



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE ANCHOR

DECEMBER 2007

ADVENT: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...

Every bride: past present or future knows the saying. For your wedding, wear "something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue." Well, the season of Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. Like a bride anticipates her wedding day with excitement and preparation, so the Bride of Christ, His Church, anticipates the day of her wedding, the day of her Bridegroom's return.

This Advent, we certainly have our share of new things. A new hymnal is perhaps the most noticeable addition. Advent marks the start of a new Church Year, as well. And the practice of receiving the Lord's Supper weekly instead of every-other week is new for this congregation. Even the lectionary is new.

But these things are also very old. The hymnal, while new, contains old favorites, including the liturgy from The Lutheran Hymnal (in most parts of the world, the "red hymnal" or here "the dark blue hymnal"). Old, familiar wording of some hymns has been restored, too ("My faith looks up to Thee" for instance). The practice of receiving the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day is as old as the Church (approximately 1,977 years). The cycle of the Church Year is old (although not quite as old as the Church), and you've been through that cycle as many years as you've been a member of the Lord's Church. Even the one-year lectionary is the older lectionary.

Something old, something new, something borrowed... The cycle of the Church Year reminds us that the time we have is—at best—borrowed from the Lord. Of the ten virgins waiting for the Bridegroom, only five brought enough oil for their lamps. But the day of the Groom is coming. And the time that we have until then has been entrusted to us that we may be good stewards of it. (Matthew 25:1-13)

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue. Blue is a relatively recent introduction to the cycle of colors. Like it or not, it does distinguish Advent from Lent. While they're both penitential seasons, Advent doesn't have the 40-day fast that Lent does. Nor do we give up the word "Alleluia" for Advent. And blue is traditionally the color for the Virgin Mary, who as the Mother of the Lord is also the Mother of His Church.

The day of the divine Wedding is coming. The Lord will return for His Bride, the one whom He has clothed in the brilliant white of His own righteousness. Even while He is away, though, He continues to woo her with gifts. He lavishes on His Bride gifts like no others: faith, forgiveness of sins, life eternal, and salvation. Enjoy those gifts this season of Advent and throughout the Church Year.

In Christ's Service,

IN THIS ISSUE....

Stewardship Corner.....	p. 2	An Update from Unity School, E. St. Louis.....	p. 6
News & Notes	p. 3	Our Church Family.....	p. 7
Live & Learn: Hymn of the Month.....	p. 4	December Calendar.....	p. 8

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

	Divine Service/Lord's Supper	Sunday School	Adult Bible Class
4th	136/88	12	20
11th	134	21	22
18th	132/96	19	19
Thx	34/27		
25th	134	21	20

FINANCIAL REPORT

	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/21	11/25
Envelope	2636	1380	2139		1382
Plate	350.10	172.17	210.50	50	104.61
SS	23.50	21.91	24.84		25.13
DebtFund	105	5	5		5
Missions					
Bibles			189.60		
Hymnals			118.50		138.50
Flowers	10				40
Improvemt					
Memorials					
LW		149.20			
Parking					
Other	16				

DECEMBER ACOLYTES

Dec 2: Trent Tucker
Dec 5: Garret Blasa
Dec 9: Taylor Eberhardt
Dec 12: Aloera Montz
Dec 16: Amy Straub
Dec 19: Trent Tucker
Dec 23: Erin Smith
Dec 24 (7 p.m.): Taylor Eberhardt, Aloera Montz, Garret Blasa
Dec 24 (11 p.m.): TBD
Dec 25 (9:30 a.m.): TBD
Dec 30: Garret Blasa
Dec 31 (7 p.m.): Aloera Montz

SERVING IN DECEMBER

Elder: Kerry Hall

Altar Guild: Ramona VanHooser, Brandi Smith, Elke Monroe, Laura Hemmer, Mary Ann Husmann

Greeters

Dec 2: Herb & Kim Frazer
Dec 5:
Dec 9: Stephanie & Amy Straub
Dec 12:
Dec 16: Jerry & Ethel Summers
Dec 19:
Dec 23: Ramona VanHooser
Dec 24 (7 p.m.): The Trislars
Dec 24 (11 p.m.): TBD
Dec 25 (9:30 a.m.): Tina Lyming
Dec 30: Carrie Carpenter
Dec 31 (7 p.m.): TBD

Ushers

Dec 2: Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
Dec 5:
Dec 9: John Ficker, Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
Dec 12:
Dec 16: John Lyming, Mike Roth, Jerry Summers, Scott Summers
Dec 19:
Dec 23: David Roth, Don Carpenter, Eric Trisler, Kris McGuire John Ficker, Steve Ficker, Nathan Martin, Bill Ivers
Dec 24 (7 p.m.):
Dec 24 (11 p.m.):
Dec 25 (9:30 a.m.):
Dec 30: Tim VanHovel, Vince Sibley, Byran McKinnon, Tony Purcell Rick Angel, Len Straub, Marvin Frazer, Randy Margeson
Dec 31 (7 p.m.):

NEWS & NOTES

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

-1 John 4:11-12

ANGEL TREE

Again this year, one way we can share the material gifts the Lord has given us with needy children in our community is through the Angel Tree Project. Talk to Eric Trisler or the church office for details. Eric also shared with the congregation a letter from the local Salvation Army identifying some of the needs members of our community face and ways that we can help those folks. Again, talk to Eric for details. It is a reminder in this season of materialism and indulgence that we have a Christian duty to care for our neighbors.

SUNSHINE CIRCLE

The ladies of the Sunshine Circle held their regular monthly meeting on November 14, 2007. The agenda included planning for the upcoming Cookie Walk (Dec. 15), a fundraiser. The group's plans also include welcoming the Ministerial Alliance to Hope for their December meeting.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars—the children of Hope Lutheran Church will be performing a Christmas program on December 23, 2007 at 7p.m. Come, watch, and learn from the children! Better yet, be a part of the fun. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights after soup suppers. Talk to the church office for details.

YOUTH

Making candy popcorn and bon bons, organizing yard sales, and raking leaves for shut-ins has kept the youth of Hope busy lately. Youth: Mark your calendars for Higher Things Youth Conference in St. Louis in July.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Since Pastor Hemmer arrived in June, the Adult Bible Class had been studying the Catechism and other fundamentals

Now that we've learned the basics, we're ready (or not) to tackle the book of Romans. Beginning December 2, the Adult Bible Class will be reading through Romans. Romans is an epic letter from the Apostle Paul to the Church at Rome, covering all sorts of topics in its 16 chapters. The text is sure to lead to lots of interesting discussion.

If you haven't been to Bible class before, this is a great time to check it out. The class meets at 8:30 every Sunday morning. Try it—you'll like it (or your money back.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children are studying the following Bible passages and stories this month. Read along at home for reinforcement!

Dec. 2: Luke 1:5-25 *Birth of John foretold*

Dec. 9: Luke 1:26-56 *Mary visits Elizabeth*

Dec. 16: Luke 1:57-80 *Birth of John*

Dec. 23: Luke 2:1-20 *Birth of Jesus*

Dec. 30: Luke 2:22-40 *Presentation of Jesus*

The High School Sunday School class, led by Dennis Henneman, is studying the Augsburg Confession. The Augsburg confession is an outline of the theology of the Lutheran Church. Come and bring a friend.

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

As is traditional, a vespers service (an evening prayer service with no communion) will be held on Wednesdays during Advent (Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th) at 7:00pm. Come early if you can for free **SOUP SUPPERS**, offered to the congregation and the community as a time of fellowship before the service. Soup is served from 5:30-6:30 each Wednesday.

And don't forget about private confession and absolution from 6:00-6:45. After you have some soup, take the time to express the sins that burden you and hear the Lord's forgiveness spoken aloud, directly to you.

LIVE AND LEARN:

FOCUS ON THE HYMN OF THE MONTH

Every Wednesday during advent we will sing the classic Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Although most of us have

known (some of) the words since childhood, here's an opportunity to learn the whole song by heart and also to learn the song's meaning.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And teach us in her ways to go.
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And close the path to mis - er - y.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Refrain

This hymn is based on seven ancient antiphons (see facing page) that were used at Vespers during the last seven days of Advent.
 Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolan Cantionum Catholicorum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. VENI EMMANUEL
 Tune: French, 15th cent.; setting: C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944 L M and refrain

The Great "O" Antiphons

The hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is based on seven antiphons chanted at the evening service from December 17 to December 23rd. Each calls the coming Messiah by a different title, based on Old

Testament prophecies about Him. In their original Latin, the first letter of these titles, in reverse order, spelled "Ero cras." This short sentence was appropriate for the day before the first celebrations of the birth of Jesus: "I will be there tomorrow."

December 17

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering | all things:*
Come and teach us the way of | prudence.

December 18

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on | Sinai:*
Come with an outstretched arm and re- | deem us. *Exodus 3:2, 24:12*

December 19

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do | homage:*
Come quickly to de- | liver us. *Isaiah 11:10, 45:14, 52:15, Romans 15:12*

December 20

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can | open:*
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shad- | ow of death. *Isaiah 22:22, Isaiah 42:7*

December 21

O Dayspring, splendor of light ever- | lasting:*
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death. *Malachi 4:2*

December 22

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all | people:*
Come and save us all, whom You formed | out of clay. *Isaiah 28:6*

December 23

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their | Savior:*
Come and save us, O | Lord our God. *Isaiah 7:14*

NEWS FROM ALL AROUND



Elementary School

The News From Unity
November 2007

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The Gospel In A Nutshell

All life-long Lutherans know that John 3:16 is "The Gospel In A Nutshell." *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."* That one verse explains very succinctly how and why we are saved. Every good Lutheran can recite that verse, if no other!

We recently had John 3:16 as our Belong To Jesus Bible Verse. We said the words over and over for a whole week! On Friday, I offered a small pocket cross to any student who could recite the verse to me sometime during the day. That caused a small parade at my office door, at my lunch table, and at recess, as the students came one-by-one to proudly recite. I gave away at least 30 crosses throughout the day.

At long last, it was time to go home. The students filed out of school, and waited for their parents to arrive for pick-up. The teachers (and the Principal) were anxious to clean up and get the weekend started. As I stood on the sidewalk, one last Kindergartener looked up at me and announced, "Mr. Miller, I can say the Bible verse!" Sydney then went on to say The Gospel In A Nutshell, word-for-word, without pause, including the chapter and verse. I reached in my pocket and happily gave out one more cross.

In addition to being very proud of the students, I went home that day realizing how blessed I am. The words of Scripture, so precious to us, were spoken to me over-and-over that day. You see, I need to be reminded, too, that God sent His Son for me. I need to be reminded that all my stress and striving are not necessary. I need to be reminded that I only need to trust Jesus. And when our Unity students do the reminding, I'm very blessed. Praise God!

Wish List

- Toy Hard Hats (like builders wear)
- Paper Towel--Breakfast Cereal
- Two Electric Space Heaters for the Learning Loft

**PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR
PROPERTY FOR OUR NEW SCHOOL!**

Is God In It?

If you have any doubts about God's provision for our mission school, listen to this. About six weeks ago, a man came in off the street. He explained that he has rental property in the neighborhood, and when he drives through, he sees our students outside. After I shared more information about our school, the man explained that he has a charitable trust, and would like to make a donation. We talked it over, and I told him to bring the paperwork back, and we would gladly accept. (I was actually a little suspicious at this point. Wouldn't you be?)

To make a long story short, he returned three weeks later, and on October 27, we received a check for \$5000 from this stranger. Can you explain that gift any other way than God providing for His mission?

Callers Needed!

We need people who are enthusiastic and who like to talk on the phone! It's Phonathon time!
When: Nov. 14 and 15, 6:00-8:30pm
Where: Southern Illinois District Office in Belleville.
How: Pizza supper and training at 6:00pm. We then make calls until 8:30pm. We don't call anyone who hasn't asked to be on our mailing list. We provide a script and training!

Why: To follow up on our donors who haven't contributed to the Belong to Jesus Scholarship Annual Fund Drive yet. The Phonathon generates over \$10,000 in donations each year!

We need 6-8 callers each night. It's actually fun! Call the school office to volunteer.

Grant Writer Needed

There are many grant funding organizations waiting to provide financial aid to Unity. The problem is that it takes time to write the letters and make the applications. We are looking for a volunteer to help with this process. All the necessary information will be provided to you, including names, addresses, letterhead, and envelopes. Most of the writing is done already. It just needs to be adjusted to fit each application.

This work could be done at home, and could provide many blessings! Call the school office if you are interested.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PRAYER PARTNERS

This month, we pray particularly for these brothers and sisters in Christ:

Week of December 2:

Charles Walters; Brian & Terri White, & Trent

Week of December 9:

Charles & Judy White; Jeff White; Angie Winfield; Brandi, Chase, Aspen & Montana

Week of December 16:

Michael Williamson; Roy & Barb Young

Week of December 23:

Richard & Cindy Zumwalt, & Cassie

Week of December 30:

All the Congregation

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 2: William Kloempken
- Dec. 4: Karley Blasa
Kaitlyn Pyrtle
Trent Tucker
- Dec. 5: Ella Pointer
- Dec. 7: Ben Funk
- Dec. 9: Robert Hall
Kurt Hall
- Dec. 11: Charles White
- Dec. 12: Brienne Martin
- Dec. 13: Malinda Towell
- Dec. 15: Erinn Hilemann
- Dec. 18: Whitney Onits
- Dec. 19: Kelly Smith
- Dec. 20: Hayleigh Elledge
- Dec. 21: Gary Gaffner
Susy Pohlman
Nicholas O'Neal
- Dec. 24: Braden Pinkard
- Dec. 25: Ronnie Eberhardt
- Dec. 29: David Roth
Roy Young
- Dec. 30: Hannah Greene
David Lyming
- Dec. 31: Vance Miller

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 9: Eric & Tina Trisler
- Dec. 10: Gary & Jean Pinkard
- Dec. 18: Jeff & Karen Brinkman

LET'S MEET THE...

MCKENNON FAMILY

This month we are introduced to Brian and Lisa McKennon, and their sons Ben and Lucas. Brian works for Smurfit Stone in Creve Coeur. Lisa is a stay-at-home mother. Benjamin and Lucas both attend West Elementary in Jerseyville. Ben is in Kindergarten and Lucas is in pre-K.

Brian enjoys computer and video games. Lisa enjoys reading. The boys enjoy riding bikes and playing games with their dad.

The family is active here at Hope. Brian is involved as an Elder. Lisa is the Preschool-K Sunday School teacher and also serves on the Altar Guild with her mother.

Be sure to say hello and to meet someone new!

“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”

1 Peter 2:17

DECEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 6:00-7:30p Adult Catechesis	3 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis	4	5 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 5:30-6:30p Free Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 Private Confession 6:00-6:45 Children's Prog. Rehearsal 7:00p Advent Vespers	6 6:00-7:00p Youth Group	7 6:30p Rehearsal Dinner	8 3:00p Marshall-Funk Wedding
9 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 6:00-7:30p Adult Catechesis	10 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis 6:30-8:00p Girl Scouts	11 6:00-7:00p Elders' Mtg 7:00-8:00p Council Mtg. 8:00-8:15p Compline	12 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a J'ville Ministerial Alliance 9:30a Sunshine Circle 5:30-6:30p Free Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 Private Confession 6:00-6:45 Children's Prog. Rehearsal 7:00p Advent Vespers	13 Cookie Walk work day	14 Cookie Walk work day	15 9:00-11:00a Cookie Walk
16 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service 7:00p Children's Christmas Program	17 6:00-6:15 Evening Prayer 6:00-7:30 Youth Catechesis 6:30p Jerseyville Quilters	18	19 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Ladies' Bible Study 5:30-6:30p Free Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 Private Confession 6:00-6:45 Children's Prog. Rehearsal 7:00p Advent Vespers	20	21	22
23 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Divine Service 11:00p Christmas Midnight Divine Service	25 9:30a Christmas Day Divine Service	26 6:45a Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00a Men's Bible Study 6:00-6:45 Private Confession	27	28	29
30 8:30a Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30a Divine Service	31 7:00p Eve of the Name/ Circumcision of Jesus Divine Service					