



# Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Newsletter December 2008

## Advent and Christmas Seasons

The celebration of our Lord's birth is surrounded by two seasons in the church year. The weeks before are a time of preparation called Advent. ("Advent" means to come or appear.) The days after are a time of celebration - the Christmas season. It's two important an event to restrict its observance to a single day.

### Advent Four Weeks of Getting Ready

*"O Come, O Come Emanuel,  
and Ransom Captive Israel"*

We prepare on Sundays by listening to some of the prophecies from the Old Testament. And we'll sing "Light One Candle to Wait for Messiah", reminding us that "Christ" means the anointed one - the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. In the gospels, we'll first look forward to Christ's second coming in glory (His Second Advent), and then to the preparations for His first Advent as the one who walked among us.

### Sunday, November 30

*"My Lord What a Morning,  
When the Stars Begin to Fall"*

Christmas can be a sentimental season, but our preparation for Christmas begins on the First Sunday of Advent by listening to Jesus' words about His second coming at the end of time. Jesus quotes the prophets and says He will fulfill their words, coming at a time you do not expect. Therefore be alert and prepared. (Mark 13:24-37)



### December 7

*"On Jordan's Banks, the Baptist's  
Cry Announces that the Lord is  
Nigh"*

Before Jesus began His ministry (as an adult), John the Baptizer prepared the way for Him with his preaching. He called people to repent - to turn again toward the Lord- and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. So on the second Sunday of Advent we'll read the very beginning of St Mark's gospel, starting at Mark 1:1. John looks forward to the Christ who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

### December 14

*He Came Down that We May Have  
Love; Hallelujah Forevermore.*

### Sunday School and Youth Christmas Program

Get your hearts and minds ready for Christmas by listening to young people retell the Christmas story. There will be a surprising number of children and your presence will encourage them as they grow in faith.

### December 21

*"La Posada"*

*"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers,  
and Let Your Lights Appear"*

On the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent we turn to the events a few months before Jesus' birth. An angel appeared to Mary to tell her that she will bear a son, name him Jesus, and he will be the successor to King David. Mary is perplexed, "How can this be?" We "sing of Mary, pure and lowly" because even though she can't understand how she can fulfill the role she has been given in God's plan, she simply re-

plies: "Here am I, servant of the Lord. Let it be..." So blessed Mary becomes the model disciple, who faithfully obeys the Word of the Lord, trusting that "Nothing will be impossible with God."

### Wednesday, December 24

*"Oh Come All Ye Faithful  
Joyful and Triumphant"*

**Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm 7:30 pm  
Carols, Candles, Communion**

The "classic" Christmas Eve service with lots of familiar carols, the traditional Christmas gospel, a sermon, communion and the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

### Sunday, December 28

*Christmas isn't over yet!  
There are two more celebrations  
Holy Family Sunday*

What happened next? We'll pick up the story "eight days" after Jesus' birth. Then we'll follow Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem where they meet two prophets, Simeon and Anna, who tell us about Jesus' future.

### Sunday, January 4

### Three Kings Sunday

The next big event for the Holy Family comes a little bit later, when mysterious visitors from the east come bearing gifts for the new born king. But a sinister element is introduced into the story, for King Herod learned that he might have competitor for the title "king of the Jews". How will the family escape his clutches?



## On December 7 after Worship and the Meeting We'll Set Up the Christmas Tree

If you wish, you can help us "reassemble" our tree and get the decorations out of storage. Then we'll be ready to decorate.

## Tuesday, December 9 6:30 pm Trimming the Tree and Decorating the Church for Christmas

You're all invited to come and help. We can use helpers of all ages – the more the merrier!

## Poinsettias for Christmas

Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettia plants, thanks to your generosity. So once again we'll offer you the chance to order plants (at \$10 each). An order form will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin.

## December Has Many Opportunities for YOU to Invite Someone to Church

It's the season when those without a church think "Maybe I should go to church during the holiday season." Just in case some of your friends might have that thought, why not invite them to your church. You'll never know if they are thinking about church unless you ask.

On **December 14** the children and youth will be presenting the Christmas story, so it's a great time to invite someone with kids – or someone who likes kids. Then on **December 21**, the church will be decorated for Christmas, we'll have our La Posada procession and talk about Mary and Joseph. Of course there are the Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 7:30 pm. We have two services because we expect a lot of visitors.

Then our Christmas celebration, with more Christmas Carols, continues on **Dec 28** and **Jan 4**.

Be a daring disciple – risk rejection – and invite folks to worship with us during the Christmas Season. You'll never know whether they'd like to come unless you ask.

## Sunday, December 21, 2008

### Christmas Caroling After-Caroling Pizza Party

The best part of Christmas Caroling is that you don't have to have a "fantastic singing voice," just a "joy for singing." Mark your calendars – we need ALL of your voices to carol at Sierra Royal Apartments and The Villas at Leon Valley. More information to come in the upcoming weeks.

### "Daily Bread" Baskets for Thanksgiving

Each year we give about fifty needy families a thanksgiving basket that includes fresh and canned vegetables, stuffing mix and gravy, fresh bread and a \$10 H.E.B. gift certificate to buy meat for the meal. This project was especially dear to the late Louise Jones, who would sit at a table on Tuesday mornings signing up participants weeks in advance.

Louise's family knew of her involvement in this ministry and asked that some of the money given in her memory be devoted to this cause. So we will use \$250 of her memorial money to help pay for the fifty \$10 H.E.B. gift cards. Each basket will include a card saying "This basket has been made possible by memorial gifts made in honor of the late Louise Jones who, up until a few weeks before her death, sat at the registration table on Tuesday mornings as the "Daily Bread" food was distributed."

### Invitation to our Visitors

If you have been worshipping with us, but are not yet a member of the congregation, you might want to consider joining. In a sense you are

already a member, because at your baptism you were joined to Christ's universal church. Becoming part of this congregation is simply an outward sign of what you already are – a child of God and member of His family. But it is also a way to again demonstrate your commitment to Jesus Christ.

If you would like to talk about church membership, please speak to Margie Christopher (210) 681-9189 or [margie7Chris8@aol.com](mailto:margie7Chris8@aol.com) or Pastor Jeff (210) 723-4280 or [pastor-jeff@lutheran-church-san-antonio.org](mailto:pastor-jeff@lutheran-church-san-antonio.org).



### In Memoriam Bill Kaiser "The Bread Man"

While most of you probably didn't know Bill, he was well known and appreciated by all of the participants in our Tuesday "Daily Bread" food distribution program. More than a year ago Bill began bringing his pick-up truck filled with loaves of bread on Tuesday mornings. He had noticed that often the truck load of food from the daily bread warehouse included very little bread, so he decided to do something about it.

So he would go to a day-old bread store and for a small fee get enough bread to fill his pick up. When asked 'why', Bill replied "It was time to give back." He had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and didn't have long left to live.

Bill had longer than he thought. But more recently, as his condition worsened, he found a friend to go with him. Then finally, he was bed ridden. He went to be with His Lord on Saturday, November 15.

We pray that the Lord would comfort and console his wife Cheryl, his children, and all who mourn him. May he rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.





### LCR Constitution Proposed Bylaw Change Notice

The church council voted 11/13/08 to propose the following change to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Bylaws.

Change Section 7 to read (change in bold letters):

Section 7. The term of office for church council members will be two years beginning on January 1 following the November/December elections. **Council members will be limited to serving two consecutive terms. Filling any portion of an unexpired term will not count against this term limit. Upon reaching the limitation on the length of continuous service, the former council member must sit out one year before being eligible again for election to the council.**

Rationale:

- a. Our constitution mentions but does not define "the limitation on the length of continuous service" in section C12.01 (p.6).
- b. Term limits are not addressed in the bylaws.
- c. This change brings the bylaws into harmony with our current practice.
- d. It allows flexibility in a situation when a seat becomes unexpectedly vacant.

3. Timing: According to the constitution (C16.03), church council needs to approve bylaw changes at least 60 days prior to a congregational meeting. After council approves this bylaw change, then we must provide this proposed change with our recommendations to the

congregation least 30 days prior to the congregational meeting.

### **Land Sale Approved at Congregational Meeting 11/16/08**

At a special congregational meeting after Sunday services, the following motion was approved unanimously by acclamation:

***Be it resolved that the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection agrees to sell land as detailed in the 10/21/08 contract with Barcelona Lofts; and, Be it further resolved that the entire net proceeds of this sale will be used to reduce the principal and refinance the mortgage.***

Some of the land next to the parking lot and behind the tree line will be sold to pay down principal on our mortgage. After refinancing with ELCA Mission Investment Fund, this in turn will reduce our monthly mortgage payment by an estimated \$600-\$700 per month. Since our giving has actually decreased since 2006, this reduction in mortgage payments coupled with budget cuts will help offset those decreased offerings. This budgetary relief will not be forthcoming immediately, however. It will take several months before the sale is complete; tasks such as appraisals and surveys must be accomplished, and rezoning must be approved by the City of Leon Valley.

Our congregational president, Ken Doxtad, has put in many hours and many miles shepherding this land sale project, responding to offers and counter-offers. Thanks, Ken, for your diligent efforts managing this complicated process!

Kurt Weinelt  
LCR Vice President

### **Successful Stewardship Campaign**

The completed stewardship campaign for the church year of 2009 was very successful. We exceeded last years pledged amount by \$450, with a total of \$93,850.00.

We also increased the percentage of members making a commitment from 68% of our membership to 77% of our current membership.

In response to devoting time each day in prayer 96% of the members indicated they would spend time each day in prayer during 2009.

In response to reading the bible each day, 68% indicated they would read the bible each day

In regard to church attendance the average percent of attending Sunday services will be 61%. That factors out to an average Sunday attendance during 2009 of over 120. We pray we can full fill this commitment

The Stewardship Group wants to thank everyone for a successful campaign and lets make 2009 a banner year at Resurrection

### **Christmas Prayer**

*by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!

## Treasurer's Corner

By Marsha Kay Weaver

Welcome to the Treasurer's Corner. This area will provide you the basic financial status of the church on a quarterly basis. Please contact myself or Joyce Swartz if you would like more details on the financial status of the church.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 07	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 07	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 07	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 08	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 08	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 08
Income:	\$ 43,083	\$ 41,363	\$ 40,554	\$ 41,174	\$ 40,448	\$ 38,800
Expenses:	\$ 41,111	\$ 41,636	\$ 38,696	\$ 43,688	\$ 40,516	\$ 42,245
Difference:	\$ 1,972	\$ - 273	\$ 1,857	\$ -2,513	\$ - 68	\$ -3,445

	2007	YTD 08 (9/30/08)
Income:	\$ 164,530	\$ 120,423
Expenses:	\$ 162,421	\$ 126,449
Difference:	\$ 2,109	\$ - 6,026

We are still experiencing a decline in our financial status compared to previous years. As we quickly approach the end of the year, I ask that each of you give as generously as possible. When we think of the meaning of generosity, we might first look at the size of the gift or the nobility of the cause. But Jesus measured generosity by the condition of the giver's heart. "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be" (Matthew 6:21). Therefore, I am asking every member to get excited about giving and look upon your gifts as an opportunity to lay up treasure that will last for all eternity and glorify the risen Christ by mirroring His generosity. Your committed giving, your time, your talents and treasures are all confirmation of your generosity and faith to further God's love. Proclaim the joy of giving – not out of duty or guilt, but out of gratitude for salvation in Christ.

## Dec Birthdays Anniversaries

Dec	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	Patricia Jenkins	1
6	Tony Teschendorf Timothy Rohloff, Jr.	6
7	Chris Stockwell	7
8	Arnor Baldvinsson Christopher Ramsower	8
9	Laura Hood	9
13		13 Roy & Carol Reaves
14	Emily McMaughan Mary Tate	14
19		19 Ron & Carol Ronnfeldt Andrew & Sarah Hood
20	Manuela Martinez	20
23	Hannah Arulanandam	23
26	Roy Reaves Shraddah Jenkins	26
28	Suanne Oliver	28
29		29 Bob & Dorris Curtis Keith & Pat Jenkins
30		30 George & Donna Autobee



Newsletter writers wanted, no experience necessary, please contact the editor.



Newsletter Editor:  
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## Worship Assistant Schedule December 2008 to January 2009

Date	Deacon	Lector	Communion Assistants
December 7	Erik Nystrom	Joyce Swartz	Sean and Marie McMaughan
December 14	Bob Schoonover	Molly Cude	Erik and Ellen Nystrom
December 21	Sean McMaughan	John Craig	Bob Schoonover Dean Winter
December 24 – 5pm (Christmas Eve)	Tonia Faile	Jenni Britt	Sean and Marie McMaughan
December 24 – 7:30pm (Christmas Eve)	Dean Winter	Bill Grace	Mark Laneman Ken Doxted
December 28	Tom Robinson	Robin Attard	Dean Winter Tonia Faile
January 4	Erik Nystrom	Mark Laneman	Tom Robinson Ellen Nystrom
January 11	Tonia Faile	Ophelia Talamantes	Erik and Ellen Nystrom

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaner	Saturday Church Cleaner
December 7	Roy Ronnfeldt Ted Berquam	Margie Perales Joyce Swartz	Jeanette Smith Janie Saenz	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Pat Jenkins	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. 12/6 Bob Schoonover
December 14	Kathy & John Schwab	Mary Tate	Margie Perales Karen Woodruff	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ophelia Talamantes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 12/13 Confirmation Class
December 21	Ken & Janice Doxtad	The Nystroms	Sonia Guerrero Joyce Swartz	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ken & Janice Doxtad	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat 12/20 Tonia Faile Joyce Swartz
Dec 24 Christmas Eve	5:00 –Doxtads 7:30 Schurades	<i>To be assigned</i>	<i>Check with Lorena Guerrero</i>		
December 28	The Jenkins Family	The Schoonovers	Lorena Guerrero Juanita Talamantes	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Jane Martinez	4 <sup>th</sup> Sat 12/27 Eric Nystrom
January 4	Bill & John Craig	The Bakers	Lorena Guerrero	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Margie Perales	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat 1/3 Jerry McCarty
January 11	Jim & Suanne Oliver	Ken & Janice Doxtad	Jeanette Smith Janie Saenz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Mark Laneman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. 1/10 The Schurades

Since we are entering the holiday season, when many will be traveling out-of-town, would you please look for your name on the serving schedule and check the date. If you cannot make it on the scheduled day, please email Pastor Jeff at [pastor-jeff@lutheran-church-san-antonio.org](mailto:pastor-jeff@lutheran-church-san-antonio.org)