

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

December 2017

Pastor's Christmas Message



Today something unfortunate happened.

A Christian told me that Christmas was “just another day” to them.

When I heard these words I was surprised, sad, and honestly a little offended. When our conversation ended and we parted ways, I began to wonder how a Christian could possibly feel this way about Christmas.

I came to the conclusion that there are several possible reasons that a person might not feel the same excitement, joy, gratitude, hope, peace and love that I am fortunate enough to experience every 25th of December, and why they might view it as “just another day.” Here’s what I quickly jotted down:

Reason 1: It’s cold and snowy and icy, just like it was last week and like it will be next week.

Reason 2: My daily routine doesn’t change much: I wake up, I eat, I go to bed; sun goes down, moon comes up, world keeps on spinning.

Reason 3: I respond to my obligations, be they at work (some people do actually work on Christmas Day) or at home. The dishes don’t clean themselves.

Reason 4: I see the same people. Whether I have family or no family, today I am not looking at anyone I don’t normally see.

I admit that the above reasons are likely NOT the case for a lot of people out there: it might not be cold where you are, you could be eating much different food or not going to bed at all, you have no work or obligations on Christmas day, and you see a slew of different folks on this holiday. I get it. But I came up with a 5th reason: experience

Reason 5: I have experienced Christmas x (fill in your age) amount of times. I know the songs we’re going to sing at church and I know what the pastor will talk about. And, going to church on a regular basis throughout the year, I know the story of Jesus’ birth, life and death. There’s nothing new here; I’ve seen it all before. It’s just another day.

I’ve spoken in previous columns about the danger of “the novelty wearing off” in reference to Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is equally true that, if we are not careful, the same thing can happen at Christmas: we can fail to properly celebrate the birth of the most important human being ever born because everything going on around us is so familiar. Whether it’s the events we experience daily or those we experience only annually, we are always in danger of allowing these constantly repeated experiences to dull the sheen of that in our lives which should forever shine the brightest.

But if we learn to celebrate the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ on a regular basis – *truly* celebrate and live in the knowledge that we are loved beyond measure and that our souls are saved – then this will never happen. In our hearts, it will be impossible for the celebration to ever end. Every single moment of our lives will be amazing to us because of the gift that we’ve been given. Every day we will celebrate Christ because we don’t know how NOT to. Every single day will be like.....well, will be like Christmas.

.....and when December 25th rolls around, it will indeed be just another day.

Pastor Mike



Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Morning

10:30 am Regular Worship

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight

6:00 pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

No Worship!



ANNUAL CANTATA

Saturday,
December 2

3pm Pasta Lunch
4pm Cantata



Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The Cantata will be in the Sanctuary. All are invited! Bring your family and friends. You can even come alone! We'd love for you to have a heart-warming afternoon with us.

The ReRunz will be back this year for your listening pleasure while dining.

December 16 we will be performing the Cantata at St. Timothy's in Livonia. If you can't join us here, please join us there.



Enjoying the luncheon before last year's Cantata

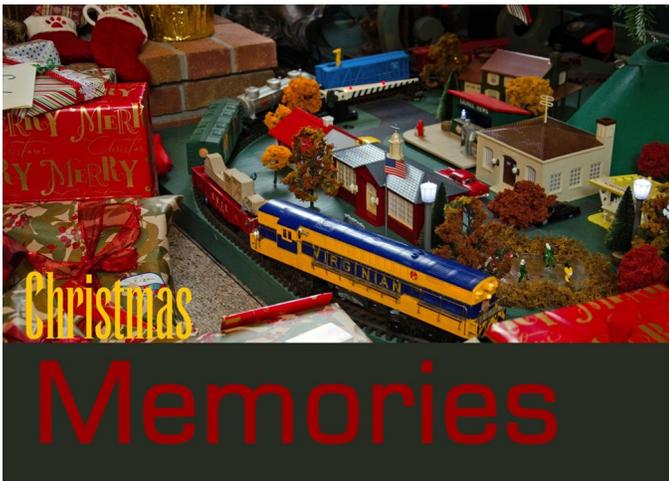
Financial Report as of 10/31/2017

	October	Year to Date	Budget
Income	10,708	101,682	96,409
Expenses	8,359	88,012	93,687
Net Income or Loss	2,349	13,670	2,722
Liquid Assets*	104,688	104,688	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

October was a very good financial month. Nearly all revenue categories exceeded budget and there were no unusual expenses. The month was a five collection month and investment gains remained strong. November will be challenging due to having three pay periods.





Memories

When my 3 brothers and I were growing up, we always got a visit at our house from Santa, who was actually my Uncle Elton in costume. He and Aunt Mary would spend the night and at some point he would sneak away and change into his Santa suit and show up with some little gifts. He was just as disappointed as we were when we got old enough to figure out it was actually him. Another favorite memory - my Grandma Hazel started giving my brothers and I our favorite food as a little gift. Mine was always a head of lettuce!
—Jenny Root

My favorite Christmas memory was my First Christmas away from home. I was living in Alamogordo, New Mexico. It was so warm, that I left the afternoon shift at 11:00 pm and walked the mile home in just a light wind breaker. I came home to my Christmas tree in our small empty apartment. Walt had gone to midnight service with friends. I picked up the phone to call my best friend. She had just had her first boy and her home was alive with celebrating guests. We talked as the time turned to midnight and Christmas day. When we awoke on Christmas morning a storm had dropped 8 inches of snow on our car and my Christmas morning was white and glistening. By lunch time the snow was gone and Walt washed the car in the driveway. We then made more phone calls back to Michigan to family and friends. —Judy Curtis

We never put up a tree until after the Christmas service. When our son, Nathan, was 1 1/2, we went over to his grandma and grandpa's house. They put up their tree on Thanksgiving Day. When Nathan saw the tree, he went "ooohhh....Happy Birthday Jesus!"
—Nancy Pride



Girl Scout Troop 71137, who had a lock-in at Kirk of Our Savior last month, wanted to thank the Kirk for the use of our facilities. They had a great time, and here they are in Fellowship Hall!



48 shoeboxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child. The congregation also was generous in donating to Warm the Children with hats, mittens and gloves and to the Pillowcase Dresses for girls in Africa.



- 1 Pat Gallaher
- 7 Bob Gates
- 22 Christine Davison
- 28 Pat Higgins
- 29 Georreen Kirk


KEEP CALM AND LET'S HAVE LUNCH

December 27

Join Classy Lassies and Grazers as they meet at 11:30am in the church lobby before going out to lunch.

All are invited! This means you! The men and women of the church meet on the last Wednesday of every month for fun and fellowship. You are invited to come too! After meeting in the lounge, the groups each decide where they will go locally for lunch.



Consecration Sunday Preliminary Results

On Consecration Sunday and for the three weeks thereafter, we have received financial commitments from a total of 49 giving units. Of this number a total of 13 giving units increased their financial commitment above their last year's amount, and we added three new commitments as well. We still have a few regular giving units that have not yet returned their Estimate of Giving Cards.

The 2017 Consecration Sunday results as of the end of November total \$101,438 which is an increase of 1.01% from 2016. Based on last year's giving records as well as the Giving Commitments received we can expect the final numbers to be approximately \$103,500 for an increase of 3.5%.



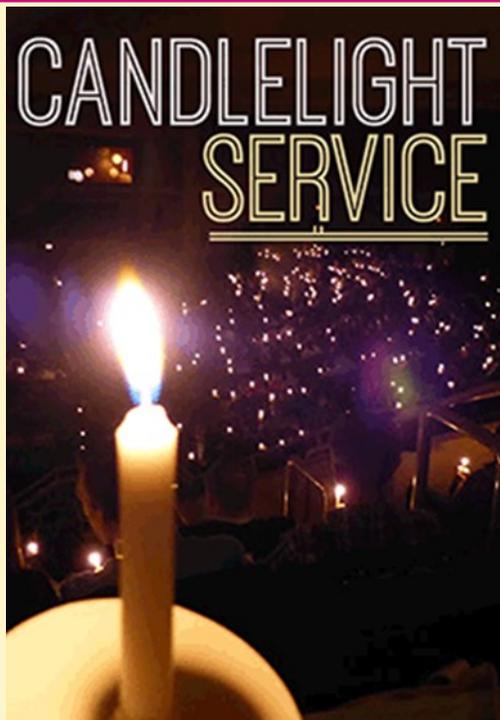
Order your poinsettias now for \$10. Place in small manila envelope found in the pews along with your name and any message you would like included in honor of or in memory of.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

What's missing? 'U'! We need children to help us build a bulletin board display, play games, and paint while we learn about God's Law and what it means for us. Won't you join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 - it isn't the same without 'you'.

We will be celebrating Advent in December by making ornaments and decorating a tree. Come join us!



6pm December 24

WARM THE CHILDREN

The outreach committee is seeking donations of warm hats, gloves/mittens, coats and boots to give to children who need them in the local school district.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Madeline Carpenter (2018), Chairman and Elder

Bonnie Hilberer (2019) Elder

Irene Gaylord (2020) Deacon

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Gallaher, Chairman and Elder

Cindy Handford (2019) Deacon

Lynn King (2020) Deacon

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Dorothy Albright, (2020) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2018) Deacon

MISSION/OUTREACH

Judy Curtis (2018) Chairman and Elder

Nancy Pride (2020), Elder

Lorraine Scott (2019) Deacon

Audrey Conner (2019) Deacon

FOUNDATION

Leslie Holland (2019) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2020) Elder

John Jennings (2018) Deacon

Rob Otte (2020) Deacon

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

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Daily Readings for Advent 2018

	Two-Year Daily Lectionary (<i>Book of Common Worship</i>) [Year 1]	Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings [Year A]
Sunday, Dec. 2 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 24; 150 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 25; 110 Isa. 1:1–9 2 Pet. 3:1–10 Matt. 25:1–13	Isa. 2:1–5 Ps. 122 Rom. 13:11–14 Matt. 24:36–44
Monday, Dec. 3	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 122; 145 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 40; 67 Isa. 1:10–20 1 Thess. 1:1–10 Luke 20:1–8	Ps. 124 Gen. 8:1–19 Rom. 6:1–11
Tuesday, Dec. 4	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 33; 146 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 85; 94 Isa. 1:21–31 1 Thess. 2:1–12 Luke 20:9–18	Ps. 124 Gen. 9:1–17 Heb. 11:32–40
Wednesday, Dec. 5	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 50; 147:1–11 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 53; 17 Isa. 2:1–4 1 Thess. 2:13–20 Luke 20:19–26	Ps. 124 Isa. 54:1–10 Matt. 24:23–35
Thursday, Dec. 6	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 18:1–20; 147:12–20 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 126; 62 Isa. 2:5–22 1 Thess. 3:1–13 Luke 20:27–40	Ps. 72:1–7, 18–19 Isa. 4:2–6 Acts 1:12–17, 21–26
Friday, Dec. 7	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 102; 148 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 130; 16 Isa. 3:1–4:1 1 Thess. 4:1–12 Luke 20:41–21:4	Ps. 72:1–7, 18–19 Isa. 30:19–26 Acts 13:16–25
Saturday, Dec. 8	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 90; 149 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 80; 72 Isa. 4:2–6 1 Thess. 4:13–18 Luke 21:5–19	Ps. 72:1–7, 18–19 Isa. 40:1–11 John 1:19–28
Sunday, Dec. 9 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 24; 150 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 25; 110 Isa. 5:1–7 2 Pet. 3:11–18 Luke 7:28–35	Isa. 11:1–10 Ps. 72:1–7, 18–19 Rom. 15:4–13 Matt. 3:1–12
Monday, Dec. 10	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 122; 145 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 40; 67 Isa. 5:8–17 1 Thess. 5:1–11 Luke 21:20–28	Ps. 21 Isa. 24:1–16a 1 Thess. 4:1–12
Tuesday, Dec. 11	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 33; 146 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 85; 94 Isa. 5:18–25 1 Thess. 5:12–28 Luke 21:29–38	Ps. 21 Isa. 41:14–20 Rom. 15:14–21

Wednesday, Dec. 12	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 50; 147:1–11 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 53; 17 Isa. 6:1–13 2 Thess. 1:1–12 John 7:53–8:11	Ps. 21 Gen. 15:1–18 Matt. 12:33–37
Thursday, Dec. 13	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 18:1–20; 147:12–20 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 126; 62 Isa. 7:1–9 2 Thess. 2:1–12 Luke 22:1–13	Ps. 146:5–10 Ruth 1:6–18 2 Pet. 3:1–10
Friday, Dec. 14	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 102; 148 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 130; 16 Isa. 7:10–25 2 Thess. 2:13–3:5 Luke 22:14–30	Ps. 146:5–10 Ruth 4:13–17 2 Pet. 3:11–18
Saturday, Dec. 15	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 90; 149 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 80; 72 Isa. 8:1–15 2 Thess. 3:6–18 Luke 22:31–38	Ps. 146:5–10 1 Sam. 2:1–8 Luke 3:1–18
Sunday, Dec. 16 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 24; 150 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 25; 110 Isa. 13:1–13 Heb. 12:18–29 John 3:22–30	Isa. 35:1–10 Ps. 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46b–55 Jas. 5:7–10 Matt. 11:2–11
Monday, Dec. 17	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 122; 145 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 40; 67 Isa. 8:16–9:1 2 Pet. 1:1–11 Luke 22:39–53	Ps. 42 Isa. 29:17–24 Acts 5:12–16
Tuesday, Dec. 18	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 33; 146 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 85; 94 Isa. 11:1–9 Eph. 6:10–20 John 3:16–21	Ps. 42 Ezek. 47:1–12 Jude 17–25
Wednesday, Dec. 19	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 50; 147:1–11 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 53; 17 Isa. 11:10–16 Rev. 20:1–10 John 5:30–47	Ps. 42 Zech. 8:1–17 Matt. 8:14–17, 28–34
Thursday, Dec. 20	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 18:1–20; 147:12–20 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 126; 62 Isa. 28:9–22 Rev. 20:11–21:8 Luke 1:5–25	Ps. 80:1–7, 17–19 2 Sam. 7:1–17 Gal. 3:23–29

Friday, Dec. 21	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 102; 148 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 130; 16 Isa. 29:9–24 Rev. 21:9–21 Luke 1:26–38	Ps. 80:1–7, 17–19 2 Sam. 7:18–22 Gal. 4:1–7
Saturday, Dec. 22	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 90; 149 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 80; 72 Isa. 31:1–9 Rev. 21:22–22:5 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)	Ps. 80:1–7, 17–19 2 Sam. 7:23–29 John 3:31–36
Sunday, Dec. 23 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 24; 150 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 25; 110 Isa. 33:17–22 Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20 Luke 1:57–66	Isa. 7:10–16 Ps. 80:1–7, 17–19 Rom. 1:1–7 Matt. 1:18–25
Monday, Dec. 24 <i>Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 122; 145 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 132; 114 Isa. 35:1–10 Rev. 22:12–17, 21 Luke 1:67–80	<i>Morning</i> Luke 1:46b–55 Isa. 60:1–6 Luke 1:67–80 <i>Nativity of the Lord I</i> Isa. 9:2–7 Ps. 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]
Tuesday, Dec. 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day</i>	<i>Morning:</i> Pss. 2; 146 <i>Evening:</i> Pss. 98; 96 Zech. 2:10–13 1 John 4:7–16 John 3:31–36	<i>Nativity of the Lord II</i> Isa. 62:6–12 Ps. 97 Titus 3:4–7 Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20 <i>Nativity of the Lord III</i> Isa. 52:7–10 Ps. 98 Heb. 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14

2018 Per Capita

The Presbytery has increased the amount of Per Capita that is due from each member in 2018. Per Capita provides administrative support to the mission of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Among other things Per Capita provides office and clerical needs, accounting services for mission, and support to helping congregations find new pastors as well as assist candidates to prepare for the ministry. The Per Capita charge that the Kirk recommends is based on that assessed by the Presbytery. For 2018 the amount will increase to \$27 a member, a one dollar increase over the past three years. Please pay this amount at your convenience during the early part of 2018 using the envelope provided in your pledge envelope box or any other envelope that you mark as Per Capita. Thank you.

The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in this vision.

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	2 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal 1-6 Christmas Cantata Event 3pm-Pasta Lunch 4pm-Cantata
3 Communion	4 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	5 6-9pm WCCP Family Fun Night Fellowship 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	6	7 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance Fellowship	8 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	9 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal 4-8pm Fellowship Hall Rental-WUCC
10 Session	11 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	12 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	13	14	15 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	16 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal
17 3-7pm Decker Holiday Party Deacons	18 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	19 9-Noon WCCP 3 Yr. Christmas Party Fellowship 6:30-8pm Girl Scouts	20 9-Noon WCCP 4 Yr. Christmas Party Fellowship	21 7-9pm WCCP Maintenance Fellowship	22 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	23 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal Noon-6pm Hesselgrave Fellowship Hall
24 Christmas Eve Morning Service 6pm-Christmas Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed- No Church Service 7:30-9pm Bi-Polar Depression Support Group	26 7-10pm Harmony Town Chorus	27 11:30am Classy Lassies and Grazers Lunch	28	29 7:45-9:30pm Alanon	30 9:30am-Choir Rehearsal