

# CrossTalk December 2018

Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
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## Church Office Staff

**Pastor**  
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**Elders**  
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Rob Hunt  
Bob Craven  
Jamie McGuffey  
Philip Sears

**Office Manager**  
Celeste Whitehead

**CrossTalk Publisher**  
Celeste Whitehead

## School Staff

**Administrator**  
Rebecca Reid

**Director of Records**  
Kathy Ackley

**Preschool Director**  
Alivia Rucker

**Preschool Aide**  
Karen Dunn

**Kindergarten**  
Megan Ramsey

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher**  
Heidi Congleton

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**  
Deb Rutledge

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher**  
Jeff Parks

**4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers**  
Caitlin Everhart  
Anna Schack  
Kelli Inskeep

**Before Care**  
Lillian Swain

**School Support Staff**  
Betty Ward  
Lisa Mulkey

## What to Do this Season!

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.*

Notice the title is not a question, but a declarative. As Christians we do something different during this season. After all, we know what Advent is all about.

Toward that end we will gather as God's family to celebrate the coming of his Son for our salvation. Our midweek **Together in Advent** series will focus on a different activity for our to-do list that is centered on giving and sharing rather than on materialism. The theme verse for the entire series is taken from Psalm 106:47: *Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.*

Hymns in this traditional worship program include *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord, Hark the Glad Sound, and On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry.*

- Wednesday, December 5: **Be Present** (Malachi 3:1-7) Instead of spending all our time in Advent buying presents, we in God's family set aside space to be present for one another, as Christ is coming to be present with us.
- Wednesday, December 12: **Send Peace** (Micah 5:2-5a) Beyond sending cards to loved ones this Advent season, we do all we can as the family of God to send peace to one another because the Prince of Peace is on his way.
- Wednesday, December 17: **Share Joy** (Zephaniah 3:14-20) In this time when we share cookies and other treats with one another, we share joy with those around us that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son. Following the same notion of transformative action, our Christmas Eve service will also move us beyond mere contemplation.
- Monday, December 24: **Be the Light** (Luke 2:1-20) Christ, the Light of All, was born into this dark world on Christmas Eve, and now we are called to be the light of the world, pointing people to him. The theme of divine light shining in deep darkness will be brought out as we pass candle light to one another. Beyond all this, our church and school children will lead the 10:45 am service of December 9.

Eagerly awaiting the start of the new church year in engagement with our community,

Pastor Rich

# A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- Paul & Stan for helping with the county building inspections.
- Ed Berg for changing the clocks and fixing the alarm issues.
- Marcella & Shrader's for the Meet & Greet.
- To the Alter Guild for selecting and ordering our new set of white paraments.
- Bob Dahle for getting our internet back up when it went down.
- Junior High kids for participating in the road cleanup.
- Sarah Bussell for filing in for Celeste.
- Kim Hunt for organizing the Angle Tree & all who bought gifts for underprivileged kids.
- Linda Sears, Kelly Tursic & Jim Mote for the special music during the Thanksgiving service.
- Young men's Bible study guys getting the tree up.

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Brooke Reid  
2 Sandy Davis  
Kim Hunt  
4 Brian Perks  
Scott Tursic  
5 Kelli Inskeep  
Ariana Williams  
6 Megan Dunham  
Carole Gall  
Judith Lemmon  
David Zilz  
7 Chris Kitt  
8 Addison Inskeep  
10 Gene Baumgardner  
Don Craig Jr  
14 Dorothy Lambacher  
16 Julie Cunningham  
Natalie Montecalvo  
17 Sarah Bussell  
20 Erika Linderman  
Dawn Wells-Kitt  
22 Christina Reid  
23 Brad Reid  
26 Taya Henderson  
27 Joshua Cunningham  
29 Adam Schwarz  
31 Phillis Clard



1 Brenda Montecalvo  
6 Richard Hockemeyer  
9 Jerenia Rucker  
10 Mary Norden  
13 John Draganic  
16 David Zilz  
20 Brooke Reid  
22 Matthew Rutledge  
24 Scott Tursic  
25 Deb Rutledge  
Penny Kueker  
26 Natalie Montecalvo  
27 Eric Windeknecht



2 Howard & Ruth Romaker  
18 Dawn & Chris Wells Kitt  
28 Kelli & Gregg Inskeep

# ELDER ARTICLE

## *Desire ~ Plan ~ Control*

**Desire**.... to wish or long for, to crave, to want, as for something that brings satisfaction or enjoyment.

**Plan**.... a method for achieving an end; a detailed formulation of a program of action.

**Control**.... to have power over, or authority to guide or manage; to regulate; to have dominion over.

**Desires** develop in our hearts and minds every day. They are often simple and short-lived; sometimes more complex and far-reaching. The sophistication of our **plan** to obtain what we desire is normally proportional to the desire's importance or difficulty to acquire. Likewise, the intensity and degree of **control** necessary to implement our plan can vary dramatically depending on the plan's sophistication. For example, if my desire is to enjoy a hot fudge milkshake, the plan can be as simple as get permission from my wife and arranging to drive through Dairy Queen tomorrow after church. The control is as simply as to remember the plan and make the correct turns in the car. On the other hand, my desire to retire when I'm 65 will require a much more complicated plan requiring decisions about the monies to be set aside, medical insurances, reallocation of assets, and of course obtaining approval from my wife. Similarly, the controls required to implement this more important plan is far more extensive than that of obtaining my favorite milkshake.

Many of our life's desires are never attained. This may not be due to the lack of intensity of our desire or the absence of good planning, but rather because of our lack of "control" over the circumstances surrounding us and our plan. We cannot control the stock market; sometimes the car breaks down; sometimes that person you relied on did not follow through; you may get unjustly fired from your job; or your wife may remind you of your diet! "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." We know this to be true. We have all experienced it to varying degrees. We have so little control!

Last year the adult Bible study class studied Old Testament history in an effort to better understand how God interacts with His people and the world. We discussed God creating, man's sin and the brokenness that it brought, and God's desire to reconcile that relationship. As we opened scripture we saw that God knew we would walk away from Him, but His desire for a relationship with us was so intense that He created anyway. Before time He already had a plan to sacrifice His son to re-create our relationship with Him, and to save us from ourselves and the consequences of our sin.

Our current adult class is continuing to study biblical history under the theme that "God has a **desire**, God has a **plan**, and God is in **control**." This history has shown God revealing that we are the desire of His heart, reveals a portion of His plan to reconcile us back to Him, and Him showing the world that He is in control of His plan's implementation. We have seen the awesomeness of His power and glory throughout this portion of recorded history, have seen glimpses of the details and complexity of His plan, and watched as He has exerted control on all of His creation and created beings to implement His masterful plan.

Another reason why we as Christians may not attain our desires, even though **we** may see them as godly, is that what we desire is in fact self-serving, not God-driven and not particularly honoring of Him. If we truly **trust** God and **seek** after Him and His ways, then we should understand that God will sometimes protect us from ourselves and not give us our desires. We are born spiritually blind and cannot of ourselves clearly see spiritual truths. But when we become a Christian, God wants to walk with us, teach us His truths, and work with us to transform our minds and hearts into God-likeness. This is the process He calls sanctification.

What control we think we have is fleeting and unstable. As we mature in our walk with God and let Him build in us desires that mirror His, as we work with Him to develop godly plans to achieve our joint desires, then we will better see that He is in fact in control. We will see Him achieve the desires He has implanted in our hearts and in powerful ways!

True Peace..... Is that not what we all desire? This is indeed what God desires for us. It can only happen when we walk in a saving relationship with Him, and open our hearts, minds, and labors to His desires. He is still in control of all that He has created. I pray that you would let Him mold your desires to match His, and that He would then give you the desires of your heart.

God is awesome!

Peace!

Rob hunt

remember.... **GWIB** (*God's Way Is Best!*)

*Please join us Wednesdays  
December 5, 12 & 19 for our Midweek  
Advent Services. Service starts at 7 pm*

# Together in Advent

A SERIES OF SPECIAL  
SERVICES FOR ADVENT

Children's  
Christmas Program  
December 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:45 am

Our School and Sunday School children will be performing their Christmas program. Be blessed as the kids share the hope and joy of the Baby of Bethlehem.



# Elementary School Christmas Program

December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



## The COOKBOOK Project

Our Risen Christ Cookbook Project has been submitted to the company. There was a slight delay in getting our submission in sooner, but they should arrive by **Sunday, December 23**. The price is \$10.00 per book and you may purchase as many as you like. Any profit that we make will go towards improving our church parking lot.

# SIX MONTHS IN BOTSWANA!

## UPDATE FROM THE GRULKES

Greetings from the Grulkes!

We have now been in Botswana for 6 months, working in Bible translation among the people here. It has been a great half year so far and we wanted to share a short video with you about our time so far.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9h9nh8Uux8>. We would love it if you would be willing to share this with the people of your congregation as well, to give them an update on what we are doing and how they can be praying for us. If you are interested in doing this, please let us know and we can send you a link to the video for you to download or you can stream it right from YouTube.

Thank you so much for your faithfulness in supporting our work here in Botswana. We could not do our work without your prayers and support. Blessings to you in the U.S. and we'll continue to be in touch!

Rev. Carl Grulke

Lutheran Bible Translators

# Scriptures for December 2018



## December 2

### First Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 25:1-10

## December 9

### Second Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-7b

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-14

Psalm 66:1-12

## December 16

### Third Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

Psalm 85

## December 23

### Fourth Sunday in Advent

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Psalm 80:1-7

## December 30

### First Sunday after Christmas

Old Testament: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Psalm 111

## VERSE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2018

For my eyes have seen your salvation that  
you have prepared in the presence of all  
peoples.

**Luke 2:30-31**

# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <b>8 am</b> Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bible Class <b>10:45 am</b> HC Worship  <b>6 pm</b> Confirmation	3     <b>6:30 pm</b> Estate Planning Seminar	4 <b>9:45 am</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>5 pm</b> School Board <b>5:30 pm</b> Girl Scouts <b>6 pm</b> Church Leaders Christmas Gathering	5     <b>7 pm</b> Advent <i>Be Present</i>	6	7	1 8
9 <b>8 am</b> HC Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bible Class <b>10:45 am</b> Student Led Worship <b>12 pm</b> Sisters in Christ <b>6 pm</b> Confirmation	10     <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Bible Study	11     <b>9:45 am</b> Women's Bible Study	12     <b>7 pm</b> Advent <i>Send Peace</i>	13     <b>11 am</b> Preschool Christmas Program	14	15
16     <b>8 am</b> Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bible Class <b>10:45 am</b> HC Worship <b>12:30 pm</b> Caroling to Shut-Ins <b>6 pm</b> Confirmation	17	18     <b>9:45 am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>12-2 pm</b> Food Pantry  <b>6:30 am</b> Elementary Christmas Program	19     <b>7 pm</b> Advent <i>Share Joy</i>	20     <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	21     <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	22     <b>CrossTalk Articles Due</b>
23     <b>8 am</b> HC Worship <b>9:30 am</b> Bible Class <b>10:45 am</b> Worship  <b>6 pm</b> No Confirmation	Christmas Eve 24     <b>7 pm</b> Christmas Eve Service <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>Christmas Day 25</b>     <b>OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED</b>  <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	26     <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27     <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28     <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29
30     <b>9:00 am</b> Bible Class <b>10:00 am</b> HC Worship <b>11:30 am</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Pot Luck <b>6 pm</b> No Confirmation *HC Holy Communion	New Year's Eve 31     <b>7 pm</b> HC New Year's Eve Service <b>NO SCHOOL</b>					



## Those serving us in the month of December 2018

### 8:00 a.m. SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
12/2	Bob Craven	Kelsey Vollrath	Lynn Petersen	Greg Shrader Chuck Bern Dave Petersen	Gene Baumgardner		Scott Tursic
12/9	Philip Sears	Blake Vollrath	Helen Craig	Rich Silliman Paul Bok Ed Berg	Chuck Bern	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge
12/16	Rob Hunt	Kaden McGuffey	Ed Berg	Keith Vollrath Steve Rutledge Gene Baumgardner	Eric Martin		Wiebecks
12/23	Randy Schwarz	Jackson Windeknecht	Chandra Shrader	Ed Berg Steve Rutledge Chuck Bern	Greg Shrader	Jo Baumgardner	Wiebecks

### 10:45 a.m. SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Counters</b>
12/2	Bob Craven	Ethan Cunningham	Patty Arnold	Phil Hawkins Rick Miller Homer Ryman	Erika Linderman	Deb Rutledge	Wiebecks	Deb Rutledge Denna Johnson
12/9	Philip Sears	Joey Koval	Judy Lemmon	David Arnold Denny Norden Rick Miller	Anthony Montecalvo		Sarah Bussell & Bob Craven	Dave Thomas Dave Petersen
12/16	Rob Hunt	Colin Linderman	David Arnold	Phil Hawkins Homer Ryman Bob Craven	Jon Linderman	Jo Baumgardner	Bob & Reed Dahle	Denny Norden Beryl Boggess
12/23	Randy Schwarz	Isabel Brown	Phil Hawkins	David Arnold Denny Norden Rick Miller	Beth Ervin		Scott Tursic	Steve Rutledge Dave Thomas

### 10 a.m. Combined SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Alter Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Counters</b>
12/30	Jamie McGuffey	Alex Ervin	Helen Craig	Steve Rutledge Paul Bok Homer Ryman	Ben McKee	Deb Rutledge	Wiebecks	Deb Rutledge Denna Johnson