

The Messenger

December 2020

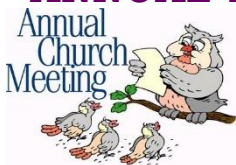
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Come break bread with our Lord at our worship service and **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, December 6 and wine will be in disposable cup at the pews.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION



The Annual Meeting will be held on **December 20, 2020**, immediately following our worship service. Please see inside this issue for more details

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Christmas Eve, in order to better follow CDC guidelines for social distancing we have added a second Christmas Eve service this year. Our Candlelight Services will be at 7:30 pm and 11:00pm and will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We hope that everyone will come to worship our new-born King. Come, let us adore Him.

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From the Pastor

What Christmas Means

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sin nature from the first human beings God created, Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three wise men visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled *A Visit from St. Nicholas* penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

Although people worldwide celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th, it was likely that he was born on in a different month and date. The church in the 4th century chose December 25th as it coordinated with the Solstice on the Roman Calendar.

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in the Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

Enjoy this season of Advent and Christmas as we celebrate at Emmanuel UCC!

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Pastor Lou



THANK YOU...

Thank you to the Jankowski Family for the beautiful Nativity Set displayed in the Narthex.



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, December 27** following **10:30 worship service/counting**.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on **Friday, December 11**, at **9:00 am**.



We have Gift Card Fundraiser through Great Lakes Scrip Center and includes tons of cards – from Advance Auto Parts to Wet

Seal (young women's clothing). By purchasing the gift card through Great Lake Scrip, our church earns a percentage of the sale price. With this newsletter is a copy of the list and more copies are on the bulletin tables. Just write in the quantity of the cards you want and give the list and the amount due to Jim Rinehimer. **Lisa will be collecting orders Sunday December 6th** and will distribute them as they arrive. If you have any question, please see Lisa.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, December 20**, after our Worship Service. The proposed 2021 Budget was approved by the Consistory for distribution in the weekly bulletins and extra copies are available on the table in the Narthex.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES, TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS: In accordance with our Constitution Article 10, All committees should have a report prepared for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

“Article 10 ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIETIES. All organizations and societies of the Congregation are subordinate to the Consistory and shall make an annual report (Activities and Financial) to the Congregation.”

Christmas Cards For Vets

There is a box in the bell tower for Christmas Cards for our local veterans who are residents at the VA Hospital. **The last day to put cards in the box is December 20.** Thank you for remembering those men and women who served our country.

UPCOMING DATES

Jan. 6 Epiphany

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the January Messenger is Friday, December 18. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE

Please be generous in giving to our church ministries supported by this offering:

Phoebe Devitt Home

Bethany Children's Home

Lancaster Theological Seminary

These organizations sincerely need and appreciate your support. Every penny counts with today's expenses, so please give generously. The “Christmas Offering” is a benevolence offering and is not used to build up the General Fund.

Your regular offering is still needed to support the General Fund and the local mission of your church.

FLOWERS SIGN-UPS

ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2021 chart for the altar flowers is on the table in the Narthex. The price is \$14.00 for 1 vase or \$24.00 for 2 vases. Please pay Chris Dietrich for the dates you sponsor.

