

## December 2024

What are you doing for Christmas? Going somewhere? Staying home? Having family over? People are going to ask you these questions all month long. What will you say? What are your plans?

I hope part of your answer will be “I’ll be in church on Christmas!” That’s a beautiful statement and witness to what the celebration of Christmas really is. People like to say Christmas is about Jesus but they never really let that make a difference in what they do or where they go. Tell someone why you’ll be going to church and invite them along for one of the most profound and dramatic things that they’ll ever hear. They’ll hear of a promise made long ago that God would send a Savior for us wretched men because we could never save ourselves from our fallen condition. They’ll hear that that Savior miraculously took up residence in the womb of a virgin for nine months. They’ll hear that she was visited by an angel and humbly embraced this role that God called her to and considered herself blessed to be with child. They’ll hear of the bravery of a man who risked everything to stay with girl and protect her and the baby she carried in a town that rejected them. They’ll hear of an angelic choir of heaven shattering the silence and darkness for some unassuming shepherds. They’ll hear that God in the flesh allows Himself to be born among animals and manure. And, most importantly, they’ll hear that all this was done - for them.



That will change someone’s perspective on Christmas. Does it change yours? I hope so. Let it make a difference on what you say and do. Be bold and invite someone to come along for the first time. Invite someone to return. There’s a ton of people who think this season is about stores getting into the black or make it “just about the kids” and are totally missing out on something that can change their life. Let them see that it changes yours. The Savior was born among us and for us. Come, let us adore Him. The heavens declare His handiwork - let’s get in on that. In a time when anxiety, depression, and hopelessness plagues so many, the church needs to declare where people can find hope and healing. The one born in the manger. We point them where to go by we ourselves leading the way. He’s the climax to the most profound and dramatic thing we have ever heard and we have a reason to rejoice. Embrace it. Share it. Rejoice in it.

What are you doing for Christmas?

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt

### LIFE QUOTE

If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: 'Christ is born in Bethlehem.' Alleluia.

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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### PRIVATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From the Small Catechism: Confession

*What is confession?*

*Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.*

*Private, or individual, confession and absolution is available by appointment with Pastor Suggitt. You may call him at 989.551.3976 to set up a time.*



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