

# CONNECTIONS

December 2021—January 2022

Christ Lutheran Church  
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Cottonwood MN 56229

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COTTONWOOD, MN  
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**SAVE!**  
the **DATE!**

## The Bethlehem Experience: The Live Nativity

Mark your calendars with the Mission Possible and Preschool Sunday School upcoming Live Nativity event on **Saturday, December 18, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Come and sing some Christmas Carols with the students. Refreshments served. Students are asked to arrive by 4:00 p.m. for costumes and each household to bring a dozen treats/cookies.

## Sharing of Live Nativity Songs in Worship

On **Sunday, December 19**, the festivities continue as the students will share some of their Live Nativity songs in worship. Holy Communion will be served this Sunday.

## Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

Tucked into the midst of your Christmas gatherings, we hope you will make plans to attend our very special Candlelight Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion at either **5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24.** There is no need to reserve seating this year.

At the heart of all that we celebrate, we remember and hold close the story of Jesus' birth and the joy of those who hear the Good News! There will be a place waiting for you that evening!



## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree at Christ Lutheran has ornaments on the tree in the front entry with requested gifts on them ready for you to pick up any time. Monetary donations may also be given to the church. Please be sure to mark them clearly for "The Giving Tree." No need to wrap the gift, but please attach the ornament to it. Please return to the church by **Noon on Sunday, December 19.** Thank you for your generosity to children in our community!



## Lessons and Carols – December 26

On **Sunday, December 26**, come and sing those Christmas Carols one more time. They will be woven throughout worship with lessons read. Also, after the Service of Lessons and Carols, we will celebrate your most festive Christmas Sweaters. Tokens of appreciation in different categories will be given.

## Epiphany Sunday

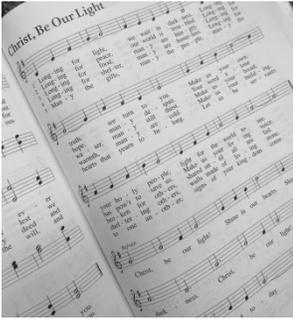
We celebrate Epiphany on **Sunday, January 2** with Holy Communion and the retelling of the story of God's glory revealed through the light of the star that led the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ.

## Baptism of Our Lord

**January 9** is Baptism of Our Lord Sunday where in worship we recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promises received. On this date, we also remember those who have been baptized in the past year with the Milestone Ministry. Those to be remembered this year are: *Audrey Busack, Nora Rykhus, Sutton Alm, Huxley Swanson, Kinsley Hurt, Quinn Louwagie, Rowan Vandelanotte and Isaac Stevens.*



## Christ Be Our Light



All throughout the season of Advent, we have been singing this hymn “*Christ Be Our Light*.” The words of the first stanza fit this season well: “*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light*” and it hints of Isaiah 9:2. The second stanza suggests that, while there is a longing for God to come and be active in bringing peace and hope to the world, one should not miss that we are called to share in the responsibility. It ends with these words, “*Make us your living voice*.” An unspoken desire to follow God’s word pushes us as Christians to become a voice for those in trouble, those despairing and those who are searching for hope.

Those four candles in the Advent wreath are being lit each week in worship – the candle of hope, the candle of peace, the candle of joy and that candle of love. As each candle is lit (one added each week), we are called to not only hear the words of the refrain, “*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today,*” but also for us to speak and shine light in the darkness of these long winter nights for all to see that we are called as God’s children. We are called to let our light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and glorify the father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). May we hear the fifth stanza with open hearts this season, “*Many the gifts, many the people...let us be servants to one another.*” People of God, continue your search for indeed Christ is our light in the world!

Merry Christmas Dear Friends in Christ!

Pastor Janel

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church Congregation will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2021, following our 9:30 Sunday morning worship service (backup date is February 13).

## A Reminder about Inclement Weather

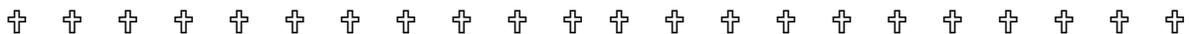


For *Sunday morning worship and programming*, you can find details on worship being canceled on both the “Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood, MN” FaceBook page and on Marshall Radio. If weather makes worship unsafe, a truncated worship service will try to be recorded and made available on YouTube.

For *Wednesday evening programming*, we follow the school district. If school is canceled, an early out (weather related) or no evening activities, there will be no Mission Possible or Confirmation sessions that evening.

## New Hire Update

As of the time of publication, the Personnel Committee is happy to report that a candidate has been identified and hired, but hiring paperwork is still pending. Stay tuned for more details coming soon! There will be some transition time where Rhoda, Melanie and Pastor Janel will cover the day-to-day office operations. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition and training.



## Welcome these New Members to Christ Lutheran Church!

*Jeremy, Alissa, Gavin, Gary and Rowan Vandelanotte*  
*Steven, Katie, Hannah, Hunter and Hayden Fry*

## Received their Eternal Life:

*Delbert Lange on October 4, 2021*  
*Noman Evers on October 23, 2021*  
*Arvilla Berg on November 1, 2021*

## Named and Claimed through the Waters of Baptism:

*Rowan Vandelanotte on November 14, 2021*  
*Isaac Stevens on December 5, 2021*

[www.christlutherancottonwood.com](http://www.christlutherancottonwood.com)  
YouTube: Christ Lutheran Church  
Cottonwood