



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

December 2024

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***From the
Pastor's Office***

Happy new year!
We finish out the church year and start a new one on

the first Sunday in Advent, December 1st. Both the end of the church here and the advent season focus on Christ' return to set up His earthly and eternal kingdom. The end of the church year is focused on His kingship and judgment while the beginning of year focuses on his birth.

Here is a prayer for our congregation during this season of Advent:

Father in heaven, thank you for this time of reflection in the church when we focus on the virgin birth and return of your son, our Lord and King Jesus Christ.

During this time of year, we are often taken aback as we eagerly expect and prepare to spend time with loved ones or with remorse mourn those we have lost. These along with our day-to-day lives can lead to stress.

Let us not be consumed with consumerism (which is idol worship) or other distractions. Help us not to

complain about or fear the darkness we see around us, but instead let your light shine through us so that others may know you and come to repentance and faith in your son Jesus, the true light who came into the world and who will one day come again with power and glory to dispel all darkness from the earth.

Shape our hearts in such a way that all these feelings, whether joy, sorrow, or stress cause us to turn our hearts towards you in prayer. Send The Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth so we can "stay alert" in faithful expectation of the return of your Son and His eternal kingdom in the age to come. Amen

God's Peace,
Pr. Ryan Kandoll

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org

Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

December at PLC



Celebrate Our Congregation

December Birthdays:

Larry Johnson	12/9
Caroline Clause	12/11
Joel Hendrickson	12/13
Joyce Tibbs	12/14
Scott Maikkula	12/16
Evy Walters	12/17
Noel Walters	12/20
Patti Olson	12/25
Max Wempen	12/27

December Anniversaries:

Peter & Asal	12/10
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Sundays:

- 1,8,15,22** 9:15am Sunday School for Everyone
 10:30am Worship service with Communion
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
- 29** 10:30am Worship service
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesdays:

- 10** 6:00pm Mission Committee meeting
 6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting
- 24** 3:00pm **Christmas Eve**
 Candlelight Service

Wednesdays:

- 4** 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Perkins
 HWY 55 & 494
 6:00pm Evening Bible Study @
 the Church
- 11** 9:30am Men's Bible Study @ the
 Church
 6:00pm Evening Bible Study @
 the Church
- 18** 6:30pm Caroling @ The Residence
 @ North Ridge
- 25** 10:30am **Christmas Day Service**

Christmas Eve Service Reader Needed

If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Eve Service, please sign-up. **6 Volunteers are needed. (service @ 3pm)**

There is a sign-up sheet on the Desk in the Narthex.



Save The Date

Wednesday, December 18th



6:30 pm Caroling at The Residence @ North Ridge (5500 Boone Ave N, New Hope)

There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex desk.

Saturday, December 24th



3:00pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

The Annual Meeting of the Plymouth Lutheran Church is set for **Saturday, January 22nd at 1:00pm**. All members are urged to attend.



ADVENT

Advent begins the Festival half of the liturgical church year, when we celebrate what God has done for us. In Advent we celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world as Son of God and Son of Man, born of the Virgin Mary. We worship Him as He comes into our lives each day. And we prepare for the fact that He will come again on that last day to claim us as His own. May the Advent Season fill you with Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace.

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath has five candles, three are blue (or purple), one is pink, and one is white. The four candles, the three blue (or purple)

and one pink are placed in a wreath of Christmas greens - or an ornamented wreath. One candle is lit each Sunday in Advent, with the pink candle being lit on the third Sunday in Advent. The white candle is placed in the center of the wreath. The first candle is the Prophecy Candle. The second is the Bethlehem Candle - symbolic of the Christ Child's cradle. The third (pink) is the Shepherd's Candle - which typifies the act of sharing Christ. Pink symbolizes the Advent Rose, a time to pause in this penitent season to Rejoice in the Lord. The fourth candle is the Angel's Candle - the candle of love and final coming. The fifth candle (white) is placed in the center as the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Dr. Martin Luther was one of the first to use the Christmas tree as a home decoration. While on a walk one Christmas Eve, Dr. Luther noticed an evergreen tree shining in the moonlight. He couldn't forget this beautiful picture. He returned home with an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles. Luther told his children that the tree should remind them of the brightness of Christmas and its message of the Savior's birth.

By the beginning of the 19th century, all of Germany had adopted the use of the green "Christmas" tree. They added stars, sweetmeats, tiny toys, and gilded nuts together with candles on the trees. The custom spread to England during the reign of Queen Victoria, who was married to the German Prince Albert. He wanted to have his children enjoy one of his childhood memories. Queen Victoria had a Christmas Tree in Windsor Castle in 1841. The custom of a Christmas Tree soon spread throughout Europe and then to the United States.

Dr. Henry Schwan introduced the custom of a lighted Christmas tree in church, in Zion Lutheran Church in Cleveland Ohio, Christmas Eve 1851. In Germany and in ancient northern cultures, after the festivities, the branches were removed and the trunk was decorated on May 1st as a May Pole, celebrating a rebirth of spring. The tree was then cut up and the largest log was used the next December as the Yule Log.



<https://www.cogwriter.com/news/church-history/christmas-trees-a-symbol-of-the-trinity/>

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Dennis Bratcher

The **Twelve Days of Christmas** is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days *before* Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of **Epiphany** (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of December 25th with the following day considered the First Day of Christmas (December 26th). In these traditions, the twelve days begin December 26 and include Epiphany on January 6.
