

Newsletter 12.12.24

This past weekend Rita and I traveled out to Salt Lake City, Utah. We left rather early in the morning and thanks to the time zones we arrived rather early in the morning. It's weird how time travel works like that.

As we stepped out of the airport we looked around and saw... nothing. The entire valley was covered in fog. We couldn't even see the city, even though we knew it was there. Everything was blanketed in clouds.

Later that day as the heat of the sun burned away the fog, we were shocked. When we looked out the window of our hotel, we saw mountains! We joked about when those got there. Did these mountains get installed when we weren't looking? They were magnificent to look at on a clear day, but they were always there. Even on the foggiest of mornings, those beautiful mountains were there. I just couldn't see them. They were there when we weren't looking and they're still there now.

Those mountains got me thinking about faith and our Lord. We know our Lord is always with us for we have that promise in Scripture. Christ told his Disciples, "And behold, I am always with you, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)." We know that Jesus is always beside us, walking with us in our lives. We know this, but do we feel it?

Because the truth is that our lives can be filled with fog. The stress of life and the pain of grief can block our vision. Our lives can get so busy we fail to look up at the world around us. The fog of life can cause us to feel isolated, alone, and lost.

Even at our lowest, God is there with us. God has promised to be a source of strength when we are weak. God is our foundation when the storms of life batter us. Christ has not abandoned us or left us orphaned. God's love for us is so great that even the Tomb could not keep Christ from us. God is with us always.

It is far too easy to lose sight of God in the fog of life, so let us take time to reflect and strive to see clearly. Let us be willing to go to the Lord in prayer. Let us take a moment every day to reflect and see where God has been active in our lives. Let's thank God for the big things, and the small things. Let's see God through the fog.

God bless! Pastor Ed

Christmas Eve Services

5 PM Family Christmas Eve Service

10:30 PM Christmas Handbell Music with the Joyful Ringers

**11:00 PM *His Name is Jesus; A Musical for Christmas*
presented by the Chancel Choir**

12 PM Candle light welcoming Christmas morning

The Children's Church kids will be delivering the gifts under the Giving Tree to the YWCA Sunday, December 15.

Fifth Sunday – December 29

10:30 AM Worship followed by a brunch.

The Lights of Advent

**Pastor Ed is leading an Advent study in the conference room
at 10:30 AM on the Sunday mornings of Advent.**

Looking Ahead

Giving Tree – Deliver gifts – Sunday, Dec. 15

Blue Christmas – Saturday, Dec. 21, 5 PM

Family Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5 PM

Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, Dec. 24, 10:30 PM

Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Dec. 28, 4 PM

Fifth Sunday – Sunday, Dec. 29, 10:30 AM Worship followed by Brunch

Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Monday, January 6, 6:30 PM

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206,
use north east door. Come Join Us!

Thank You

Pastor Ed, I want to thank you for the inspiring cards you have been sending. LUM church still holds a warm place in our hearts. As soon as I'm able we will be visiting, we still have a lot of family and friends there. Say Hi to my brother Denny and God Bless. David Heckaman

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Dec. 15 Jean L. Dec. 22 Karen T. Dec. 29 10:30 AM Worship - Brunch
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Dec. 15 _____ Dec. 22 _____ Dec. 29 _____
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Food Pantry

**Food Pantry Needs: Shelf Stable Milk, peas, toilet paper, cooking oil,
cereal, canned fruit, pudding cups, crackers, cookies, soup, jelly,
canned navy and kidney beans**

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

The Food Pantry will be closed December 24