

DISCIPLEGRAM

January/February 2022

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN THESE COMMUNITIES
AND WITH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE



Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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God's Abundance

Where did January go? What year is this? Do you find yourself looking at the calendar and saying, "whew! Time sure flies the older you get!" I told myself, as a child, that I would never say that because I heard it from my parents and older people so often, and now—you guessed it—I have turned into my parents! I know that there are still 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week just like there was last year and the year before that...all the way since the creation of the world, but man, time just seems to fly by!

Even as time flies by we have the God-given opportunities for service, for sharing the love of Christ with others! Just take a minute to think of all of the possibilities and opportunities that God will lay before us in service to His kingdom in the minutes and hours that will make up the days and the year 2022! Many of these opportunities and possibilities we will be familiar with but some will be new. How is the Lord going to use us in this New Year? What doors will be opened to us for ministry as we are shaped and molded into the man/woman that God would have us be? What does God have in store for Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in 2022? How can we impact the lives of our people and the community in these difficult and challenging times? How can we reach out to others with the love of Christ even if we don't know them? Even though we may be unsure of all of the answers to those questions I know that God will abundantly bless us and our ministry as we hold high the cross of Christ! I believe that God has wonderful things in store for us as we continue to lean on Him.

“How do you know that?”, you say. Because our God is an abundant God! Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave His only Son who declared to us, “I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). Through Him and because of the abundance of His love for us, we “are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9). While He is slow to anger, the Lord is “abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion” (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of His creation to us in abundance as well. Who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He pours out on His people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8 we read, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully”. Our God is an abundant God!

The question then might be: why has God blessed us? Why has He challenged us at this point in time with the great task of looking beyond ourselves for the sake of Gospel and further generations? Why us? Why me?

God has equipped, enabled and blessed us with His abundant gifts to seek out the lost. He has blessed you so that we can be a blessing to others by providing a place where they can come to hear the Word of God, a place where their children can be educated and instructed in the faith. He has blessed us so that you can lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, He has blessed you to provide financial support for church workers at home and in mission.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you have lots of questions. Perhaps this all seems too large for you to grasp. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully

administering God's grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift that God would have us use in service to others. Ask God to show you where He wants to use you. Come to me or Pastor Eden and let us know the passions and gifts you have. Come to any one of the staff, your elder, or a church leader and let them know that you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for His service. I know that God has wonderful things in store for us as we selflessly ask to be used by Him. We will only be limited in our ministry opportunities by our unwillingness to serve Him. “How do you know that Pastor?” you say. Because our God is an abundant God! He has given us Himself, our talents and resources, and the time we all possess. What else do we need? I'm looking forward to hearing from you! :)

To God alone be the glory,

Dean M. Davenport

STAFF

Rev. Dean M. Davenport

Senior Pastor

Rev. Joel S. Eden, *Associate Pastor of Education, Youth & Families*

Tom Schroeder

Director of Music Ministry

Linda Hollman, *Director of Assimilation, Outreach & Women's Ministry*

Karla Schettenhelm

Director of Children's Ministry

Laura Myers, *Director of the Early Childhood Program*

Noreen Lenardon

Business Manager

Laurie Riegel

Administrative Assistant

Alyssa Anders

Communications Coordinator

Missionaries

Rev. David Erber—*Nigeria*

Rev. Charles Ferry—*Indonesia*

Rev. Steven Mahlburg—*Macau*

Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf—*Puerto Rico*

Caring for the Homebound

For the joy of serving



Every week our COS update includes a list of our homebound members. The names only change occasionally, and it can be easy to glance past this section of the prayers as our eyes gravitate towards the latest news. But these names represent an important segment of our church life. Each of these people is a part of the family at Christ Our Savior, and there is a story behind each name on that list. Although their circumstances don't allow them to come to worship on Sundays, they play a role in the Body of Christ and in the life of our church. Their needs are unique, and they also have encouragement and love to give.

And behind the scenes, there are volunteers in our congregation who are actively involved in ministry to them. As our members reach out to meet those needs, connections are built that strengthen the entire church.

The ministry to the homebound began in the 90s when two of the church workers at that time, Suann Dibble and Lois Drake, sat down together after a staff meeting and made a list of all the elderly in the congregation that they weren't seeing regularly in services on Sunday. Armed with that list, they started thinking of ways to reach out to these members and let

them know that they were still a valued part of the congregation. Their first efforts were very practical, based on what was available. Another COS member, Shirley Speirs, worked at Harry J. Will Funeral Home at that time and offered them flower arrangements that were no longer needed. Lois and Suann took these flowers and gifted them to the people on their list to brighten their homes. This led to the idea of repurposing the Easter lilies and poinsettias after they were no longer needed to decorate the church. The ministry grew from there.

In addition to delivering lilies and poinsettias, they started sending Easter and Christmas gifts to the homebound. The early Easter baskets were purchased at the dollar store and filled with goodies and religious materials. There's no reason why the joy and excitement of getting an Easter basket has to end at a certain age!

As different people got involved and as ideas developed, the Christmas and Easter gifts turned into Advent and Lenten packages, with devotional materials and small gifts to help the elderly celebrate these significant seasons of the church year. Volunteers would deliver these packages personally to the homebound,

staying to chat and building personal relationships with them. This January, Lois is already planning packages to be sent out in time for Lent 2022. The packages will include a devotional, a calendar, suggested daily readings, placemats for the holidays, a prayer card, an Easter magnet, a weekly Litany, and a bookmark. There will also be recordings of the hymns and litanies for the homebound to enjoy. For now the packages are sent in the mail, but the volunteers look forward to a time when these packages can be delivered in person again.

The pastors are involved, too. Pastor Davenport and Pastor Eden regularly visit each homebound member to chat, keep them up-to-date on church news, and offer communion. The church office also keeps the homebound connected to worship services. We send out monthly packages with DVDs of the service recordings and copies of the bulletins or transcriptions of the sermons.

One hundred and seventy members have been served since records were started in 2008. For these members who can't easily leave their houses, it's easy to withdraw and allow the isolation to take over. The separation from people and events is difficult under normal circumstances, but the pandemic conditions have made it much worse. But the efforts of our volunteers help to fight against the depression and loneliness. As they receive packages and cards and plants, our homebound members have expressed their appreciation. They respond with their own notes and phone calls, to let the church know how grateful they

are for the efforts made to connect with them.

Currently, there is a team of 18 volunteers who reach out to our homebound members. Lois has always had a special compassion for the elderly and enjoys this ministry as a way to make them feel connected. Each person brings their unique gifts and talents to the team. As one example, this year the homebound will receive handmade Valentines' Day cards to brighten their day. These cards are designed by through an effort of collaboration as various members discuss the design as well as the message inside. Other volunteers minister to specific homebound members, getting to know them through visits (pre-pandemic), notes, and gifts. You don't even know what your strengths and abilities are until you start serving! You might be surprised how God will use you when you step out in faith to share God's love.

The homebound ministry would love your help. As the aid increases, the ministry is able to expand. It's also a wonderful way to build community in your church—not only can you build a relationship with our homebound members, but you get to meet others who are volunteering as well. Although we don't serve for our own sakes, there is an increased vibrancy and joy that comes to us when we focus on the needs of others. You don't know how God will use your gifts and ideas until you start!

Contact Lois Drake (734-776-6285) to ask questions or express your interest in serving with this ministry.



2022 Mission Trip

Christ Our Savior is already planning another opportunity to serve internationally with MOST Ministries. Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX, has requested a VBS at San Lucas Lutheran Church in Juarez / Anapra, Mexico. The team will be lodging in El Paso, TX and crossing the border daily. The Vacation Bible School trip will be a week-long program where the team will develop a curriculum before departure. This could consist of sharing Bible stories, songs, arts/crafts, puppet

shows, etc. They will work alongside Ysleta Lutheran Mission (YLM). YLM provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions on the U.S./Mexico border. By partnering with YLM, this team will build up their reputation, helping them in their continued efforts to share the Gospel. The tentative trip dates are May 7–14.

Please contact Outreach Director Linda Hollman (734-522-6830 ext. 104) to learn more.

Relax and Recharge at



Have you started thinking ahead to this summer and making travel plans? Amid all of the options and ideas, consider making a trip to Camp Arcadia, located on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Camp Arcadia is run by the Lutheran Camp Association “to provide a setting for Christian families and individuals to vacation with God, and to foster the renewal of the whole person — spirit, mind, and body — amid the beauty of God’s creation and in fellowship with other Christians.” Arcadia celebrates its 100 year anniversary this year. That’s a significant accomplishment, especially when you consider that they were offering a summer vacation schedule throughout the depression and war years!

Camp Arcadia continues to host a variety of camps throughout the year. Family camps are designed for inter-generational vacationing. These camps focus on renewing the whole person in fellowship with other Christians. Families join together in worshipping, playing, learning, resting and eating.

Men’s and Women’s retreats focus on building faith and allowing time for fellowship among the participants. The theme for the men’s retreat is already set: “Dealing with Uncomfortable Tensions in Scripture” led by Dr. Joel Oesch. At the women’s retreats, participants will enjoy times of mentoring and healing, of laughing and relaxing and of learning and sharing designed specifically for adult women.

There is also a “Summer Starter” week for adults. At this camp there is time for recreation during the day, including lake activities, golfing and cycling with fellowship, and Bible studies in the evening.



There are also teen retreats, where the ministry goal is to assist, encourage, and challenge teens to live and grow as God’s people in a Christian community. Camp Arcadia has two teen weeks each year.



Our members have enjoyed various retreats at Arcadia over the years. The pictures you see here are from groups that went to men’s and women’s retreats in 2016.

As you make your summer plans, consider taking your family or getting a group together to go! Learn more and find the full schedule on their website: camp-arcadia.com.





Sharing Our CHRISTmas Blessings



Ellen Hoyer and Natalie Eden

Christ Our Savior’s annual Christmas Basket Blessings is a wonderful outreach opportunity helping our metro-Detroit families. Working at this event for the past seven years has become a Christmas tradition for my family & me. It brings humanity, humility and fellowship together. We often are surprised to hear the

stories and comments shared by these needy families, especially those that are financially struggling or experiencing challenges in their lives. God reminds us in Ephesians 4:12 “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so

that the body of Christ may be built up”.

Sharing these Christmas totes leads us to the center of the ministry—saving souls. We rarely know where these families live or what their struggles continue to be, but rest-assured, our God does. Christ Our Savior is simply the stepping stone, leading others closer to Jesus and His everlasting promises.

As the new year has begun, be reminded to “be new in attitude of your minds and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”. Ephesians 4:24.

We serve the Lord as we serve others. Prepare your 2022 as a year of service for Him alone!

To God be the glory!

-Ellen Hoyer

2021 was the eighth year in a row that Christ Our Savior has reached out to the needy in our community with our CHRISTmas Blessings program. On the morning of December 18, the weather was indeed frightful, a freezing combination of rain, ice, and wind. Despite the unfriendly conditions, volunteers arrived early at COS to set up tents, cook a hot breakfast, bag produce and prepare to greet our visitors.

hats and scarves. We hoped that each of these items would not only meet physical needs but also pass on God’s love to each of our visitors. Similar to last year, we facilitated a drive-thru set-up with different stations for each of the items. As the volunteers loaded items into the cars, there was an opportunity to stop and chat with each of our guests, getting to know them a little bit better and letting them get to know us as well.



In addition to the 225 bins with groceries (purchased by you, the members of the congregation), we were able to hand out fresh produce donated by Mastronardi Produce, hot breakfast burritos made and packaged by our volunteers, hot coffee, and warm winter items such as

We would like to say a big “Thank you!” to everyone who made this event possible. John Gilbert, Ellen Hoyer, Ron Kosmalski, Ron Oppat, Suzanne Schulz-Webb, and Linda Hollman formed the committee responsible for organizing the event. In addition to making sure that everything was prepared and ran smoothly, the committee members all shopped and prepared a bin. Despite the bad weather, about fifty volunteers from the church came to help. There was plenty of work to do, from handing out the bins to talking with those who came to receive the food and keeping supplies coming



from the gym to the tents outside. We also want to thank those who knitted and crocheted winter wear that we were able to hand out as extra items.

We also want to give a big thank you to Meijer store #188 who donated gift cards. These gift cards were used by our members to purchase the groceries for the bins. Also, Mastronardi Produce in Livonia donated fresh produce to give away.

This year due to the bad weather, we did not have as many people come to receive a bin, but those that did were very appreciative. About 75 of the bins were leftover after the event, but

these were given away individually by the new year to those in need.

We shared about 200 of the leftover breakfast bags with the police and Livonia & Plymouth fire stations, our youth, our Early Childhood center. A couple of our members also shared breakfasts with the St. Mary's Hospital day care staff and nurses of the fourth floor.

We always look forward to being able to serve our community, and hope that this event planted seeds that will bear fruit in the coming months and years.

Save the Date: Youth Fundraiser

We are planning a joint Youth fundraiser to support the students who are planning on heading to Houston, TX for the LCMS Youth Gathering in July. The theme this year is "In All Things."

Youth from our congregation are traveling with a group including kids and adults from Guardian (Dearborn), St. Matthew (Westland), St. Michael (Wayne), St. Paul (Northville), Salem National (Westland), Shadow of the Cross (Farmington Hills), and University Lutheran Chapel (Ann Arbor).

Save the date to attend this fundraiser! More information about registration and ticket sales will be available in the COS update.

TEXAS HOEDOWN

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 5

JOINT YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Food, fun & dancing for the whole family!

Ticket sales support those attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

A Time for Action

Woman of the Year: Gini Krenz

Our annual Advent by Candlelight event encourages the women in the congregation to share a beautiful evening together with fellowship, food, and a focus on learning about ministries. It's been a tradition at Christ Our Savior for many years and we hope it will continue for many more.

One significant part of the program is the announcement of the COS Woman of the Year. This honor is given to a different woman in our congregation every year, based on her faithful service to Jesus around COS and with other ministries. Members of the congregation make nominations as a way to recognize those who selflessly serve others.

Last December, Gini Krenz was announced as the 2022 Woman of the Year. She is a familiar face around our church: in addition to regularly attending worship services and Bible classes, she and her husband, Bob, serve as greeters and are always active participants at voter's meetings. The Woman of the Year honor comes after her recent efforts to build our presence in the community as part of the Community Needs committee.

Gini originally hails from Buffalo, New York, but she and Bob have lived in the Detroit area for almost 50 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren, all of whom live in the metro Detroit area. In her free time, Gini enjoys quilting (she has made over 90 quilts), sewing with her granddaughters, and keeping up-to-date on local politics. She is currently on the committee to help revitalize Historic Greenmead in Livonia.

Church life has always been very important for Bob and Gini. They have been members of COS since September 2004. Gini was raised in the catholic church, but became a Lutheran in the '70s. For many years they attended Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ECLA) in Livonia where Gini worked as a bookkeeper for 15 years. They became concerned about the direction they saw their church taking and decided they needed to find a new place to worship. They landed at Christ Our Savior. One of the first things Gini noticed was the presence in the sanctuary; she immediately felt like she was "in church." At that time, our congregation was going through the book *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, and many small groups were started as a



result. Gini and Bob joined one of these small groups before officially joining the church, and were impressed by the level of involvement among the members of the congregation. For Gini, the focus on God's Word came as a breath of fresh air and joining our congregation felt like a rebirth.

They have watched COS change since 2004. They admired Pastor Werth's leadership and also felt the leading of the Holy Spirit in the call process for Pastor Davenport. Recently, they have seen how we changed and adapted with the outbreak of COVID-19, and rejoiced that we were able to keep services going despite all of the changes and restrictions.

In late 2020, another growing experience was started when our congregation was given a survey to identify the needs of our church. Part of that process required calls to be made to each ministry leader to get their direct feedback. Gini was one of the members asked to help with this project. During the process she talked to many different people and heard their complaints, comments, and opinions on the ministry at COS. She describes it as a real learning experience, talking with so many different people and hearing so many different perspectives. This fueled her to take action. She attended the Strategic Operations Workshop, which followed up the surveys and the discussions there gave her the idea of participating in the Community Needs Committee. She wanted to make sure that follow-up happened, and that people's concerns were heard and acted on. She was excited to work with Linda Waara, another member who is passionate about reaching out to the community and practically living out our call to love our neighbor. They have been hard at work ever since.

Community Needs Congregational Meeting Report

11/15/21 Highlights

Submitted by Gini Krenz

Last February, twenty-two members of the congregation met for a weekend retreat to discuss where the church was, where it is now and what direction it will go in the future. This retreat, the Strategic Operations Workshop, involved many hours discussing and prioritizing the goals of Christ Our Savior. Community Needs was one of the first five groupings going forward. This article highlights some of what has been gathered so far with more to come.

DID YOU KNOW about Lutheran Church Charities and comfort dogs? LCC is the organization that provided us with the Hearts of Compassion and Mercy, and they also have a comfort dog program. Trinity Lutheran Church in Toledo participates in the comfort dog program and recently visited Lutheran High West to comfort the students following the tragedy in Oxford. They were also in the Oxford area. There are so many opportunities for a comfort dog to be present, i.e., when a family loses their house to fire, when police see a horrible accident or shooting, or to cheer patients in the hospital, senior living and nursing homes, etc. The more we talked the more we became aware of other opportunities to serve so we are very excited about participating in this loving ministry in the future.

DID YOU KNOW about the First Responders Foundation in Livonia? When our first responders see an immediate need of people involved in their worst nightmare: fires, homelessness, domestic abuse or another crisis situation, expenses for clothing, hotel rooms, meals, stuffed animals for children, etc. are costs the responders often bear themselves. The foundation also provides mental health counseling for the officers from stress on the job. The foundation holds fundraisers to reimburse our first responders. We are also

excited about participating in this program.

DID YOU KNOW Wellspring, formerly Livonia Woods and our neighbor on Farmington road, welcomed us this past Spring to plant flowers by the main entrance to be enjoyed by the residents. We see many more congregational volunteer opportunities such as crafts, Bible study, gardening, and fellowship.

DID YOU KNOW there will soon be volunteer opportunities at St. Mary's Hospital as soon as COVID restrictions are lifted. This would involve working with patients, greeting visitors, and possibly working with patients in the oncology unit. It is the hope of hospital administration to start a veterans program in the near future. There will be training for those who are interested in volunteering.

DID YOU KNOW COS has just begun to advertise in the Livonia Today Magazine, and we are excited that this magazine reaches 44,000 homes in Livonia. Have you seen our ad?

DID YOU KNOW that the City of Livonia has an Office of Emergency Preparedness which coordinates with FEMA to work in Southeast Michigan following disasters such as the repeated flooding this past summer in Detroit and Dearborn. There are volunteer opportunities here which includes three days of training.

We have given you much to think about. Hopefully, one of these opportunities will touch your heart giving you a chance to serve. We will share more with you in future Disciplegrams.

Contact Gini Krenz (248-471-5066) or Linda Waara (734-525-0191) for more information. We will be happy to connect you.

Lutheran Hour Ministries Booklets

A Christ Our Savior Community Needs Project

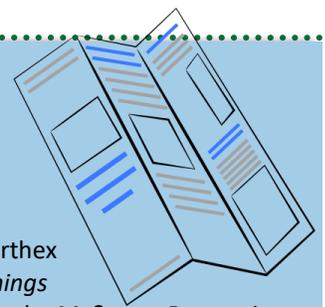
Submitted by Linda Waara

One of the projects that arose from The Community Needs Sub-Committee of last spring's Strategic Operations Workshop is to make Lutheran Hour Ministry booklets widely available—to members, visitors, friends, the public at large. Encouraging each other in Christ and promoting the Gospel message is an overall community need. These inspirational brochures are a stress-free method of getting God's encouraging Word into the hands of people we know are hurting.

The Scripture-filled booklets address a wide variety of stressful issues that we all come across, in one form or another, in our lives. They are filled with Scriptural wisdom on confronting and managing some of life's 'gut-wrenching' trials.

Some of our newer titles in the narthex brochure rack are: *Why Do Bad Things Happen?*, *Has God Abandoned Me?*, *Depression: Understanding Pieces of the Puzzle, Loved...And Not Forgotten*, and *The Great Deceiver*. Other titles in the LHM brochure rack for your edification are: *Grief: Where Sadness and Hope Meet*, *Prayer: When You Don't Know What to Say*, *No Need to Fear: Dealing with Anxiety*, *An Ingrate's Guide to Contentment*, and *The Mystery of You: Clues to Your True Identity*.

There is a source of hope and healing when life knocks us down—we don't have to stay down! Get back up, recall Jesus' words to Paul, "My grace is sufficient." Take a look at these booklets! Make use of them!





Christmas at Family of God

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

First and foremost, we cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support in the ministry. We have always been grateful for the support of our congregations, but as things and circumstances continue to change, we are realizing more and more just how much God provides through our congregations, specifically through Christ Our Savior. From the three meal teams, to the financial dedication, countless personal relationships and prayers, to the recent Christmas involvement, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

This year, many of you helped to provide Christmas gifts for our children. So many of you were eager to help, that we actually had to turn some of you away! Praise the Lord for your willingness to serve. Because of you, we were able to provide gifts for 20 kids. We do realize that this was less than previous years, but that is because we wanted to be more intentional with the giving of the gifts. Families came and picked up gifts at Family of God and either opened them there, or (because we trust these families) took them home to open on Christmas Day. Feedback from parents and kids was outstanding. They were so grateful to have something to open on Christmas Day. If you provided gifts, expect a

“thank you” note in your mailbox in the coming weeks.

We will be thinking of different ways to get the congregation even more involved next Christmas and we are looking forward to that! Happy New Year, friends. We are excited for another year of partnering in the Gospel mission of making disciples of all nations. On behalf of Pastor Jim, Pastor Tim, Vicar Nick, Deacon John, thank you. May God bless you all.

Rev Tyler R. Cronkright
Pastor Tyler

Pr. Tyler offered us the opportunity to shop for a Family of God child. He gave me Jeremiah—a 5 or 6 month old baby. When our team served at FOG on January 3, Jeremiah’s Mom sought me out. She was so very grateful for the gifts she and Jeremiah received. I was able to see this beautiful baby, meet his mom and grandmother. It was such a tender moment and an honor to be a part of Jeremiah’s first Christmas.

Gini Krenz



The Youth Group is doing sub sandwich fundraiser again this year! Order subs (turkey or cold-cut) to serve at your super bowl parties. The price is \$6 for one 8-inch sub sandwich, \$16 for three. Place your orders on the website (christoursavior.org/supersubs), by calling the church office, or by visiting the table in the narthex between Sunday services. The deadline for orders is Tuesday, February 8. Subs must be picked up after services on February 13. Payment is preferred when ordering but can be given at pick-up. Online payments are not available.

All proceeds will be used for youth events such as the National Youth Gathering, the Michigan District Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings, and more. We appreciate your continued support our of youth!

Let Us Know How You'd Like to Receive

the Disciplegram

If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, email Alyssa Anders at alyssaa@christoursavior.org.

Include your preferred email address and the current mailing address where you receive the Disciplegram newsletter.

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:

Betty & Sharon Priebe
Betty & Sharon Priebe
Betty & Sharon Priebe
Bruce Dane
Dr. John Herzog

Carol Bird
Betty Priebe
Wil Foulkrod
Sharon & Betty Priebe
Sharon & Betty Priebe
Sharon Priebe
Pastor Joseph Fabry
Betty Priebe
George David Milz
Sharon Priebe
Todd Zaske
Ruth Werth

Intended for:

Miscellaneous Memorials
Miscellaneous Memorials
Altar Guild
Miscellaneous Memorials
Lutheran High School
Association
Music Ministry
Miscellaneous Memorials
Music Ministry
Altar Guild
Music Ministry
Miscellaneous Memorials
Missions
Good Samaritan Fund
Good Samaritan Fund
Good Samaritan Fund
Good Samaritan Fund
Miscellaneous Memorials

Given by:

Gary & Laura Thomas
John & Janice Camp
Carolyn Heidelmeyer
Gary L. & Teresa Bennett
William A. Ruth
Susan E. Bird
Patrick & Nancy Beecher
Betty Foulkrod
Janice Schoenburg
Judy Mayle
Patrick & Nancy Beecher
Judy Mayle
Bill & Debbie Reynolds
Bill & Debbie Reynolds
Bill & Debbie Reynolds
Bill & Debbie Reynolds
Arta Smith

Gifts in memory of Robert Marzinski

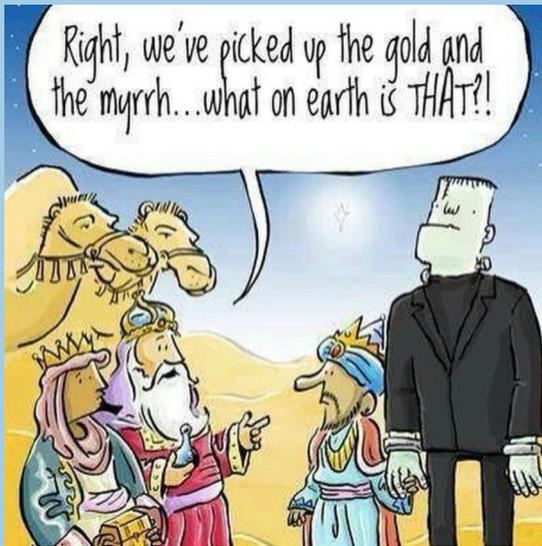
Intended for:

Music Ministry

Given by:

Kitty Witt, Philip & Jennifer Krauss, Robert & Gini Krenz, Janice & John McIntosh, David & Susan Hoffmeister, Robert & Janet Ball, Claudia Hickley c/o Shannon Schroeder, Wayne & Barbara Bernier, Lois Drake, Ruth Germeroth, Steve & Mary White, Anthony & Mary Neam, Dianne Webster, Donna & Ervin Kowalski, David & Susan Coulson, Michael & Ruth Farabaugh, Michael & Mary McGrath, Debra Kaminski, Douglas & Katherine Abraham, Ron, Dan & Kim Imperati, Lisa & Jerry Ruelle, Peter & Judith Garrison, the Godin Clan c/o Robert & Susan Hurzfeld, and anonymous.

The Lighter Side



Food For Thought

"THE PERSON WHO LOVES THEIR DREAM OF COMMUNITY WILL DESTROY COMMUNITY, BUT THE PERSON WHO LOVES THOSE AROUND THEM WILL CREATE COMMUNITY."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

Meaning Behind "The Twelve Days of Christmas"



You've probably heard the Old English Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" many times. Have you ever wondered about lyrics? One story about the song goes back to the years from 1558 to 1829, when Roman Catholics in England weren't allowed to openly practice their faith. It's possible that this song was written in code so they could sing publicly about their faith. Each line has a spiritual significance, hidden behind a slew of characters leaping and a-swimming. Our "True Love" refers to Jesus Christ, because Love was truly born on Christmas Day.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. Partridges are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect their young by faking an injury to draw predators away.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.