



Messenger

DECEMBER 2011

Pastor's Logos [word]

Column by Mike Widner, Associate Pastor

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The Messenger is a monthly publication. To provide feedback, please contact us.

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JOY TO THE WORLD



November 27th began the season of Advent in the church calendar. Advent is such a wonderful and yet also difficult time of year. The daylight is getting shorter and the cooler (even downright COLD) winds have begun to blow. Yet it is also a time of expectant waiting and preparation. The season of Advent serves as a reminder both of the original waiting of the Hebrew people for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting of Christians for Christ's return.

To help us in our **ADVENT celebrations**, we have put together an Advent Devotional booklet for everyone to use each day leading up to Christmas. This booklet has been written by several members of Luther Memorial and is focused on "Musical Memories of the Season". Music touches us very deeply – even deeper than we fully understand. Recently, Diane Sawyer interviewed Gabby Giffords (U.S. Congresswoman from Tucson, AZ who was shot in the head) and her husband, astronaut, Mark Kelly. Because of the shooting, her speech is hampered and she has had to relearn how to speak as well as many other things including walking and controlling the right side of her body. In the interview, they discussed how music therapy has played a huge role in her recovery. She was unable to remember the words for things like something as simple as a watch or many objects used every day. However, through music, she recalls songs from her childhood and is able to sing them perfectly even though she is unable to come up with the same words to express herself in speech. Music and her memories of it are helping re-route the "wiring" in her brain which is helping redevelop her speech.

Music plays a huge role in our lives and also in the celebrations therein, including Advent and Christmas. So pick up a copy of the devotional booklet from the Welcome Center and take a stroll down memory lane with your brothers and sisters in Christ. This just might bring up some wonderful, musical memories for you to celebrate anew with your loved ones!

Wishing y'all a blessed Advent & Christmas!

THE 2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.
If you did not get a box of envelopes and would like one, please notify the church office.

**"I am bringing
you good news
of great joy
for all the
people!"**

Luke 2:10, NRSV



SCHEDULE CHANGES

Because of the holiday season and the full calendars of many of you, we are making a few changes to the activity schedule. There will be:

NO "beLoved" on Wednesday, December 21st and 28th

NO Bible Study at TC's on December 22nd & 29th

NO mid-week worship on December 28

Sunday, December 25 - 9 am worship

Monday, December 26 - Office closed

Sunday, January 1 - 9 am worship



Growing Great Kids will sponsor again, this year, the **"Giving Tree"** for families in Otoe County. It will be located in the narthex the week of December 4th. If you would like to help a family, please take a tag and return it unwrapped.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

November 30, December 7, 14, & 21: Noon Worships - lunch follows

7:00 pm Worship - meal precedes worship at 5:30 pm

Communion will be served on December 7th & 21st

LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 4th, 5 pm, Kimmel Building

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 18th, 4 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24, Communion Worship @ 4 pm & 7 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 9 am with communion

WELCA NEWS. WELCA will meet December 8th at noon for their Christmas luncheon, program and installation of officers.

The **Lutheran World Relief** kits were taken to Lincoln recently for delivery. We took 2 boxes of soap, 17 layettes, 9 health kits, 2 sewing kits, 82 school kits and 107 quilts. Eleven of those quilts were given to the City Mission. Thank you to everyone who brought supplies for the kits, to those ladies who made the tops and those who did the tying. And especially to the men for loading the boxes and taking them to Lincoln.

THE FOLLOWING YOUNG PEOPLE WERE CONFIRMED AT LUTHER MEMORIAL ON OCTOBER 30TH:

Moriah Dilley, Shae Frederick, Aaron Halvorsen, Samantha Hoppe, Elias Husen, Sydney Lintner, Britton Lyon, Allison Mead, Trey Mueller, Hunter Paden, Quinn Shannon, Kylee Werner and Courtland Wirtz.

God's blessings to all of these young people!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AND NEEDED!!!

We are looking for help, as little as one hour a month or maybe even up to 4 hours a month. Here are some really critical areas where we need your help:

Mid-week Meals,
Beloved - After School Program,
Ushers,
Audio-Video assistants for all 3 worships,
as well as for weddings and funerals.

These are areas of critical need and your help will make a huge difference. So please consider contributing some of your time each month to make the mission of Christ here at LMC a successful one!!

On behalf of all of us here at Luther Memorial, have a Blessed Christmas and a truly joyful New Year.

Pastor Paul Coen

Pastor Mike Widner

LuRae Hallstrom

Mary Blacker



Merry Christmas

LIVING NATIVITY (new and improved)

This year's "Living Nativity" presentation will be on Sunday, December 4th at 5 PM in **Kimmel Banquet Hall**. There will be only one presentation at 5 pm with the Christmas story shared right from scripture with members of the community churches playing the roles. There will also be a mixed generational choir leading us in Christmas songs. So come with your family and friends to this special presentation!



LIVING
Nativity

APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE LUTHER MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OR ON THE WELCOME CENTER, AND MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2012, TO BE AWARDED APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY 1ST.

MOVIE, TV & BOOK REVIEWS

By Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

Christmas Movies, Books and Television Programs that I recommend for Advent and Christmas:

"The Velveteen Rabbit". This book or DVD is one of the all time classics of Christmas and has great Christian themes.

"The Selfish Giant". Oscar Wilde's children's stories are very moving and this is one of his best, as a book or DVD.

The clay-mation **"Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer"**, is quite frankly my favorite non-religious Christmas story. However, I do think the island of misfit toys represents the church. Now on DVD.

"The Way of the Wolf", a book of short stories has a poignant and beautiful story called "Barrington Bunny". There will be no dry eyes after you read this one.

"The Three Trees" is another of those wonderful books for all ages with wonderful Gospel images.

"Muppet Christmas Carol" on DVD. Just a plain fun version of an old tale of Christmas Spirits!

"Love Actually", is rated R because of its mature content, and so adult you will like this very moving and funny vision on Christmas thru the lives of various characters.

Finally two films that are truly oldies, but goodies: **"It's A Wonderful Life"** and **"Miracle on 34th Street"**. These very sweet films are from a simpler time and yet speak to human needs for hope, love and joy - three words that really reflect the season, don't you think. I hope these stories and DVDs give you a feel for the season of Advent and Christmas, as they do for me!!!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS, November 16, 2011

- Ann Strange & Judy Schwab attended the meeting to propose a process and suggestions regarding a dishwasher in the kitchen. Once we've received an estimate on the cost of a dishwasher, further conversations will take place with those who use the kitchen frequently before any decisions are made.
- Council approved the 2012 budget, as well as revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws. All will be presented for congregation approval at the January 2012 semi-annual meeting.
- The Nominating Committee is continuing the process of securing members to serve on the Council in 2012.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee provided an update on their discussions and progress on long-range facility planning for LMC.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Wellsandt, Council Secretary



SPECIAL THANKS!

Thank you to all of you who shared cards, gifts and prayers for Pastor Mike and Pastor Paul during "Pastor Appreciation Month" and throughout the year. We hope that all of you are blest this year as you have so richly blest us. Again, thank you for your caring and sharing! Take care and God's Peace!!!!



- to the November Ushers and Worship Assistants.
- to Sharon Harms & Sallie Agena for putting out the All Saints Display and lighting the candles.
- to Cheryl Halvorsen, Lynn Lyon, Russ Haag, Wendy Werner and Jeanette Wellsandt for assisting with the Youth Leaf Raking projects.
- to Lloyd Seelhoff, Bill Wirth, Brandon & Anthony Butterfield for doing yard & leaf work.
- to everyone who helped at the Work Clean-Up day.
- to Mary Meyer & Penny Oestmann for working in the office while Mary was on vacation.
- to EVERYONE who assisted with the Photo Directory.
- to the Evangelism Committee and helpers for preparing and cooking the Wednesday night meals.
- to Kelly Rippe for assembling the Harvest display.

Confirmation & Luther League NEWS

CONFIRMATION & LUTHER LEAGUE BABYSITTING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

1PM - 5PM



Sweet Shoppe & "No Bake" Bake Sale

This annual fundraiser will take place on Dec. 18th between services, after late service and at the Children's Christmas Program at 4pm. Funds raised will go towards our trip to the National Youth Gathering.

Watch for more details to come!

Parents, enjoy an afternoon to go Christmas shopping or just to take some time for yourselves. Confirmation and Luther League students will babysit your children from 1 - 5pm at the church; \$15 for one child, \$20 for two children or \$25 for three or more. We'll play, have snacks and maybe even do some Christmas crafts for the older kids. Reservations are required so that we make sure to have an appropriate ratio of caregivers to children. This is a fundraiser for our National Youth Gathering trip.



Luther League
Advent
SUPPER

Luther League will be once again hosting an Advent Meal on Wed., Dec. 7th from 5:30 - 7pm. Watch for more info in the mail!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Children's Christmas Program Announcements

Music practice - every Sunday in Dec. during SS opening for Pre-K thru 4th
Speaking / Acting practices on Wednesdays, 5-5:45 pm

Program on Sunday, December 18th

4pm - Special Musical Presentation of the Christmas story by younger elementary children.
4:30pm - Drama Presentation by older elementary/middle school children & youth.

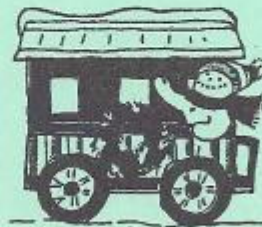
ALL ABOARD !!

The Christmas Train

ALL ABOARD !!



Arriving: November 20, 2011
Departing: December 11, 2011



The Sharing Express arrived Sunday, November 20 and will depart Sunday, December 11th. The Syracuse Area Churches Food Pantry, LindenView Assisted Living and Good Samaritan Society Nursing Home are the recipient organizations. Instead of purchasing gifts for teachers and students, please consider donating to the Christmas Express.

Following are suggestions for donations, but all donations are appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY



Instant Potatoes
Rice
Stuffing
Pumpkin Pie filling
Shampoo
Toothpaste
Dish detergent
Laundry detergent
Paper towels

GOOD SAMARITAN



Lotions for men & women
Socks & gripper socks, all sizes
Stationary, stamps & greeting cards
Nail Polish, tooth brushes
Hair combs & brushes
Perfume, aftershave/cologne
Books, puzzle books & games
Movies & CD's
Candy, sugar free candy & cookies
Kleenex

LINDENVIEW



Stamps
Stationary
Greeting Cards
Puzzles (500 or less)
Nail Polish
Movies
Puzzle books
CD's of all kinds
of music



Thank you for taking our "train ride" during the Holiday Season!!!!



Worship

Assistants

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011

		1 st <u>Service – 8:00 am</u>	2 nd <u>Service – 10:15 am</u>
<u>READERS</u>	December 4	Fred Bredehoeft	Rick Kreifels
	December 11	Chris Wallman	Roger Kuenning
	December 18	Arlis Steinhoff	Jerry Neeman
	December 25 – 9 am	Fred Bredehoeft	
<u>ACOLYTES</u>	December 4	Kirsten S Patty W	Lauren G Brendon L
	December 11	Lauuren G Brendon L	Kirsten S Patty W
	December 18	Caleb L Nathan H	Allison N Sydney P
	December 24 – 4 pm	Madeline W Cody F	7pm: Madalynne S Allison N
<u>USHERS</u>	December 4, 11 & 18	Ted & Cheryl Leefers Tony & Tina Engelbrecht	Wes & Terri Janssen Ron & Beccy Jensen
<u>VISITATION</u>	DECEMBER	All Members of LMC	
<u>VIDEO & AUDIO</u> <u>*POWER POINT</u> <u>OPERATORS</u>	December 4	Jerry & Rhae Werner *Madeline W	Alan Maier & Eric Lamblin *Jenna S
	December 11	Eric Lamblin & Alan Maier *Aubrianna K	Ron & Diane Hawkins *Kiley H
	December 18	Ron & Mary Ann Wenninghoff Arlan Rohlf	Dan Watermeier & Eric Lamblin *Abigail H
	December 24 – 4 pm		7 pm:
		* Connor Cameron	
	December 25 – 9 am	Andy Brace & Jim Pfeiffer	

PLEASE GET YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE!!

