

What is Quiet Christmas?

In 2022, Pastor Sarah introduced the Worship & Music Committee to this service, which is sometimes referred to as a Blue Christmas or Longest Night service. As our congregation had not experienced this service in the past, we weren't sure what to expect.

But as we explored this further, we discussed that, though Christmas is of course a season of celebration, this is not always a happy season for everyone. Grief, loss, illness, loneliness, and many other things can affect how we feel at this time of year.

A Quiet Christmas Service is a Christmas Service that keeps a more somber tone to offer a sacred space and theological context for those for whom the holidays are not as joyful. At this time, we remember that Jesus comes into the world as it is and meets each of us as we are with whatever we're carrying. We recall the gift of God's love for us and presence with us no matter what.

The Quiet Christmas Service at LCOR will be held on

Sunday, December 22, at 4:00 p.m.

The service will include Holy Communion as well as Prayers for Healing. All are welcome and invited to attend. There will be Christmas music/carols that are more somber in nature.

Below are some comments from people who have attended in the past:

***I wasn't really sure what to expect at the Longest Night service. I went more out of obligation than seeking a respite, but the impact of the service is still with me today. Pastor Sarah reminded us that Christ came to this world to meet us where we are - to be with us in whatever we are going through. In that quiet service, with the candle lighting, the prayers of healing, and the music, I felt peace. True peace. I understood in my heart that God truly does love me and meets me right where I am - no matter what. The peace has stayed with me. In whatever I am going through, I can think of this service and remember that Christ is with me. I am not alone. My hope is that others will experience this special service and feel this peace in their lives. Christ is with us; we are not alone.*

***I lost my dad unexpectedly 17 years ago; though holidays and milestone celebrations have been joyous since he passed away and life has gone on, there was always a sense of sadness and emptiness around these times for me. I was intrigued by the idea of Blue Christmas and wasn't sure what to expect but decided to go as LCOR has been a safe haven for me.*

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From the Pastor's Desk

Watching and Waiting with Jesus
Portions adapted from the sermon for 11/10/2024

Advent is the season of watching and waiting. During these weeks, we watch and wait for what is to come. We anticipate Jesus' arrival both at Christmas and in the fullness of time.

A couple of weeks ago, however, the Lectionary Readings included Mark 12:38-44. There's a moment in there of Jesus watching and waiting, and it got me thinking about this in a different way. The watching and waiting for Jesus might also include watching and waiting with Jesus, taking time to notice what Jesus would notice and pointing it out so that we can act together for a better world.



What does Jesus notice in this passage? What does he point out?

Jesus sits down across from the treasury, where people are placing their donations or offerings. You can almost see that bustling line, hear the noise of little conversations, and maybe even catch people noticing who is in attendance.

Jesus has been talking about a broken system. He mentions the scribes in their long robes, who take their profits from the poorest of the poor—they “devour widows' houses” (Mark 12:40)—to keep their extravagance going. It is a broken system. It's a system that could be better—that should be better.

But things seem...fine. People are going about their days, and the sun comes up and goes down as it should and it all is what it is. They might ask if it is really that bad, or even happening at all.

Jesus sits down across from the treasury. He watches and waits like he knows what he's going to see. Before he even needs to stand up to stretch his legs, she arrives. It's the widow with two copper coins. Jesus notices and points it out. That system he was talking about literally just took the last penny she had.

I have heard this passage talked about another way, where this person is described only as virtuous and generous. All she had, she gave. This moment serves as an example for us, and that's it.

That can't be all there is to it, though. Do we remember what Jesus just said?

In this moment, as we watch and wait with Jesus, we may realize how there's still so much work to be done. Because ideas aren't just ideas, and systems aren't just systems. They're people. They're her.

And we can follow Jesus' example and sit down, focus, and pay attention. Notice what's not working, who's hurting, and then address it. We can find ways to make things better.

Everything Jesus says about the widow is correct. She gave all she had. She gave more than the people with the most. That is absolutely true—but so is what he said about the system. It's taken everything she had, and those with the most still have the most.

How do we fix that? How do we begin?

Here's the amazing good news: we don't have to start this work. The work of making the world better is ongoing. It's already started. We only have to continue—and we can remember that we're not alone in the work that still needs to be done.

Happy Advent

December



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday December 1st

Contemporary Service 8:30AM
Traditional Service 10:30AM

Sunday December 8th

Contemporary Service 8:30AM
Traditional Service 10:30AM

Sunday December 15th

Contemporary Service 8:30AM
Traditional Service 10:30AM

Sunday December 22nd

**Contemporary Service with Sunday School
Music Program 8:30AM**
**Traditional Service with Sunday School
Music Program 10:30AM**

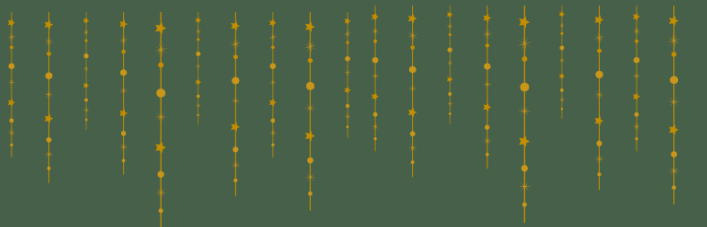
Christmas Decorating 11:30AM
Quiet Christmas Service 4:00PM

Tuesday December 24th
Christmas Eve

Contemporary Service 5:00PM
Traditional Service 8:00PM
***Both Christmas Eve Services include
Candle Lighting & Holy Communion***

Sunday December 29th

Blended Service 10:00AM





Save the Date!

Christmas decorating

We will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Sunday December 22nd at 11:30am. This includes putting up the tree, decorating it, assembling the handheld candles/holders for the Christmas Eve celebration, and setting up the crèche. There are chores for all ages and it's a quick job with enough help. Please consider staying after second service or returning to church at 11:30 to help with this fun and important activity! If you aren't available after second service but are interested in helping, there are several things that can be started after the first service or even during the following week so stick around to help get things started if you're able.

Christmas un-decorating

The tree and other Christmas decorations will be taken down and put away after the 2nd service on Sunday January 5th, 2025. Maybe not as festive and fun as decorating....but just as important! Many hands make quick work ...all are welcome!

Sunday, December 1st- Eat Out After Church- Conrad's Restaurant & Yankee Swap. Bring a wrapped gift with a value of at least \$15. We will draw names and play a fun game where you never know what you will get!

Social Ministry News- We will be collecting new queen blankets and towel sets (bath and hand towels, facecloths) for New Life this Advent Season to support the formerly homeless as they get back on their feet. Thank you for your generosity, LCOR! We are again participating in the Hope for the Holidays program sponsored by Global Refuge. Cards and pens and suggested greetings will be on the high-top table in the narthex. Please take a moment to write words of hope and encouragement to people in detention.

They will be mailed December 2.

Saturday, December 21st 1:45 pm: Join LCOR at Maples Rehab & Nursing Center for some Christmas Caroling. Everyone is welcome to spread joy and cheer to the residents. Let's make this Christmas season special together! Hope to see you there!





Lawn Maintenance - *Letter from Paul Burns*



I hope you all have enjoyed the looks of our church property over the years. I have been the lawn coordinator for some years now, but I am stepping down from that duty as of the end of the current season. Over my several years of doing this I have seen seasons with plenty of volunteers and several with almost no volunteers. This past season was great. We have had some volunteers with me for years and some recently new. The season consists of 26 weeks or a few more. What happens if we do not fill the weekly schedule the lawn coordinator has had to step in more than the weeks they signed up for. I have had seasons that I only had to perform my assigned weeks, and I have also had to fill in for 18 weeks or more. That is why volunteering is so important. What does not get filled the burden goes to someone. I will still be assisting and taking weeks to mow but I no longer can be responsible to do all the weeks that are not signed up for. The key to this is to have a slew of volunteers that take an assignment.

We have seen in the last mid-week notice that offerings have been in decline for a little while now. You see the size of our property. Imagine if we had to farm this out to a contractor for the season. It will cost the church thousands. So, currently it is especially important not to have to contract the work out or some of it. Actually, once you know what you are doing it only takes a couple of hours.

I am asking (man or woman) to step up and help us out each year going forward. Please note that we are asking for your help to be a member of the team. Maybe you could do one week, great. Maybe two or more, great. Maybe one year a week and another three but anything helps. Maybe you have been a member of the team in the past but dropped out. Maybe you would like to come back and give us a week?

It is simple and all training where needed is provided. Not to mention the good you feel doing something for your church.

Remember this: Luke 6:35, which says, "But love your enemies, **and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return**; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High." If you have interest, please contact Mike Cavanaugh via email at mcavanaughx@comcast.net

Thank you and my God bless you.

Paul B





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Aidan H 12/7

Paula R 12/8

Eden G 12/9

Matthew G 12/9

Daniel S 12/11

Jason D 12/12

Tanya T 12/12

Camilla B 12/14

Jessica C 12/15

Lynne H 12/15

Gretchen S 12/15

Neila S 12/16

Holly B 12/18

Mason B 12/21

Dorothy B 12/22

Alyson R 12/22

Timothy F 12/27

Andrew S 12/28

Cole H 12/30

Carley T 12/31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Shane & Sherry 12/02

Mike & Brianna 12/07



Stewardship Report December 2024



The Stewardship Campaign concluded with a presentation by Lenny H about his Stewardship journey. Great hearing personal stories.

The Adult Ed hosted a Yummy Fellowship hour-thank you!

The pledge cards were sent out on Monday Nov 11 following Madeline E's very informative presentation regarding Giving-what it is and how to utilize it. Thanks Madeline-always a great job!

Pledge cards can be filled out and sent electronically, or you can fill it out and mail it back to LCOR. There will be Pledge cards and envelopes on the tall table in the Narthex. Please fill out and put in the offering plate. Please pray about your giving-and consider increasing your pledge. All amounts are important and helpful.

We are thankful for everyone who has volunteered for new positions on various teams. Please feel free to ask for information or volunteer at any time. Whatever time you have available is wonderful!



Together we do make LCOR Strong!

What is Quiet Christmas? (continued from front page)

During the service, I fought the waves of emotions that were rising up but eventually was able to let go of years of grief that I tried to bury inside. Blue Christmas provided me with a sense of peace that I haven't felt in 17 years (and thank goodness tissues were readily available during the service!).

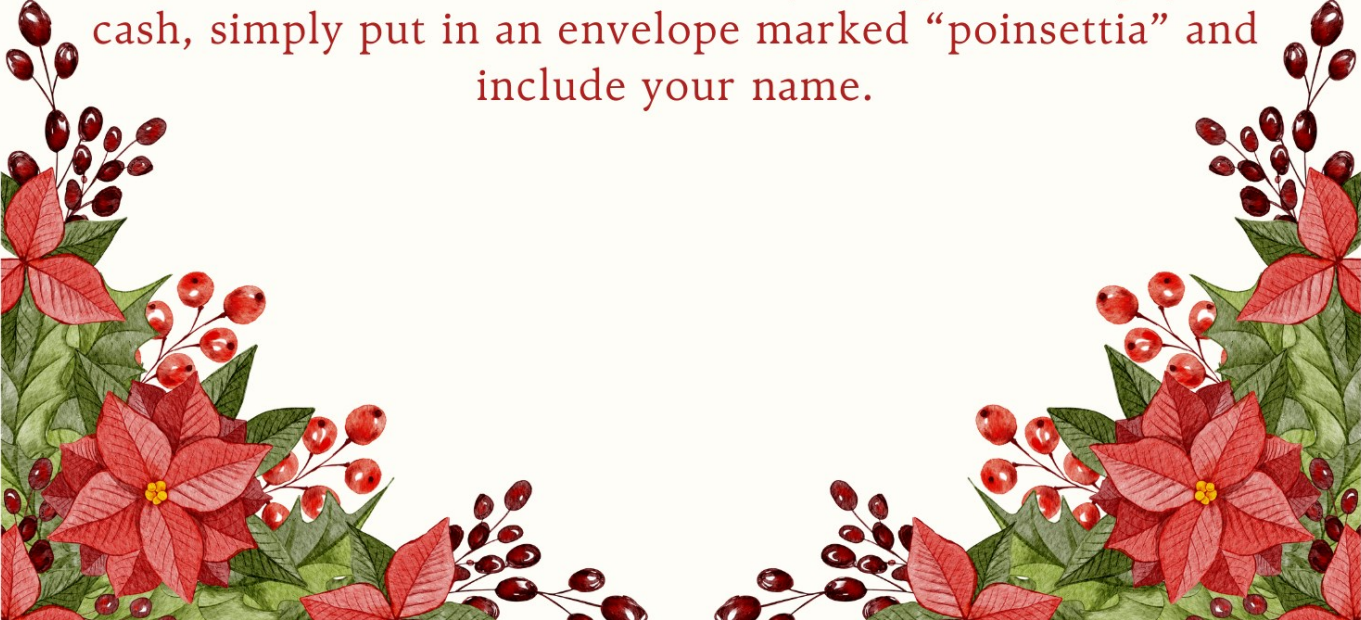
***I love Christmas Eve services. I had no idea of what to expect in terms of a Blue Christmas Service but decided to try it. The tone of the service and the music, as well as the healing aspects and candle lighting struck a chord with me immediately. Though Christmas celebrations over the years have been primarily happy occasions, I am of course always reminded of loved ones who are no longer with me and whom I greatly miss. Their presence was with me during this service more than during any time of the holidays. Though I felt emotional during the service, I also felt a sense of calm. This service was one of the highlights of my Christmas celebrations and I look forward to this year's Blue Christmas service.*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

HELP ADORN THE SANCTUARY WITH
POINSETTIAS THIS CHRISTMAS!

Large, beautiful plants will be available for purchase at \$15.00 per plant. They'll enhance our worship on Christmas Eve and you can take them home after the service that evening to decorate your home or to give as a gift. Sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can designate your gift in memory of or in honor of someone if you choose. Checks payable to LCOR can be put in the offering plate—please put “Christmas Poinsettia” on the memo line. If you'd prefer to pay in cash, simply put in an envelope marked “poinsettia” and include your name.




Remember in Your Prayers

Bud, Sonya, Augustina and Charlene, Carol, Claudia, Glenn, Mark, Rich, Rylee, Mike & Brianna, Joe Bascetta, Judy B, Judy C, Tom C, Eden D, Joe F, Joanne H, John & Evy H, Ted J, Ola S, Adiene S, David W, those homebound, in nursing homes, recovering and/or taking treatments, those serving our country both home and abroad, those who face difficult situations or problems, and those who are hurting or struggling or have lost loved ones.

Prayer requests can be made by emailing Alice W. at alwuschke@gmail.com. Names will remain on the list for three months, unless otherwise indicated. Requests must be resubmitted to continue an additional three months.

Giving



Your 2025 Pledge Envelopes are on the table in the narthex below the name tags. Please take your envelopes home, they will be available to be picked up until Ash Wednesday. If you do not see your envelopes, please let the church office know at office@LCOR.org. If you are e-Giving or no longer wish to receive envelopes, please let us know.

The Finance Committee would like to invite you to explore the option of contributing to church electronically through Vanco Services. This allows the process to be set up to your convenience and also provides you the option of transitioning from envelopes to online giving. For more details, please contact Madeline Estabrook. You can find our convenient QR Code in the Sunday Bulletins or click the link below.

[Home | The Lutheran Church Of Our Redeemer \(myvanco.com\)](https://www.lutheran-church-of-our-redeemer.com)



DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *EAT OUT AFTER CHURCH: CONRADS & YANKEE SWAP 8:30 AM Contemporary 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Ed- Gratitude 10:30 AM Traditional	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:30 AM Contemporary 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Ed- Gratitude 10:30 AM Traditional	9 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom Worship & Music	10	11	12 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	13	14
15 8:30 AM Contemporary 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Ed- Gratitude 10:30 AM Traditional	16 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	17	18	19 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	20	21 *Christmas Caroling at Maples Rehab & Nursing 1:45PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
22 8:30 AM Contemporary with Sunday School Music Program 9:15 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Adult Ed- Gratitude 10:30 AM Traditional with Sunday School Music Program 11:30 AM Christmas Decorating 4:00 Quiet Christmas Service	23 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Contem- porary Service 8:00 PM Tradi- tional Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	27	28
29 10:00 AM Blended Service	30 7:15-8:15 AM Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	31				

December 2024 Server Schedule

							
Altar Guild	Eucharistic Minister	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolytes	Greeters	Projectionist	Tellers

December 1, 2024

8:30 AM	Patty S	Marla A	Karen G	Marla A	Need	Paul B	Need	Patty S
10:30 AM	Ute T	Loni I	Gary D	Loni I	X	Ute T	X	

December 8, 2024

8:30 AM	Judy S	Rich B	Joanne & Lenny	Jen D	Alex R	Lynne H	Greg R	Jen D
10:30 AM	Caroline V	Caroline V	Bob B	Caroline V	X	Carol B	X	

December 15, 2024

8:30 AM	Patty S	Jon P	Rich B	Jon P	Kara V	Lynne H	Daniel E	Judy S
10:30 AM	Alice W	Alice W	Pete D	Alice W	X	Need	X	

December 22, 2024

8:30 AM	Jessica C	Linda M	Paul B	Paul B	Jenny M	Linda M	Elsa S	Don J
10:30 AM	Marcia J	Mike M	Need	Don J	X	Need	X	

December 22, 2024 - Quiet Christmas

4:00 PM	Karen D	Loni I	Karen G	Loni I	X	X	X	X
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December 24, 2024- Christmas Eve

5:00 PM	Karen D	Jon & Martha	Paul B, Peter G, Joanne & Lenny	Carolyn B	Greg R	Karen G	Alex R	Bob B
8:00 PM	Alice W	Alice W	Bob B	Alice W	X	Carol B	X	

December 29, 2024

10:00 AM	Jessica C	Rich B	Joanne & Lenny	Loni I	Need	Lynne H	X	Need
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If you are unable to serve our parish on your assigned date or time, you need to seek a replacement from the current volunteer listing. If you should notice "NEED" and find YOU can serve in that slot, please DO! Schedule updated weekly on bulletin board and on www.lcor.org

Server Volunteers Needed—All roles come with appropriate training and we don't expect people to be scheduled more often than once a month. If you can help in any of these roles or if you are just looking for more information, contact Karen DiCanzio at dicanzio@comcast.net. Tellers do not need to be just from the second service, tellers can come from the first service as well.



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

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Foxborough, MA 02035

Phone: 508-543-4071
Email: Office@LCOR.org



www.lcor.org

Altar Flowers

If you'd like to put flowers on the altar, simply sign up on the large flower chart on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the education wing.

They may be given in honor of someone, in memory of someone, an event (anniversary birthday etc.), or simply to the glory of God! If the flowers are being given in honor or memory of someone, please write that on the flower chart. If no reason is stated on the chart then flowers will be given to the "Glory of God."

You must sign up a minimum of 7 days in advance. Flower arrangements are **\$35 each**. Please place your payment in the offering plate and be sure you designate the payment as "altar flowers."

These flowers belong to you, after the flowers adorn the altar area for both services, please take your flowers home.

Summer Worship Schedule

8:30 am – Contemporary Worship

9:15 am Fellowship Time

10:00 am – Traditional Worship

Fall, Winter, and Spring Worship Schedule

8:30 am – Contemporary Worship

9:15 am – Fellowship Time

9:30 am- Christian Education

10:30 am – Traditional Worship