

DECEMBER  
2011

# The Good News

of Christ Lutheran Church



*Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow and  
He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

What a wonderful announcement; Christ is born! This message is the heart of our Christmas celebration. We pray that each one of you may experience the joy and wonder of this most amazing season.

The staff and Council of Christ Lutheran Church wish you  
a very blessed Christ-centered Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

## “Anticipation”

Pastor Craig Wagner

As we finish the Thanksgiving meal, clean the table and wash the dishes, our thoughts turn toward Christmas. We are about to begin the season of great anticipation.

The season of Advent (the time before Christmas) is all about waiting and anticipating the coming of the Lord Jesus. Advent is the first season in the church liturgical year and begins on the Sunday falling on or nearest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30). Although it varies in length, it always includes 4 Sundays.

This season is used to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ. The anticipation of his coming is emphasized in three

ways: 1. the coming of Christ in the flesh (Christmas), 2. the coming of Christ in Word and Spirit each day, and 3. the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time.

Anticipation seeps into our worship as we light the advent candles each Sunday. One is lit the first Sunday, two the second, three the third and four the fourth. The sense of anticipation is heightened each week as we experience another candle being lit in preparation of the coming of the Christ.

Although meaning can vary, it is commonly assumed that the first candle represents the “Prophecy Candle” recalling the Old Testament

prophets. The second candle is the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of John the Baptist and Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is the pink candle and is the “Shepherds Candle.” They were the first to receive the long-awaited news of Christ's birth. The final advent candle is the “Angel's Candle.” The angels brought the message to the shepherd's, Mary and Joseph, ministered to Jesus in the wilderness and rolled away the stone from the tomb.

Each Sunday in Advent brings increasing anticipation of Christ's birth. I have a hard time waiting for Christmas, don't you?



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Office Hours  
M-F 9 AM - 4 PM

## Youth News

## Book Discussion



### Year End Giving

Don't forget CLC in your year-end giving.

**Remember:** For you to claim contributions on your 2011 income tax, they **MUST** be postmarked by 12/31/11.

The CLC Youth will be selling a couple of things in December to raise funds for their program.

They will be selling their very own "Luther's Blend Coffee" once again this Advent season. Coffee will be available for purchase on Dec. 11th between the morning services in the Narthex. 1 lb. bags of coffee are \$10 each.

They will also be selling

CD's "Christmas with a Capital C" by Go Fish Guys for \$5 each. These make great Christmas gifts for kids and adults.

**Caroling** - The Youth will be joining the choir and others for the caroling outing on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights at 6:00 PM. Pick-up is at 7:00 PM.

### Book Discussion Group

Join us on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at the home of Susan Vevang.

Time for remembering the season: Please bring a fragrance (like a pine branch) and share a memory it recalls.

RSVP to Susan or call the church office.

## This and That



**Please Note:** The January/February 2012 "Good News" deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

*(The editor would love it if articles were submitted in December!)*



### Poinsettias

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia. Cost is \$13 per plant. Make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church and note "poinsettia" on it. Place your check in a pew envelope.



Plan to do your Christmas shopping at our fair on Sunday, December 4th, after both worship services. Come shop for delicious cookies and holiday treats, as well as beautiful handmade crafts, including stocking stuffers, warm scarves and mittens, ornaments and our famous wine jelly.

Proceeds will go toward new banquet tables for the fellowship hall

Questions? Contact Paula Mcnutt or the church office.

### THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Travis Kaminski and Grant Petersen for delivering 688 cans of vegetables to a very thankful Salem House Food Pantry in Chicago—at the time of delivery, their shelves were bare! The delivery was a huge task and we are most grateful for their work.

Again, thanks to everyone for giving so generously. The spirit of giving, sharing and love was definitely felt!



**Canned-Food Drive**

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## Worship and Music!

Yeeseon Kwon

**We are Looking for Seasonal Singers and Ringers!** Too busy but want to musically participate? Come join and sing in the Choir or ring Hand Bells this Advent and Christmas Season. We would love to have you sing or ring bells as your schedule permits. Hand Bell Choir rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7PM. Contact Brad Althouse, Hand Bell Choir Director. The Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 8PM. Contact Yeeseon Kwon, CLC Music Director.

**Christmas Concert: Saturday, Dec. 10th at 7PM:** Come celebrate the joyous Christmas season at the Christmas Concert - featuring the Sundays School Children's Musical, "We Like Sheep," directed by Brad Althouse, Children and Youth Choir Director. Also highlighted on the program are the wonderful musical ensembles of CLC! We look forward to seeing you there to spread the good and *musical* news of CLC! Bring your friends and families to this exciting concert!

**FREE PIANOS!** Are you looking for a used piano? CLC has a black upright piano and a grand piano that are available. The grand piano has been regularly tuned. If you are interested in either of these pianos, contact Yeeseon Kwon, Music Director. Removal and transport of the pianos will be the responsibility of the new owners. Any donations would be gratefully appreciated. Donations will go toward the music ministry of CLC. Feel free to share this info with others.



**Caroling at the Lutheran Home:** Calling on carolers of all ages to sing and stroll on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM! We will meet at the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights. It is always such a blessed time to be a part of the community and share God's love through music and song. Following the caroling, we will fellowship at the Wagner's home for an appetizer/dessert potluck and BYOB.

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## Spirited Women

Sharon Whiting

**Saturdays With The Spirited Women:** All women of CLC are invited to join us on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9AM, at Lorna Wagner's home for a special Christmas presentation. Pat Sylvester will have her collection of White House Christmas Ornaments on display

and will talk about them. We will raffle off the 2011 ornament to benefit Lutheran Social Services' Prison and Family Ministry program. Also, please bring a new children's book for ages 2-12 which will also be used for the PFM program. Sign up in the Holy Grounds coffee

shop. Refreshments will be served.

The Spirited Women will hold their **annual Christmas gathering** on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM at church. Appetizers and desserts will be served and we will have a white elephant exchange. Sign up in Holy Grounds.

We will soon be announcing the details of an exciting event to be held in January....stay tuned!!

The Spirited Women wish you all a Blessed Christmas and thank you for your generous support of Holy Grounds and our benevolence efforts.

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## Adult Education

Jim Secora

In December we go to the lighter side of Adult Education. We will learn some interesting things about our hymnal and we will also learn a little bit about the background of

some popular Christmas carols. The December Adult Education presentations will be held in the Chapel Sundays starting at 9:40AM. Our organist, Ken Spengler, will join us

and offer his insights, as well as his piano playing, at these sessions. Come and have fun with the lighter side of Adult Ed on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>!

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*Special Worship Events through Advent  
and Christmas 2011*

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday in Advent  
Worship at 8:30 & 10:30AM  
**4:00 PM - Hanging of the Greens,  
followed by a Chili Potluck**

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - Second Sunday in Advent  
Worship at 8:30 & 10:30AM  
**Christmas Craft & Cookie Sale Today!**

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Musical - 7 PM**

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday in Advent  
Worship at 8:30 & 10:30AM

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> - Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Worship at 8:30 & 10:30AM

**Christmas Eve — Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

- ◆ **4:00 PM — Family Service**
- ◆ **9:00 PM — Candlelight Service  
with Holy Communion**
- ◆ **11:00 PM — Candlelight Service  
with Holy Communion**

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> —  
One worship service at 10:00AM**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> — **One worship service at 10:00AM**

