

## Prayer Concerns

- Mim – lift spirits over upcoming surgical procedures – 12/6/13
- Pauline – foot surgery – pray for speedy recovery – 12/5/13
- Alan – infection & surgery – pray for full recovery – 12/01/13
- Miss V – pray for speedy and full healing of ankle – 12/01/13
- Butch – pray recently discovered tumors not cancerous – 12/01/13
- Mike – on donor list for liver – pray for success – 11/24/13
- Harvey – needs heart-valve surgery–pray for resolution – 11/24/13
- Drea – strength and healing from lung surgery – 11/17/13
- Jim – cancer returned- pray for strength and healing – 11/15/13
- People of the Philippines – pray of strength and resolve – 11/10/13
- Joyellyn – pray for relief from chronic pain – 11/10/13
- Betty – lung cancer – pray for strength and healing – 11/10/13
- Wayne – numerous surgeries, pray for strength & healing – 11/4/13
- Chuck & Anne - pray for healing and Hope – 11/4/13
- Margaret – numerous recurring medical issues – 11/2/13
- Family of Eric – numerous medical concerns – 10/16/13
- Carol – recuperating, pray for full recovery – 10/10/13
- Pr. Rob’s extended family – various things – 10/6/13
- Cole – optic nerve issues, pray for recovery – 10/6/13
- Bill – new treatments give a better quality of life – 09/26/13
- Justin – and his Marine air squadron on deployment
- Joanne – facing surgery, pray for strength & courage – 09/15/13
- Warren – several medical issues, pray for recovery – 09/19/13

*Prayer Concerns will be kept for 90 days . Entries may be updated prior to that time. Contact Jerry Youngquist – 651-237-1003 (press 1)*

## Quote-ables:

*“If you have no faith, you've lost your battle”*

\_\_Bill Cosby



## Grin-ables:

A little girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill. "Mommy" she said "Can we leave now?" "No" her mother replied. "Well, I think I have to throw up!" "Then go out the front door and around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush." In about two minutes the little girl returned to her seat. "Did you throw up?" her mother asked. "Yes" the little girl replied. "Well, how could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and return so quickly?" "I didn't have to go out of the church, Mommy" the little girl replied, "They have a box next to the front door that says 'for the sick'."

## Responsive Reading: based on Psalm 7

- Congregation repeats the following refrain after each stanza:

*O LORD my God, in you I take refuge;  
Your righteousness will save and deliver me.*

O LORD my God, if there is wrong in my hands,  
if I have repaid my friend with evil  
or plundered my enemy without cause,  
lay my glory and pride in the dust.

Arise, O LORD, in your anger;  
you have appointed a judgment.  
The LORD judges the peoples;  
judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness  
and according to the integrity that is in me.

Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end,  
and may you establish the righteous—  
you who test the minds and hearts,  
O righteous God!

My shield is with God,  
who saves the upright in heart.  
God is a righteous judge,  
and a God who feels indignation every day.

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness,  
and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

## Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-5

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

## **Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all of the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them,

“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

## **Lutheranism – (from: *The Lutheran Handbook II*)**

### **The Most Outrageous Luther Quotes (and what they mean) -**

- † **“The Jews are actually closer to Christ than we are.” (That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew)** In contrast to his often quoted words against the Jews, Luther argued here that we ought to respect Jewish people a chosen by God and regard ourselves as adopted into the family through Christ’s death and resurrection.”
- † **“The human will is placed between God and the Devil like a beast of burden.” (Bondage of Will)** Free will is an illusion. Our will is controlled either by God or the devil. God takes the reins whenever the Word brings faith.

**Christmas Eve Service –  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm!!!!!!**

## **Just what is Advent about?**

Celebrating Advent involves spending time in spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. In Western Christianity, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of time. The word "advent" comes from the Latin "adventus" meaning "arrival" or "coming," particularly of something having great importance. For denominations that celebrate Advent, it marks the beginning of the church year.

When Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is the last, or fourth Sunday of Advent. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, Advent began being celebrated sometime after the 4th century as a time of preparation for Epiphany, and not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the wise men and, in some traditions, the Baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early church instituted a 40-day period of fasting and repentance.

## **The Second Advent Sunday - Peace**

The second purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the second Sunday of Advent

## **Events -**

“Journey to Bethlehem” program at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Ham Lake, MN. Located at 16345 Polk St. NE, Ham Lake, 55304/  
See website at: [www.foclutheran.org](http://www.foclutheran.org) or call 763-434-7337 –  
**TODAY from 2:00 – 5:00pm**

## **Calendar -**

- ✓ Next council meeting – 6:30pm, 12/10
- ✓ Next communion – December 15,
- ✓ Sunday school program – December 22, 2013