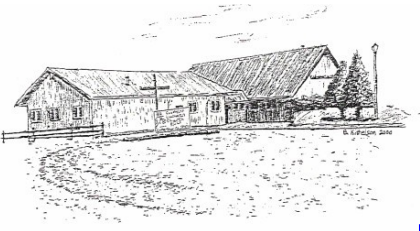


Connecting people to God with the message of God's love!



**A**dvent is a season where we wait and

prepare for the coming of Jesus. But how, exactly, do we expect him to come? Clearly, we are preparing for Christmas, to celebrate the birth of Jesus as an infant in Bethlehem, but there is something more, it seems. We look for Jesus' coming in our world, even now.

The First Sunday's reading in Matthew is from the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter, and it includes Jesus saying, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." The Second Sunday has John the Baptist declare, "Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." By the third week, Jesus tells John's disciples, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

It's only on the last Sunday of Advent, and Christmas day itself, that we hear about Jesus being born as a small child. The rest of the time, we hear stories about the Kingdom of God and the Son of Man coming to earth – the parousia, the second coming. The season of Advent serves dual purposes.

So as we wait for Jesus to come again, we pray with the ancient church, using the "O Antiphons" of Advent, "O come, o come Immanuel, rescue us in exile here," and we wait to celebrate a historical event as well as our own salvation.

Have a blessed Advent.  
Pastor Joshua

Covenant Lutheran Church  
VOLUME 17, ISSUE #12  
December 2013

Covenant

**COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
November 21, 2013**

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

**Devotions:**

Devotions were led by C.A. Thomas

**Roll Call:**

Thad Ehde, Pastor Joshua, Jim Lockwood, Nancy Lubeck, Red Taylor, Reno Taylor, Stu Hamersmark, C.A. Thomas, Connie Thomas, Christy Watkins, Marge Scholten

**Absent:** Melissa Garcia, Sarah Rodocker, Rick Robbins, Joel McKee, Cody Garcia

**Additions to Agenda:** Purchase of handicap accessible van by Thrift Store (new business)

**Thrift Store:** Had receipts of \$8983.75. Paid out \$1699.52 in assistance, and had an ending balance in their checking account of \$3531.62. Marge also shared thank you notes from the United Christian Church, Chair Bound Hunters, and the families and troops of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Company for her generous donations. Cards will be posted on bulletin board. Marge also discussed some details on the van she would like the Thrift Store to purchase. It is a 2010 Dodge Caravan conversion van; it has 25,800 miles on it, and is fully ADA compliant. It has 4 seats and room for 2 wheelchair passengers, rear loading ramp. Asking price \$29,000.

**Correspondence:** Request for donation from the Lutheran Center in Denver (Also added to agenda, new business).

**Reports:**

**Secretary:** Nancy moved and C.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the secretary's report as written, motion carried. Report posted on bulletin board.

**Financial Secretary:** Reno moved, and Red 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the financial secretary's report for September as written, motion carried. Jim moved and Connie 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the financial secretary's report for October as written, motion carried. Both reports posted on bulletin board.

**Treasurer:** Nancy moved and Red 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the treasures report as written, motion carried. Report posted on bulletin board.

**President:** Thad encouraged all council members whose terms are ending to actively begin recruiting people for their position.

**Elders:** All is good.

**Trustees:** Fixed water heater, and also a flapper in one of the toilets in the women's rest room. Sprinkler system drained and winterized.

**Pastor:** Written report posted on bulletin board. Also with the help of Sarah J. would like to re-organize the library. Some of the things in there need to go away. Considering moving the library to the Faith room, and making the current library into a nursery. Anyone having ideas questions or comments please talk to pastor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education:** Christmas program practice is on-going and coming along well. Program will be 12/15. There will be no Sunday school for the kids on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, or the 29<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school will resume on 1/5/14.

**Youth:** No report

**Stewardship:** Is planning a program with a **POTLUCK DINNER**, on money and how we think of it and how we treat it on 1/12/14.

**Worship:** Vespers services for Advent will be out of the red book. Bell choir will provide music on 12/8/13. And Christmas Eve services will be at 6:00pm.

**Women of ELCA:** Thanks to all the women who participated in the Thank Offering service and also everyone for their generous donations in the Thank Offering basket. The women raised \$350.

**Hospitality:** Getting ready for a December baptism, and a new members service in January. Also will have a card at fellowship for members to sign and send off to Allison Wolf.

**Men of Covenant:** Six showed up for breakfast, but no one ate. This was the morning of Merl's episode. A personal thanks from the Lockwood's for your quick action in taking care of Merl, getting mom to the hospital, calling me, and taking care of our vehicles. But most of all thanks for your prayers and support.

**Outreach:** Red is training Cody G. to work the equipment for recording our services so he will have a backup.

**Altar Guild:** No report

**Landscape:** Nothing new to report.

### **Old Business:**

Constitution update, the committee to look over the new model constitution and adapt it for Covenant Lutheran Church is still working away. It still our hope to have this work done and ready to vote on at our annual Congregational meeting.

### **New Business:**

Thrift Store Van. After some discussion on funding, liability, parking, usage, Connie moved and Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, to authorize Thad Ehde (council president) and Marge Scholten (Community Thrift Store manager) to proceed with the purchase of a handicap accessible van. Motion carried.

The Synod has asked all churches for a special donation to help renovate an old synod owned church property, into the synod headquarters and Lutheran center. This would eliminate the current need to lease space for the Synod headquarters as well as provide a space for large synod functions. They asked for a dollar a day donation. Christy moved and Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup> to send a gift of \$365 to help with the renovation. Motion carried.

The date of January 26 has been selected for the date of our annual meeting. So for anyone needing to get a report ready for the Annual Report, look for a deadline of early to mid January. Just a note for all you football fans this is the bye week between playoffs and the Super Bowl. Potluck dinner to follow the meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: December 12, 7:00pm

Devotions for next Meeting: Cody Garcia

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jim Lockwood, Secretary

**“Like” us on facebook at**  
**[www.facebook.com/CovenantLutheranChurchWheatland](http://www.facebook.com/CovenantLutheranChurchWheatland)**  
**AND**  
**[Check out our new website at clcwheatland.weebly.com](http://clcwheatland.weebly.com)**



## WOMEN'S BIRTHDAYS

### December

3rd Sarah Taylor  
Jessica deRyk  
8th Bethany Jenkins  
13th Gail Thompson  
19th Sue Sluss  
22nd Kaycee Cordingly  
30th Dorothy Hanks



\*\*\*\*\*

### Anniversaries in December

21st Floyd & Peggy Ingold  
22nd Steve & Mary Seim  
27th Bob & Lorretta Lauck  
28th Bob & Gwen Seidel  
Ben & Joanne Harnish  
31st Tony & Sarah Rodocker

## *APPSolutely! Get Gather on your tablet*

Gather magazine is now available in a digital format at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and on iPad, Android and Kindle Fire. Subscribers can search for "Gather magazine" in Google Play, the iTunes store or Amazon.com to download the app. To view the magazine online or on your tablet, use the subscriber ID number found on your address label.

Gather subscribers can also access the new nine-month Women of the ELCA Bible study which began with the September issue on the tablet devices listed above. In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women was written by Kay Ward, the first female Moravian bishop.

A year's subscription to Gather (10 issues) is \$15; two years (20 issues) is \$28. The January/February and July/August issues are combined. Call 800-328-4648 to subscribe or go to [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org) and search for Gather magazine. To learn more about the magazine and the 2013-14 Bible study, visit [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org)

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

It is time for the women to reveal their past year's prayer partners. We are going to do it a little differently this year. Please bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies or a dessert to share with the congregation during Fellowship time on Sunday, December, 8th. After Fellowship time we will go into a separate room and reveal our current prayer partners with cards and/or gifts. We will then draw names for next year's prayer partners. Any of the women of the congregation are welcome to participate. If you have any questions, please call Arlene at 331-1363.





## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Visit [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster) to learn how you can contribute to the effort to help those recently affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the tornadoes in the Midwest.

The new ELCA Good Gifts Catalogs are on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Browse the catalog and select from more than 50 gift-giving options. If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one there are cards on the first table for you to use to tell them about it. For more information speak to Pastor Joshua or visit [community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts](http://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts)

## ADVENT



**Our Advent Soup & Services will be held on Wednesday evenings, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will begin with soup and fellowship at 5:30, followed by the service. On December 4th families with last names beginning with A-K are asked to provide the soup. A sign-up sheet is located by the mailboxes. Call the office with any questions.**

## CHILDREN'S NEWS



We have many things coming up in the next month! Please pay attention to the dates below and mark your calendars!

December 1st: No Sunday School

December 8th: Christmas program practice

December 14th: Christmas program practice  
9:30-10:30 am

December 15: Sunday School Christmas program  
No Sunday School

December 22nd & 29th: No Sunday School

January 5th: Sunday School resumes

Please contact Dawn, Teresa or Sarah R. with any questions. Thank you!

**Taize services will be held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM during Advent (December 8, 15, and 22). These services are intended to be simple and centering; the goal is to prepare us to focus on God rather than the busyness of our coming week. With a positive response and support there is the possibility that these services will continue past Advent.**



**There are several copies of *A World Awaits: Daily Reflections for Advent* from the works of C.S. Lewis available to anyone who is interested in having one. Please feel free to take one from the pile by the mailboxes.**

**You are invited to an Advent dinner on Sunday, December 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 111 Del Mar Circle, Aurora, Colorado. Please register online at [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org) or call Rev. Stephanie Quick Espinoza at 303-777-6700 by November 29th. See the invitation on the bulletin board for more details.**

## **COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE AND GRANDMA'S ATTIC**

The Community Thrift Store is located at 866 Gilchrist and is open Monday-Friday, 10-5 and Saturday, 10-3. The Thrift Store has a variety of gently used items at bargain prices. Grandma's Attic is located at 714 9<sup>th</sup> St and is open Monday-Friday, 10-5. Grandma's Attic has antiques and vintage items, furniture, greeting cards and a wide variety of Christmas items. The proceeds from the two stores support dialysis and cancer patients, homebound seniors, and a variety of other community programs. In 2009 a van was purchased to transport dialysis patients to Cheyenne for their treatment. The van is available to any Platte County resident who needs transportation to and from medical appointments. They have also recently purchased a wide-lift van that will greatly improve the transportation opportunities of handicapped or wheelchair-bound residents. For more information check out the new page on our website dedicated to the Thrift Store or contact Marge Scholten, and show your support by visiting these two church-sponsored stores.

**Please join us for a recital featuring Sarah Rodocker's piano students on Saturday, December 7th at 1:00 at the church. This is a first recital for many of the kids and they've all been working really hard. Come enjoy some classic Christmas tunes with treats and fellowship to follow.**



Gorman Funeral Home—Platte Chapel would like to invite the community to their Christmas Service of Remembrance at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, December 3rd. Let us come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have lost. Take time to say a prayer and thank them for being part of our lives.



**Gorman Funeral Home—Platte Chapel  
1108 Ninth Street  
Wheatland, Wyoming  
322-2384**

## **FOOD BANK**

Donations for the Food Bank can be dropped off at the United Church of Christ basement, Monday — Friday, 9:00 AM to noon. Current needs include:

- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned or dry milk
- Canned or instant potatoes
- Soup (no tomato please)
- Canned meats
- Crackers
- Mustard
- Mayo
- Sugar
- Top ramen (chicken, not beef)
- Capri suns

**Thank you!!**

Please take a moment to look at the prayer list included in each week's bulletin. It is helpful to hear how people on the list are doing — both the positive answers to our prayers and those for whom more prayers are needed. This is one way to increase our faith and bring us closer as a church and community. Please notify the office of any update or additions that can be included in the bulletin and/or prayer chain emails.





## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10th Gage Brown  
11th Hudson Ehde  
Chase Nickle  
15th Perry Garcia  
18th Bob Lauck

**SAY CHEESE!**



It has been almost five years since the last Covenant photo directory was created and distributed. It's time for a new, updated version. However, to avoid expensive photos, high-pressure sales, and limited photo dates we have decided to create the directory ourselves. This means taking the pictures, putting the directory together and printing it all right here at church. We would like to start taking members' pictures on Sunday, December 8th and Sunday, December 15th during our Fellowship hour. Please try to be here for one of those two dates to have your picture taken for the directory. If you are unable to make one of those two dates, please speak to Sarah or Pastor Joshua about another day and time that would work for you and your family. If it becomes necessary we will add another day or two in January.

### MISSION STATEMENT

We covenant ourselves to gather around Word and Sacrament for mutual support and strength in Christ, that by God's grace we:

- Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom
- Nurture the community through Christian Education
- Provide settings for Christian fellowship, and
- Equip the membership to be Christ's servant people

### MEN'S GROUP

**Godfathers**

**MEETS AT  
7:30 AM  
SATURDAY,  
December 7th**



**AT  
Tasty Treats**

**ALL MEN ARE INVITED TO COME !**



***Are You Willing to  
Serve?***

At the annual meeting on January 26th there are several council positions that will need to be filled. If you would like to be considered for any of the following positions please let one of the current council members know: Vice-President, Elder, Treasurer, Secretary, Education, Trustee (2), or Member At Large.

Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to the church council.

Thank you!

# DECEMBER SERVERS

## ELDERS

12-1 Christy Watkins  
12-8 Joel McKee  
12-15 Rick Robbins  
12-22 Connie Thomas  
12-24  
12-29 Connie Thomas

## ACOLYTES

12-1 Gage Brown  
12-8 Abby Sherrill  
12-15 Mekayla Garcia  
12-22 Jamison Brown  
12-24 Cody Garcia  
12-29 Raegan Ehde

## READERS

12-1 Nancy Lubeck  
12-8 Jennifer Bruns  
12-15 Sarah Jesse  
12-22 Sarah Miller  
12-24  
12-29 Merl Lockwood

## MUSICIAN

12-1 Mary Seim  
12-8 Sarah Rodocker  
12-15 Lisa Young  
12-22 Nancy Schumann  
12-24 Gwen Seidel  
12-29 TBA

## VISITATION

12-1 Rich Bohm  
12-8 Rick Robbins  
12-15 Nadine Morris  
12-22 Cheryl Meier  
12-29 Bill Windmeier

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

12-1 Connie Thomas  
12-8 Christy Watkins  
12-15 Joel McKee  
12-22 Rick Robbins  
12-24  
12-29 Rick Robbins

## USHERS

12-1 Terry & Nancy Lubeck  
12-8 Christy Watkins & Jack Hudson  
12-15 Frank Jesse & Jim Lockwood  
12-22 Sarah Miller  
12-24 Perry & Melissa Garcia  
12-29 Jim Lockwood

## GREETERS

12-1 Rena Kittelson  
12-8 Christy Watkins & Jack Hudson  
12-15 Don & Carol Dingman  
12-22 Rena Kittelson  
12-24  
12-29 Merl & Dorothy Lockwood

## ALTAR CARE

12-1 Rena Kittelson  
12-8 Gail Mattern  
12-15 Lorretta Lauck  
12-22 Suzanne Strom  
12-29 Marge Scholten

## FELLOWSHIP/TREATS

12-1 Rena Kittelson  
12-8 Sharon Whipple  
12-15 Jesses and Lockwoods  
12-22 Christy Watkins  
12-29 Don & Carol Dingman

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please contact someone in that category to arrange a trade. This is your responsibility. Please call or email Sarah at the church office (322-9423 /CLCWheatland@gmail.com) with your trade info so that it can be included correctly in the Sunday Bulletin. THANK YOU!



# DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	2	3 PRAISE BAND 6:00 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 6:30 PM GORMAN FUNERAL HOME	4 SOUP & SERVICE 5:30 PM	5 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM	6	7 MEN'S GROUP @ TASTY TREATS 7:30 AM PIANO RECITAL 1:00 PM
8 BELLS PLAYING DURING SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL PRACTICE DIRECTORY PICTURES PRAYER PARTNER PARTY TAIZE SERVICE 7:00 PM	9	10 PRAISE BAND 6:00 PM 	11 SOUP & SERVICE 5:30 PM	12 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 PM	13	14 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM PRACTICE 9:30-10:30 AM
15 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DIRECTORY PICTURES TAIZE SERVICE 7:00 PM	16	17 NO DIAPER DAY WELCA B-DAY LUNCH 11:30 AM PRAISE BAND 5:30 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE 6:30 PM	18 BIRTHDAY/ CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE NURSING HOME 3:30 PM SOUP & SERVICE 5:30 PM	19 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM	20	21
22 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSING HOME SERVICE 2:00 PM TAIZE SERVICE 7:00 PM	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26	27	28
29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				

Covenant Lutheran Church  
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 Fax: (307)322-4577  
 Office: CLCWheatland@gmail.com  
 Pastor: pastorjoshua@wyomingwireless.com  
 clcwheatland.weebly.com

## Office Hours:

Pastor Bruns—Mon - Thurs.: 9 am - 12 pm  
 Office: Mon & Wed: 9 am - 11 am  
 Tues: 9 - 10 am  
 Thurs & Fri: 9 am - 12 pm  
 Sunday Worship: 9:00 am Sunday  
 Sunday School: 10:30 am Sunday  
 Adult Bible Study: 10:30 am Sunday