

## Pastor Carl's Castings

CHRIST  
THE SAVIOR  
IS BORN!

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”, says the song. So true for us, isn’t it?! This Advent season is our precious time to invite the Lord to prepare our hearts and hands for the work of the kingdom for generations to come, even as we praise and prepare for the coming of God’s saving Lord and king, both in

Christmas and when he comes again to make all things new. In Christ God has triumphed, and all things are becoming new! May God renew us in worship.

Additionally, we gather December 4<sup>th</sup> between services for our Annual Congregational Meeting. More than a simple approval of a budget, this is our chance for all of us to participate in God’s plan for us by charting a course for a new year—and for years to come. And there is no more important time than this year’s meeting to make sure each one of us is there and ready to participate. Please do, prayerfully, and with great expectations—in God’s blessings. As God, our Council and we are led by God’s Spirit, may we become one and find joy in helping God put in place events that will define our future. In our service may our lives be holy even as you, God, are holy, and all around us, saving all.

### Congregational Meeting



witness

Our witness has taken some new forms and response in the community has been amazing. People are beginning to expect us to be there for and with them in these and new ways. What a blessing to build this reputation in our communities.



Our fellowship is more joyful. Around the Kairos Kafe, new things are happening, relationships are being blessed. Try the brief video of the Holy Land and hear a Bible

story's meaning for today emerge. This is one small group event forming for fun, fellowship, and faith, at 9:15am, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. An Advent tradition I invite us all to keep, together, is daily Bible reading and prayer, perhaps using the daily devotionals on the overflow area table.



Hopefully you will find the Christmas and New Year's Day Sunday services nice complements to our gathering Christmas Eve, as one people, at 7:30 pm. I am sure that no matter which ones we attend, God looks forward to seeing us each time.

May God deepen our faith and fellowship this incredible and full Advent season of following God into life. Please be sure to post your exciting God sightings on our Facebook page or in the overflow area. Such good news is so needed by all of us, and so life giving to us and the world through us.

*Pastor  
Carl Wenzel*



And so as  
Tiny Tim most  
heartily declared,  
"May God Bless Us,  
EVERYONE."

## **HOSPITALIZED**

Here are the appropriate codes assigned to us by the respective hospitals in Allentown and Reading. Lehigh Valley Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital – 282; Reading Hospital – 512; St. Joseph's Hospital – LU 60. You can use these codes if you are undergoing elective surgery or you can call the chaplain's office at each hospital and ask them to list you under our congregation's code for that institution.

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## **A PASTORAL NOTE**

Please call the church office or Pastor Wenzel if you would like to schedule a home visit or receive communion at home. If you need to contact him in the event of an emergency, Pastor Wenzel's cell phone number is 610-223-6555, (please note: he will not be able to answer the cell phone when visiting in the hospital).

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## **Redner's Save-A-Tape Program**

St. John's participates in the Redner's Save-A-Tape Program. By collecting receipts and sending them to Redner's Corporate office, we can earn 1% of the totals. Each person should stop by the store office or Customer Service area to get a Save-A-Tape card. Each time you shop at Redner's with your card, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape receipt. Please place receipts in the box in the coat area. We appreciate the funds raised through your efforts in saving your Redner's receipts!

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**“Like” us at**  
**St John's Lutheran Kutztown**  
**on Facebook!**  
**Join in for the GOD SIGHTINGS!**



# **DUCKS FOR CHILDREN**

**Thank You to all who have supported the  
DUCKS FOR CHILDREN program.**

Eight hundred thirty five dollars (\$835.00) has been generously donated in the past several weeks. The money will SAVE LIVES by building safe water wells in Africa. Children will survive because of you.

*Jesus said, "I THIRST".*

Blessings to you all,  
Sabine L. Malik



# Day Care Highlights

The staff and children here at St. John's Daycare have had a busy November. The school age children kept Mrs. D and Mrs. Reitenauer quite busy during conference time. The Preschool children have been keeping all of us busy.

We covered number 3, letters G, H and I, the shape Square, and the color brown. Our favorite themes this November were "Turkeys", "Pilgrims", "Scarecrows", "Corn", and of course how to mind our manners and be thankful. The children had their monthly visit with Pastor Wenzel and monthly fitness day with Mrs. D.

The children ended November with a Thanksgiving feast, the Preschool parents ended the month with parent/teacher conferences. A time for Mrs. R and Mrs. McGonigle to talk to the parents one on one.

St. John's Daycare is proud to have passed our annual inspection with flying colors. The state inspector was very impressed with our staff and how we run our centres. We are truly blessed to have the most dedicated staff.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to Ina and everyone who made the church service on Nov. 14 possible. What a turn out! Eleven children came to sing and brought with them pews full of family and friends! We received lots of positive feedback from families. Thank you to everyone who helped make our children and families feel welcome.

Merry Christmas!  
*Daycare Staff*



# Preschool News

## Mrs. Leibensperger's 4 year olds.

It's hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner.

We had a very busy month in Preschool. The color in November was brown, the number was 3 and the letters were F,G and H. Our special topics were "Our Five Senses", "Library Day", "Squares", and "All about Turkeys". We all enjoyed "Pajama Day"! It looked like nighttime in our classroom with all of us in our PJs. We talked about what to do to get ready for hibernation. What a fun day!

We made Native American necklaces, headdresses and tom-toms. The hall was decorated with turkeys, pudding paintings and many other Thanksgiving projects.

The highlight of November was our Thanksgiving Feast. We had turkey sandwiches and all the trimmings. We dressed up as Native Americans and we had our own feast.

We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,  
*Jane*

## Mrs. Lenich's 3 Year Old's

What a special month November was!

Our emphasis was on being thankful. We are trying to teach the children about caring, sharing and understanding. We asked the children what were some of the things they were thankful for. Some of their answers were surprising. For only 3 years old we were pleasantly surprised to hear how much they appreciate the everyday things in life. Some of the answers to the question, "What Are You Thankful For?" were: "Going for walks in the woods with my Grandma", and "Playing with my Daddy and Mommy making good food". Of course we also had being thankful for "Monster Trucks", and "Hello Kitty Toys".

We continue to concentrate on letters, numbers and shapes. The progress the children have made in 3 short months is amazing.

Happy Holidays!

Jan and Deanna



### Make a Wall Hanging to take home

- **Connie Lichtenwalner**

In Fellowship Hall - Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM Fellowship prior to 7:30 PM meeting



Be different. Choose to provide for others instead of ourselves this Christmas season. Take an ELCA Good Gifts catalog and do something different.

God's Global Barnyard provides animals to support families. There's help specifically for women and children. 70 % of the world's out of school children are girls (ELCA Good Gifts Catalog). Choose health care, farming, or grow the church items. You can also help here at home with bare necessities. One in six people struggle to get enough to eat in these United States (ELCA Good Gifts Catalog). Help others by doing what matters to God. Celebrate, in a new way, the birth that changed the world.

Thank you!  
***Service Team***

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*“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the REAL spirit of Christmas”*

*– Calvin Coolidge*



## **CHRISTMAS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR**

That is the title of one of the selections in this year's Christmas Choral Concert by the Kutztown Community Choir. The forty-five voice choral group, directed by J. Richard Wagner, will present its 46<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main Street, Kutztown.

Carols, some old and some new, some well known and some not so well known, and carols from various countries will be on the program. French, Czech, and American carols, as well as Christmas music of Irving Berlin, will be included in the selections. Two poems by 19<sup>th</sup> century English poet, Christina Rossetti, set to music by English composers Gustav Holst and John Rutter, will be of special interest to some lovers of the classics. Franco-American singer/songwriter Josee Vachon, now living in Kutztown, will share some music of her culture and lead a children's choir in singing several songs with guitar accompaniment.

An art show by members of Art in the Afternoon, a class taught by Joanne Lopic at Trinity Lutheran Church, will have selected works on display for viewing in the fellowship hall of the church during a reception with cookies and punch following the concert. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be received during the concert.



## **SING WITH THE CHOIR**

The Worship & Music Committee would like to extend an invitation to members of the congregation who might enjoy singing with the choir for Christmas Eve and/or Christmas day. The only requirement will be to attend rehearsals. The choir rehearses on Wed. at 7pm.

Thank you  
Worship & Music Team

# **St. John's Sunday Church School Christmas Program**

**“Why the Chimes Rang”**

**December 18, 2011 4:00 PM  
St. John's Lutheran Church**

Join the Sunday Church School students' celebration of the Advent season with this special program starring our youth.

Immediately following the program all are invited to share dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Please let us know if you will be able to attend the program and dinner by completing the form below and returning it to the Church Office or your Sunday school teacher by December 11, 2011.

Free-will donations are accepted to help sponsor the dinner.

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**Yes, we will attend the  
SCS Christmas Program Dinner**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, we would like to donate a dessert for the dinner.

Dessert item: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2012 ELCA Youth Gathering**

Have you registered yet for *Citizens with the Saints* (CWTS), the **ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 18-22, 2012?** Registrations are still being accepted.

There are three learning outcomes for CWTS. One is *Practice Discipleship*. A second is *Practice Peacemaking*. The third is *Practice Justice*: Live boldly in the face of injustice, crisis and suffering. You can read about the three outcomes here.

For more information, contact the synod gathering coordinator, Pr. Bruce D. MacLaughlin, at 610-285-6157 or [prbrucedml@rcn.com](mailto:prbrucedml@rcn.com), or visit <http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering.aspx>.

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## **Being Christian Here & Now**

*Being Christian Here & Now* is the theme for a gathering of young adults exploring Christian faith in the 21st Century. The event will be held **January 4-6, 2012, at the Lancaster Marriott, Lancaster, PA.**

The academy is for any **young adult** (post-high-school to age 30) who wants to spend time with a small group of other young adults to engage what it means to be a Christian in the 21st Century.

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## **VETERAN'S PHOTOS PICK-UP IN OVERFLOW**

Thank you for sharing the great veterans' pictures displayed in the showcases. We're so grateful for all your family members have done for us. You'll be able to pick up your picture in the overflow area on Sunday, December 11, 2011.



***Hanging of the Greens Service***  
***10:30 AM Sunday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>***  
***Brunch following service***

The Worship and Music Committee extends an invitation to all members, friends, and family of the congregation to come celebrate the Hanging of the Greens Service on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. There will be one service that day.

The Hanging of the Greens Service will take you on a journey of what the Holy Season of Advent means and how we prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival. There will be music by our choir, readings on the significance of the decorations used throughout this season, including the altar paraments, trees, wreaths, and the Nativity.

This service will give us a sense of what we may be missing throughout the holiday season. We as Americans, with our hectic lives, get very caught up in working, cooking, baking, shopping, etc. and tend to forget the real meaning of Christmas. Please come and enjoy a Sunday with your St. John's family during this Advent Season. We will be asking all members of the congregation to come and be part of this wonderful time.

We have some changes to Hanging of the Greens this year. ONE will be doing a covered dish buffet after the late service. We are asking folks to bring a dish to pass whether breakfast or lunch style.

You can contact Barb Smith at 610-683-7742, if you have questions or to let us know what you would like to bring to the buffet.

— *The Worship & Music Committee*

# Thank You!



**Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,**

Thank you so much for letting us rent the Fellowship Hall for our Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser.

With love from,  
**KU Best Buddies**

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**Dear St. John's,**

Thank you very much for the care package I received while at Moravian College. It was very much appreciated, as the semester is really picking up in preparation for finals. Thank you for thinking of me while I am away at school!

Thanks again,  
**Katelyn Remp**

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**Dear St. John's,**

We wish to thank you for the lovely Autumn flowers brought to the Manor for Lee. They were very much appreciated.

**Trout family**

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**Dear St. John's,**

Thank you for the care/candy package you sent me! So nice to know I'm remembered back home while I'm way down here in South Carolina! School's been tough, but I'm slowly getting through my Junior year!

As always GOOOOO TIGERS!

See you all at Thanksgiving,  
**Sarah Johnson**

# *December Sponsorships*

The following people are scheduled to sponsor bulletins, candles and flowers during December:

## **BULLETINS**

12-4 Paula Kutz  
12-11 Walter Eck  
12-18 Pam Heid  
12-25 Ronald Delp

## **CANDLES**

12-4 Shirley Freeby  
12-11 Carolyn Clements  
12-18 Valerie Miller  
12-25 Sue Teti and family

## **FLOWERS**

12-4 Shirley Freeby  
12-11 Marvin Savage  
12-18 Clifford Hilberg  
12-25 Brian and Kim Miller

Please complete the sponsorship form and submit it along with your payment to the office at least one week before the date of your sponsorship. To ensure proper credit on your giving statement, please submit a form to the office.



# December Birthdays

- |         |  |         |   |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| Dec. 2  | Ward Becker<br>Lillian West                          | Dec. 20 | Susan Teti<br>Travis Diehl                              |
| Dec. 3  | Heather West   | Dec. 21 | Evelyn Rohrbach   |
| Dec. 4  | Shirley Freeby<br>Tiara Rothermel                    | Dec. 22 | Lucy Miller   |
| Dec. 6  | Ruth Rohrbach  | Dec. 23 | Craig Mittl<br>Anna Herman<br>Mark Weida<br>Daryl Boyer |
| Dec. 7  | Nettie Herman<br>William Jones, Jr.<br>Brooke Koller | Dec. 24 | Barbara Smith<br>David Sullivan<br>John Sullivan        |
| Dec. 9  | Amy Fenstermacher                                    | Dec. 25 | Doris Dreibelbis  |
| Dec. 10 | Kara Smith<br>Benjamin Miller                        | Dec. 26 | Cody Bailey   |
| Dec. 11 | Nancy Scholl   | Dec. 28 | Violet Bieber<br>Brent Beck                             |
| Dec. 12 | LeRoy Remp<br>Colin Zettlemoyer                      | Dec. 29 | Rebecca Heffner<br>James Fowler                         |
| Dec. 13 | Katrina Hill   | Dec. 31 | Donald Miller<br>Charles Moyer                          |
| Dec. 14 | Jane Leibensperger                                   |         |   |
| Dec. 15 | Christopher Collier<br>Avery Wolfinger               |         |   |
| Dec. 16 | Perma Dreibelbis                                     |         |   |

If you notice that your birthday or the birthday of someone you know is not listed among those in The Spire, which means that the birthday information is not entered in the church's computer. Please contact the church office and let us know of anyone missing from the birthday list. We want everyone to be included.