

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



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Mustang, Okla.

Missouri Synod

## The Christ Courier

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 ministry of worship, witness, teaching, service and fellowship which involves each of us in boldly sharing God's Word with one another.

### Epiphany?

As the cold wind cuts to the bone and the forecast of snow and ice becomes more prevalent, we are reminded of the long winter that still lies ahead. Early in 2008 we look to the celebration of Epiphany on January 6; a mere 12 days after Christmas. Some of you may be asking, what is Epiphany? Well, the word has to do with a showing of oneself, revealing or making an appearance. It is the day in the church year when the Magi arrived. Now don't get me wrong, we don't celebrate these wise men or even the star that led them. Epiphany is about the appearance of the Light of the World Himself-JESUS! This great and glorious Epiphany of our Savior to the Gentile nations-that's you and me.

So as we recognize these wise men's arrival to see the King of the Jews, there is much that is unknown. We aren't told in Holy Scripture how many wise men came but only that they brought three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These wise men came from as close as Persia but could have come from much farther east. They most likely arrived around two years after the birth of Jesus. At that time He was no longer in a manger but the Holy Family had moved into a

house. (I know how that messes up your manger scene, but what can I say, I'm sorry) The wise men first came to the capitol of the country as would be protocol for dignitaries. Their words from Matthew 2:2, "Where is the One who has been born the King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship him".

Imagine Gentiles, foreigners coming to worship this King of the Jews. This was not just a nice "Kodak" moment to allow manufacturers to enlarge the nativity scenes. These were Gentiles coming to worship-that is the Epiphany. This holy birth in Bethlehem was not just for those of Jewish birth, but was for all of mankind. The Son of God had arrived on earth-Immanuel-God with us. We are part of this salvation story too.

Today we seem to have lost that excitement about His coming. That is so sad. The other day when asked what their favorite thing about Christmas was many mentioned in the newspaper presents, food, friends, but no one said coming to worship our newborn Savior King. For many today Jesus has become like a Christmas toy that is no longer wanted or appreciated. Many are too

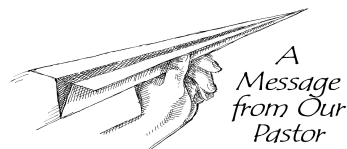
busy to come and worship Him; their schedules are too full. The Epiphany deals with this Good News of Great Joy coming to all people. The wise men traveled very long distances on foot and on the backs of animals to come and worship. Have we forgotten what this great Epiphany really means to us?

But let me give you a different perspective from God's side. Let's say you made a wonderful hand carved chess set, but soon after you had finished the pieces they stood up, pointed their finger in defiance in your direction, mouthed some disrespectful words at you and walked off. What would you do? Would you say its okay, or would you more than likely gather them up and toss them in the fire place? After all they were a rebellious lot. God did not do that with us. Instead of our destruction He became one of us. Instead of our destruction He came to give His life for ours. Think of it-God as Holy as He is, being placed in the womb of a sinner, Mary, Holiness being found in unholiness just for us. God sacrificed Himself for you and for me. That is how He showed His love for us, even though we are certainly not worthy of His love.

The wise men recognized the King who was God Himself, when they trekked across a continent to worship Him. So as those who claim the name Christian, what should we be doing? Well like the wise men we respond to this appearance of our King. We respond in ways that Holy Scripture says: loving God, loving our neighbor, telling all about this great and glorious Wonder. We should shine our light and love to lead others to Jesus; just like that star led the wise men to the manger.

Those who have faith in Jesus celebrate Christmas, those without faith celebrate a holiday, or have a seasons greetings, or have an extra day off. Only those who have seen this great Light, Jesus, and believed, can truly know what Christmas is about. Look into God's Word and see and hear the Light calling you through the Holy Spirit. Have a blessed Epiphany and may God continue to work in your hearts and minds the light that comes from knowing Jesus.

**Pastor Dave Owens**



A  
Message  
from Our  
Pastor

# Church Mouse

Greetings Dear Christ Courier Readers,



Well another Advent season is over, another Christmas Eve is over, another Christmas Day is over, and by the time you read this we will be into a new year 2008. So what are you up to now? Through this blessed season of worship services, sermons and hymns of praise, I have pondered about what baby Jesus and His earthly family were up to and how they might have felt. Pastor Dave's "dream" sermons hit a little hard sometimes. What would we have done? Would my faith have been strong enough to get through those sometimes frightening nights or weeks or months? Like I said last month, God knows what He is doing, especially when He used Mary and Joseph to be the ones to care for baby Jesus. They listened to the dreams and they obeyed. If only life was that simple. I am one to question things a lot. Should I go this way or that way? Should I choose this one or that one? Should I stay single or get married? Wow, how did that get in there? Anyway you know what I mean, so many decisions. I had never thought much about those first few years of Jesus' life until this Advent. His parents were newlyweds, trying to get settled into life. I am sure having a baby is a huge responsibility with many worries or concerns. Am I doing this right? Should I have done that differently? Am I being too strict, or maybe too lenient? When is exactly the right time to see a doctor about that cold? Did I wait too long? I believe that Mary and Joseph probably had a much better grip on things than I would have. Besides how could God give His Son into the hands of incompetents; He would not have. And this must have been a confidence builder in itself. They knew He would provide. He proved it to them by warning them of the danger of Herod. If they had any doubts, that would have cleared them away. God was not going to allow things to get out of hand where His Son was concerned, at least not until it was the right time.

So I ask again, what are you up to now? Do you know that your Lord God Almighty, your Creator, your Sustainer, your Savior is in control of your life? Do you trust Him to guide you along the right path? Is there something that you can do to help someone else know Him and trust Him? Think about it, pray about it.

This year I was so pleased to attend the special music programs. I really enjoyed the night when the tree was decorated. The food was delicious, maybe a bit spicy, but delicious. And then the music was so beautiful. The voices, the instruments and the lights and the ornaments on the tree were beautiful. I could have stayed there and listened all night. Oh, wait a minute, I did stay there all night!

The children's programs were also beautiful. We have some really talented young people in this congregation and in this school. I guess their enthusiasm helps a lot. And the encouragement they get from the adults helps a lot. That is one of the neatest things I have seen amongst this church, it's a big family. And the children know they are loved by all their church aunts and uncles and grandparents. Pretty amazing!

I have paid more attention this year to the Advent wreath lighting. I wonder where the tradition came from to have the candles lit like they are. One on the first week of Advent, two on the second week and so on. We can come up with interesting things for traditions, can't we? And it is fun to know that we can begin or end traditions whenever we want. Don't have any, start one this year. Don't like one, well, no more of that. In our family my sister took over making that special pasta casserole that our grandmother always made, but there was one green jello salad that no body ever seemed to take over. No body knew what was in it and nobody cared to ask. In this mouse hole there is no room for jello.

This year I have also paid more attention to the school children, not much, but a little. They are so quick to scamper around and there are so many of them that I usually go into my cave and work on something like my letter here, or I study my Bible and read the Portals of Prayer. This season I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the Advent devotional, "Radical Advent". I have to admit I was skeptical at first as I conjured up thoughts of the church members all dieting like John the Baptist or the trustees hiring a guard cat with spiked purple hair and multiple piercings (well that's radical to me). But this year's devotional has really made me think about things a lot differently. If you missed it I'm sure the lady in the glass cage could copy mine for you. Have a blessed new year. Bye for now.

**Respectfully Submitted, C.M.**

## THE CHRIST COURIER

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### COURIER STAFF

Susan Anderson -Editor/  
Typist/Printing

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Deadline for the  
February 2008 Courier  
Due January 28 , 2008

### Where to find Lutheran Hour Ministries

#### The Lutheran Hour

- Sundays

Enid, KGWA 960, 9:30  
a.m. and Norman, KREF  
1400, 9:30 a.m.

#### "Life...Revised"

- Sundays

Enid, KGWA960 , 7:00  
a.m. and

Norman KREF 1400, 9:00  
a.m.

# Page

## THANK YOU

Thank you for all the letters, kind words and gifts that all of you have given to me and my family. We are so thankful to be here and I am gradually feeling more and more at home in Oklahoma. There is so much to be thankful for in 2007 and we look forward to 2008 with renewed vigor determined to share Jesus with many more than last year. Thank you again for all you do to support God's mission for His church here in Mustang. May God continue to bless us and guide us as we follow His will for our lives and for His church.

**Pastor Dave and family**

### **You Might Live In Oklahoma.....**

- If someone in a Lowe's (or Wal-Mart) offers you assistance and they don't work there, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, or on the same day, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed the wrong number, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If "vacation" means going anywhere south of Dallas for the weekend, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you measure distance in hours, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you carry jumper cables in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If the speed limit on the highway is 55 mph, you're going 80 and everyone is passing you, you may live in Oklahoma.
  - If you see a tornado warning on the TV, but don't get too awfully excited about it until you actually SEE it coming toward you, you may live in Oklahoma.
- Jeff Foxworthy*

### **January Angel Food Order Dates**

**Wednesday,**

**January 2,**

5- 7 p.m.

**Friday,**

**January 4,**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.,

5 - 7 p.m.

**Saturday,**

**January 5,**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Sunday,**

**January 6**

After Both  
Services

**Distribution Date:  
Sat., Jan. 26,**

9 -11 a.m.

### **For January LCEF**

**Investment  
Rates,**  
see the bulletin  
board in the  
Narthex.

## WE WANT YOUR RECIPES

Pull out all 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....write it down.

Please bring your favorite recipe to the office so we may share it with the congregation in future *Christ Couriers*.

### **B.L.T. Bites**

16 to 20 cherry tomatoes

1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled

1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing

1/3 cup chopped green onions

3 T grated parmesan cheese

2 T snipped fresh parsley

Cut a thin slice off of each tomato top. Scoop out and discard pulp. Invert the tomatoes on a paper towel to drain. In a small bowl, combine all remaining ingredients. Mix well. Spoon into tomatoes and refrigerate for several hours. Yields 16 to 20 pieces. ———- Bessie Wessler

### **Chicken Tettrizini**

1 1 to 2 lb. chicken cooked and deboned

3 strips from a celery stalk

1/4 cup onion

1/4 cup green bell pepper

Small package of shredded cheddar cheese

Handful of spaghetti

2 cans golden mushroom soup

Saute onion, pepper and celery in a dab of butter until soft. Cook spaghetti and then combine these two with the soup and chicken. Best if sits refrigerated overnight. Right before cooking, spread cheese on top and bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees. ——— Susan Anderson

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## If you don't know GOD, don't make stupid remarks!!!!!!

A United States Marine was attending some college courses between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes." The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop.

Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God. I'm still waiting." It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold.

The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently. The other stu-

dents were shocked and stunned and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine calmly replied, "God was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid stuff and act like an idiot. So, He sent me."

## Paul Harvey says:

I don't believe in Santa Claus, but I'm not going to sue somebody for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December. I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his Theory of Evolution. Life, liberty or your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game. So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to a God they believe in and asking him to grant safety to the players on the field and the fans going home from the game.

But it's a Christian prayer, some will argue.

Yes, and this is the United States of America, a country founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all others better than 200-to-1. So what would you expect -- somebody chanting Hare Krishna?

If I went to a football game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

If I went to a soccer game in Baghdad, I would expect to hear a Muslim prayer.

If I went to a ping pong match in China, I would expect to hear someone pray to Buddha

And I wouldn't be offended.

It wouldn't bother me one bit.

When in Rome ...

But what about the atheists? Is another argument.

What about them? Nobody is asking them to be baptized. We're not going to pass the collection plate. Just humor us for 30 seconds. If that's asking too much, bring a Walkman or a pair of ear plugs. Go to the bathroom. Visit the concession stand. Call your lawyer!

Unfortunately, one or two will make that call. One or two will tell thousands what they can and cannot do. I don't think a short prayer at a football game is going to shake the world's foundations.

Christians are just sick and tired of turning the other cheek while our courts strip us of all our rights. Our parents and grandparents taught us to pray before eating; to pray before we go to sleep.

Our Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now a handful of people and their lawyers are telling us to cease praying.

God, help us. And if that last sentence offends you, well .. just sue me.

The silent majority has been silent too long. It's time we let that one or two who scream loud enough to be heard that the vast majority doesn't care what they want. It is time the majority rules! It's time we tell them, you don't have to pray; you don't have to say the pledge of allegiance; you don't have to believe in God or attend services that honor Him. That is your right, and we will honor your right. But by golly, you are no longer going to take our rights away. We are fighting back. and we WILL WIN!

God bless us one and all ... especially those who denounce Him, God bless America, despite all her faults. She is still the greatest nation of all.

God bless our service men who are fighting to protect our right to pray and worship God.

## Redeemer High School Report

### The Authentic Light –

Most Oklahomans have had a simple mantra these past days: “Do you have lights?” or “Is your power on?” Perhaps we should ask these questions every day of the year. As the Gospel of John reminds us Jesus is the true (read “genuine”) light that was coming into the world to give **light and life** to every man. As the Light of the star led the wisemen to Bethlehem so also the light of God’s Word leads us to our Savior and King.

The Holy Spirit enlightens us and transforms us from the kingdom of darkness into His Marvelous light (1Pet 1:9). He also empowers us to let our light shine to point the way to the Christ as our Savior and source of light and life.

Our light shines when we willingly do deeds of kindness. It beams brightly as we serve others. It is not dimmed by trials and troubles, but shines even brighter in the strength and hope of our suffering servant Jesus. Our gospel light shines as we share the true meaning of Christmas and the cross.

Do we have power? Yes! Yes! We have power in the powerful word of our

gracious Father in heaven through the Holy Spirit. He who came is still coming as Light and Life and will come again.

The students and staff of **Redeemer Lutheran Jr/Sr High School** are finishing the first semester of 07-08 and are looking forward to the new year of letting our lights shine. We sincerely thank all our parents, our member congregations, and especially the Lutheran Church of Our Savior – Bethany for hosting our school all year. May our gracious Lord bless us all in the New Year.

Redeemer Lutheran Jr/Sr High School has recently joined the Take Care of Education program with Target. Our school ID number is 126351. You can choose Redeemer as the school that receives the bonus from Target with purchases made on a Target Redcard. Please visit [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe) for more information.

## SIGN UP CONTINUES FOR

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Do you ever see people here and wonder what their names are? New members, do you wish you had something to put names to faces? Soon you will have a directory to help with both scenarios. The sign up for photography session times is available in the Narthex and a link is available on our website’s homepage to sign up online. The directions are simple and easy to follow. Photos will be taken January 10-12 and there is no cost to you or the church. You will receive a complimentary 8x10 and directory for participating

## Who Gets The Dog?

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, all of them between 10 and 12 years of age. The group surrounded a dog. Concerned the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked, "What are you doing with that dog?" One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighborhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog." The reverend was taken aback. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then launched into a 10-minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie?" and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the reverend was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

## ***Did you know???***

*Jean Millard was a church organist for many years?*

*Linda Lowe worked for the Daily Oklahoman and Sears for many years as an advertising designer?*

*Regina Clifton has been taking a cake decorating class?*

*Kathi Fisher is a dental hygienist?*

*Joyce George is the one who does the flower arrangements that adorn the altar?*

***Please let the church office know of ANY information that we can pass on to the rest of the congregation that they might know. We will continue featuring members each month.***

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### Monthly Meeting Minutes Elders Board

10/02/07

Attending this months meeting was; Danny Brown, Ed Means, Stan Witt, Alan Winter, Curtis Hedrick, Craig Clifton, Pastor, Matt Fairchild & Carl Miedich

Carl read last meetings minutes, A motion was made to accept the minutes, The motion was seconded. Minutes were past as read.

Pastor informed the board the Oklahoma's District work conference will be October 16 and 17 – Pastor will attend (he will be back for Wednesdays confirmation).

A motion was made to accept Joyce Hendrickson, Robert, Jene, and Joseph Machinski, Elizabeth, and Haleigh Day, and Kenny Owens be accepted as transfers into Christ Lutheran Church. The motion was seconded. Motion passed anonymously.

A motion was made to send Daniel Ross \$250.00 from the “adopt a seminary student” fund. The motion was seconded. Motion passed anonymously.

Carpet will be installed in the church sanctuary October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Will need helpers starting the 16<sup>th</sup> to move items for the carpet installers.

There will be a fall workshop at Messiah Lutheran on November 3, 2007 (Saturday). All day workshop to familiarize them with the new hymnal. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$25.00 maximum per member who wishes to attend. This passed anonymously. The hope is to send the organists, and whatever choir or elders that wishes to attend.

Short executive session, was then held. After some discussion about the 2008 budget, further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

### ***LWML Update:***

In addition to collecting printer cartridges (NO TONER CARTRIDGES PLEASE), the LWML can now take your old cell phones, pagers, I-Pods, PDAs, laptops and electronic video games. Thank you for your support on this mission project.

**The next LWML meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 at 7 p.m.** In the Narthex. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

# Christ Lutheran Church

## Voters Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2007

Chairman, Craig Clifton called the meeting to order.

Pastor Dave Owens opened the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance sheets were passed around for everyone to sign in their presence. The attendance records for the August Voters Meeting were unavailable; therefore, it was not possible to report delinquent voters at this time. One absentee voter, Jennifer Mangus, was recognized for this meeting.

Secretary, Dana Kortemeier, was unable to read the Voters Meeting Minutes from the August Voters Meeting (unavailable) and was tabled until the next Voters Meeting in February, 2008.

The following Board Reports were provided to the congregation for their review: Chairman's Report, Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, Board of Lay Ministers and Board of Public Relations

There were no reports for the Board of Stewardship, Board of Fellowship, Board of Parish Education, Board of Human Care, Board of Evangelism, Board of Day School, Board of Young People or Board of Trustees.

Church President Craig Clifton presented fundraising projects to the congregation for review and prioritization:

The Church needs a new lawnmower. One has been selected and was previously discussed at the last Planning Council meeting. Completion of the flooring project for the rest of the Church including the fellowship, classrooms, office and narthex areas of the Church. Replacement of two air conditioning units (parish hall and office areas).

Identifying these and prioritizing them is especially important in order to maximize the Thrivent matching funds program. The Congregation voted to prioritize the projects as follows: Complete flooring project, Replace A/C units, Purchase Lawnmower

**Treasurer's Report** – Carol Winters inquired about the Miscellaneous Income Account which includes Memorial donations. Treasurer, Barry Smith, will research to see if any of those funds can be used to fund the special projects discussed above.

**Board of Day School** – Lisa Miedich reported they continue to work on accreditation. They are fundraising with Box Tops and asked for donations. The School's Christmas Party and Program is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Board of Evangelism** – Matt Larson mentioned that they continue to work in neighborhoods near the Church and that new membership is on the increase as well as the number of visitors.

**Board of Human Care** – Robyn Anderson reported that the LWML was working on Thanksgiving boxes to give those in need and an Angel Tree for Christmas. The donations from the tree will be given to residents of the Peppers Ranch for Boy's in Guthrie.

**Board of Fellowship** – Robyn Anderson announced the Chili Dinner and Concert fundraiser on December 2<sup>nd</sup> would begin at 4:30pm. Cookies were needed.

**Board of Young People** – Regina Clifton reported the youth would be caroling during the day and would go see lights at night this year.

A motion to approve all Board Reports by Pam Means, seconded by Stan Witt, was unanimously approved.

**New Business:** A motion to approved Scott George's resignation from the CLC School Board and the CLC Board of Trustees by Stan Witt, seconded by George Danielson, was unanimously approved. A motion to elect Mabel Mailand to the CLC Board of Education by Mike Dolan, seconded by Regina Clifton, was unanimously approved. The 2008-2009 Proposed Budget was presented and discussed. Each Board Budget was approved with a couple of changes.

**Old Business Items:** None

Pastor Matt Larson closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.