
The Lutheran Light

"As the Body of Christ, St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church is called by the Father through the Holy Spirit to worship God and witness to others."

Vol. 33 No. 11, December 2011

The Pastor's Prism



Anticipation

Some years ago there was a popular song by Carly Simon that contained these words among others:

"We can never know about the days to come, but we think of them anyway...Anticipation, anticipation is makin' me late, is keepin' me waitin'".

While this song was used in a romantic context, it's words still hold true for many who are anticipating the Christmas season, be they religious or not. Merchants are hopeful for sales, and do everything they can to get us to buy their items. Individuals are looking for finding gifts for loved ones and others. Students and teachers are anticipating the time they will have off from school. Others look for a time of traveling or just doing what they want to do, while still others anticipate the sports' tournaments that have gained much interest in recent years

As a child, I anticipated buying gifts for family and friends, and then hiding them away in some place. But I also looked forward to the decorating that would come on the weekend before Christmas when as a family we would go to the woods to find a tree and gather white pine and hemlock greens for decorating in the house and on the outside doors. During this season family members curtailed their arguing, and were in generally a good mood. Mother would make cookies and cakes for the season as we anticipated visits with family and friends.

While the chores took more time in the winter with the daily feeding of cattle, sheep, and hogs it was a time when the work was a bit easier because

one didn't have to contend with the heat, and the only unpleasant things for me was the irritating dust generated from the weekly grinding grain, mixing feed and getting down the hay from the mown. Most work on the farm was centered around care of the orchards where the trees were fertilized, rodent control conducted, and pruning commenced. Work was generally at a less anxious pace than the summer, and weather conditions were not often a factor. There was even time for some rabbit hunting with the dogs that might take place on a Saturday afternoon and sometimes at family gatherings during the Christmas season.

All these things were anticipated in late November and early December, as apple harvest and butchering had been completed and deer season was over.

Still, there was another anticipation, which really climaxed the season for me, and that was the Christmas Eve candlelight service. The church was bright and cozy inside with the gold and white everywhere, from the paraments, to the chrismons that covered the two cedar trees that stood next to the altar. It was a time when our whole family was in church to hear once more the story of God's love for world in sending Jesus Christ.

As much as this season is built around anticipation, one wonders about how God must have anticipated what He was going to do in giving the world the greatest Gift it has ever received. Paul writes, ***"When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children."*** (Galatians 4:4).

Throughout the Advent season we hear Messianic texts from prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, and Micah which reveals God's anticipation of what He would be doing for the world in sending Jesus Christ.

No gift is a gift until received by the one for whom it is intended. When God sent His Son, the intention was that all people would receive Him. Yes, we will have our Christ-mass Eve service but we are also called to lives as His children continually responding to the Good News that is in Jesus Christ. God anticipates faithful children, as you and I attempt to be, who will receive Christ every day of life through faith and in faithfulness. This is just a natural response, which is lived out in joy, prayer, and giving thanks in all things through Jesus Christ.

+ "Pr. Lee"

Almighty God, we are grateful that through Your Word You revealed Your anticipation of freeing the world from the curse of human sins. You anticipated a new and ultimate Means for doing this through the sending of Your only Begotten Son through blessed Mary. Amidst all the anticipations we have in this season, help us to keep focused on the great Gift You have ever given to the world in Jesus Christ our Lord in Whose Name we pray. AMEN



Council Highlights

The council met on November 14, 2011.

1. Please join us in the parish house kitchen on Saturday, December 3 from 12:30 until whenever or on Tuesday, December 6 from 10:00am until 2:00pm and help make cookies and breads that will be sold at our annual Christmas Bazaar. If you are interested in participating and/or donating baking ingredients, please see Fran Crist (410-848-4391) or Cindy Sparacino (717-637-0067).
2. The congregation will be collecting items and money for the Human Service Program to help families have a good Christmas. This year is especially difficult for many families. Please consider sharing your blessings by helping others. See Dwyn Fleischer to donate.
3. Thank you to everyone who donated blankets and coats for those less fortunate. We had a good response.
4. The Christmas Bazaar will be held on December 10. The Sunday school will be holding a basement sale during the Christmas Bazaar. Be sure to stop downstairs and see what the Sunday school has to offer. If you would like to volunteer your time contact Jim Crist.
5. The annual Congregational Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00pm. The dinner will take place after the Sunday school's live nativity and short program. Be sure to turn in the number of people attending the dinner to help the council plan, a free will donation will be collected.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Wisner, Secretary

Offering Envelopes

2012 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the overflow room of the church. Please note, if you did not pick-up your box of envelopes the past two (2) years, 2012 envelopes were not automatically issued. You can request a box for 2012 by contacting the church office.



News Around the Parish

- A copy of the Carroll Lutheran Village Annual Report for 2011 is now available for your perusal on the radiator in the rear of the church.
- Two copies of "Choices and Decisions" are available for your use and found on the rear register of the church. The booklet addresses some of the concerns and healthcare needs of seniors who may be looking at assisted living in the future, and was prepared by the Cross Keys Village of the Brethren Home Community.
- Having completed a period of instruction, Anna Ruby and Gillian Scott received the Body and Blood of Christ at their first Communion on October 30th. Anna is the daughter of Mark and Crystal Ruby, and Gillian is the daughter of Bob and Kelli Scott. May God ever feed them with His grace!
- Copies of the budget for 2012 and other handouts that were distributed at the Annual Congregational meeting are available on the table in the overflow room of the church.
- We are once again accepting donations of new and gently used coats and blankets. Your donations will help families in Carroll County. Please place your donations in the box in the overflow room of the church.

Christmas Caroling

The choir will be going Christmas caroling to the shut-ins on the following schedule. Anyone wishing to come along with us, please contact any of the choir members so that we can make arrangements for transportation.



Please come and join us in sharing the Christmas season with our shut-ins.

November 27th:

- 11:00 Jesse and Carrie Eyler
(light lunch will be provided)
- 1:00 Naomi Bowersox
- 2:15 Violet Flickinger at Fair Haven

November 28th:

- 1:00 Roma Harner
- 2:15 Bob Spanger

Carroll Lutheran School Support



We need your used Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, General Mills box tops and Campbell soup labels. Please place them in the donation box in the overflow room of the church or in the church office. Items collected are given to help support Carroll Lutheran School.

Go Green for 2012

Help save resources by joining St. Mary's newsletter email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed and mailed for your household. To join, send an email to newsletter@stmaryselc.org requesting to be placed on the list.



Carroll Lutheran Village



VILLAGE HOLIDAY
Saturday, December 3th
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

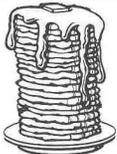
presented by Friends of the Village Auxiliary.

Special Music (9-11a.m) by
The Belladonna String Quartet

Featuring Christmas Gifts From: Rodan+ Fields Cosmetics, Tastefully Simple, Scentsy Wickless Candles, The Woman's Club of Westminster, Little Professor Book Center, The Cutting Garden, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Handblown Glass Giftware, Local Author Bill Hall, Resident Artists Bobbi Vrtacnik & Bob Peterson, Handcrafted Items made by Village Residents, Bake Table, Silent Auction, Treasures for Cash, and More!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
8 - 10 a.m. in the 205 St. Mark Way Dining Room. \$7.00 Adults; \$5.00 Children ages 3-10. For information call the Volunteer Office at 410-605-1011.

Pancake



Breakfast

Proceeds benefit all residents of CLV.

Upcoming Events



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 10th

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Handmade Crafts, Delicious Food, Fruit, Baked Goods

Silent Auction: Items include Gift Certificates, Filled Gift Baskets, and Much More!

Children's Activities: Crafts, Bean Bag Toss, and more!

Free Blood Pressure & Body Composition Screening provided by Carroll County Health Department

(Proceeds benefit , Special Needs of St. Mary's and the Delaware Maryland Synod of the ELCA)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER

(free will offering to be collected)

Sunday, December 11th - 4:00 p.m.

Food from Bentley's Family Restaurant
Menu

Broasted Chicken, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Salad, Roll/butter, Dessert, Iced Tea/Coffee/Soda.

Please call the church office to make your reservation by December 4th.
(# Adults, # Children 6-12,
Children under 6)



CHRIST-MASS EVE SERVICE

Saturday, December 24th - 7:30 p.m.

Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumback, II 717-359-8882; **Council President:** Craig Fleischer, 410-346-6065; **Council Vice-President:** Dwyn Fleischer, 410-346-6065; **Council Secretary:** Gail Wisner, 410-346-7955; **Treasurer:** Art Wisner 410-346-7955; **Outreach & Welcome:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391; **Christian Ed Chairperson:** Laura Bennett 410-346-6729; **Property Committee:** Gary Meadows 410-346-6994; **Staff Support:** Rick Sparacino, 717-637-0067; **Stewardship Committee:**(vacant); **Worship & Music Committee:** Don Kaufman 717-637-9795; **Flower Committee:** Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030; **Altar Guild Coordinator:** Fran Crist 410-848-4391; **Lector Coordinator:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391; **Funeral Reception Committee:** Viola Haines 717-633-7648, Marion Matthias 410-346-7380; **Sexton :** Mark Ruby 410-346-6840; **Secretary:** Susan Blizzard 410-346-7146 (w); **Organist:** Joye Kaufman 717-637-9795; **Thrivent Liaison:** Donna Myers; **Carroll Lutheran School Delegate:** Jim Huber; **Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates:** Jim & Fran Crist; **Acolyte Coordinator:** Zachary Scott; **Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf



“...GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH?...I BET HE REALLY WANTED A PUPPY.”

Newsletter Information

Newsletter Deadline: 3rd Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-1pm

Please contact the office when:

- ✓ your committee plans a meeting/activity so it can be listed on the master calendar.
- ✓ you have an announcement to be included in the newsletter or Sunday bulletin. (Announcement forms are available on the church and parish house bulletin boards. Please fill out a form and place in the church office’s “In Box”. You may also email your information to the church office, to the Secretary’s attention.)

Christmas Program & Dinner

Sunday, December 11th, 2011
4:00 p.m. in the Parish House

Food from *Bentley’s Family Restaurant*

Tentative MENU

Broasted Chicken	Baked Ham
Baked Potato	Green Beans
Roll/butter	Dessert
Iced Tea	Coffee



Free will offering at the door.

(Please give generously as the difference will come out of St. Mary’s funds)

proper amount of food and supplies can be purchased. Reservation sheets can be placed in the offering plate or call your reservations into the church office (410-346-7146) with the information requested below.

Yes, I (We) plan to attend St. Mary's Christmas Program and Dinner on Sunday, December 11th.

Name: _____

Adults _____ # Children (6-12) _____

Children under 6 _____

Please make your reservations **by December 4th** so that the

Prayer Ventures -

1 On this World AIDS Day, pray for all people affected by HIV and AIDS and for those who minister to them, including the AIDS Circle of Hope of North Texas, located in Wichita Falls.

2 Pray for the Latin American and Caribbean companion churches and organizations that have developed ministries with individuals living with HIV and AIDS in the region. Grant that their love, compassion, and advocacy on behalf of those living with HIV and AIDS bear witness to a love for all of creation.

3 Pray for congregations who gather holiday gifts for children in need. Make these gifts a sign of God's loving presence and love for all God's children.

4 Second Sunday of Advent - God of the nations, we entrust to you the countries of Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Give hope where there is despair, strength where there is weakness and faith where it is sought.

5 Give thanks for the 33 ELCA members who volunteered for 3 to 11 months through the ELCA Global Mission Volunteer program in 2011. Thank God for the generosity of these teachers, medical trainers, financial consultants and pastors.

6 Pray for those living along coastal lines, that they may be protected from the devastation of annual typhoons and hurricanes, and those living in arid places that they may be saved from drought and famine.

7 Pray for Robert Kasworm who serves the Machame Lutheran Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania. He is strengthening health-care delivery by creating strategic alliances between Tanzanian and U.S.-based health providers.

8 Pray for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which provides mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease throughout the world.

9 As we give thanks for the gift of God's Son and the growing presence of Christ in our world, pray for missionary children who live, learn and grow in their faith in a variety of settings around the world.

10 Pray for the continued advocacy of human rights as we celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that we might engage and remind people of the internationally recognized rights.

11 Third Sunday of Advent - We pray, O God, for the people of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire

and Togo. Give strength to the churches in these lands as they witness to your peace and joy in the midst of great challenges and changes in their countries.

12 Pray for the Rev. Philip, Lou-Marie Knutson and their family, who serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Philip works as a resource person for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa's Christian education program. He also serves ELCA Global Mission as regional program assistant for Southern Africa.

13 Pray for your local, state and federal elected officials, as they consider decisions that will affect you, your community and all of God's people.

14 Give thanks for the ministry of presence that young adults serving through ELCA Global Mission provide throughout the world. Bless Megan Bucholz, Alma Gast, Laitin-Whitney Gottbrath, Sara Nobbs, Michelle Steiner and Courtney Weller, young adults serving in Jerusalem/West Bank. Bless Julie Rossate and Jeff VonWald, the country coordinators.

15 Pray for Welcome Home, a cooperative ministry of welcome between Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and Lutheran Children and Family Service that provides transitional housing for refugees who have just arrived in the United States.

16 Give thanks for the ministry of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions around the world. Pray for Phillip Baker in Asia and the Pacific; Lou Marie and Philip Knutson in Southern Africa; Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie in East Africa; Anne and Willie Langdji, and Viking and Marissa Dietrich in West Africa; Arden Haug in Europe; and Kathryn Lawler, David Wunsch and Stephen Deal in Latin America and the Caribbean.

17 Pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, which serves to empower, provide relief and educate for future preparedness in response to devastating situations.

18 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Gracious God, look with favor upon the churches in Ghana and Nigeria, that, in the midst of great challenges of witnessing to your mercy, they may find strength and nourishment in your word.

19 Pray for Mary Borgman who serves as an HIV and AIDS worker at the Diakonia Aids Ministry in Soweto, South Africa, a program of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

20 Pray for ELCA World Hunger, which supports people who live with chronic hunger and poverty around the corner and around the world, though relief, development, education and advocacy.

21 Pray for Katie Miyamoto who teaches English at Luther Gakuin High School in Kumamoto, Japan. She also is engaged in ministry at Kengun Lutheran Church and at the English-language gathering of Kumamoto Lutheran Church.

22 Pray for all who suffer loneliness and heartache during the holiday season.

23 Pray for David Vikner, as he engages supporters of the International Christian University in Japan through his leadership of the Foundation of the university.

24 Pray for peace in Bethlehem and all of the Middle East on this holy night.

25 Christmas - Almighty God, give to all your people the love of peace and guide the leaders of all nations so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with your love.

26 Give thanks for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Pray for an end to the continued persecution of the Christian church.

27 Pray that churches throughout the world find ways to cooperate in love and trust in the common goal of pointing to the in-breaking reign of God in Christ.

28 Remember today the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Pray for God to receive into the arms of mercy all innocent victims and to frustrate the designs of evil tyrants establishing God's rule of justice, love and peace.

29 Pray for an end to the greed and sexual exploitation that creates the demand for the trafficking of women and youth for exploitation and profiteering.

30 Pray for the Turnaround Synod Initiative of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, which seeks to equip congregations for ongoing renewal.

31 Give thanks for the year past and pray that in the new year we may more fully know God's presence, see God's love at work and live in the light of Christ that grants us joy forever.

Neighbors in Need

This year we are donating gifts to "Neighbors in Need." Below find a list of items to bring to the church by not later than Sunday, December 11th (which is also the night of the Christmas Program/Dinner).

HSP uses your gifts to stock the Holiday Shop for those *Neighbors in Need* who were not adopted to select items that they truly want and need. While all items are free to *Neighbors in Need*, HSP limits the types and numbers of gifts based on family size and the quantity of items available. **You can also donate gift cards from local stores like Target, Wal-Mart and Five Below - cards in value from \$5 - 20 are ideal.**

Babies, Kids, Teens & Adults

Socks*
Underwear*
Sweatshirts*
Sweaters*
Pajamas*
Gloves, mittens and hats*
Boots*
Flannel Shirts*
Bathrobes*
Slippers*
Jackets, coats*

*Needed in all sizes - infant to 3X

Baby Items

Diapers - all sizes
Baby Wipes
Sipper Cups
Pacifiers

Kids and Teenagers

Toys
Games
Puzzles
Sports Equipment
Lava Lights
Dolls
Stuffed Animals
DVDs and CDs
Handheld Electronic Games
Portable CD Players
Arts and Crafts kits

Gift and Household Items

4-place dish sets
Flatware sets
Cookware - pots, pans, crock pots
Small appliances-mixers, toasters,
coffee pots
Clocks
Watches, jewelry
Umbrellas
Tool kits
Cologne, perfume, gift sets
Handbags, wallets
Cosmetics, nail polish
Hair Dryers, curling irons
Room Decorations

Misc. Personal Care Items

Razors, Shaving Cream
Lotion
Sanitary Napkins and Tampons
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Body Sprays
Deodorant
Soap, Shower Gel
Shampoo, Conditioner
Hair Spray, Accessories

Other

Oranges, grapefruits, apples

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is an extension into our daily devotional life of our corporate Sunday prayer life for the afflicted. Prayer is a part of a Christian's vocation. Such prayer offered in daily life are offered on behalf of those who have requested our prayer or by others who are concerned about those with special needs. Those who are involved in the prayer chain believe that God hears and answers prayer. Sometimes these healings are known by us, sometimes not. In our prayers God wants to hear our concerns about the brokenness and hurt in peoples' lives.

How the prayer chain works: As a member of the prayer chain, you will be called to pray for someone, and it may be for someone whom you won't even know. You may also be asked to call up to two (2) other persons on the prayer chain to let them know of the prayer request.

You are only asked to pray for the person at least one time. Some elect to pray for the person for a period of time (e.g., a week, 2 weeks, a month). The important thing is to pray! The Holy Spirit will do the rest (see Romans 8:20)

There may be periods when there will be no requests for prayer. Some Christians use their daily devotional time to pray for those who are on our prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. Others extend their prayers for individuals by sending cards or making visits.

Prayer chain members and those for whom we pray, do not have to be members of St. Mary's.

Every attempt will be made to organize the revised prayer chain so that no one has to make toll telephone calls. Contact Pastor Lee if you have questions, want more details, or wish to be involved in this ministry of our church.

Note - All items should be new and unwrapped.

Please put your donations of gifts and non-perishable food for them in the gift-wrapped box found in the overflow room of the church and in the downstairs hallway of the Parish House. Contact Dwyn Fleischer (410-346-6065) if you need more information.

December 2011

Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship Helpers Acolyte: Katie Fairbank, Suzy Spriggs Usher: The Fleischer Family Altar Guild: Fran Crist/ Jill Spriggs Communion: Fran Crist	Anniversaries Bentley & Sharon Wolf - 12/03/1982 Kirk & Donna Myers - 12/03/1988 Glenn & Marion Matthias - 12/25/1947 Donald & Leslie Phillips, Jr. - 12/26/1997			1 Christmas Bazaar Set-up 6:30pm	2 Donald Kaufman	3 Delores Heltibridle 
4 2 nd Sunday in Advent - Blue Isaiah 40: 1 - 11 Psalm: 85: 1 - 2, 8 - 13 2 Peter 3:8 - 15a Mark 1 : 1 - 8 Basket Offering -Gideons Decorate Church for Christmas following worship.	5	6	7	8	9	10 Helen Cassell St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon 9 - 2
11 3 rd Sunday in Advent - Blue Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 11 Psalm: 126 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24 John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28 Christmas Program & Dinner- 4 pm	12 Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.	13	14 Newsletter Deadline 10 a.m.	15 Vincent Sparacino	16	17
18 4 th Sunday in Advent - Blue 2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16 Psalm: 89: 1 - 4, 19 - 26 Romans 16: 25 - 27 Luke 1: 26 - 38	19	20 Jacob Utz	21 Sunday Bulletin Deadline - 10 am	22 Kaitlyn Blizzard	23	24 Christ-Mass Eve Service - 7:30 pm
25 Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day - White Isaiah 52: 7 - 10 Psalm: 98 Hebrews 1: 1 - 12 John 1: 1 - 14 Social Hour - Property Committee 	26 	27 Brenda Middleton John Ernst	28	29	30	31 Michael Haines Brenda Meadows New Year's Eve