

# THE CHRIST COURIER

Christ Lutheran Church, Mustang, OK    December 2018

## **CHRISTIAN:** *Innocent or Guilty*

What do you think of when you think of God's judgment? If you are like most people, judgment is a frightening concept. Throughout Holy Scripture we find language that is used in a courtroom. And it is helpful for us to think of ourselves as defendants in a criminal case with God as the prosecutor, witness, and judge, all rolled into one. As prosecutor God sees everything that we do. Those times we showed everything but love to others; those times we chose to enjoy the altar of our pillow rather than come to the altar of God's forgiveness. We too often forget that as we stand before God He sees the deepest and darkest parts of our lives. So God is also a witness against us. We think of ourselves as pretty good at hiding the truth; we cannot hide anything from Him.

Our sin should scare us, but today not many are deeply aware of their sins. You see sin is not living as God desires us to live; it is falling short of the mark. King David experienced that fear when he prayed in Psalm 143:2, *"Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You."* We all know very well as it says in Psalm 130:3 -- *"If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"* Certainly, not us!

That of course is why we are so thankful for the coming of Jesus. God's promise of One who would come to redeem mankind was fulfilled when that baby was born in Bethlehem. But it wasn't just that God put on human flesh; it was that Jesus lived a life fully obedient to God's law. Jesus lived as God desired us to live. Then after living a perfect and holy life, He lay down that life and gave it up for you and me. He suffered and was buried. But then to give us hope He rose from the dead showing us His victory can be our victory by faith.

We celebrate the fact that Jesus saved us, but are we still living as we desire to live instead of the way God desires us to live? Are we living lives selfishly serving ourselves or are we serving God by serving our neighbor.

I think perhaps we need to remember who we are called to be. We call ourselves Christian and that means we are to be followers of Jesus. But as Christians if we were to be brought to trial would we or could we be found guilty of being a Christian or would we be found innocent of being a Christian?

In our culture today too many people take Jesus' sacrifice as an excuse to continue living as they want. How about you? Only you can look at your own life through the lens of God's Word. As we celebrate Christ being the real reason for Christmas, let's also remember that Christmas is about giving to others.

May you and I never forget who we are. May God strengthen you so that you may serve Him and your neighbor. God bless.

*Pastor Dave Owens*



# THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers,

It's that time of year again, Advent and Christmas, the anticipation and celebration of Christ's birth, and then we look forward to bringing in another year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Can you forget the hustle and bustle of the world for at least a short time and let yourself dwell on God's Word and worship Him? He proved His love for you by the giving of His Son. That little Baby would carry your transgressions, my sins and yours, all through His life all the way to His suffering and death on the cross. Knowing what was in store for Him, knowing what it would take to save us from our sins, He came down from a throne in Heaven, surrounded by and worshipped by a multitude of angels. Hebrew 12:2 puts it this way "*who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*" How can we not feel joyful at this Good News? Jesus saw His suffering for us as joy! The cross, the shame was all worth it just so you and I could live forever with Him! We were the 'joy' set before Him! Can you feel the joy yet?

You might think a Christmas song is coming.... "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." Good one, but no, I'm thinking of "Joy," a song by King and Country. "Oh, hear my prayer tonight, 'cause this is do or die. The time has come to make a choice, and I choose joy!" This song is about a man's view of the helter, skelter life in this world, and how he is ready to give it all up. Then he asks God to light a fire in him. And the song continues, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of night, with You by my side, I'm stepping into the light. I choose joy! ..... I need that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay."

Have you been there? Are you there now? "Depressed with the nightly news; just want to sing the blues?" Ask God for help! Allow Him to pull you up out of the gutter and into His Joy, Christ Jesus! Ask Him to light a fire inside you to celebrate and worship Him, a fire to tell others of your joy in Him, a fire to help those in need, a fire to encourage one another and lift them out of their own gutter. He already wants you on fire. You know the letters to the churches in Revelation. In chapter three the Lord says, "<sup>15</sup>*I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!* <sup>16</sup>*So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.*"

So...wake up! Celebrate, worship, get on fire for God and do the good works God has been trying to show you to do. You've been caught up in your own woes long enough. Now is the time to begin a new life; let God set you on fire to do the good works He has prepared for you to do. We can do this individually, or we can do this together. Either way, we do it as His church on earth. Wow! I'm pumped and gotta go!

May you and your family have a most wonderfully blessed Christmas ever! God bless!!!

Respectfully submitted,

C.M.



**LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be **Dec 11**, 6:30pm at Sandie Keigs' house 1426 S Nelms, Mustang. That is south of the church off Clear springs road.

**JUST A REMINDER: Don't forget to bring your mites**, "spare change", to put in the Mite Bags that are available (in the church pews) the **first Sunday of every month.**

## Happy Anniversary

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Scott and Joyce             | 12/6  |
| Linda and Gary Lowe         | 12/8  |
| Marion and Deborah Sholtess | 12/8  |
| Don and Debbie Tidholm      | 12/15 |
| Robert and Susan Doepel     | 12/22 |
| Kenny and Gail Kautz        | 12/22 |
| Charlie and Mabel Mailand   | 12/27 |

## Happy Birthday

|                   |       |                  |       |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Shirley Landis    | 12/6  | Danny Brown      | 12/23 |
| Susan Doepel      | 12/9  | Reagan Pollard   | 12/23 |
| Janice Wright     | 12/10 | Cassie Danielson | 12/24 |
| Kris Stowers      | 12/12 | Marilyn Barta    | 12/24 |
| Alexis Witt       | 12/15 | Judy Smith       | 12/27 |
| Rebecca Baker     | 12/16 | Hayden Spears    | 12/27 |
| Matt Anderson     | 12/17 | Nelly Castaneda  | 12/28 |
| Gale Reynolds     | 12/19 | Adam Baker       | 12/29 |
| Beverly Colangelo | 12/20 | Joyce George     | 12/31 |
| Barbara Buchholtz | 12/21 |                  |       |

## Daily Bible Readings

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Dec 1: 1 Cor -12-13       | Dec 16: Eph 5-6      |
| Dec 2: 1 Cor. 14-15       | Dec 17: Phil 1-2     |
| Dec 3: <u>1 Cor 16</u>    | Dec 18: Phil 3-4     |
| Dec 4: <u>2 Cor 1-2</u>   | Dec 19: Col.1-2      |
| Dec 5: <u>2 Cor 3-4</u>   | Dec 20: Col 3-4      |
| Dec 6: <u>2 Cor 5-6</u>   | Dec 21: 1Thess. 1-2  |
| Dec 7: <u>2 Cor 7-8</u>   | Dec 22: 1Thess. 3-4  |
| Dec 8: <u>2 Cor 8-9</u>   | Dec 23: 1Thess. 5    |
| Dec 9: <u>2 Cor 10-11</u> | Dec 24: 2 Thess. 1-2 |
| Dec 10: 2 Cor 12-13       | Dec 25: 2 Thess. 3   |
| Dec 11: Gal 1-2           | Dec 26: 1 Tim 1-2    |
| Dec 12: Gal 3-4           | Dec 27: 1 Tim 3-4    |
| Dec 13: Gal 5-6           | Dec 28: 1Tim 5-6     |
| Dec 14: Eph. 1-2          | Dec 29: 2 Tim 1-2    |
| Dec 15: Eph. 3-4          | Dec 30: 2 Tim 3-4    |
|                           | Dec 31: Titus 1-2    |

### Keep Christ in



### Your Christmas

## Repurposing of Shoes



LWML is excited to be involved in collecting shoes once again. We did this two years ago and had a good response. We raised over \$2000 repurposed shoes! Soon you will find a box for you to bring old shoes; please tie laces together. As always this effort will support the work of missionaries around the world. God bless

## Christ Lutheran Church

501 N Clear Springs Rd Mustang, OK 73064

Pastor: David Owens

cell: 625-5992

Email: [themustardseed7@gmail.com](mailto:themustardseed7@gmail.com)

Sunday School for all ages: 9:15am

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00am & 10:30am

Publication Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

Danny Brown – 203.8839

Martin Castaneda – 308.8145

Phone 405-376-3116

[www.christlutheranmustang.com](http://www.christlutheranmustang.com)

Secretary: Melissa Moss

Nellie Castaneda

church phone: 376-3116

Email: [christlutheranmustang@gmail.com](mailto:christlutheranmustang@gmail.com)

Wednesday:

Advent Midweek Classes 7 pm

Choir Practice - 8:00pm

### ELDERS:

Alan Winter (Chairman) – 206.0076

Darryl Poole – 376-6492

Leonard Mahan – 787.1729

Stan Witt – 826.9286





**Sewin' Sews** is a quilting/sewing group that will meet on Saturday – from noon to 2pm, at the church. So bring your projects and invite a friend to enjoy this fellowship time with other women from the church. For more information, contact Phyllis Venable or Asha Winter. **Meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> – 12-2pm**



**SAVE THE DATE! March 18, 2019** is Faith Night at the OKC Thunder game! 30 seats have been reserved for that night's game against the Miami Heat. Ticket price of \$36 includes a Faith Night t-shirt! Select the seat(s) of your choice with your payment. *See Alane Jordan for seating chart and ticket.*



### Shepherds Soup 2018

Each year on Christmas Eve after early service a number of members go out and distribute a gift to those who serve us on the special Holy Night. Women at their Bible Study will assemble earlier a cup with a candy cane, a chocolate kiss, a package of hot chocolate and a message to be distributed to police stations, fire stations, hospitals and any who serve us. This is way to thank them for their service to us.

### LWML Angel Tree – 2018



LWML will be donating UNWRAPPED toys for the Santa Toy Shoppe – Mustang Fire Dept. Toys will be given to children in the Canadian County area.

**There is a box available for your UNWRAPPED gifts/toys.**

We will take donations until Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank You.



### Advent Midweek Services and Christmas Services

Our Advent and Christmas Eve midweek services this year celebrate “ In Those Days, ” the time when our Savior was born. As we light the candles on the Advent wreath, we remember an emperor’s decree, a journey to Bethlehem, the search for a home, the birth of a firstborn son, news for shepherds and a sign from God.

December 5 7 PM “ There went out a Decree ”

December 12 7 PM “To the City of David“

December 19 7 PM “ No Place For Them “

December 23 8 & 10:30 AM “Her First Born Son”

Christmas Eve 7 PM “ There Were Shepherds “

Christmas Eve 10 PM “ This will be a Sign.” (with Lord’s Supper)

New Years Eve Service 7 PM “But Deliver Us This Day Our Daily Evil “ (with Lord’s Supper)

# December



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| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                        | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
|  |   |  |   |    | Pastor's Day Off              | <b>1</b><br>Altar Guild<br>Decorating Church<br>9:00am<br>Men's<br>Bible Breakfast<br>9AM<br> |
| <b>2</b><br>8am- <b>Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper</b><br>9:15 <b>Bible Class</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Divine Service</b><br><b>Christmas Program</b><br><b>Chili Dinner</b><br><b>Dessert Auction</b><br><b>5:00PM</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>6pm- <b>Bible Study @Arbor House</b><br>7pm- <b>Advent Mid-Week Service-1</b><br>8pm- <b>Choir</b>          | <b>6</b><br>12-2pm<br><b>Sewin' Sews</b><br> | <b>7</b><br>Pastor's Day Off  | <b>8</b><br>Tommy Barry<br>Memorial<br>Service/ meal<br>following  |
| <b>9</b> 8:00 am<br><b>Divine Service</b><br>9:15 <b>Bible Class</b><br>10:30 am<br><b>Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper</b>   | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b><br>LWML Christmas<br>Party 6:30pm<br>At Sandy Keig's<br>House  | <b>12</b><br>6pm- <b>Bible Study @Arbor House</b><br>7pm- <b>Advent Mid-week service-2</b><br>8pm- <b>Choir</b>         | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br>Pastor's Day Off | <b>15</b><br>10:00am<br><b>Women's Bible Study</b><br>                                      |
| <b>16</b> 8:00am<br><b>Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper</b><br>9:15 <b>Bible Class</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Divine Service</b>  | <b>17</b><br>                                | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>6pm- <b>Bible Study @Arbor House</b><br>7:00pm<br><b>Advent Mid-Week Service-3</b><br>k8:00pm <b>Choir</b> | <b>20</b><br>Last day for LWML<br><b>Angel Tree Donations</b>  | <b>21</b><br>Pastor's Day Off | <b>22</b><br>   |
| <b>23</b><br>8:00 am<br><b>Divine Service</b><br>9:15 <b>Bible Class</b><br>10:30 am<br><b>Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper</b>   | <b>24</b><br>Shepherd Soup<br>2018<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service 7:00pm<br>With Lord's<br>Supper<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service-10pm | <b>25</b><br><b>Christmas Day</b><br> | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br>Pastor's Day Off | <b>29</b><br>9:00am<br><b>Men's Bible Breakfast</b><br>                                     |
| <b>30</b><br>8:00am<br><b>Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper</b><br>9:15 <b>Bible Class</b><br>10:30am<br><b>Divine Service</b>   | <b>31</b><br><b>New Year's Day Service</b><br>7pm<br>with Lord's<br><b>Supper</b>   | <b>1</b><br><b>New Years Day</b>   |   |  |                               |  |



The Altar Guild will be.....

.....selling Poinsettias for 7 Dollars each.

.....Decorating the church for Christmas on Sat. Dec 1 at 9am



### SCHEDULE OF THOSE WHO SERVE GOD AND YOU



#### December 2, 2018

**Elders**

Stan Witt (E & L)

**Ushers**

Kenny Kautz  
Vic Braunschweig

**Lector**

Danny Brown

**Counters**

Dorothy Prophet  
Diana Ritter

**Greeters**

Sandie Keig

**Nursery**

Dorothy Prophet

**Organist**

Barbara Brewster €  
(L)

#### December 23, 2018

**Elder**

Danny Brown (E & L)

**Ushers**

Don Tidholm  
Doug Honeman

**Lector**

Bill Allen

**Counters**

Debbie Tidholm  
Alane Jordan

**Greeters**

Basinger family

**Nursery**

Alane Jordan

**Organist**

Karl Rovey (E)  
(L)

#### December 9, 2018

**Elder**

Darryl Poole (E & L)

**Ushers**

Johnny Phipps  
Gary Basinger

**Lector**

Kenny Kautz

**Counters**

Sandie Keig  
Shirley Clark

**Greeters**

Danielson family

**Nursery**

Sue Wright

**Organist**

Barbara Brewster (E)  
(L)

#### December 30, 2018

**Elder**

Leonard Mahan (E & L)

**Ushers**

Vic Braunschweig  
Trini Castaneda

**Lector**

Barbara Buchholtz

**Counters**

Gail Kautz  
Jene' Machinski

**Greeters**

Phipps family

**Nursery**

Cassie Danielson

**Organist**

(E)  
(L)

#### December 16, 2018

**Elder**

Alan Winter (E & L)

**Ushers**

Bobby Smith  
Greg Barta

**Lector**

Pam Owens

**Counters**

Shannon Brown  
Shirley Jackson

**Greeters**

Winter family

**Nursery**

Sandie Keig

**Organist**

Karl Rovey (E)  
(L)

#### December 24

**Elder**

Danny Brown  
All Elders assist

**Organist**

(E)  
(L)

**Altar Guild****for November:**

Debbie Phipps

**December 31, 2018****Elder**

Leonard Mahan

**Organist**

### Altar Flower Chart

Dec 2....Scott & Joyce George

Dec 9.....Deborah & Marion Sholtess

Dec 16....????

Dec 23...Tyler Aiken

Dec 30...Alane Jordan

Jan 6....\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 13....\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 20....\_\_\_\_\_

Jan 27....\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*To donate flowers (\$24 per Sunday) See sign-up sheet in hallway. Thank You

