



# GABRIEL'S GAZETTE

## DECEMBER 2022



## Born for All?

Christ's birth was announced by the angels with the words, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men!" Jesus Christ is God's gift to all creation for the undoing of the curse of sin which has severely oppressed mankind since the Fall of Adam. The Creator became one with the creation to carry our sins and make peace between God and man by the shedding of His blood. His sacrifice opened the way to heaven for all people.

But not all people were willing to receive Him. They would rather keep their pride and hold on to the idols of their hearts. They would even fight against Christ and the Church, whose way threatened their sinful way of life. The flesh will always lash out against those who would take away its pride and pleasures. Thus, Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). Does this contradict the message of the angels? Of course not. Jesus did bring peace between God and men through His death on the cross. But He did not come to bring peace between the world and the Church.

Nevertheless, Christ, in His loving kindness, wanted all to be saved. He was not willing to let anyone remain comfortable in their unbelief, lest they fail to attain what He would win for them. His mission was to bring the Kingdom of God and destroy the reign of sin and Satan. So, Jesus had to discriminate. When I say "discriminate," I don't mean that He unfairly targeted certain people groups out of prejudice. I mean Jesus responded differently to different people, depending on their situation. To those whose hearts were still hardened with sin, Jesus preached strict law and condemnation, to crush their pride, to clear their hearts of

idols, and make room for the Holy Spirit. He condemned the Pharisees, sent the rich man away sorrowful, and called Peter "Satan." One cannot accept the truth if a person is living a lie. To those who recognized the truth of their sinful condition and need of a Savior, Jesus preached forgiveness, even to those who had committed terrible sins like the thief on the cross.

For example, Jesus did not ignore the sins of the woman at the well (John 4). He brought up her fault with all its awkwardness. "You have actually had five husbands, and the one you are now with is not your husband." He loved her and spoke kindly to her and offered her the "water welling up to eternal life," but He also uncovered her sin. That is because he desired repentance and faith which clings to Him alone. And look how she responded! She spread the news to all, saying, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" What is remarkable is that Jesus hadn't paid her any compliments. All she ever did was sin. Although she appeared unsure yet about Jesus' identity, it is apparent that the Holy Spirit was working in her heart through Jesus' words to discover the truth. She rejoiced in the possibility that even she could be forgiven and saved.

This is the mission of the Christian Church: to preach the kingdom of God which has come in Jesus Christ. We will fail if we hide the truth or compromise it. We might be more popular with the world, but we will one day be judged for it by God. If we remain faithful, we might not have peace with the world, but we will have the peace that surpasses all understanding, the peace for which Christ was born.

*Pastor*



*"Loving, Sharing, Serving  
Jesus with you."*

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For  
unto us a  
CHILD  
is born



**Advent Midweek Services**

**Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.**

**Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 21**

Come early for supper at 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 14**

7:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service

**Christmas Week Services**



**Saturday, December 24**

6:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols Service

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with Communion

**Sunday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service  
with Communion

**Saturday, December 31**

6:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service  
with Communion

**Sunday, January 1**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion

**\*\* SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING \*\*  
SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 11:30 AM**

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the Simeon Square matters presented at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Voters Meeting.



**REGULAR  
CONGREGATIONAL QUARTERLY  
VOTERS MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DEC.13, 7:00 PM**

This is an important voters meeting for all members. We will be electing new officers for 2023 and voting upon the budget for the coming year.



**CHRISTMAS TRIVIA NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

in Fellowship Hall

Doors Open @ 6PM

Trivia Starts @ 7PM

Cost - \$10/Player ~ Bring a team!

\* Bring Your Own Snacks & Eggnog \*

Proceeds to Benefit Sunday School's  
Hat & Mitten Tree.

**COME JOIN US !!!**



On **Friday, December 9**, we will have a Youth Group Christmas Party (Grades 6-12) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for food and games. Wear an ugly Christmas sweater to play for a prize! Friends welcome!



**Come one and all!**

**"Soup & Song"  
Christmas Caroling  
to our shut-ins  
& older members.  
Sunday, Dec. 18**

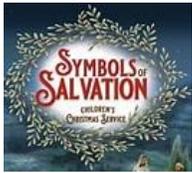


Meet at church at 4:00 p.m. When we are finished caroling, we will have soup and cocoa at Simeon Square.



## Shepherds & Lambs

The Sunday School  
Newsletter  
December 2022



**Be sure to join the Sunday School students Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.** as they share the story of Jesus birth. They will share this wondrous story in a simple way in *SYMBOLS OF SALVATION*. When our

children are young, it's hard for them to understand what Christmas is really about when they are exposed to the hype of the Santa/shopping season. Many times, Santa comes out looking like the reason for all the excitement! Keep in mind the real reason for Christmas and you will have a holiday season full of hope, joy and peace. Whatever you have faced this year, God sent His Son to be your Savior. You can face the New Year because of this blessed gift. Without Jesus Christ, there is no Christmas.

\*\* Practices will be Dec. 3 & 10, 10AM-12,\*\*  
and Christmas Party on Dec. 3, 12-2PM.

**Here are a few ideas to help your family focus on the real meaning of Jesus' coming.**

Keep an Advent calendar and Advent wreath; then together your family will watch and wait for Jesus' Birth.

Make time to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by reading the story of Christmas together as a family, and discuss the true meaning.

Pick a Christmas service project for your family to help those in need—donate food or gift items to a local shelter, cook or serve at a homeless shelter, adopt a family, ring a bell to raise money for those in need.

These projects take the focus off of ourselves and what we want and places it on sharing the Christmas story and it's real meaning with others.



**We welcome three children who have joined our Sunday School.**

We are so happy to be able to share the love of Jesus with them as we all learn how much God has given us through His Son, Jesus.



**We successfully packed 60 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse—Operation Christmas Child program.** Students met

and helped pack Christmas boxes to send to children around the world. Many donations came from our congregation members by packing a box or donating money for shipment. A big THANK YOU to all who helped in some way. Also thank you to Dr. Mike Orrico at Centre for Contemporary Dentistry for lots of toothbrushes, to Thrivent Financial for a \$250 grant, and a donation from the family of Scott Kalvaitis to help with shipping expenses! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

**Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas Season!**



*Lynette Johnston-Martin*  
Sunday School Superintendent

★  
For  
God so  
loved the  
world He gave  
His one and only  
Son that whoever  
believes in Him shall not  
perish but have eternal life  
John  
3:16

**FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...****Anxiety vs. Trust**

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25-33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering

and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article / December 2022

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I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

**Sunday, Jan. 1**

Installation of new officers of the congregation

**Monday, Jan. 2**

Deadline for submitting news for the February Gazette

**Tuesday, Jan. 3**

First Council Meeting of the New Year



**PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be a January edition of *Gabriel's Gazette*. Watch your mailboxes and weekly bulletin for information about January activities.



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.