

# December Calendar of Events

December 5	Services with Healing
December 7	Grief/Share Group at 7:00 pm
December 12	ADVENT Music Sunday
December 12	Cookie Exchange at 9:30 am
December 14	Grief/Share Group at 7:00 pm
December 15	BLUE CHRISTMAS Worship at 7:00 pm
December 16	Love Lights ceremony at Luther Manor at 4:30 pm
December 18	Sunday school program rehearsal at 9:00 am
December 19	Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:15 am
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 pm & 10:00 pm
December 25	Christmas Day Worship at 10:15 am
December 26	One worship service—10:15 am

- Please bring non-perishable food for Hope House on Sundays
- Please bring your aluminum cans and Campbell labels on the second Sunday, **December 12th, ONLY.**
- Dorcas Circle meets Tuesdays at 9:00 am.
- Sunday School at 10:15 am—meets in church Sunday, December 12th.
- God's Young Voices—meets Sundays at 9:40 am.
- Senior Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm.
- Health and Wellness no meeting in December.
- Worship & Music meets Tuesday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm
- Good News Bible Study meets Tuesday, December 8th at 11:30 am.
- OWLS meet on Thursday, December 9th, at 8:30 am at Forum Restaurant
- Property committee meeting Tuesday, December 14th, at 6:30 pm.
- Christian Education meeting Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00 pm
- Evening Bible Study meets Thursday, December 16, 7:00 pm.
- Friends meet Tuesday, December 28th at 9:30 am.
- Parish Nurse, Barb Estrada is here on Wednesday mornings but not December 15th she will be here on the Friday, December 17th of that week



## Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange

Will be held on **Sunday, December 12th**—same day as the Choirs Christmas Music Sunday. We will exchange cookies in the Library at 9:30 am. Please sign up on the kiosk in Hornburg Hall, or call Sharon Hause—262-679-2161. Example for cookie exchange: 7 participants, each participant bakes 7 dozen of one kind of Christmas cookie (no bars, brownies, candies, choc chip or peanut butter); keep 1 doz. for yourself and bring 6 doz. to exchange. Please bring cookies already packaged.



## Eleven Perfect Ways to Achieve A Perfectly Miserable Holiday Season

Any of these will be sufficient to severely restrict your holiday pleasure. Combine two or three of them and you are virtually guaranteed a perfectly miserable holiday season!

- Futuring: Sacrificing all enjoyment here and now, while “getting ready.”
- Good Feelings = Quality + Perfection: Accepting nothing less than a perfectly executed extravaganza.
- Orchestrating other peoples celebrations: Whether they want you to or not.
- Believing there are “right” ways to behave and feel: Feeling or behaving any other way is defined as failure.
- Trying to fix other people's feelings: Turning them into the “right” ones.
- Turning it into a competitive event which you must win: Giving the best gifts or parties, making the most cookies, etc.
- Overextending yourself financially: To “win” or to assuage guilt.
- Denying your own feelings: Putting on your “*Holiday Glow Mask*” even when you feel empty.
- Allow the media to influence your expectations: Believing all the claims, buying all the goods.
- Buying into the “togetherness” myth: Insisting on wall-to-wall people, day after day, attending every party or function you may be invited to.
- Pasting: Immersing yourself in mourning for “*the way it used to be.*”

I hope that this list will help all of us have better insights into our holiday planning and that we take time to enjoy all of the blessed and wonderful people that surround us everyday.

Please don't forget to attend WPLC's **Blue Christmas Service** on Wednesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This service is designed for anyone, but especially those of us that may be dealing with grief, illness, depression or other mental illness, a loss of a job or other relationships. Our challenge is to listen to our bodies, our minds and our spirits, discern what it is telling us, and find ways to healing and wholeness. This service may

help us deal with all of these emotions and through grace, help us to move forward.

God's blessings on all of you.

Barb Estrada, RN, PN

## Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plans

It's that time of year again...to start checking up on your Medicare Part D Insurance choices.

Many plans are changing their premiums, deductibles and formularies. Because of those changes, another plan may be more beneficial to you. You can change your plan yearly during the enrollment period without penalty. The enrollment period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 31. The 2011 plan information is available after Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). I would be glad to help you access this web site to research the plans that are available. Please call me at WPLC or Luther Manor to set up a time. Be sure to bring along the names and dosage information of all of the prescription medications that you are currently taking.

Barb Estrada, RN, PN

The *Luther Manor Auxiliary* will be holding their



**Love  
Lights  
at Luther  
Manor**

first annual "*Love Lights*" fundraising event. A special tree in front of Luther Manor has been selected to be decorated with "*Love Lights*" for the Christmas season. These lights will only be lit with your help. Just a \$5 contribution will light one light or \$100 will light an entire string! Please consider contributing \$10 for two lights in memory of your parents, or \$100 for a string of lights in honor of

a program at Luther Manor that was helpful to you or a family member. To complete your participation in "*Love Lights*", please come to **the tree lighting on Thursday, Dec. 16** at the Luther Manor Welcome Center **from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be served.

**PRAYER CHAIN MEMBERS:** When you receive a prayer request, please write it down. Sometimes prayers are not being passed on correctly.

Also, if you cannot reach the person you usually call, please call the next one on the list and then get back to the person you usually call. If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you all for your help.

June Jensen

## Condensed Council minutes from September 28th, 2010

Members in Attendance: Betty Hembrook, Van Johnson, Kurt Kaempfer, Jennine Sonntag, Donna Winiarski, Lou Graef, Sandy Sannes, Jill Underberg and Pastor Michael Fazio.

**Agenda Review:** A discussion of e-banking will be added to Treasurer's Report.

### **Treasurer's Report – Donna Winiarski:**

A. **New Accounting System:** The e-banking system is set up for the general fund only so far. Donna has access to it. We would like to start automatic bill payments for most of our regular bills. We have started to get reports from Nolan. The council should have a report showing current numbers. Transition has been more difficult than anticipated. Kelly Sorvick interfaces with Nolan and is doing an audit of the payroll records.

B. **Parking Lot:** We have \$25,000 to go to pay off the parking lot. We paid \$5,000 back to our benefactor. August was a busy month with fundraisers so we have made additional funds that aren't reflected in the \$25,000 figure.

C. **Building Fund:** There was \$16,893.49 in the building fund as of July 31, 2010.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor just returned from the two-day Greater Milwaukee Synod Theological Conference. There is an issue with the copy machine. To repair or replace the part that is malfunctioning will cost nearly the same price. It will cost \$650 to buy a new part. ***Motion made and carried*** to purchase a new part for the copy machine. Our Ministry Fair will take place on Sunday, October 24.

**Vacation Request:** Pastor would like to take next Sunday, October 3, off. Everything is covered. We're already planning to have a "Food for the Poor" representative here to give the message. Kraig Sorvick was already scheduled to be Assisting Minister at one of the services, but has agreed to take a more active role and offered to participate in both services.

**"Thrivent Choice Program"** – Thrivent has changed its contribution program. Thrivent will donate a small percentage of the money in your account (insurance or annuity) to an entity of your choice. Lou Graef arranged with Thrivent to add WPLC as a choice entity.

**AIM/DCE Status:** A second resume has come in. Pastor met a potential candidate at the Theological Conference who has expressed some interest in the position.

**Third-Grade Bibles:** All kids from third-grade and up got upgraded bibles (the new Spark Bibles, designed for use by kids). The Friendship Circle donated funds to help with this purchase.

**Pastor Fazio submitted a breakdown of all pastoral acts between 8/24/10 and 9/28/10 including:** led worship and preached at 10 services; two hospital visits; six pastoral

counseling appointments; two home visitations; six home/hospital communions; 37 pastoral phone calls; led Thursday evening Bible Study and Wednesday afternoon Bible studies; one healing service; Pre-Marriage counseling with Bob and Kristin Myrah; Pre-Marriage counseling with Chris and Amy Bauer – September 14; Wedding Rehearsal – September 17; Wedding – Ricky and Krysta Abramowski, September 18; Internment – cremated remains of Tim Robinson, September 1; Funeral – Ruth Muckerheide, August 27.

**Other activities for this time period include:** book group, "The Purple Culture, September 13; attended meetings of Worship and Music and Finance Committee; Green Corners ecumenical meeting, September 8; Rally Sunday, September 12; third-grade Bible distribution, September 12; installation of Sunday School teachers, September 12; acolyte training, September 12; church picnic, September 19; confirmation classes begin, September 26; Cluster III Pastor's Pericope Studies – Tuesdays at Noon; Veterans Task Force Meetings; GMS Theological Conference, September 26-28;

**Other WPLC business Pastor was involved with during this time period included:** continuing the process of changing financial accounting practices at WPLC; continuing the process of seeking to increase staff by hiring a Director of Christian Education.

**Upcoming activities include:** "Reg Simpson Memorial" Blessing of Animals service, Saturday, October 2; Food for the Poor presentation, October 3; CROP Walk, with confirmation class, October 10; Bauer/Stremke wedding, October 9; Kranzusch/Myrah wedding, October 16; entombment, Barb Nelson, October 16; polka service, October 17; book group, "The Unlikely Disciple", October 18; ministry fair, October 24; Reformation Sunday, October 31.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Endowment – Betty Hembrook and Kurt Kaempfer**

The Endowment Fund issued a check in the amount of \$5,000 to WPLC, representing the second, and last, installment of the \$10,000 commitment for 2010 toward reducing the principal balance of the mortgage. Discussion about the DCE position and funding by the Endowment Fund – a request for a sum certain has not been requested because the candidate has not yet been selected. Pastor has asked the Endowment Fund to contribute \$10,000, which would match the \$10,000 that a WPLC member has committed to because Pastor believes that a half-time AIM/DCE would cost approximately \$20,000. However, we will not know what the exact salary will be until a candidate is selected and we get to the point of making an offer. The Endowment Committee should schedule a meeting to vote on a sum of money that it will be willing to approve.

*Continue on page 5*

**Continued from page 4****Finance – Van Johnson**

Most of the finance report was covered in the Treasurer's Report. Anyone who is going to purchase anything must fill out a written request. The forms are available in the church office near the copy machine. The person writing the checks needs to know which committee is being charged. Donna and Van will draft a policy statement respecting approval of expenditures, e.g. what sum of money requires a slip and approval by a committee chair. Discussion of having a strategic planning session to discuss and plan for future needs (i.e. physical plant).

**Fellowship – Sandy Sannes**

The congregational picnic was held on Sunday, September 19. There were 121 adults and 38 children in attendance. Offerings included fantastic food, exciting raffle, a bounce house and a televised Packer game. Something for everyone. Profits from the picnic came to \$1,134 which will be distributed to Hope House, WPLC's Helping Hands Fund and the Marilyn Schoenleber Food Drive. The cookbook project is coming along as planned and will be available at the beginning of December. The cookbook project is a fund raiser for the parking lot.

**Health and Wellness – Jill Underberg**

A representative from Lifeline Screening will be at WPLC on October 10 to answer questions. Kathy Sonntag baked 14 birthday cakes for shut-ins. They will be kept frozen and defrosted and decorated as they are needed.

**Worship and Music – Donna Winiarski**

Following are upcoming special days: Commitment Sunday, November 14; choir concert, December 12; Sunday School Christmas program, December 19; on Sunday, December 26, there will be one service at 10:15 a.m. with lessons and carols. Pastor and Ralph have discussed that the microphone is interfering with emergency frequencies. They will work to correct this issue.

**Property – Van Johnson**

The front door (parking lot entrance) will be repaired. We would also like to replace the three water heaters with tankless water heaters. We have rusting problems with our sign. The sign company will take the sign to remove the rust.

**Stewardship – Sandy Sannes**

2011 envelopes have been ordered. We will do a survey to see if people would like to have electronic giving. The cost is \$29/month and 20 cents/transaction = \$348/year plus transaction costs.

Betty will investigate the costs of "scribble sheets" to keep in the pews for kids to use while in church.

**Social Ministry**

There is a \$114 balance from coffee hour collections. We have collected enough supplies for 400 school kits. Balance from garden produce table is \$367 which goes to food for the poor. There is an ongoing collection of non-perishable food for Hope House.

**Old Business**

**Scheduling of Annual Congregational meetings** – This meeting will be held on February 6, 2011.

**Constitution/By-Laws Changes** – We need to make the appropriate changes so that we are electing new council members in February in order to start new terms in March, 2011. Lou and Betty will work on a draft of modifications to the Constitution and By-Laws in anticipation of the Congregational Meeting to reflect this change and so it can be voted on.

**Memorial** – Audrey Grafwallner would like the stained glass window to be made by Conrad Schmitz in New Berlin. She would like a silhouette of Moses holding the Bible.

**Memorial Wish List** – We would like to put a wish list together for items that can be donated via memorials. We will invite the congregation to add to the wish list.

**Mission Statement** – Tabled because of the late hour.

**New Business**

**Council recruitment for 2011** – We will place announcements stating that we will be looking for new council members to elect at the February 6, 2011 meeting. If people are interested, they should talk to Pastor, Lou or Betty.

The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2010.

Submitted by Jennine Sonntag, Council Secretary.



## Birthdays

1	Vickie Katschke		Jake Ringwall	24	Bernice Puls
	Clayton Olson		Celia Stollenwerk	26	Wendi Brugger
	David Valleau	11	Lauren Underberg		Matthew Fazio
2	Bradley Metzger		Howard Wiegert	28	Sharon Kaempfer
	Terry Mittelstaedt	12	Katherine Ewaskowitz		Susan Larson
	Westley Paremski	13	Holly Skubal	29	Sharon Smith
3	Jerome Thome	14	Mark Sorvick		Athylia Paremski
4	McKenzie Henneberry	15	Oscar Sorvick	30	Lynn Stanton
	Beth Jaeger	16	Neil Prescott		Mary Ann Barrows
	Jolene Krychowiak		Laura Rakow	30	Jessica Heard
5	Shirley Meyer	17	Frank Brugger	30	Robert Horcos
	Sean Musha		Melissa Hoffmann		Donna Winiarski
8	LaVerne Keske	18	Kathleen Sonntag	31	Betty Mattice
	Jennine Sonntag	19	Linda Duensing		
	Maria Sparacino		Jessica Mlnarik		
9	Lyndsey Dlouhy	20	Robert Edmundson		
	Elizabeth Skubal	21	Heather Hasenstein		
10	Karen Adams	22	Jessie Kaboskey		
	Wayne Duensing		Kelly Prescott		
	Connie Honebein	23	Cassidy Stein		
			Carl Medeiros		
			Crystal Ahles		
			Sara Kussard		
			Laurie Sorvick		
			Beth Borstad		

## Anniversaries

2	Gregg & Laurie Sorvick
6	Don and Shirle Holt
15	Elwood & Marybelle Potter <b>66</b>
17	Fred & Louise Ludwig <b>55</b>
27	William & Betty Senft <b>53</b>
28	Jon & Janine King

### *Fall clean up was held on October 23rd.*

For the 3rd year in a row we've had bad weather. Thank you to those who "shed the water off your back" to complete trimming the shrubs. The inside crew cleaned cupboards, refrigerators, patched walls, dusted and vacuumed. We had a great turn out. **THANK YOU** to all who helped.

Old Glory shines brightly once again. **Thanks to Patti and Terry Sparacino who donated a brand new flag.**

### **PARKING LOT FUND DRIVE**

Our new cookbooks are "flying off the shelf". Sales have been tremendous. We still have our ongoing campaign if you wish to make a monetary donation. Envelopes can be found in Hornburg Hall. Please put your name and envelope number on the envelope and place them in the offering plate. Donations are credited on your annual statement. Thank you to all for your support.

### **COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!**

#### *Favorite Family Treasures—Then & Now*

Our new cookbooks are on sale now with over 200 books already sold! Thank you to everyone for your positive comments—we are very pleased with them. **They will make wonderful Christmas gifts!** Sentry Foods in Hales Corners has been very gracious to allow us to sell cookbooks at their store on Saturday, Nov. 20th. If anyone has an idea of other "outlets" to sell our cookbook, please contact either Sharon Hause or Pat Suderland.

Note: We mistakenly misspelled a name in the book—Jennine Sonntag-Stollenwerk's correct name is Jennine Sonntag. We are very sorry for this error.



Everyone is welcome to come and decorate the church for Christmas—  
**Friday, December 10th—  
8:30 am**

**THANK YOU!** ...for your support of our Wreath and Evergreen sale this season. Happy Holidays! —  
*Whitnall Friendship Circle*

## Social Ministry Update:



The Social Ministry Committee will again sponsor the *Mitten Tree* project for Hope House. Donations of gloves, scarves, and hats for men and women plus warm mittens, scarves, and caps for children of all ages are needed. 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, scarves, and caps and load this year's Mitten Christmas Tree down with gifts! Thank you!

### HOPE HOUSE

Non-perishable food items can be brought in any Sunday for the Southside Food Pantry at Hope House. All items will be delivered right before Christmas.

### FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE TABLE

This year's Fresh Garden Produce Table was a great success. As of November 7th \$450.65 was raised. The money will be split evenly between the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Milwaukee's Hunger Task Force. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide about \$250 in matching funds, also to be split equally. Thanks to everyone who brought in garden produce and everyone who donated. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the bounty and is looking forward to next spring's first spinach.



### Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

Thanks to everyone who participated in Whitnall Park's 2010 CROP Walk project. Whitnall Park had thirty-two walkers, including members of the Confirmation class, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon,

October 10th. The walkers, twenty-nine of whom are in photo on the kiosk in Hornburg Hall, are as follows: Mitchell Cowman; Pastor Michael and Katayoun Fazio and two young sons; Brittney, Kirsten, McKenzie, Tricia, and Tyler Henneberry; Alyssa, Amy, and Jessie Kaboskey; Melody King; Amber, Heidi, and Kaitlyn Martin; Gerald and Marjorie Pagel; Sharon Robinson, Bret Hooyman, Manie Robinson, and Makaela Grooms; Michelle Rubenzer; Dorothy Saari; Andrew, Sarah, and Susan Schlueter; Charles Schoenleber; Maria Sparacino; and Jill and Maddison Underberg

As part of the CROP Walk, Whitnall Park collected one small bag of non-perishable food items for the Hunger Task Force on the Sunday of the walk. On November 8th, \$1,607.50 was taken to the Milwaukee CROP Walk Office. Of that total, \$82.50 came from the September and October Coffee Hours sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee and \$720 was designated to go to Lutheran World Relief in memory of Marilyn Schoenleber to pay for the shipping of quilts and school kits from the New Windsor, Maryland, warehouse to where they are needed.

Whitnall Park raised enough money to receive all \$800 in matching funds promised by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Thrivent matched each two dollars raised with an additional dollar. The matching grant means that \$1,080 will go to Lutheran World Relief and \$1,327.50 will fund the programs of Church World Service. Up to 25% of the CWS money will stay locally and will be used to support the anti-poverty advocacy work of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. The remaining CWS money will help provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs--something CWS has learned through some 64 years of working in partnership around the world. And one of Church World Service's close partners and collaborators is Lutheran World Relief, to which Whitnall Park has contributed quilts for 18 years and school kits for 10 years. Everyone in Whitnall Park can be proud of what has been accomplished over the years and resolve to do more in the future to meet the very desperate needs of the poor and hungry, disaster victims, and refugees throughout the world.

**December 5 Second Sunday in Advent/Services with Healing**

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Ron Sonntag** Acolyte **Andrew Schlueter**  
 Ushers **Ron Hause, Carl Hanson**  
 Greeter **Shirley Meyer**  
 Altar Guild **Evelyn Schubert**
- 10:15** Assisting Minister **Ron Labott** Acolyte **Melanie Saari**  
 Ushers **Greg Saari, Paul Saari, Ron Noeske**  
 Greeter **Charlotte MacPherson** Nursery **Becky Sorvick**  
 Altar Guild **Dorothy Saari**

**December 12 ADVENT Music Sunday/Third Sunday in Advent/Toys for Hope House**

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Kristin Martens** Acolyte **Sarah Schlueter**  
 Ushers **John Hembrook, Ken Perkl, Jerrijo Cowman**  
 Greeter **Dorothy Perkl**  
 Altar Guild **Pat Suderland**
- 10:15** Assisting Minister **Mike Sparacino** Acolyte **Maddison Underberg**  
 Ushers **Tom Laposki, Brian and Kristi Peyer**  
 Greeter **Pat Noeske** Nursery **Jill Underberg**

**December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent**

- 8:30** Assisting Minister **Lou Graef** Acolyte **Jim Shea**  
 Ushers **Jim & Linda Shea**  
 Greeter **Jane Dillon-Perkl**  
 Altar Guild **Jerrijo Cowman**

**10:15 am Sunday school Christmas program at the 10:15 am worship only**  
**Sunday school will be serving at this worship**

- Acolyte **Lucas Hoffman**  
 Nursery **Kelly Lynch**

**December 24 Christmas Eve**

- 6:00 pm** Assisting Minister **Linda Shea** Acolyte **Maddison Underberg**  
 Ushers **Jim Shea, Ron Hause, Carl Hanson**  
 Greeter **Dolores Porath**  
 Altar Guild **Jim & Linda Shea**
- 10:00 pm** Assisting Minister Acolyte **Mitchell Cowman**  
 Ushers **Jerome Thome Larry Pfeil,**  
 Greeter **Laposki family**  
 Altar Guild **Marilyn Medeiros**

**December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

- 10:15** Assisting Minister **Marjorie Pagel** Acolyte **Volunteer**  
 Ushers **Ron Hause, Duane Hause, Jerry Pagel**  
 Greeter **Sharon Hause**  
 Altar Guild **Sandy Abraham**

**December 26**

- 10:15** Assisting Minister **Jane Dillon-Perkl** Acolyte **Volunteer**  
 Ushers **Jerome Thome, Ken Perkl, Walter Sievert, Ron Noeske**  
 Greeter **Pat Noeske** Nursery **Heidi Bukowski**

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

The holidays (yes, the holidays) are fast approaching and so are some great activities:

During the upcoming holiday season, we will be continuing a long standing tradition and collecting toys for Hope House.

For those who wish to contribute, unwrapped toys for all ages and price ranges will happily be accepted. Donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, and bows would also be appreciated. Donated items can be placed in the TOY BOX upstairs in Hornburg Hall from November 21st through December 12th. For those Sunday school children that wish to participate, we ask that they bring an unwrapped toy appropriate for their age and gender.

Our Sunday school Christmas worship service will be held on December 19th during second service. We invite those people who do not have children in Sunday school to also COME AND ENJOY! The program. Join us for fellowship following the Christmas program downstairs in Hibbard Hall. The Sunday school children will have practice at church on Saturday, December 18th from 9:00 am—12:00. Donations of cookies and treats would be greatly appreciated.

Thanksgiving holiday trivia:

The first Thanksgiving in 1621 was believed to have lasted three days.

The word TURKEY is said to come from the Hebrew word "Tukki" which means big bird.





The first Macy's Thanksgiving parade took place in 1924.

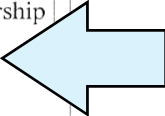
Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



# December 2010

## *Whitnall Park Lutheran Church*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Parish Nurse 7:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor's day off.	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM WORSHIP 9:40 AM God's Young Voices 10:15 AM Sunday school 11:30 AM Confir- mation Class Services with Healing	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Dartball League	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Dorcas 12:30 PM Sit 'n Be Fit 1:00 PM Knit- ting & Crocheting 7:00 PM Christian Ed meeting 7:00 PM Grief/Share Group LEAF is due	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Parish Nurse 11:30 AM Good News Bible Study 7:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>9</b> 8:30 AM OWLS meet at the Forum	<b>10</b> Pastor's day off.	<b>11</b> Sunday school meets in church tomorr- ow at 10:15 am
<b>12</b> 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM WORSHIP 9:40 AM God's Young Voices 10:15 AM Sunday school ADVENT MUSIC Sunday	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Dartball League	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Dorcas 12:30 PM Sit 'n Be Fit 1:00 PM Knit- ting & Crocheting 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Grief/Share Group 7:00 PM Worship & Music	<b>15</b>  7:00 PM BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 8:00 PM Senior Choir	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Assemble the LEAF 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Parish Nurse Pastor's day off.	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday school program rehearsal
<b>19</b> 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM WORSHIP 9:40 AM God's Young Voices 10:15 AM Sunday school Christmas Program 11:30 AM Confir- mation Class	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Dartball League	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Dorcas 1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Parish Nurse 7:30 PM Senior Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  6:00 PM - 10:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Office is closed	<b>25</b> 10:15 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
<b>26</b> 10:15 AM One Worship Service	<b>27</b> Office is closed	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Friends Meeting 1:00 PM Knitting & Crocheting 7:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Parish Nurse	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE -Have a safe, healthy and happy New Year Office is closed	





*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

It hardly seems like we're approaching December and the season of hopeful anticipation: Advent. As I write this article, the expected high temperature for the day is going to be 63 degrees and I find myself thinking more about getting my leaves raked up than the birth of our Savior. But the fact remains; we are rapidly heading into the holiday season and the wonder and mystery that it all entails. Let us prepare ourselves for what's coming our way this blessed season.

One popular Christian author and a very creative, insightful man is Max Lucado...he has written a whole host of books and articles on Jesus, faith and our lives as believers. As we approach this wonderful Christmas season, I wanted to expose you to some of Max's words on Christmas and his approach to the impact that a baby's birth has on all of humanity. Enjoy!

### Christmas Every Day

By Max Lucado

**“Sing praises to the LORD...Tell the nations what he has done.”** Psalm 9:11

*You have Christmas every day. Your gift bears not toys and books, but God himself!*

*His work: on the cross and in the resurrection. As a result, your sin brings no guilt, and the grave brings no fear.*

*His energy: it's not up to you. You can do all things through Christ, who gives you strength.*

*His lordship: he is in charge of you and looks out for you.*

*His love: what can separate you from it?*

*Who could imagine such gifts? Who could imagine not opening them?*

### It Began in a Manger (Christmas)

By Max Lucado

*Curious, this royal throne room. No tapestries covering the windows. No velvet garments on the courtesans. And, instead of a golden scepter, the king holds a crudely whittled olive-wood rattle.*

*Curious, the sounds in the court. Cows munching, hooves crunching, a mother humming, a babe nursing.*

*It could have begun anywhere, the story of the king. But, curiously, it began in a manger. Step into the doorway, peek through the window.*

*He is here!*

God's Peace and Blessings be with you this Christmas Season,  
Pr. Michael