



# Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Newsletter - December 2007

## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 16, 11:00 am

Did you ever wonder what the animals in that stable thought, when some strangers moved into their home? And then that uninvited couple and their baby had some visitors! Hear the animals' view of the nativity story when the Sunday School children and youth present "*The Unfriendly Beasts*" on December 16<sup>th</sup>.



Sunday, December 23

## La Posada

During 11:00 am Sunday Service

It's the day before Christmas Eve, and Mary and Joseph are already in Bethlehem seeking lodging. The children will follow them from "house to house" as they look for a place to stay. Then we'll listen to Joseph's version of the Christmas story, which is a bit different from the familiar account (from Mary's point of view) that you hear every Christmas Eve. The service will get us in the mood to celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve.

Monday, December 24

## Christmas Eve

Special Christmas Eve Services  
at **5:00 pm & 7:30 pm**

*Luke 2:1-20*

## The Holy Night

*Familiar  
Carols, Candles  
& Communion*



This holiday season, offer someone you know the "*Wonder of Christmas*" through an invitation to Christmas services at your church. You can tell them they would be welcome here – and there's no pressure. We won't embarrass them by singling them out, or ask them to sign up for anything.

You can also say that we have "classic" services – classic means the 'real thing'. We'll sing traditional carols, the ones they remember from years gone by. And the service will be beautiful. So please extend invitations to some folks.

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## Baptism of Steven Warren Martinez

When Tracey and Steven Martinez joined the congregation, he was a candidate for baptism. Steven completed his study of the catechism and on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, he publicly affirmed his faith and was baptized.

His sponsor at the baptism was his wife, Tracey. His parents and his son Robert stood at his side. After his baptism, we welcomed Steven to the Lord's table, as a communing member of the church.

## Tree Trimming

Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 pm

Everyone is invited to join us in church to put up the decorations in the Narthex and sanctuary, and of course, to trim the tree. The pastor will lead us in singing carols, and we'll have some Christmas cookies for children of all ages.

## Work Day

Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 am

### Decorating the Outside of the Church for Christmas

Help us witness to Christ and remind those who drive by "the reason for the season", by decorating the exterior of the church for the holidays. We'll need many hands both to decorate and to clean up (and even fix up) for Christmas.

## St. John the Baptist

Sunday, Dec. 9, 11:00 am

This year we read Matthew's account of John's ministry – and its relationship to Jesus' ministry. The Baptist's call is to prepare for the coming of the Christ – get ready.

## New Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Group

Beginning in February

Are you ready for a conversation, an open discussion, about faith, scripture, and values? Do you think that there are diverse valid perspectives within Christianity? Can these perspectives, and your perspective, be valuable for consideration in order for humanity, us, to progress toward real truth and a better resulting relationship with God and the rest of 'His creation'?

Beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a third adult class will start with an emphasis on learning through group discussion. We will begin by using material from the Nooma series originated by Pastor Rob Bell. There will be a 10 minute video to set the stage for each Sunday's discussion. The first topic is "Rain". You can see the video and get a preview of the material at [www.nooma.com](http://www.nooma.com). Check it out and get ready for something (almost) completely different.

# Poinsettias



*For  
Christmas  
to Decorate  
the Church*

Once again this year we are ordering our plants through

## Unicorn Center

*a Unique Place for  
Special People.*

This year matching funds will again be received from

### Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, West Bexar County Chapter.

Thus your donation to help decorate the church for Christmas will doubly benefit the Unicorn Center.

And you can even take your plant home after the service on Three Kings Sunday.

*All that for only ten dollars!*

+

Poinsettias may be given in memory or in honor or a loved one.

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Number of plants you wish to order: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$10 each)

Your name:

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of or In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to "Lutheran Church of the Resurrection" and write "Poinsettia" on the memo line.*

# Daily Bread Ministry Provides Thanksgiving Dinners for 73 Families

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, our Daily Bread food ministry distributed 73 food baskets to needy families in our community. Each basket included an assortment of packaged and canned goods:

- Mashed potatoes
- Turkey gravy
- Cornbread stuffing
- Sweet potatoes
- Green beans
- Cranberry sauce
- Strawberry jello

And of course there was an assortment of fresh bread, provided by Bill Kaiser. Fresh vegetables and fruits, including both strawberries and bananas, were picked up from the Daily Bread warehouse by our faithful drivers and were given out.

But where's the meat? Each family also received a ten dollar HEB gift certificate (which could be used only for food) so they could buy a turkey.

All of this was made possible by the generosity of the members of *Resurrection* and *Horizon* churches. In addition, *A Place for Kids* day care had a canned food drive to help. The children came out to sing for those waiting for food on Tuesday morning.

We especially appreciated the assistance of the volunteers from *Wachovia Bank*, who provided the packaged and canned foods in addition to helping unload the truck, give out the food, and carry it to the cars of senior citizens.

Photos by Amor Baldwinsson



# Pastor's Page

By Pastor Jeff Lange

## Advent

In December, we begin a new season in the church year.

Advent comes from the Latin word for an "arrival" or a "coming". Christ will come again, just as he fulfilled the prophecies at His first Advent in Bethlehem.

So the green paraments (the color of growth) give way to blue (the color of hope).

You'll notice some changes in the service - like a different musical setting for the *Kyrie* (Lord have mercy) and the replacement of the angelic hymn (Glory to God in the Highest) with "*Light One Candle to Wait for Messiah*".

In Advent, we'll begin reading from Matthew's gospel instead of Luke's, and our first lesson will consistently be read from the prophet Isaiah. All of which is to remind you - in case you hadn't noticed - that Christmas is coming.

But the church's season of preparation for the feast is somber - sometimes it's called the "Winter Lent". And the lessons deal with things like the second coming of Christ, judgment and repentance.

On the first Sunday, we'll look forward to the end, beginning with Isaiah's prophecy of a coming time when God will judge between nations. Then Paul writes, "You know what time it is - Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed."

And Jesus warns that the time is short, and He will come again like a thief in the night. In other words, don't just look back to the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem, but be prepared for His second coming - His second Advent.

On the next two Sundays the "be prepared" theme is elaborated on by looking at the ministry of St. John the Baptist and his call for repentance. On the fourth Sunday we'll meet Mary and Joseph, and reflect on the seemingly embarrassing circumstances leading up to Jesus' birth.

The point of all this is to spiritually prepare for the birth of Christ is our lives. He whose birth we celebrate is our Lord and will be our judge.

## Advent Hymns

This season of preparation has been around for a long time and, given the variety of themes and lessons, has produced a lot of hymns. The oldest one we'll sing is *Savior of the Nations Come*, from the fourth century. My favorite Advent hymn, *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* is from the 15th century. We sing a couple of reformation era hymns, and also some American hymns from *Southern Harmony* and *Kentucky Harmony*. There will even be some contemporary hymns.

Unfortunately, with so many great seasonal hymns, we can sing each one only once. So expect some musical variety as we span 16 centuries and many musical traditions in the hymns for each Sunday.

# Church Council Elections

At a special congregational meeting on December 2, we elected five members to fill the vacancies of council members whose terms have expired.

Those elected were:

Kurt Weinelt.....

Vice President

Roy Ronnfeldt.....

Property

Lorena Guerrero.....

Music & Worship

Carly Montgomery.....

Youth

Mary Ranney.....

re-elected to Evangelism

Carol Reaves.....

re-elected to Fellowship

We thank our outgoing Council members for their faithful service:

Jane Martinez

Ted Berquam

Bernie Schurade

Dean Winter

# Ladies Night Out

None in December  
See you in January!

Our Ladies Night Out group will not meet in December, but we will joyfully resume our dinners in January.

On Monday, January 28, we will meet at Salsalito's on Bandera Rd, at 6:30 pm. Call Joyce at 623-2288 with any questions. Merry Christmas!



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 - Roy & Carol Ronnfeldt
- 20 - Keith & Pat Jenkins  
Richard & Laura Deckert  
Bob & Dorris Curtis
- 31 - Molly & Richard Cude



### Newsletter Editor :

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Articles, announcements and news for the newsletter are always welcome.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Patricia Jenkins
- 2 - Bruce Fitzgerald  
Bob Burkhardt
- 6 - Tony Teschendorf
- 8 - Arnor Baldwinsson
- 11 - Laura McFall
- 13 - Ann Coleman
- 17 - Rachel Deckert
- 20 - Manuela Martinez
- 24 - Bob Wacke
- 26 - Shraddah Jenkins Reyes
- 27 - Louise Jones  
Thomas R. Robinson

*“In those days an order went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole world.... They all went to be registered, each to his own city, and Joseph, too, went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem.... to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, whose pregnancy was advanced. While they were there her days were completed and she gave birth, and she bore her first-born Son, whom she wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”* Luke 2:1-6

Date	Deacon	Lector	Communion Assistants	Basket Carriers
Dec. 2	Carly Montgomery	Jane Martinez	Sean & Marie McMaughan	Kayla & Heather
Dec. 9	Tonia Faile	Jim Baker	Carly Montgomery Mark Laneman	Beverly & Ella
Dec. 16	Erik Nystrom	Carly Montgomery	Tonia Faile Ellen Nystrom	Susy & Kattia
Dec. 23	Sean McMaughan	Joyce Swartz	Bob Schoonover Mark Laneman	Kayla & Hannah M.
Dec. 24 5:00 pm	Dean Winter	Jenny Winter	Sean & Marie McMaughan	Elena & Laila
Dec. 24 7:30 pm	Tonia Faile	Jim Baker	Mark Laneman Bob Schoonover	Grace & Hannah A.
Dec. 30	Bob Schoonover	Ophelia Lastra	Tonia Faile Carly Montgomery	Heather & Robert
Jan. 6	Carly Montgomery	Jane Martinez	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaners	Saturday Church Cleaners
Dec. 2	Roy Ronnfeldt & Ted Berquam	Jim & Rachel Baker	Jeanette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Pat Jenkins	1st Sat. Dec 1 Bob Schoonover
Dec. 9	Kathy & John Schwab	Ken & Janice Doxtad	Margie Perales Jane Martinez	2nd Sunday Ophelia Talamantes	2nd Sat. Dec 8 Confirmation Class
Dec. 16	Ken & Janice Doxtad	Mary Ranney Mary Tate	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	3rd Sunday Ken & Janice Doxtad	3rd Sat. Dec 15 T. Faile & J. Swartz
Dec. 23	Jenkins Family	Jeanette Smith Helen Rauch	Lorena G. & Juanita T.	4th Sunday Jane Martinez	4th Sat. Dec 22 Erik Nystrom
Dec. 30	Bill & Bonnie Howells	Edith & Shirley Montgomery	Check with Lorena	5th Sunday Laura Craig	5th Sat. Dec 29 Youth
Jan. 6	Tony & Bess Teschendorf		Jeanette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Margie Perales	1st Sat. Jan 5 Bob Burkhardt