

# St. Luke's MESSENGER

The newsletter of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

## REFLECTIONS: From the Pastor

### Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue

If this were the popular TV quiz show *Jeopardy*, the correct question for the "clue" shown above would be "What does a bride wear on her wedding day?"

But since this is St. Luke's newsletter and not *Jeopardy*, the correct question is "What will December 2011 worship look like?" Well, let's see:

**Something Old** – Traditions are important. There is something comforting in singing old familiar Christmas Carols, putting up the old decorations, hearing old familiar lessons. And St. Luke's Lutheran Church has many traditions: The Candlelight Service on December 4<sup>th</sup> (4PM), The Jul Fest on December 11<sup>th</sup> (5 PM) and Christmas services at 4PM and 11PM Christmas Eve and 10AM Christmas Day. Come, be a part of our worship for the comfort it brings.

**Something Blue** – For many people, this year may not be as festive. They've lost a loved one, they've lost a job, their world is in turmoil. They live alone. This will be a "Blue Christmas" for them. The Book of Proverbs reminds us:

*Like vinegar on a wound  
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.  
Like a moth in clothing or a worm in wood,  
sorrow gnaws at the human heart.*

For people in grief, Christmas can be a difficult time. Whatever you've lost isn't coming back. And if you're lonely, happiness seems forced at this time of year. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the longest night of the year, we welcome you at 7PM to a time of worship and reflection appropriate for people dealing with grief, loss and loneliness. Know you are welcome here!

**Something Borrowed** – Even though St. Luke's started out as a German Lutheran congregation, its worship and music borrows from the best of the Liturgical tradition to widen our horizons and make the experience of worship more meaningful. Hymns, liturgies and music from all over the world enliven our worship in December.

**Something New** – With all the traditions and borrowing we do in the month of December, it might seem like there is nothing new that can spoken about Christmas. But in the magnificent beginning of John's gospel we read:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

This one we call Jesus was at the beginning of creation, born in a stable and lives now with the Father in Heaven, forever. What we celebrate at Christmas is not just something that happened "once upon a time, a long time ago," but rather the living Son of Heaven who is born in us at baptism and sees that we live with him, forever. Martin Luther made a central part of his life to remember that he died every day to sin, and was born every day to new life because of that baptism. Christmas celebrates the fact that we, too, are born, every day, to a new life through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

*"Something Old, Something Blue, Something Borrowed, Something New."* May this Christmas time – and always – be filled with that which comforts you, upholds you in grief, sets forth a wider horizon and renews your life.

God's Blessings and Mine,  
Pastor Koch

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## Birthdays in DECEMBER

- 2 Bill Keller, Jeff Stack, Cynthia Grau
- 3 Barbara Swartling
- 4 Natalie DeVooght, Jim Kietzer, Francesca Loise
- 5 Lydia Ramsey, Margaret Edsey
- 7 Joan Bishop, Maritza Schiffers
- 8 Pam Dardi, Donna Henrickson, Jake Wilson
- 9 Robert Trowsell
- 10 Martin Rink
- 11 Jeff Wilson, Carol Ann Week
- 13 Anne Thompson
- 14 Steve Nelson, Carol Patterson, Audra Walker
- 15 Emily Spiegel
- 16 Tom Anderson, Kyle Cartwright, Nick Callahan, Vicki Loise, Kara Clark, Cody Knieling
- 17 Linda Christell, Susan Lichner, Hannah Johnson
- 18 Charles Pease
- 19 Uta Blomgren, Charles Kolz
- 20 Ryan Miller, Amanda Post, Carter Tait
- 21 William Seibert, Anne Paolone, Julie Nasticky, Meaghan Tait
- 23 Beverly Gilmore, Noel Konken
- 24 Racy Peterson
- 25 Laura Baker, Alice Petersen, Kevin Schrop, Baby Jesus
- 26 Jane Berg, Amy Burrows, Sarah Kwasigroch, Mary Lou Sandvik, Ruth Smith, Betty Weber, Arnold Bukal, George Dolson, Suzanne Barker, Brian Scerba, Sean Lyons
- 27 Harriet Bergstrom, Donald Dalton
- 28 Ken Byrge, Cole Ponsi
- 29 Bryan DeLisle, Jason Feldner, Colin Mueller, Lauren Sargeant, Brett Parker, Cian Duffy, Tim Kupjack
- 30 Jan Beyreis, Alexandra Walczak
- 31 Marcia Gunderson, Richard Hibbeler, Tor Sandvik, John Timmer, Frederick Weier, Don McCoid, Carol Simmer

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 1 Paul and Julie Sorenson Sheehan
- 8 Tom and Lorena Fisher
- 10 Gary and Karen Ross
- 16 James and Luella Trecker
- 18 Ken and Laurie Byrge, Lance and Rebecca Weber
- 19 Gary and Donna Sapp, Dave and Stephanie Ruth
- 22 Ken and Jan Bratt
- 23 Michael Watson and Gail Liggett Watson
- 27 Dave and Marianne Griebler
- 30 Bill and Carol Novak



### ALTAR FLOWER REMINDER

If you have ordered flowers for the altar and have not yet paid for them, you may do so by sending a check made out to St. Luke's and mailing it to the church office. Each arrangement is \$15.00. A rosebud (for the birth of a child) is \$6.00. Thank you.

#### ST. LUKE'S STAFF 847-825-6659

*Rev. Dr. George J. Koch*, Interim Lead Pastor - ext. 11  
*Rev. Kristina C. Weber*, Associate Pastor - ext. 12  
*Rev. Dr. Malcolm L. Minnick*, Pastor Emeritus  
*Anne Krentz Organ*, Director of Music Ministries - ext. 14  
*Melinda Hoiland*, Director of Children's Choirs - ext. 15  
*Jeannine Oakes*, Director of Children, Youth & Family - ext. 16  
*Jeanne Rice*, Parish Coordinator - ext. 10  
*Annette Kern*, Office Administrator - ext. 17

# ST. LUKE'S MEMBER CARE

## IN THE FAMILY...

We welcome through the waters of baptism Adeline Sofie Freedlund (11-20-11), daughter of Tim and Janine Freedlund... Our sympathy to John Timmer; Kristine and Rafael Arias; Noah Ichen; Anne and Patrick Paolone; Sarah and Ryan Stetler and their families and friends on the death of Barbara Timmer (11-7-11)...and to Marilyn Brooks; Philip and Christine Brooks and their family and friends on the death of Phil Brooks, Sr. (10-21-11). Both Barb and Phil were long time and very active members of St. Luke's. While we mourn Barb's death, we rejoice in the birth of Kristine and Rafael twin sons Jacob and Levi (11-6-11) and the upcoming birth of Sarah and Ryan's first child. Please keep these families in your prayers.

## MANY THANKS FROM.....

Ed Grendahl for all the cards and prayers he received after his accident and hospital stay.... Ken and Arlene Patterson for the beautiful basket of flowers they received from the church.... Harriet Bergstrom for the lovely altar flowers she received on October 23.... Betty Shoemaker for the beautiful flowers she received.

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Now that the Congregation Council has approved the Ministry Site Profile (see separate article for details), the Call Committee has met with for the first time with Bishop Miller who will be working with the committee on the call process. He outlined the process going forward and will begin to send the committee the Roster Leader Profiles of viable candidates. Continue to pray for the Committee as they work to select our next Lead Pastor.

## EXTRA: CROP WALK RESULTS

The Niles/Park Ridge Crop Walk took place on October 16 and the final tallying shows that 287 people walked from several churches and earned around \$30,000. In this economic day, we think we had a successful walk. Results for St. Luke's are pending and will be reported on at a future date. The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank the congregation of St. Luke's for its support in walking and sponsoring walkers and thanks to those involved. See you next year.

## WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SAVE A LITTLE TIME AND MONEY!

Instead of sending each of your St. Luke's friends a card, just sign ONE card, enclose a check (to St. Luke's) and drop it off or mail it to the church office. The Social Ministry Committee will see that all cards are hung on our Christmas Card Tree in the atrium. Donations received will be used for the voucher program to provide monies for those who come to St. Luke's looking for assistance. Please try to get your card and donation in as soon as possible so the cards can be displayed for the Candlelight Service. Thank you.



## God's work. Our hands.

THANK YOU to the many people who have returned envelopes or online forms this fall.

St. Luke's Congregation Council builds our 2012 spending plan after reviewing members' intentions to give, so our congregation can be fiscally responsible in planning our ministries.

If you have not yet returned your financial "intention to give" card or your "God's work. Our hands." volunteer interest sheet, please return them today. You can find them online at [www.stlukespr.org/stewardship/](http://www.stlukespr.org/stewardship/) or pick up a paper copy from the main bulletin board at St. Luke's.

Consider God's Work being accomplished by St. Luke's ministry and mission that affects you, all our members, and our community. Thank you for giving your time and financial resources throughout the year to bring this mission and ministry to life.

In Christ,  
The Stewardship Team

## BETHEL NEW LIFE CHRISTMAS STORE

*Sign up to help a family or senior in need— help stock the shelves at the Christmas Store.* The Bethel Christmas Store was a huge success last year providing dignity by allowing family members to choose gifts for their families. St. Luke's members can still receive the forms submitted by families with their wish list. We have received several large families this year so you may want to get a couple people together to take a family. Details will be provided when you choose a family or a senior. *Last year St. Luke's provided Christmas gifts for 27 families/127 individuals as well as 29 seniors living on Chicago's Westside.* Call Kim Hendee at 847/825-2258 or 847/ 612-0627 with any questions.



## HOW DO WE LOOK?

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is the name of the form we complete to let prospective pastors what we look like in terms of longevity, membership, mission, neighborhoods covered, etc. In 14 pages a pastor can get a pretty good view of who St. Luke's Lutheran Church is.

This MSP was approved by the Congregation Council and sent in to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod office on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The Call Committee also received copies. This is an open document. If you want to look at, or receive, a copy, please let Pastor Koch know.

## AFTERNOON BRIDGE GROUP

Once again we invite bridge players to join us. We play the first Wednesday of the month at the church. To join as a regular or as a substitute, or for more information call Elsie Duncan at 847-296-9179.

## COUNCIL NOTES

November 2011, Council Summary

- Approved, subject to audit, the reports of the financial officers.
- Approved the list of recurring payments to be paid without further action.
- Adopted as a Continuing Resolution: The treasurer shall be a member of the congregation council with voice and vote. In the absence of the treasurer, the assistant treasurer may serve as a council member with voice and vote at meetings of the congregation council.
- Authorized the Worship and Music and Outreach cabinets to sponsor a community event on December 17, 2011, for a reading by Frank Babbitt of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and that the two cabinets be allowed to receive a free-will offering that will be designated for the Maine Township Food Pantry.
- Received information that members of FMT have met with cabinets regarding the 2012 Spending Plan. The first draft of the spending plan will be presented to council in December.
- Received information about the receipt of gifts from the Betty F. Anderson trust.
- Received FMT's review of Dedicated Accounts and approved giving the balance in the "Middle East Trip" account to the Mount of Olives project and the renaming of "Benevolence" account as "In and Out."
- Granted permission for St. Luke's to serve as the coordinating group to handle finances for transportation for youth and chaperones from St. Luke's and other congregations who will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012.
- Approved the Ministry Site Profile prepared by the Call Committee.
- Received a report from the Executive Committee on the required six-month evaluation of the Interim Lead Pastor. The committee commended Pr. Koch on the work he has done for us to date.
- Adopted the Human Resources Policy document.
- Approved a request from the Jul Fest Team to serve glögg (a hot drink containing alcohol) at the Jul Fest on December 11, 2011, with the understanding that the serving station would be staffed by an adult and that no one under 21 years of age would be served.
- Requested Pr. Koch to write a brief summary for the congregation of the information received from the TCI survey that was conducted this fall and suggested that a plan be made to determine how the information should be used to help us evaluate and enhance programs.

## RECORD OF GIVING

If you need to know what you have contributed to St. Luke's so far in 2011 you may obtain that information by calling the Recording Financial Secretary, Art Johnson, at the church office -847-825-6659. Leave your name, phone number or e-mail address and your current information will be provided.

## GIFTS OF STOCKS

Those desiring to give gifts of STOCKS may do so by calling the Parish Coordinator, Jeanne Rice, to get the name and phone number of the stock broker for St. Luke's. The church has a standing order "TO SELL" the stock at once. The contributor will receive credit for the gift minus the transfer fee. You need to notify Jeanne Rice as to the ministry to receive the contribution; that is: The Ministry Spending Plan, The Building Fund or other ministry.

## SEASONAL OFFERINGS

Members are encouraged to make additional contributions at special times during the year, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Special offering envelopes and pew (all purpose) envelopes are available for use. For 2011 – it is hoped these offerings will total \$26,000. Through Oct. 31, we have received \$9,509. The contributions are used to support the mission and ministry of the congregation in all areas including worship and music, education and learning, member care, staff salaries, building expenses and maintenance, assistance to those in need, as well as our contribution to ministries that we participate in through the Metro Chicago synod and the ELCA. Members are encouraged to contribute to the Seasonal Offerings.

## THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

The Charitable IRA Rollover enjoyed by many donors is set to expire on Dec. 31, 2011. If you have reached the age 70 1/2, this means that you can give directly from your IRA to St. Luke's. This gift can benefit the ministries without having to first recognize the distribution as income on your federal tax return. Up to \$100,000 may be transferred from an IRA prior to Dec. 31, 2011. Distribution or transfer can only be made from a traditional or Roth IRA and must come directly to St. Luke's from the IRA administrator. This distribution/transfer qualifies toward your annual minimum required distribution. The distribution/transfer can be applied as a payment on your current or building fund pledge or as an outright cash gift according to your designation. There is no charitable deduction but the amount sent to St. Luke's is excluded from your adjusted gross income. Should you wish to make a gift to St. Luke's using your IRA, please contact your IRA administrator to make the charitable distribution from your IRA. If you need to speak to someone at St. Luke's, please call Pastor Minnick (773-637-0081).

## MENU FOR YEAR-END GIVING

Some members are looking for opportunities to contribute as the year ends to causes that need additional financial resources. The following menu is provided for those who are seeking ideas for places to direct their year-end gifts.

**St. Luke's MINISTRIES** – The short fall in giving since May has created a need for funds to meet the necessary expenses for all the ministries as well as staff salaries and costs related to operation of the building and utility expenses.

**Building Fund** – Pledges to the "Let Your Light Shine" capital campaign totaled about \$595,000 over a three year period.

**World Hunger** – Through October 31 over \$19,000 has been contributed. Last year St. Luke's contributed more than \$27,000. Additional gifts are needed to assist in addressing the growing need both locally and around the world.

**OTHER** – You may have a particular and specific area that you want to assist – if so, please contact Pastor Mac (773-637-0081) for information that will assist you to do so. You may make your year-end gift by using the PEW ENVELOPE and designating the use.

## IRS – CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINE -

As we approach the end of the calendar year 2011, please take special note of the following information from the **IRS**.

In order for your contribution check to be credited to 2011, it must have a December date and be received in the church office or put in the offering plate no later than December 31. If your check is written and dated in December, but not mailed or deposited in the offering plate until January, it is a 2012 contribution.

If you put a check in the January offering plate, but it is back-dated to December, it is a 2012 contribution.

If your check is written and deposited in the December offering plate, but it is pre-dated to January, 2012, it is a 2012 contribution.

Be sure any contribution from a stock transfer is completed in time to be deposited and credited as a 2011 contribution. (Contact the Parish Coordinator, Jeanne Rice, to get the name of the church's stock broker and the procedure to be used.)

## SIMPLY GIVING and AUTOMATIC PAYMENT THROUGH YOUR BANK

A number of households are using the automatic payment program, **SIMPLY GIVING**, a program provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. An increasing number of households have set up automatic payments to the church through their bank. For those using **SIMPLY GIVING** who have changed their pledge for 2012, please contact the Parish Coordinator, Jeanne Rice, and complete the necessary form for your payment in 2012. Those desiring to use **SIMPLY GIVING** in 2012 are also asked to contact Jeanne Rice for information about the program and the necessary form. Those desiring to make direct payment through their bank may do so by contacting their bank.

## ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET REMINDER

To all who are responsible for submitting reports for the Annual Report Booklet, please note the deadline to get the reports into the church office is Monday, December 26. Please have the reports camera ready in Times New Roman 10 or 11 point font. If you have any questions, call Jeanne at 847-825-6659.

Also, please note that due to the increase costs of production and mailing, the 2011 reports will be available on line at [www.stlukespr.org](http://www.stlukespr.org). Printed hard copies will be available in the atrium. The report will not be mailed out this year.

## 2012 "INTENTION TO GIVE" CARDS

2012 "INTENTION TO GIVE" CARDS can be mailed to the church office, placed in the offering plate or sent "on line." Please return your 2012 commitment as soon as possible. The Financial Management Team is to prepare the first draft of the 2012 balanced budget for Council's first review and consideration on Dec. 13. FMT needs to know what the income resources will be in order to prepare the 2012 Spending Plan.

Appreciation is expressed to all who have responded. It is hoped that we will have responses from every member household.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE – OCT. 31, 2011

During October there was some "catching up" on contributions. Our income for the 10 month period should have been \$629,646. The income was \$561,222. The shortfall in revenue is \$68,424. The 2011 Spending Plan was under spent by \$55,867 through Oct. 31 but some of these expenses must be paid by Dec. 31.

Our CASH FLOW – income was \$561,222; expenses were \$573,779; deficit was (-\$12,557). Year end offerings by all members are needed, so that we can fulfill the work that God has entrusted to us.

Other contributions include: Growing in Faith (Building Fund)- \$100,004; Let Your Light Shine (Mortgage) \$105,617. Beyond Our Walls including Refugee ONE \$2,204; Mt. of Olives \$985; Concordia Scholarships \$908. World Hunger \$19,243.

# OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



## WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

**Saturday, January 28, 2012**

Don't let the cold weather stop you from getting all of your favorite seasonal farm fresh foods. Faiths in Place's indoor winter farmers' markets provide small, local farm producers with additional venues to extend their income beyond the growing season. St. Luke's will be hosting a **Winter Farmers' Market on Saturday, January 28, 2012**, and will offer consumers an opportunity to purchase cheese, meat and poultry, soap, syrup, honey, wool, raw fibers, vinegars, dried fruits, milled flours, sauces and salsas, preserves, cider, and fresh produce as available. A light lunch will also be available for purchase during the event.

Volunteers who may be able to assist with set-up, take-down, and to make things easier for the vendors on that day are welcome! If you are interested, please contact Gail Larson or Sue Weber. **Come and see how you can continue to eat locally, even during the cold winter months!**

### KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



As we move into the holidays, consider all of those people (family, friends, teachers, hosts and hostesses) who would be moved by your generous gift of a donation to World Hunger in their honor. There's still time left for us to complete our 2011 goal of 27 loaves in the ELCA World Hunger Bread Basket (\$1,000 per loaf). When you submit your donation to the church office or in the offering plate, please identify the donation for "ELCA World Hunger." **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

## Alternative Giving



— love is a gift

Join us for an **ELCA Good Gifts Fair** on **December 4 and December 11** between services and browse more than 65 different giving options that support life-changing projects and programs around the world.

These gifts can be purchased in honor of a special person in your life—just in time for Christmas. Come and see how you can multiply the value of your gift-giving this year!

St. Luke's ELCA  
Good Gifts Fair  
December 4 and 11

Americans spend over \$300 billion on Christmas shopping each year. That is a lot of stocking stuffers, fruitcake and Christmas sweaters! What if even part of this spending were redirected to fight against hunger and poverty? That ornament for a teacher could be changed into health and dental care for a child in an orphanage, or that sweater for your spouse could be transformed into a microloan for a woman in Mexico. You could actually give a gift that changes lives for generations. **Rethink your Christmas shopping this year and substitute at least one gift with a gift from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog.**



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## FIRST TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join First Tuesday Men's group on Tues., December 6 at 8:00 am for a pancake and sausage breakfast and some lively conversation. Contact Howie Thorsson or Don Rusch for more information.

## DINNER FOR EIGHT (OR 6 OR 7)



Do you enjoy good conversation, making new friends and eating great food? Then this is for you!

Here is how it works...on January 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a potluck supper in Henderson Hall. During the evening we will pick dinner groups. Each group will consist of four couples/singles from a household. If there are all couples then your group will be eight, if one household is a single then your group will be 7, etc. When you fill out the form below you will indicate if you prefer to eat out or eat in. The only thing we ask is that between January and June your group gets together 4 times. (The idea is that each household will plan one event).

## JUL FEST



We will celebrate *JUL FEST*, on December 11 from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm in Henderson Hall. Come enjoy a delicious smorgasbord dinner with Swedish meatballs, potatoes, veggies, and delicious homemade treats. Entertainment by St. Luke's Fiddlers and the Bjornson Male Chorus, a Santa Lucia procession and more! Tickets will be on sale at C.O.W dinners and on Sundays between services. You may also sign up to bring a special Scandinavian delicacy, bread or dessert. The cost is \$5 for children 10 and under, \$15 for adults, and \$50 per family. All proceeds will go toward St. Luke's participation at the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering next July. For more information, contact Melinda Hoiland at melinda.hoiland@comcast.net

## PARK RIDGE CHORALE CONCERT

The Park Ridge Chorale returns to St. Luke's with their Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm. The choir will be singing a very traditional concert of Christmas favorites including well known carols and popular songs. For tickets, call Kyle at 847-825-5499.



## KRINGLES PICK UP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3  
9:00 AM until 12:00 PM



Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Henderson Hall

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Customers select cookies individually to create their own special assortment

● Pay by the pound ●

## BAH! HUMBUG!

Don't be a Scrooge! Come enjoy *A Christmas Carol*, Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 at St. Luke's. Frank Babbitt, a well-known Chicago actor and musician, will be presenting this holiday classic as a one-man show. Mr. Babbitt notes, "Dickens first read the *Carol* in public as a benefit for an organization that assisted the poor." In this spirit, a freewill offering will be taken to help support the Maine Township Food Pantry. This event is co-sponsored by the Worship/ Music, Outreach and Congregational Life Cabinets. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to this fabulous event, full of holiday fun, and hear the wonderful message of giving during the holiday



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010 AT 4:00 P.M.

# EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

**You are invited to Adult Education at St. Luke's!**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00- 8:00 pm**

***December 7- Study of Romans***

Join as we study the book of Romans led by Pastor Koch. Paul is the author of Romans, a letter written to believers in Christ in the capital city of the Roman Empire. He writes from Corinth, in southern Greece, during the winter of 56-57 AD. He has been a missionary for 20 years and is at the height of his career. Join us as we explore God's Word!

***December 14- "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"...*** Join us as we read and compare the two accounts of Christ's birth (in Matthew and Luke), listen to some Christmas music and enjoy some Christmas cookies!

**We will not meet on December 21, December 28, or January 4 due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays  
All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Morning Adult Forum 9:45-10:45 am**

***December 4 & 11th- The ELCA Good Gifts Fair is back!***

December 4 and 11 you'll find the **ELCA Good Gifts Fair** in Spangler Parlor to help solve your holiday gift-giving dilemmas. Using the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog, the giving catalog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you can share the wealth through more than 65 different giving options that support life-changing projects and programs around the world. **Come and see** how you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving gifts this holiday season to friends, pastors, teachers, neighbors, and other loved ones.

***December 18- Christmas craft-making*** led by Rita Hoffer. No prior crafting experience necessary!

**We will not meet on December 25 - No Forum scheduled (Merry Christmas!)  
All are Welcome!**



## Library Notes

Come in the library or check the book cart for our large collection of books for Advent and Christmas. One favorite recommendation is Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas, an anthology of spiritual readings for every day from Advent to Epiphany, written by some of the world's best-loved writers. It can be followed as a guide to daily devotions, or opened at leisure to any selection. Good sources for family Advent activities are 25 Days of Christmas: An Advent Celebration for the Entire Family, by Rebecca Hayford, in which the author suggests ways to have a Christ-centered Christmas full of fun, tradition, and peace, and Family Countdown to Christmas: A Day-by-Day Celebration, by Debbie Trafton O'Neal. December 6 is Saint Nicholas' Day. Nicholas was a pastor whose generosity, a response to the gifts we receive through Jesus, was well-known. His kindness and care are modeled every time we give a gift out of love. Read Saint Nicholas: The real Story of the Christmas Legend, by Julie Steigemayer

### HOW DO WE LOOK? PART 2

As part of the preparation for the Ministry Site Profile, 172 members took the Transforming Church Index (TCI) Survey. It has given us a wealth of data to work with. Currently the Congregation Council is examining the data which covers, in great detail, fifteen areas of ministry. Expect to find out, in later Messengers, information regarding the Transforming Church Index and what it says about our ministry.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILY

JOIN US FOR THE ST. LUKE'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DRAMA

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Henderson Hall**



## Children's and Youth Christmas Program Extravaganza

Please join the children's drama troupe and Sunday School choir for a performance of *Christmas in God's Global Barnyard* on December 11. The Youth Drama Troupe will then present a *Christmas in the Land of Oz*. The performances will take place in Henderson Hall during education hour, beginning promptly at 10am. Refreshments will be served after. All Sunday School children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under please meet in the sanctuary at 9:45am to rehearse music and line up for your entrance. Children's with lines in the play should meet in the Temple Room at 9:30am. Youth Drama Troupe meets at 9am on stage.

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## JUNIOR HIGH SKI DAY

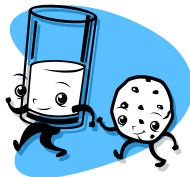
All 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Ski Day at Wilmot Mountain on Saturday December 17. Meet in the atrium at 8 am and we'll ski until day hours end at 4:30 pm getting back to church around 6 pm. Cost is \$60 and covers ski rental, lift ticket, lesson, and transportation. Bring extra cash for lunch. Please RSVP by December 6 by contacting Jeannine and paying your \$60 fee. Chaperones are needed. We need 20 people or more to get the group rate. Friends are always welcome!



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## HIGH SCHOOL SKI TRIP

St. Luke's Senior High ski trip is back! We are renting a cabin in the Wisconsin/upper peninsula Michigan area from December 27 – December 29, and will be skiing at Pine Mountain. Deposits of \$100 for the trip were due on November 28. Remaining payment of \$75 is due by December 11. Please contact Jeannine Oakes if you are interested in joining us! Friends are welcome!



## COOKIE WALK IS BACK!

Join us on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 - 11:00 am for the return of the St. Luke's Cookie Walk in Henderson Hall. The cookies will be sold by the pound with plenty of cookies to choose from. Don't miss this great fundraiser for the youth of St. Luke's.



## PICK UP YOUR HOLIDAY KRINGLES

on

**Saturday, December 3 between**

**9:00 am and 12:00 noon**



## COLLEGE STUDENTS

Please keep all of our college and graduate students in your thoughts and prayers as they study for mid-terms, finals and travel home for the holidays.

Matt Bennett, DePaul  
Bryan Bishop, U of Illinois  
Laura Buskirk, U of Indiana  
Natalie Buskirk, ISU  
Chris Dardi, U of Illinois  
Alex Dardi, U of Illinois  
Kimberly Dardi, U of Illinois  
Margaux DeChambre, St. Louis University  
Lauren DeChambre, U of Illinois  
Charlotte Erickson, MSU Bozeman  
Mark Farrell, Augustana College  
Carly Fenili, Indiana University  
Chris Figler, Oakton Community  
Carleton Gartner, Indiana University  
Joshua Goll, Tulane University  
Eric Greve, Hope College  
Larisa Greve, University of Michigan  
Claire Griebler, Lawrence University  
Abigail Hayden, Purdue University  
Peter Hoffer, Carthage  
James Hoffer, U of Illinois  
Kiersten Hoiland, Chatham University  
Daniel Hoiland, St. Olaf  
James Jaffe, Washington  
Sharon Jaffe, UW Madison  
Carl Klimah, U of Wisconsin Stevens Point  
Kelly Kohlndorfer, DePaul University  
Kim Kohlndorfer, St. Louis University  
Kara Konken, Baldwin Wallace College  
Daniel Kunz, Augustana

Daniel Kwasigroch, Augustana  
Michael Kwasigroch, Milwaukee School of Engineering  
Ashley McClelland, DePaul  
Justin McClelland, St. Olaf  
Andrew McCurry, rose-hulman institute of technology  
Colleen McCurry, Loyola Medical School  
Csilla Megyeri, Lawrence University  
Michael Michelini, NIU  
Jacqueline O'Reilly, UW Madison  
Daniel Organ, DePaul University School of Law  
Paul Organ, George Washington U  
Shannon O'Toole, Oakton Community  
Chris Prinz, University of Missouri  
Ben Raeder, Purdue University  
Jack Rice, Iowa State University  
Andrew Schaeffer, Yale  
Trevor Schaeffer, Augsburg  
Sarah Schaeffer, Loyola  
Brian Schrop, UTI  
Katlin Seibert, U Wisconsin Milwaukee  
Taylor Sheehan, U of Illinois  
Ryan Simpson, Butler  
Ryan Smith, Oakton Community  
Stephanie Smith, Boston Conservatory of Music  
Kevin Stark, ISU  
Katie Stavrides, Carthage  
Stephen Stavrides, DePaul  
Matt Tarpey, U of Missouri  
Ryan Tarpey, Illinois State  
Lara Trenkenschu, UIC  
Thomas Trowsell, Columbia University  
Audra Walker, Marquette  
Kevin Weber, Bradley  
Anna Yee, U of Illinois  
Samantha Yee, Marquette

*Wishing you a  
Blessed Christmas  
And  
a Happy and Healthy  
New Year  
From  
the Staff of St. Luke's*

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING PASTOR KRISTI'S SABBATICAL?

(by Pastor Koch)

In the November newsletter and subsequent articles, the members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church have learned about Pastor Kristi's upcoming sabbatical. As I write this article, we are working on plans to cover her position for the two month sabbatical which begins on December 26 and runs through February 21 (the day before Ash Wednesday). Here are the plans as we have them right now:

1.) We are fortunate to have a number of very talented pastors who are also members of St. Luke's. They have agreed to preach and/or preside during Pastor Kristi's absence. The schedule for preaching and presiding is as follows:

January 1 <sup>st</sup> – Name of Jesus:	Preacher, Mac Minnick,	Presider, George Koch
January 8 <sup>th</sup> – Baptism of our Lord:	Preacher, George Koch,	Presider, Paul Stone
January 15 <sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 2:	Preacher, Kathie Bender Schwich,	Presider, George Koch
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Epiphany 3:	Preacher, Steve Nelson,	Presider, George Koch
January 29 <sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 4:	Preacher, Don McCoid	Presider, George Koch
February 5 <sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 5	Preacher, George Koch	Presider, Kathie Bender Schwich
February 12 <sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 6 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher, Paul Stone	Presider, George Koch
February 19 <sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration	Preacher, George Koch	Presider, Don McCoid

2.) We will contract with an interim associate pastor for a half-time (25-30 hours/week) who will work with Pastor George during the sabbatical. This person's responsibilities would include member care, confirmation, and working with staff and Cabinets (especially education). This person will be selected by a three person committee made up of Paula Zawjowski, Irene Jinks and George Koch. We expect to contract this person at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We will keep you informed as we progress toward contracting an interim associate to help us during Pastor Kristi's sabbatical.

### DINNER FOR EIGHT (OR 6 OR 7)

Do you enjoy good conversation, making new friends and eating great food? Then this is for you! Here is how it works...on January 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a potluck supper in Henderson Hall. During the evening we will pick dinner groups. Each group will consist of four couples/singles from a household. If there are all couples then your group will be eight, if one household is a single then your group will be 7, etc. When you fill out the form below you will indicate if you prefer to eat out or eat in. The only thing we ask is that between January and June your group gets together 4 times. (The idea is that each household will plan one event).



**Please put your completed form in the box located in the Atrium or return it to the Church office**

Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Eat out:

Eat in:

I/We will be at the potluck: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please select eat out or eat in)**

**(Please enter the number attending)**



# WORSHIP and MUSIC



## Choir schedule for December

Sun. Nov. 27	Advent 1	8:30 a.m. Youth	11:00 a.m. Chancel
		6:30 p.m. Combined Choirs Candlelight rehearsal	
Sat. Dec. 3		9:00 Flute Choir; 9:20 Orchestra; 11:15 Recorders	10:00 a.m. Combined Choirs rehearsal
Sun. Dec. 4	Advent 2	8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Celebration Ringers	11:00 a.m. Chancel Celebration Ringers
		4:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	All choirs and instrumental groups
Sun. Dec. 11	Advent 3	8:30 a.m. Cherub and Junior Choirs	11:00 a.m. Youth
Sun. Dec. 18	Advent 4	8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	11:00 a.m. Chancel
Wed. Dec. 21	Longest Night Service	7:00 p.m. Youth Choir	
Sat. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. Cherub, Junior, Orff Ensemble	11:00 p.m. Sanctuary, Youth, Chancel, Flutes, Orchestra, Recorders
Sun. Dec. 25	Christmas Day	One service at 10:00 a.m.	
Sun. Jan. 1	The Name of Jesus	One service at 10:00 a.m.	

### ST. LUKE'S 72ND ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

will be held on **Sunday, December 4, beginning with prelude music at 4:00 p.m.** All of our vocal choirs, together with a variety of instrumental ensembles and chamber orchestra will lead the congregation in this traditional seasonal service. Plan now to attend and to bring family, friends, and neighbors to share in this beautiful service of word, prayer, and song.



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR CAROLING

On Wednesday, December 14, the Children's Choirs and Orff Ensemble will meet at St. Luke's at 4:30 pm and drive to St. Matthew's Home together. We will return by 6:30 pm. Drivers will be needed – please check with Melinda Hoiland for more information.

### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00 pm for a quiet service of candlelight, song, and prayer on the longest night of the year, the winter solstice. On this, the darkest of nights, we will light candles and sing gently of hope and peace. We offer this service as an oasis of calm amid the hustle and bustle of the season. The Youth Choir will provide musical leadership.



**CHOIR REHEARSALS** will resume on Wed., January 11, for Cherub, Junior, Youth, Orff, and Celebration Ringers. Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on Thurs., January 5, 2012.

# WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

## December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; II Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal*

*Comfort, Comfort My People*

The prophet Isaiah speaks words of comfort to people who are broken-hearted. Hear these Advent words that draw us toward hope in the coming of the Lord.



## December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo*

*Gaudiamus*

In the midst of our problems, God offers....hope.



## December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; or Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Ghana, Nigeria*

*Nothing Will Be Impossible with God*

The angel, Gabriel, speaks to Mary and offers her the assurance that nothing will be impossible with God. Mary carries within her God's Word of hope for the world.



## Wednesday, December 21 - Longest Night - 7:00 pm



## Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - 4:30 pm

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

*Eyewitness*

The puppets of Pastor and Judy Koch will enliven the hearts of children of all ages as they tell the old familiar Christmas story from the perspective of a wise shepherd dog and a reluctant shepherd who were there at Jesus' birth.

## Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - 11:00 pm

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

*Heavenly Peace of Eye of the Storm?*

Was there really "heavenly peace" on the Eve of Christ's Birth? Or were there "storms" both inside and outside? Come join us as we sing familiar carols and hear the glorious message of Jesus' birth.



## Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]; John 1:1-14

*Light Shines in the Darkness*

Jesus Christ, the light of the world, shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. Come celebrate God's gift of light and life to the world this Christmas morning.