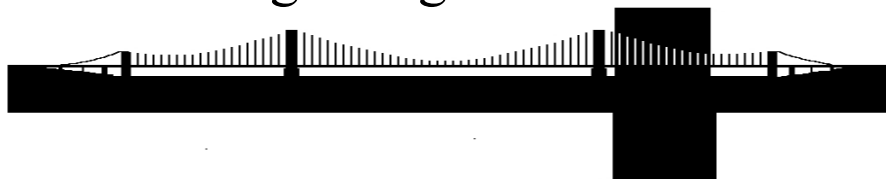


Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church

EQUIPPING  
THE  
SAINTS

December 2013



December 8  
after worship  
"Hanging of the Greens"



All Saint's Annual Drive Thru Nativity  
Dec. 14-15 6:00-8:00 pm

Sign up sheet is posted on bulletin board if you'd like to participate in this fun-filled family event!

Please join us Christmas Eve  
Dec. 24  
Worship with Communion  
4:00 and 7:30 pm





## Have yourself a merry little...

December 2013

Do me a favor this Advent/Christmas season: *Read Luke 1:46-55.*

No, do yourself a favor. Read those 10 verses...slowly, carefully, meditating on them. Let the message sink in. It'll change your whole idea about Christmas!

These are Mary's words, sometimes called the "*Magnificat*" or canticle (song) of Mary. Magnificat is the opening word of the *Vulgate* (Latin) text of Mary's song (*'magnificat anima mea, Dominum...'*). In English, *'My soul magnifies the Lord...'*

Pretty heavy stuff for a young girl (perhaps 14?) to be saying/singing!

You'd expect Mary to be saying something like this to God: "*Why did you pick me to be the mother of Jesus, the Christ? Surely there must be someone older, wiser, more holy than me...*" But God had made His choice. Mary it would be!

And what Mary chose to say is, well, *different, unexpected*. It's downright *political!* Let me paraphrase it here:

*God, you've done something pretty amazing here for me – holy is your name!*

*You've shown your strength, in scattering the proud in their conceit. You've brought down the powerful, and lifted up the lowly. You have fed the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty...just as you have promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendents forever.*

For this girl-child *Mary*, it'll be anything but a '*merry little Christmas!*' No family getting together in front of the fireplace; no gifts to unwrap; no festive Christmas Eve dinner. Just a stable, and some straw. And shepherds – lowly shepherds – coming to see if what the angel had said was true.

Could Mary look into the future? Could she see, at her tender age, what God was about to do? Yes, I think she could! God was about to turn the world upside-down. After reading Luke 1:46-55, read this paraphrase of Mary's Song from our hymnal (ELW # 723, *Canticle of the Turning*):

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings  
of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

*From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware  
for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.*

(refrain) *My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus! Our world *needs* to turn!

+ Pastor Rich



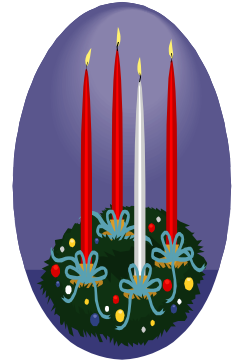
Thanks to all of YOU, we were able to fill and ship **50** Shoeboxes to children in need.

---

---

## *Special Advent Opportunity...*

*To support our brothers and sisters at Redeemer Lutheran Church  
with a special gift!*



Instead of buying a gift that is the wrong color and doesn't fit, how about helping Redeemer to minister to one of the 750 families that they reach each month with food assistance.

All Saints will be receiving any financial gifts for Redeemer until Sunday Dec. 15th. One check will then be sent to them, at that time.

Please call Julie Beitelschees at 419 291-3656 if you have questions or want further information.

### **Senior Recital of Daniel Meinecke**

Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 6:30 pm  
Schaver Music Hall  
Wayne State University Campus  
480 W. Hancock  
Detroit, Mi

Daniel will perform Gospel Suite in Three Movements  
Composed by Daniel in dedication to All Saints,  
Redeemer and St. Phillips.

Celebration continues afterward at his home

Catered by Mary Cloud of Songbird Catering



# Church Decorating

**December 8**

After Worship on December 8, we will decorate the inside of the church. Soup and Sandwiches will be served to those who stay and help.

Thanks in advance to all the volunteers!



We'll be collecting mittens, hats and gloves for our Mitten Tree--kids sizes are especially welcome--but any size will do.

## **All Saint's Annual Drive Thru Nativity Dec. 14-15 6:00-8:00 pm**



Every year this has been our gift to the community. Family and friends of All Saints dress up as shepherds, angels, Mary and Joseph and more. It's a wonderful experience to be a part of. If you'd like to participate this year, please sign up on the bulletin board in lobby or call church office at 419 865-7701.

We welcome donations of non-perishable food for area Food Banks.



### **S.O.S. Remembrance Service ~ Monday, Dec. 16, at 7:00 pm**

Have you lost a loved one to suicide...or know of someone who still grieves their loss of a friend or family member? Our "SOS" group (Survivors of Suicide) meets the third Monday of each month (7:00 pm) in the Forum Room. Each year before the holidays, All Saints hosts a special service of remembrance, offering comfort to these special survivors. This year's service will be held on Monday evening, December 16 at 7:00 pm, in our worship space. It's a meaningful, moving worship experience, and it's open to all who wish to attend.



# 2013



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  8:30 Prayer 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 S. S. 10:00 Worship Julie Beitelschees is preaching	<b>2</b>  7:30 Bible Study	<b>3</b>  6:30 Ragan Woods 8:30 AA (open)	<b>4</b>  8:30 AA (open)	<b>5</b>  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  9:00 Lady Saints  Set up Christmas Trees inside church
<b>8</b>  8:30 Prayer 9:00 Adult Forum 9:00 S. S. 10:00 Worship Decorate inside church  6:00 ALT dinner at St. Pauls downtown	<b>9</b>  7:30 Bible Study  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>10</b>  7:00 Property Mtg.  8:30 AA (open)	<b>11</b>  8:30 AA (open)	<b>12</b>  7:00 Finance Mtg.  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6-8 DTN  
<b>15</b>  8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 6-8 DTN  	<b>16</b>  7:00 S.O.S. Memorial Service 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 AA (closed)	<b>17</b>  7:00 W & M  8:30 AA (open)	<b>18</b>  8:30 AA (open)	<b>19</b>  Put Newsletter together  7:00 Council dinner at the Rebers 8:30 AA (closed)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	<b>23</b>  7:30 Bible Study 8:30 AA (closed)	<b>24</b>  Christmas Eve Services 4:00 7:30  8:30 AA (open)	<b>25</b>   <i>Merry Christmas</i>  Office Closed  8:30 AA (open)	<b>26</b>  Office Closed  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>27</b>  Office Closed	<b>28</b>  9:00  
<b>29</b>  8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	<b>30</b>  7:30 Bible Study  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>31</b>  New Years Eve.  8:30 AA (open)	<b>Jan. 1</b>  Happy New Year!!  <b>Office Closed</b>  8:30 AA (open)	<b>Jan. 2</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  8:30 AA (closed)	<b>Jan. 3</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

## READER

Dec. 1 Amy Merkel  
Dec. 8 Rex Yarger  
Dec. 15 Norm Merkel  
Dec. 22 Irene Fink  
Dec. 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dec. 29 Jim Henderson

## GREETERS

LaVerne Busddieker  
Rex and Kathy Yarger  
Janet Caskey  
Irene Fink  
**4:00 Amy Merkel & girls**  
**7:30 Mary Lou Houle**  
Rose Thomson

## COMMUNION PREP/ASSISTANT

Dec. 1 Barb Mounjie & Gretchen Schultz  
Dec. 8 Norm & Sue Merkel  
Dec. 15 Tim & Amy Merkel  
Dec. 22 Bill & Judy Reber  
Dec. 24 **4:00 The Rebers** **7:30 Mary Lou Houle**  
Dec. 29 Sue Rentner & Judy Grimes

## MONTH

DECEMBER

## ALTAR

Gretchen Schultz

## COUNTERS

Dec. 1 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker  
Dec. 8 Sue Merkel & Judy Reber  
Dec. 15 Ann Miller & Pat Toepfer  
Dec. 22 Mary Lou Houle & Janet Caskey  
Dec. 29 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker

## OFFERING

Dec. 1 Roger Meyer  
Dec. 8 Tim Merkel  
Dec. 15 Rose Thomson  
Dec. 22 Judy Reber  
Dec. 24 Roger Meyer  
Dec. 29 Judy Grimes

## USHERS

Dec. 1 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch  
Dec. 8 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch  
Dec. 15 Bob Krueger, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch  
Dec. 22 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch  
Dec. 29 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch





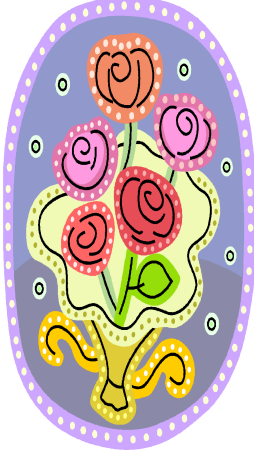
- 12/1 Sue Slater-Rentner
- 12/3 Becky McCann  
Rose Thomson
- 12/8 David Driver
- 12/17 Samantha Merkel
- 12/20 Luanne Okoneski
- 12/22 Devyne Brown



- 12/23 Rick & Becky McCann ~ 42 yrs
- 12/29 Rex & Kathy Yarger ~ 51yrs

If we've missed your Birthday or Anniversary this month, please notify the office so we can correct our records.

December Altar Flowers



- 1 Judy Mizer  
Rose Thomson Family
- 8 Driver
- 15 Merkel
- 22 POINSETTIAS
- 29 Eleanor Mizer

All Saints Lutheran Church  
5445 Heatherdowns Blvd.  
Toledo, OH 43614  
[www.allsaintstoledo.org](http://www.allsaintstoledo.org)  
(419) 865-7701



December