The Tradition of Advent

We call the four weeks before Christmas “Advent.” Advent means “arrival that has been awaited.” We wait for the birth of Christ – or rather, for the time we celebrate that birth which actually happened more than 2,000 years ago. What traditions are observed in your family during Advent? Many advent traditions involve a countdown to Christmas. Take the advent wreath for example. This family devotional practice is a way to build anticipation for the birth of Jesus as more candles are lit each week. Advent calendars are currently experiencing growth in creativity and they can be used by families or individuals. If you searched for Advent Calendars online, you may be surprised how many there are. Some advent calendars have a clear Christian devotional message that prepares us for the birth of Jesus such as the Jesse Tree which combines a daily component of devotions, scripture readings, and placing an ornament on a tree. Some advent calendars function simply as fun countdowns to Christmas.

Consider an advent calendar or prayer guide this year. Be creative. Perhaps you can make something together for your kitchen or dining room to count down the days. Together try to come up with a list of 25 activities you want to do as a family to prepare for Christmas. Perhaps you want to bake Christmas cookies, send a Christmas letter, or put up Christmas lights. Use a daily devotion before your family meal such as the Magnificent Gifts Prayer Guide or the Christ in our Home Devotional. We hope your advent is as meaningful and joy-filled as Christmas.

Visit the resource table in the Great Hall for Advent calendars, Jesus Storybook Bible reading plans and other great ideas to center in this season. Our website, sheridanlutheran.org/advent has more tips and tools.
**Church family support and news**

**First Steps Baptism Class**

The next First Steps Baptism Class is Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11am in the church office Conference Room. This class is for those wanting to have their children baptized at Sheridan. You may schedule your child’s baptism with the office prior to attending the class.

**Weddings**

Interested in holding your wedding at Sheridan?

Visit sheridanlutheran.org/weddings Contact k.znamenacek@sheridanlutheran.org for scheduling or other questions.

**Hospital visits**

Members of the visitation team make daily visits to Lincoln area hospitals to offer support, encouragement and prayer. Call the church at 402-423-4769 to schedule a visit. Please do not rely on the hospital to notify the church.

**For those grieving or planning funerals**

Please contact Karen in the church office at 402-423-4769.

**Pastoral care**

Contact the church office at 402-423-4769 during business hours: 8am - 5pm; Monday-Friday. In case of emergencies (death of a loved one or if immediate assistance is needed) after hours call 402-423-4769 and press option 4.

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**Births**

Hartlee Corinne Brandt daughter of Courtney & Nick;
Jaxson Kent Lane son of Allison & Andy;
Vayda Snow Paisley daughter of Kalin & Nate;

**Baptisms**

Hartlee Corrine Brandt daughter of Nick & Courtney;
Ariyah Jean Tapio, Layla Nicole Tapio daughters of Zachary Tapio & Alex Myers;
Rhett Dean Klaus son of Austin Klaus & Alex Myers;

**With Sympathy**

Drew (Tyanne) Mischnick family on the death of grandfather Wilber Carley;
Kathleen Nider on the death of brother Lee Heidemann;
Lee (Genny) Straube family on the death of brother-in-law Steve Hickman;
Jason (Shelly) Laessig family on the death of father/grandfather Kay Laessig;
Vera Lyman, Greg (Jen) Lyman, Larry (Lorraine) Lyman, Charles (Debra) Arent families on the death of husband/father Glenn Lyman;
Anthony & Suzanne Thiner family on the death of stillborn daughter Ava Vera Thiner;
Jim & Joan Wolford on the death of son Paul Wolford.

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**Nebraska Community Blood Bank Blood Drive**

Sat., Dec. 15; 8:30am-noon; Family Life Center

Sign up today: donor.ncbb.org/web/GroupLanding.aspx?s=SHER

Give the gift of life, give blood. Walk-ins welcome as space allows. Reserve your space today.

**OneSent Market Holiday Mission Market**

Sun., Dec. 2; 9am-1:30pm & Sun., Dec. 16; 2-5pm

Stop by the OneSent Market for a unique shopping experience. In addition to Bibles, children’s books and other books to enrich your spiritual walk, you can also see beautiful handcrafted items from around the globe that come from our Lutheran partner cooperative, SERRV. Your purchase guarantees the artisan receives a livable wage for their work. Gift cards are available for purchase.

**Festival of Trees Silent Auction**

Silent Auction bidding open through Dec. 9

Info: k.paisley@sheridanlutheran.org

This silent auction of beautifully decorated trees and wreaths supports the Sheridan Campership Fund which provides assistance to children attending Christian summer camps. Bidding will be open through Dec. 9 and highest bids are announced/contacted following the 11am worship. Many of the pre-lit trees were provided by a Thrivent Action Team.

**2019-2020 Sheridan Business Directory**

We are now accepting information for our next Business Directory through Jan. 15. New ads are $30, renewals are $15 and teens advertise free. You may submit payment information or renew online at sheridanlutheran.org/businessdirectory. Renewal payments can be brought to the church office with “Business Directory renewal” in the memo line. The new directory will be available in March.
Worship with us

**Saturday** | **Sunday** | **Wednesday**
---|---|---
5:30pm | 8:30, 9:45am; 11am | 6pm

**Holy Communion** is served on Saturday evening and 8:30am each Sunday as well as at 9:45am and 11am on December 2 & 16. Learn more about worship online: [sheridanlutheran.org/worship-schedule](http://sheridanlutheran.org/worship-schedule)

**Nursery** is available on Sundays from 9:30am – noon

**Miss worship? Sermon & special music videos** can be watched on Sheridan’s Vimeo channel at [vimeo.com/sheridanluthlink](http://vimeo.com/sheridanluthlink). You may also watch a condensed version of our weekend worship on Spectrum channel 1302 on Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 12:30pm and Sundays at 11:30am.

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**October 2018 Financials:**

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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
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<td>Readiness Fund YTD</td>
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<table>
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<th>BUDGET</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
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**October 2018 Attendance:**

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<td>Oct 13/14</td>
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<td>787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20/21</td>
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<td>929</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29*</td>
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</table>

2018 average 920 1,418*

2017 average 993 1,430

*TheoCon worship added to weekly numbers

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**In-Kind Donations**

**Donation Bins**

We are collecting new gloves, hats, scarves and boots for distribution at Barnabas Community and Lincoln Public Schools Homeless Student Outreach. Bins are located in the Great Hall.

**Clinic with a Heart** continually needs personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and body soap.

**Barnabas Community** is in need of all sizes of men’s clothing, especially jeans.

Cash donations are always welcome and needed to meet immediate needs. Please mark all financial contributions “Clinic with a Heart” or “Barnabas Community.”

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**Special Christmas Worship Experiences & Events**

**INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Lessons & Carols Worship**

Sat., Dec. 8; 5:30pm; Worship Center
Don’t miss this worship focused around scripture and your favorite carols! Bring your family and sing your praises to the newborn King.

**Christmas Memories Worship**

Sat., Dec. 22; 5:30pm; Worship Center
For many the Christmas season is filled with joy, but for those whom this will be the first Christmas without a loved one, Christmas can feel sad and tough. We are setting aside space and time to remember loved ones we’ve lost and receive the care of God’s eternal embrace. You, your family, and friends are invited to this special worship with candle lighting, prayer stations with Holy Communion. We hope this time of worship and remembrance will help the light of Jesus’ birth shine upon your life.

**Winter’s Grace - A Christmas Cantata**

Sun., Dec. 9; 8:30, 9:45 & 11am
Sheridan’s Adult Choir and Chamber Orchestra will be presenting the 5th annual Christmas cantata at all morning worship services on Dec. 9. Come and invite a friend or neighbor to join us as we celebrate through song in “Winter’s Grace” by Joseph Martin! The cantata has been a wonderful tradition. Join us!

**Surviving the Holidays GriefShare Event**

Wed., Dec. 19; 6:30-8pm
Info: e.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org
Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can’t be recreated? This event is a class and fellowship event for anyone who has lost a loved one and provides practical holiday coping strategies and hope for brighter days ahead. Resource books are available in the OneSent for $5 + tax.
think about it.

Education Starts Here

SLC offers educational programs for children and adults. For a full listing of programs, visit us online at sheridanlutheran.org or call the church office.

Ongoing Adult Studies
• SUNDAY MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
  Sundays; 8:30am; Conference Room
  This weekly study is facilitated by Phil Wittig.
• SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY
  Sundays; 9:45am; Conference Room
  Currently studying Ephesians. All adults are welcome. This weekly study is facilitated by Julie Johnson.

Monthly Events for Men
Info: e.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org
• MEN’S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
  Mon., Dec. 10; 6:30pm; Conference Room
  This group allows men who are or have experienced cancer to share concerns, promote hope, and receive support from each other.
• MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
  Dec. 8 & 22; 7am; Retreat Center

The Power of Giving Thanks
Wednesdays through Dec. 19; 6:30 - 7:30pm
Info: e.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org
Surveys report that 4 out of 5 Americans feel gratitude. At the same time, our society permeates a deep sense of discontent. Is there a gap between our desire to be grateful and our ability to behave gratefully? In the season of Thanksgiving and Advent, this class will examine the power of giving thanks and the Bible’s teaching how to practice gratitude as individuals and as a community. Invite someone to come and grow in gratitude together.

Moms Together
Wed., Dec. 5; 6:30 - 7:30pm; Room 646
Moms Together is an opportunity for mothers to share around the theme of family time and togetherness. This group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month during Wednesdays @ the Well, for fellowship and conversation with other moms. If you are raising one or more children in your home this opportunity is for you. Bring your kids for Wednesdays @ the Well activities and be a part of this time for ideas and encouragement.

Spring Break Ski Retreat
Sat., March 9 – Fri., March 15
Info: sheridanlutheran.org/spring-break-retreat
Spend Spring Break growing in faith and skiing in Colorado with other families from Sheridan. This retreat is facilitated by Pastors Rhonda and Eric Bostrom and has become a favorite way to spend a week in March. Retreat housing is heated, mountain cabins at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp with skiing at Monarch Mountain. Non-skiers are also welcome and can enjoy the beauty of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. At the end of the day after we eat together, gather in front of a roaring fireplace for worship, devotions, fellowship and community games. Visit the website above for more information, cost and to register.

2019 Men’s & Women’s Retreats
• Men’s Retreat
  Fri., Feb. 22 – Sat., Feb. 23, 2019
  The Men’s Retreat is coming early next year, Feb. 22-23 at Carol Joy Holling Center in Ashland. Retreat theme is “Men with the Courage of Christ.”
• Women’s Retreat
  Fri., April 5 – Sat., April 6, 2019
  At the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City. Our speaker will be Carol Kent, author of Between a Rock and a Grace Place.

New this Year: Nativity Share

Share your Nativity at OneSent Market
It is our hope that every home and family have a Nativity set for telling and retelling the Christmas story. Are you downsizing your Christmas decorations and have a nativity set you no longer need? This year OneSent Market is hosting a Christmas Nativity Sharing Event in conjunction with the Advent Event on December 2. Consider bringing your extra nativity to church by December 1. These nativities will be on display and available for families to purchase at the Advent Event on the 2nd. If there is a story that goes with your nativity, consider sharing that in writing as well. Any nativities not purchased at the Advent Event will be given to families in need in the Barnabas community. All proceeds will benefit the missions supported by OneSent Mission Market.
Two traditions to help celebrate Advent

Advent Event | Sun., Dec. 2; 11am-1:30pm
This festive afternoon is aimed towards helping you look at the traditions and activities of this season through a spiritual lens. Create an Advent Box as you journey through craft and activity stations. As you fill your box with handmade items, you will learn about the usual traditions like cards, ornaments, candy canes and nativities. Come and enjoy:

- “Advent in a Box” and crafts for all ages; freewill offering
- An Advent Wreath station available for each family for $10.
- High School youth will host a soup and chili lunch in the Family Life Center for a freewill offering to support the 2019 Youth Mission Trip to Mt. Cross Camp near San Francisco, CA.

Children’s Christmas Programs | Sun., Dec. 16
9:45am: 3-year-olds sing in worship
2pm: 1st-5th grade Wednesday program
3:15pm: 1st-5th grade Sunday program
4:30pm: 4 & 5-year-olds program
5:15pm: Kindergarten program
A cookie reception is available during the afternoon. Proceeds benefit Haiti VBS.

High School Youth Ministry
Info: i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org

- Sundays at 11am
Small group conversation centered on relevant topics and scripture.
- Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Time for faith formation, group building and more.
- High School Coffee Hours
Tues., Dec. 5; 2:30-4pm
Meet at Scooters (84th & Van Dorn).
- New! Friday Night Lights
Fri., Dec. 14; 9:30pm-midnight
All high school youth are invited to join us for pizza/pop, tons of games and a DJ.
- High School Christmas Party
Wed., Dec. 19; 6:30-8pm
Come to this annual tradition with a white elephant gift exchange, hot chocolate and more. Bring a wrapped gift ($10 limit) to exchange. Friends are always welcome.

High School Youth Mission Trip
July 13-21, 2019; Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp
Cost: $650 | Register by Jan. 15; Limited need-based scholarships available
Register: sheridanlutheran.org/event-registration
Info: i.hartfield@sheridanlutheran.org
Youth currently in grades 8-12 will serve with various community and faith-based organizations, visit famous sites in San Francisco, as well as the historic Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. During our time at Mt. Cross Camp, we will participate in service learning, Bible study, outdoor worship and group-building activities. Only 10 spaces remain.

Mission: We are a community of Christ’s faithful followers, who have been called by God to love deeply, grow spiritually and share abundantly!
Above and Beyond Christmas Giving

Magnificent Gifts begins Dec. 1. This giving opportunity ensures that our ministry partners - in Lincoln and across the world - can continue in their amazing work of reaching out to all with the love of God in Christ Jesus. From the Barnabas Community and Clinic with a Heart here in Lincoln – to VBS in Haiti, Habitat for Humanity Global Village and our greater church work through the ELCA - each of these ministries has a huge, positive impact in their community.

Barnabas Community began 10 years ago, and served more than 2,000 families last year. Because of your generosity, Barnabas is a beacon of light in our city. Our goal through Magnificent Gifts is to raise $70,000 for operating costs of Barnabas Community in 2019.

Each summer, we help to sponsor a Vacation Bible School in Jacmel, Haiti. Children have the chance to know and love God. Each attending family receives a 30 pound bag of rice to help feed their family for the rest of the summer. Our goal for the Haiti VBS ministry is $10,000.

Our greater church partnerships include our companion synods of Tanzania, Argentina, and Uruguay. Magnificent Gifts benefit the purchase of Bibles for Confirmation students, Young Adults in Global Mission program, our partnership with Clinic with a Heart and Habitat for Humanity Global Village. Our goal for our greater church work is $10,000.

Consider giving a Magnificent Gift online to help build God’s kingdom through the Christ-child, Jesus sheridanlutheran.org/advent-giving.

Holiday Barnabas Donations and Store Closures
Info: barnabascommunity.org
Barnabas Community can only accept donations at its 931 Saunders Ave. building during open store hours, which are typically:
- Thursdays: 10-noon & 6-8pm
- Saturdays: 9am-3pm

In December, the Barnabas store will be closed the following days: Dec. 20, 22, 27 and 29.

When Barnabas is closed, please do not drop off donations at Barnabas. Instead, you may bring donations to the vestibule area south of the church office by the Music Room.

Year-end Contributions
Info: k.wittig@sheridanlutheran.org
All giving intended for 2018 needs to be in the church office or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2018 to be included in this year’s contributions.

Mission Trip Dates for 2019
For more information about each experience, contact team leaders.
• Habitat Global Village Disaster Rebuild in Marathon, FL
  Feb. 2-10, 2019 | Cost: Thrivent Members: $500 + airfare and spending money. Non-Thrivent Members: $800 + airfare and spending money. Team Leader: Amy Wagner, globalvillage@sheridanlutheran.org
• Haiti VBS in Jacmel, Haiti
  June 21-28, 2019 | Cost: TBD
  Team Leader: Julie Hestermann, j.hestermann@sheridanlutheran.org
• Habitat Global Village Eastern Europe
  Fall of 2019 | Cost: Thrivent Members: ~$1,200 + airfare and spending money. Non-Thrivent Members: ~$1,800 + airfare and spending money. Team Leader: globalvillage@sheridanlutheran.org

Connections Café
Sundays 9:30am-noon; Wed. 6:30-7:45pm
Stop by the Café’ for a warm coffee beverage. Your tips this month benefit Lutheran Disaster Response and the work of recovery and rebuilding. Gift cards are available for purchase.

Special Offering in December
• Noisy Offering
  Children give to Magnificent Gifts through the Noisy Offering.
• Children’s Ministry Offering
  Support Barnabas Community. Barnabas distributes food and provides meals. Many families come to Barnabas for services every week.

Cookie Reception for Haiti VBS
Sun., Dec. 16; 2-5pm; Family Life Center
Stop by during the Children’s Christmas Programs and enjoy refreshments. A freewill offering will benefit the Haiti VBS ministry. Sign up online at sheridanlutheran.org/volunteersignup to volunteer.
Mission: We are a community of Christ’s faithful followers, who have been called by God to love deeply, grow spiritually and share abundantly!

Come and celebrate the birth of the newborn king!
Join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to share in this joyous season.

**FAMILY CELEBRATION WORSHIP:** 2:30pm, 4pm, 5:30pm
2:30pm will be interpreted for the Deaf
**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP:** 7:30pm & 11pm

Poinsettias for Christmas
If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of God's grace in your life, forms are available at the Welcome Center or online at sheridanlutheran.org/christmas-activities. Poinsettias are $12. Order deadline is Sun., Dec. 16. Poinsettias will adorn our worship space from Dec. 21 - Jan. 6.

Second Quarter Lights Tour
**Thurs., Dec. 20; 6:30-8pm**
**Info:** facebook.com/groups/secondquarter
Adults in their 20s or 30s, come grab a warm beverage and hop on the Sheridan bus for a Christmas lights tour fellowship event. RSVP on the Facebook event.

Christmas Eve Hospitality and Nursery Volunteers Needed
**Dec. 24; afternoon & evening**
- **Hospitality:** Sign up at the Welcome Center to help with one of our special Christmas Eve worship services.
- **Nursery Help** Sign up: sheridanlutheran.ivolunteer.com/xmasevenursery_018
We need your help to offer the Nursery for families attending the Family Celebration Christmas Eve worship. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or online or simply email Beth at b.jessen@sheridanlutheran.org if you are able to share your time in the Nursery this Christmas Eve.

Stained Glass Update
The signed glass pieces have been placed in the Worship Center and plans have begun for more stained glass for the Family Life Center and the Chapel. Thank you for your generosity of this Readiness Fund project.

Winter New Member Workshop
**Sat., Jan. 12; 9am-noon; Great Room South**
**Info:** sheridanlutheran.org/new-member-classes
Join us for the New Member Workshop to learn about Sheridan’s mission and teachings in a casual format. Child care is provided with reservations by Jan. 10. New members completing the workshop will be welcomed into membership during worship at 5:30pm or 11am that weekend. Please register for this event at the website above, so we know to expect you.

Advent Holy Yoga
**Thursdays, Nov. 29 - Dec. 20; 6:30pm**
**Register:** sheridanlutheran.org/event-registration
Embrace the essential elements of yoga: breath work, meditation and physical postures. New participants, please register prior to attending your first class. This class is free. All levels of yoga experience are welcome. Bring a yoga mat if you have one.

Men’s Running Group
**Sat., Dec. 1 & 15; 7am**
**Info:** e.bostrom@sheridanlutheran.org
Running in a group is motivating and it’s a good way to bond with others. Join Pastor Eric for a group run twice a month. All running abilities are welcome. Meet at Sheridan, door #1.

Cards & Games
**Sun., Dec. 9; noon-3pm; Connections Cafe**
**Info:** c.peterson@sheridanlutheran.org
Join us for a potluck holiday foods and treats at noon, followed by cards until 3pm. All are welcome.

Youth Caroling Event
**Fri., Dec. 14; 5-9pm**
**Register:** a.barrett@sheridanlutheran.org
All middle school and high school students are invited to carol at Tabitha and the Martha House. We will start at Sheridan with a rehearsal in the Music Room, then caravan to our caroling destinations and end with fellowship time at a coffee shop. This is our 4th year caroling and it’s always a blast! Friends welcome. Email Amelia Barrett to register!
God Sightings

We try to highlight a member of our Sheridan community who has made God’s love and grace come clearly into sight. If you have a story of a God-sighting to suggest, please email info@sheridanlutheran.org.

Partnership
by Pastor Greg Bouvier

We knew we wanted to do something special to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Nebraska Synod’s relationship with Tanzania, but we were not quite certain what to do. We heard that the Nebraska Synod was bringing someone to Nebraska for the Assembly in June, so we didn’t want to duplicate their effort. Then it dawned on us that we should bring someone here, too! By the gracious funding of the Wittig Visiting Theologian Fund within the Sheridan Foundation, we were able to bring Pastor Godrick Lyimo to Sheridan.

Pastor Godrick is the Headmaster at Agape Lutheran Junior Seminary. Agape is the most successful middle and high school in Tanzania. It is a boarding school.

During his time in Lincoln, Pastor Godrick was able to visit two local high schools, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, many of our ministries at Sheridan and the Nebraska Synod Theological Conference. The visit was very fruitful for him. He made it very clear, “I have learned so much that I might take back to Tanzania – good things that I know I will be able do to create change.”

In hosting Pastor Godrick, God’s grace was so evident. As he preached and taught, many were moved to hear just how much the Tanzania people – especially their children – live by faith each day.

Many Thanks

We give thanks to Tom and Linda Gapp for the many hours they spent in organizing this visit. If you would like to learn more about our Mission work at Sheridan, please contact Pastor Rhonda Bostrom.

We are especially grateful for the funding we received from our Sheridan Foundation. If you would like to learn more about the Foundation, please contact Pastor Greg Bouvier.