

# THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2009



## ADVENT

Advent means “coming”. It is the season of four weeks before Christmas. It is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ. Advent for us is time of focused preparation—to truly prepare our hearts to be awake and ready to both welcome and obey the Lord Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We pray together “Maranatha!”, which means “Come, Lord Jesus”. We long for that day when he comes again.

**Advent Scripture Study at Home:** Advent means the start of a new year in the Church. This year we will read more from Luke’s gospel. Open your Bible and read the introduction to the Gospel according to Luke for good background information. As we approach Christmas, read portions of Luke, chapters 1 and 2 to your children at dinnertime or bedtime, so that they are familiar with the story.

**Read Luke 2: 1-10 and Luke 21:25-28** and notice how the two stories compare. Notice how very few people realized Jesus’ birth in the midst of the Roman census and all kinds of turmoil and preoccupations. In our busy and preoccupied lives, we are called to be ready for the coming the Lord and watch for him. He alone is Savior. He will come again. Even now, he moves ahead of you to guide you in daily life. Watch and heed him.

## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS & BREAKFAST on Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23 at Christ Lutheran from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. All welcome.** We take turns helping prepare breakfast and share Bible study devotion. Bring your Bible with you.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

**Volunteers are needed** at each worship service each Sunday in Advent to light the Advent Candles during worship. A sign up is posted in the lobby of the church. Thank you.

## CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA

**SUNDAY, DEC. 13 10:30 am service**

Practices for the Cantata will be every Wed at 7:15pm. All adults and High School youth who wish to sing in the Cantata are welcome to join us.

## CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10:30am. All children and youth are welcome, all ages, to participate.**

Thank you to Kathy Mehler and Chris Fisher for co-directing the program this year. Cake and punch reception will be held after the program that Sunday morning.

*Practices are held during the 10:30 am Children’s Church time on Sundays.*



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
FRIDAY DECEMBER 24  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE AND  
HOLY COMMUNION 7PM AND 11PM**

**Chimes Ensemble** will practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm the first three weeks of December.



## **Night in Bethlehem—Friday, December 18 from 6:30-8:30pm**

A new and wonderful event, celebrating the birth of Christ from the viewpoint of actually visiting Bethlehem and its people. For ALL AGES, adults and children, for singles and family, for congregation and the entire community! Help is needed with preparations, please contact Yvette Van Dyke or Cathy Mras.



## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING to the Homebound**

**Sunday, Dec. 20 4pm:** We will meet at the church and carpool to the homes and nursing homes to visit with our homebound members. All are welcome to spread some Christmas cheer! *If you can bring some cookies or treats to share, like soft cookies, or some sugar free snacks, please bring them earlier that day. The youth will package them in goody bags to take with us for each person we visit.* After Caroling, all are welcome to meet at Pizza Hut in Heath.

## **HOLY COMMUNION CLASS**

**The second session of First Holy Communion preparation for children in grades 3 and up will meet Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 10:30am.** It is necessary that the children attend this session in order to be ready to receive Holy Communion.. **The children will celebrate First Communion at either of the two Christmas Eve services, or the first Sunday in January.**

## **LET US PRAY**

During October and November we offered prayers for healing for Joy Williams, Carl Crase, Christina Kennedy, Betty Meyer, Marilyn Bodle, Dick Morris, Mary Lou Bradley, Bud Brooks, Diane Pyle, Alice Meagher, Tate Elliott, Rob Calvert, Michael Bell, Angie Mason, Paul Krauss, Kim Braskie, Heather Bonner, Larry Ploetz, Ruth Fies, Becky Barger, Jean Downey, Carol Hill, Mary Hickmen, Nancy

Kraning, 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 Josh Baker, Jeff Thomas, Robert Gruber, and for all past and present military service people who have served so valiantly to protect our country and its people. We also offered prayers of thanksgiving for the safe return from Iraq of Paul Fleming. We offered prayers for comfort in grief for the family of Roger Shannon, Susan Adkins at the passing of her fiancé Jake, the family of Carolyn Cochran, the family of Forrest Stedman, the family of John Annarino and the family of Tyler Gargus. Many other special petitions were lifted.

**Baptisms** In the month of November we celebrated the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Corten Alan Pyle, son of Curtis & Nikkee Pyle; Isabella Dory Crider, daughter of Marybeth Crider; Payge Justine Penrod, daughter of Jill Marietta and TJ Price, David Penrod Jr. and Jenae Young; Tyler Anthony Cain, son of Jill Marietta and TJ Price, and PJ Cain.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held again this year at our church on **WED. DEC. 2 from 1pm-7pm in the social hall.** Walk-ins welcome. You can register beforehand on Sunday mornings prior to that date. Help is needed with registrations and food donations at the Blood Drive.

**CARE FUND IN DECEMBER:** If you can help by giving to the care fund to bless families who have lost jobs and face dire circumstances, your help is greatly appreciated. We pray to be able to bless as many as we possibly can. Our congregation is working with other churches and non-profit community care organizations to face the greater need in our community this year. We support families in need from our congregation and beyond it. We support the compassionate work of the Licking County Coalition of Care, and we do our best to offer hope and care to families who call the church in need of help. This year we are discovering more families who are facing job loss for the first time. All of us pray that we can come together as a community to serve those most in need in Licking County.



**ADOPT A FAMILY:** This year again, we pray to be able to do our best, to share the First Fruits of our blessings with those who struggle with daily medical, food, clothing, transportation needs. We will offer the additional opportunity to care for local families in need **that we know directly through our congregation.** Those “gift wish” tags will be posted on the Christmas Tree in the entryway in early December and can be returned by Dec. 22 so we can get those donations to the families before Christmas.

**JOB & FAMILY SERVICES CHRISTMAS FAMILIES:** Gifts due Dec. 6. Wish lists for children in need are posted on the Christmas Tree in the church entryway. **If you have picked a wish, please return the item to the church unwrapped (with your tag attached), Dec. 6, and place it under the tree.**

**BASKETS OF LOVE: Gifts due Dec. 6.** Wish list tags are on the Christmas tree in the church entryway. Return some of the items on the list to help senior citizens in our community. **Return with tag attached and place under the tree.**

**HOMER CURRY CHRISTMAS DINNER IS A TRADITION HELD FOR THOSE IN NEED ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEWARK.** There are many opportunities to help. New or very good clean used coats, new hats, gloves are collected and taken to the dinner on Christmas. Bring these items to church before Christmas. If you want to help with the dinner on Christmas Day, talk with Doug Krueger for more information. This is a wonderful community servant event.

**CLOTHES CLOSET FOR MEN AND WOMEN HELD AT OPPORTUNITY LINKS.** Donations of **career clothing** are needed to help folks who are going through job interviews and beginning new jobs. **Please see your flyer in this newsletter.** Lori Mye is our contact person for the clothing donations. *Lori writes: “I can pick up donations that are left at the church or donations can be brought directly to Opportunity Links (998 East Main Street). If someone calls me in advance, I can make arrangements to meet them at the door so that they won't need to carry the items in - I will take care of this. We typically request professional/business casual clothing donations that can be used for work. We are looking for clothing for all ages - young workers just starting their work career to 25+ year veterans who are starting over in a new career. So many people*

*have been laid off and are now looking for new career opportunities and may not have the apparel they need to start their new job. In addition, having clothing that you feel confident in is crucial when job searching and interviewing.*

### **Thanking YOU!**

**Thank you for donations of non-perishable foods for Senior Citizens in the large wooden food donation box in the entryway. Thank you for donations of Thanksgiving Day Meal items that were given to three additional families before Thanksgiving! Thank you for your hearts given to serve the Lord in compassion for his people.**

### **CROP WALK 2009**

Thanks to the people from our church who walked and their sponsors. The walkers were: Eric Santiago, Denise Ploetz, , Seth & Linda Patton, Roger & Marilyn Yekisa, Kathy Mehler, Anne & Taylor Carmer, Yolanda Rosato, and Becky & Butch Wilson. We raised a total of \$1,030 to help relieve local and world hunger.



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Sunday School News** Reminder that the Sunday School opening begins at 9:15am in the Social Hall. We ask folks to be with us so **we can all meet for a few minutes together in prayer and praise as we begin Sunday School.** The offering in November went to the Food Pantry Network of Licking County. In December through March, the Sunday School offering will go toward helping a family provide food and income for themselves through “Heifer International”. Learn about this at the Opening!

**Reminder that all children are welcome to participate in and help with the Children’s Christmas Program. Practices are during Children’s Church (10:30am service).**

**Children and Youth Sunday School Classes will not meet the Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 27**  
**Catechism Class ONLY will not meet on Nov. 29 or Dec. 27**



### **Two Adult Bible Studies continue...**

1. **Women’s Bible Study, Thursdays,**

Dec. 3, 10, & 17 at 9:45am.

2. Faith & Friendship Adult Bible Study on Thursday evenings, Dec. 3 & 10, 7:00pm



## **COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**

**Council members should have their annual reports in to Sally by Dec. 31** (except for the financial reports). If you need to see a copy of one of the last year reports, please ask Sally Kennedy, Church Secretary ahead of time.

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after each worship service on Sunday, January 17.**

**New YOUTH BIBLE STUDY will begin soon**, for the Light of Lutherans age group (grades 7-12).

Watch your bulletins for more info...

## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES**

**Thank you** to everyone who helped with and donated to the Care Fund at the Church Potluck on Nov. 22!



**Adopt A Grandparent/ Grandchild Ministry needs you!!!**

**Sunday, Dec. 20: Cake & Punch reception** for everyone following the Children's Christmas Program. This year the Children's Program will be held during the 10:30am worship service.

**The Women's Prayer Breakfast** will NOT meet in December. The next meeting will be Sat. Jan 16 at 8:30am.

**SOCIAL HALL USAGE IN DECEMBER**- Please note that the Social Hall is in use by families from our congregation on Sat. Dec. 5 all day, and Sat. Dec. 12 all day. The Social hall will be set-up for A Night in Bethlehem from Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> through the event held on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 13: 2PM BOWLING AT AMF LANES IN NEWARK** for both youth groups.

Sign up in church entryway so we have a count. Chaperones welcome. Parents drop-off and pick-up from bowling alley. Youth groups will meet at that time for a very important meeting after bowling.

**Christmas Caroling on Dec. 20, 4pm.** Bring a Friend. Bring soft cookies and treats for senior citizens, also some sugar free candies and we will make care packages for the homebound.

**Light of Lutherans Christmas Party-** we will talk about this at the Dec. 13 meeting. Come and share your ideas!

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

We received a note from Hilde Hildebrandt saying she is one of ten people selected from our Synod to attend a conference sponsored by the ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Poverty Ministries. The conference is entitled "Hunger and Environmental Justice in Low-Income Communities." It is being held in Oviedo, Florida from December 4th through December 6th. Congratulations, Hilde.

The Licking County Chapter of the American Red Cross held their Multigallon Donor Banquet on Tuesday, October 27 at the Elks Lodge in Newark. They recognized blood donors who had given five or more gallons. Three members of our congregation were recognized: Bill Anderson, Bob Moody, and Rod Sheley who have donated a combined total of over fifty gallons of the Gift of Life.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held at Christ Lutheran on December 2nd. Won't you consider giving the Gift of Life to someone in need?

Congratulations to Megan White, who will attend the University of Tennessee-Martin in the fall and play as a Division 1 basketball player for the Skyhawks.

We now have a name for our beautiful new outdoor area. It is **Grace Serenity Garden**. Church Council selected the name from the many submitted. It is a combination of two names: Garden of Grace and Serenity Garden. Three families submitted the winning names and will each receive a brick for our Memory/Honor Garden. They are: Christine Bowman, Mason & Yvette Van Dyke, and Roger & Marilyn Yekisa. Each of the winners needs to see Kay Bailey, the facilitator of the Memory/Honor Garden project. Thanks to everyone who submitted a name. There were many excellent suggestions.

Dear Carol,

Thank you for heading up the generous school supplies donation by the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for Stevenson Elementary students. There was a great need for them at the beginning of the school year. Our school is fortunate to have your support. It is greatly appreciated by all.

Sincerely,

Linda Delligatti, Guidance Counselor

Dear Pastor Santiago & Congregation Members:

On behalf of our staff and students of Garfield Elementary School in Heath, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your gracious gift of school supplies for needy students. This year especially, many of our parents are financially "strapped" and without jobs. We have seen an increasing number of families who do not have the money or are unable to send their child to school with the supplies they need.

Thank you again for thinking of our students and especially to Carol Hughes for once again orchestrating this most worthwhile project. As always, we welcome you to come and visit us anytime.

Sincerely,

Valerie R. Bailey, Principal

### **BIRTHDAYS**

December 1 Kristin Krueger  
December 3 Shannon Chrislip-Knighton  
December 3 Eric Santiago  
December 4 Sue Maier  
December 5 Brian Manning  
December 7 Carl Crase  
December 7 Samantha Weinke  
December 7 Mason Block  
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 16 Thomas Braskie (08)

December 17 Lindsey Fawcett  
December 17 Morgan Chrislip  
December 17 Lee Wilson  
December 17 Kaleb Jarrett  
December 18 Linda Edwards  
December 19 Tracy Davis  
December 20 Kelly Krueger-Dye  
December 20 Carol Porter  
December 20 Robert Calvert  
December 30 Deb Groff

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

December 6 Doug & Sharon Mye  
December 11 Jerry & Connie Swank  
December 27 Darcie & Tim Ransom  
December 28 Dick & Mary Morris

### **DEC. WORSHIP ASSISTANTS** **ASSISTING MINISTER**

Dec. 6 Judy Deaver

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Julie Chrislip/Yolanda Rosato

### **HOST FAMILY**

Dec. 6 8:15am J&G Williams  
10:30am H & P Fitzgeralds(Organ side)  
M & Y Van Dyke (Pulpit side)  
Dec. 24 7pm R & C White(Organ side)  
C & E Holman (Pulpit side)  
11pm C. Hughes/E. Santiago

### **COUNTERS**

Dec. 6 Kretzmann  
Dec. 13 Rosato  
Dec. 20 Kennedy  
Dec. 27 Ploetz

### **USHERS**

	<b>Head Usher: Williams</b>	<b>Morris</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>
Dec. 6 Communion	Sheley	
Patton/Morris		
Dec. 13	Groff	White

Dec. 20 Schmidt HS  
Youth  
Dec. 24 7pm S & D Krueger 11pm Clapp  
Dec. 27 McKittrick Wilson

### ACOLYTES

Dec. 6 Jenna Sullivan/Jessica Fisher  
Dec. 13 Jenna Sullivan/Jessica Fisher  
Dec. 20 Trevor Mye/Robert Calvert  
Dec. 24 7pm Jacob Santiago and  
Connor Van Dyke  
Dec. 27 Trevor Mye/Robert Calvert

### GREETERS

Dec. 6 Julie Chrislip  
Dec. 13 Frank & Linda Edwards  
Dec. 20 John & Kim Geller  
Dec. 27 Larry & Denise Ploetz

### NURSERY

Dec. 6 Kim Geller  
Dec. 13 Anne & Taylor Carmer  
Dec. 20 Todd & Susan Falkenberg  
Dec. 27 Kay Bailey

### LAYREADERS

Dec. 6 8:15am Vickie Blubaugh  
10 30am Linda Patton  
Dec. 13 8:15am Joyce Williams  
10:30am Linda Edwards  
Dec. 20 8:15am Carolyn Colburn  
10:30am HS Youth  
Dec. 24 7pm Dick Bailey  
11pm Larry Ploetz  
Dec. 27 8:15am Gary Williams  
10:30am Kathy Mehler

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Dec. 6 Joy Williams/ Kaitlyn White  
Dec. 13 Dianne Sullivan, Dustin, Jessica,  
Jenna  
*Dec. 20 Children's Christmas Program held at  
10:30am service. **No children's church.***  
Dec. 27 Linda Patton/Alec Van Dyke

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 6 are given by Lisa & Troy Coulter,  
Trevor Mye, and Lori Mye in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup>  
wedding anniversary of Doug & Sharon Mye.

Dec. 13 are given by Betty Meyer in memory  
of her husband Maynard Meyer and by Lynn  
Hunt in honor of Keegn's first birthday.  
Dec. 20 are given by the Krueger Family in  
honor of the birthdays of Kelly, Kristin, and  
Scott and in memory of Wilma Krueger.  
Dec. 27 are given in honor of the wedding  
anniversary of Dick and Mary Morris.

### NURSES

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> Service

8:15 – Joyce Williams & Karen Schmidt  
Ross & Pam Shannon

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Service

10:30 –Becky Wilson

**Blood pressures will be taken Dec. 13, the  
SECOND SUNDAY of the month, following  
each worship service.**

**VOLUNTEER PARISH NURSES WILL TAKE  
MEMBERS OR VISITOR BLOOD  
PRESSURES ANYTIME ON REQUEST.  
PHARMACIST JONI MILLER WILL BE  
AVAILABLE TO CHECK MEDICATIONS.**