

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

December 2022

I'm surrounded by calendars.

I open my computer and there's a daily calendar right in front of me. I look to my right and there's a calendar on the wall. I look straight ahead and there's a calendar *on top of another* calendar.



The first calendar is one that Mieke and I share, and which is necessary for us to manage our day-to-day as it displays availability and divides responsibilities (read: who is dropping Theo off, who is picking Theo up, who is preparing this or that meal for Theo, who will be there in Theo's general proximity should a need arise. Our son had better never learn how much sway he has in our house or we might be in trouble....). With two working parents and a young child, checking this calendar multiple times daily and adding events to it immediately is critical in ensuring that everything remains organized in our household. We can achieve each of these things wherever we are thanks to Google and the internet (Mom and Dad: how did you guys make this work when you both had jobs and 6 kids?!?).

Speaking of our son, the calendar on the right is also Theo-centric. Recently staff at his school put together a goal-oriented plan for Theo so that we could address his behavioral challenges together. Wanting to bolster his incentive to meet his daily goal, Mieke drew up a calendar/chart upon which Theo gets to place a sticker each day that he meets his goal. So far he has 5 stickers; when he gets the 10th he gets a small Lego set. He's only missed out on his goal one day since this plan was put together by the talented and attentive staff at his school (I fully acknowledge the integral part of Legos in this collaborative effort).



There is a story behind the two calendars that are on the wall straight ahead of me. Two or three years ago Theo did an Advent calendar for the very first time. He loved it; he looked forward to it every night so much that I told Mieke we had probably better start keeping a regular calendar on the wall for him to put a sticker upon every night. So that's what we did, and for several hundred nights we've continued and he likely has no memory of not putting a sticker on a calendar before he goes to bed.

The final calendar, of course, is the aforementioned Advent calendar. It's only there one month of the year, but that month is now. And, again, it's there because of Theo.

Have you noticed anything that these calendars have in common?

That's right: our son is the most important part of – or the reason for – all of them. We wouldn't have any of the three calendars on the walls if not for him, and the shared Google calendar that Mieke and I use would not need to be checked every day. We'd have exactly one calendar and it wouldn't be nearly so important as it currently is.



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As I considered this fact, my eyes were drawn again to the Advent calendar in front of me. There would be no reason for *any* of us to have an Advent calendar were it not for *God's* son: Jesus Christ. For us Christians, our lives should be built around God's only son just as Mieke's life and as my life – clearly evidenced by all of these calendars/charts around me – are built around *our* own son. Every day, I look at the calendar(s) as I prepare to respond to what my child requires.

When we look at our Advent calendars, are we preparing our hearts to respond to what the Christ child requires?

As I pondered this, even I – a pastor – was forced to ask myself if I have the same devotion to Jesus that I have to Theo.

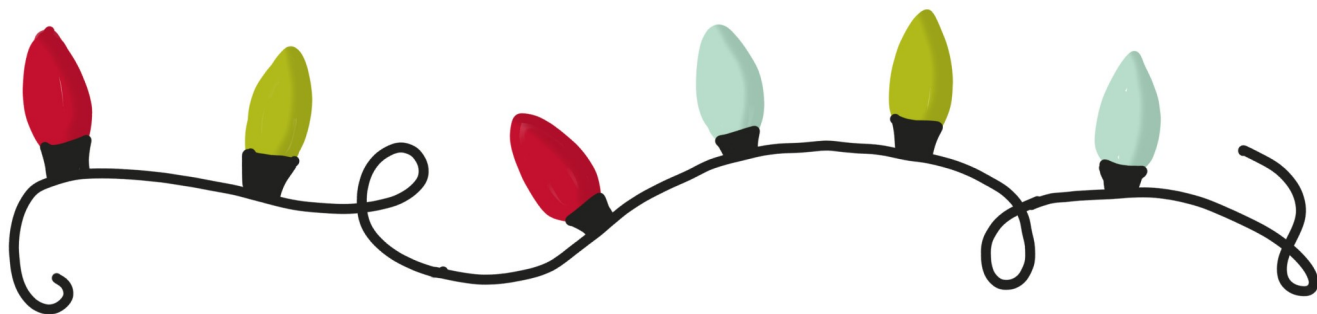
In these 24/25 (calendar) or 22-28 (liturgical year) days every year, does our devotion to and preparation for God's son – the Christ child – equal our devotion to the calendars we keep for 365 days every year? Probably not. It should, given it's only 4 weeks versus 52.....but it doesn't. Jesus is a background thing. Advent is a fun and enchanting time for us to enjoy the story of Jesus' birth and to eat a piece of chocolate every day, but to put away once all the presents are open and we're stuffed with roast beef and eggnog.

Why? I can understand following the liturgical year and walking with Jesus through his adult years and through Lent and his journey to the cross and his death and resurrection on Easter Sunday. This makes sense to me. What makes no sense to me at *all* is that we are so willing to let go of how captivated we are during this special Christmas time. Is it because the novelty would just wear off if it was all the same year-round, every day? Really? If you're a Christian, are you saying that all Jesus is for us and does for us gets boring?? Ok, fine. If so, here's my solution: put away the cold and the snow and the Christmas lights and decorations and candy and the Advent calendars on 12/26. In other words: do what you probably already do (and notice how it already looks different)! But when you put everything away in boxes, *resist* the habit of shelving the magic and enchantment that so long ago was born out of amazing new hope and possibility in Jesus' miraculous, life-changing and world-changing birth.

Every day as we look at our calendars – Advent and beyond – I hope that we can put a sticker on there that just says "Jesus." If we do, we might capture Advent in a bottle: The Messiah remains magic for us all year long and every single day the devotion of our hearts and the ordering of our daily lives is built around *God's* son. I don't want to just do what *my* son requires. I want to do what the *Christ child* requires: love the Lord with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my mind, and love my neighbor as myself.

May our devotion be not to this world, but rather to the Christ child for whom we wait. ...when Jesus comes, I want to show him not 24 – not 28 – but **365** stickers with his name on them. 😊

Pastor Mike





ADVENT

Bible Reading Plan

1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8

2022 PER CAPITA

The 2022 Per Capita charge per Kirk member is \$34. The increase is in accordance with the amount that the Presbytery passed on to the church. Payment can be made using the Per Capita envelope in the giving box or any method you choose to designate the funds. Thank you.



- 1 Pat Gallaher**
- 7 Bob Gates**
- 28 Pat Higgins**
- 29 Georgeen Kirk**



Christmas Eve Worship

6:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Nancy Lee Pride (2024)

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

CHILDREN & YOUTH

MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2023) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2023) Elder

FOUNDATION

Rob Otte (2024) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2023) Elder

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: June Jennings

The membership of Kirk of Our Savior approved changes to the by-laws which eliminated the Board of Deacons. The number of Elders serving was also decreased from six to five. The Elders will now serve a 2-year term rather than the 3 years they had served previously.

A publication for the family and friends of
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Pastor Mike says....

Did you all know that we have an award-winning writer and photographer on staff at the Kirk, and that they're the same person?

It's true! Recently, while on vacation at Mackinac Island, our very own Carolyn Marnon took 1st place in the writing contest at the Grand Hotel. But she wasn't done there! Only a few short weeks later she took first prize again, this time in the "Nature" category in the Westland Library Photography Contest. Check out her amazing photo here.

Congratulations, Carolyn, and well done!!"

Notes from Carolyn....

The photo is of a bird flying over a pond during last winter's Detroit Zoo Wild Lights event.

The short story was about an April Fools joke involving chicken and frog legs when my children were young.



Financial Report as of 10/31/2022

	October	Year to Date	Budget
Income	9,523	64,063	71,747
Expenses	7,918	97,670	88,709
Net Income or Loss	1,605	-33,607	-16,962
Liquid Assets*	92,662	92,662	

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

October numbers were improved because of 5 collection Sundays and positive Mutual Funds movement of \$1000. Expenses were lower due to seasonal impacts and some cost improvement programs.

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

LEARN THROUGH PLAY PRESCHOOL

"We are so thankful for the opportunity to provide care and support to each and every student and family within our school community! We continue to learn and grow each day. Some of the favorite things at school right now include building with various blocks, exploration in our discovery area within our classroom and our small group activities." -Ms. Tara



December 2022 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Thursday, December 1

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 2:5–22
1 Thess. 3:1–13
Luke 20:27–40

Friday, December 2

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 3:1–4:1
1 Thess. 4:1–12
Luke 20:41–21:4

Saturday, December 3

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 4:2–6
1 Thess. 4:13–18
Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, December 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 5:1–7
2 Pet. 3:11–18
Luke 7:28–35

Monday, December 5

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 5:8–17
1 Thess. 5:1–11
Luke 21:20–28

Tuesday, December 6

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 5:18–25
1 Thess. 5:12–28
Luke 21:29–38

Wednesday, December 7

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 6:1–13
2 Thess. 1:1–12
John 7:53–8:11

Thursday, December 8

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 7:1–9
2 Thess. 2:1–12
Luke 22:1–13

Friday, December 9

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
Evening: Pss. 130; 16
Isa. 7:10–25
2 Thess. 2:13–3:5
Luke 22:14–30

Saturday, December 10

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
Evening: Pss. 80; 72
Isa. 8:1–15
2 Thess. 3:6–18
Luke 22:31–38

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
Evening: Pss. 25; 110
Isa. 13:1–13
Heb. 12:18–29
John 3:22–30

Monday, December 12

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
Evening: Pss. 40; 67
Isa. 8:16–9:1
2 Pet. 1:1–11
Luke 22:39–53

Tuesday, December 13

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
Evening: Pss. 85; 94
Isa. 9:2–7
2 Pet. 1:12–21
Luke 22:54–69

Wednesday, December 14

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 53; 17
Isa. 9:8–17
2 Pet. 2:1–10a
Mark 1:1–8

Thursday, December 15

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 62
Isa. 9:18–10:4
2 Pet. 2:10b–16
Matt. 3:1–12

Friday, December 16

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
 Evening: Pss. 130; 16
 Isa. 10:5–19
 2 Pet. 2:17–22
 Matt. 11:2–15

Saturday, December 17

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
 Evening: Pss. 80; 72
 Isa. 10:20–27
 Jude 17–25
 Luke 3:1–9

Sunday, December 18**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150
 Evening: Pss. 25; 110
 Isa. 11:1–9
 Eph. 6:10–20
 John 3:16–21

Monday, December 19

Morning: Pss. 122; 145
 Evening: Pss. 40; 67
 Isa. 11:10–16
 Rev. 20:1–10
 John 5:30–47

Tuesday, December 20

Morning: Pss. 33; 146
 Evening: Pss. 85; 94
 Isa. 28:9–22
 Rev. 20:11–21:8
 Luke 1:5–25

Wednesday, December 21

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 53; 17
 Isa. 29:9–24
 Rev. 21:9–21
 Luke 1:26–38

Thursday, December 22

Morning: Pss. 18:1–20;
 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 126; 62
 Isa. 31:1–9
 Rev. 21:22–22:5
 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)

Friday, December 23

Morning: Pss. 102; 148
 Evening: Pss. 130; 16
 Isa. 33:17–22
 Rev. 22:6–11, 18–20
 Luke 1:57–66

Saturday, December 24**Christmas Eve**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149
 Evening: Pss. 80; 72
 Isa. 35:1–10
 Rev. 22:12–17, 21
 Luke 1:67–80

Sunday, December 25**Nativity of Jesus****Christ/Christmas Day**

Morning: Pss. 2; 150
 Evening: Pss. 98; 96
 Zech. 2:10–13
 1 John 4:7–16
 John 3:31–36

Monday, December 26

Morning: Pss. 116; 145
 Evening: Pss. 119:1–24; 27
 2 Chr. 24:17–22
 Acts 6:1–7
 Acts 7:59–8:8

Tuesday, December 27

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
 Evening: Pss. 19; 121
 Prov. 8:22–30
 1 John 5:1–12
 John 13:20–35

Wednesday, December 28

Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1–11
 Evening: Pss. 110; 111
 Isa. 49:13–23
 Isa. 54:1–13
 Matt. 18:1–14

Thursday, December 29

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:12–20
 Evening: Pss. 132; 97
 Isa. 12:1–6
 Rev. 1:1–8
 John 7:37–52

Friday, December 30

Morning: Pss. 93; 148
 Evening: Pss. 89:1–18;
 89:19–52
 Isa. 25:1–9
 Rev. 1:19–20
 John 7:53–8:11

Saturday, December 31

Morning: Pss. 98; 149
 Evening: Pss. 45; 96
 Isa. 26:1–6
 2 Cor. 5:16–6:2
 John 8:12–19

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30-9pm Alcañon-Lounge	3
4 10:30am-Worship	5 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	6	7	8	9 6pm Family Fun Night 7:30-9pm Alcañon-Lounge	10
11 10:30am-Worship	12 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	13	14	15	16 7:30-9pm Alcañon-Lounge	17
18 10:30am-Worship <i>Christmas-themed Luncheon after worship</i>	19 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	20	21	22	23 7:30-9pm Alcañon-Lounge	24 6pm-Christmas Eve Worship
25 10:30am-Worship	26 7:30-9pm BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge	27	28	29	30 7:30-9pm Alcañon-Lounge	31