You all know that according to the church calendar the 12 days of Christmas starts on December 25th right? So I am writing this on the 5th day of Christmas and you are probably reading this around the 9th day of Christmas. If you were at Casual Christmas you heard that the song “The 12 days of Christmas” was originally written in England back in the time when Roman Catholics were being persecuted by Protestants. The song was a coded catechism of important tenants of faith that if you didn’t know the code was just a fun song to sing, but if you did know the code you could use it to teach important things about your faith in a hostile environment. The coded message in the first line of the song “On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a partridge in a pear tree” is The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day.

The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals:

- The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. (Other claims say the Trinity)
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man’s fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit-----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity].
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.
- The twelve drummers drumting symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

May these last days of Christmas give you ample opportunity to ponder the gifts your True Love has given you.

The celebration of Epiphany on January 6th concludes the season with the foreign practitioners of different religions following the light of a star to bringing gifts to Jesus. The next Sundays celebrate Jesus’ baptism and then the early days of his ministry. How do these lessons from scripture inform our ways of doing ministry today?

We all know that church now is different from how it used to be. The feelings this generates run the gambit from grief and sadness to excitement and curiosity. There is some anxiety & fear as well as some trust that God’s presence with us will provide what we need for being the church now. Whatever your feelings are on this, I hope you are talking to God, the Council, Transition Team & myself about them.

As the Council prepares the budget for 2020, I ask your prayers for God’s guidance in helping us discern how God wants to use this church in this place at this time with this group of people to accomplish God’s purposes. As we figure this out we will figure out how to use our financial resources to do so.

God be with you throughout 2020,

Pastor Shelley Willem
“I think it’s arrogant of us to think that we are alone in the universe.” So said a network television news reporter in a discussion of some new discovery in the universe.

That statement is surely one that we would agree with, though not as the reporter intended it. He was not talking about the arrogance of the atheist who says that we are alone in the universe because there is no God. His thought was that there surely must be life somewhere in the universe besides on planet earth; the universe couldn’t possibly be as vast as it is with life on only one little speck of a planet in one galaxy.

It is both arrogant and perverse to peer out into God’s universe looking for evidence that He does not exist, for the heavens declare His glory and the firmament shows His handiwork (Psalm 19:1), even to those who do not have His Word, or who reject it.

But without the Gospel, contemplation of the universe is no help. Just the opposite: it is downright scary. That the universe is a place so vast, with no apparent end to it, is awesome but hardly reassuring. It testifies of a mighty and wise God but offers no comfort about what His attitude toward us might be. At the same time, the conscience tells sinners that they have offended God, making any thoughts of an encounter with Him to be terrifying thoughts indeed.

But when we believers look at the universe, we see more than God’s wisdom and power, for we view the universe through the interpretive lens of the Word. In the Bible God tells us of His love for us sinners, a wondrous love revealed in the person and work of His Son Jesus Christ. It tells us not only of God the Creator, but also of God the Redeemer Who loved us enough to come down from heaven, to take upon Himself our human nature, and to sacrifice Himself to redeem us from sin, death, and eternal damnation.

With this knowledge of God, the universe takes on a whole new meaning. We see it in the Psalms. There David looks at the heavens and marvels that the Maker of them should take notice of us who are so small and so weak, yet he knows that God created us with a high purpose (Psalm 8:4, 5); He had knowledge of each of us when He made the universe (Psalm 139:15, 16). To David the vastness of the universe is comforting, for it testifies of a God Who is great enough to care for us, to be in touch with our innermost thoughts and hear our prayers, to fulfill all His promises. He is a God great enough to bring this sin-corrupted universe to an end, to fold it up like a garment and in its place make new heavens and a new earth, an eternal home for us in which righteousness dwells (Hebrews 1:12; 2 Peter 3:13).

As we begin another year, we do so with the confidence that we are not alone in the universe, not left to our own devices with no hope and without God. We have our Savior God Who dwells in a high and lofty place but also with the contrite and humble (Isaiah 57:15). We have a God Who loves us for the sake of His Son Jesus, and Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above what we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

John Klatt is pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, Colorado. Source: https://lutheranspokesman.org/2016/01/01/we-are-not-alone/
Bible Study
9:30 am Christ House
Study guides are available.
All are welcome!

Marion County Sheriff: 503-588-5032
Salem City Police: (503) 588-6050
You are invited to keep this number handy in case of non-emergency needs at the church or in your life outside of church. A good place to store it is your contact info in your cell phone or wherever you keep important phone numbers.

“Let’s Talk 3”
CGSLC Jan 7 at 6PM
Please meet to discuss future collaborative efforts with Holy Cross and St. Mark.

The next Road to Revenue meeting will be held January 15 from 6-8 PM. Agenda items include December building use report, adjusting the current fee schedule, and possibilities for marketing our spaces. Creative minds and willing hearts WELCOME!

Prayer shawls are tangible reminders of God’s love for you. Wrapping up in a prayer shawl is like getting a hug from God.
THURSDAY January 23, 2020
At 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room
Shawls available in the narthex or the office.

Pitso & Flo Phaswana 1/3 40 Years
Art & Caroline Fennell 1/16 42 Years
Chuck & Sara Palmquist 1/27 41 Years

Jennifer Helms 1/1 Zachary Elms 1/15
Erick Spicer 1/3 Marvin Langeland 1/15
Hannah Pramuk 1/4 Nancy Ostrem 1/15
Anne Clemons 1/6 Aubrey Palmblad 1/20
Jake Smith 1/7 Lesa MacLean 1/21
Kate Anderson 1/9 Dwayne Aas 1/27
Jacob Anderson 1/10 Tiffany Paldanius 1/28
Ingrid Birkmann 1/11 Vilene Whelden 1/30
Dorothy Fox 1/14 Jack Dupuis 1/31
Sandy Elias 1/31
Happy New Year! For me, 2019 was a year of transition. I pray that 2020 be a year of success for all of us.

It’s ironically fun that 20/20 also means clear vision, so I hope to keep a clear focus on what we will be doing as a church and as a part of our community.

This year part of my focus will be on building relationships, especially a stronger relationship with our local neighbors by opening our church for more community type events. Our organization serves an important function in the Four Corners neighborhood, and we could be much more of a community center.

The next Road to Revenue meeting will be 6PM on January 15th. I hope that an evening meeting might make it possible to attend for those who, like me, work for a living. Everyone is invited to attend. This is my project, but it's your church. It is our partnership that makes the things we do successful. Please come partner with me.

One of the things on my agenda for the meeting is attendance. I’ve been analyzing the numbers, and it is a matter that requires our active attention. Historically, our main source of income has been our body of members, but that number is steadily declining. I will be bringing this information to this meeting for discussion, so I hope to see you there so that we can look at where to go next and how best to address this need. In the meantime, why not invite a friend to church? What keeps you from doing so? What might encourage you to invite someone along? Do know someone who is hurting, in need of community or healing, or would benefit from being a part of CGSLC? Would they benefit us? These are things I would like us all to consider.

I also have a few other goals on my mind, including an update to our website, a more creative and vibrant social media presence, and more creative ways to make up our budget deficit. These are just a few of my thoughts as we come into the new year.

Each day as I enter Christ House, I try to remember to say a simple prayer. “Abba, today may I be a blessing to Christ the Good Shepherd, and may Christ the Good shepherd continue to be a blessing to me.” I have great faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to touch hearts and minds and make us stronger. Messiah told us to shine a light of love to the nations. Let us start with our own community.

Blessings of love and joy to you all and a happy new year.

**Scout News** by Jennifer Blakely and Jay Wylie

For a short time, the Boy Scouts were growing fish in the basement! The pack was raising a small group of Chinook Salmon as part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program's (ODFW-STEP) Fish Eggs to Fry Program. The Pack petitioned their local STEP Biologist (Karen Hans) to include the pack in the program, and she was also able to resource the equipment for the Pack's use. The pack received the equipment and 100 eggs just before Halloween, they hatched a few weeks later. The pack released the fish into a local watershed in late December. This program is a great way to expose our Scouts, their families, and members of the Congregation to the life cycle and habitat requirements of Oregon's Salmon. We plan on doing this again for Trout in the Spring.

On November 11th the Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA participated in the Veteran's Day parade in Albany. They rode on and walked by the Veterans of Foreign Wars float. After the parade they had a fundraiser at the KFC in Albany to help with recharter fees, which earned about $300. 12 Scouts helped out at the fundraiser wiping off and busing tables. They also sold their fundraiser popcorn. The Scouts BSA have been working on their electrical merit badge this month. They learned how to wire outlets, light switches, and light fixtures.
Update from your Council President
by Gwen Carr

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you” Jeremiah 29:11-12

Happy New Year! Now we need to get used to saying and writing, 2020. This is the time of year when I generally take time to thank God for what He has done in my life in the previous year and ask for direction and renewed faith for what He has in store for me next. Each new year brings challenges that will need to be met and opportunities to put my entire trust in the plans that God has for me.

2020 will be a year in which we must once again address the challenges of how we move forward in doing ministry with ever decreasing financial resources. This season will require a time of reflecting on our core mission and vision as well as constructing a plan for living them out with the resources we have available even as we move toward calling a new Pastor. As Council works with Transition Team and the congregation; it will be critically important that we are able to clearly describe what we need in a Pastor and how much we can afford to budget for this position. It will call upon all of us to be realistic, creative and prayerful.

As we work our way through the call process: my message to you is this: we are not in a holding pattern waiting for the Pastor to arrive. Thanks to wonderful groups of volunteers; our ministries will continue to successfully move forward. In fact with our new efforts to work collaboratively with Holy Cross and Saint Mark, we expect that these ministries will be enhanced.

Other than the work on our Mission, Vision and Values; our most important work in January will be budget preparation. We can no longer expect to continue approving deficit budgets without consequences. We can no longer rely on drawing down on funding from revenue sources to keep us out of a financial crisis. In truth, we are already in a financial crisis which cannot be ignored. Like in our personal lives, we need to learn to live within our means and will need to adjust expectations.

- Budget worksheets are being prepared using 2019 budget to actual updates as well as projected income and expenses for 2020.
- Council will work with Transition team to identify the budget for the Call Process and Calling a new Pastor
- Council will prepare a budget recommendation in prep for a Congregational meeting in February, to provide a Transition Team Update, and address our Mission and Vision.

As we enter 2020, personally and as a congregation I ask you to consider the promise God makes to us in the Jeremiah passage and use it as a focus as we pray into this New Year where we will be making choices and commitments that will take us into the future together. God bless us as we continue in our ministry journey.
History of a Member
by Cindy Spicer

Robert Thorn was born in Stanley, WI on August 25, 1930 to Irving and Minnie Thorn. He was baptized as an infant in the Lutheran Church in Wisconsin. The Thorn family first moved to Oregon in 1938 and moved around looking for work. In 1944 the family moved to Salem Oregon and joined Christ Lutheran Church (in the old building on State Street). Bob was confirmed in Christ Lutheran Church in 1944 by Reverend Theur.

Bob attended Parrish Jr. High and Salem High and Graduated in 1948. Bob developed a love for wrestling in high school and was a member of the wrestling team at Salem High. After high school he and a few buddies traveled around wrestling for money. He always planned on making wrestling his life work before Uncle Sam changed the course of his life.

He met the love of his life, Rebecca Henderson in the summer of 1950. The young couple married on November 25th 1950 in Salem Christian Church. On March 6th, 1951 Bob was drafted into the United States Army and sent to basic training in Camp Stuart, Georgia. After basic Bob was transferred to Boston, Massachusetts, where Becky joined him in August 1951. After being discharged from the Army in 1953, the young family returned to Salem Oregon in a 1942 Chevrolet, where they made their forever home.

After returning from the Army Bob had several jobs including Mechanic work for International and Stephenson Rock Products as well as working in Plywood plants in Roseburg and Willamina. Eventually Bob was part Owner and operator of H and T blasting with his brother Donald. In 1962, wanting to spend more time at home with family, he started work at the Statesman Journal as a printer. His work at the Statesman continued for 27 years and he retired in 1989.

After joining Christ Lutheran Church in 1944, Bob is still a member of the Church, now Christ The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Bob Thorn is a long-term member of Tuesday Crew. The white cross in front of Christ House was made 33 years ago by Bob and his son Erick in honor of Erick’s confirmation class.

To see your recollections in print, contact the office.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>January 5</th>
<th>January 12</th>
<th>January 19</th>
<th>January 26</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preacher Presider</td>
<td>Epiphany</td>
<td>Pastor Dorthy Neilsen</td>
<td>Pastor Shelley Willem</td>
<td>Pastor Shelley Willem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>PraysN</td>
<td>Diane Hawkins</td>
<td>PraysN</td>
<td>Diane Hawkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeters</td>
<td>Ron &amp; Virginia Mohr</td>
<td>Laura Drager</td>
<td>Ilene Whelden</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Lorraine Bock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Assistant</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Twila Anderson</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Twila Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lector and Communion Assistant</td>
<td>Twila Anderson</td>
<td>Kelsey Hallin</td>
<td>Ashley DeLaRosa</td>
<td>Michael Dupuis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion Assistant</td>
<td>Virgil Anderson Nancy Ostrem</td>
<td>Laura Drager</td>
<td>Heidi Pramuk Chuck Palmquist</td>
<td>Heidi Dupuis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Driver</td>
<td>Chuck Palmquist</td>
<td>Dallas Groshans</td>
<td>Virgil Anderson</td>
<td>Virgil Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Team 4</td>
<td>Team 1</td>
<td>Team 2</td>
<td>Team 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counters</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2020 Altar Flowers sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Make a commemoration through the beauty of creation.

*If you are unable to fulfill your duties for a particular Sunday, you are solely responsible to find a replacement as soon as possible and then notify the office by phone or e-mail so that the information can be accurately printed for the Sunday bulletin.

Winter Sunday Worship Schedule:
FIRST Sunday of January at 10:00 AM
Contemporary Worship w/ Communion, First 5 and Potluck
OTHER Sunday’s 10:00 AM Alternating Contemporary AND Traditional Worship both w/ Communion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study (Christ House)</td>
<td>6:00 PM PraySN Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:00 PM Manantial de Vida Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Manantial New Years Eve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Tuesday Crew</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study (Christ House)</td>
<td>2:00 PM Chick Flick (Gathering Room)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Manantial de Vida Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM Let’s Talk 3</td>
<td>6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting (Gathering Room)</td>
<td>6:30 PM Roundtable Scouts Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM Palmdad Baby Shower (Gathering Room)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM Endowment Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Tuesday Crew</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study (Christ House)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Manantial de Vida Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:45 PM Executive Meeting</td>
<td>6:00 PM Road to Revenue (GR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Tuesday Crew</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study (Christ House)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Manantial de Vida Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM Council Meeting (Gathering Room)</td>
<td>1:00 PM Prayer Shawls (Gathering Room)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 PM PraySN Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Tuesday Crew</td>
<td>9:30 AM Bible Study (Christ House)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Manantial de Vida Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM U Matter Planning Meeting (Virgil &amp; Twila Anderson Home)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boy Scouts** - Saturday Jan. 25th
Klondike Prep (Trip Maxwell Snow park)