



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022

Worship God.

Follow Jesus.

Serve Others

“He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. But to all who received him, who believed in in his name, he gave power to become children of God.”

John 1:10, 12

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

What a marvelous time of year is Christmas. A season of joy, gladness, giving, receiving, singing, loving, caring and watching. Each of us may have various traditions, decorations, recipes, and gatherings, but many of these do not occur any other time of the year but Christmas.

It's easy for us to get caught up in the celebration of Christmas, but forget the real reason for the season. When God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world, the world changed forever. And it is our celebration of Christmas that recognizes the coming of Jesus and rejoices in the life changing, world changing presence of the Son of God, Prince of Peace and Savior of the world.

Many of us also know the truth of the verse quoted above from the gospel of John...“the world did not know him.” The manifestation of continuing sin (war, crime, hate, violence, hunger, homelessness, and much more) indicates that the One who came into the world to give victory over sin and death is not known or welcomed by all the world. As Jesus entered the world He created, He came with the purpose of reconciling us to the God who loves us and desires our love in return.

When we recognize and receive this Jesus, we find freedom and love and grace beyond measure. And again as the scripture states above, we receive “power to become children of God.” May this be so in each of our lives this Christmas and all through the year.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to you!

Wade S. Panse, Pastor

HARDING’S REWARDS

We recently received another check from the *HARDING’S REWARDS* Program. The check for \$50.87 is the result of nine church shoppers using the rewards program. If you are not currently using the program and are interested, the church office can help you sign-up.

SEWING SOWERS 2022 REPORT

During 2022, the CUMC Sewing Sowers made pillowcases for Operation Christmas Tree boxes, baby blankets for the Foster Care supply room in Edwardsburg, and forty adult bibs for the Council of Aging and the Cass County Medical Facility. (Two other special 2022 activities will be featured in the January 2023 newsletter.)

The Sewing Sowers meets on the third Tuesday of every month in their newly designated room on the ground floor of the Fellowship Hall. Take a peek at the room with its cute wall hangings, curtains, and supplies any time OR stop by on sewing day and join in the fun of using fabric and sewing to sow seeds of kindness in the community. No experience is necessary; there is always a task for everyone.

DECEMBER HUMOR

If you cannot find joy in the beauty of snow this season, you will have less joy in your life, but the same amount of snow.

Thank You Notes Received

THANK YOU

Patti and I thank you very much for the kind and generous expressions of love you extended to us in the month of October. While October is a month marked for Pastor Appreciation, we receive much love and support and appreciation throughout the year. Thank you.

The monetary gift given to Asbury Theological Seminary in my honor was greatly appreciated. The gift has been deposited in the Michigan Conference Scholarship Fund at the Seminary. Students at ATS from our Conference are able to receive financial assistance through this fund. It is surely welcomed and appreciated.

*Dear church family,
Thank you for my Birthday Celebration and cards. I especially would like to thank Vicki and Char for their cake and hot fudge sundaes with nuts.*

God Bless,

Ann Felton

CROP WALK UPDATE:

As reported in our last newsletter, the 2022 CROP Walk raised \$12,708, the largest amount collected since 2013. Each organization in Cass County received \$635 for their cause. The local organizations that benefit from this event are Helping Hands, Edwardsburg Emergency Fund, Marcellus Community Food Pantry, Feed My Sheep and My Brother's Keeper. Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated!

THANKSGIVING PROJECT

The items we collected for the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Shelter were well received and much appreciated! There was a large variety of clothing and food items donated by our generous church family. Thank you for your support and thank you to Vicki Beebe for managing this project.



Thank you everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child this season! We filled 30 shoe boxes for children in need. This is a wonderful way to share the love of Christ and spread the good news of the Gospel to others around the world. Please continue to pray that the children who receive these gifts, do so with an open mind and heart.

DECEMBER SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION

“Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”



December Sermon Schedule

Dec. 4	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>"Mary's Song"</i>	<i>Luke 1:46-55</i>
Dec. 11	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Joy</i>	<i>"Angels' Song"</i>	<i>Luke 2:13-14</i>
Dec. 18	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<i>"Simeon's Song"</i>	<i>Luke 2:28-32</i>
Dec. 25	<i>Christmas Sunday</i>	<i>Incarnation</i>	<i>"Our Song"</i>	<i>John 1:1-14</i>



DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10 AM All Saints Sunday <i>Holy Communion</i>	5 Christmas By Candlelight 6 PM	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Gretchen Kelley</i>
11 Worship 10 AM <i>Mary Brugel</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 10 AM Zack & Carey May-Fox	19	20 <i>Carl Moraw</i>	21 <i>Carl & Jane Moraw</i>	22	23	24 <i>St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1</i>
25	26	27 <i>Cindy Peters</i>	28	29 <i>Dawn Atkinson</i>	30	31

If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office now.