



LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2009

A SEASON OF SAINTS

Advent begins with the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30. And the season is chocked full of these feasts and commemorations that go mostly unnoticed in an otherwise busy season of the Church Year. Even if these feasts fell on a Sunday, the Sundays in Advent are privileged, so that they take precedence over other days.

But the feast days of the saints nevertheless keep us from the trite sentimentality that has become the norm for Advent and Christmastide. The feast days of the saints, always on the days of their deaths, not their births, remind us of the reality into which the Lord Jesus was born. He didn't come to save us from the drear of winter but the vale of death, the curse of sin.

Those in **bold** are feasts of principal saints, while the others are lesser commemorations.

St. Andrew, November 30 The brother of Simon Peter, Andrew was one of the first disciples Jesus called. Tradition holds that, refusing to be crucified on the same shape cross as his Lord, Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross, one of the ten apostles martyred.

John of Damascus, December 4 Known most famously for his Come you Faithful, Raise the Strain, John is an 8th century theologian and hymnwriter. He summarized the work of previous theologians, covering every conceivable aspect of Christian doctrine in his work Fount of Wisdom. John also defended the Church's historic practice of making images and icons to tell the story of salvation.

Nicholas of Myra, December 6 Affectionately known as St. Nick, little is known about Nicholas historically except that he was a bishop in the city of Myra, known for his charitable giving.

Ambrose of Milan, December 7 Ambrose was bishop in Milan. During his bishopric, Ambrose zealously defended the catholic faith. He was also a prolific hymnwriter, including the treasured Savior of the Nations, Come. Ambrose baptized and catechized Augustine, the most famous of the Western church fathers.

Lucia, December 13 Lucia was martyred under the intense persecution under the Emperor Diocletian in AD 304. Because her name means "light, her commemoration is often a festival of light, particularly in Scandinavian countries. She is often depicted in a white baptismal gown with a crown of candles on her head.

Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men, December 17 Daniel and the three young men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were among the Israelites carried into exile in Babylon in 727 BC. In this pagan country, all of these men refused to worship anyone but the true God. This faithfulness could've cost them their lives. The three men were cast into a fiery furnace, but survived because of the presence of God with them. Daniel was cast into a den of lions but likewise survived because the Lord delivered him.

Adam and Eve, December 19 The first people God created, Adam and Eve were in the Image of God, possessing perfect righteousness, until their rebellion and fall into sin. All their descendents inherited their sin and condemnation and would have been damned to hell, were it not for the Second Adam, Jesus Christ.

Katarina von Bora, December 20 Fleeing from a convent in 1523, Katarina became the wife of Martin Luther in 1525. She and Martin were blessed with six children, and Martin praised Katy for her skill as a Hausmutter.

St. Thomas, December 21 Thomas, known for his incredulity, mockingly called "doubting Thomas," became believing Thomas, who made the bold confession, "My Lord and my God." After Pentecost, Thomas traveled to India to proclaim the Gospel there. According to tradition, Thomas was martyred by being speared to death.

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St. Stephen, December 26 Stephen, one of the seven men chosen to serve as deacons, freeing the apostles to spend more of their time preaching. Charges with the false accusation of blasphemy, Stephen became the Church's first martyr, dying by being stoned to death. As he died, Stephen prayed for forgiveness for the men stoning him.

St. John, December 27 John, known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved," was the only disciple recorded as being at the foot of the cross as his Lord died. From the cross, Jesus gave John care of His mother. Eventually, John was a pastor and bishop in Ephesus before being arrested and exiled to the island of Patmos for proclaiming Jesus as Lord. John wrote the Gospel which bears his name, Revelation, and his three epistles.

Holy Innocents, December 28 When King Herod learned from the Magi that the King of the Jews had been born in Bethlehem, he was afraid of someone usurping his throne. Herod ordered all the baby boys in Bethlehem killed. These babies were the first ones to shed their blood for Him who came to shed His precious blood for them.

David, December 29 David was the second and greatest king of Israel. Under his leadership, the kingdom flourished. Because of his sin and fall from faith, David serves as an example for Christian repentance and restoration. He was an accomplished musician and poet, writing most of the Psalms, the hymns of the Old Testament.

Name & Circumcision of Jesus, January 1 All the bloodshed of the followers of Jesus is accounted for because He came to shed His blood for them. His very name means He saves His people from their sins. This He did by dying. Even when only eight days old, the infant Savior, God in human flesh, began to feel the sting of humanity's sinfulness and death, being circumcised, bleeding presumably for the first time. His blood is the "reason for the season."

So what? In a season marked by sentimentality and commercialism, the lives—and often deaths—of these saints who shed their blood or were willing to endure death rather than depart from the faith delivered to them serve to call us beyond the sentimental to the sacred. Jesus didn't take human flesh to make all our Christmases bright but to deliver us from eternal death and condemnation. He came to die. He came to save us from death.

In Christ's Service,



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

Sundays	Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 27, Jan 3
Divine Service	9:30 a.m.
Matins	8:00 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School	8:30 a.m.
Wednesdays	Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23
Free Soup Dinner	5:30-6:30 p.m.
Private Confession	6:00-6:45 p.m.
Advent Evening Prayer	7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Divine Service	7:00 p.m., Dec. 24
Christmas Midnight Divine Service	11:00 p.m., Dec. 24
Christmas Day Divine Service	9:30 a.m., Dec. 25
Children's Christmas Service	7:00 p.m., Dec. 27
Eve of the Name & Circumcision of Jesus Divine Service	7:00 p.m., Dec. 31
Epiphany Divine Service	7:00 p.m., Jan. 6

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
Oct 31 st	35/26		
1 st	119/85	21	15
8 th	81/64	16	14
15 th	126/91	22	20
22 nd	103/75	21	16
25 th	33/26		
29 th	112/94	12	15

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Envelp	Plate	SS	Debt	Memorial	Flowers	Other	Mission
1 st	2369	199		100			5	10
8 th	1269	468	9.50	20		15	48	10
15 th	2453	154.05	15.75				489.43	10
22 nd	987	264.25	18.03				100	
29 th	1993	247	3		20		45	

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Elders: Lead: Eric Trisler
Asst.: Mark Kloempken

Altar Guild: Elke Monroe, Brandi Smith, Yvonne Hartman, Mary Ann Husmann, Kaye & Carrie Carpenter

Greeters

Dec 2 (Wed) –
Dec 6 – Herb & Kim Frazer
Dec 9 (Wed) –

Dec 13 – Stephanie & Amy Straub
Dec 16 (Wed) –
Dec 20 – Jerry & Ethel Summers
Dec 23 (Wed) –
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve-7pm Trisler Family
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve-11pm
Dec 25 – Christmas Day - Tina Lyming
Dec 27 – Carrie Carpenter, Eliana & Addison
Dec 31 – Dennis & Brandi Smith

Ushers

December 6 – Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
December 13 – John & Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Ed Basham
December 20 – Tony Purcell, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers, Jim Heltsley
December 27 – Dave Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire

Acolytes

Dec 2 (Wed) – Ailee Manns
Dec 6 – Aloera Montz
Dec 9 (Wed) Josh Manns
Dec 13 – Trevor Sedlacek
Dec 16 (Wed) Katy Rethorn
Dec 20 – Makenzi Summers
Dec 23 (Wed) Erin Smith
Dec 24 – Josh & Ailee Manns, Aloera Montz
Dec 24 11 p.m.- Trevor Sedlacek, Erin Smith, Taylor Eberhardt
Dec 25 – Katy Rethorn
Dec 27 – Josh Manns
Dec 31 – Trevor Sedlacek

NEWS & NOTES

COOKIE WALK

The Sunshine Circle is hosting their annual cookie walk on Dec. 13, 9-11 a.m. They need you to bake a few dozen cookies to donate.

Come buy cookies for \$5 a pound and tell your friends and family members to buy some cookies, too.

The money the ladies raise help to complete several projects around the church, including redecorating the narthex, contributing toward the carpet, and taking care of other needs as they arise. So, eat cookies *and* help the congregation? Win-win.

VOLUNTEERS

There are a couple positions on the Council that are vacant. We need a chairman of evangelism and a chairman of stewardship.

We also need a couple regular Sunday School teachers and one or two substitute teachers. If you think teaching Sunday School would be too hard, the next announcement puts that excuse to rest.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Want help teaching Sunday School? Every week, Deaconess Pam Nielsen from Concordia Publishing House teaches the following Sunday's lesson on Lutheran radio show *Issues, Etc.* You can listen live or on demand anytime at www.issuesetc.org. It's a great way to get a jump on preparing each week's Sunday School lesson.

GAUDETE PARTY

Even though we sometimes gripe that there aren't enough volunteers to fill all the positions available, there are a ton of people who put in a lot of hours and sweat around here.

In thanksgiving for all your hard work, Pastor and Laura and hosting an open house on Gaudete Sunday (December 13...look for the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath), 3-6 p.m.

Everyone who has helped out throughout the past year is invited! (Eating cookies doesn't count as volunteering ☺, contrary to the previous announcement)

ART EXHIBIT AT CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce "**Look Toward the Heavens: The art of He Qi**" an exhibit of 43 sacred artworks by renowned Chinese artist He Qi, now on display at Concordia Seminary, in the gallery of Concordia Historical Institute, through January 2010. One of China's most internationally acclaimed contemporary artists, He Qi ("huh chee") has been committed to the creation of sacred art since 1983. His artwork blends together Chinese folk customs with the western art of the Middle Ages and modernism, creating original color-on-color paintings. He Qi was the first among mainland Chinese to earn a Ph. D. in religious art after the Cultural Revolution, and was a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. The artist proof giclee exhibit also includes never before seen artifacts from the history of Lutheran missions in China.

The Concordia Historical Institute is located on the campus of Concordia Seminary at 804 Seminary Place in Clayton, MO, open M-F 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.. The gallery will also be open prior to the "Bach at the Sem" concerts on Dec. 13 and Jan 31, 1-3 p.m. To view He Qi's work online, visit www.concordiatheology.org or www.heqigallery.com.



Enews From Unity December 2009

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Do You Know What I Know?

It's Advent! Everyone is looking forward to Christmas. The annual progression of inside and outside decorations, buying presents, baking cookies, and singing carols has begun. Most of us can look back over the years and remember fondly the family traditions surrounding the season. It's a most wonderful time of the year.

For me, the Advent season brings to life many vivid memories. The annual Children's Christmas Program was a major production at our Lutheran School. Students portrayed the characters of the story, the choirs prepared traditional hymns, and the speaking choirs recited the Christmas narrative, taken directly from the words of Scripture. When I was in Eighth Grade, I was asked to accompany the choir and congregation with my trumpet. What an honor!

As I look back, I now realize that the Christmas Program was actually a teaching tool. Those passages of Scripture, especially Luke 2, are forever a part of my spirit. Like the liturgy, I can still speak and sing the words as if I had just learned them yesterday.

Sad to say, many people did not have that experience as a child. In fact, many of our Unity students are hearing the details of the Christmas Story for the very first time. Can you imagine that? As we prepare for our Christmas Program (on December 16), what we're really doing is teaching. Through daily repetition, the students will memorize the angel's announcement of a Savior, the travel plans to Bethlehem, the visit of the shepherds, and the song of the angels as they proclaimed "Gloria!"

What a privilege! What an opportunity! What a responsibility! I am blessed to have attended a Lutheran school as a child. Now, I want our students to learn what I learned, and to know what I know. "Give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21

Wish List

6-8 Foot Artificial Christmas Trees
Boxes of Kleenex (lots)
Spray Disinfectant

Prayer Requests

- Please pray that our for a successful **Christmas Program on December 16**. Pray that the hearts of our students and parents will be open to receive Jesus as Savior.
- Please pray for the on-going financial support for our Scholarship Fund. So far, \$70,000 has been contributed toward out \$350,000 goal. We have a long ways to go. It will require God's miracles to take place.

Volunteer Work Day

The next day for volunteers to come and help is Saturday, February 20. It's time to start renovating more classrooms for use in the future.

A special offer is being made that day for volunteers to "Give A Day and Get A Day." All volunteers that day will be eligible to receive a free one-day pass to Disney World.

If you plan to help on February 20, please send an email to pmiller@unityesl.org to let us know.

Target Take Charge of Education

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for our school. It's super-easy, and all you have to do is use your Target[®] Visa[®] or Target[®] Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education[®] program. It's easy. Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target[®] Visa[®] or Target[®] Card. Big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better.

- Find out how much money our school has already received at target.com/tcoe.
- Grandparents, alumni, neighbors and friends can take part, too.

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF OUR UNITY
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!**

Look Toward the Heavens



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis presents
Look Toward the Heavens
 The Art of He Qi

at the Concordia Historical Institute Gallery
 Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 October 2009 – January 2010

One of China's most internationally celebrated contemporary artists, He Qi has been committed to the creation of modern Chinese Christian art since 1983. In his works, he has blended together Chinese folk customs and painting techniques with the western art of the Middle Ages and modernism, creating original color-on-paper paintings.



He Qi

He Qi was the first among mainland Chinese to earn a Ph.D. in religious art after the Cultural Revolution. He wrote his dissertation while studying at the Hamburg Art Institute in Germany, and was a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. His work has included artist proof giclée exhibitions in Kyoto, Hong Kong, Geneva, London, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Yale, Princeton, and now St. Louis.



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More information at www.ConcordiaTheology.org.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

We pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

- Week of Dec 6 – Angie Winfield, Brandi & Chase; Michael Williamson
- Week of Dec 13 – Rick & Billie Whyers, Trevor Sedlacek, Reagan & Ronald Walters, & Morgan Stemm
- Week of Dec 20 – Charles & Judy White; Jeff White, Aspen, & Montana; Roy & Barb Young
- Week of Dec 27 – Richard & Cindy Zumwalt & Cassie; Pastor & Laura Hemmer & Dean

- 12/7 Ben Funk
- 12/9 Bob Hall
Kurt Hall
- 12/10 Isabelle Eberhardt
- 12/11 Chas. White
Samantha Strubberg
- 12/12 Brienne Conklin
- 12/13 Malinda Towell
- 12/15 Erinn Hileman
- 12/18 Whitney Ontis
- 12/19 Kelly Smith
- 12/20 Hayleigh Elledge
- 12/21 Gary Gaffner
Susy Pohlman
Nicholas O’Neal
- 12/22 William Kloempken
- 12/24 Braden Pinkard
- 12/25 Ronnie Eberhardt
- 12/28 Sharon George
- 12/29 David Roth
Roy Young
- 12/29 Billie Whyers
- 12/30 Hannah Greene
Nick Manns
David Lyming
- 12/31 Vance Miller

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 – Carrie & Brian Marshall
- 09 – Eric & Tina Trisler
- 10 – Gary & Jean Pinkard
- 18 – Jeff & Karen Brinkman

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12/4 Karley Blasa
Kaitlin Pyrtle
- 12/5 Ella Jane Pointer
Rylie DeWitt

THE ANCHOR
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 2009

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH-JERSEYVILLE, IL 62052

November 10, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Hope Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:05pm by President Keith Baecht. The 8 members present were Keith Baecht, Linda Blasa, Carol Skibbe, Tony Purcell, Mark Kloempken, Tim Butler, Kim Frazer, and Pastor Hemmer, who opened with the Daily readings and prayer.

The Secretary's Report: (Carol Skibbe) The October minutes were e-mailed to the Council members, approved, published in the newsletter, and will be filed in the permanent file.

The Treasurer's Report: (Linda Blasa) The October financial statement:

Present checking balance as of 10/31/09 is \$230.04.

Linda paid off the Building Note as approved by the Voter's. No mission payment or Improvement loan payment were made. Council approved Linda's report.

Pastor's Report: (Rev. Jeffrey B. Hemmer) Katelynn Elizabeth Perkinson was baptized on October 18, 2009. Transfers include Brian & Terri White and Trent Tucker to Our Redeemer, Carrollton, IL, and Dennis & Patti Henneman to Blessed Savior, Florissant, MO.

Elder's Report (Tim Butler) The Elders studied the Smalcald Articles, approved Pastor's current mileage bill, discussed membership concerns, and worked on the Elder's schedule for the next year.

Stewardship Committee

Evangelism Committee:

Worship Committee: (Rick Angel)

Altar Guild: (Stephanie Straub)

Properties Committee: (Bob Hall)

- a. All gutters need to be fixed and cleaned and Keith will get a quote for this.
- b. Tim VanHovel painted outside doors – thanks!

Education Committee: (Brandy Purcell)

The Children's Christmas Program will be held December 27 (Sun. Eve.) and still needs a Director. Brandy also needs more Sunday School teachers.

Social Committee: (Eric Trisler)

- a. A good time was had by all at the Mexican Fiesta.
- b. Meals on Wheels are going well, but more volunteers are needed. See Eric.

Youth Committee: (Kim Frazer) The youth have \$1154.05 in their account. They will soon be making coffee cake and bon bons for sale, and collecting coats, hats, scarves, boots, etc. for donations.

Youth news attached.

Old Business:

1. Cash flow: we are still in the red.
2. Building & Property Improvement Status:
Thanks to Tim for painting doors and gutters.
3. 2010 Budget was passed at the Voters Mtg.
4. 2010 Election (Odd years): Jamie Fester has agreed to be Financial Secretary, and Robin Manns has agreed to take over as Council Secretary.
5. The Crisis Management Team consists of Rick Angel, Jean Pinkard, Nick Manns, Tim VanHovel, Bob & Kerry Hall, Pastor Hemmer, and Keith Baecht.
Tentative CPR training dates are January 9th or the 16th.
8am-12:30pm CPR and AED training (Jean Pinkard, Red Cross)
12:30-1pm Lunch
1-2pm Hope Crisis Management Training (Rick Angel, Nick Manns)

New Business:

1. Advent Soup Suppers were discussed. Schedule as follows:
12/2/09 - Elders 5:30-6:30pm
12/9 - Council Members
12/16 - Youth Group
12/23 - Altar Guild / Ladies Guild
2. Leroy and Ruth Stiles submitted a letter asking for Council's permission to use the Church facilities for Girl Scout meetings. Permission granted.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned, followed by Compline in the Sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Skibbe, Council Secretary

DECEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	30	1	2 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-6:55p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Evening Prayer 7:45-8:30p Catechesis	3 6:00 Youth Group	4	5
6 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Children's Service Rehearsal	7	8 5:30-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	9 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-6:55p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Evening Prayer 7:45-8:30p Catechesis	10	11	12 9:00-11:00a Cookie Walk
13 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Children's Service Rehearsal	14 6:30p Girl Scouts	15	16 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-6:55p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Advent Evening Prayer 7:45-8:30p Catechesis	17 10:00a Jerseyville Min. Alliance Book Club	18	19
20 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 10:30a Children's Service Rehearsal	21 10:00a Matins @ Jerseyville Nursing & Rehab	22	23 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 7:00 -7:45p Advent Evening Prayer 7:45-8:30p Catechesis	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Divine Service 11:00p Christmas Midnight Divine Service	25 9:30a Christmas Day Divine Service	26
27 8:00a Matins 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 7:00p Children's Christmas Service	28 6:30p Girl Scouts	29	30 6:00-6:45p Private Confession 6:00-6:55p Luther League 7:00 -7:45p Service of Prayer and Preaching 7:45-8:30p Catechesis	31 7:00p Eve of the Name & Circumcision of Jesus Divine Service	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>Jan 2</i>

