

Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

January 2010

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church



Season of Epiphany

Arise, shine, for the Light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!
The Spirit of the Lord descends like a dove:
“You are my beloved Son; I am well pleased with you.”
Nations will come to the Light,
and kings to the brightness of its dawn.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

Commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday January 18 (observed in our worship on January 17)



Martin
Luther
King Jr.
Day

From an early speech, 1965:

“Truth crushed to earth will rise again. How Long? Not long! Because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long!... Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne. Yet that scaffold sways the future and behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch over his own. How long? Not long! Because the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.”



Healing Service

January 31, 10 AM

Gather with the saints in prayer for healing for yourself,
the church, and the world.

From your Pastor.....

Blessed Christmas!

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

These are the prophetic words of Zechariah, father of John. “Filled with the Holy Spirit,” Luke writes, “Zechariah spoke this prophecy” (Luke 1).

Listen closely to what he says:

- *“By the tender mercy of our God...”* Ours is a God of compassion, of mercy. Our God acts not out of anger or righteous justice. He doesn't give us what we *deserve*. Think *grace*. Think *mercy*. How does the *tender mercy* of God touch your life this season?
- *“dawn from on high...to give light to those who sit in darkness...the shadow of death...”* The evangelist John calls Jesus “...*the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*” What *darkness* covers you like a heavy blanket this time of year? Is there a *shadow of death* (painful memory; dread of something painful yet to happen) that diminishes your Christmas joy this year?
- *“...to guide our feet into the way of peace.”* You know what happens when painful memories or dread of the future take over every waking moment (and even your dreams at night): *there is no peace!* But Jesus, says Zechariah, will guide your feet into the way of *peace*.

Despite our cultural insistence on celebrating Christmas right after Halloween, the Christian church continues to mark the season as twelve days, beginning December 25 and ending on Epiphany, January 6. Think of it as 12 days to reflect on the tender mercy God shows to you; to consider the many ways in which Jesus serves as light in the darkness of your existence; to meditate on the way of peace in this troubled world, peace that comes through this child, this *Savior*.

Whether you leave your tree and decorations up until Epiphany or take them down on Christmas Day, let this Christmas season be a time for you to reflect on Jesus, the Light of the world, who shows us the way of peace.

Then, as the nights begin to grow shorter and the days longer, join us in church throughout the season of Epiphany, as we worship our God of ‘tender mercy’ and His Son, Jesus, the ‘light that guides our feet into the way of peace.’

Peace be with you!

Pastor Rick



WOW !!

What a wonderful turn out for this year's Drive-Thru Living Nativity!



The weather was decent- no freezing rain, strong winds and no “below 0” temperatures, so that in itself is such a blessing, right? We even had a perfect building for our manger, our old shed!

There were many volunteers who saw this through from the beginning to end. A special thank you goes out to Diana Burkhardt and Gretchen Schultz, to those who contributed food and helped in the kitchen, to those who helped with costumes, scenes and animals, to everyone who volunteered their time, which is so precious during this busy season. This was the first time my family and I were able to volunteer, and it was a very nice experience for us all. I was only able to participate on Saturday night, but I thought the light snow falling down made the whole experience even more beautiful to me.

The Channel 11 News team came out and interviewed Diana Burkhardt on Saturday night. That 30 second spot on the evening news must have really got the word out, because we had more cars visit on Sunday than the night before.

Thanks again to all! Without you, this would not have been such a great success!

Thank You.....

To Bonnie Driver ... for all your hard work and dedicated service as Chair to the Nurture Committee, these last ten years.

To Marilyn Krueger ... for all your hard work and dedicated service as Financial Secretary, these last three years.

To Bob Krueger who is now taking over responsibilities of Financial Secretary.



To Marilyn Krueger.... who recently celebrated a very special birthday!!

Happy Birthday Marilyn!

Sunday morning Bible Study resumes January 3 and our Monday night Bible Study resumes on January 4.

Please join us!

****No Bible Study on January 11th****



Sunday, January 10 -
Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 17 -
Gideons Speaker at 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 24 -
Annual Congregational Meeting
after church service

Saturday, January 30 -
Church Council Retreat
at 577 Foundation
8:30 - 4:00 PM

ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT



PLEASE NOTE
TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE

Tuesday, January 5, 2010
2:30 - 4:00 PM

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns
Holy Family Center - Crites Room
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, OH

Title: Facing the New Year

Speaker: Janet Miller, MA PCC
Counselor to individuals and support
groups at NW Ohio Hospice

We have gotten through the anxiety of the holidays and now we are wondering what the new year will bring us. The new year is a time for new beginnings, but we may feel like "What is there to look forward to?" Janet will help us look at the months ahead with a different perspective.

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we wait in quiet anticipation the birth of the Christ-Child, we think with joy of the blessings of this past year that have been showered on Redeemer. You, dear friends, are among those many blessings. Your gifts of prayers and financial support on our behalf have kept our mission of bringing Christ to our neighbors here in Toledo alive and active, despite hard times and aging members. Because of you we have been able to provide thousands of meals to the hungry, a six week Summer Youth Program for over 100 children, a school year Learning Club for many children, a Family Promise week for several homeless families, a mid-week Jazz worship service for our members and neighbors, recovery groups for alcohol and drug addiction victims, a recovery group for abused men, and many other daily acts of love, as our pastor and members share Christ with those in need of His love. Many of you have physically helped in many ways, from making blankets to taking blood pressures and bringing much needed food. As the times have become more financially difficult for all of us, the poor are suffering even more and the need has become greater. You, dear friends, have answered the call for help and it is because of your generosity of prayers and gifts that we are able to continue serving the poor and those in need of renewed hope.

Thank you for your constancy and sharing. You are a major part of our mission and if there is any way that we can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to call on us. You are always in our prayers and we ask that you continue to pray for us. May you be richly blessed and have a blessed and Christ-filled Christmas, experiencing the joy that Mary felt with the birth of our Savior.

Yours in joy and hope,
Marge Reas and the Redeemer Family



Dear Reverend Rentner,

Please find enclosed a donation to your wonderful church. I cannot adequately express my appreciation for the graciousness and support of your church serving as the meeting place of my Ragan Woods neighborhood association and blockwatch group.

Everyone associated with the church has consistently been so exceptionally friendly, professional, and inviting to both myself and my neighborhood group. Your church serves as a vital anchor in our wonderful South Toledo neighborhood and its various contributions in strengthening our community are invaluable.

Enclosed is a token of my deep gratitude and respect for All Saints Lutheran Church. I greatly look forward to continuing our neighborhood meetings in your warm and inspirational church!

Happy Holidays,

David B. Lemon,
Attorney-at-Law

Ragan Woods/
Hawthorne Hills Neighborhood Assn.





Lady Saints News

Fourteen ladies enjoyed breakfast and fellowship on Saturday December 12, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. at the church. Hostess Kathy Yarger had decorated the tables with festive baubles, candles and pinecones. Kathy served a delicious peach breakfast lasagne, fruit mix and homemade breads. For devotions Pat Toepfer read from Kathy's book, "Bedside Blessings" by Charles R. Swindoll. Thank you, Kathy!

President Sue Merkel presided over the meeting. Topic at hand was the Christmas baskets. Judy Reber's friends had already shopped for our adopted family from Lutheran Social Services. Donnajean Stockmaster had 5 families from Toledo Area Ministries totaling 17 people to shop and buy for using some of the profits from the quilt show. Food was also made available to help make up the food baskets for each family. These families will pick up their baskets at designated time frames.

Gretchen Schultz thanked everyone for their hard work at this years quilt show. Seventy quilts had been on display. She said the recipients of the OSU and MI quilts were obviously delighted. The cheese fundraiser was again a great success. There are still a few jars of the Seckler pickle fundraiser available for sale. Thank you, Gretchen, for your hard work and vision for this community outreach.

Pastor Rich sat in on part of our meeting and thought the quilt show was fantastic. We discussed some of the traditions of Advent and of the holiday season here at the church. Pastor was excited about the upcoming drive thru nativity.

Today our thoughts are with Marilyn Gabriel as she travels to and from Ann Arbor to be with her son at the hospital there. Our prayers are with you, Marilyn.

Lady Saints will meet on Saturday January 9, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the church. Hostesses are Gretchen Schultz and Sue Merkel. All ladies are invited to attend!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Mounjie

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

ACOLYTE

Jan. 3 Samantha Merkel
Jan. 10 Isabelle Merkel
Jan. 17 Samantha Merkel
Jan. 24 Isabelle Merkel
Jan. 31 Samantha Merkel

GREETERS

Ann Miller
Burkhardts
Pam Hershberger
LaVerne Bussdieker
Judy Grimes

READER

Gretchen Schultz
Peg Mauer
Barb Moungie
Dave Driver
Jim Ter Doest

COMMUNION PREP/ASSIST

Jan. 3 Rose Thomson
Jan. 10 Peg & Keith Mauer
Jan. 17 Roger & Lynda Meyer
Jan. 24 Pat Toepfer & Eloise Way
Jan. 31 Ted & Julie Beitelschees

MONTH

January

ALTAR

Sue Merkel

MEDIA

Don Sundby

SOUND

Mike Okoneski

COUNTERS

Jan. 3 Rose Thomson & Mary Lou Houle
Jan. 10 Mary Lou Houle & Carole Johnson
Jan. 17 Rose Thomson & Mary Lou Houle
Jan. 24 Ann Miller & Pat Toepfer
Jan. 31 Ann Miller & Pat Toepfer

OFFERING

Jan. 3 Tim Merkel
Jan. 10 Judy Reber
Jan. 17 Mary Lou Houle
Jan. 24 Diana Burkhardt
Jan. 31 Bob Krueger

USHERS

Jan. 3 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch, Jim Ter Doest, Hassan Brown
Jan. 10 Tim Merkel, Ralph Fritsch, Bill Reber, Hassan Brown
Jan. 17 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch, Jim Ter Doest, Hassan Brown
Jan. 24 Tim Merkel, Ralph Fritsch, Bill Reber, Hassan Brown
Jan. 31 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch, Jim Ter Doest, Hassan Brown

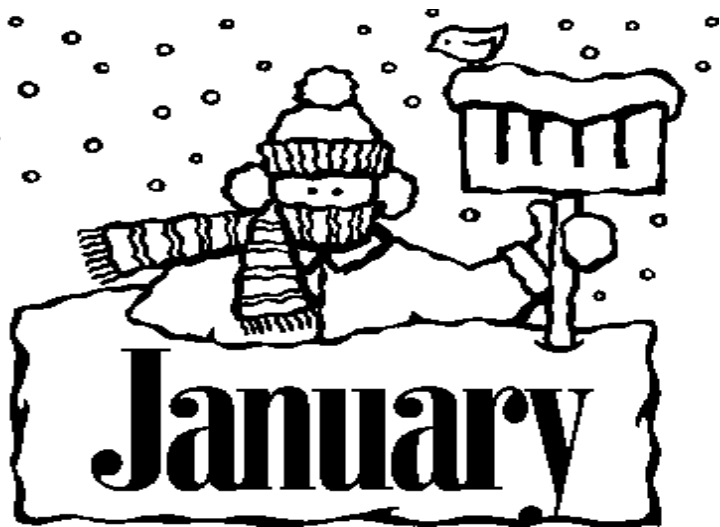
Happy Birthday

1/7 Barb Zaborski
1/9 Ryan Stokes
1/11 Jeremy Schultz
1/16 Keith Mauer
1/30 Peg Mauer
Kevin Fritsch

Happy Anniversary

1/12 Chris & Donna Stockmaster - 36 years
1/21 Pastor Rich & Sue Rentner - 15 years

All Saints Lutheran Church
5445 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43614



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