From the Pastor -- Pray and Wait

This coming weekend, November 24-25, marks the end of our church year with Christ the King worship. We begin again on December 2 with the first Sunday in Advent. Advent, as you know, is the season of waiting. We’re actually waiting for the second coming of Christ when a rule of justice and righteousness will come. Yet as we wait, we anticipate the arrival again of baby Jesus lying in the manger. This baby is a tangible reminder that God is truly with us; God incarnate. God is here with us in 2018. To me, this Advent seems more poignant that ever.

Like many of you, I remember exactly where I was on 9/11 and when the Columbine shooting happened. We were shocked by the terror of it all. Now unfortunately, these events are much more common. There is a heaviness and people are tired of watching the news. We need hope. We need God with skin on.

So for the first three Sundays in Advent, we are going to stop and pray. December 2, 9, and 16, there will be a prayer service from 5:00-6:00pm. Pastors Pancoast and Davis and I will be leading at our respective churches. For an hour, we can pray together. Find hope. Light candles. There will be prayer prompts, books with prayer. Every ten minutes, we’ll stop to hear Holy words – words that can and do pierce the darkness. God promises to hear our prayers. Join in as a community of faith so we can be God with skin on to each other. Join us!

Pastor Ruth Ann

Christmas Eve worship on December 24!

If you find yourself away for the holidays, I pray you find a place to worship. Here at home, with the sanctuary all dressed up, God is in the manger and in the house. “Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!”

Christmas Eve 4 pm: An interactive live nativity service where children will get to dress up as shepherds, angels, wise people and sheep! Worship will include carols, Holy Communion with hot chocolate and candy canes after worship. It will be perfect for young families or grandchildren!

Christmas Eve 7 pm: This service will be like Christmas dinner with all the fixings. A more traditional worship with God’s Word, Holy Communion, Glory Singers, trumpet, and candles to raise on Silent Night. Come all ye faithful to worship baby Jesus!

Christmas Eve 10 pm: If you want a quieter service to end the day, consider the 10:00pm. There will still be carols and Holy Communion, but a more reflective message to carry us into Christmas Day. The candles and singing of Silent Night will usher us out under the stars the shepherds once gazed at.

Let’s Get Ready! We need your help to get the church decorated for Advent and Christmas celebrations! We will decorate the altar trees on Tuesday, December 4, and if we have enough helpers it can all be done & ready on Sunday! If you can help, please contact Sarajane Grandia at (970) 667-8785.

Youth and Children’s Christmas Program to be Sunday, December 16 at 8:30am worship. “The Donkey’s Dream” is based on a book by the same name written by Barbara Helen Berger. I became familiar with this lovely story of the birth of Christ as seen through the eyes of the little donkey. So often in our “high-tech” world, we impose upon children the “mini-adult” version of the birth in which children know the “lingo” but lack the understanding of the wonder. In “The Donkey’s Dream” we have tried to present this blessed event in the context of the world of children. How better to do that than through the eyes of the little donkey. Come support KOG’s youth and children. Wonder yourself!

Dr. Jane Andrews

The KOG 2018 Christmas Bazaar was a huge success! The proceeds from the bake sale, gift baskets, Silent Auction, lunch, King of Glory Boutique tables and Quilters are being donated to LuMin (campus ministry), Sky Ranch Camp, Kids Pak and our Faith Formation Ministry. Last year, we raised over $12,000. This year we have topped that, with a net of more than $16,000! Thank you!

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The Messenger – King of Glory Lutheran Church –
UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

The Giving Tree (with changes!)  
This year the Larimer County Department of Human Services has changed their program for donating Christmas gifts to local children dealing with poverty and challenging family circumstances. They no longer wish to receive wrapped Christmas gifts for specific children as we have done in the past, but instead have requested a general toy drive. They would like donations of new, unwrapped toys for a girl or boy of any age. Case workers will sort through the donated toys and distribute them to the appropriate children in their caseloads. If you would like to participate you can place an unwrapped new toy under the tree in the concourse. There will also be a box for gift cards, which are also welcome. The deadline to donate toys will be Sunday, Dec. 16. Thank you for your generosity in helping to brighten a child’s Christmas.

Michael Peterson Concert and Col. Jill Chambers Workshop  
November 30th and December 1st  
A Holiday Concert & Workshop for our community, Veterans, Military Families, First Responders and everyone else! Join us for a night of Patriotic, Country, Gospel and Christmas music with million selling Country star and Grammy nominee: Michael Peterson. www.michaelpetersononline.com. The Concert is at 7:00pm. Come again on Saturday, 10:00am to hear how Army Women’s Hall of Fame inductee Col. (retired) Jill Chambers overcame Post Traumatic Stress suffered as a result of being in the Pentagon on 9/11. She will share non-pharmaceutical tools to help those looking to heal from PTS and mild TBI. I promise you’ll experience an evening of entertainment and healing support. Jill will fill you with her energy and passion for life!

Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers will be in concert at King of Glory Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Come for “A Light of Song!” Admission at the door: $18 for adults, $5 for students… more info at www.rockymountainchambersingers.org

2018 Annual Meeting:  
On Sunday December 9, we will gather in the Fellowship Room for our 2018 Annual Meeting. I’m very excited about this meeting because we continue the conversation about “42 and Forward.” God is leading us into a new future! The agenda will include a variety of mission oriented items. First, we will vote on a slate of officers and council members for 2019. These are very important positions as our council members make up the leadership of King of Glory. Secondly we will review and vote on the 2019 budget. You will recall that council came to you in August asking if you would support two new staff positions: a 30 hour week Worship & Music Minister, and a full time position for a Deacon. Unanimously, you approved that trajectory. Our 2019 budget reflects those choices. So please come to discuss, ask questions, pray and vote. We will host a “Budget Information” session on Sunday, December 2 for anyone who has questions prior to the meeting. Thank you for being active members of an active church walking boldly forward in faith through the Holy Spirit! Pastor Ruth Ann

The Longest Night Worship – 7:00pm, Friday, December 21 at Zion Lutheran (815 E. 16th St.)  
Are you feeling the Christmas blues? Missing that special someone? There will be an empty place at the table. It’s the first holiday without her. He won’t be carving the turkey or telling his old familiar jokes. Not everyone is ‘jolly’ at your house? Come and worship with others who are feeling similar things. Invite a friend who has lost a loved one. Pastor Chris Davis will preach a message of comfort. It may take courage to show up, but God who knows the dark valley meets us there. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4) Join us, on the Longest Night of the year.

137 Homeless Connection  
“She gave birth to her firstborn son…and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn...” Mary and Joseph would have been out in the chilly night had they not found shelter for her to give birth. When we host 137 clients, we are giving them shelter from the chilly nights so they don’t have to be out on the streets.  
137 Homeless Connection (137 S. Lincoln Ave) is a Day Center that offers advocacy and case management for homeless adults. Day Center is open year round 8:00-11:30am Mon-Sat for all clients, 1:00-4:00pm Mon-Thurs by appointment and scheduled classes, mentoring and training. Eligible clients are offered case management, advocacy and referrals including mental health assessments and substance abuse counseling. They also offer showers. (cont…)
laundry, storage, phone, computer and mail services. 137 Homeless Connection is a place that listens to the needs of those who are seeking assistance, connecting them to resources, encouraging hope for the future, and providing inclement weather shelter. (http://www.lovelandshelter.com/)

For many years, KOG has been hosting 137 clients the week of Christmas. We also prepare a Christmas Eve dinner and have gift bags filled with socks, fruit and toiletries. We may never know what our hospitality conveys. The writer of Hebrews says: “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:1-2) Will you join in this Christmas? Sign up in the concourse!

Rethink Advent and Christmas through ELCA Good Gifts

Americans spend over $300 billion on Christmas shopping every year...that’s with a “B.” Substituting one traditional gift with one from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog would redirect a significant amount of that money toward the fight against hunger and poverty.

Check out the Good Gifts display on the bulletin boards across from the main door. If you want to give gifts represented by an ornament, just pick up the ornaments you want and write a check to King of Glory (indicating on the memo line what good gifts you are buying). We will forward the money to ELCA World Hunger with directions for the use. You can also use the order form inside the catalogs or shop online at ELCA.org/goodgifts. You are more than welcome to take a catalog home with you…we have lots more to share!

The bulletin board/display table also contains the 2018 Good Gifts Advent Calendar. Each day is a reminder of the reason for the season with hymns, prayers, Bible verses, and information about how ELCA Good Gifts make a difference in the world. Copies of the 2018 Advent Study are also available. The booklet is full of new weekly devotions, prayers, blessings and hymn suggestions (to read even if you don’t sing!).

Staff Appreciation Fund

The Administrative Council once again invites you to contribute to a Staff Appreciation Fund which will be distributed among all of the paid staff members who have served us during 2018. Contributions can be made in several ways: 1) by writing a check to King of Glory and indicating “Staff Appreciation” in the memo line; 2) by going to our VANCO on-line giving site through our KOG website DONATE button or our QRCode or the GivePLUS+ mobile app and entering a donation in the Special Appeals Fund; 3) by texting 970.999.1463, setting up an account, and entering a donation ($50 STAFF). Cash is also welcome! Donation envelopes can be found near the bulletins for worship services. The deadline for contributions to this fund is Sunday, December 16. THANKS for your generosity!

L2F2 Christmas Events -- the details!

**Young Adult Bowling - December 6!**

All young adults and friends are welcome to join together for bowling fellowship on Thursday Dec. 6 beginning at 7:00pm at The Summit in Windsor. RSVP to Madeline by Sunday December 2!

**Parents Night Out!**

Parents! Do you need a night off, so you can go Christmas shopping without the kids in tow? How about a date night with your spouse in the middle of December craziness? Well – you just got your wish! Saturday, December 8 High School and Middle School youth will hang out with your children at Zion from 5-8 pm so you can have a Parents Night Out! Dinner is free and the nursery will be staffed by Zion’s regular nursery attendant (an adult). RSVP to Madeline Fairfax at fatihformation@zionloveland.com by December 2.

**Middle School Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 9, Noon-2:00pm** at Zion Lutheran Church. All Middle School Youth are invited for lunch and games to celebrate Christmas! We will also have a gift exchange – please bring a small wrapped gift under $5.00.
High School Christmas Party is Friday, Dec. 14, 6:00-8:00pm at the Elder’s home, 5225 Fallgold Dr, Loveland. We will gather together for dinner and Christmas fun, including a small gift exchange! Bring 2-3 very small wrapped gifts (no more than $1-$3 each). RSVP to Madeline by December 9 (419) 720-6233 or faithformation@zionlutheran.com

Bridge Ministry Christmas Lunch Dec. 18
We are having a Christmas get-together for lunch and fellowship with other seniors from Zion and Trinity on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Meet at 11:30am at the Pizza Ranch. Bring money for lunch, the Pizza Ranch offers a senior rate for the lunch buffet.

STUDY & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS
Sonrisers – The men’s theological book study group meets every Thursday at 7:00am year-round at Perkins on Eisenhower. For more information and the current book title, please contact Bill McDivitt (970-669-4090)

Prayer Shawl – Knitting & crocheting group welcomes all levels of crafters. Meets on the first Monday of the month, December 3 at 1:00pm in the church library. For more info please contact Barb-Brackin Bartel (970-213-3256).

Peace Circle – Peace Circle will meet at Noon on December 12 for the annual Christmas Luncheon. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and 1:00pm Bible study in the church fellowship room. Please RSVP to Barb Brackin-Bartel (970)213-3256. Hostesses are Barb Bartel & Joyce Tyson. All ladies welcome!

Glory Readers Book Club – Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 20 at 12:00pm in the office conference room. The book selection for December is Pelican Point, by Irene Hannon. For more information, call Barb Bartel (970-213-3256). New readers are welcome, please join us!

2nd Wind – Retired men, this group is for you! They meet at 9:30am on the 3rd Friday of the month (December 21) in the Fellowship Room. The group is open to any retired guy – newly retired or even if you’ve had the hang of this for years! Snacks and coffee are always supplied. Topics are varied and the conversation inspiring! Call Jerome Beckmann for more information. (970-669-0341).

Pastor’s Thursday Bible Study
Thursday morning Bible study continues at 9:30am weekly. (except: No Bible Study on December 27). We examine the Bible texts for the upcoming week and we laugh a whole bunch! This is an easy Bible study to join. You don’t need to know it all, or any of it! Just come – ask questions – and open yourself up to God who meets us always in God’s Living Word!

Prayer Requests - If you have a special prayer request please contact the church office and indicate whether you want the prayer to be public or for the confidential prayer chain. You may call or email the church office (970-669-5983); office@aplace2grow.org, or Pr Ruth Ann at Ruthann@aplace2grow.org

December NEWS from Lutheran Campus Ministry: LuMiN
Please pray for students, faculty and staff as this semester comes to a close this December. Consider giving a Christmas or year-end gift to Lutheran Campus Ministry in honor of someone you love. Your gifts provide opportunities for students to experience a faith community, worship, Bible studies, service opportunities, and retreats. *For more information about Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado contact Pastor Deb Abbott at pastor@lecmgreeley.org or visit www.lecmgreeley.org.

*For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University contact Pastor Paul Judson at pastor@lcmscu.org or visit www.lcmscu.org. Thank you for your support!

Once a month during the school year we serve a meal and enjoy fellowship with the students who worship at Lutheran campus ministry. If you would like to help with the dinner, please contact Jan DesJardin. The next dinner is December 2.
**FINANCIALS & COUNCIL NEWS**

**Year-to-date Financial Update**
Through the month of October, we have collected 74% of our budgeted contributions. Unfortunately, we have spent $21,000 more than we have collected through general offerings and building use fees through the first ten months.

The coming weeks are critical to the financial health of this year’s NON-DESIGNATED budget and the reserves to give us a good start on next year’s increased spending plan. This is the money that pays salaries, utilities and other property expenses, the mortgage, faith formation activities, parish life activities, worship, outreach benevolence, etc. In many ways, these are the offerings that allow us to continue being a church!

Offerings designated for specific causes are wonderful…but the basic budget is equally important. Can you consider a special gift to general contributions between now and the end of December?

**Financial Summary thru October 31**

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<th>2017 MONTH</th>
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**Recommended Donations for House of Neighborly Service (HNS) - December request is for flour and baking mixes. Please drop off your donation in the “House” in the center octagon. Thank you!**

**Year End Business!**
If you use offering envelopes and would like a box for next year, please let us know. There will be a signup sheet in the concourse.

**At the end of Dec, please discard all of your envelopes from 2018 and previous years.** We always have to assign new envelope numbers for the New Year. Thank you!

**King of Glory Staff**
Ruth Ann Loughry, Pastor
ruthann@aplace2grow.org
Kathy Gustad, Admin. Assistant/Editor
office@aplace2grow.org
Dr. Jane Andrews, Music & Choir Director
jea814@gmail.com
Kathy Pensack-Rinehart, Worship Accompanist
Rachel Williams, Nursery Attendant
Darrell Phelps, Custodian/Maintenance

**2018 Church Council**
Officers
Eric Backsen, President
Leo Salazar, Vice-President
Carol McDivitt, Treasurer
Nancy Judson, Secretary

Members at Large
Joe Asmus
Lee Holmquist
Pat Johnson
Ted Schmidt

**The Next Messenger Deadline is December 16.**
Please submit your articles for the January issue on time to office@aplace2grow.org. Thank you!
King of Glory Lutheran Church
2919 N. Wilson Avenue
Loveland, CO 80538-2461

Sermon on the web:
www.kingofgloryloveland.com

“As God’s People, Graced by Differences, Nurtured by the Spirit, and Gifted to Serve, We Invite and Welcome All to Grow in Faith.”

December 2018

Dec. 1 – 10:00am PTS Workshop with Col. Jill Chambers
Dec. 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent
Dec. 4 – Decorate the Christmas trees!
Dec. 9 – 9:40am Annual Meeting
Dec. 16 – Children’s Christmas Program; Deadline for Giving Tree
Dec. 21 – 7:00pm Longest Night service at Zion
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – services at 4:00, 7:00, and 10:00pm