

# BELLA VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WEEKLY NEWS

Nov. 29-Dec. 6, 2009

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### FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ:

**"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever,"** Psalm 136:1. That is the way many of us learned to return thanks after a meal. Giving thanks is something that our nation has been encouraged to do this past week. It is good that we join with millions of others to give thanks unto our God for all His bounty and blessing on us and our nation.

But Jesus reminds us that we are to be thankful every day, not just on Thanksgiving. In the middle of the Lord's Prayer He taught us to say, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Dr. Martin Luther explained the meaning of this petition in this way: "God gives daily bread indeed without our prayer, also to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."

Luther went on to explain what is meant by "daily bread" with these words: *"Daily bread includes everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."*

It is good for us to pause more than occasionally in our busy lives and reflect on what we are really saying when we pray those simple words, "Give us this day our daily bread." We are God's managers who daily receive countless blessings from His gracious hand. The greatest blessing we have received is the gift of salvation through faith in His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. But God does not stop there. He knows that we also have physical needs and so He provides for them, and He provides lavishly.

Since we know that God's mercy is a gift to us, what is our appropriate response? Our appropriate response is to receive God's gifts with thanksgiving and use them as He intends. We do well to remember that being a Christian is the free and joyous activity of the child of God, and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources, including all those things listed above, for God's purposes.

May this post Thanksgiving note be a reminder to us all that we are to be thankful daily for all the blessings God gives to us. And in thanks we are to use those resources He so graciously provides in a way that honors Him and blesses those around us.

In Christ, **Pastor Hass**

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**In Your Prayers,** please include:

**Our Members:** Bill Brauer, Georgia Roy, Fran Bloomer, Becca Ollek, Lois Rath, Jerry Odell, Edna Opitz, Judy Anderson, Dave Schurman, Les Gatchel, Bob Johnson, Carl Mueller

**Missions:** Rev. Ted & Jacqueline Englebrecht and Yung Ting; Pastor J. P. Cima in Viet Nam; Peace Lutheran, Prairie Grove; St. Theodore's Episcopal Church; Lives Under Construction

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**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 school to high school meet in the Library.

**Adult Sunday School**—*"What Lutherans Believe"* has concluded. Please join one of the following: *"The Lutheran Doctrine: Luther's Catechisms"* group meets in Pastor's office; *"Exploring God's Word/Old Testament"* is held in Classroom

B—led by Rev. Bob Miskimen. *"What's So Amazing About Grace"* by Phillip Yancey is held in the Fellowship Hall.

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### PRAYER CONCERNS

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

### THANK YOU

**Dave and I** want to thank everyone for all the prayers and kind thoughts for us and Dad during Dad's recent illness. We would also like to give a big 'thank you' to everyone for the beautiful anniversary cards. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Dave and Kathy Wilkins

**Praise be to God** and thanks to all of our congregation for the many prayers and expressions of concern for our health and welfare following our accident. We are rapidly recovering and appreciate the assistance in that effort by one guardian angel in particular and to all others who prayed for us. We are sure that God knows who she is and also about your petitions to Him. God is so good!!

Paul and Cleo Austin

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**YSLETA LUTHERAN MISSION**—Ysleta supports year-round ministry in El Paso and several of the poorest communities throughout northern Mexico. Our BVLC Servant Event Mission Team is scheduled to leave Jan. 30 and return Feb. 6. For those interested in joining us, see the "sign-up" sheet on the kiosk. There will be an informational meeting in Classroom B on December 4th at 7:00 p.m. This may be your special opportunity to serve!

Ivan Hirsch

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**SWAP Work Day** is Wednesday Dec. 2 from 9:00a.m.-4:00 p.m. We will be assembling card kits for the B&G Club as well as making cards to sell. There are jobs for everyone and the fellowship is fantastic! The next **card sale** will be December 13<sup>th</sup>. The cards are available in the office during the week—payment is on the honor system. Cards are \$2.50—a bargain for a custom handmade card for that special someone. To help with costs, please return the clear envelope to the office!

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**'Welcome Center Greeters' leader needed.** Lorna Sperl has been in charge of the Welcome Center Greeters for the past three years and has done a wonderful job. She will step down from that position at the end of this year. So, who would be interested in replacing her? What a wonderful way to serve the Lord and our congregation by making sure visitors feels the friendly welcome of BVLC when they attend our worship services for the first time. Contact Howard Harlson if you have an interest in the position.

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**The Shepherd's Food Pantry** is asking for your help. Starting November 29, 2009 there will be a grocery shopping cart in the narthex for donations to the food pantry. Please think of those in need when you go to the store next time so that you will pick one or two items to donate to the newest ministry of Bella Vista Lutheran Church. Our suggestions include: canned vegetables, mac and cheese, canned fruit, jelly (not large size) or peanut butter. If you choose to support the pantry by donating money, please put your donation in a special envelope and mark it Shepherd's Food Pantry and put it in the collection plate. We will also be collecting Portal of Prayers to be given out to those that come to us for help. We thank you for your support.

**THE MEASURE OF OUR LOVE**

November 22, 2009

Worship	8:30 a.m.	208
	10:45 a.m.	66
Projected for November Budget		\$43,106.00
Received to date		\$37,840.64
Balance needed for November		\$ 5,265.36

- Nov. 30 Don and Claudia Jorgensen
  - Dec. 7 Nancy Larson and Sally Pfluger
  - Dec. 14 Barbara Harlson and Lorna Sperl
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**THE LORD'S WEEK**

November 29—December 6, 2009

**Sunday**

- 8:30 a.m. Divine Worship**  
New Member Recognition
- 9:45 a.m. Christian Education Hour
- 10:45 a.m. Praise Worship**  
2-4:00 p.m. Family Pickleball—Metfield

**Monday**

- 9:00 a.m. JOY I—Sally Peterson
- 10:00 a.m. BV Men's Pickleball Club—Metfield
- 1:30 p.m. JOY IIA—Marilyn Ernst  
JOY IIB  
JOY IIC

**Tuesday**

- 9:00 a.m. JOY IIIC  
Braille (Morning session only. Next work day will be **February 2**)
- 10:00 a.m. JOY IIIA
- 1:30 p.m. JOY IV
- 3:30 p.m. SWAP (B&G Club)
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Mixed Choir

**Wednesday**

- 9:00-4:00 SWAP Work Day
- 9:00 a.m. Pray-ers
- 9:30 a.m. LWML Quarterly
- 10:00 a.m. BV Men's Pickleball Club—Metfield
- 1:00 p.m. JOY VB
- 1:30 p.m. JOY VA
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Service**

**Thursday**

- 9:00 a.m. Friendly Stitchers
- 7:00 p.m. LWML Advent by Candlelight

**Friday**

- 10:00 a.m. BV Men's Pickleball Club—Metfield
- 11:30 a.m. TLC—Emlings at BV Country Club
- 7:00 a.m. Ysleta Information Meeting—Classroom B

**Saturday**

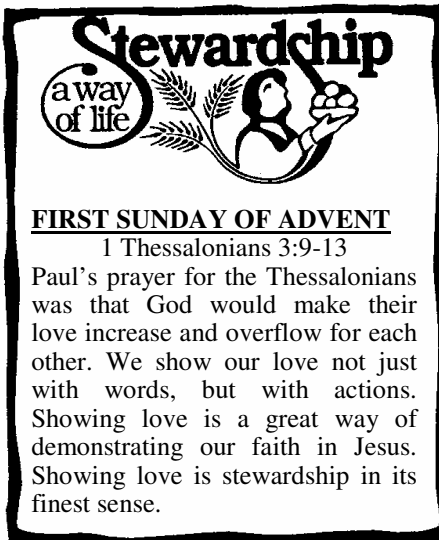
Helping Hands Work Day

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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Advent Devotions are available for you to pick up in front of the mail boxes, at the Welcome Center or in the church office.  
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Shepherd's Food Pantry needs volunteers. A sign up sheet is on the kiosk. Call Diana Wickboldt—855-9202 with questions.



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
I Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians was that God would make their love increase and overflow for each other. We show our love not just with words, but with actions. Showing love is a great way of demonstrating our faith in Jesus. Showing love is stewardship in its finest sense.

**PHOTO DIRECTORY**

We are in the process of updating the 2010 Membership Directory.  
Take advantage of this opportunity to provide any changes in name, address, phone number or email. This will also be an opportunity for those of us who aren't happy with our current picture to arrange to have a new picture made.  
Please call Carol at 876-6664 or send her an email at molde@cox.net with any changes you want made or if you wish to have your picture "redone".

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**Secret Sisters — Christmas Gathering**

Mark the date! December 17, 2009 at 5:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

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**The Bella Vista Men's Chorus Presents  
Christmas in Bella Vista with Bells & Bows**

Village Hand-Bell Ringers - Fayetteville Fiddle Choir  
December 6, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.  
Bella Vista Community Church

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Sharon Owens, a missionary in Macau, will be presenting a report on changes & growth in mission work in Macau during our Sunday School hour on December 13, 2009. Mark you calendar to attend this event. A free will offering will be collected.

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**MEDIA NEWS—KURM (790 AM)**

The Lutheran Hour—Sundays at 12:30 p.m.  
Woman to Woman—Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

JCPLAYZONE.com & JCPARENTZONE.com are websites sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Check them out for playtime with a purpose!

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**DEAL WITH THE HOLIDAY BLUES**

The holidays can be a difficult time for many of us. Meet with the staff from Resolutions from Ozark Community Hospital of Gravette. Learn how to deal with concerns and feelings. Come anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. **Thursday, Dec. 10**, BV Health Resource Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd. (Highlands Crossings)

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Thrivent Monthly Meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall Monday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Changes for the upcoming year will be discussed. Everyone welcome and we hope to see you there! Fellowship to follow the meeting.

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

BVLC's month to deliver is January. We will have a meeting for all drivers between services in December—date to be announced later. Sign up in the Narthex or call Irma Miesbach 855-7923 or Muriel Albers 855-9781 with any questions.

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Norm Roesener 479-644-9351  
Leighann Suurmeyer 417-316-0222