CROSSWORDS

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

 Another church year has come and gone. The seasons of the church begin anew this December with Advent. As we go through the church year, aside from Easter, this is my favorite time of the year. As one church year ends and another begins, we see the place where we are at clearly in terms of our faith. We are in a time of waiting. What we wait for is Christ to return as He said He would.

 At the end of the church year we remember the Last Day and the life to come. In Advent, we remember the time we are in now as we wait patiently. Patient waiting is something that can be hard to do. Children we see remind us of that throughout December as they await the arrival of gifts. As adults, we are bombarded with messages from society of ‘why wait, get what you want now.’ You may notice that the world seems to celebrate Christmas in November and buying everything you want for yourself now.

 As Christians, we can treat God the same way. “Why doesn’t God come back now? Why doesn’t God bring healing now? Why does God allow bad things to happen to me?” Perhaps these are the thoughts that go through your mind as you wonder when Christ is coming back. As Christians, we are called to see what God has already given us. That is the healing that comes through forgiveness from Christ’s sacrifice on the cross! When it comes to gifts, we have been given greats gifts: Baptism, absolution, The Lord’s Supper. All things needed to sustain our faith until Christ returns.

 So we wait as people who (should) wait patiently and with excitement for Christmas. We also wait with joy over what Christ has already given us, the cleansing of our sins. This Advent and Christmas, make use of time to worship and realize what is important. It is not the gifts and things we give each other; it is the true gifts from God that only matter.

 I wish everyone a very blessed Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Brian

P.S. Please do come out and enjoy the special events going on at church: Advent by Candlelight and the Live Nativity. Also, as we go toward the end of the year we will be starting a campaign to raise funds to pay off the loan on our church. Prayerfully consider what you would be willing to give to make payment on the principal of the outstanding loan balance

 **NEWS AND NOTES:**

* **FAITH SHARING TIPS** (from the Evangelism Committee): 1) All the Christmas gifts in the world cannot compare to the blessings of God. The best things are as nothing without the Lord. “I said to the Lord, apart from you I have no good thing.” Psalm 14:2; 2) The best thing parents can spend on their children is time, not money. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverb 22:8.
* **OUR GIVING:** Needed each week: $2,574. Received: 10/29 $1,074; 11/5 $3,933; 11/12 $1,685; 11/19 $1,219. As of 11/19/17 we are - $18,598.
* **SPECIAL DECEMBER DATES:** 12/1 Advent by Candlelight; 12/3 Advent Brunch; 12/15&16- Live Nativity; 12/24 Christmas Eve Worship; 12/25 Christmas Day Celebration. Check your Bulletins for times for these events.
* **We need your help for the Live Nativity**. We need “actors”, hosts, cookies—**YOU.** Signup sheets will be on a Narthex bulletin board soon. This is a very special event for the community and we need you to help us make it a success. Thanks in advance.
* Don’t forget **SCRIP** cards Orders are due the last Sunday of each month. December order dates before Christmas are Dec. 10th and 17th. These cards make great Christmas Gifts! Also, don’t forget to save your **TIMERS** **RECEIPTS**. An envelope marked “Timers Receipts” is on Pastor’s desk by the Scrip orders bin.
* When you make a purchase on **Amazon.com**, pick Lutheran Chapel of the Cross as your charity and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to church. **The web address is: smile.amazon.com.** Check Lutheran Chapel of the Cross, Mt. Pleasant, as your charity and continue on as usual placing your order.

Items for the January Crosswords need to be submitted by December 24th.