



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

## Parish Times December 2010

*Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 1:10-11

The week before writing this article, Jeff Kingsley and I were choosing Christmas hymns for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the first Sunday after Christmas. Both of us were humming various Christmas hymns as we chose them with smiles flashing across our faces. I felt a certain joy welling up inside of me, that joy of Christmas. I think that joy comes from a variety of sources; good memories, family gatherings, presents, the warmth of love. But there is a joy that goes deeper than all of these, a joy that finds its roots in all eternity. It is the joy of our Savior born among us. It is the joy of Immanuel, God with us. It is the joy that fills us even in our darkest of days. I pray that this joy fill you and uphold you. I pray that you be continuously strengthened in this joy of our Savior Jesus.

Come, worship our Savior during Advent and Christmas. Come for the candle lighting service at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5 when our Sunday School children will help preach the sermon. Come on Sunday, Dec. 19 for the Sunday School Christmas program during morning worship. Come on Christmas Eve for the 6 p.m. worship. Come on Christmas Day when we worship using a special liturgy we only use once a year! Come on Sunday, Dec. 26 for a service of lessons and carols. Come. Worship. Give thanks and be filled with joy.

Pr. Dave



### Christmas Caroling

Come get in the Christmas mood and spread some Christmas cheer by caroling! Sat., Dec. 11 is when we will sing at area hospitals and nursing homes. We will meet in the St. Luke parking lot at 1:15 p.m., and from there head to our first stop. We will be done around 4:30 p.m. There will also be treats at the end for singers and those we are visiting! Contact Leandra Hubka with any questions: [musicallyorganized@gmail.com](mailto:musicallyorganized@gmail.com) or 507-990-3402.

### Sunday Adult Forum

I hope to have a number of Sunday morning Adult Forums throughout the new year. The first one will be on Sunday, January 9 beginning at 10:15. We will meet in the Library. During this first Adult Forum I will show a video I helped create, of a Japanese Lutheran who is a Hiroshima atomic bombing survivor. He tells of his experience with a message not of revenge or blame, but of peace. Come hear his message. Let's talk about peace, especially as Jesus describes it. –Pr. Dave



As the holiday season approaches, the Sunday School students, Sunday School staff and I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 19 during the worship service. Come, hear the joyous Christmas message as only children can tell it!

- Sue McNeill



The 2011 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.



**December Readers:**  
5 – Wendy Bjorklund  
12 – Olivia Peterson  
19 – Joyce Bluel  
24 – Christine Olson  
25 – Patty Stadem  
26 – Al Baird



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

## Spotlight on...Kevin Meyer

I was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on May 17, 1986. My family lived in Tennessee until I was 7, when we moved to Wisconsin. From there we moved to Grand Rapids, MN, and then to Mounds View.

My dad, Mike, is an Electrical Engineer currently working for NovaSpect in Eden Prairie. He works mainly with the computer programs that run factories and large machinery. My mom, Diane, is a trained Director of Christian Education and she runs the after school program at Trinity First Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and does freelance consulting work to help churches with their youth programs. I have one younger brother, Ben, who recently started his first year of medical school at UMD.

I went to high school in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and I went to college at St. Olaf College in Northfield where I started out as a Music Major, but ended up graduating with a degree in English and Theater.

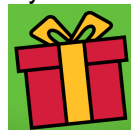
I was very involved in the youth programs at First Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. I also started attending Community Presbyterian Church and their youth programs when my mom started working there.

I am currently working at the after school program at Trinity First Lutheran in Minneapolis and looking for a full-time job (so if anyone knows of any openings, please let me know).

My interests include playing and listening to music (obviously). I also spend a great deal of time writing and playing and watching sports. Armchair quarterbacking is definitely one of my stronger skills.

I first came to St. Luke because I had been looking for organist positions for a few months, and when I interviewed at St. Luke everything just seemed to click, and I thought this would be a very good fit for me.

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





### Confirmation News

We will have classes on Dec.1, 8, 15 and 22. No class on Dec. 29 or Jan. 5.



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.

### O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

*Join us as we celebrate  
Advent and Christmas!*

**Candlelight Service**  
Sunday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday School  
Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 19, 9:00 a.m.  
*(As part of our Sunday worship)*

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Friday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.

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



### 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
- 24 - DOROTHY PAUL
- 26 - LORI NAKAMURA
- 30 - ROGER DIESTLER
- 31 - IRENE BERGER



### 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



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!



150 Hungry people were served an evening meal at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on the West Side on Monday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Workers were Larry Litzkow, Dwight Paulson, Jean Gilland, Ann Verschoyle, Joyce Bluel, Dorothy Zitterow and Eva Mac Niven. Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson 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, Max Elliott, Sam Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert

## **Meals on Wheels**



Many thanks to our drivers for October: Al Baird and Ann Verschoyle, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Bruce Magnuson, Audrey Rongstad and Eva Mac Niven, Julia Gaarder, Ralph and Ruth Wassman, Jane and Emma McGrew.

We are sorry to report that the Meals on Wheels program operating out of St. Mary's Home will discontinue effective Dec. 31. We are very grateful for all who have volunteered for this noble program over the decades. Special thanks to Audrey Rongstad and Jane McGrew for serving as coordinators. You have truly made a difference in the lives of many.



### **2010 Fall Bazaar**

Fall Bazaar – Preliminary Report  
Joyce Bluel

We still have many lovely craft items available for your holiday shopping. We will continue to sell items until after the candlelight service, December 5th. As of October 31st, we have sales totaling \$5,366 and after expenses we have made \$3,774. This is a decrease from last year's net gain of \$4,518.

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 funded the cleaning of the social hall and hallway carpeting.

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.

## News From Council President - Nancy Hegdahl



This will be my last newsletter article as your church council president as my term ends and your new council president, Joyce Blue, will take over in January.

I wanted to take this time to reflect on what I have learned or observed over this past year as the president.

The economy has taken a toll on many people causing them to really look closely at their finances. Some of our friends are just finding jobs after being unemployed for a year or more and some have just lost their jobs and are out searching for a job. As a church we also have to be good stewards in how we are spending and look at ways to cut some of our expenses. So if that means we use our glass cups during coffee hour, a little hot water and soap might be a cost savings instead of using styrofoam cups, if it saves us some money, that is what we need to do. We always need to be thinking of ways to save money and we might also be saving the environment too.

The council talked about being a welcoming church and how we can reach out to those and help them to feel more welcome here at our church. Sometimes just a friendly smile or a simple hello or a big hug can warm a person's heart and make them feel a part of the church family. We were reminded that our Bun Run was meant to help any of those in need that enter our doors, whether it is our Fare for All visitors or church visitors. We did venture out into the community this year by participating in the Highland Fest and inviting people to come to our church. We went a little further and developed a welcome packet which contains items with our church name and address on them for visitors to take with them when they visit, and a welcome center on Sunday mornings. A lot of time was spent on developing a new website as another way of inviting people into our church home. We did observe that not many neighbors joined us on National Night Out and decided to discontinue this event.

I think we all learned that Mother Nature isn't always going to agree on the days we have chosen for our lawn service, but maybe next year we will have at least one outdoor service without being accompanied by rain!

I observed and was very proud of our youth and how they welcomed our Japanese guests in July. It was very heartwarming, when coming to church that Sunday morning after they had returned from their workcamp in Illinois, to see how much youthful energy filled the church, as they were all huddled together and laughing and giggling about their week long bonding experience. We have a great group of youth and we have to remember to always include them in our daily church activities and to welcome their fresh new ideas.

I learned that all good things sometimes come to an end and that change is good for all of us even though at times it is hard to accept change. After seven years of faithful service we lost our organist/choir director. But we opened our doors and invited in a new choir/bell director and I can say she is a wonderful teacher and has brought new and exciting energy to both the choir and bell choir. We also hired a new, very talented organist; he has been playing since he was three years old. We are very blessed to have such talented musically staff in our midst. We have to open our hearts and minds to change and realize that it isn't going to be the same way it has been for the last several years.

We observed another successful fall bazaar, and I realized this is a huge undertaking every year, but it couldn't be done without everyone's unique individual talents that are meshed together every year to make this event such a success. We learned that as in the past there still are **no pre-sales** at the bazaar, if you want one of those wonderful crafts or one of those white elephant treasures you have to be anxiously waiting to purchase it at 9:00 am the morning of the bazaar! We learned that there should be no limit on how many raffle tickets you can buy, if you want to buy 2,000 tickets you can, because the raffle is a game of chance and it only takes one ticket to win! I did observe that if you want new ideas and you solicit those new ideas you have to be willing to accept those new ideas and make those changes.

I wished that there were three people running for each position on the council ballot, but there isn't. I am grateful that everyone that served on the council agreed to serve again, with one exception. This is a wonderful group of people. It isn't just one person in charge of everything at the council level it is commissions and committees that make decisions and as I said in my first newsletter article this year it doesn't "take a village," it takes a congregation to accomplish these things. Each of you has strengths that feed this church, we need all of those strengths and we need to be open-minded to accept changes if we want the future of this church to continue to grow. If we close ourselves off to change than we close ourselves off to growth. We need to step outside our comfortable box a bit and accept change, welcome change, and embrace it with our whole heart.

Thank you for all the support you have given me this year.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Nancy Hegdahl

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