

Christ Lutheran church is a fellowship of Christians, who have accepted God's call to make disciples of all nations. We have committed ourselves to the ministry of worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship which involves each of us in boldly sharing God's Word with one another.

January 2009



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

Are the Lights on or off?

Many of you will begin taking down those Christmas lights. The year of 2008 has past, a New Year begins. It will start to get colder and winter will lay hold of us soon. Later this month the President will present to us how our nation is doing. Not many of us will hear because we know how the nation is doing. Our freedoms are secure, our rights have not been revoked, and there are no rockets landing on our towns and cities. I admit that is putting the best construction on the situation. But this past year for all of us has been financially straining. The stock market drops took large chunks out of our retirement and savings accounts. Many have lost their jobs and there are even more people in need than before. We at the church have seen that with the larger number of food baskets for Christmas and Thanksgiving along with an increase in the number of families we have helped with food just these past four months.

But there is another sign of trouble; people are not turning to God in prayer for help. When we look at the state of our nation do we consider how much our founding fathers depended on God for help? They would call out for congress and everyone to pray for deliverance. Do we ever consider just how well versed in Holy Scripture these leaders were? They found comfort and peace in the Words of Jesus. They saw the Bible as a law that all could live by. They trusted God in matters of finance, war, health and politics.

Do we do that today?

Today there are many who say they believe in God. Churches were filled on Christmas Eve, but why were they there? Were they there to feel good about themselves or to open their hearts to God? Pastors pray for those who enter that they will hear God's love for them and be moved to attend again and again and be brought to faith. So in this New Year have you considered the state of you? Have you gotten so sophisticated, self secure, or intel-

lectually arrogant that you don't think you need God? As you take down the lights of Christmas, are the lights of Christmas still on inside of you? Have those lights of Christmas inside of you burnt out years ago?

Satan works harder today than ever in convincing people that God doesn't care. He uses finances, health, and even death as a way to lead people away from God. He gives them excuses to help them justify

denying God is there. He says God doesn't listen to us anymore. He is wrong. Would a God Who gave His one and only Son to live and die in the place of all humanity just up and leave? No, God's love has been shown to you and to me through Jesus. Through Jesus we have been reconciled to God through his death and resurrection.

But how is your state of your faith? Are you tired of the festivities, the decorations, and the commercialism? That is not the way God intended it to be. The first Christmas was filled only with angels singing a star shining and the birth of a Savior to the world. This year simplify your life. Let God be part of your daily routine. Start habits of praying and reading God's word. Keep the lights of Christmas burning bright inside of you. Improve the state of you through the One Who created you. Bend a knee this year and acknowledge the One who loves you so much. Ask for His help in making you all He wants you to be. May God be with you.

Pastor Dave Owens

Church Mouse



Dear Christ Courier Readers,

I am sad in the fact that another year has come and gone. This past month reminded me of that with all the festivities and so many of my relatives and friends coming to church for the celebrations. Don't get me wrong, God received the glory. The school children had a wonderful program and I can tell you that those teachers worked so hard in helping the 3's, 4's, and kindergarten kids to perform so wonderfully. Likewise the Sunday school kids put on a wonderful performance. I did not realize so many had such musical gifts, from guitars, cellos and piano, to a number of wonderful voices. "O Holy Night" brought a tear to my eye-thank you Chandler.

Things certainly were hopping around here this month. Thanksgiving baskets had just been handed out when the Christmas baskets were beginning to be put together. Miss Susan certainly ran herself ragged getting turkeys and hams and hams and turkeys. Just the thought of all that food made me dizzy. Don't tell her that I left a little something in the bottom of each basket. No! How could you think that? I left a little bit of cheese in there for the mice in the community. I believe this year I am going to have to stock up more because things are looking tough, out in the mouse world anyway.

I guess the reason I am sad is tied to some of pastor's advent messages. He talked through Advent on recipes for relationships. I

thought long and hard about my relationships with friends and family, but most importantly my relationship with God. He talked about how God came close and was intimate with us. We are supposed to have an intimate relationship with God, but also we are to have close relationships with each other. For it is through our intimate relationships with one another that we have opportunities to share the greatest news of all-that Jesus came and died for us.

Holy Scripture tells us, "*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" (Ephesians 2:10) We were created to do good works-even me. I have seen a lot of that with gifts bought and delivered on the angel tree, food delivered, and so many encouraging words. But my sadness is like that of Pastor Dave's. So many came for the festivities, but did they miss the reason for the season? I pray not. I have to make a special effort this year to encourage those that are not attending a church, for whatever reason, to re-evaluate what has happened in their life to justify this decision. Has God let them down? Has God allowed something else to come between them and their worship of Him? There have been times when I have been trapped in the cheese cellar, or as you people call it "back slidden", and I have stepped back from attending worship. And I can testify that stepping back in is one of the hardest things to do. Our thoughts dwell on such questions as "did anybody notice I was gone, do they care?" or "I know they are talking about me" or "what do I say when they ask

'where have you been all these weeks?'" or "how can I go when that person has made me so mad?'" It's enough to make us crawl back under the covers and tell ourselves next week; next Sunday will be easier. I believe we have to turn to His Word more than ever to get the strength to get back on that saddle. We never know when someone we love will need encouraging words from us; and we need that nourishment that God provides through worship services. Don't fear yourself and others more than God. We know His love will get us through anything, real or imagined. Remember salvation comes from our God, no other.

This year I must make more time for prayer and thanksgiving. I have been so blessed to be a church mouse. I have been able to help others in need and tell them about Jesus; and I know when I love someone-when they are close to my heart-I cannot give up reaching out to them. I must do all I can to help them come to faith in Jesus the Christ-the real meaning of Christmas. Thank you all for allowing me to live amongst you. God bless you all and have a Blessed 2009. Bye for now, gotta go!

Respectfully Submitted, C.M.

The Christ Courier is published monthly by Christ Lutheran Church in Mustang, OK. Staff: Susan Anderson, Christ Lutheran Contributors

Deadline for the February 2009 Courier: **January 28th.**

We Want Your Recipes

Pull out those cookbooks you have on your shelf. Dig into your recipe card box. Rummage through your drawers for any loose recipes you've written down or printed off the computer. And, of course, the ones you have memorized that you've made over and over again and have never written down. Please bring these favorites to the office so we may share them with the congregation in future newsletters.

Mini Holiday Cheese Balls: 6 oz cream cheese, softened, 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, 4 T chopped olives, 4 T diced pimento, 4 T chopped green pepper, chopped pecans. Mix together both cheeses add next three ingredients. Form into small balls and roll in chopped pecans. Serve with crackers or bread sticks.

Submitted by Bess Wessler

Angel Food Order Dates January

Wednesday,
January 7,
5-6 p.m.

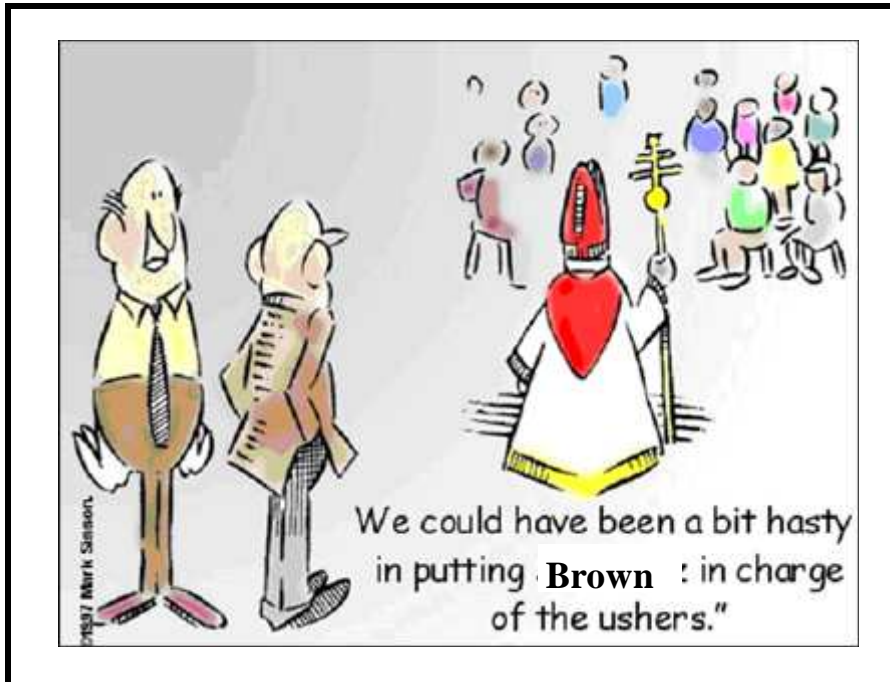
Friday,
January 9,
11:30 – 12:30.,
5-6 p.m.

Saturday,
January 10
11:30 a.m. –
12:30 p.m.

Sunday,
January 11,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:

Saturday,
January 17,
9 – 10:30 a.m.



Women's Bible Breakfast, Jan.10, 9 a.m.

Dear Ladies,

Here is your invitation to get off on the right foot with Bible Study this coming year. We are reminding those who already attend; and sending a Special invite to any ladies interested in joining us.

We are using the Women of Faith Series to help guide us. Our current book is "Adventurous Prayer" and many of our regular members are finding it very interesting. Each chapter has Bible verses and discussion points that effect our daily conversations with our Father. Then there are sections for "Digging Deeper" and "Ponder and Pray."

We will probably have our meetings on the second Saturday of each month this year to accommodate the Angel Food schedules; we will discuss this at our Jan. meeting.

So please consider joining us for Bible Study, Fellowship and of course, good food.

We'll be looking for you. God's Blessings, *Pam Means*

Preschool Post Fantastic Fours

Well, half the school year is over....WOW! It has flown by. The 4s have learned and explored so many things about the world they live in. Their minds, bodies and personalities are growing and stretching. Marion, Lori and I get so excited to see the "light bulbs" in their heads come on when they "get it." The "aha" moment is a treasure. Thank you again for the blessing of teaching your children.

We will review numbers 1-9, colors, shaped & letters A-J quickly on our return to school January 5th and then head into the double digits, learning about patterns and sequencing & letters K, L, M & N.

We will start the year out like the Wisemen, finding the little boy Jesus in Bethlehem and then we will explore his childhood....How he grew and learned jus like them. We then will learn about the different people He fed, healed and taught leading us the cross.

During the last half of the school year, we will learn quite a bit in the Science realm. The polar region in January, dinosaurs in February, weather and birds in March (including a tornado drill), spring and insects in April and plants in May

We will have a couple of field trips in the spring: one to the Mustang Library and the other to Tiger Safari in May. We also would like to have guest speakers come and share in our class. If you have a collection, hobby or profession you would like to share with the children, please feel free to contact me. In the past we have had Dr. Fairchild and Officer Fairchild come share. The students really do enjoy learning; everything is new to them. Anyway....think and pray about it and if you want to share, just call me: 483-5494.

I pray your Christmas celebrations were a joy and hope your new year will be a blessing. May you experience Christ's mercy, love and peace in this New Year of 2009

Serving Him, Mrs. Robin

SEMINARY NOTES



Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father,

Class is starting again. At a time when most schools were in finals week and finishing up for the calendar year we at Seminary were starting a new quarter. It isn't all bad though, we do get a two week break for Christmas.

This quarter I have some interesting classes. I start off at 8:30 in the A.M. with Pastor as Educator Mon. Tues. Thurs. and Fri., then I have a nice break, after lunch I have Systems II (were we look at the second article of the Nicene Creed and the person of Christ) and Old Testament Theology (which I found out was only supposed to be open for fourth years! I'm learning a ton in that class) on Mondays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays and Fridays after lunch I have Theology of Mission and Psalms and Writings. Psalms and Writings has been a very fun class so far. I am really excited. I am getting to do more in my field education congregation. In January I get to teach the pastor's bible class and in February I will be preaching! Also, I am getting to do hospital visits and shut-in visits. Those are...interesting. You never quite know what to expect.

There isn't much else to talk about right now except that it is freezing cold in St. Louis! I don't think the sun likes here too much. We have only had one really full day of sunshine since we got back from the break. The other days it was been partly cloudy to fully overcast. The cold has settled in except for a few random days where it warmed up some. Last, but not least: MERRY CHRISTMAS! I hope and pray that everybody has a truly joyous time as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

In Christ, Daniel Ross

Toys, Toys and More Toys

Lori Williamson and Discovery Toys would like to announce the annual toy drive to benefit the children of Christ Lutheran School starting Jan. 5, 2009.

January is our biggest clearance sale of the year and we would like to invite everyone to take a look at a flier and help us get these educational games, books, toys and music for the kids to help them excel in their academics.

Each class will have a wish list of items they would like specifically. Cash donations will be accepted as well. You can purchase these items for all the children in your life as well as donating to our nursery or your favorite charity. All products have a life time warranty and these toys will reinforce what they are being taught.

The items will range from birth to adult, so you can shop for everyone on your gift list. You may also window shop at Lori's website at loristoybox.com. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Williamson at 376-9061. Thank you to all who have helped in the past and to those who will help this year.



Meet Our Newest Members



Top left, Tammy, John and Mikayla Place transferred here from Grace Lutheran Church & School in La Plata, MD. Top right, Kathryn, Gabriel, Wesley and Madison Martin transferred here from Our Redeemer in Greenville, Illinois. Bottom left, Vic and Okie Braunschweig transferred here from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, CO. Bottom right, James Harris transferred here from Christ Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, KS and Rebecca Harris, Lucien and Savaya Keller, transferred from Zion Lutheran Church in Abilene, TX. Aiden was born and baptized shortly after the Harris' began attending. James also completed the adult information class with Pastor Dave. The Places and Harris' make their home in Yukon while the Martins and the Brunschweigs make theirs in Mustang. Please welcome these families if you have not done so already.



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"If that's for me, I'm in the middle of a sermon."

The Central Oklahoma chapter of Lutherans For Life will sponsor a 4:00 p.m. prayer service at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Bethany.

This date, Jan 18, is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

It is the Sunday when many Christians will recall the 1973 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court which allows abortions during any time of a mother's pregnancy.

Yes. We are planning on Sunday January 18th at 4:00 p.m. followed by a soup supper.

Pastor Dwayne Schroeder will take the lead in planning the service.

IN ADDITION TO the ways in which local congregations may observe Sanctity of Life Sunday. For worship ideas, go to www.lutheransforlife.org)

OKC LUTHERANS

The Lutheran Churches of the Oklahoma City Area are partnering to assure that the broadcast of the **Lutheran Hour** continues. The current station in the OKC area that was carrying the Lutheran hour was broadcasting on a station out of Norman but that station is dropping the broadcast.

The OKC Lutheran churches are going to pool our resources to sponsor the program on AM 800 KQCV-AM.

The broadcasts will cost \$145 dollars each and we would like to ask you to consider personally sponsoring a broadcast.

We will establish a special fund at Messiah to gather the funds from the various churches to be used to pay for the program. If you want to make a donation to sponsor one or more broadcasts or partially support a broadcast, (we will accept any size donation) please send a check to Messiah and indicate "**Lutheran Hour Broadcast**" on the memo line of your check. Send to: Messiah Lutheran Church, 3600 NW Expressway, OKC OK 73112

Yes, I would be interested in sponsoring a **LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCAST. Broadcast cost: \$145.00;**

Donation of any size also accepted.

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in honor of the anniversary of _____

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in celebration of the birthday of _____

I wish to sponsor this broadcast in memory of _____

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Note below when you wish to sponsor the Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Sunday, _____
(Month / Day)

Please make checks payable to Messiah Lutheran Church. Please mark on the memo line "Lutheran Hour Broadcast"