



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times December 2011

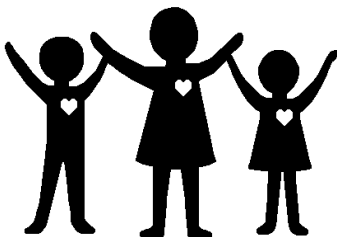
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid." Luke 2:8-10a



I have always loved the shepherds in the Christmas story. Even though they were at the bottom of the social ladder, it was to the shepherds whom God first announced the birth of Jesus. terrified by the appearance of the angel. Who wouldn't be afraid of this being radiating the glory of the Lord there in the dead of night? But the angel told them not to be afraid for the Savior has been born. They believed the angel, left to see the baby Jesus and were filled with joy. I like what Luther writes about this in his Christmas Book. Luther writes, "'Fear not,' said the angel. I fear death, the judgment of God, the world, hunger and the like. The angel announces a Savior who will free us from fear. Not a word is said about our merits and works, but only of the gift we are to receive."

May we, like the shepherds be freed from fear to receive this greatest of all gifts and be filled with the joy of God's Son born of Mary. Come worship on Christmas Eve at 6:05 p.m. and Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.

As the holiday season approaches, the Sunday School students, Sunday School staff would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18 during the worship service. Come, hear the joyous Christmas message as only children can tell it!



The 2012 offering envelopes will be available in the Social Hall soon. Please pick up your box as soon as possible to defray postage expenses. Thank you.

Hey Youth! YOU are invited to a St. Luke Youth Lock-In on Friday, Dec. 2, 7:00 p.m. Food, games, food, movies, and food! Invite your friends. Sign up on the kiosk ASAP. See you there!



December Confirmation News

On Wednesday, December 7 we are scheduled to volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse from 3-6 pm. We will have regular class on December 14 and 21. We will not have class on December 28 or January 4.



Our heartfelt appreciation to our Bun Run Volunteers for November: Nancy Hegdahl, Mark McGough, Jeff Kingsley, Julie Ellingson.



December Readers:
4, 9 AM: Mike Hegdahl
4, 7 PM: Wendy Bjorklund
11: Barb Jensen
18: Jeff Kingsley
24, 6 PM: Wendy Bjorklund
25: Sue McNeill



December Birthdays

4 - OLIVIA PETERSON
 5 - HELEN BYE, DOUGLAS NELSON
 9 - MARK MCGOUGH
 10 - BILL KLOTZ
 16 - MARY FAUST
 18 - SHANTEL ZVEJNIEKS, HOLLY SCHULTZ
 22 - SANDER AND TREVOR JOHNSON
 23 - GARRETT FAUST, DEBORAH VIGDAL
 26 - LORI NAKAMURA
 30 - ROGER DIESTLER

O Come, All Ye Faithful! Join us for our time-honored Advent Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m., in which we celebrate the Advent season with many beloved hymns. Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share, if possible, for the fellowship time following the service.



December Anniversaries:

3 - DWIGHT AND DONNA PAULSON: 1966
 15 - MARK AND NANCY MCGOUGH: 1989
 17 - DOUG AND KAREN WASKO: 1960
 28 - SHANTEL AND KYLE ZVEJNIEKS: 2008
 29 - ANNE AND JOHN FABIE: 1984



December Acolytes:
4, 9A: Maggie Erickson
4, 7P: Charlie Gaarder and Kirby Peterson
11: Karl Gaarder
18: Sam Lipscomb
24, 6P: Emma McGrew and Michaela McGough
25: Kayla Stadem



On Monday, October 24th, 160 hungry people were served supper at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in the Loaves and Fishes program. Workers were Pastor Dave, Joyce Bluel, Jean Gilland, Larry Litzkow, Dwight Paulson, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven. Audrey and Robyn Rongstad also helped by baking cookies.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for November: Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder. Our ushers for December will be: Eva Mac Niven, Connel McGough, Sam Elliott, Jean Gilland, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert.



Ladies Night Out – Ladies Night Out will go on hiatus for November and December. We will resume Ladies Night Out again in January. Watch the December newsletter for details of where we will be dining in January. If you have suggestions of restaurants please feel free to contact Joyce Bluel.

Sue Grzywinski is now taking orders for lefse! This was a big hit at the Bazaar, so Sue has graciously offered to take orders for the holidays. Package of 4 for \$4.00. Deadline is Sunday, Dec. 4. Call Sue at 651-343-1453.



Need to pick up a special gift for a teacher, co-worker, or favorite aunt? You will find just the right things among the wide variety of one-of-a-kind, handcrafted treasures at the north end of the Social Hall...check it out today while supplies last!



**O COME
LET US ADORE HIM!**

*Join us as we celebrate
Advent and Christmas!*

Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday School
Christmas Program**
Sunday, December 18, 9:00 a.m.
(As part of our Sunday service)

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 24, 6:05 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
Sunday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.



**Fall Bazaar Report – Joyce Bluel,
Committee Chair**



We still have many lovely craft items available for your holiday shopping. We will continue to sell items until after the candlelight service, December 4th. As of October 31st, we have sales totaling \$5496. and after expenses we have made \$4,193. This is an increase from last year's net gain of \$4,068.

In the next month or so we will meet to decide how to spend these proceeds. Last year we gave our benevolences to Camp Onomia, the Youth Work Camp, the Airport Ministry, a flat screen TV for the youth camp spaghetti dinner raffle, and purchased a new freezer for the kitchen.

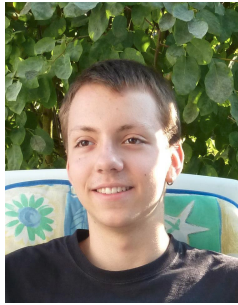
If you have ideas of how you think we should spend these proceeds, feel free to contact any committee chair, Margaret Vigdal or myself. You are also welcome to come to our meeting, just watch the bulletin for date and time.

Christmas Baskets

We are now accepting donations of money and/or non-perishable food items to prepare several Christmas Baskets for families in our congregation. Please place your food donations in the grocery basket in the social hall, or place your monetary gift, labeled "Christmas Basket", in the offering plate. Thanks!



Spotlight on...Joshua



Hi! My name is Joshua and I am 16 years old. Born in Bad Soden on the February 13th, 1995, I live with my parents in Kelkheim, which is a small town next to Frankfurt in Germany. My two brothers are both older than I am and already going to college. Aaron, 24, studies Mathematics in Kaiserslautern and Oliver, 20, studies Engineering in Mannheim. My Dad also was an engineer and worked for different companies in Frankfurt until he retired some years ago. My Mom had and still has a lot of work to do raising us three boys. I am an Exchange Student for the school year 2011/2012 and I have the great opportunity to stay with the Klein's, which is the best Host Family I could imagine.

It is a great chance for me to be here in St. Paul, Minnesota and to be a part of the community of St. Luke. In the first few of the 10 months I will stay here I have already learned a lot about the culture of the US and have met many nice people. Like my host brother Peter, I am a junior at Highland Park Senior High School where I joined the Math Team and will start Cross Country Skiing. It is a big school with many students - compared to my school in Germany, where I used to play Handball. Some other hobbies of mine are riding my bike, playing video games, watching movies, and listening to music. I also played chess for a long time and was the champion of my hometown at my age for 5 years.

I am looking forward to the time I will spend in St. Paul. We will surely have a nice time together and I wish you and St. Luke all the best for that time and the future! See you all soon!



News from the President Joyce Bluel

It's that time again when people are busy preparing for Christmas holiday. We run around trying to find the perfect gifts, decorate the inside and outside of our homes and attempt to make this **the** Christmas to remember. Sometimes we get so caught up in the preparations we forget to take the time to enjoy the season. This year my family has decided to do a gift exchange by drawing names rather than trying to buy for everyone. This will cut down on the number of gifts purchased and received by each member but I feel the gifts will have more meaning. I hope that each of you finds special meaning in the season, and takes the time to enjoy family and friends amid the hectic preparations.

I would like to take this time to thank the church council members whose terms are up at the end of the year, it has been a pleasure working with each of you and I thank you for your service. Those leaving the council are; Nancy Hegdahl, Vice President; Sue McNeill, Secretary; David Elliott, Commissioner; Judy Salaba, Commissioner and Kyle and Shantel Zvejnieks, Co-Commissioners. I look forward to working with our newly elected church council beginning in January.

Have a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee." - Numbers 6:24