



ALMA LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Grace and peace to you this Advent Season and Christmas season! Wait, does it still feel like Lent and Easter to you, too? Good, I'm not the only one then...phew. All jokes aside, this year has been anything but normal. I also feel that going forward life and the new year will be anything but a return to normal, as we navigate all the newness that lies ahead of us.

Advent has quickly grown to be one of my favorite liturgical seasons. It's not just the blue of the paraments, but something else. I think my first year of seminary I felt that Advent was a little more Adventy than before. What I mean by that is, I could associate and connect with the Prophet Isaiah and God's people longing for their Messiah to come. The first year of seminary was full of it's ups and downs that seemed like I was left in the darkness, lost without a way back. I soon fell in love with the piece of art that Luther placed over the altar during Advent. It was a large canvas that held a simple image of a singular power beam of electric light streaking from the top to the bottom, breaking through the dark blues and black on the other $\frac{2}{3}$ of the canvas. It was my second year that I enjoyed several concerts of the choir that Katherine was in, Exultate; where they performed a rendition of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" that still gives me chills today. In the midst of all sections singing their parts in dissonance they suddenly and abruptly found harmony again.

Finally, this year. 2020 has not been kind to us to say the least. It seems like it's been full of its ups and downs, in its own dissonance. In this Advent and Christmas season, we patiently await the birth of Christ in a manger. God made flesh. We prepare our homes and ourselves for the inbreaking of such an electrifying light and force of righteousness, peace, and love. Not just for the inbreaking that took place some 2000 years ago, but again for Christ' return. We hold close and dear to these promises, so that we might join in harmony with God and God's creation. We await and long for Emmanuel, God with Us.

Blessings, Pastor Quinlan

ACTIVITIES

Chat & Sew – Meets the 1st Tuesday at 8:30am. Contact Sharon Hollst or Lana Krumpus for more information.

Book Club – Location and date varies. Contact Viki Miller for more information.

Children's Sunday School - 9:30am every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month. Ages 3 years old through 8th grade. Meets in the basement of the church. Contact Moriah Wellman for more information.

Homebound Member Addresses

Jean Erickson

625 W Sloup, Wahoo, NE 68066

Inez Barrett

1680 Co Rd 11, Mead, NE 68041

Loren & Bert Berggren

706 Spruce, Mead, NE 68041

Fran Hughes

Ambassador Health, 1540 N. 72ndSt., Omaha, NE 68114

Milford Johnson

1617 Bills Dr., Unit 360, Ashland, NE 68003

Christmas Eve Worship December 24th at 8pm.

Please fill out our Christmas Eve worship sign up no later than 12/13. Otherwise please contact the church by 12/13 informing us how many plan on joining for worship.

Blue Christmas Service

December 21st at 6:30pm

Book Study

December 27th following worship.

Committee reports due for annual meeting by 12/27.

Annual Meeting 1/17 following worship.

Changes to Worship

As you can see, we have begun to move back inside for our regular Sunday Services. Some changes have been made to service for your and our communities safety. The first is that masks will be required. If you do not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided upon entrance to the church. Secondly, we will be sitting every other pew when in our sanctuary, or spaced out at a minimum 6ft when in other places of our facility. Lastly, there will be minimal singing during service. This is to continue with a service that is meaningful and familiar, while recognizing that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic. As always, if you are experiencing a fever or any flu like symptoms we are asking that you stay home and join us for worship via our facebook live.



219 West 5th St.
P.O. Box 88
Mead, NE 68041
(402) 624-3015

BUDGET

As of 11/30/20

Income: \$73,654.42

Expenses: \$75,575.44

Balance: -\$1,921.02

INFORMATION

Pastor's Email

Pastor Quinlan Koch

quinlank57@gmail

Secretary's Email

almalutheran@gmail.com

Website - almalutheran.com

Facebook - Search for "Alma Lutheran Church" and "Alma Lutheran Educational Ministries"

MISSION STATEMENT

Disciples by grace, Growing in faith, Living our hope, Sharing God's love.