



THE CROSS CHRONICLES

DECEMBER

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

The 19 Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Epistle- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel- John 1:6-8, 19-28

Ctrl+Click this link for the Shadow of the Cross website: <http://stpaulsfarmington.com/> and this link for secure electronic giving:

<http://stpaulsfarmington.com/give-st-pauls/>

Worship service livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM0cM0gle1sMO4AbuYc5I7Q>

Dear Congregation, Worship service is at 9:45 am every Sunday with communion on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays served in self-serve individual containers to limit contact. While observing the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, we are still practicing social distancing. The church has guidelines in place. We are no longer asking everyone to call and register for worship service however, please remember to wear your mask, please be aware of social distancing and please do not come to church if you have a fever, or other flu like symptoms or if you have been around someone who has tested positive for the Corona Virus.

Pastor's Bible Study is on Tuesdays 11:30 to 12:30 in the rear yard of the church. Now that the weather is getting colder we will be meeting in the gym practicing social distancing. Saturday 4:00 pm worship has been suspended until we can streamline the process of reestablishing how we move forward.

Please wear masks unless for medical reasons you are unable. The sanctuary will be cleaned after every service.

Aaron Clark has created a SOTC YouTube channel and will be streaming the service for those who aren't in attendance can watch. Please direct all questions to the church office 248 474-0675, Mon – Thursday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you.

Shadow of the Cross' Altar Guild is decorating the church,



and all we need now are the poinsettias. Members and friends are encouraged to order a poinsettia (or two) in

honor of, in loving memory of, in celebration and praise for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, or just to order for decorating the chancel. **The price for the plants** are \$9.75 (single), \$14.75 (double). There are order sheets in the narthex and envelopes please put them in Deborah Quarles box with payment. If writing a check, please write it to "Springbrook Garden Florist." **The deadline to order is Sunday, December 13, delivery on Dec 18,** For more information please see **Deborah Quarles** or call the church office.

Be Joyful; Our Burdens are Light

~Pastor Dupre

Matthew 16:24-27 Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done.”

It’s December again, the month in which we celebrate Christmas; the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; the arrival of the Word made flesh into this world to dwell among us. What a great and glorious gift God the Father has given us in Jesus! We will celebrate this glorious gift every year, until He comes again to us in the flesh. But now that the King of Kings has arrived, the time for marveling at the miracle is done. My friends, we have work to do. Jesus tells us in the text that, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” It’s easier said than done. Deny ourselves? In this world twisted by sin, where Christmas has come to mean, “Let’s see how much stuff I can get for myself and family”, it’s just not in our nature to deny ourselves. It is in our nature to covet everything this world would offer us. And yet harder still, Jesus then tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him. To some people, this must sound crazy and unreasonable. You mean I’ve got to deny myself **and** carry my own burdens in order to follow Jesus? Well, YES, you do! So do I.

Let me explain: Jesus wants us to follow Him. But if we are going to follow Him, then we must let go of our desire to please ourselves because we cannot serve Christ and ourselves at the same time. Our focus is to be on others just as Jesus’ focus was on others, rather than Himself.

You see, following Jesus doesn’t just mean go where He goes, it also means to do what He does; to live God fearing, morally upright lives, showing brotherly love and concern and care for others. Following Jesus means letting go of care for self and trusting that all your needs will be met

in Him. But when we are so focused on self, we neglect others and we stray from the path that Jesus made for us. And we lose life, because Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. That path is eternal life and the only pathway to God. So even if our selfishness delivers all the worlds riches to us in this life, it will soon pass away and we will be left with nothing but eternal damnation and separation from God.

However, when we learn to stop measuring whether it was a “Good Christmas” or not by the amount of things under the tree with our names on them, and start celebrating the fact that our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life, then and only then do we absorb the real meaning of Christmas; and that makes every Christmas a “Great Christmas.”

Yes, it is tough to deny the flesh, to suppress the earthly desires that come so naturally to us. But the promises of God of eternal life with Him in paradise through Christ Jesus, is more precious than everything the world has to give combined and worthy of every sacrifice. That fact alone should bring us joy. Especially at Christmas time, we should be glad to sacrifice everything for the One who sacrificed everything for us. Our burdens are light compared to what Jesus bore on the cross for us. Merry Christmas and God’s blessings for a happy, safe and prosperous new year Amen! –**Pastor Dupre**

~Getting To Know Your Neighbors~

Our person for December’s “Getting to Know Your Neighbor” is **Angelen Hembree**. Before I let Angelen introduce herself I would like to bring your attention to the beautiful Christmas décor in our sanctuary. Angelen and Herschel Hembree are responsible for the happy and festive feeling you get when you enter our sanctuary, Merry Christmas to the Hembrees!

I have been a member of St Pauls since 1983, my favorite scripture is Joshua 1:9 “*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*”

I am a member of the Altar Guild. My favorite time of year is Christmas, because of the beautiful songs and the birth of Baby Jesus. My Hobbies are scrapbooking, reading, and quilting.
~Angelen Hembree

A brief introduction of our Elected Congregational President, Myita Davis. Myita was baptized as a baby at Berea Lutheran Church and is among the 3rd generation of Lutherans growing at Shadow of the Cross. One of Myita's favorite scripture is *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11) The ministries that she have been a part of are the Youth Fellowship as President, Acolyte, member of the Visually Impaired Outreach, Vacation Bible School Teacher and currently a Sunday school Teacher and a member of the Finance Committee. Her hobbies are cooking and preparing for Family Fun Day, she also loves to travel. Myita's favorite holiday is Christmas, she loves how the family gets together to celebrate the birth of Jesus, she is a family-oriented person. Myita graduated from Michigan State University Law School and at this time is practicing Child Custody and Family Law. Myita is the daughter of Ava Davis. Congratulations Myita!

Congratulations to all of the SOTC members that were elected for the 2021 Church Ministries. Please see the board in the narthex for a complete list and the elder's board. **Thank you** to all of the members who faithfully served in 2020, we appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Church Organ Fund Raiser for the needed repairs of the church organ. There are small orange envelopes in the pews, to place your donations in and put the envelopes in the basket in the narthex (the basket for tithes and offerings). We thank you for your continued support!



Advent Services

- Wednesday Advent Services – 6:30 pm Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, no food served.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:30 pm with Holy Communion
- New Year's Eve Service – Dec. 31 6:30 pm **no** Communion

Sunday School

Topic: Youth Zoom Meeting

Time: Dec 12, 2020 11:00 AM. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2370235284?pwd=QzBVTW1Xb2dxaWgybkJxcFJsejBxdz09>
Meeting ID: 237 023 5284

Passcode: 544069

The Youth Sunday school will be held on the zoom platform Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Please join us each Saturday during the Advent season. We have crafts and lots of fun while learning the Goodness of God. Thank you to all who were able to participate on December 12th, and for those who couldn't make it we hope to see you next Saturday, December 19th at 11:00 a.m. The Zoom information is above, if you have any questions please contact Barbara Profit, any Sunday school teacher or the church office 248-474-0675.

SOTC Annual Mitten Tree....

Please bring your attention to the beautiful Mitten Tree in the Narthex. Donations can be added to the tree and they will also be delivered to the Cass Corridor

ANNUAL YOUTH BLANKET DRIVE
This effort is scheduled for this Holy Season

Through the 1st of January. Because of this year's challenges, donations must be new or monetary donations. The designated recipient this year is WELLSRING for the special school that they are scheduled to open as described in our bulletin, blast and newsletter. For further information please see Youth Sponsors: Laina, Ava, Barbara, Heather, Steve or Nala our Youth Fellowship Chairperson.

WELLSRING LUTHERAN SERVICES

to open Michigan's first public recovery High School in January 2021, for teens struggling with addictions of drugs or alcohol. The Wellspring Academy has the capacity for 120 (grade 9-12) will support teens to maintain sobriety as they complete high school and earn their diploma. The high school is a free standing charter school on 80 acre campus, supported by Michigan International Prep School (MIPS). The existing school building is at 28000 W. Nine Mile Rd. on the Wellspring campus in Farmington Hills. Wellspring Academy will launch virtually in January 2021 with wrap-around recovery support services and a drop-in center at the Farmington Hills campus. In-person classes will officially begin in September 2021. For more information about Wellspring Academy and information on how to enroll your student, please visit www.wellspringacademy.com.

WE HAVE TO HAVE ART!

The Society Incorporated, Supporting the Arts!

Please receive this SPECIAL INVITATION to a youth arts event, Arts Showcase: Virtual Style. The showcase features students from the Metro Detroit community including Detroit Public Schools Community District. We know this will be a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon, **DECEMBER 13, 2020, FIRST VIEWING: 3:00 PM, SECOND VIEWING: 7:00 PM**, This is an opportunity to see the talents and gifts of our youth from the comfort of your home, virtually.

Donations are welcomed. The Society, Incorporated, Supporting the Arts, Greater Detroit Chapter is a 501c3 national organization that supports youth in the Arts from underserved communities.

Please feel free to share this event with your family, friends and community,

You may register here eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-society-incorporated-presents-arts-showcase-virtual-style-tickets-128619806303>. If you have registered, The Society, Incorporated, Greater Detroit Chapter thanks you for your support. I hope you will join us! Gratefully yours, Lady Patricia Pickett.

Please note: guests are offered an opportunity to register for 3:00 or 7:00 PM viewing.

Concordia Lutheran School ~ Pat Schultz, Principal

As we all get ready for Christmas in this crazy year, the teachers of Concordia are getting ready to teach remotely again, just in case. That means lots of lessons using the computer for sending and receiving assignments, having Zoom lessons and meetings, making videos and showing them to the students, and so forth. And here's the difficulty: our teachers' computers were purchases seven or eight years ago and they were repurposed at that time. Technology goes out of date in just a few years, so our teachers are trying to function in today's remote learning with technology from the dark ages.

We need to buy new ones for them. This is a plea for help. If you can support this effort to buy new computers, please put money in an envelope in the pew and mark it "CLS Computers" and put it in the offering basket. It will be used with great joy to purchase new computers!!! Thank you for your help. Pat Schultz

CLS: Bottle Caps for Benches

Concordia is collecting plastic bottle caps!

Our goal: 500 pounds **We have weighed 285 pounds.**

500 will get us 2 benches, 1 for each campus. Please consider saving your caps and depositing them in our collection bin located in the school hallway. See flyers posted around the building for more details.



THANK YOU, Thank you... YOU helped our Team "Marc's Muscles" **raise \$672.00!!** We want to thank everyone for their monetary donations and those who took the time out of their busy schedules to support the ALS Walk. I am happy to say that these funds will go to support families that have loved ones living with and fighting this disease. These monies pay for the medical supplies that are given to the people with ALS free of charge. The equipment they use to communicate with others when they can no longer speak and so much more. Furthermore the money stays local, here in our tri-county area, I think that is important. The ALS Association is accepting donation until the end of the year. Click the link on our page to see our team at work, with your contributions listed. God Bless!

http://web.alsa.org/site/TR/Walks/Michigan?px=3223493&pg=personal&fr_id=14321&s_hasSecureSession=true&view_as_public=true



French Christmas Cookies



Total Time: Prep: 20 min. Bake: 10 min./batch + cooling. **Makes** about 2-1/2 dozen

Ingredients:
1/2 cup butter, softened

1 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup 2% milk
2-3/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
2 cups finely chopped walnuts
2 cups milk chocolate chips

TOPPING:

1/2 cup milk chocolate chips, melted

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in milk. Gradually beat cracker crumbs into creamed mixture. Stir in walnuts and 2 cups chocolate chips.

Fill 2-in. foil baking cup liners three-fourths full. Place 1 in. apart in 15x10x1-in. baking pans. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely. (spray foil cup liners) Drizzle with melted chocolate; let stand until set. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Test Kitchen Tips: To melt chocolate chips, seal them in a zip-top bag and put it in a pan of hot water. After a few minutes, knead the bag to smooth the chocolate, then cut a small hole in a corner of the bag to pipe out the chocolate.

Holy Humor

Q. How is the alphabet different on Christmas from every other day? **A: There's No-el!

Q: What is Santa Claus' laundry detergent of choice? **A: Yule-Tide

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?" The pastor said, "Those are members from our church who died in the service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets." (cont.)

Louie was shipwrecked and lived alone on a desert island for years until he was finally rescued. Before leaving the island, he gave the rescue party a tour. "I built myself a house. That's it there. Here's the barn, and over here is the church I worshipped in." "What's that building over there?" one of the rescuers asked. Louie sneered. "That's the church I used to belong to."

Cass Corridor Donations.....

During these difficult times dealing with COVID-19 and more people out of work, we are in need of donations. Please bring clothing, toiletries, and potted meat items and put them in the labeled container in the Narthex. For more information see Jackie Banks or Pastor Dupre, Thank you.

Saturday Silver Sneakers

Worried about missing out on exercise or social opportunities? Good news: If you're a Silver Sneakers member, or you just want to get a little exercise in, you can take advantage of free Silver Sneakers On-Demand workout and nutrition videos. Plus, check out these ideas to stay socially connected—from afar. (CONT.)

(press ctrl & click the links)

<https://www.silversneakers.com/blog/daily-exercises-older-adults/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps3oXu5Czvc>

A Message from the CDC on Covid-19

precautions: (updated regularly)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> Get the facts about Coronavirus Take steps to care for yourself and help protect others in your home and community. There is a

lot of valuable information on the CDC.gov website. Information on: Cleaning & Disinfecting, Schools & Child Care, Colleges & Universities, Businesses & Workplaces, Worker Safety & Support, Parks & Recreational Facilities, Gatherings & Community Events' Health Equity, Tribal Communities and more. Check them out!

Here is what you should know about the virus's symptoms and what you should do if you experience them. The main symptoms often appear similar to the flu: fever over 100.5 degrees; a worsening cough; tiredness; loss of sense of smell; sore throat. In more severe cases, shortness of breath, chest pains, and pneumonia will be apparent."

Remember, that it's important to take precautions to protect not only your health and safety, but also the health and safety of others. Follow CDC guidelines. Stay in your home if you can. If you must go out, wear a mask, don gloves, and stay at least 6 feet away from others.

However, note that thrusts of a sneeze with a fan or wind gust, the virus droplets can travel up to 20 feet. Wash hands often for 20 seconds. Clean surfaces with a disinfectant.

Stay safe so to keep others safe, we are our brother's keeper. Over the years that question has been asked numerous times. To that question, many today would respond with firm conviction, "Yes, Cain, you are your brother's keeper, and not only you, but each one of us is our brother's keeper."

Publisher's note: If you have information, prayer request, something you would like to share with your church family, a poem, a song, a scripture, a picture of something that puts a smile on your face, please send it to Ava's email sotclutheran.officemanager@gmail.com or Dawn's email sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com Information for the Newsletter, please submit by the 20th of each month for the following month's publication. Thank you and Blessings!



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
First Sunday of Advent 9:45 Worship		7:00 Trustees' Mtg	12:00 Advent worship At Christ Our Savior, sponsored by our circuit pastors 6:30 Advent worship at SOTC			Youth Zoom Sunday School 11:00
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Second Sunday of Advent 9:45 Worship communion	7:00 Elders' Meeting 7:00 School PIE Meeting	6:30 CLS Board Zoom	12:00 Advent worship at Christ Our Savior 6:30 Advent worship at SOTC			Youth Zoom Sunday School 11:00
13	14	15	16	17	18	19

T Third Sunday of Advent 9:45 Worship		Winter Wonderland Christmas shop for grades K-4	12:00 Advent worship at Christ Our Savior 6:30 Advent worship at SOTC		Half day of school Beginning of Christmas break	Youth Zoom Sunday School 11:00
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday of Advent w/communion 9:45 Worship				Christmas Eve 6:30 Candlelight worship w/communion	Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Years Eve, 6:30 pm Office closed		