

The Marin Lutheran Bridge



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

December 2011

This month I'd like to share with you some thoughts on the Season of Advent from a fellow Lutheran pastor in Edmonds, Washington. On the congregation's website he is listed as the "Beloved Architect," (aka the pastor), of Church of the Beloved. This reflection comes from the website, <http://members.clayfire.org/Collection/Index/100178>

Advent is a season of hoping, waiting, yearning, and preparing . . . but for *what*, or *who* and *how*? These are some of the themes explored in the Season of Advent. The word Advent is from the Latin *Adventus*; it means "arrival" or an "awaited coming." It's a season of big promises: "Will God keep ancient promises or has God forgotten us?" During these four weeks, the future and the past mingle together as we celebrate the Christ who came and is yet to come. Memories, inherited through scripture and tradition, are sparked in order to feed tomorrow's hope. The Spirit nudges the discovery, "If God came once . . . maybe God really will come again." Advent is a season largely forgotten by our culture of immediate gratification, and likewise we've forgotten what it means to wait well. It's unlikely that we'll ever see a "Half-Off Advent Sale!" at our local department store. But in all of this waiting, God is creating desire within us. And we trust it's worth the wait. But along the way, there are a few things for which we're not yet ready because when God comes close, it's almost always accompanied by surprise, disappointment, and scandal. This is God's story. This is our story. Welcome to the season of Advent.

Pastor Tom



December Service & Activity Calendar

December 3rd, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon: **Decorating the Sanctuary**

December 4th, Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.: Worship Services, the 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4th, Sunday, 10:15 a.m.: **Congregational Meeting**

December 10th, Sat., 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon: Dress Rehearsal for Children's Pageant

December 11th, Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.: Worship Services, the 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11th, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.: **Signs of Christmas – Children's Pageant**

December 11th, Sunday, 5:00 p.m.: Christmas Dinner

December 18th, Sunday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.: Worship Services, the 4th Sunday of Advent

December 18th, Sunday, 3:00 p.m.: **German Language Christmas Service**

December 24th, Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. – Family Service with carols, an interactive children's message, communion and candlelight singing

6:00 p.m. – Service of Lessons & Carols with choir & ensemble, communion and candlelight singing.

10:30 p.m. – Traditional Candlelight Service with choir & ensemble, a pastor's message, communion and candlelight singing.

December 25th, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Day Worship Service

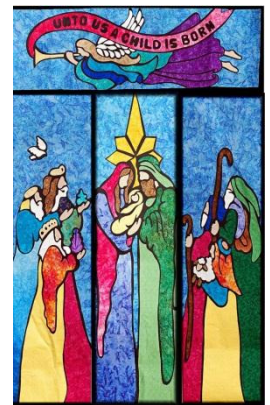
Flowers

Two sign-up sheets are posted for flowers: One for poinsettias (\$8 per plant) for the sanctuary for our Christmas services as well as the Flower Chart for 2012. Please take the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers.



Stewardship Missive

Thank you to all who participated in Stewardship Celebration Sunday, carrying forward your offerings and commitments as well as gifts of food. We enjoyed being part of the celebration along with all of you. Forty-eight commitments for 2012 have been returned. We anticipate that more will come in. If you have not as yet returned your commitment, we ask that you do so. You may drop them in the offering plate on any Sunday or bring them by the church office. – Stewardship Ministry Team



KidS OF tHe KINGdOM

Our Sunday school kids have been working hard on their upcoming pageant, *Signs of Christmas*. We have three rehearsals remaining, so we need ALL the kids here for all of them: Sunday morning, December 4th at 10:00am

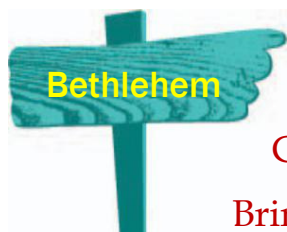
Saturday, December 10th from 10:00am to 12noon is the dress rehearsal

Sunday morning, December 11th at 10:15am another run through

Parents, please keep the song CD playing and your kids singing along with it. As always, thank you for all for your help with the pageant.

We invite everyone to come to the pageant presentation,

Signs of Christmas



Sunday, December 11th at 4:00pm

Christmas Dinner follows in the Parish Hall

Bring your grandparents, neighbors and friends!

On Sunday, December 18th during the Sunday school hour, Pastor Kathryn will hold her Christmas Class with the kids. She'll read books to them and they'll share cocoa and cookies!

There will be no class on December 25th and January 1st. We'll begin the new year of classes on Sunday, January 8th.

Michele Jacobs

Confirmation

Sunday, December 4th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

This will be the final class of this calendar year. We will meet in the lower level of the church. A schedule for the new year will be coming out soon.

Adult Education

1st Thursday Bible Study: December 1st, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us in Pastor Thomas' office to view an ELCA Mosaic DVD regarding our understanding of holy scripture. This session will be on the Apostle Paul and his epistles in the New Testament. First, we spend time in prayer for the whole congregation and others. – *Pastor Kathryn*

During the month of December there is no scheduled Adult Education on Sunday morning. We will begin again in January. If you have any ideas or topics or biblical books/topics you'd like to look into, please email me – pastortomgable@gmail.com.

Thanks – *Pastor Tom*

WELCA Marin Lutheran Church Women

A grateful THANKS to all who contributed and all who purchased articles at our Nov. 7th bake & craft sale. I consider it a success and the funds raised will be used for current needs (to be investigated with input from the gathering in December & finalized at our annual meeting in January). In addition, these funds will pay for the cost of mailing the LWR fabric kits overseas..

Thursday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m. meet in conference room at church for our Circle Bible study, "To Lead and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark" by Rev. Patricia Lutt.

Thursday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m.-12noon we meet in the conference room for Serve & Share. Time is always available to learn a new craft. This month's activity will be to continue making cards to send to members and friends who are homebound.



Thursday, January 5, 2012: Pastor's Bible study, Annual meeting, potluck lunch and help with putting away the Chrismons and wreaths.

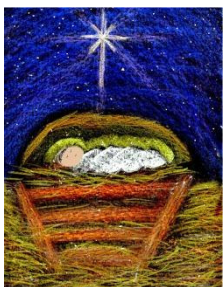
Looking farther ahead: This spring we plan to hold a one-day women's retreat. We have secured a reservation at The Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg on Saturday, March 17th. Details and signup to follow.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding any of our activities please contact Jane at church.

Jane McKenzie

Worship in November

This month we continue in the new church year that began on the final Sunday in November. It's the Season of Advent (see Pastor Tom's article at the beginning of the newsletter for a reflection on this season). On the first Sunday in December (12/4), the second Sunday of Advent, we hear the story of John the Baptism crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. The third Sunday in Advent (12/11) we jump to the beginning of the gospel of John as he describes Jesus as the "light of the world." With the fourth Sunday in Advent (12/18), it's to Luke's gospel we turn as we hear how God comes with good news to ordinary people.



At the end of the week we begin our celebration of the incarnation on Christmas Eve. Join us in worship on December 24th at 4, 6 and 10:30 in the evening.

On the final Sunday in December, the 25th, we will join in worship at 10 am to celebrate the birth of our Savior. (Please note, on Sunday December 25th and January 1st there will only be one service, at 10 am, instead of our regular Sunday schedule of 9 and 11!)



Citizens with the Saints

National Youth Gathering Gathering: (not a typo!!)

Concert with AGAPE:

Proceeds to support Lutheran World Hunger

When: Friday, December 2nd

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto

Time: 7:00 p.m. – Cost: \$10

Needed: One adult to drive us down with PK!

Who's Invited? **ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL & SENIOR HIGH**
(even if you're not going to New Orleans)

Senior High Youth Gathering Fundraising Preparations

Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We'll make Granola Jars which will be sold in church on December 4th & 11th.

All YOUTH who are attending New Orleans need to help make these jars!



Christmas Gifts for sale from our Youth!

December 4th & 11th

Support our youth by buying some jars filled with homemade granola!

All proceeds will go to support our youth who are going to New Orleans in the summer of 2012!

Parent's Night Out: Friday, December 16th

Youth Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering

Parents, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. drop your kids off at church and have three hours for yourselves – get that last minute shopping done, have a leisurely dinner – there are any number of things you can do. Your kids will be having FUN, playing games, watching a movie, reading stories, etc.

Suggested donation for this event is \$30. You will be helping to send our youth to the National Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans!

The Bookies – MLC Book Club

We meet on Thursday, December 15th at 7:30 p.m. Marilyn & Roy Davis have invited us to their home at the Tamalpais. Please call them early that week to let them know if you will be able to come.

We will be discussing the book, *The Sea Wolf* by Jack London. Ray Gergus will be facilitating the discussion about this, "powerful and gripping saga of Humphrey Van Weyden, captured by a seal-hunting ship and now an unwilling sailor under its dreaded captain, Wolf Larsen. The men who sailed with Larsen were treacherous outcasts, but the captain himself was the legendary Sea Wolf—a violent brute of a man."

German Language Christmas Service

On Sunday, Dec. 18th we will hold a German Christmas Service. Pastor Christian Jennert, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in San Carlos, will lead the service filled with German songs, lessons and a message. Please invite your German speaking friends and neighbors.

REST (Rotating Emergency Shelter Project)

The Social Action Committee of Marin Lutheran Church is partnering with other Marin faith communities and two non-profits (St. Vincent de Paul and Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy) to provide food and temporary shelter during the cold and rainy winter months. Our role will specifically be to provide a nourishing meal, to go along with a dry, safe place to sleep overnight and an opportunity for conversation and company during dinner for the shelter guests.

Organizational Information

In this collaboration, St. Vincent provides the administrative support (with funds coming from the County) and the Chaplaincy directs the program to select and shelter a group of men and women.

REST is a behavior-driven program inviting people from congregations and communities in Marin to be in compassionate relationship with people who are homeless. Last year, 12 congregations in Marin hosted guests in their facilities once a week. Men and women are screened at St. Vincent and then taken by bus to separate locations. They arrive between 5-6 PM, and are provided a meal and shelter for the night. Guests and staff depart by bus at 6 AM to return to St. Vincent in San Rafael.

REST received a \$250,000 grant from Marin County to support the program. This is used for transportation, staffing, security and supplies. Sleeping bags have also been purchased for the guests. They will be washed weekly and stored by the program.

Who Qualifies to participate as a guest?

First, REST is not a drop in, no-barriers shelter. Participants must exhibit a willingness to be safe, in control of themselves, and respectful of place and

person. Individuals are screened in San Rafael by trained REST staff to ensure that they can abide by the guidelines and expectations laid out by the program.

What is the scope of the homeless problem in Marin?

Last year, there were 1770 people counted as living homeless, in temporary shelter or in transitional housing according to a survey by Marin County's Health and Human Services. Currently, there are only 55 beds available on a nightly basis in the adult shelter in Marin (operated by Homeward Bound on Mill Street in San Rafael). Each year, an average of ten people die homeless in Marin.

What is the role for MLC?

This year, MLC plans to provide a hot meal (preparation, meal set up, service, clean up and dinner company) for shelter guests 2 times a month. For men, this will be at Christ Church, Novato on the 1st Monday of the month. For women, this will be at the Wellness Center in San Rafael on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Program dates-November 15, 2011 thru April 15, 2011

<u>Women's Shelter</u>	<u>Men's Shelter</u>
Nov. 22, 2011	Dec. 5, 2011
Dec. 27, 2011	Jan. 2, 2012
Jan. 24, 2012	Feb. 6, 2012
Feb. 28, 2012	March 5, 2012
March 27, 2012	April 2, 2012

Guidelines

The guidelines for both food preparation (timing, type and # of portions needed, recipes, pre-service warm up) and servers (meal set up, serving, clean up, dinner

company) will be completely detailed beforehand. Judy Rossbach and Sandy Seeger will be preparing and serving the 1st meal on 11/22 a) because at the beginning, the # of guests are expected to be small and b) as a rehearsal to guide future prep and help develop written guidelines.

How can I help?

There will be a sign up poster in the narthex for both “meal prep” and for “serving”. The guidelines for these two different sets of responsibilities will be available for all volunteers. We hope you will review the opportunities. Please consider signing up! The Social Action Committee budget will provide the food for meal preparation and it will be stored in the room adjacent to the kitchen (in the cupboards and refrigerator). We hope to gather the preparation volunteers either the day before or the morning of the delivery to prepare the dinner. Cooking/transport containers will be provided. The servers will then pick up the dinner, transport it to the shelter, serve the meal and join the guests for dinner.

Are there other ways to support the program?

The committee would welcome additional monetary support to supplement the spending for food and supplies.

Other opportunities

We have been encouraged to bring the unique spirit of our church family to the shelter. Since music is certainly a MLC specialty, we are considering bringing CDs of Andrew’s guitar music and Shelly’s piano music to share during dinner. Live music is also an option. If anyone has musical talents they’d like to share, they would be most welcome.

Also under consideration, is the idea of providing a zip lock bag with a washcloth, soap, toothbrush and paste for each guest. We think this would certainly be a welcome addition. This provides another opportunity for MLC members. If anyone has small soap bars/bottles, small toothpaste, used but usable washcloths to donate, please notify Sandy Seeger or bring to church office.

Spending the Night

Although we are not required to provide members to spend the night, we have been invited to support and join the on site REST staff member and the guests and spend the night at the shelter. (A security individual is also present at the Wellness Center.) If this service is of interest to you, please contact the Social Action committee.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

- 7 *Isaiah Clark-Hexter*
Monika Krueger
- 8 *Adelaide Shunk*
Lindsey Theobald
- 11 *Susan Schmidt*
- 12 *Jim Bedilion*
Monica Bergman
- 20 *Anna Bischoff*
- 27 *Mette Wong*
- 31 *Rick Cunliffe*
Fred Weidmann

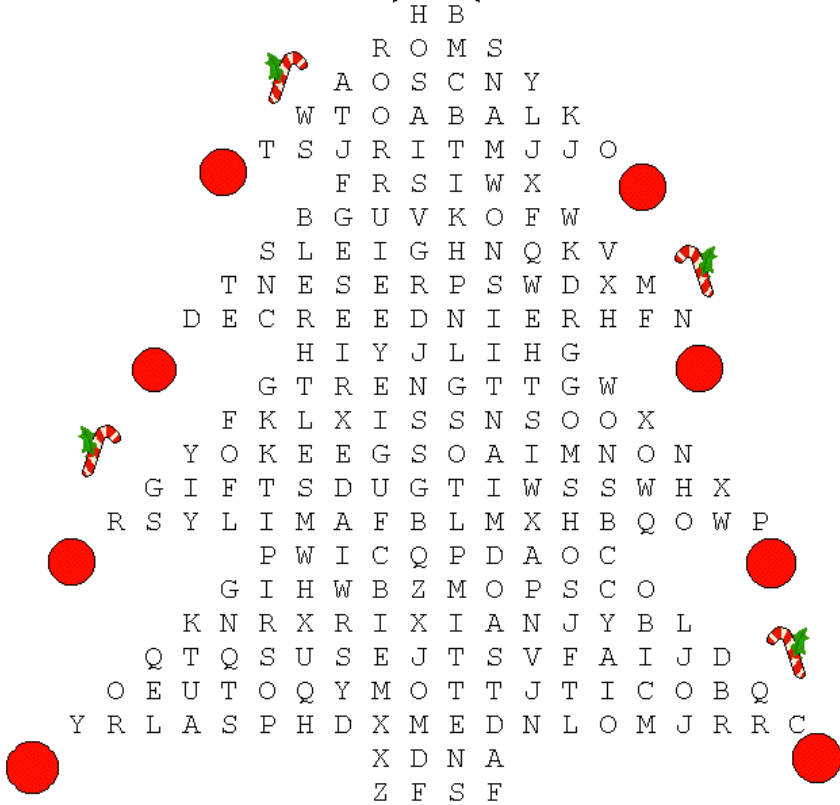
Anniversaries

- 26 *Bonnie & Clint Bell*
- 31 *Linda & Bob Dunn*



DECEMBER 2011 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	DEC. 4 TH	DEC. 11 TH	DEC. 18 TH	DEC. 24 TH	DEC. 25 TH
				4p, 6p & 10:30p	10:00AM SERVICE
GREETERS					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	T. Morgenlaender Janet Foster	Margot/Ray Gergus Barbara Bischoff	Dawn Brewster Erna Randig	4p: Emily/Meggie 6p: Barbara B 10:30p: C. Houts	Marilyn Davis
USHER					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Kristian G /Tom S Dave Richard	Jon Rolien Rick West	Clint Bastin Joe O'Neill, Jr.	4p: Michael R 6p: Jon R & Ron J 10:30p: M. Houts	Roy Davis
ACOLYTE					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Nik Gable	Laine G/Hayden S Braxton & Tristan	Adelaide S/Mara D	4p: 6p: Caitlin/Morgan 10:30p:	
WREATH/GIFTS					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Adelaide & Amelia Rich/JJ Myhre	Stockers Faye Miller	Theobalds Lacy Family		
LECTOR					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Sandy Seeger Tom Schmidt	Ray Gergus Jim LeDane	Rebecca Shunk Joe O'Neill, Jr.		Janet Foster
ALM					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Yvonne Weidmann Betsy McCormick	Susan Morrow Paul Davis	Yvonne Weidmann Betsy McCormick		Sharon Guy
COMM ASSIST					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Sandy Seeger Rich Myhre		Erna Randig	4p: 6p: Barbara B 10:30p: B&C Houts	Janet Foster
SOUND TECH					
8:30AM 11:00AM	Bart Saling Kerry Hansen	Dan Watrous John Bischoff	Jeff Reinders Kerry Hansen	4p: Jeff Reinders 6p: John Bischoff 10:30p:	
COUNTERS					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Corneille Church Janet Foster	Dawn B/Mette W Kamphoefner	Clint Bastin Janet Foster	Kamphoefner	Roy Davis
COFFEE HOUR					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Margot Gergus Nola Denton	Judy Rossbach Lorraine Loo	Rebecca Shunk Mette Wong		
FLOWERS	Lorraine Loo			Poinsettias	Poinsettias
ALTAR GUILD	Jane McKenzie	Jane McKenzie	Jane McKenzie	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner



- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-------|
| Christmas | Sleigh | Snow | Gifts |
| Jesus | Reindeer | Snowman | Cold |
| Family | Present | Sing | Boots |
| Santa | Winter | Mittens | Scarf |



Kid's Page
Merry
Christmas!

Christmas Word Search

A	N	J	E	S	U	S	E
L	D	N	G	A	D	H	P
P	C	W	M	E	R	P	G
O	M	B	A	N	G	E	L
A	A	Y	N	I	U	S	X
U	R	T	G	K	F	O	C
R	Y	I	E	N	D	J	H
S	T	A	R	G	S	I	I
F	P	E	E	H	S	L	O

- Jesus manger
- angel
- Mary
- Joseph
- Star
- sheep



Christmas Crossword

ACROSS

1. It led the wise men to Jesus
7. Earthly father of Jesus
8. He saves people from their sin
9. The wise men brought these to Jesus
10. A place where animals sleep
12. There was no room there for Jesus
13. The mother of Jesus
14. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem

DOWN

2. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds
3. Where the baby Jesus was laid
4. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus
5. Watched their flocks
6. City where Jesus was born
11. An infant

