

THE SEED

Merry
Christmas

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NO. 12

December 2008

REV. DR. PAUL K. SCHWARTZKOPF, PASTOR



Dear Friends in Christ,

My faith was stirred when I read these paragraphs from Sunday and Seasons, the Augsburg-Fortress guide to worship planning. I hope they also help you to prepare for and then celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Advent is a time of anticipation. For there to be anticipation there must be something or someone coming. Anticipation doesn't take place in a vacuum, though. We don't just feel or think anticipation; we live it. In other words, when we anticipate a coming, we prepare. During this Advent we live in anticipation of the final coming of Christ by leading, preparing, proclaiming, and participating in his coming.

Where? Royal David's city . . . Bethlehem . . . hmmm . . . Little Bethlehem?! Not Jerusalem? Not Alexandria? Not Athens? Not Rome? Not the great cities of the world.

In the unlikeliest of places, in the unlikeliest of families, to parents who were dealing with all the inconveniences of life on the road, an extraordinary birth took place. On Christmas night we celebrate unlikely glad tidings and unbelievably good news!

Yet we can't go back in time, and don't pretend to, because the Christmas story continues. We tell the story as it began with Mary and Joseph and Jesus and as it continues now with us. We proclaim good tidings in the here and now: We sing that Christ was "born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth" (ELW 270). So that birth long ago, which was good news for that generation's children of earth, is also about us, intended for us. And we proclaim something more: "For lo!" we sing, "The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing" (ELW 282). So the birth we celebrate at Christmas has to do with the future of human life on earth, the future peace that will finally be flung all over the world. This holy night, then, captures past, present, and future, and proclaims the good news of God's grace that transcends all times, all places!

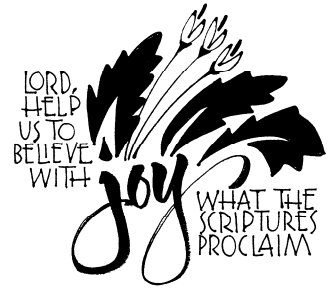
May all the blessings of Jesus be with you throughout these Advent and Christmas seasons.

Yours in Christ,

Paul K. Schwartzkopf

Come Get the Message

from Pastor Schwartzkopf



Enhance your worship by reading the theme for the day and the Biblical word on which it is based. Then come to worship round the Word of God.

December 7, 2ndt Sunday in Advent **“COMFORT AND CHALLENGE”**

The good news of God's salvation as proclaimed by the prophet in Isaiah 40:1-11 is both comfort to sinners and challenge to believers.

December 14, 3rd Sunday in Advent **“GOD'S VICTORY GARDEN”**

Storyteller, Beth Richardson, understands God's promise of victory in Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 in terms of her grandpa's garden which began as hard-pan red clay that was converted to productive, rich black soil by grandpa's work and God's grace.

December 21, 4th Sunday in Advent **“MIRACLE OF MIRACLES”**

The psalm for this day is not from the book of Psalms but from the Gospel according to Luke. It is Mary's song, the Magnificat, written in Luke 1:26-38.

December 24, Christmas Eve **“A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS”**
5:00 PM and 8:00 PM

The poetry of Isaiah 9:2-7 has been interpreted by many Christian scholars and beautifully proclaimed in George Frederick Handel's Messiah. On Christmas Eve, art, not doctrine, expresses our faith.

December 28, 1st Sunday after Christmas **“CHRISTMAS SONGS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR”**

In Luke 2:22-40, Simeon's poetic praise of the Christ child has received such historic use in the church that it has a Latin name, the "Nunc Dimittis". Like Mary's "Magnificat" and Zechariah's "Benedictus", the church sings these songs year in and year out and all year around.

BERGNER'S COUPON

A heartfelt thanks to all the people who helped reach the sales goal of 75 Bergner Coupons, which allowed us to sell tickets for our church, at the store the day of the sale. We sold over a \$100 that day. Our final total of money for the church was \$515.00. Again, thanks to all.

Mary Shank

P.S. And special thanks to Mary Shank for all her work in selling the coupons.



Council Highlights – November 11, 2008

Present at the November 11 meeting of the Council were: Bruce Holderbaum, Darrell Kruse, Stuart Peters, Trish Santos, Pam Schering, Bonnie Scranton, Pastor Schwartzkopf, David Tooke, Kathy Wolters, Bonnie Conover, Joan Kammerlohr, and Barb Wilkinson. Absent: Stu Bell

President Kathy Wolters called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Joan Kammerlohr provided the opening devotions. Darrell Kruse will provide devotions for the December meeting.

Announcements: Stuart Peters thanked all veterans for what they have done for us. Joan Kammerlohr thanked Bonnie Scranton for taking minutes during her absence and also thanked Pastor for visiting her husband while in the hospital in Springfield.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 14, 2008 minutes were approved as printed in the Seed.

Reports of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer: Reports for November 11 were approved subject to audit. Pastor Schwartzkopf will try to set up a separate checking account for the HyVee gift card project.

President's Report: President Wolters reported that two new members have agreed to become council members in 2009. Bonnie Scranton, Stu Bell, and Kathy Wolters will be finishing their terms of office in 2009.

Pastor's Report: Written report for October was filed. He stated that Melrose Chapel, Union United Church and Christ Lutheran will have a joint Thanksgiving service at 7:00 on Thanksgiving Eve at Christ Lutheran Church. An announcement of this service will be placed in the Quincy Herald Whig. The hanging of the greens will be held on the First Sunday in Advent which is November 30, 2008.

Ministry Team and Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Bonnie Scranton reported on pledges given so far. The Operating Fund looks good, but there appears to be a shortfall in the Building Fund. Congregation members are encouraged to send in their pledge cards if they have not already. Bonnie also thanked Ann Schwartzkopf and Stuart Peters for helping with the PowerPoint presentation.

Service: No report

Property: Bruce Holderbaum reported that we have acquired a new storage shed and that new shelves have been installed in the storeroom. New shelves will be placed in the hallway and in the kitchen in the future. Helpers have been meeting on the first Wednesday of each month to work on projects around the church. Trish thanked the committee for fixing the window in the nursery. If congregation members notice things to be fixed around the church, please add to the list on the bulletin board. Reth and Jennifer Stolberg will plant bulbs around the sign in front.

Worship: The committee will meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

Witness: Bonnie Conover thanked all the volunteers who helped prepare for the Ploughman's Lunch. Christ Lutheran will be providing the lunch for Habitat for Humanity volunteers in Coatsburg on November 15, 2008.

Learning/Youth: Misty Hoff outlined a plan for Vacation Bible School next summer. Motion was passed that she should order a starter kit and get started on planning the program.

Fellowship: David Tooke and Pastor reported that cookies, pumpkin donut holes, cider, and tea will be provided after the Thanksgiving Eve service. About 120 people are expected to attend. Chicken will be ordered for the potluck lunch with the Hanging of the Greens.

Old Business:

- The proposed By-Law changes need to be submitted to the congregation at least 30 days before the annual meeting. The changes will be in the December Seed.
- The Habitat for Humanity house needs to be finished by late December. New workers would be appreciated. Motion was made to contribute \$200 to the Habitat home. This money will come from the Witness fund.
- Stuart Peters reported that the committee met and finalized the Endowment and Investment Policy. Eric Conover will review the policy. A continuing resolution will be voted on at the December board meeting. It needs to pass by 2/3 of the council members.
- Souper Bowl of Caring: No report.

New Business:

- Holiday worship services were discussed. The Thanksgiving service is set. Candlelight services will be held on Christmas Eve at 5:00 and 8:00. The Christmas program will be on December 14, 2008 at 5:00.
- The 2009 Ministry Team budgets need to be completed and presented at the December 9 council meeting. Bonnie Scranton will put together a proposed budget for the January council meeting.
- A thank you was given to Chris Meadows for making and donating aisle candle holders which will be used on Christmas Eve. He also was thanked for repairing the drywall nails.
- Bonnie Conover and Trish Santos were appointed for the nominating committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Kammerlohr
Secretary

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING—Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 6:30 PM

Another Successful Ploughman's

Give yourselves another pat on the back! We were able to give a check, with the matching funds from Thrivent, to Big Brothers—Big Sisters in the amount of \$3,096.89

This was possible because so many helped in so many ways . . . tickets sellers, ticket buyers, pie bakers, carry-out orders, soup makers, dish washers, table decorators, table setters those who distributed flyers, workers on Tuesday, workers on Wednesday, and our person in charge of advertising! To each and every one who helped in any way, a huge heartfelt "THANK YOU"! It's only possible because everyone worked for the good of the cause. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

P.S. We had a total of 123 volunteer hours! WOW!

Bonnie Conover Linda Dillman
Co-Chairs

Over the past six years we have donated almost \$13,000 to non-for profit organizations. We served 167 our first year and this year served 273! It's a special group of people at Christ Lutheran to make this all happen. Thank You for caring for your fellow man.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bonnie Conover and Linda Dillman on a very successful Ploughman's Lunch and thank you to all of you for your continued support of Christ Lutheran Church service projects. Big Brother and Big Sister is a very worthwhile organization that can use our support and prayers. If you have time to make a difference in a child's life, I am sure they would welcome you becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

Thanks to all who contributed to LW R this year. In October we set 21 blankets, 95 school kits, and 100 pounds of soap. Another good effort by all in sharing with other countries. Thank you for making this possible.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the major components in a viable church is an active Christian fellowship. This is apparent at Christ Lutheran based on the support I received in prayers and cards during my recent surgery. On my first visit to church on November 16, I was concerned about the seating because I needed an arm chair to push up from my walker. Marilyn and I barely got into the gathering room when Bruce Holderbaum showed up with a chair with arms for me to use.

When we were living in the Seattle area the Mariner's announcer, Dave Niehaus, used to say when a Mariner homered, "My Oh My". Our Christian fellowship at Christ Lutheran deserves a "My Oh My" what a blessing. Thanks again.

Jerry Shackelford



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14 - 5:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for December 14 at 5:00 p.m. The Christmas program is "Come to the Manger". The adult choir and Sunday School will sing. We'll have instrumentalists, readers, and special visual affects.

Dress Rehearsal is:

Saturday, December 13

5:00 p.m.

Following the program, we'll have a pizza supper. Fellowship Ministry Team will provide pizza. Bring a Christmas dessert or hors d'oeuvres.

REVERSE OFFERING Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks again for your very generous response through the Reverse Offering for Thanksgiving baskets. We provided food for three needy families that were identified through the Quincy School District. Thank you!

In December we'll do another "Reverse Offering" in which worshipers take something out of a collection basket. Then you bring back the food item printed on the slip of paper that you have taken out of the basket. The food items are put together and delivered to needy families in Quincy. If there is anyone who can help to deliver these baskets, please contact Wendy Maas, 224-6794.

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE for January through November 23



47 Weeks 2008	101
45 Weeks 2007	96

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Because we did not do a stewardship luncheon this fall, as we had in previous years, and we moved the hanging of the greens to November 30, the schedule of groups to serve coffee has become confused. To straighten out the schedule, we have no group scheduled on December 7, but Char Tooke, chair of Fellowship Ministry Team, has recruited some others to help her provide coffee hour on December 7. Thanks Char and friends. The original schedule of coffee hour will continue on December 14.



Hanging of the Greens

We'll decorate the church building—inside and outside—for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, November 30, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Of course, we'll eat first. Fellowship Ministry Team will provide chicken and drinks. Bring a dish to share and phone the church office (224-1624) if you haven't signed up already to let us know how many are coming. After we have eaten, we'll decorate.

Sunday, November 30

11:40 a.m. Lunch and Hanging of the Greens

Mark your January calendar for our celebration of Epiphany and taking down the Christmas decorations. The date is Sunday, January 4, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve candlelight communion services will be at our usual times, 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

You have two choices for worship Christmas Eve:

Before dinner at **5:00 p.m.**

After dinner at **8:00 p.m.**



Both services will include the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. In both we'll celebrate Holy Communion. As in the past, the 5:00 p.m. service will have some parts designed specifically for children.



ANGEL TREE

Watch for the Angel Tree to bloom with names of children of prisoners. You can pick names of children from the Angel Tree to purchase Christmas gifts. These children are sons and daughters of prisoners. Through the Angel Tree program, we can provide them with some Christmas gifts. The gifts need to be purchased and wrapped and brought to the Church by December 14, Anyone willing to help deliver these gifts please contact Wendy Maas, 224-6794.

LUTHERAN 101

A Basic Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith will be the topic of the class led by Pastor Paul on the first three Wednesdays in December (December 3, 10, 17). We'll meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon with Lutheran coffee and tea, for those who want it. If you have questions about Lutheran teachings or practices, this is the class for you. If you would attend a similar class in the evening, talk to Pastor Paul to schedule an evening class in January.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

We will decorate our chancel with poinsettias this Christmas season. The Altar Guild will purchase the plants. We invite you to donate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Your order and check need to be received in the church office by December 14. If poinsettias can be purchased at a lower cost, the remainder of the money received will be deposited in the flower fund, to reduce costs for future flower purchases.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ Poinsettias at \$10.00

____ Given to the Glory of God

____ Given in Memory of _____

____ Given in Honor of _____



Poinsettias

Please make check payable to *Christ Lutheran Church Altar Guild* and return to the church office or place in Sunday offering by Sunday, December 14. Thank you.

LEARNING MINISTRY TEAM

Wednesday, December 10, join us to make Christmas cards from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. We'll deliver them to the Senior Center and go caroling on Thursday, December 18, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be served!

Please help us!!! We are in need of Sunday School Teachers. It would be so nice to have enough teachers so that the teachers only have to miss 1 service a month. The lessons are all prepared, the kids are fun, please join us! Please talk to Pam or Trish if you have any questions. Thanks.

Please help us celebrate Skylar's 1st Birthday with an open house dinner at the church on Thursday, December 4, from 5:30—7:00 p.m. Please no gifts, your presence is gift enough. RSVP 653-3545 by December 1. Thanks, The Santos Family

THANKS

Special thanks to Denny Mathes for putting new siding on the old storage shed on the north end of the property.

Special thanks to Chris Meadows for designing and making 6 candle stands to fit on the ends of the seats along the center aisle. You can see them Christmas Eve.

PROPERTY PARTY

If you can join the volunteer workers at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month (December 3), you can help to maintain and improve our building and grounds. Current projects on the agenda are:

- Building shelves
- Repairing plumbing in the old men's restroom
- Enclose closet in kitchen
- Move and organize things in the new storage shed.

Talk to Stu Bell, 593-7309, if you can help on Wednesday or some other time.

DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY (FPU)

The next course will begin Monday, February 2, at 6:15 p.m. The next free preview will be Sunday, December 21, at 11:35 a.m., following the 10:30 service. Plan ahead. In these times of economic uncertainty, the Dave Ramsey FPU principles for financial management can help you.

Our own Stuart and Kris Peters recently visited the Dave Ramsey offices in Tennessee where they met Dave Ramsey himself and shouted "We're debt free!" for a national radio commercial. Listen for them on your radio.

HyVee Donates to Christ Lutheran



Thank you to all purchasing HyVee gift cards. In our first six weeks of selling the gift cards, HyVee has donated **\$325** to our church.



The cards will continue to be available every Sunday. You may pre-order them so that we are sure to have the denominations of gift cards that you desire.



Continue to use the cards for groceries, gas, garage stickers, photos, prescriptions.



These cards will make **excellent gifts** for Christmas! To pre-order or to inquire about the program talk to Ann Schwartzkopf (223-2989).

NEW MEMBERS

Please get to know our new members who were officially received in November:

David and Daune McCulloch
1087 Hemingway Drive North
Quincy, IL 62305
885-3002

Steve Hynek
725 Woodbridge Drive
Quincy, IL 62301
222-7241

CHILI SUPPER

You can purchase tickets for the 43rd Annual Quincy Optimist Clubs Chili Supper from Pastor Paul or Dave Tooke. The Chili Supper is Saturday, December 13, from 4:30—7:00 p.m., before the Quincy Blue Devils basketball game. The supper is in the Baldwin Cafeteria. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for youth 10 and under. Proceeds support Optimist programs for youth in our community.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

You can volunteer to work on the Habitat house being built in Coatsburg by contacting Roger Flesner at home, 696-4254, or on his cell, 740-2053, or by email dflesner@adams.net. You can also designate a donation for materials for the house. Make a check payable to Christ Lutheran Church and designate it for Habitat.

FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR 2009

Thanks be to God! We are so blessed as a congregation. The total of our financial pledges for 2009 is an all-time high for the congregation. As of 11-24-08, we have received the following:

<u>For Operating Budget</u>		<u>For Building Fund</u>	
Number of Pledges	Total amount	Number of Pledges	Total Amount
50	\$119,666.00	38	\$32,266.00

If you have not yet returned a pledge form, you can pick one up in the gathering space (narthex), fill it out, and return it to the offering plate or the church office. Thanks to your generosity, our church council can prepare a ministry oriented budget for 2009.

Also, please turn in a Time and Talent Sheet so that the council and ministry teams can recruit you to serve in areas of ministry that you would like to do. The Time and Talent sheets are also available in the gathering space.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
ASSISTING MINISTER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bonnie Scranton Barb Wilkinson	Sue Reeder Crystal Bernett	Ann Schwartzkopf Sue McLennan	Pat Bell Joan Larner
USHER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dick Tabb Ashley Stollberg	Bonnie Scranton Butch Kuras	Bill Wolters Wayne McLennan	Stu Bell Samantha Stollberg
READER 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Sue Tabb Nona Miller	Sue Reeder Bruce Holderbaum	Jeff Van Camp Jim Bailey	Ann Schwartzkopf Natalie Meadows
NURSERY	Ashley Van Camp	Emily Stollberg	Ashley Van Camp	Kara Wolf
ACOLYTE 10:30 AM	Erika Stollberg	Summer Santos	Reed Haubrich	Kara Wolf
GREETERS 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stu & Pat Bell Joe & Cheryl Brinkman	Dick & Sue Tabb Stuart & Kris Peters	Ron & Joan Larner Dave & Wendy Maas	Mel & Linda Dillman Nelson & Bernice Colgrove
DEACON 10:30AM	Jim Bailey	Missy Kuras	Misty Coyle	Ron Larner
SOUND SYSTEM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ann Schwartzkopf Bruce Holderbaum	Bonnie Scranton Stuart Peters	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Kathy Wolters Bruce Holderbaum
COFFEE HOUR	Char Tooke and friends	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6

If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and call the office as soon as possible with any changes. Many Thanks!



If you have a birthday in December and your name does not appear on the following list, we would appreciate it if you notify the church office.

December	1 Brian Reeder Robert Hufendick	16 Yasmin Tayyab Olivia Peters
	2 Janet Shields	20 Pat Bell
	5 Crystal Bernett	21 Jessica Stapleton
	6 Mariann Bergstrasser	23 Gerald Shank
	7 Mike Fannin Alison Schwartzkopf Jennifer Roth	27 Joyce Leenerts 28 Ron Larner Marilyn Shackelford
	8 Jenna Wagy	30 Ty Zimmerman
	13 Lindy Ward	Evelyn Hughes
	14 Robin Willer	Kyle Osterbur



If you have a wedding anniversary in December and it does not appear below, please notify the church office.

December 16 Mark and Dianne Sill