

All  
WHO HEARD  
WERE  
Amazed



*Worship Folder for January 3, 2021*

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

[www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

# Christ Ev. Lutheran Church *Information to help you stay connected and get involved!*

## CHURCH INFORMATION

<b>Pastor</b>	Sam Biebert	<b>Church Office</b>	763.689.5333
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## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | January 4 – January 10

<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:00pm	Adult Discipleship Meeting
	5:30pm	Church Council Meeting
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:30pm	Zoom Bible Class
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00am	Worship
	10:00am	Information Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Undecorating** Our Christmas decorations will come down on **Saturday, January 9** at 10:00am. Any help would be appreciated.

**Envelopes** Offering envelopes are available on the table in the fellowship hall and statements were handed out. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Klawiter. Thank you.

**Plan to attend!** There will be an info meeting on **January 10** and a Voter's meeting on **January 17**.

**Grab your Copy!** Copies of the January Newsletter and the new Forward in Christ are on the entryway table.

**Bible Class** Zoom Bible Class will resume on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30pm.

**Sunday School** Packets are available for your children. Please make sure to grab one. you for working with us to keep this very important aspect of growing in faith going.



“Here am I. Send me!”  
Isaiah 6:8

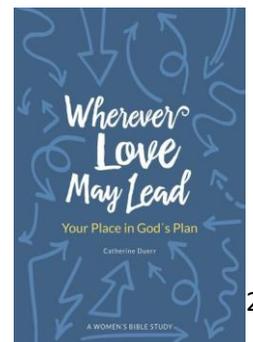
**Ushers:** Brian M., Austin, Brian L.   **Counters:** Sean, Emma

**Cleaners:** Paul & Joella S., Shawn & Sarah M.

## Women's Bible Study

Women of Christ! Are you looking to get in the Word and fuel your faith? Don't let your oil run low! Join our new Women's Bible Study! Our study will

begin on **Monday, January 18** and will be held on **Monday evenings** (via Zoom) at **6pm**. Contact Cliss Loescher with questions!



## MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

**Opening Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** (Christian Worship #65)

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)*  
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:  
**God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,  
**We lie and do not live by the truth.**

If we claim to be without sin,  
**We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

### **Confession of Sin**

**Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

*Silence for personal examination and confession.*

### **Absolution**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*One of the chief reasons why so many people reject the truth about the real Jesus is that he is hidden in such lowliness. They want a splendid looking Jesus, noble and heroic in appearance, who will bring outward peace and prosperity, and make me always happy. But the real Jesus comes from some no-account back water town in a country despised and defeated. When he comes, he comes as a shepherd of the flock whose full glory will not be evident until he comes the second time. For now his glory is real but hidden; it is hidden under the reality that he is gathering his people by his Word. As miraculously as he gathers them, so miraculously he preserves them in faith until faith is transformed into sight at his second coming. Your recognition of him and your holding to him is a miracle too. With the passing of each Christmas that miracle is more impressive than before. Still, after so often wandering, still he shepherds me by his Word and preserves me in his fold!*

### **First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore the LORD will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> This one will be their peace.  
When Assyria invades our land  
and tramples on our citadels.

### **Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says:  
I will declare your name to my brothers.  
Within the congregation I will sing your praise. <sup>13</sup> And again:  
I will trust in him. And again:  
Here I am and the children God has given me. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) <sup>15</sup> and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. <sup>17</sup> For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (Psalm 98:3b)

*We noted last Sunday that there are really two miracles in Christmas: that God has become man in the lowliness of the manger, and that he has made it known to me, even to me. Why not to everyone else? Because so many are more interested in their own opinions than in Jesus' revealed Word. In John 7 those who did not compare Jesus with what the Bible promised concerning him missed out on who he really was; they knew a little of that Word but were not married to it. The real Jesus, the Savior and God-man, does not give himself apart from his Word. Therefore as we begin a new year of getting to know him; let us listen ever more attentively to his Word, so that he may hold us close to himself through it. People are still divided about him. Which side of the divide are you on? How will you stay on that side from now until eternity?*

### **Gospel Reading: John 7:40-43**

<sup>40</sup> After hearing his words, some of the people said, "This is truly the Prophet." <sup>41</sup> Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Surely the Christ does not come from Galilee, does he?" <sup>42</sup> Doesn't the Scripture say that the Christ comes from David's descendants and from the little town of Bethlehem where David lived?" <sup>43</sup> So the people were divided because of him.

## **Sermon on Hebrews 2:10-18**

### **All Who Heard It Were Amazed: "Amazed at His Death"**

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

### **All Who Heard It Were Amazed: "Amazed at His Death"**

Did you know that lent starts in just a short month and a half? Lent, the time of the year we go to the cross of Christ and see his sacrificial death on our behalf. It hardly seems right. We spend a month leading up to Christ's birth in Advent, spend a couple weeks celebrating his birth and then spend just a little more than a month on the rest of his life and proceed to his death. The majority of our time during the church year reflects back on all that he has done, all he is currently still doing and how it impacts our lives today. It would seem we could spend a little bit more time focusing on his time here on earth doesn't it?

Yet here we are, finishing up the Sunday's in Christmas and we are already talking about his death. Who, while enjoying the gift of a new life, the birth of a precious baby, turns and starts talking about how that baby is going to die one day? It seems almost vile, it seems backward and shameful. Celebrate life, enjoy life, and cherish life. Why would anyone want to bring up death at a time like this?

But it is in the message of the cross we find the real miracles of Christmas knotted up and bound together. It is in the scandal of the cross we find ourselves joined in fellowship with the Christ child and our brother lying in a manger. It is in Jesus, the eternal Son of God's temptation, suffering and dying for those who are tempted, suffering and dying we hear all that is declared to us at Christmas as well as see the love on display. It is in all this we understand a little better the frantic telling of the shepherds on that first Christmas, the amazement of all who heard God's Word through them and why, even at Christmas time, we can be amazed at his death.

Turning to God's word we open this Christmas gift and may it light up our eyes, fill our souls, and emit amazement through our actions as God speaks to us in Hebrews 2:

<sup>10</sup> Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says: I will declare your name to my brothers. Within the congregation I will sing your praise. <sup>13</sup> And again: I will trust in him. And again: Here I am and the children God has given me. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) <sup>15</sup> and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring. <sup>17</sup> For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

What is the point of a life? If you ask some professional life coach that question you will get a number of answers. Those answers will range along the spectrum of living to find your specific purpose in life and once you find that, well then you chase it in all that you do, to survival and just trying to be the best you can be at what it means to survive in the age you are born into, to life's purpose being to ignore trying to find a purpose to life and just live it, allowing that to be your purpose. Regardless, everyone will come down, in one way or another on living purposefully regardless of what that purpose may look like. But there lies the big difference, Jesus did not come to live. Jesus came to die. Taking it a step farther, Jesus came to give life by giving up his own.

You see, while we all try to keep death out of our living and to deadbolt it out of our lives, Jesus was born for the sole purpose of fighting it. But he didn't just come to fight death, he came to cut off its head, he came to cut the hands of the one holding death's strings. He came to destroy the one who had the power of death, the devil.

But, as God explains to us here in Hebrew's, this is not as simple as it sounds. He has to be able to die so he had to be flesh and blood. But he also had to destroy the devil so he could not fall victim to the traps of the devil or he would have failed. He had to be our High Priest, both to pay for the sins of those he served but also to be our helper who understands the temptations we find ourselves in. But failure was not an option if he was going to accomplish all of this so he could not fall victim to sin even once, he had to overcome every temptation and he had to live out this goal so that it counted for everyone, for you and me.

It truly is amazing to try and think about all of this, to think this is THE reason he was born. It almost makes us look at ourselves and the rat race of our lives with a sigh. I mean as sad as it sounds, I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my life until my 19<sup>th</sup> year of school. Jesus had his life perfectly planned out before his birth. But maybe even more amazing than all of this, the greatest reason to be amazed at his death, it is what makes him unashamed of you, unashamed of me.

He is unashamed to call you his brother or his sister, children of the most high God. He is not ashamed to stand up in public and claim you as his, he is not ashamed to gush over you, to speak your praises. Think about that, God is not ashamed of you. Doesn't that just drop you to the floor, doesn't that amaze you? I mean think about how often we are ashamed of him, think about how often we trade him and time with him for

something purely for me. Think about how often we have opportunity to talk about him or how often we make up an excuse, one that is not at all hard to convince ourselves is a good one even, not to talk about how amazing our God is and how much he gave for you, for me. Think about the difficulties we go through, the temptations, the sufferings and how quickly we blame God or we turn to other things or people for help rather than thanking God we have one who is able to help us in these things in every way.

Think about all of this, and then look at your brother in the manger. He is there, the Eternal God in the flesh for the purpose of dying for you. His purpose is not to just give you happiness here on earth. His purpose is not to just motivate you to do good. His purpose is not to bring himself fame or to lead an earthly revolution. His purpose is to die, to die your death, to pay in full all of sin's wages, to beat the devil by using his greatest power and through all this, to bring you into his family. Amazing isn't it?

We have just entered a new year, a new year where we highlight new purpose in life or a new year where we intend to dust off purpose we have not yet achieved or maybe has fallen by the wayside. It is a positive time of year, exciting and wonderful. We focus on life and all of its opportunity. Brothers and sisters let us praise God for that but may we do so knowing the reason we have the privilege to be so hopeful concerning this life is because Jesus was born to die so we might have assurance for real life, so we can know death is not the end. It has been conquered by this baby, our brother, lying in the manger. The shepherds proclaimed this amazing truth revealed to them by God's Word, all who heard it were amazed. God be praised that we are among those who have heard and God grant us amazement, each and every day the purpose of this life was death. We have one to go to in all our fears, troubles and joys, we have one who causes the devil to tremble at the very mention of his name, one who is not ashamed of you and me, one who is with you and me. It is simply amazing. Merry Christmas and a certain and joyous New Year in Christ. Amen.

**Offering:** (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website ([www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

**Prayer:**

Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant like heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly

circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of all the world.

God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom and for the glory of your holy name, in which we also pray:

*Private Petitions*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Children's Message**

**BLESSING:**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (Christian Worship #34)**