



ALC Connections December, 2017

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

December 2017 Newsletter

The Discipleship Chat

The Holy Family

Christmas, of course, is about God sending His Son into the world, but the key human roles are played by Joseph and Mary. **Joseph and Mary** were plain, common people. They had a lot of respect for God and His Word, but they were ordinary folks. Ordinary believers.

They weren't like **Abraham**, who thought God needed his help because nothing was getting done. They weren't like **Moses**, whose birth was surrounded by miraculous events, who grew up in Pharaoh's court, and who performed great miracles. They weren't like **Samson**, spiritually careless and ungodly. They weren't like **Peter**, who seemed to speak first, before thinking. And they weren't even like **Saul/St Paul**, who was in rebellion, persecuting the church before Jesus called Him away, to serve.

They were ordinary. **David** was king, as was **Solomon**. **Daniel** was a prince & cabinet minister. **Esther** was queen of Persia. **Elijah** performed great miracles. And God called them into service, and gave them a special ministry, a calling. And what is this ministry? **Parenthood!**

God called Mary and Joseph to parent His Son Jesus. And their other children, as well. Parenting is a special calling by God. And not just any kind of n Deut 6:5-7, God says, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.**"

Imagine God saying to Joseph and Mary, to raise His child. But isn't that what God has said to us? *Raise My children.* Its still a holy calling, a ministry. Whether children, nieces, nephews, Grandchildren, neighbors, Sunday School children; whatever. God has given us a unique opportunity to raise up a new generation for Him. May He bless our efforts. And may He grant all of us a very blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Dave

LWML (Lutheran Womens' Missionary League)

Mite Box Mission dollars have already fully funded these 2016-2018 grants in full!

Bible Storybooks for Muslim and Arabic-speaking immigrant families - \$15,000

Scholarships for Michigan female students studying to be Deaconesses or professional church workers - \$20,000

Refugees in Crises: meeting refugees who saved their lives from ISIS - \$25,000

Spanish mission at St Paul, Pontiac - \$25,000

Acts 2 Enterprise – continuing to impact the City (Detroit) - \$25,000

Transportation & Ministry resources for the Lutheran Church in Uganda - \$25,000

Seminary training for Alaska native - \$5,000



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Wednesday Evening Advent Worship 7pm in the Chapel.

Christmas Caroling Saturday, December 16th

See the ***Adopt A Family Giving Tree*** information in the Narthex.

Order your ***poinsettia for Christmas***. See the signup sheet in the Narthex on the kiosk.

POINSETTIAS: The tradition of decorating the altar area with poinsettias on Christmas Eve continues with a sign-up sheet on the kiosk. You may dedicate your plant in memory of or in honor of someone if you wish. Names will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Day service. Please make your check for \$8.50 per plant (you may purchase more than one) payable to *Women of Ascension*. The check must be received by December 17. You may drop it in the collection plate.

"With Gratitude" Cards: Christmas cards for the Pastor and staff of Ascension as an expression of our gratitude for service to the Lord and the congregation will be available for signing on a center table in the narthex Dec 3 and 10. You may make a monetary contribution in cash as well.

St Luke's Winter Coat Project

The remaining Coat Bank Schedule is as follows

All sizes of coats & hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are needed. The sizes most needed are boys & girls 9 and up. Men and woman sizes large and up. If you can help with this project please bring your coat to Ascension. They will pick up from here.

[The Lutheran Witness](#) is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, it provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The [Michigan In Touch](#) supplement is included in each publication that is subscribed through the District Office. Michigan District members can subscribe to The Lutheran Witness for \$11.60/year (\$8.39 off the regular subscription price). If you would like to receive information on how to place a subscription, contact Donna Conrad at 888.225.2111 ext. 236.

Men's Movie Matinee: Wednesday, December 20th: *Star Wars!*

Women's Venue, December 12th will be at **Bravo's** in the Eastwood Town Centre. Join us at 6pm.

Men's Venue, December 12th will be at **Jimmy's**. Join us at 6pm.



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The **Mitten Tree** is up in the lobby outside the Chapel. Please bring mittens and hats and scarves to decorate the tree. Items will then be donated. Thank you! Merry Christmas!



**Mark your calendars: Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 7pm.
Christmas Day Service, December 25th at 10am.**