



Volume 25 Issue 12.1

Atascocita Lutheran Church

We seek to make Christ known in our community through
reflecting Christ in our lives.



December 4, 2025

Thursday Seeds

A breath of new air!

*The advent of our God shall be our theme for prayer; Come, let us meet him on the road and a place for him prepare
(The Advent of Our God – LBW#22 verse 1)*

Advent is the time of the church year when we prepare for Christmas and the birth of the Christ child. What does it mean to prepare for the birth of a child? While there is much to be done and the excitement grows as the due date gets closer, the excitement for a second or third child is often not as high as the first child, in part because there are not as many unknowns. That does not mean we love those children any less. It's just that the "newness," or the first time novelty, is not there with subsequent children.

For many of us, Advent can seem that way after going through it year after year. Maybe we just want to get to the good stuff of Christmas – enough with the preparing, let's just bring it on. Every once in a while, I have even heard someone say, "Can't we just skip Advent this year?" Sorry, but the answer is, "No, we cannot." Because, just like having a child is much more than getting all the physical things and paper work ready, one needs to think about and prepare mentally for how that little bundle of joy will change their life forever. It is another person you have to think about and plan for as part of your family. The nine month waiting period involves preparing physically, emotionally and spiritually for that new baby. Advent is a four week period very similar to those nine months. More than just a time to get the house ready and the gifts wrapped, it is a time to examine our inner thoughts and attitudes and take stock of exactly where we are in our spiritual life.

A few years back, I came across someone who broke down the word Advent in a way that I had not thought about before.

AD – God put ads out about his upcoming new product. The ads were very good. They captured people's attention and created anticipation.

VENT – A device used to bring fresh air into our home or office for our comfort.

So...

AD – God has a new product – His own Son! Revolutionary!

VENT – This 'product' will bring comfort and relief to people who often work and live in difficult and oppressive social climates.

I did a double take the first time I saw this, but then I came to like this line of thinking. Over time, it has stirred up in me a new wonder and desire to prepare during these four weeks for the birth of Christ at Christmas. You see, when we truly welcome the Christ child into our lives, it means that things are going to take on a different meaning for us. We know that Christ was born over two thousand years ago, and we celebrate that birth each year. However, Christ is born anew in us each year. As we hear the old, old story of his birth, all the hope and meaning that the world was given then is given to us again as well.

Advent is our time to prepare to receive anew the Christ child in our lives. The same child, Jesus the Christ, who will grow up and lead us to Easter and His most precious gift to us. It is at Easter at the foot of the cross that we clearly see the real reason for His coming as a child in a manger. To follow Him means that we can never be sure exactly what we will be asked to do in His name. New and wonderful, challenging, and yet exciting things will happen to us because of this Christ child. God has been advertising his Son to us for a long time.

His Son brings "fresh air" and a new outlook on life to us. It's time for us to get excited again, to gather in anticipation of having Christ alive in our world – not just in the past, but right now and right here. The birth of a baby is wonderful news and a joyous occasion to celebrate, but Christ's birth goes way beyond that. Join us this Advent season as we prepare for the most joyous birth– God's gift to us all!

In Christ's peace, Pastor Brian

Children's Sunday School held during worship

Children's Sunday School is held DURING worship time.

9:30 am - Children begin worship with parents

9:45 am - Children move to Sunday School (room 106) after Children's sermon

10:20 am - Children return to parents in pews (before Holy Communion)



Adult Forum

Adult Forum meets every Sunday after worship in room 105. Pastor Brian guides the group through the upcoming lessons to learn what they may have to say to us in worship the next Sunday and for the week ahead. Join us.



Noisy Offering

Noisy offerings donated this month is still to be determined. Thank you for your continued generous support!



Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor leads a Bible study every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in his office. All are welcome!! Our focus is on the book of Matthew.



Christmas poinsettias

If you'd like to order poinsettias for Christmas, order forms are in the basket on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary (next to the worship guides).

Sunday, December 14, is the last day to order poinsettia (s). Cost is \$10 each.

Both red and white poinsettias will be ordered.

Please see Peg Swavely with any questions.

Thank you.



'From Toasty to Frosty' Capital Campaign Update

Can you feel the bigger breeze now? \$20,000 has been given towards the HVAC campaign! Thank you generous members and friends!



Sundays in Advent

Please join us for Advent Services at 9:30 am on:
December 7, December 14, and December 21



Each Sunday, there will be a special selected gift for each person (adults and children) to take.

December 7th gift is: a lighted Christmas Tree

Each member can take one lighted tree which changes colors from white to green to red.

Join Us for an Advent Celebration

On **Sunday, December 7**, we will gather together after worship to usher in the season of Advent and celebrate as a family of faith. Join us for a delicious lunch catered by Italiano's, a carol sing-along, and a white elephant gift exchange for those who wish to participate. If you participate in the gift exchange, please provide a gift valued at \$10-20 and in your appropriate age group. In other words, if you are an adult, bring an adult gift. If you have children in your group, please bring a gift appropriate for children. We will have separate tables for adult and children's gifts. Since we need an accurate count for the caterer, please sign-up by the bulletin board in the fellowship hall if you plan to join us. We hope everyone will participate in this wonderful fellowship event!



We will celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to join us.



Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve candle light worship at 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

4:30 pm The ALC youth will be telling their version of the Christmas story, based on the Gospel of Luke, at the Christmas Eve Youth service. Experience some of our long held traditions and the beginnings of new treasured events. This service will leave you full of the true joy of Christmas.

7:00 pm - a traditional service with Holy Communion

ALC Book Club Hosts Movie Night

Every December the ALC Book Club takes a break from reading and enjoys a movie together during the holiday season. All are welcome to join us on Monday, **December 9 at 7 p.m.** for our 2025 Movie Night. You are welcome to bring a snack to share, but that is not required. Just come and enjoy a few hours of down time with friends during this very hectic time of year. We hope to see you there!



First Communion Class

Sunday December 14 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am., Pastor Brian will offer a First Communion class for youth of all ages whose parents determine that they are ready to attend class and learn the basics of communion. A key sign is that the youth are asking to receive and showing interest in what is taking place.

A parent, grandparent or guardian is encouraged to remain with the youth as Biblical and historical perspectives are explained and then you will be able answer questions the youth may have in the following weeks.

Please let Pastor Brian know if you have a youth who will be attending.



Family Promise Giving Tree

This year we are sponsoring Christmas gifts for a family that has recently graduated. You may remember Cheyenne and her daughter Lali'yah from this year's spring rotation. Each gift tag on the tree has who it is for and what has been requested. If you would like to help brighten Christmas for this family, take a tag or two and purchase the items. Return the items wrapped or gift bagged with the tag attached. We will take the gifts to the Promise House December 15 to be given to the family.



We also have several general gift card tags for Walmart or Target. Those will go to the families that are currently in the program and rotate out to the churches. You may purchase whatever amount you choose, just please mark the amount on the card for easier use. These cards are needed by December 14 at the latest as those families will be shopping the following weekends. They are required to make a budget based on the amount they are given to spend, which depends upon the total amount donated from all churches.

We have also included some tags for gift cards for HAAM to be distributed to families in need. Those will be given to our congregational representatives Carol Vorwald, Ellen Poxon, and Pastor Brian to take to the HAAM office December 15.

Thank you for your continued support of these ministries and these families. We love and appreciate you all!!

The Judys



Seafarer Gift boxes

Pastor Nancy reports that the gift boxes for the Seafarers are being readied for distribution to seafarers! The boxes in plastic bags are ready for loading on the ships!

Thanks again to everyone who made this possible!

HAAM's Holiday Food Bags

FOOD DONATION ITEMS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Boxes of Stuffing Mix | 2 Turkey Gravy Packets |
| 2 Boxes of Jiffy Corn Bread | 1 Yams/Cranberry Sauce |
| 2 Boxes of Mac & Cheese | 1 Box of Mashed Potatoes |
| 2 Canned Vegetables | 2 Canned Fruit |
| 2 Canned Protein | 1 Box of Brownie Mix |

Cash or checks are always welcome. Any cash or check made out to HAAM that we receive at ALC will be given to HAAM so HAAM can purchase food only cards from Kroger to add to families' food bags. This will allow the families to buy fresh items like milk, meat and vegetables.

HAAM's Holiday Gift Cards

HAAM is accepting gift cards from Target and Walmart for their Empty Stocking Toy Drive. Donations of gift cards will be accepted through December 7.



HAAM's Community-Wide Empty Stocking Toy Drive

Shop By Age – Toy Drive Gift Ideas

(These are just a few gift suggestions to get you started)

Infant – Age 6			
Children's Books	Toy Trucks	Activity Blankets	Shape Sorters
Play dough Sets	Crib Sheets	Plush Animals	Coloring Books
Building Sets & Blocks	Musical Toys	Multicultural Dolls	Baby Blankets
Push/Pull Toys	Little Purses	Doll Strollers	Large Piece Puzzles
Ages 7 – 12			
Drawing Sets	Puzzles	Sports Equipment	Play Make Up
Board Games	Model Sets	Books	Arts & Crafts Sets
Bead Sets	Lego Sets	Action Figures	DVD's
Barbie Dolls	CD's	Collectables	Remote Control Cars
Age 13 – 16			
Board Games	Back Packs	CD's	Costume Jewelry
Sports Equipment	Sports Team Clothing	DVD's	Purses/Wallets
Cologne/Perfume	Electronics	Gift Cards	Make Up

Gift Card Suggestions:
 Target
 Walmart
 Starbucks
 Restaurants
 Fast Food/Drive Thru

You can also volunteer your time to help out in the food pantry or the holiday store. Call HAAM directly to sign up for a time, or call Pastor Brian and he will give you the contact name and number at HAAM to volunteer.



We remember in Prayer

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"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."— Philippians 4:6



**Jose Alfaro
Carol Appleby
Vincent Barajas
Jennifer Bruce
Miguel Carlos
Bri Carrington
Debbie Cruz
Carolyn Gardella
Justin Gardella
James & Brenda Harp
Ryan Harper
Vernon Harris
Islett Family
Jean Johnson
Judy Johnson
Ann Keller**

**Donna Kelling
Michael Kelling
Patrick Konikoff
Marilyn Konikoff
Darrell Kresta
Mary Sue Lee
Laurie McDonald
Ken Meyer
Barbara Mudge
Bill Mudge
Sue Murtaugh
Donna Nice
Billy & Barbara Phillips
Bret & Vanesa Roe
Joy Sisler
Sam Sledge**

**Sharon Sledge
Tanya Stuart
Fred Swavely
Alan Wade
Rita Wade
Gabriel Walton
Don Wilcox
John Wilkerson
Verlyn Williams
Lori Austin Wilson
Mark Wilson
Pauline Wiseman
Dan Wright**

**Please keep those who are in active duty with
the U.S. Military in your prayers, especially
Christian Anderson, Caleb Gomez & Brady Mikesell.**

*If you or someone you requested prayer for has
recovered or can be removed from the list, please let us know.*



12/01 – Chris Senti
 12/02 - Nancy Bonser
 12/02 - Jerry Weeks
 12/05 - Zack Cargill
 12/10 - Sarah Deckinger
 12/10 - Scott Heinrich
 12/14 - Allen DeWoody
 12/15 - Tim Trautman
 12/18 - Nancy Garcia
 12/18 - Laurie McDonald
 12/21 - Tanner Benavidez
 12/26 - Rita Foisie
 12/26 - Avery Venegas
 12/30 - Vivian Walker
 12/31 - Chris Beyer



12/27 - Tom & Laurie McDonald

December Worship Team






	Greeter	Lector	Counter	Usher
Dec. 7	Sid Nice	Ellen Poxon	Robin Crizer	
Dec. 14	Laurie & Tom McDonald	Judy Cargill	Judy Cargill	
Dec. 21	Robin Crizer & Judy Johnson	Ellen Poxon	Sue Murtaugh	
Dec. 28	Joy Berthold	Stephanie Fowler	Joy Berthold	

ATASCOCITA LUTHERAN CHURCH
 7927 FM 1960 East
 Humble, Texas 77346 (281) 852-7333
 Worship Sundays at 9:30 am
www.alutheranchurch.org

ALC Staff

Brian Deckinger	Pastor	b.deckinger@alutheranchurch.org
Dan Wright	Director Of Music	713-503-7323
Russ & Susan Senti	Thursday Seeds volunteers	ALC.Humble@hotmail.com

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Dec 1	2	3 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	4	5 3:30 pm Tai Chi with Peg	6 9:00 am City On The Hill
		ALC hosts Family Promise Clients				
7  9:30 am Worship 9:45 am Children's SCS 10:45 am Celebrate Advent	8 7:00 pm Book Club	9	10 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	11 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	12 3:30 pm Tai Chi with Peg	13 9:00 am City On The Hill
14  9:30 am Worship 9:45 am Children's SCS 10:30 am First Communion Class	15	16 6 pm Peace By Piecing Quilt Guild	17 10:00 am Adult Bible Study	18 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	19 3:30 pm Tai Chi with Peg	20 9:00 am City On The Hill
21  9:30 am Worship 9:45 am Children's SCS 10:45 am Adult Forum	22	23	24 4:30 pm Worship Service 7:00 pm Worship service 	25 	26	27 9:00 am Basket Weavers 9:00 am City On The Hill
28 9:30 am Worship	29	30	31			