: Steadman-Lieber Family
Assisting Minister: Connell O’Brien
Reader: Jo Powers
Communion Servers: Dave & Sue Plothow, Jennifer Swanagon, Beth Kapner
Ushers: George & Phyllis Wittenberg, Karla Briggs, Linda Easton

JANUARY 13 (8:00 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Ed Furlong
Reader: Jan Blumenstein               Greeters: Tracy Family
Communion Servers: Nolan Bly, Isaac vanWestrienen, Pat Brewer, Curran Anderson
Ushers: Evelyn Bly, Wyatt Bly, Kara Halingstad, Shirley Russell

(10:30 a.m.)
Assisting Minister: Elaine Sohrweid
Reader: Jennifer Hood               Greeters: Biller Family
Communion Servers: Sarah Grube, Anna Brooks, Isaac Brooks, Jacob Foley
Ushers: Anah Fuelling, Drake Klenz, Jonathan Harker, Matthew Harker

JANUARY 20 (8:00 a.m.)
Co-President: Dan Bock
Assisting Minister: Shirley Russell
Reader: Chris Enbey               Greeters: Chris & Gene Enebo
Communion Servers: Carolyn & Scott Bergner, Art & Jacque Whyte
Ushers: Patti Vine, Jackie Lanning, Barb & Fred Guist

(10:30 a.m.)
Co-President: Dan Bock
Assisting Minister: DJ Riedel
Reader: Josh Biller               Greeters: Art & Sharon Onweller
Communion Servers: Carol & Joe Brice, Carol Riscoe, Harriet Sear
Ushers: George & Phyllis Wittenberg, Paul Berteau, David Hood

JANUARY 27 (8:00 a.m.)
Co-President: Kim Williams
Assisting Minister: Tom Tracy
Reader: Barb Barclay               Greeters: Tracy Family
Communion Servers: Val Prolow, Ed Furlong, Bette Warn, Lynne Theiss
Ushers: Jan & Dave Blumenstein, Cathy & Jim Tellman

(10:30 a.m.)
Co-President: Kim Williams
Preacher: Pastoral Intern Rachel Swenson
Assisting Minister: Okie Arnot
Reader: Paul Berteau               Greeters: Harker Family
Communion Servers: Bob Mosca, Lloyd Peltzer, Nancy Eldridge, Michelle Foley
Ushers: Noah Nemmers, Anah Fuelling, Dennis Johnson, Connell O’Brien

All who serve in worship, please check in with the lay minister when you arrive on Sunday to let them know you are present.

Merry Christmas!