



THE REPORTER

*I am like an evergreen cypress; from Me comes your fruit.
(Hosea 14:8)*

The season of Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas. While the world begins celebrating the Christmas season as early as Thanksgiving week, the Church sets aside the four Sundays before Christmas as a time of preparation and reflection upon the great gift that the world received when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

In our Advent Midweek series, we look at the way we traditionally prepare for our family celebrations of Christmas and how these things point back to that most holy night on which our Savior was born.

We begin with the tree. Trees are extremely important in the Scriptures. The Tree of Life appears both in Genesis 2 and Revelation 22. In Eden, Mankind was barred from the Tree after Adam and Eve's fall into sin: "lest he reach out his hand and take also of the Tree of Life and eat, and live forever" (Genesis 3:22). In Heaven, it overshadows the street of gold and the river of life. "The Tree of Life with its twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit each month" (Revelation 22:2). The Christmas tree is typically an evergreen tree. That the leaves never die reminds us of the everlasting life Jesus promises us as the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26).

Next, we look at the lights. What Christmas tree is complete without lights? The lights on the Christmas tree point us to "the true Light, which gives light to everyone" (John 1:9), Jesus. He is the Light of the World (John 8:12). We see this light in our "land of deep darkness" (Isaiah 9:2), where Jesus reveals Himself to us.

Third, we have the creche, where we display our faith in what happened that night in Bethlehem. Whether in our sanctuary or our front yard, we proclaim that the baby born in a stable in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago is the most important person ever to be born. His birth begins the earthly journey of salvation for all mankind.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, we will look at the wrapped presents under the tree. As Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths when He was laid in the manger (Luke 2:12), He has wrapped up the greatest gifts imaginable into Himself. In His life, death, and resurrection, He bestows salvation, righteousness, mercy, regeneration, spiritual renewal and grace. All of these - and many more - are wrapped up in Jesus' flesh and blood.

As we go through this Advent season, take an extra moment to reflect on all the many things we do during this time of year and how it proclaims the birth of our Savior Jesus.

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

Men's Bible Breakfast

We will finish our study of *A Simple Way to Pray* on December 13. Norm P. is our host. We will be looking at how Luther tells Peter the barber how you can pray through the Ten Commandments.

Women's Bible Study

We will not meet in December. We will start again in January with a new study "A New Song: Save Me, O My God." This is a study of 6 Psalms - 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10. In these Psalms your Savior will part the clouds of fear, calm the sea of distress, and give you a fresh breeze of hope in the light of His grace. Cost for this study is \$5. Talk to Renee to get your copy of the book.

Advent Services

Our Wednesday Advent Services will begin Wednesday, December 3. Meal at 5:45pm, Hymn Sing at 6:45p, and Service at 7pm. This year Pastor's series will be "Every Heart Prepare" and will look at all the preparations we make in our homes and or sanctuary and how these things point us to the wonder and miracle of Christmas.

December 3	Evergreens (Revelation 22:1-5)
December 10	Lights (John 1:1-4)
December 17	Creche (Matthew 1:18-25)
December 24	Wrapped Presents (Titus 3:4-7)

Christmas Services

December 24: Christmas Eve Flashlight Service, 7pm
December 25: Christmas Day Divine Service, 9am

The Nativity of our Lord

The Nativity of our Lord is the foundation of our Christian faith. We worship the God who became man, who made His first appearance to the world as the Babe of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve we focus on the human perspective. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. We look to the God who lived among us so that He might live, die, and rise for us. On Christmas Day we focus on the Divine perspective. Jesus is the God who keeps His promises to deliver His people. It's two different days to celebrate two different ways that Jesus' incarnation affects our life. Please prayerfully consider bringing your family to one or both of our Christmas services this year. Make worshiping Jesus at Christmas a family tradition more important than unwrapping gifts.

Remember those unable to be with us on Sunday Morning

Dianne Estes	Heritage Health, 423 N Dixie Hwy
Delmer Henrichs	IMH Residents Home, 200 E. Fairman Ave
Sara Janssen	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange
Mary Kamin	Prairieview Lutheran Home, 403 N 4th St
Dorothy Knake	106 Fritz Dr
Joanne Sloan	2364 E 900 North Rd
Brenda St. Peter	Prairieview Lutheran Home, 403 N 4th St
Barb Teig	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange
Julie Towers	Heritage Woods, 577 Martin Ave
Joyce Williams	Autumn Fields, 325 E Orange



Hoopeston, IL 60942
Watseka, IL 60970
Hoopeston, IL 60942
Danforth, IL 60930
Milford, IL 60953
Milford, IL 60953
Danforth, IL 60930
Hoopeston, IL 60942
Watseka, IL 60970
Hoopeston, IL 60942

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School children have started practicing for the Children's Christmas Program, "Symbols of Salvation." Please have your child here each Sunday to practice their speaking parts and the hymns for the program. The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 21 at 9am. All are encouraged to attend and support our Sunday School Children.

Cookie Reception

After the Children's Christmas Program, we will have a cookie and juice reception for them in the fellowship hall. Come down and celebrate the young people in our congregation and enjoy a cookie. If you can make a couple dozen cookies or donate juice, please talk to Patty B. or Renee M.

Reading through the Confessions

In December, our final readings from the Confessions discuss everyone else labeled "Protestants" by the Roman Church. These groups include the Anabaptists (the spiritual ancestors of the Baptists and the Amish/Mennonites), the followers of Caspar Schwenkfeld in Poland, the New Arians (which is making a reappearance in many churches today), and the Anti-Trinitarians (those who don't confess the Triune God).

The language can be difficult to get through because we don't think and speak in the same way about the Christian faith as in previous generations. I encourage you to keep up with the reading. If you have stopped, give it another try again this month.



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Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
10:30 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER REPORTER

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com
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