

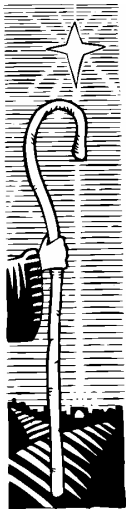
The Marin Lutheran Bridge



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

December 2009

This month we go through, once again, one of the most blessed and wondrous seasons. We hear those most familiar stories which touch our souls and bring comfort and hope. Our hearts are renewed and moved to deeper faith as we sing the awesome hymns and carols of this time of year. It's a season of preparation, celebration and renewal. Yes, once again, God comes to us in the flesh in the baby Jesus. The journey from the crib to the cross begins again.



I invite you to take advantage of all the worship and fellowship opportunities in this season:

- 12/6: Advent Worship at 9 and 11 a.m.
- 12/13: Advent Worship at 9 and 11 a.m.
4 p.m.: Children's Christmas Pageant
5 p.m.: Family Christmas Dinner
- 12/20: Advent Worship at 9 and 11 a.m.
3 p.m.: German Language Christmas Service
- 12/24: 4 p.m.: Family Christmas Eve Worship
6 p.m.: Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols
10:30 p.m.: Christmas Candlelight Service

And, invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker to experience the joy and wonder of this wondrous season with you. Invite them to worship. Bring them to the Children's Christmas Pageant. Invite them to one of the Christmas Eve Worship services.

Peace,

Pastor Tom

The Season of Advent

During the last Sunday of November and first three Sundays in December, (6th, 13th & 20th), we move through the first season in the new church year. Advent means "coming," and it is important to clarify which advent we are preparing for this Advent. Since Christ is the kind of savior who keeps faithfully appearing and reappearing in spite of our faithlessness, we have the opportunity to celebrate at least three advents or comings of Christ during these weeks: his first coming in a humble birth, his second coming to reign, and his weekly and daily real presence in the word and holy communion of worship. We invite you to prepare for all of Christ's comings in the season of Advent.



2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6th, 9 & 11 a.m. worship:

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts.

3rd Sunday of December, December 13th, 9 & 11 a.m. worship:

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news--and cause for exultation--for us who are being saved.

4th Sunday of Advent, December 20th, 9 & 11 a.m. worship:

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on this day. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the Blessed Virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

German Language Christmas Service, December 20th, 3 p.m.:

We rejoice for the birth of Christ with our German language speakers in a service of lessons and carols. Pastor Wilfried Glabach will preside at this service. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

The Season of Christmas

The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th:

4 p.m. Family Worship / 6 p.m. Lessons & Carols

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship:

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us.



First Sunday of Christmas, December 27th, 9 & 11 a.m.:

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind.

Marin Lutheran Church Women

December will be an active month for our congregational unit.

Wednesday, December 9th Martha & Lydia circles will hold their monthly Bible Study at Marilyn Davis' home. Please meet at church at 9:45am to carpool to the meeting as parking can be a problem.

Thursday, December 10th the Naomi/Dorcas circle meets. Details to be published in the Sunday bulletin or contact Erna Randig.

At both of the above meetings we will be finalizing our disbursement of funds to our chosen charities. So please, if you cannot be present let either Jane or Janet know of any charity you would like to see supported.

Sunday, December the 13th the women will have a mini sale as we continue to dream of getting the kitchen fresh and updated. The featured items for sale will be cookies, candies, cupcakes, muffins and assorted hand crafted Christmas ornaments and some hand crafted cards appropriate for the season. For your information, to date we have raised \$200 plus or minus each month during these mini sales. We thank everyone for their continuing support.

Thursday, December 17th join the group for Serve and Share. We will continue to plan activities. We will also finish up our visitations for the year and distribute prayer shawls.

Looking Forward

General Meeting will be held January 7, 2010 at which time we will meet to elect officers, approve the constitution and plan activities for the coming year including budget and financial reports. Meet at 9:00 a.m. for Business Meeting, then Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and potluck lunch at 11:00 a.m. After lunch, we will put away the Chrismons.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding the women's activities please do not hesitate to call me.

Jane McKenzie

Social Concerns

Our **holiday food drive** was once again very successful, collecting 2 barrels overflowing with food items. It was wonderful seeing young and old carrying your offerings of food forward to the altar on Stewardship Celebration Sunday. On behalf of the recipients of food in our community, thank you!

The **Angel Tree** has arrived in the narthex. This year we will be supporting

the Marin Interfaith Council's Warming Centers' need for blankets and \$\$ for

sleeping bags. We will also be sponsoring a family from Ritter Center and requesting some of the basic necessary items for those living on the streets. Keep checking the tree and table for updated information.



kids *of the* kingdom

Oh, come, all ye faithful, to our annual Christmas Pageant!
On Sunday afternoon, December 13th at 4pm,
our Kids of the Kingdom will delight us all with
"On Our Way to Bethlehem"
followed by a fellowship dinner in celebration of Jesus' birth.



Other important dates:

- Rehearsal during the Sunday School hour, 11/29
- Rehearsal during the Sunday School hour, 12/6
- Dress Rehearsal 10am Saturday, 12/12
- Final Rehearsal during the Sunday School hour, 12/13
- Call time for cast on Sunday afternoon, 3pm.

December 20th during the Sunday School time, Pastor Kathryn will read Christmas Stories with the kids and they'll enjoy apple cider and a snack.

No Sunday School on December 27th or January 3rd – Winter break. We'll see you again on January 10th.

CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6: CLASS FROM 5PM - 7PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: 10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE FOR THOSE INVOLVED THIS YEAR.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: MORNING CLASS BEGINNING AT 10AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM BY THE CHURCH OFFICES.

Adult Education

Sunday Mornings:

During the month of December there are no adult education classes on Sunday morning. (The first Sunday of the month (12/6) is a congregational meeting to elect board chairs and officers for the coming year. The next Sunday (12/13), the Kids of the Kingdom are busy rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant which takes place later that same day. The following two Sundays (12/20 & 27) there are no scheduled classes.)

The New Year will begin with a Sunday morning **New Member Class** for those interested in learning more about Marin Lutheran Church, Lutheranism and what it means to be a member of this congregation. This will begin Sunday, January 10th and continue through the month.

CHURCH PROPERTIES

As reported in the October newsletter, painting of the sanctuary building is now happening. Only the north and west sides are being done now and should be complete by the time you read this report. The remaining exterior of this building should be done next year. At least three very large bushes were in direct contact with the building making it impossible to have painting access. Besides, it's not good for the building to have such contact. And so Michael Houts and son did all the necessary pruning, and Jon Rolien hauled away all the cuttings. Thank you, guys! The painting project was given to Kerry Hansen who is a licensed painting contractor. The cost is \$3,000., but he is doing much more work than the price indicates. The mold on the paint surfaces has been chemically cleaned and other surfaces have been scraped and sanded as required. Special procedures have been followed in this phase, because the old paint is lead based except for the new narthex portion. Special equipment was purchased to properly handle and dispose of the paint chips and dust.

The heavy rain and wind storm of about four weeks ago caused several leaks in the lower level of the sanctuary building, i.e. the Children's Center. Two of the leaks occurred in two of the very large fixed windows. Inspection showed that it was caused by dry rot of the bottom window stops. (These are small wood pieces that hold the windows in place.) Further inspection showed that dry rot existed in the same window stops of all seven windows. All bad wood was removed; new stops were installed and caulked. It is believed that the other leaks have also been corrected.

A light infestation of cockroaches has been discovered in three locations: the Children's Center kitchen; the church kitchen in the education building; the room in back of that kitchen. Western Exterminator Co. gave the best price to correct the problem, but the preparation required to ready the rooms requires some effort and time. Therefore, we have placed suitable bait traps in 12 locations of the three rooms which are not readily accessible to people. These will be monitored by us.

An unpleasant odor continues to intermittently occur mostly between the two buildings. A meeting was held with a registered sanitary engineer (at no cost!) to discuss the problem and identify solutions. A plan was developed, and Alan Wulzen has agreed to take on the task of managing the project. It will take some time to implement, but I am optimistic that we will have success.

Ray Gergus, Director

December Celebrations!



Birthdays

- 6 Janine Coughlin
- 8 Adelaide Shunk
- 11 Duff Hansen
Susan Schmidt
- 13 Jim Bedilion
Monica Bergman
- 15 Hannah Kim
- 20 Anna Bischoff
- 27 Mette Wong
- 31 Rick Cunliffe
Fred Weidmann

Anniversaries

- 31 Linda & Bob Dunn

*We wish you and
your family a blessed
Christmas season!*



Morphing from Stewardship into Thanksgiving

It's almost the end of "Stewardship Season" at MLC. I know, we actually think about stewardship all year long, but we've just had our Stewardship Celebration Dinner and the opportunity on Sunday, after prayerful consideration, to bring forward our pledges in support of MLC's mission – the operations and programs for the near future. Very soon, we will be immersed in the Thanksgiving Holiday.

I hadn't ever thought about how Thanksgiving Day follows right on the heels of the stewardship programs that many congregations devote time to each fall. Nor had I thought about how these two activities are related. But I would suggest that for Christians, stewardship and thanksgiving are very closely related. In fact, they are so closely related that stewardship could readily "morph" into the Thanksgiving holiday. It would be much easier than your favorite cinema character morphing into something strangely different. Or stewardship and thanksgiving could be combined! The heart of both is the gratitude we have for all that God has given us. And the act of giving thanks in recognition of these gifts is key. However, as Christians, following the example of Jesus, we are also motivated to move beyond the giving of thanks, to address the needs that exist all around us – in Marin and California, and elsewhere here and abroad. We don't want to just say thank you, we want to act out of overwhelming gratitude!

This year, of course, has been one of the most challenging in recent years for many families. We all know individuals who have lost jobs with the downturn in the economy, some know those who have lost homes. In addition, it was really hard for many young people to find jobs over the summer. Even if you still have a job, maybe your income has declined significantly or there have been sleepless nights because you never know what might happen just around the corner. Your support of MLC is one important way of acting to address the needs of those around us.



I think I'll suggest to the MLC Stewardship Committee that we consider combining Stewardship Season and Thanksgiving Day next year. Maybe we could call it Thankful Stewards Season or Stewardsgiving. One could still have turkey for the holiday meal. But in the centerpiece that adorns the table, I wonder what the miniature stewards should look like?

An important reminder: If for some reason you have not yet been able to submit your pledge for the upcoming year, please drop it off or mail it in to the church office as soon as possible, so that plans can be made for next year's programs, for example. Thank you for your support.

Ross Johnson, Stewardship Committee

Upcoming Congregational Meetings:

December 6th at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary – Election Meeting
January 17, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall – Annual Meeting

MLC Notebook

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of
His hand.



Irish Blessing

Thelma Stai entered life eternal on November 12th. A beautiful memorial service was held in her memory on Sunday, November 22nd. We extend our deep sympathy to *Cathy, Jim Courtney, Taylor & Robin* and to her extended family and friends. She was beloved and we will miss her.

Congratulations to **Mathew Reinders**. He signed with the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs to join their golf program beginning in the fall. We're sure a little studying will go along with that!

We celebrated the baptism of **Logan DiDonato** on November 22nd. Logan along with his parents, Karen & David, and siblings, Mara & Ashton, moved here from Hong Kong this past summer. We wish God's blessings upon Logan and his family and welcome them to Marin Lutheran.

Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 12th the Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas. Chrismons will be hung on the tree and window wreaths will be created with fresh cut greenery. (If anyone has access to fresh greenery, please bring it to use for the wreaths.) Everyone is invited to join us for the decorating between 9am and 12noon. Parents, while your children are here to practice for the pageant, you are welcome to join the decorating!

Flowers



The sign up sheet for **poinsettias** is posted on the kiosk in the narthex. We ask you to sign up for the number of plants you would like. Each plant costs \$8.00. They will

beautify the sanctuary for our Christmas services and you can take them home with you following Christmas. We will be happy to include a dedication in the bulletin if you would like one.

2010 Sanctuary Flowers: The flower chart for 2010 is also posted on the kiosk. Please take a look and choose the Sunday(s) you would like to bring the flowers for the church. Your name and a dedication will be included in the bulletin that Sunday.

Greenery: There are extra items of greenery that are for sale. The list is posed on the kiosk. Please sign up for any of these items that you may want. We expect delivery the first week in December.

Council/Staff Party

Council members, staff and spouses will gather for the annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 6pm at Margot & Ray Gergus' home in Sausalito. This is a potluck affair, so you will be hearing from Margot or Lorri Reinders about what to bring.



KIZ KLUB: Parents Afternoon Out

For Children 1st Grade - 5th
Saturday, December 5th: 11am- 1pm
Cost: \$10 (includes lunch & a craft)
Lunch: Spaghetti



Come to:

- Eat lunch together
- Making Christmas present(s) for some special people in your life!
- Listen to stories read by Pr. Kathryn
- Play games provided by our youth

Any ???s: Speak to Carol Zlatunich OR Pastor Kathryn

Senior High

FIRST FRIDAY – Dinner and fun!

When: December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Dowlings House (Emma's house)

What to bring: A white elephant gift to share! (Something you just don't want anymore and you think someone else might like! Wink-wink!!)

We're going to make something special for your parents and/or friends!

For the Entire Youth Group

Middle School and High School Youth

The Jesus Justice Jazz Concert Tour

Featuring: *Lost and Found* and *Agape* (Dave Scherer).

January 29th at 8:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento

Tickets - \$10

- ⇒ These are two incredible Christian bands that have been to many National Youth Gatherings.
- ⇒ They are touring around the country helping raise awareness and funds for *ELCA World Hunger*.
- ⇒ We'll drive up to Sacramento, go to the concert, then spend the night at St. John's and participate in a service project on Saturday in Sactown.
- ⇒ 2 adult chaperones will be needed to go with Pastor Kathryn
- ⇒ Only 225 tickets will be sold, so let Pastor Kathryn know if you will be going ASAP!

YOU CAN'T MISS THIS AWESOME EVENT!!! EVERYONE WILL BE THERE!!

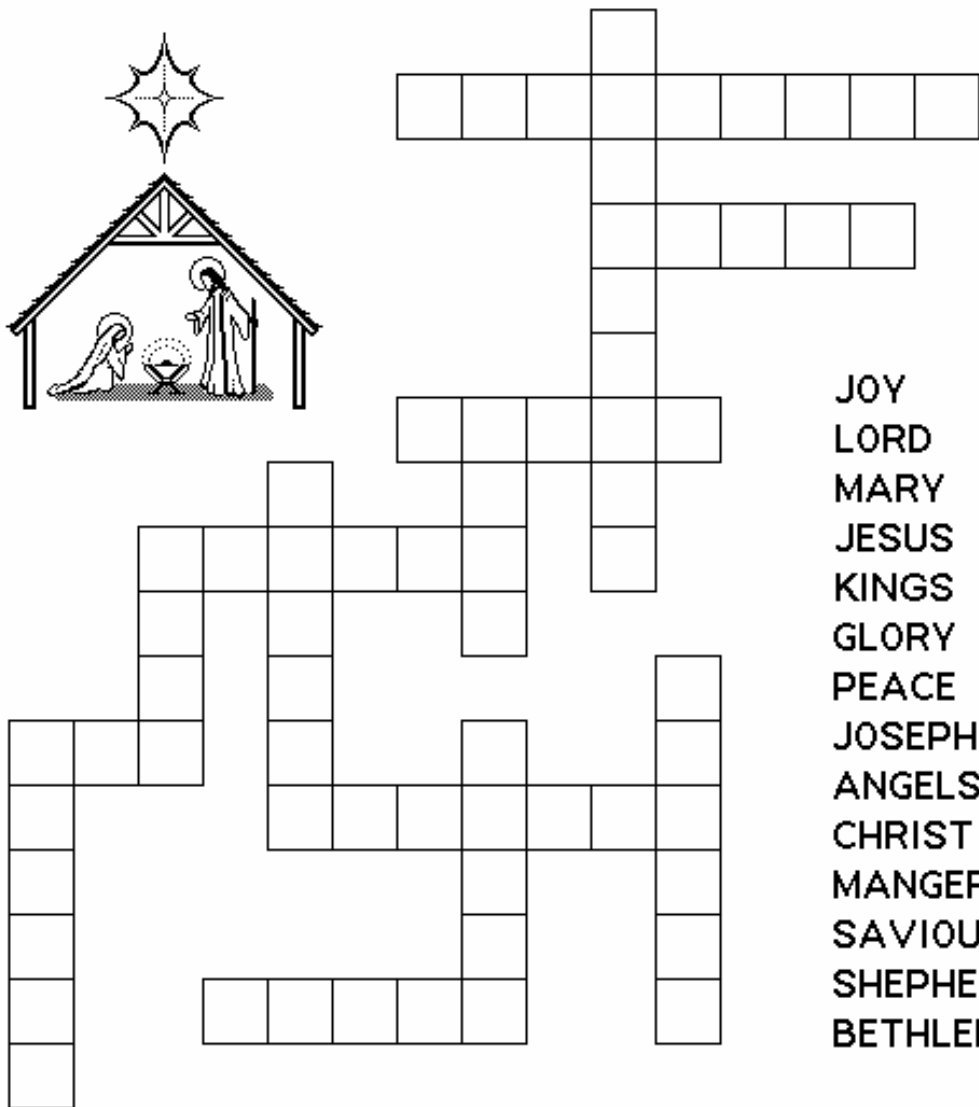


DECEMBER 2009 WORSHIP ASSISTANT

	DECEMBER 6TH	DECEMBER 13TH	DECEMBER 20TH	DECEMBER 27TH
GREETERS				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Cheri Houts Jane McKenzie	Dawn Brewster Erna Randig	Ray & Margot Gergus Stu & Jeanne Burt	Barbara Bischoff Marilyn Davis
USHER				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Michael Houts Roy Davis	Clint Bastin Rick West	Jon Rolien Dave Richard	Rich Myhre Tom Schmidt
ACOLYTE				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Hannah & Kris Gable	Shellan & Taylor Saling	Emma D & Kirsta R Michaela Marymor	Robert Allen
LECTOR				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Karen Clinton Bob Dunn	Dawn Brewster Annemarie Hofling	Ray Gergus Rebecca Shunk	Sharon Guy Joe O'Neill, Jr.
ALM				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Kathy Bayler Betsy McCormick	Susan Morrow	Karen Anderson Paul Davis	Paul Davis
COMM ASSIST				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Jane McK & Paul D	Erna R. & Marie C.	Janet Foster	Carol Cunliffe Betsy McC
SOUND TECH				
9:00AM 11:00AM	John Bischoff Kerry Hansen	Jeff Reinders	Jeff Reinders Kerry Hansen	John Bischoff
COUNTERS				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Corneille Church Janet Foster	Brewster/Bastin Kamphoefner	Corneille Church Janet Foster	Roy Davis Kamphoefner
COFFEE HOUR				
9:00AM 11:00AM	Rebecca Shunk Mette Wong		Margot Gergus Tamara Stocker	Judy Rossbach Jane McKenzie
FLOWERS	Lorraine Loo	Seegers		Poinsettias
ALTAR GUILD	Jane McKenzie	Jane McKenzie	Jane McKenzie	Jane McKenzie

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM

