



The VOICE of Our Savior

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

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DECEMBER 2009



Pastor's Message

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus union." After being told about this, I did some research and discovered that, yes, the story is true: members of the union (formed early in the last century) representing those who portray Santa Claus in stores, malls, etc. are asking that they be given preferential access to the H1N1 flu shot because of all the runny-nosed children who will be climbing up into their laps. Can't say that I blame them. Upon reading the myriad of stories on-line, I started thinking about the ramifications of a nationwide Santa strike. What will kids do with their Christmas wish lists? Given the state of our economy, this year already has the makings of a Grinch-like Christmas for millions of children across the country. If we lose Santa, . . . where have you gone, Dr. Seuss!?

So, maybe I need to prepare my Christmas wish list before Bob Dylan is forced to sing

"Where Have All the Santas Gone?"

Below is what I want for Christmas, in addition to hoping to retain my two front teeth:

+ I want a year in which all world leaders set aside personal agendas and

truly understand what it means to lead for the good of everyone;

+ I want a year in which people willingly share what they have so that everyone in the world has enough – a concept, by the way, that is not radically political – it's a Biblical principle;

+ I want a year in which the human race gives up on war and tries peace;

+ I want a year in which the Miami River in Dayton ceases to be a boundary between east and west;

+ I want a year in which families find ways to spend more time together deepening their relationship with God;

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WORSHIP NOTES



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Chapel

Sunday, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary

WORSHIP THEMES

December 6, Second Sunday of Advent

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news - and cause for exultation - for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's

magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion - with high delight - "we proclaim the Lord's death."

December 24, Christmas Eve

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh - in Christ's body and blood - so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.



December 27, First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

Council Update

The meeting was called to order. We reviewed the October meeting minutes and made one correction before voting and accepting them. Don Anstaett, our financial secretary, stated that the 2010 offering envelopes are ready for distribution. He reported that the current 2009 member giving is below that of 2008 for the months of September and October. Our income is down \$58K through October of this year. Even though we spent \$24K more than we've taken in this month, our expenses are lower this year compared to last year. At this meeting we spent most of our time discussing and debating the budget for 2010. With a couple modifications from this meeting and next month's meeting we will have a budget ready to vote on. We will be voting for council representatives on December 20 at the 10:30 service. There being no further business before us, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

- Jim Worley, Council Chair

LCOS MISSION STATEMENT

+ Share God's Word

+ Serve Community

+ Grow in Faith

VISION STATEMENT

We are a growing, diverse congregation actively sharing God's blessings in the world community.

COOKIE WALK

We Care Arts is having their annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As you start your walk, you will receive a plastic glove and a box for the cookies you select as you proceed along the tables. When you have completed your walk, your box will be weighed and you pay \$5.00 per pound for the best variety of delicious cookies to be found! Stop by 3035 Wilmington Ave.

The Cookie Walk raises much needed funds for the programs, and also raises awareness for We Care Arts. Come! Buy cookies! Donate cookies or candy! Volunteer to help at the event!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 p.m. Family Service
with Pageant

10:00 p.m. Candlelight
Service



Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Rev. Gary Eichhorn, *Pastor*

Terri Balsom, *Office Manager*

Don Hartman, *Treasurer*

Don Anstaett, *Financial Secretary*

Ginger Minneman, *Music Director*

Rachel Spry Lammi, *Family Ministries
Coordinator, Organist*

Celeste Hoerner, *Youth Ministry Coordinator,
Children's Choir*

Joe Beal, *Sonshine Choir*

Richard Freudenberger, *Handbell Choir*

Jim Worley, *Council President*

Rev. Robert A. Willauer, *Pastor Emeritus*



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The children and youth of our congregation (with help from parents and other adult volunteers) lead worship at 4:00pm Christmas Eve.

Rehearsals

Saturday, December 5 @ 9am

Friday, December 11 @ 6pm w/pizza
(speaking parts only)

Tuesday, December 22, Time TBA

Thursday, December 24, 10am & 3:30pm
"Call time"

Contact Sonia Davila or Rachel Lammi if you have questions.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Sunday School students are encouraged to bring food items as part of their offering. Here's what we are collecting:

December: Toilet Paper

EPIPHANY & LENT BANNER


The adult, youth, and children will begin creating banner pieces in December. Be sure to come on Sunday mornings to join the fun.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Book of Faith Small Group Discussion

This group is using *A Beginner's Guide to Reading the Bible*. Wednesdays through Dec 16 @ 1pm over sack lunch.

JUST 4 WEEKS



The Adult Discussion Group that meets in the Bridal Lounge on Sundays at 9:00am will spend the season of Advent discussion the Bible using *Book of Faith: Advent*

Discussions. This is a great time to give group study a try. Just 4 weeks, November 29 through December 20 @ 9:00am.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

+ I want a year in which our congregation continues to minister to all people in the Miami Valley;

+ I want a year in which God's people find their collective voice and use it to build up each other;

+ I want a year in which tears and pain of loss are replaced by the joy and laughter of renewed life; . . .

There's plenty more on my list, but it won't matter if I never get the chance to tell Santa. Jesus is the one I need to tell (prayers, you know). Of course, he'll just make me get to work. After all, God has this strange way of using us to participate in being the answers to our prayers. And, as we begin a new Church Year with the season of Advent, God will continue to use us to make this world a more loving, caring place. Energized by the Holy Spirit, we are more powerful than any earthly government, destructive weapons, or the forces of hatred, intolerance and fear. Santa can go on strike. We are the People of God, and it's time to get to work!

In Christ's peace and hope,
Gary Eichhorn

Youth Group News



Greetings!

I am happy to report that we are off to a great start in our Pennies for Peace collection. In just the first week of collecting we received 6506 pennies. That is over 1/10th of what we hoped to collect over all! So do not throw your containers away. Keep saving those pennies. We will be collecting them at the end of every month and will be reporting back to you our cumulative total.

In addition to our Pennies for Peace collection, we met in November at LaRosa's where 15 people enjoyed a delicious lunch and made plans for the upcoming months of youth group fellowship and service. We also had record numbers for Cosmic Bowling.

Youth members also prepared delicious appetizers and desserts for Adventure Awaiting. The proceeds from this event went to help support Adopt-A-Family. Our efforts for Adopt-A-Family do not just end there. We are coordinating Christmas gifts for a family of four. That will be our focus for December and we will be delivering the gifts on December 19.

We will meet December 13 at Marion's Piazza on Patterson and Shroyer for our monthly lunch meeting. I will have information for you about Youth Quake

which takes place January 15-17 and Youth Zone which is February 26-28. These events are fun, spiritually uplifting gatherings where youth can meet with other Christian youth to worthies and have fun while deepening their faith. Youth Quake is for Junior High aged students, while Youth Zone is for Senior High kids. Both events are held in Cincinnati.

Other events on the horizon in the winter months are Laser Tag, Snow Tubing and Ice Skating. In the meantime, have a wonderful, blessed holiday season!

- Celeste



The Holy Terrors invites the congregation to join them in giving the gift of song to our homebound members as we go caroling on Sunday, December 13 after the 10:30 service. A light lunch will be served at noon in the meeting room before we leave the church. Join us at Graeters afterwards for a sweet end to the afternoon.

RSVPs to Sonia Davila (sonia_davila64@hotmail.com) are helpful but not necessary.




*Mark your Calendars – January 10
Planning Lunch for Holy Terrors*



DECEMBER 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 9:30 a.m. Sewing 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 12:30 p.m. Circle - NCR 3:30 p.m. Staff 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed	2 7:00 a.m. AA 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible study 7:30 p.m. Social Ministry	3 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	4	5 9:00 a.m. Pageant reh. 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
6 ADVENT 2 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 4:45 p.m. Confirmation	7 7:00 a.m. AA	8 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	9 7:00 a.m. AA 10:00 a.m. Circle - Meckstroth 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible study	10 9:30 a.m. Chorus 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	11 6:00 p.m. Pageant reh. speaking parts	12 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
13 ADVENT 3 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 11:30 a.m. Property 11:45 HT lunch & carolling 12:00 p.m. Youth lunch	14 7:00 a.m. AA 7:00 p.m. Council	15 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study 3:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Lutheran Course - LCOCS	16 7:00 a.m. AA 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible study 2:30 p.m. Bethany Communion	17 9:30 a.m. Chorus 11:30 a.m. JOY Group lunch NCR 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	18	19 Adopt-A-Family gift delivery 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
20 ADVENT 4 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Children's choir 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Handbells 3:00 p.m. Musical Concert	21 7:00 a.m. AA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study Time TBA - pageant reh.	23 7:00 a.m. AA 6:30 p.m. Circle - Ashburn	24 OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON 10:00 a.m. Pageant reh. 3:30 p.m. Pageant call time 4:00 p.m. Worship 10:00 p.m. Worship		26 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon 10:00 a.m. AA & Al-Anon 2:00 p.m. Rwandan 5:30 p.m. Worship
27 8:15 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. SCS 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Scared Harp	28 7:00 a.m. AA	29 7:00 a.m. Prayer breakfast 11:30 a.m. Men's Bible study	30 7:00 a.m. AA	31 OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON		



HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

Tip of the Month: HAND WASHING

Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent infection and takes little time and effort. Warm (not hot) water and any soap are required. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are a good alternative if soap and water are not available. In fact, many public areas including hospitals, offices and shopping centers have installed the alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers.

Our hands become a carrier for germs that can enter our body when we touch our eyes, nose or mouth. In addition, cuts or open areas on our hands also allow for germs to enter our body. Although its impossible to keep our hands germ-free, frequent hand washing does decrease the spread of infection..

The proper procedure for hand washing is to wet the hands with warm water & then apply soap. Use of hot water can damage your skin and cause open sores which puts you at risk for additional sources of infection. Lather well & use steady pressure to scrub all surfaces of your hands including backs of your hands, wrists and between your fingers. Do this for at least 20 seconds. Rinse well and pat dry using paper towels. Its best to turn off the faucet with this paper towel if possible so you do not have to touch the handles with your clean hands.

Does the kind of soap you use important? According to the Mayo Clinic website, "the use of antibacterial soap is no more effective at killing germs than is regular

soap. Using antibacterial soap may even lead to the development of bacteria that are resistant to the products antimicrobial agents—making it harder to kill these germs in the future."

As mentioned, alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used as an alternative. Remember however that alcohol is a drying agent and with the winter months ahead, our skin typically becomes dry anyway. In extreme cases, dry hands can lead to cracked, open areas around finger nails and a possible source of infection.

So, bottom line, frequent hand washing is a great way to prevent the spread of infection. Hand washing can be done with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Care of the hands to prevent open cuts and sores is important in decreasing the risk for infection also.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Will be taken after all worship services on December 12 and 13.

STAFF EMAIL

- GARY - gwe@oursaviordayton.org
- TERRI - teb@oursaviordayton.org
- DON H. - hartmansandon@sbcglobal.net
- DON A. - jfanstaett@sbcglobal.net
- GINGER - dminneman@woh.rr.com
- RACHEL - ras@oursaviordayton.org
- CELESTE - CMZimmer38@aol.com
- JOE - waveshands@woh.rr.com
- DICK - ralbf@aol.com

OFFICE HOURS (Mon. - Fri.):
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Stewardship

TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OPERATING FUND STATUS

October 2009

Offerings (against budget):	\$28,016.62
Loan Payment (from savings):	3,426.03
Foundation (against budget):	0.00
Other collections (non-budget):	
Social Ministry:	794.00
Memorials:	142.00
HVAC Project:	1,831.00
Special Projects	0.00
Expenses:	\$46,612.81
(Receipts - Expenses)	-\$15,170.16

2009 Totals (as of November 14)

YTD collections (against budget):	\$311,967.47
Loan Payment (from savings):	34,260.30
Foundation (against budget):	131,452.96
YTD non-budget collections:	
Social Ministry:	12,030.24
Memorials:	2,877.00
HVAC Project income:	28,925.00
Special Projects:	3,226.00
Foundation donation:	10,701.00
YTD Expenses:	\$433,859.49
YTD Balance (rcpts-expenses):	\$ 9,560.94
Current HVAC Loan	\$330,318.09

- Submitted by Don Hartman

EUCHRE

Eleven people enjoyed an afternoon of laughs on Sunday, November 15. Eight played tournament style, and three played cut throat. Plans are being made for another event in January.

Foundation News

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Below is a listing of people who have made donations to Lutheran Church of Our Savior in memory of member-disciples who have recently died. Their donations go directly into our LCOS Foundation, and are loving, creative ways in which to remember friends and loved ones.

If, when you make a memorial donation, you prefer that we do not print your name in the newsletter, please indicate when you submit your donation.

In memory of Doris Schmidt:

Robert & Hilde Smith
Nancy Beckman
Doug & Anita Smith
Keith & Donna Gorrell
Gary & Beth Kost
Harbaugh family



PROJECT BLESSING

Our church served a noon meal to the less fortunate at St. Paul Lutheran's Project Blessing on Wednesday, November 18. The menu consisted of hamburger casserole, mashed potatoes, cole slaw with pineapple & mini marshmallows, fruit cocktail, bread & butter, cupcakes & beverages. Helpers were: Shirley Coen, Ed McKibbin, Jean Snider McKibbin, Ron Iverson and Greg & Jackie Dawson. Cupcake bakers were: Sue Harbaugh, Sue Hanna, Nancy McFarland, Lisa Maschino, Jan Swedlund and Jan Wallace. A total of 106 guests and volunteers were served.

A big "THANK YOU" to all the helpers and bakers".

Wel ca News

Women Enthusiastically Living Christian Actions

Unbelievable! It's December already! The wonderful time to look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus ... Advent is an important journey and Christmas Day is the destination.

Church Women United will have their annual Christmas Tea on Monday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 1001 Harvard Blvd at Salem Ave. Carolyn Haman is our Key Woman and she invites all women to experience meeting other women from other denominations.

Saturday, December 5 is the date for We Care Arts (one of our mission partners) Cookie Walk. The location is 3035 Wilmington Pike from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you would like to bake cookies or stop by and purchase cookies at \$5.00 per pound, just check out further information on our bulletin board or call me at 298-6339 ... it's a yummy way to help a good program.

Be sure to check out all the snapshots of the quilts that our group finished and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Tuesday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m. in our first floor kitchen is where the sewing group meets ... the sewing is done by machine, they also cut out quilt squares, arrange the quilt's design, knot and press, etc. Help is always needed and welcomed.

I enjoy reading the Christmas cards we receive and save many of them; here's one that I would like to share with you again ... my Christmas greeting to all of you...

This Christmas,
may PEACE fill your home,

may JOY fill your heart,
and may GOD'S LOVE fill your life.
See you in church,
Shirley Coen

DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Monday group meets on Tuesday, December 1, Christmas luncheon 12:30 p.m. at the NCR Country Club
- Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. Christmas brunch, Wilma Meckstroth, 2142 E. Rahn Rd.
- Wednesday, December 16, Christmas ornament exchange, Jamie Ashburn, 7407 Cheshire Rd. Time TBA

Joy Group

The JOY Group will have their Christmas Buffet Luncheon at the NCR Country Club on Thursday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Chairman's Room. Reservations should be made by December 7 with Bob or Wilma Meckstroth, 434-5033. The fee is \$20.00 per person. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex on November 22.

Christmas Party



**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 21**

Remember in Prayer

When we pray for others, we lift them to God, seeking God's grace and blessing in their individual situations. When we ask others to pray for us, we honor them with our trust.

MEMBERS

Judith Ault

Jim Brown

Scott, Amy, Emily and Josh Bryant

Don Cox

Al & Helen Davis

Andrew Dickerson

Hilda Mae Durig

Joan Gebhart

Bryan Griffin

Harley Homan

Mary Helen Lecklider

Lucille Loudenslager

Nicole Martinez

Loren Metzler

Pastor Robert Neeb

Hema Rajaratnam

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Alma, friend of Hilda Durig

Matt, Oakwood Marine

Henry Aldridge, friend of the Harper family

Patrice Bayer, friend of Todd Stowe

Carl Bidwell, friend of Vicki Sanders

Barbara Brandner, Bob and Wilma Meckstroth's niece

Elizabeth Bruns, Terry's mother

Capt. Mark Cipolla, Pat and Sharon Griffy's son-in-law, in Iraq

Caelan Guthrie, grandson of Cap and Nancy Phillips

Julie Haines, Jackie Dawson's cousin

Jay Kost, Gary and Beth's son, in Iraq

Collette McFarland, Shawn's mom

Jack and Yvonne McKenna, Ginmger Minneman's uncle and aunt

Ferne Neeb, Pastor Bob's wife

Bevy Jo Parker, co-worker of Kim Buechele

Stacey Pepitone, friend of Todd Stowe

David Spry, Rachel Lammi's brother

Gina Stephens and family, friends of the Stowes

Laura Strohming, Ray and Joyce's granddaughter



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The Murphy family