



The Messenger

December 2009

Our Mission

Statement

Responding to God's love in Christ poured out upon us through Word and Sacrament and empowered by the Holy Spirit we shall serve God through worshipping, learning and sharing.



Saturday, Nov. 28, 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Hanging of the Greens and the Chrismon Tree Decorating: Come help do some 'sprucing' up around the inside and outside of the church. Decorating will begin at 9:00 a.m. for the holiday season. All ages are welcome! Bring your elbow grease and energy!

Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m. – Advent Lessons and Carols – Come worship with the Advent readings and singing of hymns based on the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". This worship will be lead by the Senior Choir and Bell Choir.

Friday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. – Redeemer Crisis Center. Meet at the church at 5:45 p.m. to carpool to Redeemer. We will be packing food baskets and wrapping Christmas gifts. Pizza will be served. Great event for the whole family! Reserve your spot by calling the church office by Dec. 16, 933-6263.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Sunday School Christmas Program dress rehearsal. All children and adults who are participating in the program are asked to be present. Parents – bring your cameras to take pictures.



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Sunday, Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. – The Christmas Bells - All are invited to share in Jesus' birth as told by the Sunday School. A celebration will follow the worship service. All Sunday School families are asked to bring light refreshments such as cookies, mini muffins, or donut holes for the reception following the program.

Sunday, Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m. — Caroling Fest & Light Supper, hosted by the Mission Trip teens and parents. Stay for a time of singing Christmas carols in the sanctuary. Then travel in groups to shut-ins and nursing homes. We will return to the church for cookies and hot cocoa. All are invited – this will be a fun event for the whole family!

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. Come celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with a traditional candlelight service.

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m. Rejoice in Jesus' birth through worship and Holy Communion.



First off I'd like to say Merry Christmas. With the busy holiday season upon us I hope we can always remember this is the celebration of Christ's birth and God's Love for us.

Last year I dropped the ball and I apologize. In years past the Council President has sent out a letter informing those who wished to contribute to a "Staff Gifts" fund, to do so by putting their gift in a envelope marked "Staff gifts" in the offering plate. With the high cost of postage I can't justify spending the church's money on a mailing so please consider this your notification. Any gifts collected will be divided evenly among the staff unless otherwise indicated.

I write this assuming that the Congregation has ratified the revised Constitution, this will mean in June we will have a new Council Structure. The Nominating Committee will be working hard to find the right people for each position. If you are asked to serve, please consider it prayerfully. Finding dedicated people to serve on council or in the different new Ministry positions is vital to the health of our Ministry. Council positions up for election at the Spring Meeting will include President and Treasurer. "Ministry Team" Chairpersons needed will include "Education and Youth", "Outreach", and "Congregational Life". The Endowment Committee, Preschool Board, and a new Nominating Committee will also be elected. Please think where you may best fit in.

May God's peace shine on you and through you,

Tom
Church Council President

Contribution Envelopes - 2010

There are 52 weekly dated white **Operating Fund** envelopes which are all deposited into the Operating Budget account. The envelope # on all envelopes is the primary reference used to post individual contributions in our computerized contribution record system. *It is not necessary to put a name on the envelope.*

The monthly green **Benevolence** envelope and all special envelopes such as Easter, Lenten Offering, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas are deposited into our general Benevolence account. The Benevolence goals, as adopted by the congregation at the Fall meeting, are not part of our Operating Budget and are used only for our supported organizations. The Northeast Ohio Synod goal is paid at 100% first and all other funds are distributed on a proportional basis after that dependent on offerings received. Any member designating an offering for a specific organization within our adopted goals will have that contribution go to that organization in addition to the congregational goal amount. Benevolence offerings for recognized organizations not in our goals should be sent directly to those organizations by the donor.

The monthly yellow **Building Fund** envelope offering is used to pay off our building loan which will stand at a approx. \$133,000 by the end of the year.

The monthly pink **Mission Partner** envelope offerings are sent to Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, a new mission church in North Ridgeville.

The envelope boxes will be available for pick-up in the Gathering Area during the month of December.

PASTOR SCHLESSMAN IS ON SABBATICAL AND WILL RETURN DEC. 1.

SIMPLY GIVING

The church offers an electronic funds transfer contribution system that does not involve envelopes, but simply a one-time completion of a form setting up a frequency of contribution (weekly, semi-monthly, monthly), amounts up to six designations such as General Fund, Building, Benevolence, etc., and a voided check. Amounts are automatically deducted from a checking or savings account and deposited into the church's bank account at Fifth Third Bank. A record of the deposit is sent to the church office and posted to the member's contribution record. There is no logging on to a Web site, going to a bank account or dealing with passwords at any time. If a change is necessary, a new form is submitted showing the change such as a new pledge amount for the next year. Changes or new participants should allow 14 days for processing.



FLOWERS for 2010

The Flower Chart is now posted and you can begin to reserve your 2010 dates for flowers. Just pick up an order envelope for that specific Sunday, fill out the information, include your \$35 payment, and return it to the church office at *least* one week in advance.

Kathy will process the order and forward it to Mary Huerner, who makes the flower arrangements. Flower envelopes are available by the flower chart in the main hallway.



POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Poinsettia's have been ordered from Pandey's Garden Center. The plants are red, 7 1/2" pots, and cost \$10.00 each. To reserve your poinsettia, fill out a flower envelope found in the gathering area, place your check, payable to ANNA CIRCLE in the envelope, and place it in the box provided by Sunday, Dec. 20. Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Worship Service.



THE GIVING TREE

A Giving Tree, sponsored by Deborah Circle, will be in the gathering area from Nov. 29 to Dec. 20. This year, Genesis House, a shelter for women and children hurt by domestic violence, need the following items:

Women's:

- body wash, lotion, deodorant, razors
- hair care products—inc. multi-cultural
- shampoo and conditioner
- toothpaste and toothbrushes
- liquid antibacterial hand soap

Gift cards to:

- Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart or grocery stores

Children's:

- shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- arts and crafts supplies
- new or gently used baby monitors
- diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5), pull-ups
- baby wipes, lotion, wash and powder

Additional Items: Paper towels and kitchen garbage bags

Please do not donate sample sizes or hotel sizes as these items cannot be accepted. Please put your gifts around the tree. Gift cards can be given directly to Quella Columbaro. Thank you for helping these women and children.

PRESCHOOL

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Join our Preschoolers on Thursday, December 17 for our Annual Christmas Concert. Some of our classes will perform at 10:00 a.m. and the others will sing at 1:30 p.m. The programs will be held in the sanctuary and refreshments will follow in the social hall. Come and get in the spirit of the season by hearing our children proclaim the glory of Jesus' birth.



Summary of Council Minutes November 5, 2009

Attendance: Russ Roth, Mike Muir, Chuck Heindrichs, Bob Olds, Tom Ballintine, Cathy Mohney, Ryan Smarsh, Dan Rockas, Tom Reiner and Kris Simecek

The meeting was called to order by Tom R. at 7:05 p.m. Motion made by Dan Rockas and seconded by Russ Roth to approve the Minutes from the October 1 Council meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Heindrichs

Reported contributions for October were \$15,481 and our year-to-date average is \$18,630. Our budget for 2009 calls for a monthly average of \$20,780. For 2009 through the end of October, our expenses have exceeded our income by \$11,332. The cash reserve of approximately \$16,000 coming into this year is being used to cover this shortfall. Other variances to the budget were reviewed. It was also noted that the October contributions for the building fund were lower than expected. Motion made by Tom B. and seconded by Mike Muir to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

President's Report – Tom Reiner

Julie Skaggs will be expanding her childcare business after January 1 and therefore will need to use the 4th Sunday School room. Eric Mohney is organizing fundraisers for the Youth Mission trip (June 13-20) – the next one will be a sub sandwich sale for the OSU/Michigan football game. In the next newsletter, Tom will let the congregation know anyone wishing to contribute to "staff holiday gifts" should put that gift in the offering plate in an envelope labeled "Staff Gifts".

Worship & Music – Ryan Smarsh

Hymns have been selected for services in November and December.

Stewardship – Mike Muir

We will be hosting Family Promise the week of November 29. Commitment cards will soon be mailed, and commitment flyers will be placed in the bulletin for the next 3 weeks. Commitment Sunday will be on November 22 – following the Congregation Meeting and 10:30 church service will be a lasagna dinner.

Christian Education – Dan Rockas

The Halloween party was a big success. Stacy Jantz will be planning the Christmas Sunday School program.

Outreach Ministry – Cathy Mohney

Cathy passed around several thank you notes from agencies to whom we have contributed during the past several months.

Fellowship – Bob Olds

About 40-50 people have signed up for the after church brunch to be held at the Mexican restaurant located in the Landings this Sunday, November 8. A trip to Playhouse Square or LCCC to see a play will be planned in December. Bob is still working on a possible picture board or monitor to display family pictures and church events.

Property – Tom Ballintine

Several repair projects have been accomplished this past month.

Old Business

Extra keys for the preschool rooms will be ordered soon since there are currently no extra keys. At the fall meeting, the new Constitution will be ratified – the ratification must be passed by 2/3 of the quorum present at the meeting. Once the new Constitution is passed, the new Council positions will become effective May 1, 2010. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Doris Gaertner, Carol Meiners, Kevin Carpenter, Charlie Crout and Kendra Cristiano, will soon work on filling the new Council positions.



New Business

Gwen Hogrefe told Tom R. that the Anna Circle would like to purchase new Christmas trees; they would like to know if there is any church money available. It was felt that at this time there is no extra money to spend on new trees, but the Anna Circle should check with Doris Gaertner to see if there is any money available from the Memorial Committee. Chuck will be preparing instruction sheets regarding the fire alarm system and smoke detectors. Substitutes for our Nursery Attendant (Beth Kral) may be needed. It was felt that we would first try to find volunteers to substitute; if this was not possible, then the substitutes would be paid at the same rate as our Nursery Attendant.

Laurie Fournier has requested a transfer of membership to our congregation (from her church in Lakewood). Motion made by Tom B. and seconded by Cathy to accept this new member by transfer. Motion passed.

After saying the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - *Kris Simecek*

Advent Devotions

Remember to get you Advent wreath ready for the 2009 Advent Season! Light the candle(s) every night at a special time when the family can gather and do a short devotion and prayer together. Set your hearts and minds on Jesus' coming and experience Jesus among us right now.

There are many Advent devotional materials to choose from this year. They will be displayed in the Gathering Area beginning November 29. The Sunday School children will be receiving Advent calendars in their classes.



Coming Events - December

December 1: *Lydia/Naomi Christmas Lunch* at The Legacy 12:00 p.m.

December 1-5: *Family Promise* families visiting for the week.

December 2, 9, 16: *Bible Study* 10:30 a.m. in the conference room.

December 11: *Scrapbooking* 7:00 p.m. in the social hall.

December 15: *Newsletter deadline.*

December 18: *Newsletter Mailing* 9:30 a.m. in the conference room.

December 25: *Merry Christmas—church office closed.*

Christ Lutheran Book Club

The group will not meet in December but mark your calendars for Sunday, January 31 at 7 p.m. at the home of Doris Gaertner. The discussion for January will be *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Newcomers are welcome!

Lydia/Naomi Circle

Will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, in the church parking lot for those needing a ride to The Legacy for our Christmas luncheon meeting. Others may drive directly to The Legacy for the 12 noon luncheon. If you are in need of a ride, please contact Sharon Davidson, 933-3923.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Phone: (440) 933-6263
Email: celc@centurytel.net

Lynn R. Schlessman, Pastor
Sue Schlessman, Christian Ed. Director
Kathy Greene, Secretary



Worship Opportunities:
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
The Nursery is open during the
9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour
and 10:30 a.m. worship.

We're on the web!
www.celcal.org



Please Pray For:
Marilyn Bommer (Avon Oaks)
Jeannine Rockas (hospice at home)



The Christmas Bells

...What's so Great about Christmas?

You are invited to the Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 20

10:30 a.m.

Reception following the program

Come hear the story of the Bell family, Liberty Bell, Silver Bell, and Taco Bell, as their attitudes about the meaning of Christmas are changed by the children coming to the Sunday School Christmas program.

DVDs of the program will be available to order for \$10