+ **JOY MISSION CHURCH Newsletter** We are a congregation on a mission!



November/December Ministry of the Month: Mission Lexington

During the holiday season, Lutheran Men of Joy are leading a men's clothing drive. We have already given two bins of clothes. How can you help? Bring lightly used men's clothing and shoes and NEW men's socks, underwear, and undershirts on Sundays through the end of the year. You can also pack and deliver holiday meal bags directly to Mission Lexington. Visit missionlexingtonsc.org or see Sunday's insert for more information. THANK YOU for serving! Want to become a part of Joy? Contact the pastor for more information.

We are NOT the mission. Our mission is the Great Commission: \pm

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of age."" (Matthew 28:18-20)

This is why we exist - to: Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus' name.

JOY MISSION CHURCH

We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus' name through worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

DISCIPLESHIP CORNER-

Remember my affliction and wandering, the wormwood and the gall. Surely my soul remembers and is humbled within me. Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the loving devotion of the LORD we are not consumed, for His mercies never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." Lamentations 3:19-24

In these ever-shortening days, darkness seems to swallow up daylight. Night lingers longer in the mornings; the shadows of dusk encroach earlier each afternoon. Time seems to slip away more swiftly as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, and the world around us sprints in the unrestrained fervor of holiday consumerism.

Yet in the midst of all this chaos of time, we Lutherans celebrate a brief, four-week diversion known as Advent. Its name means, "coming," and no, that coming does not refer to a jolly, white-bearded, gift-giving, red-suited man who leaves treasures under our Christmas trees. The One who is coming is Jesus - as in, "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." (second article, Nicene Creed)

While front-lawn manger scenes display in glowing, neon plastic splendor, the events of Jesus' birth and early childhood, we who eagerly await His glorious return, prepare not only our homes to welcome family and friends. We prepare also our hearts to welcome Jesus. During this "mini-Lent" of Advent, we reflect upon our sinfulness and Jesus' righteousness. We take stock of our lives and remember His, so that, as necessary, we may repent of our sins, and so be awake and always ready for Christ to come again.

Let us pray... Lord Jesus, you are our hope and our salvation. During this busy season, help us to quiet our minds and focus our hearts of you, that we may live in your joy and to your glory. We ask this in your holy and precious name...

To the glory of God alone (*Soli Deo gloria!*) Pastor Paulette

How many crosses can you find in this month's newsletter? Where can you see God at work in the world?



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