

# *THE SEED*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



January 2010

## Still A Little Off

One of the many discoveries I made while in North Pole, AK, was that you needed to adjust your magnetic compass. Here in Quincy we are used to the magnetic North as being pretty close to true North (at least not enough for us ground pounders to worry about). There, not that I used a compass to get around (they do have roads), the difference between magnetic North and true North is about 26°. That is a significant difference.

Which brings me to the role as your interim pastor. One of my “jobs” as your interim is to try to learn what and why you do what you do. That’s where the good “difference” comes in. I ask a lot of questions. Hopefully, I do it in a nonthreatening way with you and your group or ministry so that I may learn what it is you do and why you do it. My assumptions may be way off (like 26°), that’s why I ask. After all, we all know what happens when we assume! I certainly don’t want to go off in one direction, assuming we are going in a different direction. 26° off target is still a miss.

Our major goal is to call your next pastor. That is my target and hopefully yours. And not just any pastor. We want the right next pastor. So we will work thru the steps required – gathering information, collating and filling out forms, interviewing and hosting prospective candidate(s). It will be time consuming and costly, but the calling your next pastor is vital to the future ministry of Christ Lutheran.

On a personal note: I’m still a little off! While I strive for perfection – it will never happen. While I’d like to hit every note perfectly in the liturgies – that has yet to occur in my ministry. While I’d like to remember names of people I’ve just met – I’ve even forgotten my brother’s name when I tried to introduce him (either one, Peter or Carl, my sister, Susan – now my spouse, Bunny, I most times remember!) I love being here. I love learning to live and do ministry here at Christ Lutheran, Quincy, as we work toward calling your next pastor. I told you I was a little off.

TGBG – Pastor Paul



## Council Highlights – December 8, 2009

Present at the December 8 meeting of the Council were: Bonnie Conover, Bruce Holderbaum, Joan Kammerlohr, Darrell Kruse, Stuart Peters, Sue Reeder, Trish Santos, Pam Schuering, Reth Stollberg, Dick Tabb, David Tooke, and Pastor Balaban.

Excused: Barb Wilkinson

President Stuart Peters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The opening devotions were provided by Darrell Kruse. Pam Schuering will do devotions next month.

**Announcement:** Bruce Holderbaum suggested we start each meeting with a prayer as we look forward to the challenges lying ahead. Pastor led us in prayer. Bonnie reported that we should keep the Bousners in our prayers and they would appreciate cards. We were also asked to keep Alec Rettenmeier, who will have surgery at Children's Hospital in St. Louis on December 29, in our thoughts and prayers.

Minutes of the November 10 meeting were approved as written.

**Reports of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer:** The reports for November were discussed and approved as written subject to audit.

**President's Report:** Stuart reported that the Executive Committee met to finish the budget, but some committee budgets were not in yet. The overall budget will be tight and committee budgets need to be sent to Robin as soon as possible. The budget needs to be in place before the next Council meeting. Each committee also needs to send their annual report to Robin soon. Bonnie Scranton has agreed to lead the transition team. Sign-up sheets will be passed out Sunday for volunteers to sign up for the transition team.

**Pastor's Report:** The written report for December 8 was filed.

### **MINISTRY TEAM AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Dick Tabb reported that as of December 8 there were 50 pledges for \$101,718.00 and 36 pledges for Building fund for \$25,482.00. Pledges are down about \$20,000 this year. Notices will be put in bulletins and the Seed for members to help with this shortfall. Revised pledge cards will be given out. Dick Tabb will speak at the 8:00 service and Stuart Peters will speak at the 10:30 service concerning this shortfall.

**Service:** No report

**Property:** Darrell reported that the Property Party members had cleaned Bonnie Scranton's gutters. The men's bathroom has been repaired. He reported on a plan to save money on the utilities. He shared a spreadsheet that showed we could save about \$1,000 on utility costs by switching our acquiring our electricity from Flex Energy Management. We would sign a 14 month contract for paying six cents per kilowatt hour. CIPS would still be used for gas and the delivery of the electricity Motion was passed to approve switching electricity providers if answers to our questions were clarified. The Property meeting will be December 16.

**Worship:** Bruce reported that hymns have been set through the first week in January. Their next meeting is December 9.

**Learning/Youth:** Pam reported that we are currently looking for one new nursery worker. The Sunday School teaching schedule is finished through February. Their next meeting is January 8, 2010 at 10 AM.

**Fellowship:** No report

### **New Business:**

- The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.. Announcement of the meeting will be put in two bulletins and the Seed. Each congregational member will be called by a Council member one week prior to the meeting. We encourage everyone to attend.
- Pastor recommended having a unified budget instead of the building fund being separated. The 2010 unified budget will be voted on at the Congregational meeting. Copies of the new budget will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- Dick Tabb, Sue McLennan, Jim Bailey, Bruce Holderbaum, and Tom Hotle have agreed to become members of the Council. Their names will be voted on at the meeting.

**Old Business:** None

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Kammerlohr, Secretary

# **Congregational Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of Christ Lutheran Church has been called by the Council (at its December meeting) for Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 9 a.m. (between our worships). The meeting is open to all, but technically, voice and vote is limited to active adult confirmed members of Christ Lutheran Church.

## **Robin's Resignation**

By now this is not news, but our Church Secretary, Robin Lentz, has given her resignation. Robin has worked for the congregation for almost 10 years. She has done a marvelous job for us and we have been blessed with her talents, ability, and attitude.

She has given us a generous notice so that we could "carry thru" the Christmas season and the Annual Meeting (with all its attendant reports and filings). She was also planning on training her replacement, which, with our budget situation may not happen.

We hope and pray "Godspeed" to Robin. We will miss her, but know the joys she will experience with her family will be a more-than-even trade.

## **2010 Budget**

The Council, at its January 12, 2010, meeting, will adopt and propose the 2010 Budget. If there have been only slight changes to the received pledges, drastic cuts made in all areas of ministry and will seriously affect our ability to search for and call a new pastor.

### **Changes**

Anticipating the need for reducing costs in all areas of ministry, the following should be expected:

1. "Seed" – this newsletter will no longer be sent out in bulk. Doing it as we have been costs us over \$100/issue (not including Robin's time). So this will be the last issue sent in this manner.
2. Starting with the next issue of the "Seed", we will have limited copies available at church on the last Sunday of each month. The "Seed" will also be available on our website. This will save approximately \$1,000/year.
3. Bulletins – we will print fewer bulletins. We will encourage 8 AM worshippers to allow us to recycle their bulletins (keeping the announcement/prayer page insert) for the 10:30 worshippers. Ushers will need to add the insert pages to the "recycled" bulletins. This will save us ~\$300 in copying costs.
4. Mailings – "encouragement" or "reminder" mailings will be discontinued. There will be a mailbox established for all to receive their readings. Reoccurring schedules (lay assistants, acolytes, deacons, readers, etc) will be posted on the bulletin board. This will save us ~\$200 (mainly postage)
5. Secretary – normally we would plan to replace our church secretary, but this also may be a cut we will need to make. The church secretary's position represents ~ \$10,000/year.
6. Additional Office – we are planning to make cuts in other ways in the office.
  - a. The Dillman's will be taking over our payroll (~ \$400 savings)
  - b. We will change telephone providers and reduce to a single line (~\$200 savings)
  - c. We are checking our copier (in addition to the reduction of copying mentioned above) and insurance contracts for possible savings.

If you have other ideas for savings, please let Pastor Paul (309-267-1653), Stu Peters (222-5810), or any council member know.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, January 12, between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., you can donate blood. You can volunteer to unload the truck at 12:00 p.m. or to reload the truck at 6:00 p.m. You can volunteer to serve in the canteen. Phone the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, prompt 5, to schedule your time to donate blood. Talk to Virgene Gilkerson, 223-3744, to volunteer to help.

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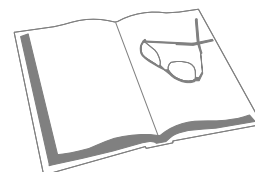


### *AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE for January through December 20*

50 Weeks 2009	102
51 Weeks 2008	102

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### ***BOOKS 'N BREW***

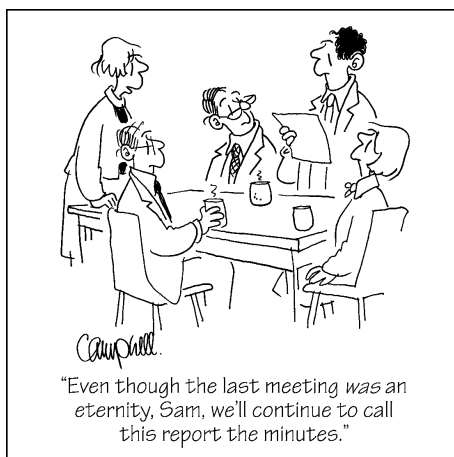


Happy New Year! Are you ready for a change? We thought it might help our attendance to move the meeting to the fourth Tuesday. We'll get together at Panera on Tuesday, January 26, at 6 p.m. We'll be discussing the Anne Tyler book "Ladder of Years". Hope this will work better for more of you - see you there!

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### **THANK YOU**

Jack and Patsy Bousner would like to thank everyone for all the cards and prayers. They would appreciate you keeping them in your prayers in the future.



## FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR 2010

Thanks be to God! We are so blessed as a congregation. The total of our financial pledges for 2010 is an all-time high for the congregation. As of 12-20-09, 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
52	\$106,878.00	36	\$25,482.00

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 2010.

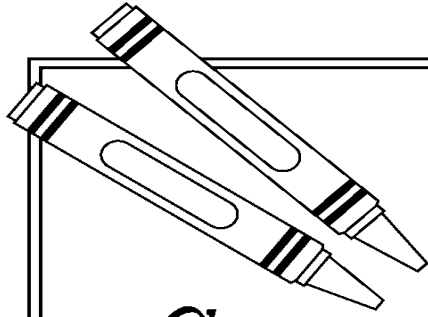
Also, please turn in a Time and Talent Sheet so that the council and ministry teams can recruit you to serve in areas of ministry that you would like to do. The Time and Talent sheets are also available in the gathering space.

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### **What's going on here?**

While this would make a good contest, its Darrell, Bruce and Stu cleaning the "ladybugs" and cleaning the windows above the altar.

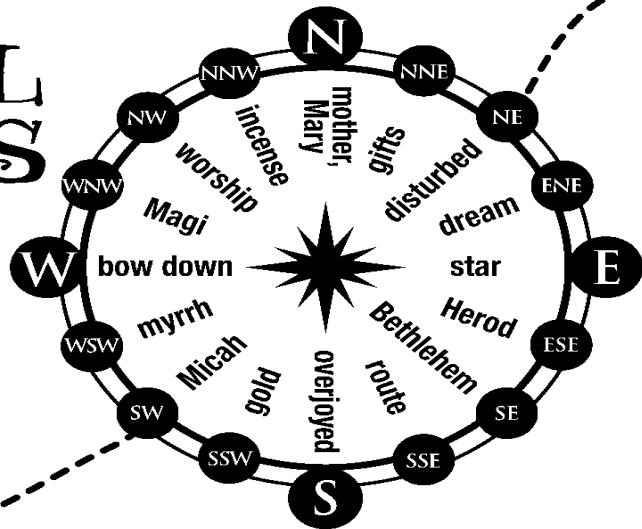




# Just for **KIDS**

## SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? \_\_\_\_\_ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? \_\_\_\_\_ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? \_\_\_\_\_ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His \_\_\_\_\_ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? \_\_\_\_\_ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ (SSW)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (NNW) \_\_\_\_\_ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... \_\_\_\_\_ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A \_\_\_\_\_ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another \_\_\_\_\_ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route



## POINSETTIAS

*We thank the following for the beautiful flowers which have decorated our church this Advent and Christmas.*

Poinsettias	In memory of Our Parents & Bonnie's Sisters	<i>by Phil &amp; Bonnie Conover</i>
	In honor of Our Children & Grandchildren	<i>by Phil &amp; Bonnie Conover</i>
	In memory of Bob Tofall	<i>by Norma Tofall</i>
	In memory of Woodrow Weber & Frank Kammerlohr	<i>by Joan Kammerlohr</i>
	In honor of Delma Weber & Bergit Kammerlohr Trautz	<i>by Joan Kammerlohr</i>
	In memory of Our Parents and Grandparents Lawrence & Geneva Leenerts and Leland Craig	<i>by John &amp; Donna Leenerts and Jodi &amp; Jordyn Summy</i>
	In memory of Josh Leenerts	<i>by John &amp; Donna Leenerts, Jodi &amp; Jordyn Summy</i>
	In memory of Bill Gilkerson	<i>by the Family</i>
	In memory of Virgene's Parents, Elmer & Ruby Ward	<i>by Virgene Gilkerson</i>
	In honor of Our Grandchildren	<i>by Floyd &amp; Joyce Leenerts</i>
	In memory of Richard Bernett	<i>by Crystal Bernett</i>
	In memory of Charter Members	<i>by Anita Wall</i>
	In honor of Nona Miller	<i>by Anita Wall</i>
	In memory of Charlotte Jones	<i>by Nona Miller</i>
	In honor of Anita Wall	<i>by Nona Miller</i>
	In memory of Mary Larner	<i>by Her Family</i>
	In memory of Our Parents, Guy & Bernice Davis and Harry & Ruby Larner	<i>by Ron &amp; Joan Larner</i>
	In honor of Our Family	<i>by Robert &amp; Barbara Rhinberger</i>
	To the Glory of God	<i>by Richard &amp; Anne Goudschaal</i>
	In memory of Lyman "Jim" Kauffman	<i>by Judy Kauffman</i>
	In honor of Our Grandchildren: Peyton, Chase & Samantha	<i>by Tom &amp; Sue Reeder</i>
	In memory of Our Parents	<i>by Norma McNay</i>
	In honor of Our Children	<i>by Norma McNay</i>
	In memory of Richard Tarbell	<i>by The Kruse Family and Peggy Tarbell</i>
	In memory of Gerald & Virginia Stollberg	<i>By Jeff &amp; Amy Stollberg</i>
	In honor of Bruce & Kathy Bringer	<i>by Jeff &amp; Amy Stollberg</i>

## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Joan Larner Crystal Bernett	Pat Bell Misty Coyle	Sue Reeder Jim Bailey	Bonnie Scranton Bonnie Scranton	Ron Larner Crystal Bernett
<b>USHER</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ron Larner Nona Miller	Stu Bell Joe Brinkman	Dick Tabb Butch Kuras	Virgene Gilkerson Wayne McLennan	Joan Larner David Maas
<b>READER</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dick Tabb Judy Kauffman	Virgene Gilkerson Bill Shuler	Phil Conover Bruce Holderbaum	Kathy Wolters Kim Glasgow	Joan Larner Stuart Peters
<b>NURSERY</b>	Emily Stollberg	Kara Wolf	Kara Wolf	Nick Kruse	Kara Wolf
<b>ACOLYTE</b> 10:30 AM	Dylan Probert	Emily Stollberg	Nick Kruse	Savannah Santos	Erika Stollberg
<b>GREETERS</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stu & Pat Bell Joan Kammerlohr	Ron & Joan Larner Brent & Macy Bigley	Joanne Brubaker David & Charlotte Tooke	Bonnie Scranton Keith & Kim Glasgow	Phil & Bonnie Conover Nona Miller
<b>DEACON</b> 10:30AM	Barb Rhinberger	Wayne McLennan	Missy Kuras	Cheryl Brinkman	Jim Bailey
<b>SOUND SYSTEM</b> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Bonnie Scranton Stuart Peters	Bonnie Scranton Bruce Holderbaum	Bill Wolters Olin Shuler	Kathy Wolters Stuart Peters
<b>COFFEE HOUR</b>	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7

*If you cannot help on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement and make a change on the appropriate sheet on the office bulletin board. Many Thanks!*



If you have a birthday in January and your name does not appear on the following list, we would appreciate it if you would notify us so that we can complete our records.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| January<br>3 Erika Stollberg<br>Noah Hoff<br>5 Kent Alford<br>6 Shelby Hoff<br>8 Barb Rhinberger<br>11 Sarah Peters<br>12 Eric Conover<br>19 Brandi Ufkes<br>22 Lynn Hicks, Jr.<br>Bob Bolte<br>Phil Conover<br>Carrie Kimber | 23 Sue McLennan<br>24 Oneta Burner<br>Barb Hicks<br>26 John Bartlow<br>27 Lielei Wahlmann<br>28 Jennifer Stollberg<br>Patty Kruse<br>29 Karn Haubrich<br>30 Amy Franken<br>Stephanie Glore<br>Jeff Stollberg<br>31 Michael Wahlman |
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If you have a wedding anniversary in January and it does not appear below, please notify the church office.

January