

THE CHIMES



Message from the Pastor

There may only be thirty-one days in December, but when I was younger, it was definitely the longest month of the year. I would wait with great anticipation for my birthday on the 15th, and then the “Great Countdown” until Christmas of the following ten days—which often felt like ten weeks. My anticipation and excitement, of course, was in seeing what great gift I might receive under the tree.

I believe the anticipation and overflowing enthusiasm a child has while awaiting Christmas day is the most appropriate feeling to have this season. As we enter the month of December and the season of Advent, we are awaiting with great eagerness the coming of our Lord and Savior into our world.

Certainly, this was the hope of our first-century Jewish brothers and sisters who were awaiting with bated breath the arrival of the Messiah, who would free them from oppression and fear and restore Israel to greatness.

Of course, what God had in mind did, in-fact, free his people (as well as all the people who ever had and would live), but it was not what they were expecting. Instead of a warrior king, God gave us a baby boy born in a livestock food trough. (A similar thing happened to me when I wanted some new video games, but instead got a basketball hoop. Message heard loud and clear: Get some exercise.)

But the gift that God gave to God’s people and to all of humanity was much greater than what was hoped for. It was not simply for the benefit of life in this world, but a cosmic correction that would permanently and forever remove the deadly consequences of human sin and restore the relationship of Creator and Created to that as one of perfect love, peace, and light.

As I grew older, my excitement about the coming of Christmas lessened. I remember at one point as a teenager realizing this fact and being rather saddened about it. Why had my excitement for the coming of Christmas abated?

Looking back, I think the reason was that toys, games, and whatnot were starting to mean less to me than they had when I was a younger child. And yet, I still hadn’t come to appreciate the one true and ultimate gift of Christmas: The presence of God here in the world alongside and with us, and the promise of everlasting hope, peace, and joy given freely to us through our Lord.

May your Advent be a time of reflective anticipation of Jesus’ coming, and may your Christmas be joyful and bright!

In Christ,

Pastor Brett

Youth Ministry

*Youth & Families
of Congregation
Make Christmas
Treats*



DEC. 9 - 9:30 AM

Fundraiser - Benefit Youth Trips

DEC. 10 - 10:30 AM



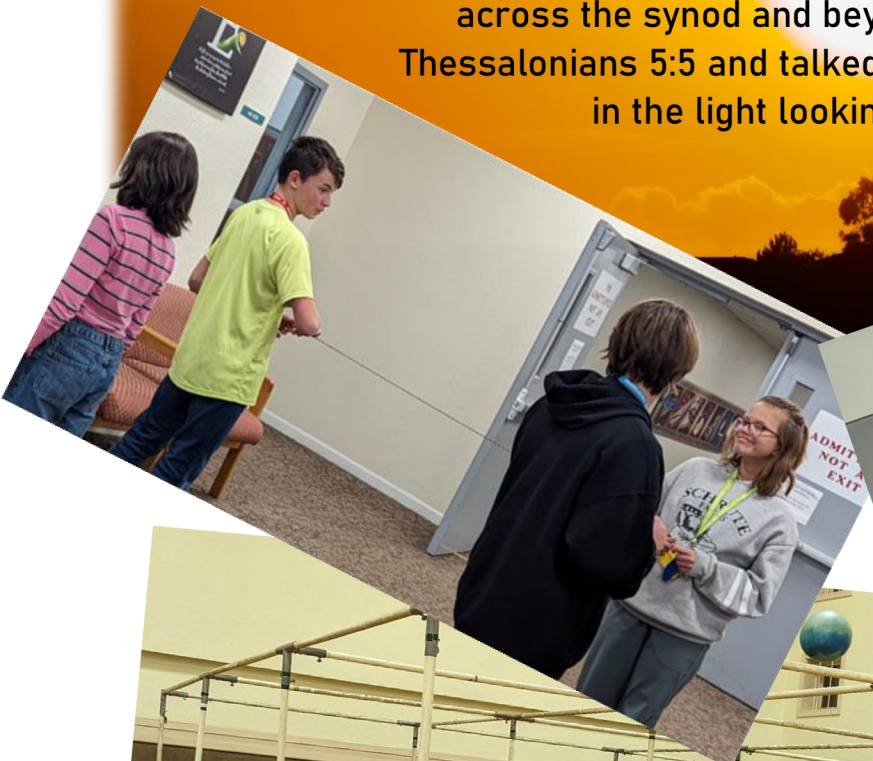


Carlinville CSIS Youth Retreat

“for you are all children of the light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.”

-1 Thessalonians 5:5

2 of our LMC youth participated in the Youth Retreat November 17-19 with 75 other youth from across the synod and beyond. We studied 1 Thessalonians 5:5 and talked about staying awake in the light looking for God.



Chaddock Santa Express Youth Group Shopping Night

The youth group (6th grade and up) will use the money collected for the Chaddock Santa Express to buy Christmas gifts for specific kids. We will depart from the church on Thursday, December 14th at 5:30pm for Walmart and Target and return at 8:00pm. Youth should let Kari Gosteli (309-657-5175 or kari@gosteli.org) know if you can make it.



Interested in going? Contact Kari Gosteli
(309-657-5175).



Youth Gathering Fundraiser

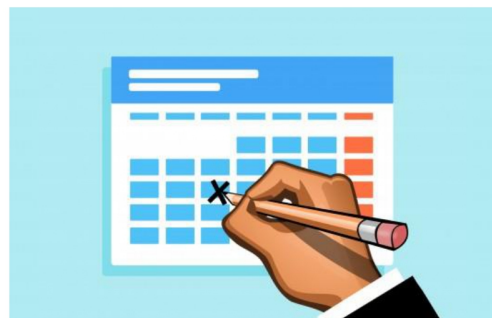


Wrapping all the Christmas gifts you buy for loved ones can be a chore. Let the youth at LMC help you out! We will be doing a *gift-wrapping fundraiser* to earn money for attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Come take a load off and enjoy a cup of coffee or hot cocoa while we wrap your gifts for a free will offering! We even provide the gift wrap and bows! Come see us in the great room on **Saturday, December 16th between 1:00 and 4:00.**

December Faith Formation

Mark Your Calendar

Because of the holidays, faith formation will only be held on Sun. Dec. 3, 10, and 17 after church. It will resume again on Sun. Jan. 7.



Faith Formation

**(historically known as “Sunday school”)
Sundays at 10:45 a.m. following worship**

For ALL Ages!

Come grow in faith and fellowship!

Adults in the Great Room

Children & Youth Upstairs

2024 Youth Events

June 10-14

Crossways Confirmation Camp
at Augustana College

June 24-29

Leadership Lab
at Augustana College

July 16-20

ELCA Youth Gathering
in New Orleans

(only occurs every 3 years)

Food Pantry

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

December - Peanut Butter (16 oz) & Jelly

January - Toiletries (Small Shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush)

February - Paper Towels/Toilet Paper

March - Boxed Pasta (Not Mac & Cheese) & Spices

April - Canned Soup/Ramen

May - Dish Soap (small) Laundry Detergent (Sheets or Small Bottles)

June - Energy Drinks, Gatorade, Water

July - Cereal & Microwave Popcorn

The need for this crucial ministry continues to increase. The number of patrons we served jumped from 112 families this summer to 137 families in October.

We are consistently receiving very positive feedback about our pantry. This is not only because we are working to ensure people receive healthy and nutritious food, including produce, meat, and dairy.

What we hear about more is how friendly and welcoming our volunteers are, how the conversations they have are meaningful, and the relationships they develop are valued.

Volunteers

Midwest Food Bank Distribution will be received on Monday, December 11, around 8:30 a.m. **Volunteers Needed to help put products on the shelves!!**

December Food Pantry 9-11 am
Volunteers:

December 05 - Rich Demien, Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall, Lorraine Wickman, Jennifer Bock-Nelson

December 12 - Kathy Dieker, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien, Sharon Kendall, Lorraine Wickman

December 19 - Kathy Dieker, Jennifer Bock-Nelson, Sharon Kendall, Rich Demien, Stephanie Demien

December 26- Pantry Closed

Hy-Vee Bakery Pick Up 2023
December - Rich Demien

FEED BODY & SPIRIT

ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The item for December is peanut butter and jelly. Please consider picking up extra items for the pantry. Remember, monetary gifts are always appreciated.



Boxed Cereal is desperately needed.



Neighbor 2 Neighbor Donation

LMC Food Pantry the recipient of non-perishable food totaling \$5,000 from Dot Foods' Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program. Thanks to Rich & Stephanie Demien, Kathy Dieker, Sharon Kendall and the Dot Volunteers. If you see a Dot Food staff, please thank them!



Luther Memorial Church // LMCQuincy.org // 12th & Jersey St., Quincy, IL

Food Pantry Donation Ground Pork



Local Farmers



2024 Budget Process & Annual Report

- **12-05-23** Ministry team leads meet with church council to present preliminary 2024 Budget requests.
- **12-12-23** Church council approves the 2024 Budget.
- **01-15-24** All Annual Report content due to the church office.
- **01-21-24** The Annual Report **will not be mailed** but can be picked up at the office or outside the sanctuary after worship.
- **01-28-24** The Annual Meeting will be held immediately after church.

Upcoming Events

*Thank
you!*

Dear Church Family,
My family and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for all the love and support since Kala's knee surgery. We are so grateful for the homemade meals and gift cards. It really helped us to focus on healing. Thank you for all the messages and kind words as well. The love and support we received with this surgery was astounding. We are forever grateful for our church family.

The Breders

thrivent

If you are a member of Thrivent, please reach out to Pastor Brett. He is working on getting a list of members from our congregation.

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:30 am - Worship Service of Word and Sacrament
- 10:30 am - Fellowship in the Great Room
- 10:45 am - Faith Formation
(Adults, Children, and Youth)

EVERY THURSDAY

- 10:00 am - Bible Study @ Calftown Coffee House

Dec 04 - Worship Arts Meeting - 7:00 pm

Dec 07 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

Dec 10 - Poinsettia order due church office

Dec 11 - Midwest Food Bank Delivery Day - 8:30 am

Dec 12 - Finance Team Meeting - 11:00 am

Dec 12 - Church Council Meeting - 7:00 pm

Dec 13 - Confirmation - 4:00 pm

Dec 14 - Youth Shopping for Chaddock - 5:30 pm

Dec 16 - Youth Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser - 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Dec 17 - Decorate for Christmas - After Faith Formation

Dec 17 - Muddy River Opera - Handel's Messiah - 5:30 pm

Dec 19 - Executive Meeting - 7:00 pm

Dec 21 - Table Talk - 7:00 pm @ Ratskeller

Dec 25 - Dec 31 - Pastor Brett Out of the Office

Jan 28 - Annual Meeting - Immediately After Worship

FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

- Every Monday - Stock Day - 8:00 am
- Every Tuesday - Open to Patrons - 9:00 - 11:00 am

Recovery Group Meeting - Church Basement

- Every Sunday at 6 pm
- Every Tuesday at 7 pm
- Every Friday at 6 pm

Women's Support Group Meeting - Great Room - Kala Breder Facilitator

- 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:00 pm

AA Support Group Meeting - Church Basement -

- Monday - Saturday 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 6:00 pm
- Wednesday - 7:30 pm
- Friday - 7:00 pm
- Sunday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Christmas at Luther Memorial

Decorate the Church!

Join us to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season!

Sat, Dec 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Help us get out the decorations for the Hanging of the Greens Service

Sun, Dec 17 after Faith Formation

Help us put the final touches on the sanctuary for Christmas Eve



A white silhouette illustration of a nativity scene set against a dark blue background with white stars and snowflakes. The scene includes a shepherd with a staff, Mary, the infant Jesus in a manger, and three wise men. Above the scene is a large sun with rays and a Christmas tree. The text "HANDEL'S MESSIAH" is centered within the sun.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

17 DEC
2023

5 30
PM

**FREE
ENTRY**

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH
1210 JERSEY | QUINCY, ILLINOIS

SOUP SUPPER FOLLOWING
DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Christmas Worship

Sun, Dec 24 @ 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun, Dec 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

No services on Christmas Day.

Stay Up to Date!
lmcquincy.org/calendar

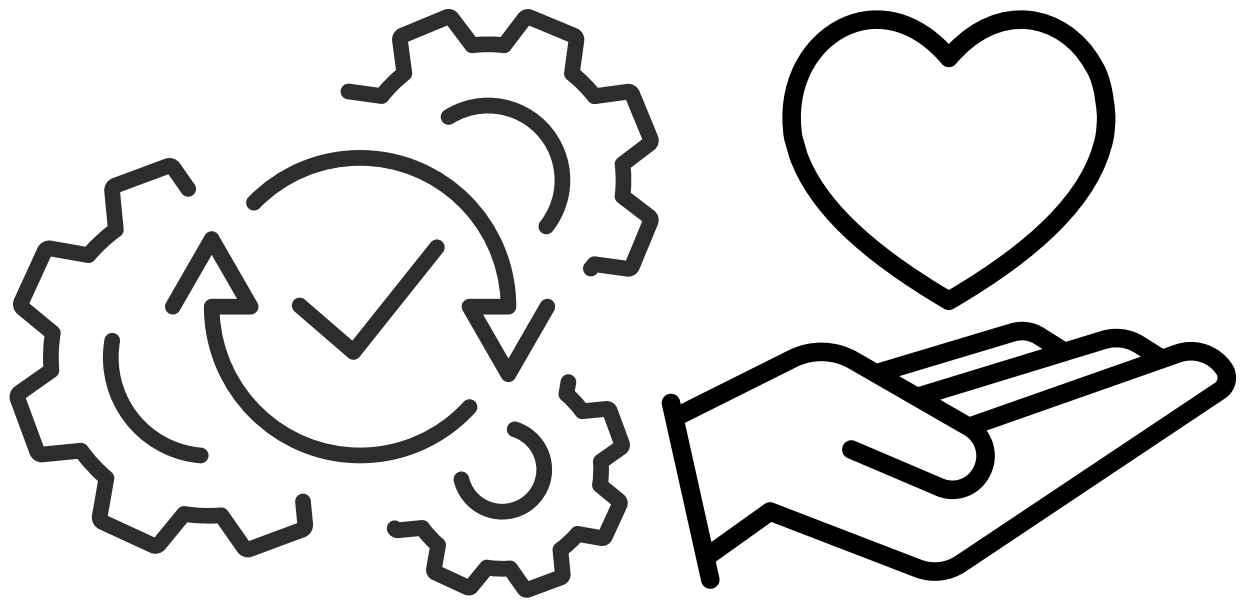
Have an event to promote?
 Contact the church office
 at 217-222-5085 or
office@lmcquincy.org!



Hospitalized & Homebound Disciples

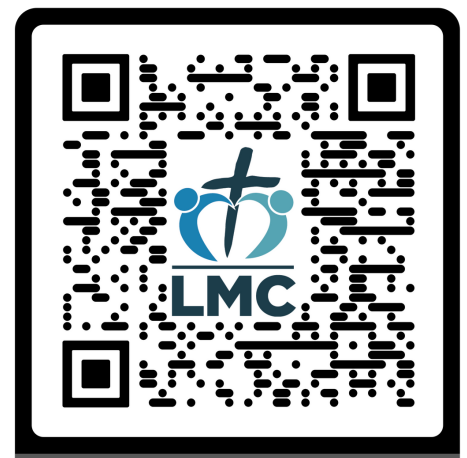
If you or someone you know is hospitalized or stuck at home, please let the church office know so Pastor Brett can make a visit.

Call 217-222-5085.



Automatic Giving

Hey friends! Want an easier way to support the ministries of LMC? Use our Automated Giving option with Vanco! It works with both bank accounts and credit cards and automatically contributes the amount you choose at the frequency you choose. No more check-writing (or forgetting the check), missing a contribution because you were gone for a week, or playing catch-up. This is the *safe and easy* solution for supporting the work of LMC! Use the QR code on this page, visit <http://www.lmcquincy.org/give> or call the church office at 217-222-5085 to get set up! It's *EASY!!*



Give here!



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

BEAUTIFY OUR SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS!!

NAME: _____

How Many Poinsettia _____ **Cost \$10 each** _____

In Honor/Memory of _____

(Optional)

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2023.

**Contact the church office to place your order.
Make checks payable to Luther Memorial Church.**

Happy Birthday



Kelly Buettner - 5
Kari Gosteli - 7
James Hamby - 8
Lane Michael Moon - 11
Pastor Brett Gosteli - 15
Nathan Oliver - 21
Jennifer Bock-Nelson - 23



Charles & Kala Breder - 13

Did we miss someone's birthday or anniversary?

If so, please contact the Church Office, 217-222-5085, so we can make it right!

**Church Council Meeting - Luther Memorial Church
Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

In attendance: Mark Snider, Addie Gosteli, Kara Moon, Tom Oliver (left early), Rich Demien (left early due to illness) Amber Casley, Pastor Brett Gosteli, Lorraine Wickman

Excused: Kala Breder, Brandon Dieker, Stephanie Demien

President Mark Snider called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Addie made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Amber seconds. Motion approved.

4. Pastor's Report – Pastor has been leading us in worship for almost an entire year!

5. New Business

a. Council Visioning (ongoing agenda item)

- I. Ministry Site Profile: Seven Reflections on Ministry and Context – discussed some of the things we can do as a congregation and a council to help meet the needs we have. One of the biggest needs is to reconnect with members who are not as active and to extend our reach back into the community.**

b. Child and Youth Protection Policy

- I. If you don't have this completed, get it done 😊**

c. Safe Church Initiative

- I. discussed adopting policies from the synod that we can utilize for training purposes. Also discussed needing to draft a protocol for this training and what the flow of action will be.**

c. Luther Memorial Church, ELCA Pamphlet – Tom presented a brochure to provide to visitors. Discussed the benefit of this and ways to move forward with it. By the next council meeting, photos will be identified, text changes will be made, and more narratives will be drafted.

d. Thinking ahead towards Annual Meeting:

- I. per the REVISED Council Roster, the Nominating Committee needs to find 3 people to nominate for Council, each for a 3-year term, beginning with 2024-2025 as their 1st year. The 2023 Nominating Committee consists of: Kala Breder, Rich Demien, Kari Gosteli, Chandler Moon, Jessica Snider, and Kathy Dieker.**

6. Old Business

a. Council Greeter sign-ups

**Sunday, November 19th Kara
Sunday, November 26th Lorraine
Sunday, December 3rd Rich
Sunday, December 10th Mark**

b. Robocall Information: reminders about pledge cards and that it is appropriate to bring small, noisy children to church 😊

7. Ministry Team Reports

- a. Finance Team – October was the first month where contributions were met/exceeded. The categories on the budget have changed significantly to try to clean up many of the line items. Discussed that insurance changes are coming and Rich is working to find a new company. Contributions- \$10,041 Expenses- \$18,617 Difference- \$-8,576
- b. Property Team – Rich shared about changes that will impact a new insurance (roof, stairs, electric, etc).
- c. Memorial Committee- Parament replacement numbers are not yet in 😊
- d. Food Pantry- Dot Foods donated \$5,000 worth of food last week. They also provided volunteers to help unload and organize. They served 33 families today (11/14/23). Thank you for this team and their dedication.
- e. Worship Arts
 - i. see report
- f. Youth Ministry – no report

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12th at 7p

9. Announcements

- a. Executive Council meeting
 - i. Tuesday, November 28th at 7p
- b. Sunday, December 3rd: Hanging of the Greens
- c. Zoom council meeting – December 5th to discuss budget.

Addie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorraine seconded. Motion approved.

Luther Memorial Church
1210 Jersey Street
Quincy, IL 62301-4210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2023

We are a community growing
together in Christ Jesus, embracing
all with Gods' love, and sharing our
faith through words and acts of
compassion.

GROW. EMBRACE. SHARE.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Quincy Illinois
Permit No. 149

Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

No services on Christmas Day.

Luther Memorial Church

**Grow.
Embrace.
Share.**

