

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR DECEMBER 2020



Greetings Friends!

I cannot believe December is finally here!

We are now in the season of Advent, the time when we wait with joyful hearts for our Lord and Savior's birth.

We have been in a season of waiting for what seems like years- waiting for the pandemic to be over, waiting for a time where we can all be physically together again. But during this season of waiting I encourage all of us to watch for God. Be on the look out for an opportunity to put your faith in to action.

Our Zoom Bible Study on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights has been going well. It is great to be in fellowship and grow in our faith together. We are doing an Advent Bible Study on Incarnation starting Tuesday December 1 at 10am and Wednesday December 2 at 8pm. Our first discussion will be on Presidents and Kings. Join us as we reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and the world today!

I hope you will join us for Zoom Christmas Trivia! On Sunday December 13 there will be a Christmas Trivia for Kids at 3pm and a Christmas Trivia for Adults at 4pm. All those random Christmas facts you know could make you a winner! The Zoom link will be sent out via email.

We will be having a Blue Christmas: a worship service of Wholeness and Healing will be on Sunday December 20. It will be scheduled to appear on Facebook at 3pm. This service is for anyone who finds this season difficult. It is a space where we can lament and seek hope in the Advent story. This year has been hard for all of us, if you are struggling in any way please join us.

Thanks to everyone who has continued to make our worship services happen on Facebook and the DVDs. I am so very thankful for Ann Driver, Gayle and Dan Kaufeld, Sheryl Scholer, Arlin Brigham, Paul Riggs and Amy Borgstrom.

My verse for us this month comes from Isaiah 9:6: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

May we all feel the presence of the Prince of Peace during this Christmas season. May there be opportunities for resting, waiting, and watching for God.

Merry Christmas!

I am so grateful to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Amanda

January Newsletter
Deadline December 23 -
8 AM



Pray for those who are serving our Nation's defense: Todd Livingston with the U.S. Air Force at Hickam A.F.B, HI. And Peyton Wilke, at Camp Pendleton MCRD.

Please keep our church family in our prayers.



December Session Meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm.



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 pm using Zoom. Members will receive an invitation to the meeting in their email.

Dec. 8	Audrey Erwin
Dec. 12	Ruth Allen
Dec. 14	Quinita Kase
Dec. 15	Hilary Alberts
	Brice Gransee
Dec. 17	Catherine Gruhn
Dec. 19	Helen Yngsdal
Dec. 21	Halie Abbott
	Aiden Erwin
Dec. 23	Mitchell Gransee
	Carl Mittelstadt
Dec. 25	Helen Leque
	Ellie Prenzlów
Dec. 29	Lisa Carlsen
Dec. 30	Mark Jurgenssen
Dec. 31	Peggy Engle



Dec. 1	Steve & Kristy Johnson
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Church Information

Website:	www.presbykasson.org
Pastor email:	presbypastor@kmtel.com
Church email:	presbykasson@kmtel.com
Church Phone:	634-7481
Pastor Phone -	651-214-4174
Pastor Office Hours M	10am—2pm,
	W 9am—noon, and by appointment.
Secretary office hours	
	Wednesday & Friday 8am—noon
Worship	10:00 am

PW CORNER

Hello again all PW,

Although winter does not start, according to the calendar, until December 21st, it is beginning to feel like it is here already, and along with the change in weather at this time of year we are definitely thinking about the coming of Christmas. This is usually such a busy time of year, but with our current concerns it will probably not be quite the same as in the past. However, hopefully we can all make the best of everything and enjoy the holiday season as much as possible and be thankful for our health, happiness and all the blessings we have.



PW events for December would have been our Christmas luncheon, and the two circle groups would have had their Christmas lunches also – most likely at the Hubbell House, but of course, sadly, those events will not be taking place this year. Hopefully we can get back to a normal schedule of events in 2021. The election of officers was conducted by phone this year, and we are pleased to announce that Ann Driver will be our new secretary, and Rosalie Trom will continue on as treasurer. Thank you so much to both of these dedicated, willing women for filling these positions. We do not have a large amount of money in our treasury, but the executive committee will get together to make decisions as to where our donations will be best used and this information will be shared with all in the January newsletter. On another note, if your phone number or email address has changed, please send that information to Ann, our church secretary, as soon as possible, and she will relay that information to us for the new PW book that will be produced soon. Also, our church will be delivering Meals-On-Wheels December 21 – 24, so if you would like to help with this community service, please contact Sharon Law or Carol Prenzlou to volunteer. Thank you so much.

Please continue to send forth your prayers for everyone in medical professions, they are once again being challenged to the max with the rise in COVID 19 cases. Pray also for all who are in military service, law enforcement, education, religious leaders, all those who are dealing with health issues, and all who are grieving for the loss of family or friends. Especially at this time of year we are aware of the need for Christian love, brotherhood and peace for all the world.

AND NOW, here are TWO yummy recipes for the holiday season!! The first delicious recipe is from Bev Livingston and is found on page 92 of our newest PW cookbook and the second is from COOKS.COM which is a really easy and yummy recipe also. ENJOY!!!

SOUR CREAM PASTRIES by Bev Livingston

1 cup butter or margarine

1 beaten egg yolk

½ cup apricot preserves

1/4 cup pecans, finely chopped

2 cups flour

½ cup dairy sour cream

½ cup flaked coconut

Granulated sugar

With pastry blender, cut butter or margarine into flour til resembling fine crumbs. Combine egg yolk and sour cream and blend into flour mixture. Chill dough several hours or overnight. Divide dough into 4 equal parts. Keep each part refrigerated until ready to use. Roll each part to 10-inch circle on lightly floured surface. Spread with 2 tablespoons apricot preserves; sprinkle with 2 tablespoons coconut and 1 tablespoon nuts. Cut each circle into 12 wedges with fluted pastry wheel. Start from wide end and roll each wedge into a crescent. Roll in granulated sugar and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Makes 4 dozen. ENJOY!!!



MELTAWAY CHRISTMAS COOKIES

1 c. flour sifted	1 c. cornstarch	1 c. butter softened
½ c. powdered sugar	½ tsp. salt	1 tsp. vanilla

Powdered sugar

Sift flour and cornstarch together and set aside. In a large bowl cream butter, gradually beating in sugar, mix well. Add salt and vanilla, mix together, stir in sifted dry ingredients, mixing well. Refrigerate 2 or 3 hours. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Shape dough into small balls, place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet, bake 15 – 20 minutes. While cookies are hot, roll in powdered sugar. in sifted dry ingredients, mixing well. Refrigerate 2 or 3 hours.

And now for a little Christmas history.

In the early days of Christianity, the birthday of Jesus was celebrated as a feast day as were the birthdays of Christian saints. The European Christmas calendar gradually spread from December 25, the agreed-upon date of the birth of Jesus, to a twelve-day period which concluded on January 6, observed as both the day of Jesus' circumcision as an infant, the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, the miracle of Cana, and Jesus' baptism at the age of thirty. This twelve-day holiday period carried over to America and was a special time for the signing of treaties and for weddings. In our young nation's history, George Washington married the widow Martha Curtis on Twelfth Day, January 6. Thomas Jefferson married Martha Skelton on New Year's Day in 1772. Although our modern world is too busy for twelve days of holiday,

Christmas is still considered a very special time for weddings. Christmas trees are relative newcomers to the American Christmas, but the Christmas tree tradition is an ancient one stretching back to ancient Teutonic cultures where the enduring vitality of the winter evergreen was emblematic of the immortality of the soul. Christmas trees in America were first found in the Moravian church's communal settlement at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1747.

THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Anna D. Lutz

Sweet Mary leaned against the hay – Beside His manger bed;
Strong Joseph kept his silent watch – And praying, bent his head;
The night wind ceased its sighing, - But softly whispering, said: PEACE!
The light burst forth from heaven – And swept away the night;
The startled shepherds knelt – And saw the vision burning bright,
Heard the message of salvation, - Knew the meaning of the light: HOPE!
The angels o'er Judeah's plains – Set all the earth to singing;
The weary world rejoiced to rise – And set the bells to ringing;
Responding to the gift of Life, - The Christ to us came bringing: JOY!
These gifts from God we pray for all – As Jesus's birth draws near,
May you receive His Peace, His Hope, - The message of good cheer
From heaven itself, the gift sublime – That sweetly crowns the year: CHRISTMAS!



May all the joys of this blessed season be with each and everyone, now and through the coming year.
Warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, and festive holiday season.

Our Blessings to all,
Sue and Carol, PW co-chairs

Choir Christmas Caroling

All choir and congregation members are invited to safely assemble for Christmas caroling on Sunday, Dec. 13th at 6:15 pm in the church parking lot. Songbooks will be distributed and we'll travel in our own vehicles to bring some Christmas cheer, through songs, by visiting some of our shut-in members. All singing will be done outdoors with proper social distancing observed while we sing. Please bring your own flashlight, dress warmly and arrive on time. We'll start caroling at 6:30.

If you'd like a caroling visit, please contact Gayle Kaufeld (269-2670). Any questions may be directed to her as well.



Christmas Trivia!

On Sunday December 13 will be having virtual Christmas trivia on Zoom.

Kids are invited to play Christmas trivia at 3pm.

Adults are invited to play at 4pm.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

We will be having a Blue Christmas: a worship service of Wholeness and Healing will be on Sunday December 20. It will be scheduled to appear on Facebook at 3pm. This service is for anyone who finds this season difficult. It is a space where we can lament and seek hope in the Advent story. This year has been hard for all of us, if you are struggling in any way please join us.

Christmas Eve

On Thursday December 24, at 5:00pm we will have a brief, outdoor Christmas Eve service so that we can safely have the passing of the light and celebrate Christmas as a church family. A pre-recorded worship service will be available on Facebook as well. More information to come.



Send Christmas Cards!

Todd has been deployed since Nov 3 to South Korea- He has been deployed over the holidays for two of the past three years and it would be wonderful if he got some from our congregation even if you don't know him. Just add Kasson Presbyterian Church to your name and he'll know! His address is :

SSgt Todd Livingston
PSC 4 Box 1000
APO AP 96213

His wife Sadie and children Abby (age 12), Jacob(age10) and Levi (age 7) are at the Air Force Base in Hawaii so aren't readily able to come home during his tour there.

Their address is: Sadie Livingston
304 Lehua Lane
Honolulu HI 96818



Poinsettia Memorial Garden

This year has been a year like none other. One thing that remains the same, though, is God's love for us. We hope you have been joining us for our weekly worship service posted on our church's Facebook page.

The Worship Committee is offering the opportunity for you to purchase a Christmas poinsettia as a memorial for loved ones. You will see the beautiful poinsettias displayed during the virtual services on December 13, 20, and on Christmas Eve. The memorial acknowledgements will be listed in the bulletins.

If you would like to purchase a memorial this year, please contact Gayle Kaufeld by phone at 269-2670 or by email at gkaufeld@gmail.com. I will accept orders from Tuesday, November 24th– Tuesday December 8th.

Please provide the following:

- The donors' names and the names of those being honored
- Your choice of red or white poinsettia
- \$10.00 cash to cover the cost, left in the envelope marked "Memorials" in the Secretary's office at the church.

The poinsettias are grown by Houston's Greenhouse, as usual.

Thank you.

- The Worship Committee



Advent Bible Study!

Be Transformed this Advent Season!

Join us for Advent Bible Study on Zoom!

This Advent season our church family will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today!

Lesson 1- Presidents and Kings- Tuesday December 1 at 10am and Wednesday December 2 at 8pm

Lesson 2- The Savior and Our Need for Saving- Tuesday December 8 at 10am and Wednesday December 9 at 8pm

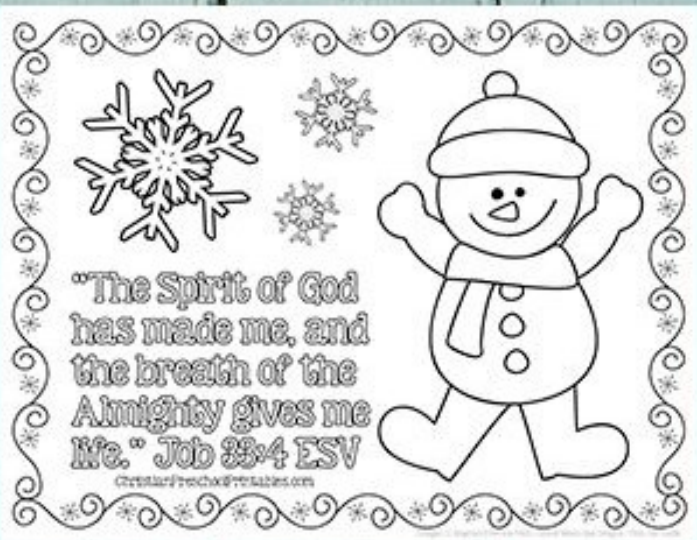
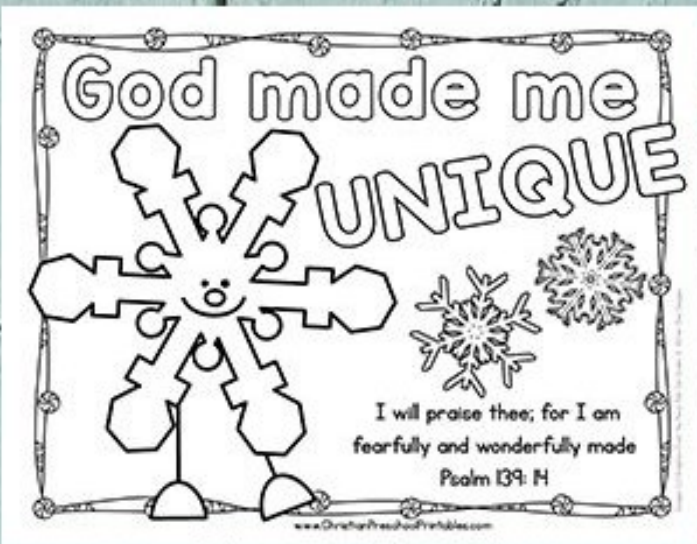
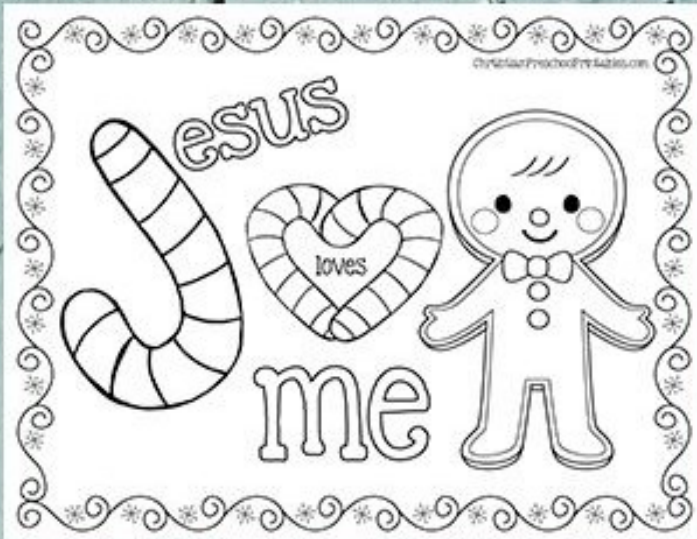
Lesson 3- Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic -Tuesday December 15 at 10am and Wednesday December 16 at 8pm

Lesson 4- The Light of the World- Monday December 21 at 8pm and Tuesday December 22 at 10am

The Zoom link will be sent out via email. Contact Pastor Amanda for more information.



Bible Coloring for Christmas

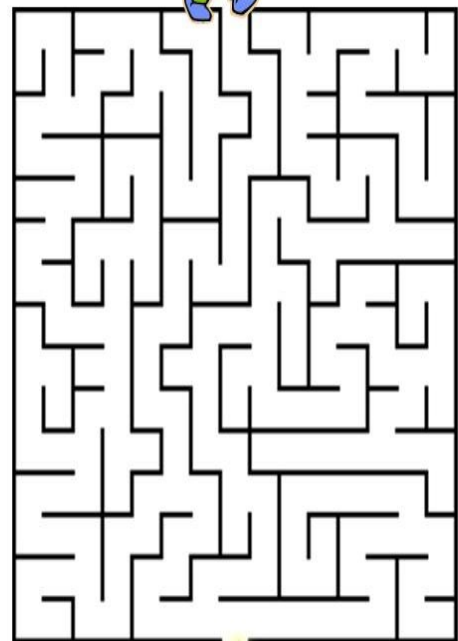


I bring you good tidings of great **joy**,
which shall be to
all people. For unto you
is born this day
in the city of David a **Saviour**,
which is
Christ the Lord.
→ Luke 2:10 & 11 ←

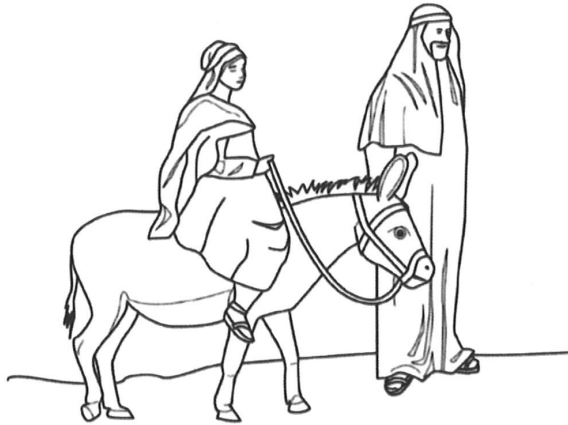


Christmas Maze

Help the boy through the maze to find the tree



Celebrating our 13th year
bringing this wonderful story to life!
(a little differently)



Christmas Alive!

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Christmas Alive has made some modifications to our program in order to ensure the safety of all involved.

*Our 2020 program will be a spiritual
drive through the birth of Christ.*

(getting back to a more a rustic setting and family unit actors.)

Saturday, December 19th – 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

At the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Kasson Minnesota

The journey will begin on 11th St NE by the Ice Arena where you will receive a copy of the story to read in your vehicle telling the story at each scene leading up to the final Nativity

A **HUGE Thank You** to the Dodge County Fair Board, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions, our child actors and parent volunteers and **EVERYONE** who had a hand in making it possible to bring this modified version of the original show to all who believe in and have **FAITH** in God

This is a nondenominational event – all are welcome!

Free will offerings will be accepted!

Proceeds support the Dodge County Food Shelf.

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church

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Kasson, MN 55944

Telephone: (507) 634-7481

Email: presbykasson@kmtel.com

Pastor-presbypastor@kmtel.com

Website: www.presbykasson.org

Rev. Amanda Boss -Pastor

Ann Driver, Church Secretary

Dan Kaufeld, Organist

Gayle Kaufeld, Choir Director

Quinita Kase, Organist

Don and Jane Heser, Custodians

Amanda Frodermann Parish Nurse

Jennifer Mittelstadt, Treasurer

Elders & Committees

Randy Carlsen-Clerk of Session

Thelma Givan– Membership, Mission, Personnel

Robert Gransee– Property

Tami Hanson-Christian Ed, Personnel, Worship

Gayle Kaufeld– Christian Ed, Nominating, Worship

Jennifer Mittelstadt– Christian Ed, Membership, Personnel, Stewardship

Mike Prenzlów-Property

Paulette Riedel-Nominating, Membership, Missions

Sheryl Scholer– Christian Ed, Worship

Deacons & Committees

Sue Alberts– Stewardship, Worship, Nominating

Steve Johnson-


Paul Riggs– Membership, Stewardship

Roma Stromme—

Wayne Trom– Property

Michelle Willert– Mission, Property

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Saints Day		Bible Study 10 am—Zoom 1	Bible Study 8 PM—Zoom 2	3	4	5
2nd Sunday of Advent 6	7	Bible Study 10 am—Zoom 8	Worship Comm. @ 6:30 PM by Zoom 9	10	11	12
Deacons mtg @ 3:00 PM			Bible Study 8 PM—Zoom			
3rd Sunday 13	14	Bible Study 10 am—Zoom 15	Bible Study 8 PM—Zoom 16	17	18	19
Kids Xmas Trivia @ 3:00 PM Zoom Adult Xmas Trivia @ 4:00pm Zoom Choir Xmas Caroling 6:30pm	Session Meeting 5:30pm					
4th Sunday 20	21	Bible Study 10 am—Zoom 22	23	24	25	26
of Advent Blue Xmas Service on Facebook 3pm	Bible Study 8pm— Zoom		Deadline for Newsletter	Christmas Eve Outdoor Worship at 5pm (weather permitting)		
27	28	29	30	31		
Pastor Amanda is out of the office December 25, 2020 through January 2, 2021				