



# The Kaiserslautern Lutheran



Nr. 1

*Gottes Wort und Luthers Lehr' vergehet nun und nimmermehr*

December 2021

## Divine Service

Sunday Mornings 8:30-9:30 AM

Dec. 5th – Advent II

Dec. 12th – Advent III

Dec. 19th – Advent IV

Fri. Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve  
(The Children's Program)

Sat. Dec. 25th – Christmas Day

Dec. 26th – St. Stephen's Day

Fri. Dec. 31st – Eve of the Circumcision  
(7:30 PM)

Jan. 2nd – Second Sun. after Christmas

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## Fellowship Time

Sunday Mornings  
9:30-10:00 AM

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## Sunday School

Located at Kirche Mittendrין  
10:00-11:00 AM

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## Catechesis

St. Michael's Basement  
11:15 AM-12:15 PM

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## Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday Evenings  
Soup Supper 6:00 PM  
Vespers 7:00 PM

Dec. 1st

Dec. 8th

Dec. 15th

## Preliminary Remarks on the

## Reason, Purpose, and Contents of this Newsletter

Since 1985, Kaiserslautern Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC) has been serving English-speaking Lutherans in this community. We are a confessional and liturgical congregation sponsored by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Office of International Mission.

The Missouri Synod was founded by and for German immigrants to North America. The masthead of this newsletter is a tribute to the flagship German periodical of the Missouri Synod, *Der Lutheraner* ("The Lutheran"), published by Synod's first president, C. F. W. Walther in 1844. *Der Lutheraner* actually served as the catalyst for uniting scattered groups of German Lutherans into one church body, the Missouri Synod, in 1847. German was the official language of the Missouri Synod until the U.S. entered World War I in 1917, but *Der Lutheraner* did not cease publication until 1974. In the 19th century Germans came to America and worshipped in German. In the 20th century, Americans came to Germany and worshipped in English. We at KELC in the 21st century are inheritors of a tradition that has come full circle.

The slogan of *Der Lutheraner* was "God's Word and Luther's doctrine shall not perish now or ever." In our congregation, the Bible is taught in accordance with the confessional standards of the Lutheran Church, which declare that "these public, common writings have always been respected as the sum and model of the doctrine that Dr. Luther (of blessed memory) has admirably pulled together from God's Word." Nevertheless, "God's Word alone should be and remain the only standard and rule of doctrine, to which the writings of no man should be regarded as equal. Everything should be subjected to God's Word" (FC SD Summary, Rule, & Norm 9).

The purpose of this newsletter serves the threefold purpose of KELC: to teach God's Word according to the confessional standards of the Lutheran Church, to foster Christian fellowship and charity, and to serve the religious needs of English-speaking Lutherans and other Christians in the Kaiserslautern area. We celebrate the Divine Service every Sunday and on various feasts and festivals throughout the church year. In addition, we provide an educational program for all ages and congregational catechesis every Sunday, as well as a weekly study of the Lutheran Confessions and seasonal midweek services. This newsletter will serve as a tool to keep our members and others in the community informed about what we believe, teach, and confess as well as opportunities we have for worship, education, fellowship, and charity.

In addition to keeping our members and the community abreast of what is going on at KELC, the contents of this newsletter will inform readers of current theological debates as well as the latest developments within our partner churches in Germany, the rest of Europe, and around the world. We hope to include book and conference reviews, devotional material, hymn and liturgical studies, articles on the history of the church, and more. We will also include a calendar of upcoming events, birthdays, anniversaries, and so forth.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us, yes, establish the work of our hands!"  
Psalm 90:17

—Rev. Nathaniel S. Jensen



God's Word and Luther's Doctrine shall not perish now or ever.

## The Great "O Antiphons"

At Sunday Bible class and Wednesday midweek services throughout the season of Advent we are discussing the "O Antiphons" (LSB 357). Many are familiar with the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," but do not realize the rich history behind it.

The "O Antiphons" are also known as "the great Advent Antiphons." They date to at least the 6th century A.D. Each of the seven antiphons was designated to be sung before the Magnificat during Vespers, the evening service, in the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve. During our midweek services we are praying Vespers and replacing the usual antiphon ("Let my prayer rise before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice") with the respective O Antiphon before the Magnificat.

Each O Antiphon is an Old Testament title for the preincarnate Christ, originally in Latin—Wisdom [*sapientia*], Adonai [*adonai*], Root of Jesse [*radix jesse*], Key of David [*clavis David*], Dayspring [*oriens*], King of the Nations [*rex gentium*], Emmanuel [*emmanuel*]. The Latin titles form an acrostic, which when read backwards spell a message from the Son of God to His people: *ero cras*, "I will be here tomorrow!" We are reminded that Christ came to us 2,000 years ago as a child in Bethlehem, still comes to us in the Word and Sacraments, and will come again one day to judge the living and the dead.

## Hail and Farewells

### The Schaefer Family

Moved to Ft. Jackson, SC

### Mason Westphal

From Pea Ridge, AR

### The Werner Family

Moved to Scott AFB, IL

### The Swenson Family

From Colorado Springs, CO

### Sally Corey

From Richland Center, WI

## Congregational Catechesis

On the First Sunday in Advent (*Ad Te Levavi*) we began catechesis, or Christian instruction. This twenty week course will provide an in-depth look at the chief parts of Christian doctrine as outlined in Luther's Small Catechism. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend! This course will be provided regularly and will not only serve as an opportunity to refresh and deepen one's knowledge of Lutheran doctrine, but also as the curriculum for anybody seeking confirmation in the Lutheran Church. Here is the outline of the curriculum:

- Week 1:** Introduction to the course, Commandments 1-3 (relationship with God)
- Week 2:** Commandments 4-8 (relationship to neighbors)
- Week 3:** Commandments 9-Close (Christian interpretation of the Law)
- Week 4:** Article I - God the Father and creation
- Week 5:** Article I - vocation/Table of Duties
- Week 6:** Article II - the person of Christ: true God and true man
- Week 7:** Article II - the work of Christ: redemption
- Week 8:** Article III - Holy Spirit
- Week 9:** Article III - Sanctification
- Week 10:** Lord's Prayer - Introduction to Prayer (Psalter, daily prayer, intro, etc.)
- Week 11:** Lord's Prayer - Petitions 1-3
- Week 12:** Lord's Prayer - petitions 4-7 and close
- Week 13:** Baptism - what it is
- Week 14:** Baptism - what it does
- Week 15:** Baptism - what it means for us
- Week 16:** Confession - what it is
- Week 17:** Confession - the Office of the Keys
- Week 18:** Sacrament of the Altar - what it is
- Week 19:** Sacrament of the Altar - what it does
- Week 20:** Sacrament of the Altar - worthy reception/Christian Q&A

## Jesse Tree Family Devotions

Savor this Advent season and count down the days until the Savior's birth on Christmas day with your Jesse Tree Family devotions! We remember that the story of Jesus' coming humbly to earth began at creation and we also look forward to when He comes again in glory! Reflect on all the stories of God's faithfulness in the Scriptures as you read (and in your own life too!), and rejoice in Jesus your Rescuer. God never changes and He always keeps His promises; we have peace with God! Kids, enjoy your special book and don't forget to color and hang your ornament everyday!



Christ Jesus has a family tree;  
It starts with Adam! Do you see  
How God the Father sent his Son  
To earth to rescue everyone?

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

—Phil. 4:4-7