

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.

December 2008



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL MISSOURI SYNOD

The Christ Courier

“God saw our need and sent us a Savior”

December is a month where we look forward to Christmas, the holy day we celebrate when God became human flesh and dwelt here on this earth among us. But do we recall the whole story, or do we only see a day for family, food, gifts and time off work?

I remember when I was young my grandfather and grandmother would ask me before Christmas what I needed. My responses changed as my years numbered. They went from trucks and toys to clothes, shoes, or money to help fill the tank. Very few times would they ask what I wanted—mostly what I needed.

When we look at this day approaching when we celebrate Jesus the Christ arriving on earth—are we aware of what we need or what we want? I know it is very tempting now to look at vehicles—low interest, good prices, and let's not forget that new vehicle smell. But I also must consider that my vehicle is totally capable of getting me from point A to point B reliably. A new vehicle is not what I need.

A follower of Jesus also must look at the world, and the world to come, and make some hard decisions. What are our priorities; what is of the utmost importance?

Are my wants more important than my needs and the needs of others? Lately I have been reminded of those in Nicaragua, and other third world countries, where their needs and wants involves finding something edible as they search the city dump site which they call home. We are so blessed in this country that I believe we just don't understand what poor is. I think that also is true for many in dis-

cerning the difference between wants and needs.

Christmas is a good example of that. The world sees a day of giving gifts, of eating lavishly, and of celebrating, but when God looked at the world, He saw people who were so quagmired in sin that they were doomed to eternal destruction. God saw our true need and sent us a true Savior. What a wonderful

and amazing God we have. Isaiah the prophet writes, “*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him* (64:4). Those people of Isaiah's time looked forward to the day of the coming Messiah Jesus. They saw their sin and their great need. Isaiah pleads, “*Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people* (64:9). Through our God given faith we are children of God; in fact all people are God's people and He wants them all to be saved. We as children of our heavenly Father should be most interested in our needs and the needs of others. For that reason we should always keep Christ as part of our Christmas. For without Christ we are lost and condemned creatures, but with Christ all our needs have been fulfilled and we wait for the second coming of our Savior Jesus. God bless you and have a blessed Christmas as you look forward to your need- and want-free life with Jesus in heaven

Pastor Dave Owens

Church Mouse



Dear Christ Courier Readers,

Last month I closed with a prayer that each of you may discover what

God has called you to do. This month I too have done a lot of “soul searching” for what does God want from me? So in seeking that answer I have done a lot of communicating with Him. Consistent communicating! I know people say that God never talks to them, but are they really listening. Here’s a for-instance.

Just the other day, I gave it my best shot while listening to a friend speak of how horrible her life was. She just couldn’t change the choices she made. She complained her memory was bad and that it was getting worse. I shared with her my thoughts which were that she was filling her mind with too much and that kept her from dwelling on what was most important to her. She had lost sight of what was truly important. She was neglecting her family and justifying it by saying she was helping those in need. I explained it was like a sandstorm hitting her and her family was only a small part of the storm. She had so much to remember that she remembered nothing. I recommended writing her goals down, from the highest to lowest priority. After a long time of asking questions, why this, or why that, I finally thought of asking her if she had found a church to attend like she talked about doing several months ago. We discussed small churches and big churches, but the most important thing was to find a church where Holy Scripture is read and preached on, not one dealing just with being entertained. I explained “faith comes

through hearing the Word of God” (Romans). And, well, you know me; I got on a tangent and was literally busting out of the seams. And I don’t know what happened, but instantly she was making a phone call. I didn’t say she received a call that interrupted our conversation, but that she took her phone out of her pocket and made a phone call. My thoughts: What just happened? I was dumb-struck. Can a person just stop listening to a subject about God Almighty? (We’ll get back to that one.) What did I say wrong? Was I too exuberant? Did I forget this was her therapy session and she wasn’t asking for my help? Did I remember it wasn’t about me, that it’s all about God-like Pastor Dave has said so many times. God told me, later that she needs help and I had pointed her to Him. And then guess what. He told me that she might not remember what I told her, so try again later. When it does come back to her mind, she will not recall where she heard it, but it only matters that she did hear it. She has a memory problem, remember? Don’t give up, keep trying! Don’t take it personally that she dumped you; the best of the best get dumped on from time to time. She might not have been listening anyway, but I had done what God wanted me to do. It’s amazing to me that God was just reminding me of things I already knew. But I had to ask Him, “why Lord,” just to get Him talking, or shall I say, to get me listening. Are you getting any of this, or am I rambling? Because the Lord knows that I can ramble, especially when I have had too much chocolate in my belly. But God can give you the ability to make sense of what I just rambled about. So my prayer for you this month is this: Dear Lord, give these readers (and me) wisdom to understand what You have just led me to write, and

help me to think it was not all in vain and a waste of time, paper and ink.

Now back to that earlier question: can a person just stop listening to a subject about the Almighty God? I can’t believe I would even ask that question. How many times do we come to church and when we leave we have not heard a single thing about God. I know pastors work very hard to teach us about God and His great love for us. But why do we fail to hear it? Could it be the sandstorms in our own minds? How about those thoughts that just pop up out of nowhere: did I leave the stove on? Did I close the garage door? Do my socks match? Did I turn my cell phone off? Oh, I forgot to make that call. My stomach is growling, hope nobody heard. (the list could go on and on and on, but I’m out of space.) So, oh yeah, what did the pastor just say? What were the Scripture readings about today? Did we even have Scripture readings today? Or why don’t I remember saying The Lord’s Prayer? Get my point?

These are a few things to think about. This was not what I was going to say this month, but I’ll remember for next month. But until then, God bless, bye-bye, gotta go.
C.M.

The Christ Courier is published monthly by Christ Lutheran Church in Mustang, OK.
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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

GREAT NEWS!

I have compared the rates the LCEF plans to pay on investments that are made in December with the rates in effect in November. THEY ARE ALL THE SAME! I feel this is a very positive action.

With the economy across the nation feeling very distressed, I feared that the LCEF would have to REDUCE some of the rates that it offers to pay. And you can look yourself. Go to www.lcef.org and click on Investments, then on Current Rates, and then the small arrow to select December.

Join me in praying that our Lord would guide events to bring the economic situation in our country (and the world) into a condition that will result in fewer foreclosures, and companies going out of business, and help individuals and families find it less stressful to meet their expenses and obligations.

Blessings on your tasks in carrying on the Lord's work in your parts of His kingdom.

Harold Kamman,
Promotion Director for the LCEF for Oklahoma

DECEMBER

When Christ our Savior was born....God loved. Mary pondered. Joseph believed. Shepherds praised. Angels sang. May you be blessed to do the same this Christmas. And may you be moved to share that faith with others through an investment in Church Extension. Your savings dollars not only earn competitive rates of interest for you, but they help carry the Christmas story to others. They make funds available to plant missions and to help congregations grow through low-cost loans for expanding ministry to their communities everywhere. For an offering circular and application, call 1800 THE LCEF.

Where to find Lutheran

Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour

Sundays

Tulsa, KRMG 740, 7 a.m.

OKC, KQCV 800, 9 a.m.

Angel Food Order Dates

December

Wednesday,
December 3,
5-6:30 p.m.

Friday,
December 5,
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
5-6:30 p.m.

Saturday,
December 6
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday,
December 7,
Noon – 1

Distribution Date:

Saturday,
December 13,
9 – 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Post

Fantastic Fours

Well we are into the Christmas season. Wow, these past 4 months have flown by at such a fast rate.

In November we had a marvelous time learning about the Pilgrims and Indians, their becoming friends and sharing a meal. If you missed our feast I do hope you will be able to join us for the Christmas party.

In December our main focus will be on the Christmas story. Our emphasis will be on our need for a Savior and how the Lord God gave us the very best of gifts . . . His Son, Jesus. We will search & discover ways to show love to others because it is the season of giving not getting.

Since we put an emphasis on giving during this special time, we are inviting you to participate with us in our mission project: collecting new socks, hats & mittens or gloves. These will be taken to Skyline Urban Ministry where The Make center distributes these needed items to children who are without. Often these families live in shelters or on the street. It is our way of blessing others. Children need to know they too can give to others in need.

The Christmas story is the perfect avenue for us to practice our colors and counting. We will be exploring weaving and also making gifts to give the parents. We will also explore the star shape and its importance in the wonderful story.

If you are so inclined we would love to have you come to our Christmas program on December 16th. Come hear the students from Christ Lutheran sing, recite scripture and share the Christmas story.

Invite your family & friends & join us for a great evening. All are invited !!!!

I pray during this Christmas season that you and yours will keep your focus on the true meaning of the season. May you experience His peace, love & joy. . . then share it with others.

Serving Him, Mrs. Robin

44433344433344433333

The Three Tree

It's hard to believe that November is almost over. We have had a great time learning about the first Thanksgiving and its meaning. We had a great time at our Thanksgiving feast last week. The parents attended to hear their children perform a few songs.

We have finished up the story of Moses and will start learning about the birth of Jesus. We will have a Christmas program on the 16th and hope you can attend. I love these programs and have stated before how I love to hear the little ones sing songs of Jesus. This should be a great time. What a glorious season!

We will be collecting donations of socks for our mission project. We will have a box set out in front of our classroom for the children to place their donations in. This will be a great way for them to participate in selecting their items and learning what it is to give back. They will also be able to begin to learn about needs vs. wants. Thank you to Robin Wilkerson for this wonderful idea.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. They are always appreciated.

*In His Service,
Mrs. Marion Hodge, Preschool 3s Teacher*

KINDERGARTEN KORNER

November was a time of giving thanks in the Christ Lutheran School Kindergarten class. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with the 4-year-old class. We made our own pumpkin pies and butter. We dressed like Pilgrims and the 4-year-olds were the little Indians. We sang thanksgiving songs and had a wonderful time with the students and parents who were able to attend.

God has blessed the Kindergarten with one new girl...Amanda. Welcome to our class. Now we have five girls and 7 boys. In Dec., we are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birthday. The Kindergarten and preschool will present their Christmas program on Tues., Dec. 16 at 7 p. m. Everyone is invited to attend and share in the joy of the holiday season. We will be singing our favorite Christmas songs and a special birthday song for Jesus. A reception will be held following the program.

The Kindergarten class will be reading 10 books this month along with our Book It Program. When we reach our goal, Scholastic Book club will donate 100 books in honor of our class to kids in need. Every book we read at home or in class counts toward our goal.

The preschool and kindergartners will be joining together on a special Christmas mission project. We will be helping people in need have a special Christmas. More details will come home soon.

We will have our "Happy Birthday Jesus!" Christmas party on Fri., Dec. 19 @ 2:30 p.m. We will be out of school for Christmas break from Monday, Dec.

22 – Friday, Jan. 2.
We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Mrs. Tammy Whitaker
Kindergarten Teacher

SEMINARY NOTES



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

The quarter ended this past week. It was a fun quarter. I learned a lot these past 10 weeks. I am now able to preach and lead a worship service! It is exciting. I have been joking with friends, family, and professors that I don't think the Seminary thought through on this by letting me be able to do all this.

I had to give my first sermon in class. Talk about nerve racking! I was almost hyperventilating when my turn was approaching. But after the first few words I relaxed and gave my sermon just fine. The closest thing I can compare it to be is that giving a sermon is like riding a roller-coaster. You are really nervous while you

are waiting in line which is like waiting to give it. When you are going through you are scared just like the ride. But when it is all over you want to do it again so bad that you rush back in line and the process starts over. It is amazing!

All my classes went well this quarter. There were a few scary moments. But, otherwise it was a pretty regular quarter. I wrote a lot of papers, which was not so fun. One paper I wrote was for 80 percent of my grade in Systems I. I am pleased to announce that I received an A- on that paper! I was a little nervous about it because it was worth so much, but everything turned out alright.

In more social news, the soccer team (which I was the assistant coach of) won the Witten-eva Cup. It is a trophy that we play for against a Presbyterian seminary in the area. It is called the Witten-eva Cup for the birth places of our denominations different theology. Wittenberg for Lutherans and Geneva for Reformed. The team celebrated at Oktoberfest which Concordia Seminary hosts on the same day that we play for the cup.

My intramural team made the play-offs for flag football. But, we were decimated by injuries going in and lost both play-off games. In ultimate frisbee we did not make the playoffs, unfortunately.

*In Christ,
Daniel Ross*

Toys, Toys and More Toys

Lori Williamson and Discovery Toys would like to announce our annual toy drive to benefit the children of Christ Lutheran School starting Jan. 1, 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.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who has participated in this school year's fundraisers, most currently purchasing a wreath, centerpiece, spray or miniature living tree or an item from Current Magazine. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Congregation Invited to School Christmas Program

The Christ Lutheran School Christmas program will be at 7 p.m., Tues., Dec. 16. Please plan on attending. Cookies are needed for the reception after. If you are willing to bake or bring cookies for this event, please have to the church prior to the program. Thank you!

Sunday School Program Rehearsals Underway

If you have a child in CLC's Sunday school program, please make sure they don't miss a Sunday.

Each Sunday, Christmas Program Director LouAnn Wiedemann leads rehearsal before they attend Sunday school class. The program, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14 @ 7 p.m. is titled, "Away in a Manger."

*Merry Christmas
Jesus is the Reason for
the Season
Keep Christ in Your
Christmas*

December Services

Advent Schedule

Theme: Recipes for Relationships

Dec. 3 "Covenant-God Doesn't break Promises

Dec. 10 "Grace-How Sweet the sound:

Dec. 17 "Empowerment-More Power to You" (All services start at 7:10 p.m.)

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.

"Stillness-Be Still and Know That I Am God"

Dec. 24, 10 p.m.

"Intimacy-God is Near"

Christ Bell

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)

I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)

I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are?

“The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make His face shine upon you

And be gracious to you;

The LORD turn His face toward you

And give you peace... Numbers 6:24-26

Redeemer News

Greetings in the Name of the Newborn Savior! If you are reading this, you have some level of interest on what is happening at Redeemer Lutheran Academy. Redeemer is blessed to have 16 wonderful students that get to explore their Faith in God, His Word as it applies their lives, and develop the gifts He has given to them. Redeemer is at a critical stage of its development. We continue pushing forward with what we believe is God's Will, a thriving Lutheran 6-12 educational ministry in Oklahoma City. Below are a list of areas that can use your prayers and other support.

- Redeemer will be mailing out approximately 10,000 post cards to homes targeted by our demographics study. Please pray that these will produce young men and young women for us provide a Christ Centered Education to.

- Redeemer is hosting a Building Campaign Kickoff Dinner and Silent Auction. It will be held at the Cox Center in downtown Oklahoma City at 7:00PM on Thursday, December 18th.

Tickets are available for \$50 per person. Please call Ms. Jessica Roberts @ 405.603.8567 for more information. Please come out and join us for a great evening in support of the ministry at Redeemer!

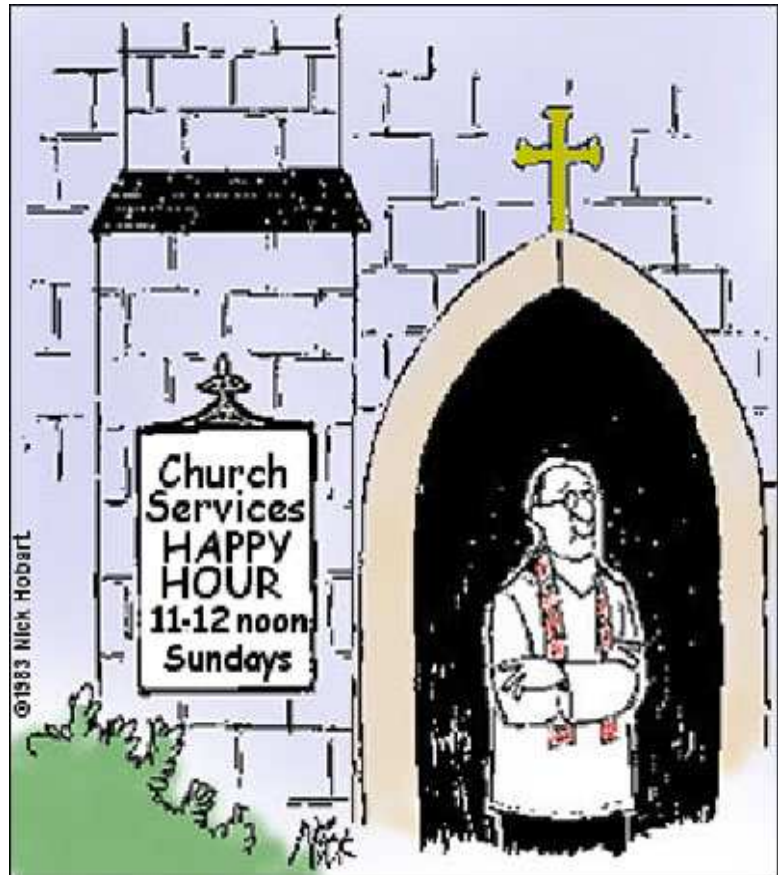
- The Redeemer PTO has various programs that support the PTO, which in turn supports the students at Redeemer. More information on ALL of these programs is available at our website www.rlokc.org. Look for the PTO link on the main page.

The faculty, staff and students at Redeemer Lutheran Academy pray for God's richest blessings as we celebrate His coming!

In HIS Service,

Joshua D. Sommermeyer

Headmaster – Redeemer Lutheran Academy



Fellowship Fun

Wasn't the food at the Thanksgiving potluck just awesome? Yum. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish and to those who stayed after to clean up. Your help is so appreciated.

The next potluck is another favorite of mine...the Birthday Bash. January 18, after the late service, members will have the opportunity to sit at the table representing their birthday month. A sign up sheet will go up in December so start thinking about how you'd like to decorate a table and what kind of cake you will bring.

In December, the committee will assist Thrivent with the chili dinner and there are sign up sheets for a few concerts if anyone is interested.

The next meeting is Jan. 19, when we'll be discussing working with LWML on the Sweetheart Banquet in February.

Blessings,

Susan Anderson, Fellowship Chair

Wonderful Reminder - Appreciate Everything

There was a blind girl who hated herself because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She told her boyfriend, 'If I could only see the world, I would marry you.' One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her. When the bandages came off, she was able to see everything, including her boyfriend. He asked her, 'Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?' The girl looked at her boyfriend and saw that he was blind. The sight of his closed eyelids shocked her. She hadn't expected that. The thought of looking at them the rest of her life led her to refuse to marry him. Her boyfriend left in tears and days later wrote a note to her saying: 'Take good care of your eyes, my dear, for before they were yours, they were mine.'

This is how the human brain often works when our status changes. Only a very few remember what life was like before, and who was always by their side in the most painful situations.

Life Is a Gift. So today before you say an unkind word - Think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of your food - Think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - Think of someone who's crying out to GOD for a companion. Today before you complain about life - Think of someone who went too early to heaven. Before whining about the distance you drive Think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet. And when you are tired and complain about your job - Think of the unemployed, the disabled, and those who wish they had your job. And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - Put a smile on your face and think: you're alive and still around.

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"