

Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

**December 2009**

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church



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



Church decorating will be after church service on Sunday, Nov. 29

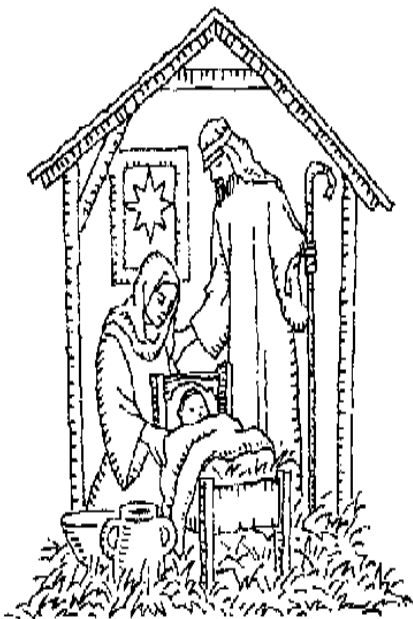
Please join us for our Wednesday Night Advent Services



Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th

Soup Dinner 6:15 and Worship at 7:00

Sign up sheet to bring soup is on bulletin board



*All Saints Lutheran Church*

*Presents*

*Our Fifteenth Annual*

*Drive Thru Living Nativity*

Saturday, December 19

Sunday, December 20

6:00 - 8:00 PM Each Evening

6 Scenes

Live Animals

Many Actors Of All Ages

There is no charge - this is a gift for the community

# *From Your Pastor.....*

## **Advent & Christmas...**

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with..." ...with what? "*The first step,*" right? Wrong! It begins with a vision of the *destination*. You wouldn't take that first step if you had no clue as to where you were going, right?

Okay, I admit it was a trick question. Care to try again? "*Advent is all about getting ready for Christmas,*" right?

Well, no, actually. For the ancient prophets, *Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, Micah* and *John the Baptist*, from whose testimony we get many of our Advent Scripture readings, Advent is all about God's people preparing their hearts and minds for "...*the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints*" (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

Yes, it's true, once he came as an infant, born of Mary and visited by shepherds and Magi. And Christmas is a pretty big deal for us, as it should be. But the biblical writers were more visionary than that! They looked beyond the *birth* of the Messiah, to the time when the Son of God would one day return in glory, and the dead would be raised, and the promises of God would finally be fulfilled in their entirety.

They looked ahead, to the end of the story, the end of the journey, "...*when death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away*" (Revelation 21:4).

So, what should Advent be about, then? Sweet *Mary*? Faithful *Joseph*? No room in *Bethlehem's inn*? Let's save the telling of that wonderful story for Christmas! And let's see if we can hold back, at least a bit, with the beloved Christmas carols this year, until we get to Christmas. Throughout the 12 days of Christmas, we'll sing 'em like crazy, I promise!

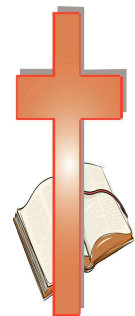
For now, let's get off to a good *Advent* beginning. The gospel reading for November 29 (First Sunday of Advent) sets us off on the right 'first step.' Jesus says, "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down by dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly.... Be alert at all times!" (Luke 21:34-36).

We've got some truly beautiful Advent songs to sing. We've got some powerful messages of hope to inspire us. And we've got four weeks to get ready for the journey.

Focus on the destination, and you'll get off to a great start!

Have a happy and *hope-filled* Advent and a *joyous* Christmas!

*Pastor Rich*



## *Honorable mention...*

Joy Lemke: Musical Director  
and Conductor of.....

### *“Seussical - the Musical”*

Recently, a few members of our church had the pleasure of going to see “Seussical - The Musical ” perform at Springfield High School.

What a delight! Not only was the performance so enjoyable, but how proud they were to see that our very own Joy Lemke, who is the organist here at All Saints, was the Music Director and also Conductor of this fine musical.

They said Joy did a wonderful job and n, were very proud of her!!

Congratulations Joy!!



Purse - Operation Shoe Box!

With \$210.00 donated from the bake sale, \$75.00 from other contributions, and other items donated, we were able to fill the shoe boxes nicely and ship them out.

There were 22 boxes filled and sent out to children in need, and YOU helped give them a wonderful Christmas!

God Bless You All !



Our Fifteenth  
Annual  
Drive Thru Living Nativity  
is Saturday and Sunday,  
December 19 and 20,  
from 6- 8 PM

We will again need many volunteers to help make this year's special event even more successful from last years.

There are many ways you can help!  
Please look at the bulletin board for areas needed volunteers and sign up!

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Holiday season with your friends and give back to the community.



Please join us for our Christmas Eve  
Worship services on December 24th  
at 5:00 or 10:00 PM

# DECEMBER



- Dec. 6 - Tashenberg
- Dec. 13 - Merkel
- Dec. 20 - Houle
- Dec. 27 - Open

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Dear All Saints Members:

Thank you so much for the thoughts, prayers and cards at the death of my mother.

Your care and support are very much appreciated.

Sue Merkel

Thanks to everyone for another successful Quilt Show!

Sue Merkel and I picked up the quilt frames from the unit, Rex Yarger, Norm Merkel, Bob Krueger and Pastor Rich handled the set-up of the quilt frames with ease!!

Kathy Yarger and friends stitched "sleeves" on the backs of quilts for hanging, Bonnie Driver and friends staffed the kitchen and readied the Forum Room for the delicious lunch.

Mary Lou Houle and friends sold the wonderful array of baked goods, cheeses, sausage and pickles.

Hal Houle and Paul Sasse sold LOTS of raffle tickets for the Ohio State and Michigan quilts, and the tear down crew of many worked to get everything back in order.

What a great team effort!!!

Thanks, thanks, and thanks!!

Gretchen Schultz

P.S... soon there will be a report on the amount raised for community and All Saints use.





November 18, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$500.00 in response to Pastor Lori's letter. Please know that you are co-workers with us in our work of bringing the love of Christ to those who desperately need His Love.

We pray for you regularly and ask that you pray for us.

In Him,  
The Redeemer Family

P.S. Last week we fed 447 people and have another Feed Your Neighbor day tomorrow!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day!!



## ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT



Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
7:30 - 9:00 PM

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns  
Emmaus Room

4201 Heatherdowns Blvd.  
Toledo, OH

Title: Getting Through the Holidays

Speaker: Lynne King  
Bereavement Team  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Anticipating the holidays can bring anxiety in our life wondering how we are going to make it through this emotional time. Lynne will suggest a variety of ways we can cope with their absence as the Christmas season approaches.

Our mission is to offer support to people who are grieving the death of a loved one. With caring support, we provide spiritual, emotional and social comfort.

Contact: Rita Hoff 419 724-4675  
rita.hoff@toledostpats.org

Sponsored by: St. Joseph Parish, St. Rose Parish,  
St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Paul's Evangelical  
Lutheran, St. Luke's Hospital, St. Joan of Arc and  
St. Patrick of Heatherdowns

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

## ACOLYTE

DEC. 6 Samantha Merkel  
DEC. 13 Isabelle Merkel  
DEC. 20 Samantha Merkel  
DEC. 27 Isabelle Merkel

## GREETERS

Marilyn Gabriel  
McCanns  
Pat Toepfer  
Eloise Way

## READER

Peg Loehrke  
Jim Burkhardt  
Bob Krueger  
Pam Hershberger

## COMMUNION PREP./ASSIST.

DEC. 6 Tim & Amy Merkel  
DEC. 13 Bill & Judy Reber  
DEC. 20 Norm & Sue Merkel  
DEC. 27 Mary Lou Houle & Janet Caskey

## MONTH

## ALTAR

Mary Lou Houle  
Rose Thomson

## MEDIA

Don Sundby

## SOUND

Mike Okoneski

## COUNTERS

DEC. 6 Rose Thomson & Marilyn Gabriel  
DEC. 13 Mary Lou Houle & Carole Johnson  
DEC. 20 Ann Miller & Pat Toepfer  
DEC. 27 Rose Thomson & Marilyn Gabriel

## OFFERING

**DEC. 2** Bonnie Driver – **Wed. Night Advent Service**  
DEC. 6 Tim Merkel  
**DEC. 9** Bonnie Driver – **Wed. Night Advent Service**  
DEC. 13 Judy Reber  
**DEC. 16** Bonnie Driver – **Wed. Night Advent Service**  
DEC. 20 Rose Thomson  
**DEC. 24** Bonnie Driver – **Christmas Eve Service**  
DEC. 27 Mary Lou Houle

## USHERS

DEC. 6 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch and Hassan Brown  
DEC. 13 Tim Merkel, Ralph Fritsch and Hassan Brown  
DEC. 20 Bill Reber, Ralph Fritsch and Hassan Brown  
DEC. 27 Ralph Fritsch, Tim Merkel and Hassan Brown



12/1 Sue Slater-Rentner

12/23 Rick & Becky McCann – 38 yrs

12/3 Becky McCann  
Rose Thomson

12/4 Stacey Fritsch

12/8 Dave Driver

12/17 Samantha Merkel

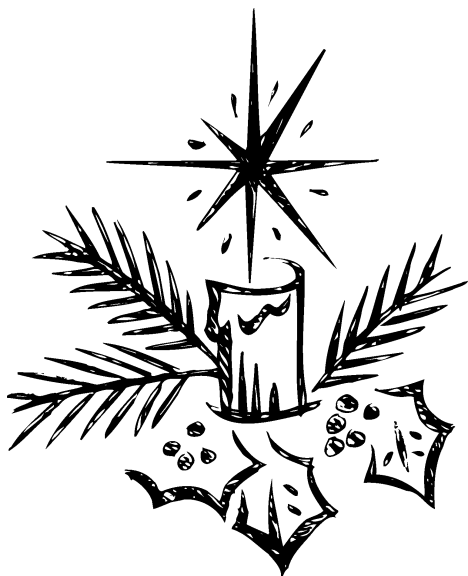
12/20 Luanne Okoneski

12/21 Neil Burkhardt



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

All Saints Lutheran Church  
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Toledo, OH 43614  
[www.allsaintstoledo.org](http://www.allsaintstoledo.org)



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