

BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY NEWS

December 13-19, 2009

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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Only 11 more shopping days until Christmas! I have heard people begin their Christmas lament by saying, "Those gifts ain't gonna buy themselves, you know!" How many times have we heard the messages; "Hurry up, don't be left out, you have to buy something right here, right now!" It really is enough to drive any reasonable person crazy. So, truthfully, what do you think of when you think of Christmas? Sometimes the word conjures up only the negative consumer driven overindulgence of our culture. The problem comes when the trappings of the way we celebrate Christmas so surrounds us that it pushes Christ out of Christmas.

We live in a culture that struggles to remember that Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth. In so many ways we act as if Christmas begins in October. We suffer when we allow this world to take something so sacred and turn it upside down.

This season is called Christmas because it is named for our Christ the Lord, who was born of a virgin mother, Mary. The only Son of God came down to this lowly earth, as a baby, to grow from child to adult, to heal, to love and especially, to save us. God became man and walked this earth, feeling as we do, tempted as we are, breathing as we do; loving everyone he met with unconditional kindness as we ought to. So what happened? Why do we allow this sacred season, the remembering of the birth of Jesus, that unique divine human, be high jacked by our culture?

My prayer for me and my family, my prayer for you and your family is for this: a simple Christmas. A Christmas that will reconnect the celebration of Christmas with the person of Christ. Christ spent His life fulfilling God's promise to send someone to save us. He lived with and loved those around Him at every opportunity He had. He told us how He would look at our lives when He returns in power. Matthew 25:40 ... 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

This Christmas my prayer for us is that we look at the blessings God has given of life and salvation and that we find bold and beautiful ways to share those blessings with those that need His love, given through each of us.

In Him, **Pastor Hass**

In Your Prayers, please include:

Our Members: Bill Brauer, Georgia Roy, Becca Ollek, Dave Schurman, Les Gatchel, Pauline Grote, Judy Anderson, Gerry Rath, Elaine Schurman

Condolences: Vern & Diane Howard at the loss of Vern's brother, Charles

Missions: Rev. Ted & Jacqueline Englebrecht and Yung Ting; Pastor J. P. Cima in Viet Nam; Salem Lutheran-Springdale; Village Baptist Church; Korean School Ministry

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR at 9:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School—ages 2 up to middle school will meet in Classroom A; middle to high school meet in the Library.

Adult Sunday School—Regular scheduled Adult Bible Classes will not meet today. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to hear missionary **Sharon Owens** report on changes & growth in mission work in Macau.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please call Aletha Dammann at 855-6739 or the church office at 855-0272 with information for the Prayer Chain.

THANK YOU

Yes, we believe in ANGELS. They belong to the Bella Vista Lutheran Church! We appreciate all of you. The Samaritan team which cleaned up our yard, cleaned our gutters and many other things, the angels that sat with us for 9 hours for Bill's surgery, the many cards, well wishes, taking me out to lunch during the many days that Bill was in the hospital, and the many offers of "can I help you in any way?", Pastor Hass and all the other angels who visited us. Words are not enough to say thanks to each of you for all that you did!! We felt the many prayers that went to our Father in Heaven. Bill is at home recovering. Thanks be to God and our church home. We so appreciate each of our ANGELS.
Bill & Mary Brauer

BVLC family, what a blessing you are! Sue and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, visits, and calls while I was in the hospital and rehab in November; they were uplifting and encouraging. My outpatient rehab is going well and should be done soon. Thank you and God's blessings to each one of you. Merry Christmas!
Jerry Odell

What a delightful surprise to read the long list of names of our Bella Vista friends. I've been overwhelmed with all the cards and especially the prayers from so many people as there wasn't much warning before the cancer took over. We pray that God will bless and keep all of you healthy and safe.
Joan Willman

A special thank you to the ladies who helped clear and pack my Advent by Candlelight table.
Donna Henning

CONGRATULATIONS to Cheryl Cardin who will be the new Welcome Center Greeters' Team Leader as of January 1, 2010. In the meantime, Cheryl will be working with Lorna Sperr

The last week to drop off tennis shoes for Mexico is the week of December 20th.

Secret Sisters Gathering is December 17th at 5:42 p.m. If you are not able to attend, please call Bev at 855-1464.

SWAP Service Project!

On Wednesday, January 6, from 9:30 – 3:00 we invite anyone who has ever stamped- or is interested in learning to stamp- to join us in the fellowship hall for a service project. January is the month for BVLC to deliver Meals on Wheels and we are going to make cards to go out with the meals. This is a great opportunity for those of you who have expressed an interest in making cards but don't want to make them for our 'for sale' cards! Supplies are provided and you can come anytime during the day and stay as long as you wish to work. Join the fun and fellowship as we create some smiles to be delivered with the meals! Contact Pam Benson, Nona Sperry or Helen Weeks with questions.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The meeting for Meals on Wheels drivers will be held on Dec. 20th and Dec. 27th between services. Please plan to attend one of these meetings. Call Irma Miesbach 855-7923 or Muriel Albers 855-9781 with any questions.

THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE

December 6, 2009

Worship	8:30 a.m.	213
	10:45 a.m.	61
Projected for December Budget		\$39,477.00
Received to date		\$14,588.25
Balance needed for December		\$24,888.75

- Dec. 14 Sally Pfluger and Lorna Sperl
- Dec. 21 Bob and Shirley Mierendorf
- Dec. 27 Irma and Arlo Miesbach

THE LORD'S WEEK
December 13-19, 2009

Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Divine Worship**
- 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour
Blood Pressure Screening
Sharon Owens—Macau Presentation
- 10:45 a.m. Praise Worship w/communion**
- 11:30 a.m. Singles Potluck—FH
- 4:00 p.m. Handel's Messiah—Arends Art Center

Monday

- 9:00 a.m. JOY I—Kathy Wilkins
- 1:30 p.m. JOY IIA—Barb Roseen
JOY IIB—Shirley Emling
JOY IIC—Mary Lou Zuhlke
Men's Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry

Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. JOY IIIC—Lora Rollings
- 9– 12 Noon Granny's Quilts Brunch—FH
- 11:00 a.m. JOY IIIA—Rubaei
- 1:30 p.m. JOY IV—Samaritan House

Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. Pray—ers
- 11:00 a.m. JOY VB—Rubaei
- 1:30 p.m. JOY VA—Church
- 5:30 p.m. Parent's Night Out
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Service**

Thursday

- 9:00 a.m. Friendly Stitchers
Sonshiners
- 12:30 p.m. Bridge
- 2:30 p.m. Highland Rehab.
- 5:42 p.m. Secret Sisters Gathering—FH
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Mixed Choir

Friday

- 10-1 p.m. Shepherd's Food Pantry

Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Samuel Team

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THUR. 7:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
FRIDAY 8:00 A.M.—12 NOON



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Philippians 4:4-7: Our LCMS definition of stewardship begins with these words: "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God..." During this preparation season of Advent we are reminded that Christian stewardship really is free and joyous when we acknowledge that God is the Owner of all things and He delights in lavishing His gifts upon us to use to His glory and the welfare of our neighbors.

Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

How wonderful it must have been to hear these words back then and even more wonderful to hear them now. Because as Christians the joy of Christmas is not limited to His birth, it is built even more on the triumph of His death and resurrection that gave meaning to His birth. Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, nor is it a dream. It is a joyous reality and a time for joy. As we enter the holiday season, as we call it today, Christian stewardship seems to come alive in most people. Wars have stopped on Christmas Day

and the soldiers on the front lines exchanged greetings and gifts. People go out of their way to be friendly and help their neighbors whom they rarely speak to the rest of the year. We seek out and/or send cards and letters to friends and family whom we haven't seen for the whole year. All of us are more apt to open our pocketbooks and give to charities during the holidays. Some will even give an extra gift to their Lord and Savior for His birthday. Everyone seems to have joy and goodness in their heart. I truly wish the feeling of the holiday season would last throughout the whole year in everybody. As we buy and exchange our gifts, let us remember that they are symbolic of the unspeakable and unending gift of God's love. The Stewardship Committee: Bill Scholten, Chair, Stan Crandall, Roy Knafla, Shirley Wiemers

NEW ADDRESS: Marilyn Black
110 Barnett Blvd., Apt. #133
Rambling Oaks
Highlands Village, TX. 75077

Christmas Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Christmas Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service on Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. This will feature anthems by our mixed choir and our men's choir, instrumental music, and congregational carol-singing. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and neighbors to this special holiday event.

Life Light Classes Resume

We will continue our study of Paul's letters to the churches with the study of Galatians/Philippians/Colossians starting Tuesday, January 12th. This is a nine week course meeting at 9:00am each Tuesday morning. All are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up early so we know how much material to order.

Sounds of the Holiday

Ozark Mountains British Brass Band
Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
\$8.00 in advance—\$10.00 at the door
For tickets call 479-855-0591

Keeping Christ in Christmas signs are \$7.00 and are available at the Welcome Center.