



Bethesda
Lutheran Church

Bethesda Outlook

December, 2008

From Pastor Malcolm's Desk

Advent and Christmas Greetings

Happy New Year!! It may seem that I am a bit early and what about Merry Christmas? The last Sunday of the church year was November 23rd, Christ the King Sunday, and the 1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30th, brings in the new church year. The time of Advent is a threshold, a gateway, a bridge. When we step into this sacred time, we step into a blurrrring of future, present and past. Future enters past and becomes present. Christ the divine moves toward Christ the human. So we experience Advents coming; here and now.

Inside this issue:

2008 Stewardship Recognition	2
Mitten Tree	3
Christmas Caroling	3
Family Dinner & Movie Nights	3
December Calendar	4
December Schedule	5
Thoughts for the Month	6
Recipe of the Month	7

Advent is not merely just a time of waiting for Jesus to be born. The coming of Christmas is not some past event fondly recalled. The Latin *adventus* is the equivalent of the Greek *parousia*: meaning- *coming presence*. Advent is the very real in-breaking of future into the present here. **Yes**, right here in Mountlake Terrace in the year 2008! This in-breaking of God is about God coming to us and breaking into our lives to say, "I love you" through the birth of this little one. It is about God coming to us and saying to us here right now: "My beloved Child what might I do for you?" **Advent does not mean wishing; advent means coming, the coming presence of God!** How might *we be* Advent people, the coming presence of God, for and to those around us? Past is **present!** The hope that fills Advent is not for a maybe-perhaps-not-yet event. Future is **now!**



In the beauty of the deep blues of this Advent season may you seek and discover God filling you up as you live in the hope of a new birth in the being and doing of your life. May God's love and peace break into your hearts with wonder and hope, and may you share that as Advent people, in with all you come in contact with. May you live in the holy present, today, and on Christmas morning awaken at the manger to Jesus breaking in and doing new and wonderful things in you and your life.

Merry Christmas to you and all your loved ones and may you find *hope, love, peace* and *joy* in the coming New Year!

*Pastor Malcolm
and Charlie Brown*

2008 Stewardship Recognition

By Judy Rasmussen

This Stewardship event was held after services on Sunday – November 2. What a wonderful way to recognize the ALL the “Saints of Bethesda” with a Lunch provided by TOP foods of Edmonds!

This year we had a couple of very entertaining numbers by yours truly and Sue Rasmussen and the A Cappella Choir provided a wonderful version of “Tuna Casserole” (a church basement potluck staple) sung to the tune of Whispering Hope!

Dena Lee read a short story of a young troubled woman having a conversation with her mother, and Sue

Rasmussen also read a short story about a man who – at first – viewed giving to the church like tipping in a restaurant.

Packets of stewardship information were distributed. We were encouraged to take this information home, study it, and prayerfully consider increasing our giving. Cards inside the packet could be filled out and used as reminder as to what you had decided you could do. The church does NOT want this card back – but if you want to turn it in – you may.

Lastly – our Hall of Fame Recipient for 2008 went to Larry Fischer.

There were many comments made by the members of Bethesda stating that Larry is:

- Consistently helping around Bethesda – especially plumbing.
- He participates in Choir, Council, Facilities and many plumbing projects.
- At all Work Parties
- He’s a Good Person!
- Involved so much in Work Parties, Choir, Kitchen Remodel and Plumbing Projects.

Congratulations Larry! Thank you for all your dedication and hard work!

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOLERS!

OUR CHRISTMAS SHOW IS DECEMBER 14TH. JOIN US FOR OUR FINAL REHEARSALS! THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR ANGELS AND SINGERS!

The Second Shepherd's Pageant (a.k.a. “The Big Hand Off”)

ALL PLAYERS, MUSICIANS, SOUND AND LIGHT PEOPLE MUST ATTEND ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REHEARSALS! WE HOPE YOU

CAN BE IN BOTH SHOWS.

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 1-3 pm

Sunday, Dec 7th, 9-10 am

Saturday, Dec 13th, 1-3 pm—Dress/Tech

Sunday, Dec 14th, 9-10 am—Dress/Tech

Sunday, Dec 14th, 10:15 am—SHOWTIME!

Sunday, Dec 14th, 3 pm—SHOWTIME! (2:30 call)

PLEASE CONTACT DENA IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS!

The Toy Shop

South Snohomish County’s YMCA needs our support! This unique store provides an opportunity for those who have little or no money an opportunity to “shop” for their children during the holiday

season. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!! PLEASE BRING NEW OR LIGHTLY USED TOYS, JEWELRY, OR CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES TO CHURCH. Small toiletries are also

acceptable. Look for a special donation box in the Narthex and Social Hall. Mabelle Hoffman is spearheading this program for our church. She can be reached at 425-678-8482.

Great News About Aluminum Cans!

We were blessed by an anonymous contribution of \$250.00 given for Bethesda's Sunday School. This money was acquired by a friend of one of our members having her friends and family help her save the cans. What a thoughtful gesture! We are always collecting aluminum cans and you can bring them to church or bring them to my home. When we have enough, we take them to a recycling facility. Thanks for your efforts.

Joan Minnis for Bethesda Lutheran Sunday School

The Mitten and Glove Tree Is Here!



THIS SPECIAL GIVING TREE SUPPORTS DSHS.

Maxine Helms has coordinated this tree for many years. It is always better to give than receive!

You can find Maxine in the Bethesda Kitchen or give her a call: 425-778-2390

Christmas Caroling at Tall Firs

REMEMBER! WE ALL HAVE A DATE TO GO **CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT TALL FIRS, A SENIOR HOUSING RESIDENCY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 3- 4 PM. PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 2:45 PM.**

BRING A PLATE OF COOKIES TO SHARE. FROM CHURCH, WE WILL CARAVAN TO LES OLSON'S APARTMENT COMPLEX!

Family Dinner & Movie Nights

Get to know your community. Use this night as an opportunity to share fellowship with other families. Look for a sign-up sheet in the "Children's Corner."

December 20th "Polar Express"
January 17th "Chronicles of Narnia"

Come at 4:30 pm to help set up and finish preparing dinner. **Dinner is served at 5:30 pm.** All movies are rated general. Clean-up help is WONDERFUL!

Call on Christ

Early in the 20th century, Howard Bliss, a missionary to Syria, wrote an article about what Christ can mean to anyone who would take him seriously. Consider these insights:

Does Christ save you from your sin?
Call him Savior!

Does Christ free you from the slavery of your passions?
Call him Redeemer!

Does Christ teach you as no one else has taught you?
Call him Teacher!

Does Christ mold and master your life?
Call him Master!

Does Christ shine upon the pathway that is dark to you?
Call him Guide!

Does Christ reveal God to you?
Call him the Son of God!

Does Christ reveal ideal manhood to you?
Call him the Son of Man!

In following him, are your lips silent in your incapacity to define him and his influence upon you?
Call him by no name, but follow him!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ruth/Miriam Circle @Joan Minnis'	2 Education Comm. 7:00 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon 3 Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	4 Hospitality Comm. 7:00 PM	5 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM WAM Comm. 6:30 PM	6 "The Big Handoff" 1:00-3:00 PM
7 a cappella choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	8 Ruth/Miriam Circle 2:00 PM Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM	9 Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Esther Circle 10 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	11 Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	12 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	13 "The Big Handoff" 1:00-3:00 PM
14 a cappella choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM <u>Sunday School</u> <u>Program</u> Piano Recital 4:30 PM Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	15 Council Executive Committee 5:30-6:00 PM Council 6:00-8:00 PM	16 Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon 17 Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	18 Brownies 7:00 PM Jammer's 7:15 PM	19 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 Men's Fellowship 8:00-10:00 AM "Family Movie Night 5:00 PM
21 a cappella choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM <u>Choir Program</u> Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	22 Sue's Bible Study 2:00 PM	23	24 Family Service 5:00 PM Candlelight Service 9:00 PM	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon AA Meeting 6:00-9:00 PM	27
28 a cappella choir rehearsal - 9:00 AM Education - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:15 AM <u>Lessons & Carols</u> Community Dinner Prep - 6:00-11:00PM	29	30 Twins Club 5:00-9:00 PM	Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. Lunch - Noon 31 Community Dinner 5:30 PM Taizé Svc. - 6:30 PM AI-Anon Meeting 7:00-8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	Christmas Caroling at Tall Firs Senior Apartments December 21 st ~ 3:00-4:30 pm		

DATE		COMMUNION ORGANIZER	ALTAR FLOWERS	LAY READER	READINGS
Dec. 7	Second Sunday Of Advent	Judy Rasmussen	Sue Rasmussen	Pat Olson	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 14	Third Sunday Of Advent Sunday School Program	Judy Rasmussen	Katherine Dedrick	Pat Olson	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday Of Advent Choir Program	Judy Rasmussen	Malcolm & Charlie Brown	Pat Olson	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Judy Rasmussen	Mickey Schwald	Mickey Schwald (9:00 PM)	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
Dec. 28	First Sunday Of Christmas Lessons & Carols	Judy Rasmussen		Pat Olson	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40



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|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2 - Judith Schwald | 14 - Alice Swierenga |
| 4 - Frances Hinson | 18 - Mikey Van Deren |
| 6 - Andrew Molitor | 20 - Robin Anstice |
| 9 - Shirley Rasmussen | 21 - Jim Rasmussen |
| 10 - Jeanette Anstice
Kristina Cochran | 22 - Kasi Reeves (Olson) |
| 11 - Cliff Pearson | 23 - Pat Olson |
| 13 - Cameron Anstice
Tricia Goldsmith | 29 - Carol Bader
Karen Carroll |
| | 31 - Kimberly Van Deren |

Thoughts For The Month

by *Jeanne Krahn*

We survived the who listened anyhow long campaigning throughout our states. We've survived that mish-mash of secular/semi-religious celebrations of the quasi-religious Thanksgiving and Macy's parade version of Christmas is coming. Rev. Larry Warren writes, "We are about to enter the secular wish-it-could-seem-religious, buy-more-than-last-year-and-be-happy-rush-to December 25th." But for thousands of years this has been a special time of the year to celebrate because the sun has started its long journey home to spring and summer. Always, somewhere, sometime, someone was celebrating this time long before the birth of Jesus. Sun gods and sun worshipers, Greeks and Romans, barbarians in the Germanic forests, Northern worshipers of Thor, Egyptians, Jews, Gauls, Persians and Indians. Our very survival depends upon the return of the sun so no wonder the winter solstice was celebrated for thousands of years. No wonder that Julius, the 4th century pope, when asked to fix a date for the birth of Jesus said, "We will say it took place in Bethlehem on December 25th", that being the date of the winter solstice according to the Julian calendar.

During all your holiday bustle, be sure to make room for God. Don't let all the glitter and tinsel beginning too early sap your energy and thoughts of the quiet beauty of the manger and the very religious season called Advent. It is a time for reflection, wonder, and anticipation of receiving the child of God named Jesus. None of us have, I think, "lives as smooth as the ice on a Currier and Ives pond". Lives aren't Christmas cards. They're messy. We're short on time, money and sleep. Take a breath, take a moment, and take in something—anything—that makes it Christmas, writes Julie Muhlstein. Let's prepare ourselves as if we are called to come to the manger in a few days, along with the shepherds, magi and others to follow the star and see the Babe. What difference would it make in your lives, in your Christmas celebrations, in your coming year? Remember Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

Found an interesting page from Light of the Cross newsletter—your lesson for today. C'mon! You're supposed to learn at least one new thing every day—even if it's difficult to use in conversations but Stan and I try—a new word, a new whatever. Most of us are familiar with the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, a bouncy rhyme set to music. It is believed by many, however, that there's more to it than a repetitious melody and a list of strange gifts. Popular opinion is the song was originally created in England as a catechism song to help young Catholics learn their faith during 1500's-1800's when it was a crime to practice religion. The

song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of their faith. The "true love" refers to God himself and the "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The first day of Christmas begins with the birth of Christ until the Magi arrived (Epiphany, January 6th). In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, same as memory of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem. The symbol meanings are:

Day 2: Turtle Doves = The old and new testament.

Day 3: French Hens—Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues or the trinity or 3 gifts of the magi.

Day 4: Calling Birds = the 4 gospels and/or the 4 evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Day 5: Golden Rings = the first five books of the old testament which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

Day 6: Geese A-laying' = 6 days of creation.

Day 7: Swans A-swimming = 7 gifts of Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8).

Day 8: Maids A-milking = 8 beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).

Day 9: Ladies Dancing = 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Day 10: Lords A-leaping—the ten commandments.

Day 11: Piper's Piping = 11 faithful apostles (one - Judas betrayed Jesus).

Day 12: Drummers Drumming = the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Whoosh! Can you remember all that? We'll have the test next year! Personally, as you've heard my remonstrations on what we've let happen to this time of year, I have moments of sadness for what has been and could be. "Christmas with the Kranks" was not only a movie 4 years ago but continues to be a national trend by the growing forces of secularism in America. Schools now are unable to have any religious plays, programs or musical concerts about Christmas. The tradition of Christmas continues to be hammered. It's all about diversity, protecting the sensitivities of those Americans who get offended by the mere mention of the birth of Jesus. Somehow, I haven't located any yet. My parents put up a tree somehow Christmas Eve, surprising my brothers and I early morning—and what fun—the programs etc., a wave "hi mom" - will we remember our lines, etc? Times change—not always for the better. Stan, our family and I wish you all many blessings of and at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Recipe of the Month

"Blitz Torte"

By Marie Faye

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Makes 2- 9" layers

1cup sifted cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Dash of salt
½ cup shortening
1 ¼ cups sugar
4 eggs, separated
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 Tablespoons milk
½ cup blanched, sliced almonds
1 Tablespoon sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together.

Cream shortening with ½ cup sugar until fluffy. Add well-beaten egg yolks, vanilla, milk and sifted dry ingredients. Spread mixture in 2 greased 9" pans. Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry, add remaining sugar gradually and beat until eggs hold a sharp peak. Spread over unbaked mixture in both pans. Sprinkle with almonds, 1 Tablespoon sugar and cinnamon and bake in moderate oven. (350 degrees F). Cool and spread custard filling between layers.

Custard Filling:

1 package instant vanilla pudding mix
1 cup milk
½ cup cream
1 Tablespoon honey
¼ teaspoon almond extract

Beat all ingredients together until smooth and thick. Spread between cake layers.

Note: For a modern version of this Torte, use "Moist Supreme Cake Mix and 4 eggs, adding the yolks to the mix and using the whites for the topping. Bake in a 9" x 13" prepared cake pan. Skip the custard filling.

Both of these recipes are delicious when topped with seasonal fresh fruit and whipped cream.

**Bethesda
Lutheran Church**

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Sno-King Cluster Intern: Coe Hutchison
Church of the Beloved: Ryan Marsh—Deployed

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