

December Calendar of Events



December 7	Services with Healing
December 9	LEAF Articles are due
December 12	Decorate the church for Christmas at 8:00 am
December 14	Advent Music Sunday
December 14	Cookie Exchange at 9:30 am
December 14	Toy Collection deadline
December 17	Blue Christmas Worship at 7:00 pm
December 21	Sunday school Christmas Program at 10:00 am
December 24	Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm
December 25	Christmas Day worship at 10:00 am

- Please bring non-perishable food for Hope House on Sundays
- Please bring your **aluminum cans and Campbell labels** on the second **Sunday, December 14, ONLY**.
- Dorcas Circle meets **Tuesdays at 9:00 am.**
- Sunday School at **10:00 am. Does not meet in church this month.**
- God's Young Voices—meets **Wednesday evenings at 6:45 .**
- Senior Choir meets every **Wednesday at 7:30 pm.**
- **Health and Wellness** meeting, **Friday, December 19th, 10:00 am**
- **Worship & Music** meets **Tuesday, December 9th, at 7:00 pm**
- **Ladies Aid** meets **Wednesday, December 10th, at 11:30 am.**
- **OWLS** meet on **Thursday, December 11th, at 8:30 am** at Forum Restaurant
- **Property committee** meeting **Tuesday, January 13th, at 6:30 pm.**
- **Christian Education** meeting **Tuesday, December 9th, at 7:00 pm**
- **Women's Bible Study** meets **Thursday, December 18th, 7:00 pm.**
- **Friends** meet **Tuesday, January 27th, at 9:30 am.**
- **Parish Nurse, Barb Estrada** is here on **Wednesday mornings** but not **December 17th** she will be here on the **Friday, December 19th** of that week



**Hanging of the Greens –
Friday, December 12th – 8:00 am**



Beating the Holiday Blues

Once again the holidays are upon us. This means it's time for parties, shopping for just the "right" gift, extra cooking and baking, family gatherings, setting up the Christmas tree, and decorating the house and yard. The pressure and stress can be just too overwhelming! For some, the added burdens of grief, family discord, loneliness, and money problems only compound these feelings.

Some stresses that can lead to holiday blues are unavoidable, but you can minimize their impact if you:

Manage your time wisely, making time for shopping and socializing but also time for relaxation and rest.

Make a budget for your holiday spending and stick to it.

- Talk with others about a recent loss and ask for support.
- Accept any unpleasant family situations as best you can: remember, the holidays are rarely as ideal as they seem in the movies.

- Take time to participate in activities that you find relaxing and enjoyable.
- Create a new holiday tradition that will allow you to enjoy yourself and take your mind off the past.
- Accept your feelings. There is nothing wrong with not feeling jolly.
- Drink alcohol only in moderation.
- Get in touch with your spiritual side by attending church, praying or meditation, or participating in whatever activities enrich

your soul.

Holiday blues are usually temporary and mild but depression is more serious and can linger unless you get help. If you are experiencing two or more of these signs of depression, see your healthcare provider.

Sadness that won't lift

Changes in appetite or weight or sleeping a lot more or a lot less than usual.

Crying often.

Feeling restless and tired all of the time.

Feeling worthless or helpless or guilty.

Thoughts of death or suicide.

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church will be celebrating our "From the Darkness... Living in God's Amazing Grace" (Blue Christmas) worship service on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm. Please come and worship together and support others who may benefit from this healing service.

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans

Anyone who is currently enrolled in a **Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan now is the time to review your plan** and change plans if you would like to do so. Open enrollment is from Nov. 15th through Dec. 31st, 2008 for a plan in 2009. You are allowed to change plans at this time without incurring penalties. Plans also are allowed to change their drug coverage, drug charges, and premium costs at this time. One way to determine the correct 2009 plan for the drugs you currently are taking is to contact Medicare by phone and have them do a comparison of plans. Using a computer can also do this comparison. For anyone

who does not have access to a computer, **I would be glad to help with this process. Feel free to call with questions or set up a time to meet at WPLC. I can be reached through church or at Luther Manor, 414-464-3888, ext. 341.**

Automated External Defibrillator Update

Having an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church is a reality.

Thanks to a private donation and designated memorial monies for this purpose we should have our AED by January 2009. The AED provides self-guided voice prompts for use, so there is no way to misuse this equipment. It is a public access device, meaning anyone can use it even without training. Of course that is not the ideal situation, therefore training will be provided here at church. This training will include CPR also. Any adult member of WPLC is welcome to attend the training. (Up to a maximum of 20.)

Now we have to learn how to use it! The Hales Corners Fire Department has consented to be our trainers. We will be using the same brand of AED the Hales Corners EMT's now use. (Ours will be less technical, however.) We need to train people who attend both worship services. Sign up sheet will be on the kiosk. I will need the final count for training by Jan. 5th, 2009.

AED/CPR TRAINING

When: Saturday,

January 24, 2009

Time: 9am until 1pm.

Where: Whitnall Park Church

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Condensed Council minutes from October 28th, 2008

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health & Wellness – Jill Underberg

Purchase of a defibrillator is pending. Roger Brinkmeier reports that Endowment will help with funding. \$1,000 has already been donated by a church member, so the final cost of approximately \$2,000 (including training) should be covered.

Worship & Music – Ruth Rice

- Thanksgiving Eve worship is currently scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at WPLC, however Emanuel UCC has informed us they are planning to host the ecumenical service this year. A final decision will be made after further discussion and the appropriate announcements made at both churches.
- The choirs will present Christmas Music Sunday at both services on 12/14, which is the second Sunday of the month. In order to avoid an extra long service, Pastor Fazio will ask Barb Estrada to present her temple talk on the first Sunday of the month (12/7) instead of 12/14, and the Sunday School students will also meet in church on 12/7 instead of 12/14.
- **Sunday School Christmas Program** will take place at the **10:00 service only on 12/21**. No communion will be served at this service, however communion will be served at the 8:30 service that day.
- WPLC will be hosting a “**Blue Christmas**” service at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12/17**.
- **Christmas Eve** falls on a Wednesday this year, and **services will be at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. with communion by intinction at each service.**
- **Christmas Day** is on a Thursday, and we will have **one service at 10:00 a.m. with no communion.**
- Regularly scheduled Worship & Music committee meetings have been moved to 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

Social Ministry – Gloria Brinkmeier

After a general discussion, it was agreed that all Social Ministry activities (including Hope House donations, etc.) should be reported to council for inclusion in the minutes. It was also agreed that this committee should start submitting annual budget requests

Evangelism/Publicity – Gloria Brinkmeier

Gloria acknowledged the need to submit a budget re-

quest for the up-coming year, even though historically, there has not been a budgeted amount for this part of church operations.

Audit Committee – Ralph Llanas

Brent has advised an audit of the church books should be done in the fall of 2008, however no date has been set and it is unknown at this time who will perform the audit. This highlights the need to get a Finance Committee up and running as soon as possible.

Mutual Ministry – Jill Underberg

Job descriptions still need to be revised and updated for all positions. Randy will accomplish this with help from various committee chairs.

Stewardship – Kris Laposki

- Kick-off on 10/26 was very successful. We have pledges for \$53,400 as of 10/24.
- Sign-up sheets have been posted for cottage meetings which will be hosted by council members during the first two weeks in November. A volunteer is needed to man the sign-up table for these meetings.

Fellowship – Kris Laposki

- Plans for Kathy Fazio’s baby shower are well underway – a big attendance is expected.
- Thanks to everyone who provided food for the Stewardship Appeal kick-off!

Endowment – Betty Hembrook

Glen Lemmenes of Edward Jones has been consulted concerning our investments. He advised we are doing alright and that church members should be reminded we are investing for the long term. No changes are recommended at this time, as our portfolio is quite conservative.

Property – Van Johnson (absent, but submitted written report)

- Various repair and replacement work has been done in the custodian’s home.
- There is still an odor in the elevator and there is concern that the smell will be absorbed into the ceiling tile. AmeriClaims will be contacted again about this issue.
- A check for \$1,500 was sent to Bob Schaefer Snowplowing for pre-payment of snowplowing services for 2008-09. This will lock in the price at 20 cents per pound of salt.
- Barb Estrada has requested a phone that will ring in her office since Sandy is not always in the church office to forward calls. This is being checked into.

Treasurer's Report – Ruth Rice

Brent was unable to join council to discuss budgeting issues for 2009 due to business travel. He did, however, provide his recommendations for the start up of a Finance Committee as well as a very detailed breakdown of his duties as church treasurer and some options on how church finances could be handled when he retires as Treasurer in a couple of years. Brent will make a budget presentation at the November council meeting. All committees should be alerted that the deadline for budget requests is the second Sunday of November.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Fazio submitted a breakdown of all pastoral acts for 9/24/08 – 10/28/08. His statistical report indicates three members added by baptism (Zoe Johnson, Maggie Jo Aderman, and Olivia Grace Knier) and three members removed by transfer (Chad, Katrina and Tegan Loebel). Other pastoral acts include leading worship/preaching at 10 services; 1 healing service/blessing of prayer shawls; 6 hospital visits; 9 pastoral counseling appointments; 2 home visitations; 4 home/hospital communions; 1 wedding planning session, 1 pre-marriage counseling session; 3 Friday night wedding rehearsals, 3 weddings and 1 Blessing of the Animals service as well as 3 stewardship campaign meetings; 4 Bible studies on the Lutheran Book of Faith Initiative; confirmation classes and committee meetings and Ladies Aid Bible studies on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings as well as continuing participation in the Synodical Task Force/Ministry to Returning Veterans and Families.

Paternity Leave for Pastor Fazio

With the arrival of baby Fazio expected on or about 12/29, Pastor Wilch will be approached about being "on call" for Christmas Eve since we will need an ordained person presiding in order to serve communion. Lay leaders will preside at worship on Christmas Day if necessary. Once the baby is born, Pastor Michael does plan to take off for two Sundays and then resume his duties on a limited basis for approximately one month. During this time, he would be available for emergencies, visitations and Sunday morning worship, but would scale back on attending committee meetings, etc.

Steps for appropriate filing of amendments to WPLC constitution and bylaws

Ruth will contact the Synod office asking for guidelines on submitting changes to the church constitution and by laws which were approved at the semi-annual meeting of the congregation in June 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Rice, Council Secretary



Dear WPLC ladies,

Thanks to all of you who attended my baby shower; it was a wonderful day to share together. Also, thank you for all the generous gifts that were given; our son is going to start with an abundance in more ways than one. Again, thank you for everything; we're excited to experience this journey with all of you.

*God's peace be with you,
Kathy Fazio*

P.S. I received a gift with no card consisting of three things: a onesie with a turquoise sweat shirt, a Beanie Babies dog named "Fletch", and a teddy bear. Thank you for the gift and if you could please contact me so that I can properly thank you.

Social Ministry Update



Social Ministry will again sponsor the

Mitten Tree

project for Hope House. Donations of gloves, scarves and hats for women and men plus warm mittens, scarves and caps for children of all ages. These items are given as Christmas gifts to the residents of Hope House.

So please—check those Christmas sales or get the “needles clicking” to make mittens and load this year’s Mitten Christmas tree down with gifts! Thank you!!

The final tally for the Lutheran World Relief projects completed on October 18th was:

- **134 Dorcas sewn quilts**
- **236 School Kits**

The “Produce Table” donations in exchange for fresh garden vegetables totaled \$462.00! The money was divided among three organizations which supply food to the hungry and promote food security programs in the Greater Milwaukee area, the USA and throughout the world: \$200 for the CROP Walk; \$162 for the Hunger Task Force; \$100 for Feeding America.

A very hearty thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful completion of all these projects!

—Marilyn Schoenleber

Birthdays

- 1 Vickie Katschke
Clayton Olson
David Valleau
- 2 Bradley Metzger
Terry Mittelstaedt
- 3 Jerome Thome
- 4 McKenzie Henneberry
Jolene Krychowiak
Beth Jaeger
- 5 Sean Musha
Shirley Meyer
- 8 Jennine Sonntag
Maria Sparacino
- 9 Lyndsey Dlouhy
- 10 Karen Adams
Wayne Duensing
Connie Honebein
Jake Ringwall
Celia Stollenwerk
Lauren Underberg
Howard Wiegert
- 11 Katherine Ewaskowitz
- 12 Mark Sorvick
- 13 Oscar Sorvick
- 14 Laura Rakow
- 15 Frank Brugger
- 16 Melissa Hoffmann
Kathleen Sonntag
- 17 Linda Duensing
Jessica Mlnarik
Robert Wamser
- 18 Patsy Albrecht
Robert Edmundson
- 19 Heather Hasenstein
- 20 Jessie Kaboskey
Cassidy Stein
- 21 Carl Medeiros
- 22 Crystal Ahles
Sara Kussard
Laurie Sorvick
- 23 Beth Borstad
- 24 Bernice Puls
- 26 Wendi Brugger
- 27 Reg Simpson
- 28 Sharon Kaempfer
Susan Larson
- 29 Sharon Smith
Lynn Stanton
- 30 Mary Ann Barrows
Jessica Heard

- 30 Robert Horcos
Donna Winiarski
- 31 Betty Mattice

Anniversaries

- 2 Gregg & Laurie Sorvick
- 6 Don and Shirle Holt
- 15 Elwood & Marybelle Potter **64**
- 17 Fred & Louise Ludwig **53**
- 27 William & Betty Senft
- 28 Jon & Janine King



Christmas Poinsettias

Help us decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this year. We hope to create the "poinsettia trees" once again but we need at least 54 poinsettias to fill up the space. **Place your orders in the church office by Fri., Dec. 5th.** The cost will be \$10. We ask that you do not remove the poinsettias from the "trees" before Sunday, Dec. 28th...thank you.



Freshly cut Christmas trees will be available at the Stahl-Conrad Homestead, 9724 W. Forest Home Ave., beginning November 29.

Hours will be from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The trees are 6 to 9 feet high. Species are balsam, Fraser, and pine trees. Prices range from \$20 to \$55, depending on size. For more information about Stahl-Conrad or to volunteer to help, call Bette Arey, (414) 425-4608, or WPLC member and Stahl-Conrad board member Ron Noeske, (414) 425-4806.

**Christmas
Cookie Exchange**

Sunday, December 14th-9:30

**Sign up...No later than
Sunday, December 7th**

The final number of participants determines the number of dozens of cookies to bake by each person (all one kind of cookie). Sharon Hause will call you to let you know how many people signed up and how many dozen cookies to bake.

Bake, Tag & Bring...

Please make Christmas-type cookies only...no brownies, fudge, or candy...thank you. **Bake** your cookies (all one kind) and divide them between containers/bags/plates, 1 doz. per container, 1 container for each participant, including yourself. **Tag** the container with your name and the name of the cookie. **Bring** your cookies to church **no later than 9:30 am** on Sunday morning so we may exchange right after 1st service. Join us! It's great holiday fellowship!

**WHITNALL FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
Makes a Second Donation to the
Church Mortgage**

\$5,000 has been donated to WPLC to apply directly toward reducing the principle on the church mortgage. (A previous donation of \$5,000 was given in May 2007.) It is an honor and privilege to serve our church family in this way. "Circle" was able to do this because of a great Spring Rummage and Bake Sale (total income was \$4,926 plus \$700 matching funds from Thrivent).

Hi!

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church is having a Blue Christmas worship on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm with a fellowship after the service. It would be great if you would advertise this service to your congregation. Thanks very much.

Blessings,

Sandy Kestner

Hi!

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church is having a Blue Christmas worship on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm with a fellowship after the service. It would be great if you would advertise this service to your congregation. Thanks very much.

Blessings,

Sandy Kestner

Hi!

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church is having a Blue Christmas worship on Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm with a fellowship after the service. It would be great if you would advertise this service to your congregation. Thanks very much.

Blessings,

Sandy Kestner

December 7 Second Sunday in Advent/Services with Healing

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Ron Sonntag** Acolyte **Jeffrey Johnson**
 Ushers **Ron Hause, Carl Hanson**
 Greeter **Karen Olson**
 Altar Guild **Bernice Sparacino**
- 10:00** Assisting Minister **Ron Labott** Acolyte **Kylie Just**
 Ushers **Sid Arthur, Steve Mason, Ron Noeske**
 Greeter **Kim Mason** Nursery **Danielle Kaboskey**
 Altar Guild **Elaine Johnson**

December 14 Music Sunday/Third Sunday in Advent/Toys for Hope House

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Linda Shea** Acolyte **Georgi Llanas**
 Ushers **John Hembrook, Dorothy Perkl, Don Jensen**
 Greeter **Dorothy Perkl**
 Altar Guild **Evelyn Schubert**
- 10:00** Assisting Minister **Mike Sparacino** Acolyte **Cody Suchla**
 Ushers **Tom Laposki, Brian and Kristi Peyer**
 Greeter **Pat Noeske** Nursery **Heidi Martin**

December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Lou Graef** Acolyte **Erik Fedran**
 Ushers **Jim Gaffney, Duane Hause, Lyle Lance**
 Greeter **Jane Dillon-Perkl**
 Altar Guild **Krista Bainbridge**

10:00 am **Sunday school Christmas program at the 10:00 am worship only**
Youth Group will be serving at this worship

December 24 Christmas Eve

- 6:00 pm** Assisting Minister **Marjorie Pagel** Acolyte *Volunteer*
 Ushers **Linda and Jim Shea, Jerry Pagel**
 Greeter **Dolores Porath**
 Altar Guild **Marilyn King**
- 10:00 pm** Assisting Minister **Tom Laposki** Acolyte **Jenna Laposki**
 Ushers **Jerome Thome Larry Pfeil**
 Greeter **Corrin Laposki**
 Altar Guild **Evelyn Schubert**

December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

- 10:00** Assisting Minister **Jane Dillon-Perkl** Acolyte *Volunteer*
 Ushers **Ken Perkl, Don Jensen, Duane Hause**
 Greeters **Sharon Hause**

December 28

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Lou Graef** Acolyte **Heather Hasenstein**
 Ushers **Jim Gaffney, Duane Hause, Lyle Lance**
 Greeter **Evelyn Schubert**
- 10:00** Assisting Minister **Kim Mason** Acolyte **Jessica Fedran**
 Ushers **Jerry Pagel, Jerome Thome, Walter Sievert**
 Greeter **Nancy Sherman** Nursery **Kathy Ross**
 Altar Guild **Pat Noeske**

**From M.E., Kelly Brown
Minister of Education**

We will be having our annual Christmas toy collection, with donations going to Hope House. **We will be collecting from November 23rd - December 14th.** We will be collecting gifts for boys and girls of all ages. Donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, bows and tape would also be greatly appreciated. The "Toy Box" will be located in Hornburg Hall. The congregation is invited to join us in this Toy Drive.

Our Sunday school **Christmas program will be held during the 10:00 am. service on December 21st.** The youth group will be sponsoring refreshments and fellowship downstairs in Hornburg Hall following the program.

We are looking for substitute teachers. In the event that a Sunday school teacher is sick or is unable to teach, we would like to have someone that can step in and take their place. If you are interested or know of someone that is, please let me know.

Reminder: December 28th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - We will meet again **January 4th**

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness

To an opponent, tolerance

To a friend, your heart

To a customer, service

To all, charity

To every child, a good example

To yourself, respect

JUST 4 YOUTH!

A Huge Thank You to everyone who participated in the Cookie Dough fundraiser. Many donated dough which the Youth Group is baking up for our WPLC shut-ins and for Luther Manor in the month of December.

—Kathy Graef

Youth Group December Activities:

December 5th Cookie Dough Arrives

December 6th Cookie dough sorting for distribution and Cookie Baking for WPLC shut-in's and Luther Manor – 10 AM to 2 PM.

December 7th 8AM-11AM Cookie dough distribution to congregation
7 PM Youth Group Christmas Party – everyone should bring a White Elephant Gift to Exchange!

December 14th 8AM-11AM Youth Group is sponsoring the refreshments for WPLC Senior Choir & God's Young Voices Christmas Concert - **before and after both services – come and enjoy fellowship and the beautiful music!**

December 21st 9AM-11AM Youth Group to assist with Sunday School Christmas Worship. We will provide, refreshments and fellowship, after the program in Hornburg Hall.





*December 17th
7:00 pm at
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church, ELCA
5847 Lilac Lane
Hales Corners
(105th & Forest Home Ave.)
414-425-1169*

*From Darkness. . . to the Light of Christ'
A Service for Healing*

Christmas is the happiest time of year or is it. . . . ?

A Service of Healing for people who are experiencing grief. . .

Loss of a relationship.

Loss of a job.

Loss of health. . . .

Bring a friend, join us for worship and fellowship.

Refreshments will be served following worship.

*From the Pastor**Dear friends in Christ,*

Can you believe that the season of Advent is upon us already? As I get older, time seems to be moving faster and faster, and life seems to be getting busier than ever (and from what you who are already parents have been telling me, I can't imagine the kind of busy Kathy and I are about to experience). Now, with Christmas right around the corner, the world of sales and marketing are telling us that we need to become even busier so we don't miss out on the latest and greatest toy, game or sporting good item. It's all too easy to get caught up in the hype of the season and lose sight of why we're celebrating to begin with.

One way that we can slow ourselves down in the midst of the ensuing chaos is to simply focus on being present in the moment and pay attention to our surroundings. I've been noticing various changes going on in the stores around town; they're looking greener with the presence of Christmas trees and even smelling more like the holiday season with the scents of cinnamon and hot apple cider. Soon, our church too will take on a different appearance with the Advent season. For me, seeing the Advent wreath, and all that it symbolizes to us as Christians, is an excellent reminder to slow down and pay attention.

The Advent wreath, like most symbols has an interesting history. It first developed in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People of that region sought the return of the sun during the darkest time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. Then, as early as the Middle Ages, Christians adopted the use of candles and began using fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the glorious return of our Lord. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Christ, and the unending reign of God. The evergreens became a sign of the faithfulness of God to His people, even unto death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ that has come into the world.

The wreath is outfitted with five candles, one being lit each week as a way of preparing for the coming of the Messiah. Week after week we will light one more candle as our anticipation of the mystery and wonder of Christmas grows. The four candles represent our hope, peace, love, and joy that are present in Christ, and at the center of the wreath stands the candle representing Jesus himself, which will be lit on Christmas Eve in commemoration of his miraculous birth in Bethlehem.

As we go about our daily lives this Advent season, we will surely from time to time get caught up in life's business. That's why we need to be encouraged all the more to take the time as often as possible to be still, realize the true nature of Advent and Christmas, and notice His wonderful presence in our midst. Life does move quickly; let's not fail to notice the miracle as we're planning our next events.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael