

THE MESSENGER

December 2011/January 2012

The monthly newsletter of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

celebrates Advent and The Nativity of Our Lord

Advent – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wednesdays in Advent - November 30, December 7, 14, 21

12:15 Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm - Soup Supper in the Parish Hall + **7:30 pm** - Holden Evening Prayer
(Sign-up sheets for providing food and for reservations are in the Information Center.)

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Sundays in Advent

November 27 – Advent I December 4 – Advent II

December 11—Advent III - Children's Christmas Program 9:15 am in the Nave

December 18—Advent IV - The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with
Holy Communion

Sunday Church School for all ages at **8:45 a.m.** + Holy Communion at **10:00 am**

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Christmas Eve

**Joy to the World! The Lord Is
Come!**

**Saturday, December 24—+ The Eve of the
Nativity of Our Lord**

4:00 pm – Family Service of Holy Communion with Candlelighting

8:00 pm – Festival Choral Eucharist with Candlelighting

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December 25 - Christmas Day and January 1 – Christmas I (The Name of Jesus)

Sunday School Christmas Program - "What is Christmass?"

Our annual Christmas Program will take place on December 11 (with a snow date of December 18). This year the play is entitled "What is Christmas?" The Sunday School children will present the program at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. We invite the congregation to attend this wonderful play and then join us after the worship service for the coffee hour which will be sponsored by the Sunday School children.



Christmas Caroling

Each year, church members serenade our shut-ins with well-loved Christmas carols. This year, our caroling is scheduled for Saturday, December 17. We will meet at 5:45 p.m. and then leave the church at 6:15 to begin our singing. Participants are asked to bring two dozen cookies - one dozen to wrap up and give to those to whom we sing, and the other dozen for us to enjoy afterwards as we gather at the church for fellowship and food!

Preschool Celebrates Christmas in December and Registration Begins in January

During December, the children will go Christmas caroling in the church neighborhood and sing Christmas songs they have learned. Before their Christmas break, they will have a birthday party for Jesus.



Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in January. Our preschool offers morning classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. Registration forms will be available from the church office beginning January 9th. For more information, please contact Ginny Trygstad at 703-273-4094.



I had just preached and led worship on Reformation Sunday, October 30 at Salem Lutheran, Jarrettsville, Maryland. Now my husband and I found ourselves waiting for the congregation to vote on a call for me to become their next pastor. How had they received my sermon and leadership of the service? Would they really call me to be their pastor? A few minutes later the assistant to the bishop for the Delaware/Maryland Synod came into the room. Yes, the members had voted overwhelmingly to call me, and I accepted the call. I went into the nave, was introduced as the Pastor Elect, and greeted the members, saying that I was pleased and excited to be their new pastor.

Later as we were driving home to Virginia, it hit me. I looked at Lynn and exclaimed. "What happened? What have I done?" Or more to the point, "What has the Holy Spirit led (or dragged) me to do?" Lynn too was mulling over his thoughts as a brand new clergy spouse.

We are now planning for ordination. As I read the vows of ordination, all I can do is to tremble with fear and awe and to ask God to help and guide me.

assume the office, believing that this is God's sacred call to Word and Sacrament,

To preach and teach faithfully,
To be a faithful witness to God's love in all I do,
To receive the stole as a sign to walk in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I prepare for ordination and beginning my ministry at Salem Lutheran, I think about all the wonderful times I have had here at Christ. I thank each and every one of you for the support and friendship you have given me. God has blessed me, and I thank God every day for all these blessings. As I leave Christ Lutheran, I pray for God's blessings on each and every one of you.

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Salvation Army

Christmas stockings are

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Christmas stockings are on the table in the narthex. Please return the filled stockings by December 9. Thank you!

Parish Partners

Back by popular demand! Parish Partners will be ringing bells and stuffing stockings for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 10th. Our location this year is the new Walmart on Lee Hwy. Grab your partner and sign up for a time slot on the sheet at the Information Center. For additional information contact Mary Telesz.



Deck the Halls

Plan to join us to decorate Christ Lutheran for Christmas. We will meet on Saturday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. to put up the tree, wreaths, and other decorations. Please call Cliff Diehl (703-273-7496) if you have any questions or need additional information. See you then!

From the Evangelism Committee - Save The Date!

We will provide our annual Christmas Party for the men and women in Rose Way 7A and 7C at the Northern Virginia Training Center on Saturday, December 10. Homemade cookies and helping hands will be needed. Watch for sign-up opportunities at the Information Center. If you have questions about this event, please call Judie Berger (703-591-2174).



Memorials Acknowledgement

We are trying to improve our acknowledgements of honor and memorial gifts. Have you given a gift and not received an acknowledgement? Please let the church office know and we will update all records and replies. Thank you!



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 14, at noon in the conference room. Please call Kathy Putnam (703-385-1926) if you need a copy of the Bible study. Bring a bag lunch if you wish. Come join us. Visitors are always welcome.

The Lydia Circle meets at 7:30 p.m. at Panera Bread on the fourth Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to attend for learning, sharing, and fellowship. Call or email Laura Albert for more information or to receive a copy of the Bible study.

Lamb Center Needs

Volunteers

The Lamb Center, a day-time drop-in shelter located in Fairfax Circle, is in need of volunteers to provide assistance to guests at the center. Volunteers help in many ways including mentoring, laundry services, food preparation, and participating in Bible studies with the guests. If you are interested in volunteering at the Lamb Center, please stop by and fill out a volunteer application, or call Joyce Hile on Tuesdays at 703-691-3178.



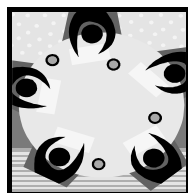
Calling all readers!

Many of us enjoy similar kinds of books, so we have a bookshelf near the Information Center. Take a book or drop off a book. Sharing good books is great fun!

Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Prices

Chancel—\$45.00 Narthex—\$30.00
Sanctuary Lamp—\$40.00 (it takes two candles to keep the lamp burning for one month)

Parish Committee Meeting Schedule



Evangelism	1 st Monday, 7:30 pm
Fellowship	2 nd Sunday, after the liturgy
Jubilee	4 th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., as called
Learning	3 rd Thursday, 4:30 pm
Mutual Ministry	As called, 7:30 pm
Service	3 rd Sunday, after the liturgy
Support	2 nd Monday, 7:30 pm
Worship	3 rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

A black and white line drawing of a diner building. The word "DINER" is written on the awning on both sides. A large sign in the center of the awning says "PRIME TIMERS". The windows show silhouettes of people sitting at tables. Below the building, there is a text box.

will meet at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 7, at First Watch Cafe, 9600 Main Street, Suite S, Fairfax (Fair City Mall shopping center). First Watch's phone number is 703-978-3421.
No reservations required