



# Advents Events December 2018

## Leaders for December

### Lay Assistant:

Lin Donnell

### Lay Readers

12/2 Gwin Poston

12/9 Jansen Bohanan

12/16 Jane Beam

12/23 Ruthie Padgett

## HaPpY December

### BIRTHDAY !!!

Joliene Bowers - 1<sup>st</sup>

Jenny Hooker - 4<sup>th</sup>

Nancy White - 8<sup>th</sup>

Doug Barnett - 15<sup>th</sup>

Victor Buskirk - 16<sup>th</sup>

Chuck Godwin - 24<sup>th</sup>

Steve Padgett - 27<sup>th</sup>

### Golden Agers

Mary Corbin - 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mel Twite - 4<sup>th</sup>

Christine Cole - 25<sup>th</sup>

Ramona Lawrence - 23<sup>rd</sup>

Andrea Young - 29<sup>th</sup>



## **THE WAY OF DUTY**

### *We Pray ...*

Heavenly Father, You give us duties to perform and purposes to serve. Through Your Spirit, help us to see these duties as gifts from You, to be offered to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Duty**

#### *Something Familiar to Lutherans*

Duty historically has received strong emphasis among Lutherans. We owe this in part to Luther himself. For Martin Luther, duty was not only an important subject, but also an important motivator in living before God. The German word *öschuldigö* conveys this important understanding. *öSchuldigö* and *öSchuldigkeitö* have to do with

what is due, what is owed, and what is right before God. We find this word in Luther's Small Catechism, in Luther's explanation to The First Article of the Apostles' Creed. There, after noting all of God's gifts, both past and present, Luther writes: *öFor all of this I owe it [German öschuldigö] to God to thank and praise, serve and obey himö* (p. 355).

2 An older English translation (still familiar to many Lutherans) put it this way: *öFor all which it is my Duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Himö* 3 At the end of his Small Catechism, Luther also included a section entitled *öDie Haustafel,ö* often translated in English as *öTable of Duties.ö* This section included Scriptural guidance for people in all kinds of states, with words *öparticularly pertinent to their office and duty.ö* Included in this *öTable of Dutiesö* is the listing of tasks and responsibilities for not only Bishops, Priests and Governing Authorities, but also Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children, etc. 2 Previous generations gave these *ödutiesö* closer attention as part of their catechetical instruction. Today, many Lutherans know of them only in passing. But *ödutyö* remains a familiar word and is in several well-known hymns.

### **Duty — Also Familiar to Others**

Many others have also spoken of duty. At the very end of his message, the Old Testament author of Ecclesiastes wrote: *öThe end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will*

bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing whether good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Mark Twain once said: *öDo something every day that you don't want to do; this is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without painö* 4 Mother Teresa once said: *öDuty is a very personal thing. It is what comes from knowing the need to take action and not just a need to urge others to do somethingö*

### ***A True Story of Duty / Delight***

I remember a day long ago when I entered the kitchen of my parents' home. Dad, retired now for years, was at the table going through papers and jotting down numbers. As I approached, Dad looked up with a mark of sadness on his face and said, *öI don't know if your mom and I will be able to tithe any longer. öI never knew you were tithing,ö* I replied. *öWe always did,ö* Dad responded, *öbut now things are so different.ö* What followed was a bit of an education in the family's finances. Having worked many years in a factory, Dad had a monthly pension check of \$250. There was a monthly Social Security check as well, but that was about it. Mom had been a homemaker, with only a few part-time jobs. Savings were minimal, especially as Dad and Mom had put both my sister and me through college, and Dad's health problems forced him to retire before turning 65. There had been no sizable inheritance, and now Mom and Dad, well into their 60s, were facing new financial realities. *öI am so sad,ö* Dad went on to say,

and I knew he meant it, because Mom and Dad loved the Lord and considered it a joy and privilege to give 10 percent of their annual income to their congregation. "I just hope we don't outlive our money," I remember Dad saying. Well, they didn't. More important-ly, their sadness at the thought of not tithing taught me something important about both the duty and delight of giving. What I learned on that day was a true lesson in faithfulness, through the example of my parents.  
*Pastor Gerald A. Miller,  
NALC Stewardship Team*

### **Some Thoughts and Questions for Further Discussion**

Why is the concept of duty so important in the military? Can you think of any occasion when a sense of duty might be a more fitting motivator than a sense of delight? In what sense, if any, could we say that God is also motivated by duty? Jesus speaks of what the Pharisees ought to do (their religious duty) in Matthew 23:23. But Jesus also seems to say that the thoughts of the Pharisees were still "missing the boat." Why was that the case? Can you think of an example from your own life when duty was motivating you? What are the benefits, as well as the limits, of a sense of duty when it comes to supporting a particular cause or charity?

### **Consider the following words by C.S. Lewis:**

"Then comes another discovery. Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from

moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So that when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction." 7 What are some of the dangers of a sense of duty, when it comes to any thoughts of "giving something to God"?

### **Next Month: The Way of Delight**

### **Golden Age Christmas Luncheon**

On Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> after Service there will be a luncheon served for our golden agers.



**Thursday Lunches for the Neighborhood** will resume as cold weather approaches. Donations of time and or food welcomed. spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, hot dogs, cans of baked beans, chile, etc. Comfort food. Also, sugar, and coffee. Questions, call the church office at 843-554-1181

**We will once again have a Christmas Tree decorated at Park Circle. Judy Goff and**

**Ann Long will be taking care of the reservations for us.**

**There is a form on the back of this month's calendar to update addresses and birthdays, etc for new Membership Booklet Please fill out and return.**

*Thank You!!  
On behalf of my mother, Christine Cole, I would like to thank everyone who called, visited and sent cards to her over the past few months. These expressions of care and concern have brightened her days and meant more to her than you will ever know. May God bless you all.*

*Thank You  
Buddy & Elaine Singletary*



### **From Compassion International**

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for giving to make Christmas memorable for Kabarin! Your generous Christmas gift donation of \$65 shares the love of Jesus and spreads the joy of His birth around the world. Your gift communicates just how much your sponsored child is loved! A truth that will forever bless him!! Thank you again for your faithful partnership.  
In Christ,  
Rick Davis  
Vice President, USA  
Compassion International

## Prayers for NALC Bishop

### 1<sup>st</sup> Week

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace.

Where it is corrupt, purify it: where it is in error, direct it: where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it: where it is in need provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week

Almighty God, grant to your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people. That in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name abide to the end: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Week

Most high and holy God, pour upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in every confession of the whole church a hunger and thirst for unity in you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Week

God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray, to be grounded and settled in your truth by the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. That which we know not, reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Week

O God, through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth. Cleanse us from sin and

raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Life Screening** had their program here on November 19<sup>th</sup>. They had at least 79 people scheduled for tests.

Last year, three people found that they needed more health care for a potential problem. This is a yearly opportunity for people to take advantage of the drastic reduction in costs for the multiple tests they offer.

### Working on our church!!!

In case you haven't been in the gym lately, Sam and Bill have been painting. Sam Green with Zion Olivet has offered his talents to redo our gym and kitchen.

## Advent Prayers

### For the week of December 2, 2018

12/2: Read Isaiah 2:1-5  
12/3: Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
12/4: Read Luke 21:25-36  
12/5: Read Psalm 80:1-7  
12/6: Read Mark 13:24-37  
12/7: Read Matthew 21:1-9  
12/8: Read Jeremiah 23:5-8  
*Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### For the week of December 9, 2018

12/9: Read Psalm 85  
12/10: Read Isaiah 40:1-11  
12/11: Read Mark 1:1-8

12/12: Read 2 Peter 3:8-14  
12/13: Read Romans 15:4-13  
12/14: Read Malachi 4:1-6  
12/15: Read Psalm 72:1-7  
*Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.*

### For the week of December 16, 2018

12/16: Read Matthew 11:2-15  
12/17: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
12/18: Read Philippians 4:4-7  
12/19: Read Psalm 146  
12/20: Read Zephaniah 3:14-20  
12/21: Read John 1:6-8. 19-28  
12/22: Read James 5:7-11  
*Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen*

### For the week of December 23, 2018

12/23: Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11,  
12/24: Read Luke 1:26-38  
*Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that what-ever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen*





## Advent Lutheran's Activities and Services for December

**12/1 Church decorating at  
9am**

**12/2  
Congregational Meeting**

**12/9  
Golden Agers Christmas  
luncheon after Service**

**12/14 RSVP  
Parents night out  
6pm-9pm grades K and up  
Advent and Zion Olivet**

**12/16  
Council and Council Party  
after Service in Music Suite**

**At 6pm Festival of Carols**

**12/19 Advent Evensong  
6:45pm**

**12/24  
Festival of the nativity  
Candlelight Service of Holy  
Communion  
6:30 music 7:00 Service**

**12/25 10am Lovefeast**

**12/29  
James Island County Park  
Festival of Lights  
Meet at Church at 5pm  
Hot Dogs, Marshmallows  
and drinks provided**

**12/31  
New Years Eve Service with  
Pastor Davis at 11pm.  
Breakfast to follow**

**Happy  
New Year!**

## What is a Moravian Lovefeast?

The Moravian Lovefeast is a service of song at which a simple meal is served to the congregation. This meal, usually a bun and coffee, is an act of fellowship. It is not a sacrament, or a substitute for Communion.

The Lovefeast, begun by the Moravians in 1727, is a revival of the Agape (*love*) Meal of the early Christian church. Almost any special occasion is appropriate for a Lovefeast. They are held to celebrate important festival days, to honor guests, to recognize a congregation's milestones, to bid a farewell to neighbors moving away, or to bind the church community into a spiritual unity when this need was felt.

There is usually singing during a Lovefeast and the meal takes place while the hymns are being sung. The spirit of the service is one of devotion and dignity. When the whole congregation has been served, a grace is prayed in unison. Then, while the choir sings, the congregation partakes of the spiritual fellowship of the Lovefeast.

Today, churches of many denominations have adapted the Moravian Lovefeast to their own use to address similar communal spiritual needs. Advent will host a Lovefeast on **Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 6 p.m.** Please feel free to share this with your neighbors and family.



## Thank you letter from NALS

Dear Pastor Jones and  
Congregation of Advent  
Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Seminary, I am writing to thank you for your gift to the Theological Education Fund of NALS in the past several years. Through your generosity, and that of many friends, our students are able to learn and train here without accumulating significant debt. Each of us at the NALS is thankful to God for you and your partnership with us. This year alone, we have 14 full time students who are receiving scholarships! As you can see it makes an enormous difference to all of our students. Again, thank you!

In Christ Jesus,  
The Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin,  
STS  
President of NALS

Please note: We have a letter from one of the students who has benefitted from the scholarships. It is placed on information board at church if you would like to read it. If you would like a copy sent to you, please let me know in the office, 843-554-1181, and I will send you a copy.

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love, at work, and live in the light of the event which gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

(From the Lutheran book of  
Worship)