



# KING'S HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ the King Lutheran Church  
*Connecting the World with God's Grace*  
December, 2009

## FROM THE PASTOR. . .

### The Wonder Of Being Loved

What a great congregation! How fortunate I am to be here with you. Things are going well during the adjustment and I'm enjoying being back in ministry again.

We are coming into an exciting time of year. But it is also the most exhausting! So it is good to remind ourselves, when we seem overwhelmed, of "the reason for the season" - that "unto us a Son is given."

I would guess that all of our Christmas celebrations over the years have been similar in many ways. Maybe little if anything is really all that different this year. Unless YOU make it different. Maybe this is the year for you to become a different person - more generous, more loving, more gracious. Begin by reminding yourself what "being loved" means. Loved by your children, loved by your parents, loved by God. And then turn the beauty of being loved outward - toward others

Whether at Christmas or any other time - love is a precious thing, an awesome thing, both for the one giving love as well as those on love's receiving end. The heart of the Christmas message is that God's perfect Love has touched our imperfect world. That's the source of the warmth and the wonder of this holy season.

It really *is* true - what the new popular song says - "Love - it changes everything." And so it does! When Jesus came to be with us - it changed everything! Therein lies the wonder of it all. Being loved that much. Awesome, isn't it?

~Pastor Paul



As a committed body of Christ we will  
**GATHER FOR WORSHIP**  
December 6  
Advent 2 - The Candle of Peace

**December 13**  
Advent 3 - The Candle of Joy

**December 20**  
Advent 4 - The Candle of Love

**December 24**  
The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord  
5:00pm - Family Worship  
7:00pm - Candlelight Worship  
11:00pm - Candlelight Worship

**December 25**  
The Nativity of our Lord  
11:00am - Christmas Holy Communion Liturgy

**December 27**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

## Musical Musings

November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday in the Liturgical Year, and the beginning of preparation for the coming of the Lord - both in commemoration of His Nativity and His coming again at the end of time. As you ponder the Scriptures these first days of the new liturgical year, open your hearts to the possibilities of renewal and rebirth. We wait expectantly, vigilantly and quietly for the Word Made Flesh to be more visible in our daily life.

Please accept anew this invitation to prayerfully consider sharing your gifts of music in worship. Singers, ringers, and instrumentalists are always warmly welcomed to assist in the musical leadership on Sunday mornings.

Call me at 301-460-9642 or leave a message with the church office.

Soli Deo Gloria. *Andrew Dobos*

## Christmas Musical Opportunities

Our adult choir, the King's Choir, has been invited to sing at the Great Falls Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in the field behind the Post Office on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. We've decided to invite our youth, and King's Kids Choir to participate as well. If you've been wishing to sing some carols, come join us! I will be there at 5:45pm with music & words in hand. Contact: Jane Cooper, 703-759-3919.

On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, there will be a Holiday Recital of the piano and guitar students of Jane Cooper. It will be presented in the Sanctuary of CTK, with a reception immediately following. Many of the student musicians participating are Christ the King youth. Come and enjoy some favorite holiday music and treats.

This year the King's Choir will present a Cantata, "Born a Savior, Born a King" written by John Purifoy, **at the 11:00am Worship** on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Our narrators will be Lynne Roots and Art Evans. This will be a meaningful service filled with beautiful music celebrating the birth of our King.

The King's Chimers, Cherubs & Kids will be participating in the 11:00am Worship on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday School is presenting their annual Christmas program as part of the Worship Service instead of a separate afternoon program. Come share the joy of Christmas with our little ones!

Our three worship services on Christmas Eve are filled with beautiful, joyous music from all our choirs. Pick one and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!



As a committed body of Christ we will

## **GROW IN FAITH**

### **Mother's Day Out News**

Greetings from Mother's Day Out!

Thanksgiving is almost here! We've been enjoying reading books about Thanksgiving and being thankful. There have been so many Thanksgiving crafts created that you can almost smell the turkey dinner with all the fixings! In addition to the standard symbols of Thanksgiving, we have talked about being thankful.

We participated in the church's food drive with Reston Interfaith's Thanksgiving Meals. The children brought in enough food to fill several large boxes. We also participated in the coat drive for Brownie Troop #1991. The children brought in quite a few coats and were very pleased when they were able to put another in the fancy, yellow collection box.

December will be a very exciting time here at MDO. We will be talking about the REAL reason for the season - the birth of Jesus. We have lots of fun activities planned - including a Christmas celebration. We will be collecting toys for "Toys For Tots". Our goal is to help the children learn that giving to others is fun too!

Believe it or not, registration for the 2009/2010 school year is coming up. More information will be available in early January.

*May your Christmas be peaceful!*

*Karen Anderson, Director*

## **Adult Education Schedule**

Come feast on the Word and quench your thirst for Biblical knowledge! Here's what's percolating in Luther's Lounge every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 AM:

**Dec 13-Jan 3** - 3-week Advent-ure based on the DVD, "Search for Messiah:" brought to us by Gale Bobzien. This contemporary true story details the journey of an Orthodox Jewish man whose family is split when his mother becomes a Christian. Sure to generate many spirited exchanges and much introspection!

**Jan 9 & Mar 13 & 20** - The totally awesome Spiritual Gifts Workshop returns to CTK this year. In January, the format will be offered as a full day Saturday event. In March, we'll offer it as two 4-hour Saturday workshops.

**Jan 10-Feb 17** - 6-week study on the Intertestamental Period. Sometimes called "the silent years," this 400-year period bridges the Old Testament to the New. Delve into the history pivotal to understanding tensions which set the stage for Jesus' coming as Messiah. Developed by Gale Bobzien & Joni Holeman. For more details, please call Gale Bobzien 703 444-1171 or Joni Holeman 703 430-4075. Grab some coffee or a cuppa, and join us for Adult Sunday School!



As a committed body of Christ we will

**SERVE OTHERS**

**Food Drive Reports**

A huge Thank You! to all those who contributed to the success of our Halloween and Thanksgiving Food Drives. On Halloween, we collected 7 grocery carts full of food for the Reston Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry. Special thanks go to Elena Ferguson, Christopher Miner and Taylor Shenk for an excellent job collecting food outside the Giant in Reston for this 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Service Project.

Thank you to the many members of the congregation who contributed food items and gift cards (and boxes!) to help the needy celebrate Thanksgiving. Your contributions, along with funding from Thrivent Financial to provide additional food & gift cards, allowed CTK to create 25 complete meal boxes, which were distributed to needy families by Reston Interfaith just in time for the holiday.

**Habitat House Dedication**

The Thrivent Builds with Habitat house supported with CTK financial and volunteer help this year, along with help from many other Lutheran congregations in Western Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, has been completed. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided a \$65,000 grant toward the building of this house. It will be dedicated on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 10:00am. All are invited to the dedication. This is an excellent opportunity to see first-hand what your service dollars and volunteer efforts have produced. You will meet the new owners of the house and tour their new HOME. Contact Allen Wild for more information and directions.

**Attention Thrivent Financial Members**

If you own a Thrivent Financial product, e.g., a life insurance policy, an annuity, or other financial account, you are a member. Remember your product ownership is the reason Thrivent, as a not-for-profit, can provide several hundred million dollars a year to support worthy congregational and community projects. We at Christ the King received about \$4,000 for service, youth, and property projects this year. For this support to continue, we must elect a Chapter Leadership Board each year. A Slate for the five mandatory positions has been prepared and members at CTK are requested to vote. Ballots and information on the nominees can be found in the narthex. PLEASE VOTE.

**YOUTH and Family Ministry**



**Christmas Party**

Sr. High Youth Group  
**December 6, 2009**  
**6:30-8:30pm**  
 At the Wright-Simpson Home  
 209 Falcon Road

Great Falls, Virginia 22066  
 Please sign up to bring treats in the narthex of the church. In lieu of gifts for each other, we are asking the youth to bring one hat and a pair of gloves for donation.  
**Please RSVP** deb.cantrell@verison.net or call at (703) 759-6068 Ext 40.

**Christmas Party**



7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group  
**December 13, 2009**  
**4:30-6:30pm**  
 At the Davis Family Home  
 204 River Bend Road  
 Great Falls, Virginia 22066  
 Please sign up to bring treats

in the narthex of the church. In lieu of gifts for each other, we are asking the youth to bring one hat and a pair of gloves for donation.  
**Please RSVP** deb.cantrell@verison.net or call at (703) 759-6068 Ext 40.

**Ice Skating at Reston Town Center**



9th-12th Grade Youth Group  
**December 20, 2009**  
**6:00-8:00pm**  
 Reston Town Center  
 Meet at the church parking lot.  
 Cost: 16.00 includes skate rental  
 12.00 w/o skate rental  
 (Includes Hot chocolate & soup)

**Please RSVP** deb.cantrell@verison.net or call at (703) 759-6068 Ext 40.  
 Parents: If you would be willing to drive, please, contact Deb as soon as possible at deb.cantrell@verison.net or call at (703) 759-6068 Ext 40.

### **The Angel Tree Is Back!**

The Angel tree has once again been set up in the narthex. On the ornaments, find a gift suggestion for a child in our area this Christmas season. This year, we are providing gifts for local needy children through Reston Interfaith as well as children at Fisher House, a facility adjacent to Walter Reed that houses families of injured soldiers who are undergoing lengthy treatment after being wounded in battle. For more information, see

[www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/VISITORS/VISITSERV/ICE/MEALS/FISHER/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/VISITORS/VISITSERV/ICE/MEALS/FISHER/Pages/default.aspx)  
and [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org). As in years past, Thrivent is generously making a donation to assist in providing for our angel tree recipients. All gifts should be returned unwrapped with the ornament attached to the box in the narthex **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 6**, so that we can ensure timely delivery. Delivery will take place the following week. If you would like to volunteer with sorting gifts or gift delivery, contact Linda McMillen at [Lmcmillen@medstaffer.com](mailto:Lmcmillen@medstaffer.com) or fill out the insert inside the bulletin.

*Thank you for helping spread Christmas cheer!*

### **Cedars Luncheon**

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Nancy Childress shared her experience with the Sudan Action Leadership Team's fact-finding trip to the Sudan last April and May.

Thank you to the all those from CTK for planning and preparing the delicious traditional Thanksgiving lunch and giving the cooks from GFUMC a break. Bob & Ellie Mickert, Sheryl & Jamie McEwen, Anne Neaves, Audrey & Al Wild, Tammy Finger, Jane Cooper, Karen Magley, Margie Mastran, Joyce Weber, and to the GFUMC ladies who came to assist: Betty Brienza, Shelley DiGiammarino, Coty Dickson and Martha Sullivan.

The December Cedars will feature music by clarinetist, Bill Wright and his accompanist on the piano. Those over 55 are welcome to join us for the next Cedars Luncheon on Tuesday, December 15, at 11:00am with Lunch at Noon ~ \$5.00. Reservations are requested. Please call the Church Office at 703-759-3705 by Thursday, December 10th.

Helpers are always appreciated - set-up and food prep begins at 9:00am, or come to help serve and clean-up at 11:45am.

### **Gifts of Hope**

Want to avoid the crowded shopping malls and help others this Holiday Season? Why not give a "Gift of Hope" this Christmas. Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift-giving program that allows you to purchase goods and services for those in need, in honor of your designated gift recipient. It's easy! Just visit the Gifts of Hopes display in the narthex. Select a gift from the Gifts of Hope catalog, which offers 39 unique gifts priced from \$3 to \$250. Fill in the order form, and make your check payable to **Christ The King**. For each gift purchased, you receive - a Gifts of Hope Card, an envelope and an insert describing your chosen gift. You can send this card to your friend or loved one, and then the actual gift of goods or services will be delivered by the designated ministry or organization to the beneficiary.



As a committed body of Christ, we will

## **CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER IN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY**

### **Prayer Concerns**

Kay Teach, Hilton Patterson, Charles Reges, Sandy Grevey, Lynne Roots, Linda Darrell & Karen Stein, Nancy Ferguson, Jill Patterson, Jayne Ayers & Jamie MacIntosh, Ralph Swineford, Melisa Heinson, Marilyn Grove & Bob Strickland, Barry Bittner, the Lynn Family, Mary Kreyling, Chris Stuart, Ruth Ritchie, Tami Phillips, Prue Welsh, Hunter Presgrave, Fran Beecher & Jillian Schneider, Samuel Von Bank, Artie Wright, Marivi Mata, Stan Andon & Mike Horsey, Cecelia Pachko, John Sandberg, Kristy Parnell, Jack Pertler, Pamela McManman, John Gersic, Peter Yeager, Cora Hawkins, Bill Landherr, Richard Depalma, Josh Carr, Polly Oakes, Jim Johnson, Cornelius Lokker, Everett Swanson, Fred Brofazi, Carleton Ruthling, Joann Wehrhan, Louis Orta, Steve Smith, Tony Santantonio, Allison Brady, Dottie Wasser, John Merkle.

**Grieving** - David Whelan and family, at the death of his mother, Marian.

**Military Personnel** - Stacy Caum, Chris Nogle, Will Boyd & Lt. Jon Cirillo, Capt. Chris Owen, Major Jason Jones, Lt. Col. Doug Lilly.

### **Stewardship Campaign – 2009 I DO**

Each year at this time, Christ the King conducts its annual Stewardship Campaign to assess where the church is financially after 11 months of current year giving, and to plan or budget for the upcoming fiscal year. CTK has so many service programs, worship events, benevolence demands, to mention only a few. By now, each of you should have received an Annual Pledge card and a Time and Talent checklist that will be submitted this coming weekend at either the Saturday evening or Sunday worship services. As Pastor Opsahl mentioned in his recent sermon, this is no time to settle for the status quo while being in a transition period of identifying a permanent pastor, but it could and should be a time to do something **great**. Just imagine what Christ the King could accomplish if each of us said:

- **I DO** want to increase my weekly giving to CTK
- **I DO** want to work toward tithing my financial resources, as well as my time
- **I DO** want to use the annual Pledge card to help prepare the annual budget
- **I DO** want to learn more about Simply Giving
- **I DO** want to help enrich the Sunday School programs
- **I DO** want to sing in the choir
- **I DO** want to take part in a worship service every week
- **I DO** want to offer more of my time and talents to CTK
- **I DO** want to show my thanks by assisting with service projects
- **I DO** want to ..... (fill in your own words)

This is a most exciting, challenging and important period within Christ the King. We need each of you, men and women, young and old, to prayerfully consider the Annual Pledge card and Time and Talent checklist. Significant long range planning by the church council takes place after this information is gathered over the next couple of weeks. We **DO** need your input. This weekend is Christ the King Sunday, and Consecration Weekend. Let's all **DO** something this weekend to make CTK **great**, not just status quo.

*~Bill Hiatt, Stewardship Chair*

### ***Battle of Dranesville - Civil War Peace Service***

On December 20, 1861, 10,000 Union and Confederate soldiers clashed at Dranesville, Virginia leaving 53 dead and hundreds wounded. Leading the Confederates was Major General J.E.B. Stuart. General E.O.C. Ord led five regiments of Pennsylvania to the first Union victory in the East.

The Dranesville Church of the Brethren sits where the battle raged that winter day. Every year, we highlight our stance on peace and remember the cost of war. Come join us. We'll have refreshments afterwards, as well as a small display of artifacts found on the battlefield.

Location: Dranesville Church of the Brethren

11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon VA 20170

Date & Time: December 20, 2009 at 7:00pm.

Telephone: (703) 430-7872

E-mail:

dcoboffice@aol.com

## **December Wedding Anniversaries**

*Congratulations to these members,  
who are celebrating a wedding anniversary this month!*

Rob & Tracey Shen 12/18  
Kevin & Nicola Magley 12/27  
David & Dolly Whelan 12/27  
John & Lynne Roots 12/30

## **December Birthdays**

*Congratulations to these members,  
who are celebrating a birthday this month!*

Susan McKay 12/1  
Joe Steel 12/1  
Louise Babirak 12/2  
William Jordan 12/2  
Eric Anderson 12/3  
Simon Barretto 12/3  
Lauren Chadwick 12/3  
Emily Sweet 12/3  
Cecelia McKinley 12/4  
Elizabeth Baker 12/5  
Nathan Sahn 12/5  
Alyssa Luehring 12/7  
Dot Miller 12/8  
Teagan Smith 12/9  
James West 12/9  
Thomas Kalka III 12/10  
Katherine Maxwell 12/10  
Eileen Smith 12/11  
Brian Benson 12/12  
John Roots 12/13  
Mitchell Kiffe 12/15  
Kerstin Anderson 12/16  
Adriana Lundgren 12/16  
Glen Sjoblom 12/18  
Mat Brill 12/19  
Paige Anderson 12/20  
Emma Ritchie 12/21  
Allan Ruppap 12/21  
Annette Fisher 12/22  
Donna Setzer 12/23  
John West 12/23  
Will Lundgren 12/29  
Kathryn Miller-Cvilikas 12/29  
Mason McConnell 12/30