

The Spader's Speaker

December 2017 | Volume 3 | Number 10



From Interim Pastor

Kirk Shipley...

Showing how old I am, there was a time when we considered computers, robots, and machines doing much of the production and manual work that people seriously discussed how we would occupy ourselves in an age of extended leisure. Instead of living the pace of the inherited wealth well to do, we find we are busier than ever with requests coming quickly and demanding, or begging for, a quick response.

Henri Nouen's 1982 book *Compassion* seems as accurate as ever when he writes:

It strikes me increasingly just how hard pressed people are nowadays. It is as though they are tearing about from one emergency to another. Never solitary, never still, never ever really free, but always busy about something that just can't wait. Amid this frantic hurly burly we lose touch with life itself. We have the experience of being busy, while nothing real seems to happen. The more agitated we are, the more complicated our lives become and the more difficult it is to keep a space where God can let something truly new take place.

Advent and Christmas invite us to step back and take stock of God's wonders and make them our own. There are many wonders. The wonder that God is in control of this planet's destiny in Jesus' return, the wonder that God cares enough to send messengers like John the Baptist, the wonder of working with the all sorts of people from the priest's wife Elizabeth to the village peasant girl Mary, and one of the greatest

wonders of all, in the still of the night God coming into the world as a baby, beginning the journey that will end in the wonder of being made friends with God, through his coming life, death, and resurrection.

As always there is much this season to fill our minds, hearts, and spirits. May part of Advent-Christmas contain time for being aware the many ways God touches us through Jesus and the people we encounter, much as the people who were part of the beginning of Jesus' life as a man on earth were so touched. Only God knows the limit of the blessing that can come from a special time of taking such notice as we move to celebrate one of the great wonders of his love.

- Kirk Shipley

Announcements

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance October 15, 2017: \$17,096.50
Additional funds received in October: \$2,880.00
Please consider donating to the Building Fund as additional funds are needed as construction draws to an end.

Do You Have an Article to Contribute?

All of us are baptized ministers of the gospel, and all of us have something to share. If you have an article or announcement for the bulletin or *The Spader's Speaker*, please send it to Whitney Meyerhoeffer, who compiles both the bulletin and *Speaker*. Send it to: wmeyerhoeffer@gmail.com.

In This Issue

From Pastor Kirk
Upcoming Events
Weekly Word from God

Page

1
2
2

Upcoming Events

Christmas Cantata December 10 at 3pm at Trinity Lutheran

The Trinity Lutheran Church choir will present a Christmas program of music and narration on the afternoon of Sunday, December 10th at 3 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. After the program there will be an opportunity to gather over a beverage and cookies. You are invited to attend what should be a wonderful and meaningful program.

St Jacob's WELCA Celebration of Christmas December 11 at 6pm at O'Neill's

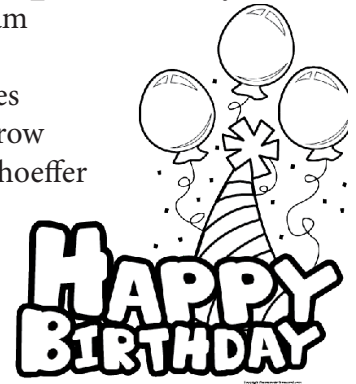
St. Jacobs WELCA will be eating out at O'Neills on Monday, December 11th at 6:00 in celebration of Christmas. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church if you plan to attend.

Christmas Luncheon December 12 after Worship

We will have a Christmas Luncheon with finger foods on Sunday, December 17th immediately following worship. Bring something to share and join in the fellowship.

Take a moment to wish someone well on their special day!

- December 7 Lettie Bea Lam
- December 11 Kevin Craun
- December 15 Cindy Hughes
- December 22 Linda Johndrow
- December 23 Jenny Meyerhoeffer



Weekly Word from God

December 3 - <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	Mark 13:24-37
December 10 - <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Mark 1:1-8
December 17 - <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24 - <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Romans 16:25-27
December 31 - <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	Luke 2:22-40

Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Worship Assistant	Piano	Ushers/Greeters	Lectors
Dec 3	Glen Showalter	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Paul Driver and Cindy Lam	Cindy Hughes and Nancy Bradfield
Dec 10	Cindy Lam	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Glen Showalter and James Eye	Cindy Hughes and Nancy Bradfield
Dec 17	Ann Royer	Maria Archer and Eric Hedrick	Mark Lambert and Glen Eye	Cindy Hughes and Nancy Bradfield
Dec 24	Nancy Bradfield	Ann Royer	Ann Royer and Carolyn Randolph	Cindy Hughes and Nancy Bradfield
Dec 31	Tom Lam	Ann Royer	Paul Driver and Cindy Lam	Cindy Hughes and Nancy Bradfield