

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2008

ADVENT

ADVENT DEVOTIONS & BREAKFAST on Wednesdays at Christ Lutheran from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. All welcome. Dates are: Dec. 3, 10, & 17. Folks from St. Leonard Catholic and Heath United Methodist Churches also participate in this fellowship. We have breakfast and then share a Bible Study focused on Advent themes.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS is an Advent worship service that began in 18th century England. It is a casual service of decorating the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas and singing carols. Children enjoy this service as much as the adults.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Followed by dessert potluck- yum☺

Bring a favorite dessert to share.

Children's Christmas Program

will be held on Sunday December 14

at 4:30 p.m. The play this year is "Las Posadas", which tells the story of how Joseph and Mary searched everywhere for a place to stay. This drama helps us remember that Christmas is all about welcoming Jesus Christ into our lives, homes, and hearts; making room for him first.

After the program, everyone is invited to a wonderful Holiday Fiesta Dinner hosted and prepared by the High School Youth Group and parents. A free will donation may be given at the dinner and will be supplemented by Thrivent Knox-Licking Chapter with ½ of donations going to Care Fund, and ½ of donations going to help the High School Youth participate in the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Practices for the play are: Sundays, Dec. 7 & 14 at 9:30 am during Sunday School hour.

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

will be held Sunday, December 14 at the 10:30 a.m service. We thank our Chancel Choir for their beautiful music and this special cantata to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING to the Homebound Meet & carpool from church at 4:00pm on

Sunday, December 21 to share Christmas caroling with persons from our church who are homebound in the winter months and with those who live in nursing care centers. All are welcome to spread some Christmas cheer! This year, the Middle School & High School Youth are baking cookies to take to the homebound as we carol.

ADVENT OUTREACH

3rd Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive
Wed. December 3 1:00p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
in our Church Social Hall

Thank you to Shirley Anderson for helping to organize the Blood Drive here. Volunteers are needed to help serve juice and snacks to persons who have given blood. **You can register to give Blood, and the sign up sheets are kept in the church lobby. Walk-ins also welcome.**

Baskets of Love: Pick a tag from the Christmas tree in the lobby and fill a small laundry basket with small gifts for senior citizens. This ministry is organized by Catholic Social Services. Christian churches throughout the area help out. **If you have picked a tag for "Baskets of Love", please return the items to the church unwrapped by Sunday, Dec. 7, and place them under the tree.** Thank you for helping with this outreach ministry to the senior citizens of Licking County.

Christmas Caring: We are sponsoring a local family in need with clothing needs and winter coats this year. Pick a tag off the tree after Dec. 7 and

return by Dec. 21, wrapped with the tag attached so we know "who" the gift is for. Thank you to Carol Hughes for organizing this outreach ministry.

Care Fund: In troubled economic times, many people turn to the church for help with emergency needs. Your contribution to the Care Fund is a welcome respite for families who are having a very difficult time this year and need our help. We try to be of assistance to families who otherwise would have no Christmas dinner and no gifts for their children. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

The Annual Homer Curry Dinner for persons and families in need -will be served on Christmas Day at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church on Granville Street in Newark. Bring your GOOD, CLEAN, winter coats or boots, and new winter hats & gloves to our church after Dec. 14 and we'll get them to the Homer Curry Dinner. Volunteers are needed: Set up at 9am Help with dinner at 11am and clean up helpers needed too.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES HOLY COMMUNION & CANDLE LIGHT SERVICES AT 7PM & 11PM WED. DECEMBER 24

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 28

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

At both Sunday services, we will hear the traditional service known as "Lessons & Carols for Christmas" which tells the story of the promised Messiah who was born "God with us", Emmanuel, Christ the Lord. The six lessons are interspersed with Christmas carols.

LET US PRAY

During October and November we offered prayers for healing, strength, and comfort for: Lois Scroggins, Sue Bagent, Kay Jeffrey, Gloria Hardy, Larry Kretzmann, Alice Meagher, Amy Block, Bob McVey, Jane Krueger, Margo King & Family, Logan Kretzmann, Heidi Mehler, Deb Rother, Taylor Carmer, Bob Ewing, Jerry Swank, Alison Pyle, Jim Landis, Kathy Barger, Mason Van Dyke, Dick Burgie, Carolyn Colburn, and numerous others as requested by our church family. We continued to pray for strength and protection for the many service people deployed overseas and their families, especially Randy Record, Rich Horst, and

Deb Storms and for all past and present military service people who have served so valiantly to protect our country and its people. We offered prayers for comfort in grief for Mary Lou Meagher, the Family of Richard Heinlein, the Family & Friends of Jim Mossbrock, the Family of David Boyd, and the Family of Kenneth Kiem, and the Family of Anabelle Bruning. Many other special petitions were lifted.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: On October 20, the Granville Rotary Club presented its annual Vocational Service Award to Seth Patton. This prestigious honor was given to Seth in recognition of his selfless sharing of his time and professional talents with the community at large. We here at Christ Lutheran are very familiar with Seth's helping hand, most specifically his guidance through the financing and construction of our new building addition. Congratulations Seth! We thank God for blessing us with your presence as part of our church family!

NEWS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Births

Welcome Miley Jo Block, newborn daughter of Mark & Amy Block, born on Oct. 23.

Welcome Tristen Michael Bristow, newborn son of Ben & Renee Bristow, born on Nov. 1.

Welcome Avery Leigh Duncan, newborn daughter of Blake & Jennifer Duncan, born on Nov. 13.

Baptisms

Kiarah Dawson Smith, infant daughter of Erin & Dante Smith, granddaughter of Rod & Georgia Sheley, great-granddaughter of Bill & Gloria Hardy. was baptized on Oct. 19.

Hailey Marie Quickle, daughter of Jason Quickle and Toni Head, granddaughter of Barbara Crider was baptized on Nov. 23.

We rejoice with the newly baptized and their families!

Confirmations

Kelci Jarrett, daughter of Kevin & Marci Jarrett, **Austin White & Kaitlyn White**, son and daughter of Craig & Rhonda White were all confirmed in the Christian faith by Affirmation of Baptism on

Sunday, Oct. 26.

These youths are 9th graders who have completed two years of catechism in preparation for Confirmation. We rejoice with them and their families!

New Members received by Affirmation of Baptism in October & November:

Vickie Blubaugh,
Donald Barnard (daughter Lyndsay),
Cliff Neighbarger,
James & Mary Hickman,
Barbara Crider (granddaughter Hailey),
Ross & Pam Shannon,
Bethany Thompson, and
Todd & Susan Falkenberg (daughter Emma)

Sunday School News

(See "Children's Christmas Program" on previous page of newsletter)

Catechism Class will take a break on Sundays, Dec. 21 & 28: No Catechism Class those dates. Catechism students coming with other family members to Sunday School may attend the Sunday School class on Dec. 21.. Catechism Class resumes January 4.

Sunday School Classes for children & youth NO CLASSES on SUNDAY DEC. 28.

The ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS will meet every Sunday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

The second session of preparation will be **Sunday, Dec. 21 after the 10:30 am worship service.** We will meet in the church kitchen to bake the bread for Christmas Eve. Baptized children in 3rd grade and up who have attended this class (and the November 16th class) may receive their First Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at either service, or on the first Sunday in January. Parents, please let Pastor know at which worship service you plan for your child to receive First Communion.

Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet in December on Saturday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m.

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will not meet in December. We will meet the third Saturday of January, 8:30am

THANK YOU!

CROP WALK 2008

Thanks to the people from our church who walked and their sponsors. The walkers were: Eric, Elisa & Jacob Santiago, Joyce Williams, Denise Ploetz, John & Deb Groff, Linda Patton, Roger & Marilyn Yekisa, Brooke Diller, Jessica Sullivan, Kathy Mehler, Jarrod & Dianne Sullivan, Jenna Sullivan, Dustin Weaver, Joy Williams, Linda Hayes, and Becky & Butch Wilson. A total of \$1270.00 in donations were given to CROP WALK from our church and we had 21 walkers. Thank you!

From LAMP USA and the Ministry shared with the MV Christian Alaskan Mission

Dear Friends in Christ,

Your generous gift will help us reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no better news for our hurting world!

Your partnership in ministry is a true blessing to me and our dedicated ministry team as we share God's love and forgiveness with all people, especially Native Americans...as we continue to share the Gospel with them, lives are being transformed.

God is blessing this ministry greatly. Please continue to remember us in prayer. Thank you again.

With deep, heartfelt gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Don W. Johnson
Executive Director

Thank you to all who prepared a **Christmas Shoebox for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry.** Lynda McKitrick & Pastor Kris dropped off shoeboxes which you prepared to be sent to children all over the world! This ministry originates with the Christian organization "Samaritans Purse", and is directed by Franklin Graham, son of the Rev. Billy Graham.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Job & Family Services Christmas Gift Wishes, the Baskets of Love through Catholic Social Services given to local Senior Citizens, the extra help for Christmas gifts of clothing and coats, and to all who have given to Care Fund so we can help families this Christmas. **Thank you** to all who are giving good used coats, new hats and gloves to the Homer Curry Dinner and helping with the dinner on Christmas Day.

Thank you to everyone who supported the November 2 Licking County Coalition of Care Benefit. It was a resounding success to help families in need. The Midland Theatre was filled with supportive folks, many from this congregation too. Thanks to Barb Markham for helping us participate in the benefit and for being an advocate for persons in need through this important county-wide faith-based ministry.

Thank you to everyone who helped provide Thanksgiving Dinner for two families, and to all who gave to the Food Pantry Network of Licking County.

Thank you to all who are helping with the Red Cross Blood Drive on Dec. 3!

YOUTH NEWS

Our youth groups are growing!

**Younger Youth Group: "Rising Christians"
Grades 3-6 Activities and Ministry...**

1. Next Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 7 after 10:30 am service. Bring items for gift bags for the women and children living at New Beginnings Shelter. Items needed are: Toothbrush/tooth paste, Shampoo, Lotion, Soap, Deodorant and tissues ALL travel sizes. We want to make 10 gift bags. Bring \$3 per family for pizza. We will have a pizza party at our meeting.
December Meeting Devotions: Connor Van Dyke

2. Sunday, Dec. 21: 4pm Christmas Caroling to the homebound. Parents please accompany your child. After caroling everyone is welcome to meet for supper together.

3. Coming up: Saturday, January 3: 6pm

Children's Christmas Program Fiesta Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 14 after the Christmas Program which begins at 4:30pm

Everyone welcome!

Hosted and prepared by the High School Youth going to New Orleans and their parents.

Free will donation received at the dinner will go ½ to Care Fund for families in need, and ½ to the High School Youth going to New Orleans.

Free Will donations will be supplemented by Thrivent for Lutherans Knox-Licking Chapter.

Chili Cook-off and Family Game Night

\$5 donation to enter your favorite chili recipe and the children will be the judges! Donation goes to help the older High School Youth get to New Orleans.

Older Youth Group: "Light of Lutherans" Grades 7-12: Activities & Ministries

Next Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 7 after 10:30 am worship. Devotions led by Abby Holman

Sunday, Dec. 21: Older youth plan to bake cookies to take along to the homebound when we Christmas Carol. Caroling begins by carpool from the church at 4pm.

Christ Lutheran Photo Christmas Cards are being sold by the High School Youth toward attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. The cards will be available on Sundays, Nov. 23 & 30 and Dec. 7 in the church office. \$5 per dozen cards.

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with the High School Youth OSU-MICHIGAN GAME DAY SUB SALE on Nov. 22.

About the ELCA YOUTH GATHERING...

Thank you for all the support you have given to our older High School Youth who are working to get to New Orleans for the July 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering. 33,000 youth and chaperones are registered now for the Gathering. To appeal for further assistance with costs, our group applied and received over \$1,000 in scholarship monies from the ELCA. We are traveling all night from Ohio to New Orleans by bus with four other ELCA Youth Groups to save on travel costs. The Gathering only happens once every 3 years. The young adults in our congregation, who attended when they were in High School, will tell you that the ELCA Gathering is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is a strong builder of Christian faith, and (especially this year) an extraordinary opportunity to bring an estimated total of 40,000 youth and adult chaperones into the city still reeling from Hurricane Katrina. We hope to be a part of its healing.

Would you keep us all in your prayers as we not only raise funds for the practicality of making this trip, but also work together to focus our attentions on being Christ's people and journeying to the Gathering in his holy name. Please pray for the high school youth attending: Brooke Diller, Rhita Gainer, Abby Holman, Elisa Santiago, Jessica Sullivan, Alec Van Dyke, Dustin Weaver,

Megan, Austin, & Kaitlyn White.

While in New Orleans, they will participate from 8am until 10pm in Bible Studies, Prayer, Worship, Praise Gatherings, Servant-Outreach ministries, and learn about all the ministries going on not only in the ELCA, but among Christians from around the world. They hear the stories of courageous Christians who have persevered in faith even though they faced persecution. They will be enthusiastically encouraged to participate in serving Christ the Lord. They will go into the city neighborhoods to do servant projects. With 40,000 Lutheran Youth in the city all at the same time, they are literally surrounded by Christian youth and adults, pastors and lay persons, bishops and missionaries from around the globe.

They also have some fun each day with optional activities like dances, arts and crafts, Christian music concerts, zip-lines, bungee jumps (hey, it is a YOUTH gathering ☺) and an activity center the size of several football fields full of things to do that all focus on being a Christian youth in today's world. They must stop for the "Final Fifteen" at 11:45 pm each night for prayer and reflection about what they have learned that day. They also stop to pray in the middle of the afternoon. They have the opportunity to worship several times per day with 40,000 Lutherans and also in smaller groups. Thank you for supporting the faith formation of our youth including the ELCA Youth Gathering. Yours in Christ, Pastor Kris Santiago

ADDRESS FOR DEB STORMS IN AFGHANISTAN:

Debra Storms
Task Force MED/OR
APO AE 09354

Her situation there is pretty grave. Cards of encouragement and thanks would be appreciated .

BIRTHDAYS

December 1 Kristin Krueger
December 3 Shannon Chrislip
December 3 Eric Santiago
December 4 Sue Maier
December 5 Brian Manning
December 7 Carl Crase

December 7 Samantha Weinke
December 7 Pam Shannon
December 8 Dick Burgie
December 11 Julie Chrislip
December 11 Marguerite Cooley
December 11 Debra Hunt
December 11 Connie Swank
December 12 Jennifer Armstrong
December 13 Bob Deaver
December 14 Dianne Sullivan
December 14 Christine Bowman
December 14 Laura Crouse
December 14 Connie Reed
December 15 Scott Krueger
December 16 Jeff Maier
December 16 Marci Jarrett
December 17 Lindsey Fawcett
December 17 Morgan Chrislip
December 17 Lee Wilson
December 17 Kaleb Jarrett
December 18 Linda Edwards
December 18 Wilma Krueger
December 19 Tracy Davis
December 20 Carol Porter
December 20 Robert Calvert
December 25 Wilma Mathews
December 30 Deb Groff

ANNIVERSARIES

December 6 Doug & Sharon Mye
December 27 Darcie & Tim Ransom
December 28 Dick & Mary Morris

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ASSISTING MINISTER

Dec. 7 Joy Williams
Dec. 24 7:00pm Kathy Mehler

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Mye & Lisa Zehnal

HOST FAMILY

Dec. 7 8:15am Bob & Barb Moody

10:30am Larry & Denise Ploetz (organ side)
Julie Chrislip/Lindsey Fawcett (pulpit side)
Dec. 24 7:00pm Craig & Earlene Holman (organ side)
Jerry & Connie Swank (pulpit side)
11pm Carol Hughes/Eric Santiago

COUNTERS

Dec 7 Swank
Dec. 14 Swank
Dec 21 Chrislip
Dec. 28 Kretzmann

USHERS

	Head Usher: Williams	Morris
	1st	2nd
Dec. 7 Communion	Hardy	Van Dyke/Morris
Dec. 14	Sheley	Bodle
Dec 21	Groff	Weaver/HS Youth
Dec. 24 Communion	Krueger/White	Clapp
Dec. 28	Schmidt	White

ACOLYTES

Dec. 7 Ashley Hayes/Jenna Sullivan
Dec. 14 Trevor Mye/Jake Brooks
Dec. 21 Ashley Hayes/Jenna Sullivan
Dec. 24 7pm- Jacob Santiago/ Connor Van Dyke
Dec. 28 Trevor Mye/Jake Brooks

GREETERS

Dec 7 S. Ritter & M. Bodle
Dec. 14 Nancy Kraning
Dec. 21 Mason & Yvette Van Dyke
Dec. 28 Cliff Neighbarger

NURSERY

The nursery is available for use by parents of infants and toddlers. The worship service can be heard through the sound system in the nursery.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

LAYREADERS

Dec. 7 8:15am Joyce Williams
10:30am Mary Ann Guilkey
Dec 14 8:15am Larry Ploetz
10:30am Sally Kennedy

Dec. 21 8:15am Joni Miller
10:30am Seth Patton
Dec. 24 7:00pm Craig Holman
11pm Dick Bailey
Dec. 28 8:15am DeDe Dudgeon
& Karen Schmidt
10:30am Larry Kretzmann
& Alice Krauss

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Dec. 7 Anne Carmer/Chris Fisher
Dec 14 Linda Patton/Lisa Zehnal
Dec 21 Puppets: R. White/D. Krueger
Dec 28 Faye Landis/Joy Williams

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec 7 are given in memory of Maynard Meyer by Betty Meyer.

Dec. 14 are given in honor of the birthdays of Scott, Kristin, Kelly, and Wilma Krueger.

Dec. 21 are given by Bill & Marilyn Clapp in memory of the birthday of Marilyn's sister Viki.

Dec. 28 are given in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Dick & Mary Morris.

NURSES Blood Pressures Taken Dec. 14th

1ST Service

8:15 – Joyce Williams & Karen Schmidt

2nd Service

10:30 – Becky Wilson

Blood pressures are taken the SECOND SUNDAY of the month.

VOLUNTEER PARISH NURSE WILL TAKE MEMBER'S OR VISITOR'S BLOOD PRESSURE ANYTIME ON REQUEST. PHARMACIST JONI MILLER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CHECK MEDICATIONS.