

LUTZ

Love Letter

December, 2018



GOD

with Us



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To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "[Instant Church Directory](#)" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact pastorjody@timschurch.org



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](#).

BEGINS DECEMBER 2

H O P E

L O V E

GOD
With Us

J O Y

P E A C E



Everything changed on that unexpected first Christmas more than 2,000 years ago. The trajectory of history, the future, even eternity was transformed when God became a man. Jesus, the Son of God became the Son of Man, fully divine, yet fully human. As the prophet Isaiah foretold long before, Jesus came to earth as Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14).

This was God *with* us.

Not God out of reach, out of somewhere, above us and unattainable. Not God cold and aloof, beyond us and distant, unengaged and disinterested. Not God angry and condemning, overbearing and vengeful, eagerly awaiting our fall.

But God *with* us.

God come near, where we are, in the here and now, where we breathe and live, laugh and cry, love and despair, hurt and heal, create and destroy.

God made flesh. God one of us. God. *With*. Us. Forever.

As we move toward the Christmas celebration of Jesus' momentous arrival, you are invited to join in an Advent journey of discovery – of hope, love, joy, and peace – as we draw near to Jesus Christ, the light of the world, God with us.

The four weeks before Christmas are set aside as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. The term advent is a version of a Latin word that means "coming." But Advent is not just an extension of Christmas, it is a season that links the past, present, and future. Advent offers us the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, to celebrate His birth, and to be alert for His second coming.

In a season often marked by frenzied busyness. Advent is an opportunity to set aside time to prepare our hearts. So no matter what the department stores try to tell you, Christmas has not yet arrived. There is value as well as excitement in patient and expectant waiting. May this be a season of wonder for you. And may the Holy Spirit lead you as you embark on that journey of hope, love, joy, and peace – and ultimately a deep encounter with God with Us.

Lord Jesus, dwell with us. Abide with us. We welcome you.

Blessings,

Pastor Jody



A Note from the Preschool

A special THANK YOU to our church family volunteers that came out to help at the spaghetti dinner and the fall events! We loved having your helping hands and your loving hearts with us. Our Preschool families had such a wonderful time with our fall events. We are building experiences with the children that stimulate curiosity and provide them with “hands on” learning. The spaghetti dinner was a great success! It is a terrific fundraiser for the preschool, but more importantly, it continues to bring our present and past families together.

A very special Christmas blessing to each of you from the preschool. The holidays are such a magical time for children and we are blessed to be able to share the story of Jesus’s birth. We will be having a Preschool Christmas program at 8:30 on December 20 and 21 in the Sanctuary. May this season bring back the hope, wonder, and amazement that you felt as a child.

Preschool registration begins in January. Church members and alumni can register before community registration on February 4th. Please make sure to call the preschool office for more information.

In His Grace,

Danielle Volinsky



REGISTRATION IS COMING!



9TH-12TH GRADE

MONDAYS

LEO ERNY HALL

**This month's
meetings:
December 3
8pm**



6TH-8TH GRADE

FRIDAYS

BLISS CENTER

**This month's
meetings:
December 7 &
14
7pm**

Outdoor MOVIE NIGHT

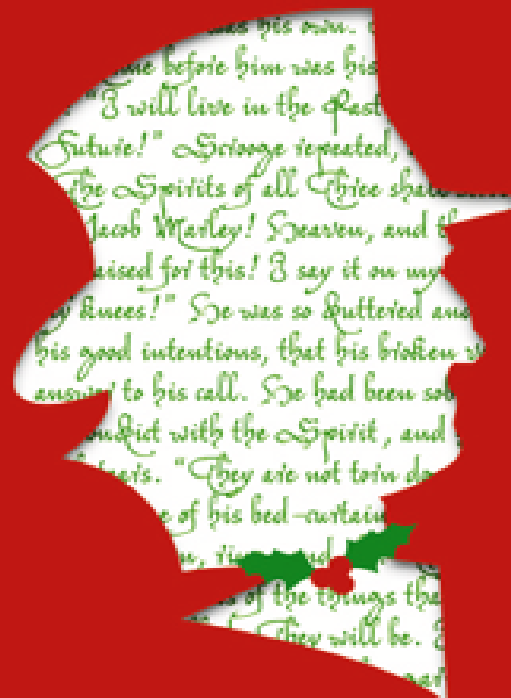
JOIN US FOR A FUN MOVIE UNDER THE STARS



FREE POPCORN

Now Showing:

**MERRY MADAGASCAR
& SHREK THE HALLS
DECEMBER 7 AT 6PM**



*An Evening With
Ebenezer Scrooge
December 9*

7pm

Leo Erny Hall



**ONE SERVICE ONLY AT
10AM**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

**CATERED LUNCH TO FOLLOW IN LEO
ERNY HALL!!**

TICKETS ON SALE DECEMBER 2 AND 9

Christmas
LUNCH

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 16
11AM**

**ADULTS: \$10
CHILDREN
(UNDER 10):
\$5**

**\$30.00 MAX
FOR FAMILIES**

**MENU:
CHICKEN
PARMESAN,
PENNE PASTA
WITH
MARINARA,
GREEN BEANS,
ROLLS, SALAD,
AND DESSERT**

ABOUT OUR CHRISMON TREE!

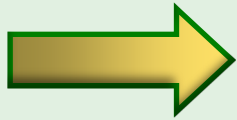
Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Spencer of Lutheran Ascension Church in Virginia. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries-old symbols into white and gold tree ornaments. 'Chrismon' is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible, and church histories.

Although Chrismons have been used in the United States since 1957, many symbols of Christianity have come down to us through the ages. Early Christians often worshiped in secret to avoid possible persecution and death. They developed certain symbols that were used to communicate with fellow believers and direct Christians to secret places of worship. Symbols that signify the believers' faith often adorned doors and buildings. The lighting of the Chrismon tree often is incorporated with the hanging of the greens in some churches.

As we begin this Advent Season, come see this beautiful tree with the symbols of our season that remind us of our Lord's mercy and grace.



Alpha and Omega: The first and the last of the Greek alphabet are used in this Chrismon to signify that Christ is the beginning and ending of all things. This is in Revelation 1:8. these are hung on either side of the open Bible.



Serpent and the Tau Cross: The serpent reminds us of Moses' act in the wilderness to heal snakebite injuries to the people for turning away from God, as in Numbers 21:4-8.



Christmas Rose: The rose is a hardy, white rose that blooms at Christmas time. It is symbolic of messianic prophecy and the nativity.



Circle and Triangle: This Chrismon combines both forms to symbolize the eternity of the Trinity.



Bible: This Chrismon is a replica of the open Bible, which represents the Word of God.



Cup: The cup is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed on the cross for our sins. The cup also reminds us of the sacrament of Holy Communion.





CHRISTMAS CAROLING

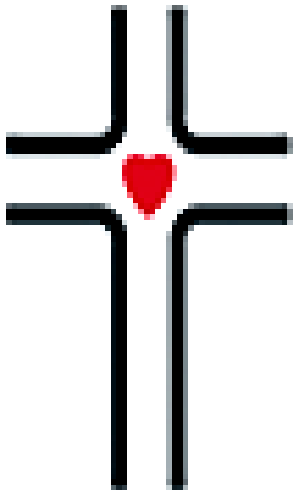
DECEMBER 22
5PM, BLISS CENTER

Calling carolers of all ages and voices!

The Deacons of Lutz Community Church invite YOU to join us in making a joyful Christmas noise for our special care members and friends and local assisted living facilities as part of our annual Lutz Community Church Caroling Event.

We will divide into teams at the bliss Center to cover our caroling routes (carpools) to assisted living facilities and homebound members and reconvene at the Bliss Center for light post-caroling refreshments and cleanup. Bring a flashlight, warm smiles and big hugs!

If interested contact Beth Geurink at beth.geurink@gmail.com or text/call (813) 263-3221.



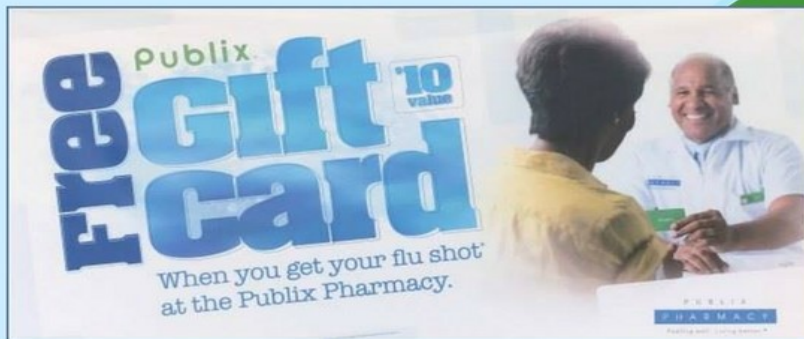
Make Christmas Eve at Lutz
Community Church your new
Christmas tradition! We have two
services that everyone can enjoy this
Christmas Eve. **Communion will be served
at both services!**



6PM
LEO ERNY HALL

10:30PM
SANCTUARY

Publix®



Publix
A GIFT FOR YOU
\$10

Flu season is back, but have no fear...

We have the best reason to get your flu shot: receive a free \$10 Publix gift card when you get your flu shot at any Publix Pharmacy! No appointment necessary.

You can bring your gift card and place in the **offering plate**.

These funds will be utilized by Faith In Action to benefit Feeding the Homeless and Mustard Seed Garden Ministry!



I've entered the snapdragon part of my life. Part of me has snapped and the other part is draggin.....

Best kept secret at Lutz Community Church!

What do you see on the church calendar each month but know nothing about?? Mondays and Thursdays is the Exercise Angels at 3:00pm. It lasts one hour and it's FREE! Bring friends, too! What have you been waiting for? An engraved invitation? Here it is—just for you with your name on it.

We are currently a group of southern ladies who are not into sweating nor southern 'glistening'. But we do want to be toned, cored, supple (oh yeah!) and strengthened- at our own pace. To do so we use an exercise mat, hand and ankle weights, stretch

band and an exercise ball. We started out almost 11 years ago once a week in the evenings and now we are twice a week in the late afternoons. Some have been with us since the beginning and some have joined a few months back. Most are Lutz Community Church members but some come from around our town. We're a Community outreach!

Our exercise plan began from a physical therapy group at a hospital and recently re-adjusted for our age group by a local therapist. We love to laugh, share and care for each other. If you are looking for a place to make good friends and get toned while you are at it, this is the place.

We meet at the Tomlinson Building just south of the church on Cypress Cove Rd. What to know more or want to just try us out (borrow what we have a time or two), just let Teri Bauer (contemporary service) or Kathy McCarthy "Sarge" (traditional service) know. Consider this your engraved invitation with go-at-your-own pace No Guilt.

Teri Bauer, Cheerleader teri@lutzcc.org 813.949.5713



We are looking for local business to give goodies for our new Welcome Bags! Some of our small groups will be taking them to new homeowners in the area. We want to show our neighbors how great living in Lutz is with all of our great local businesses! Please email Keri Grosso at knechtpiano@gmail.com if you are interested.



Bob Mallory 12/4

Ella May Carpenter 12/5

Sean Covais 12/6

Luanne Huneycutt 12/7

Melody Baade 12/8

Cecil Herline 12/10

Bev Polzin 12/12

Teri Bauer 12/13

Marty Rolfsen 12/13

Suzy Ficca 12/14

Barbara Rice 12/16

Kaleb Ross 12/17

Frank Parades 12/22

Phyllis Hoedt 12/26

Janet Kaufmann 12/27

Jeanette Moon 12/27

Alayne Berkins 12/29

Susie Bradley 12/31



STAY
UP TO DATE

Check out what's going on around the church with our live time calendar!

<http://lutzcommunitychurch.org/calendar>

