



FOOTNOTES

C H R I S T T H E S E R V A N T
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

December 2006
Volume 33, No. 4

**The Reverend
Peter Bastien,
Pastor**



Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you remember in the movie "Miracle on 34th Street," the scene where Kris Kringle invites the little girl to live in a new nation, not the French nation, or the American nation, but rather the Imagi-Nation? As we think about our celebration of Advent/Christmas this time around, I should like us to think about it as a call to live in the Imagi-Nation. My gripe with both fundamentalist religion and flat-footed scientism is that they fail to engage life imaginatively, passionately, purposefully. So, here are three points about imagination from the great British philosopher, Alfred North Whitehead.

- (1) "Imagination is not to be divorced from the facts: it is a way of illuminating the facts."

Imagination divorced from facts is mere fantasy, and in terms of religion, superstition. Religion's immersion in human facticity we call "incarnation." It is what Christmas is all about. Here is a God not divorced from our factual lives, but one whom we meet in a homeless child in a stable, born of an unmarried couple—the girl a teenager. And yet here God meets us. The point of the story is to encourage us to see the world through new eyes so that when we deal with ordinary people in the manifold distresses of their lives, we can see that as a place where incarnation is waiting to happen.

- (2) "(Imagination) works by eliciting the general principles which apply to the facts, as they exist, and then by an intellectual survey of alternative possibilities which are consistent with those principles."

Imagination is not just an abstract dreaminess, a form of wishful thinking. It is a different kind of intellectual labor from doing math or plotting business strategy, but it is intellectual labor. It tries to know "the facts" as thoroughly as possible, tries to understand them, tries to see how facts are pregnant with possibility.

Prayer Concerns

Polly Bergtold and family
Viveka Bhasker
Jean Bonald
Justin Brunce
Nolan Burke
Ann Clinger
Margaret Condon
Walter Fisher
Sam Gates
Dave Gearing
Dorothy Gerald
Pat Guss
Delia Harman
The family of George Harrison
Fred Jaeger
Jo Johnson
Mark Keaveney
David Lashof
Lauren Sue Masoero
Pr. John Muller
Althea Nottingham
Irene Paar
Joyce Pacheli
Ron Pacheli
Fran Pell
Bob Petersen
Ingse Petersen
Patty Petersen
Robin Peterson
Jane Rhine
Dieter Richter
Ann Schwill
Frances Severynse
Dana Swan
Orlando Vela
Marjorie Weeda
Joe Wheeler
Victims of war, violence,
and genocide throughout
the world

Please notify the church office (301-977-0285, Prayer Concern box, or wcgarvey.comcast.net) if you would like anyone removed or added to the prayer concern list. Names will be removed after a six-week period if no update is received.

(3) "(Imagination) enables (us) to construct an intellectual vision of a new world, and it preserves the zest of life by the suggestion of satisfying purposes."

Here we come to what Christmas is really all about. It is not what we would be forgiven for thinking it is, based on the way most people celebrate it—an exercise in empty nostalgia. It is really a re-imagining of the world, a great exercise in "what if?" What if we saw the world from the perspective of homeless families or unwed mothers? What if we imagined that God is to be found among them? What if God is about a new kind of love that incites us to behave justly toward God's lost and hurting ones? What if God is love? Whitehead tells us what would happen then: the zest of life would be restored because our lives would have again the one and only thing that can make life zesty: a satisfying purpose.

So in wishing you a merry Christmas this year, I am really wishing for you a zesty Christmas that will fill your life with what Paul Tillich calls "ultimate concern," or to use Alfred North Whitehead's phrase, "satisfying purpose." Have a great Advent and Christmas, my dear brothers and sisters in the Christ, the God who is incarnate in all our messy, but potentially zesty, facticity.

Yours in Christ,
—*Pastor Bastien*

Altar Flowers for 2007

The 2007 chart for altar flowers is posted in the hallway. Sign up now and throughout 2007 to provide flowers for Sunday church services (except during Lent when flowers are not used on the altar).

This is a way to give glory to God and to commemorate a special event in your life (e.g., birthday, anniversary, graduation, baptism). After the last Sunday service, the floral arrangement may be taken home for your family's enjoyment.

The cost of the flowers is \$35. Make checks payable to "CTS" and indicate on your check or envelope that the money is for altar flowers.

—*Wilma Garvey*



Sunday Readings

December 3—First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (*Ps. 25:1*)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9
Luke 1:68-79 (*Luke 1:78*)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6 (*Isaiah 12:6*)
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1: 46b-55 (*Luke 1:52*)
or Psalm 80:1-7 (*Ps. 80:7*)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 31—First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (*Ps. 148:13*)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Other Readings

December 24—Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (*Ps. 96:11*)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

(continues)

Council Meeting Summary

November 13, 2006

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Council

(The complete versions are posted on the CTS hall bulletin board.)

- ♦ Financial—October was a good month for income; five October Sundays contributed to the positive balance. The year to date balance is a positive \$1049.
- ♦ Draft 2007 budget—The draft budget contains many cuts, due to a decrease in pledges compared to 2006. The draft budget suggests cuts to the worship, learning, business administration and the elimination of the cleaning service.
- ♦ Council representatives are still working with SHARP to determine what would represent a fair contribution for utilities.
- ♦ Advent/Christmas offerings are designated to be split between Gaithersburg Help and the St. Matthew community in Liberia.

Respectfully submitted,

—Mike Mayer, CTS Council Vice President

Retreats and Quiet Days Offered and Led by The Reverend Linda Harrison

Seasons in Reflection



a winter quiet day: the season of dormancy

Embracing latency, quiet, and solitude before our souls can truly bloom again.



Saturday, December 9, 2006

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Stay for the whole day or just morning or afternoon.

- Bring an open mind, a bagged lunch, a journal or notebook, and a pen or pencil.
- Reservations are greatly appreciated.
- A free-will offering is welcome.

For more information, please contact:
The Reverend Ms. Linda Harrison
Associate Pastor, St. Hildegard's Church
703.528.1825
RevLindaSHarrison@comcast.net

Upcoming Retreats

Plan to attend!

- February 24
- March 3
- March 24
- plus dates in April, May, and June

December 25—Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98 (Ps. 98:3)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

December 26—Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

2 Chronicles 24:17-22
Psalm 17:1-9, 15 (Ps. 17:6)
Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60
Matthew 23:34-39

December 27—John, Apostle and Evangelist

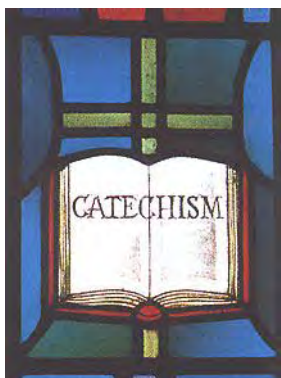
Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31
Psalm 116:12-19 (Ps. 116:15)
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 21:20-25

December 28—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Jeremiah 31:15-17
Psalm 124 (Ps. 124:7)
1 Peter 4:12-19
Matthew 2:13-18

December 31—New Year's Eve

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8 (Ps. 8:1)
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46



Music Notes

- On the first Sunday of Advent (December 3), the Gapfiller Alter-Ego Rock Band (we're not just jazz anymore!) will present "Revelation" by Iona. A perfect setting for Advent, the chorus of...

*Waiting to see you
Waiting to hear you
Waiting for visions
To see your revelation*



...immediately brings us into Advent—waiting for the birth of Christ, and the revelation of God in Christ.

- At CTS we pride ourselves on pushing the envelope at the forefront of the cutting edge. Next up for the Saturday Vespers series is a rock vespers, featuring the music of U2 and Iona (but probably not Black Sabbath) and other appropriate music that keeps running around in my head (Warning—I've been listening to a lot of progressive metal lately.) Many churches have experimented with rock vespers in an attempt to reach out to the people in the community who have the completely mistaken notion that Lutheran worship is boring. Since we want to do the same in the Montgomery Village community, please invite friends to worship with us and praise God at full volume. I can guarantee them it won't be boring. The vespers will be **Saturday, December 9, at 6:00 PM**. Earplugs optional.
- And finally, anyone wishing to contribute special music at the Christmas Eve service should contact Marjorie by **December 10**.

—Tom Lipe



**Found on a can recently donated to Gaithersburg HELP:
"Expiration date April 1988"**

Please check that all of the food you donate is acceptable to give away to HELP's clients

The Happiest of Birthdays to:

- Karin Lawson 12/2
- Ted Thornton 12/3
- Megan Bower 12/5
- Laren Saavedra 12/6
- Nida Saavedra 12/11
- Mike Mayer 12/14
- Joyce Pacheli 12/15
- Eric Saavedra 12/19
- Daniel Bower 12/23
- James Kabonge 12/23
- Jean Bonald 12/24
- Lorna Pool-Kabonge 12/24
- José Hammer 12/26
- Eva Roessler 12/28
- Linda Harrison 12/31

Happy Anniversary to:

- Alberto & Dora
- Ticonia 12/23
- Jim & Dotty Lucas.. 12/24
- Mathew &
- Kimberly Hagen 12/26
- John & Mary
- Kegley 12/28
- Joe & Ramona
- Lessen 12/28



Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Montgomery Village, MD

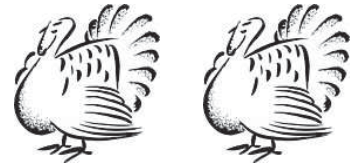
Footnotes Staff

- Editor Joanne Eater
- Calendar Tom Eastlack
- Servants' List Wilma Garvey
- Youth Grp News . Barbara Harner
- Production Steve Garvey

Footnotes is issued eleven times a year by Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod. Articles of interest to the congregation are solicited from members of the CTS community and are due to the editor by the third Sunday of each month. Articles for the July/August issue are due by the third Sunday of June.

Thanksgiving Baskets— Thank you

CTS provided Thanksgiving food baskets for 20 families in the Gaithersburg area. Thank you to all who donated, assembled, drove, helped, shopped, and in any other way participated in helping to put together the Thanksgiving Baskets. It was most appreciated!



—Cathy Kuchinsky and Donna Clagett

Hurricane Recovery Volunteers Needed

Good Shepherd is recruiting volunteers for its **“Just Come!”** mission trip to Florida. The sign-up deadline is December 15.

Sweet! Florida in the winter, warm and welcoming; will you come so that a hurricane or flood victim can return home soon? The “Just Come!” disaster recovery mission team #3 travels to Clewiston in south-central Florida from **Jan. 7–13, 2007**. Team Leader Marlin Strand (301-216-9738) needs to hear from you by Friday, December 15, if you want to go for all or part of this time.

Recently, “Just Come!” team #2 (October 2006), consisting of 7 members and friends of Good Shepherd (Gaithersburg) and St. Luke’s (Derwood), patched and sanded drywall, removed floor tiles, and primed walls and ceilings in the Scott family’s Katrina-flooded home in Gulfport, MS. Our team was a key link in fulfilling the Scotts’ prayer that God would restore their spirits and somehow enable them to move back home by this Christmas.

Later in 2007, mission team #4 returns to Florida (during our public school Spring break, Apr. 1–7), while team #5 heads back to Mississippi (June 24–30) and team #6 aims for Louisiana (Oct. 7–13).

How urgent is this? Over 100,000 families (more than 225,000 people) from Florida to Louisiana still live in cramped FEMA trailers more than 1 or 2 years after hurricanes destroyed their homes. Please make room in your heart and time schedule for these folks from God’s family. We are determined to help them regain hope and return home, for as long as it takes. For more information, contact Dennis Luther, 301-948-1279, or by e-mail at dennis.luther@usitc.gov

—Steve Garvey



Christmas Poinsettias Fund

Donations are requested to purchase Christmas Poinsettias to place around the altar throughout the Christmas Season (Christmas Eve to the Epiphany of Our Lord). If you would like to contribute to this fund, please place your donation in a Christmas Poinsettias Fund envelope (on the Usher's Table), complete the requested information, and place the envelope in the offering basket with your donation.

Thank you.
—Worship Committee



Congregation Meeting

December 10, 2006

The winter congregation meeting will take place on Sunday, December 10, in the Sanctuary. A congregational dinner featuring the Youth Ministry sponsored cook-off/bake-off challenges (chili, chocolate and corn bread) will precede the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The business meeting will begin at approximately 6:00 p.m. Agenda items will include:

- Presentation and voting on the proposed 2007 budget
- Election of Voting Members for the Synod Assembly

Note: A quorum of voting members is required at this meeting. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

The business meeting will be followed by the annual youth fundraiser—the **Youth Ministry Basket Auction (YMBA)** which is always full of fun and surprises. Come prepared to have fun and bring some extra cash as well.

CTS Youth Ministry Basket Auction (YMBA) *

This annual YM fundraiser will be held—as always—following the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 10. In order for it to be the overwhelming success it has been in the past, we need donations of gift baskets for the auction. If you or a group to which you belong would like to donate a basket (and we use the word “basket” in a broad, generic sense), please sign up on the Youth Ministry bulletin board. Please talk to Barbara Harner—301-963-6236 / bharner@comcast.net—if you have any questions or need suggestions of ideas! And be sure to come to the Congregational Meeting prepared to stay and bid! Between Gifts-in-a-Jar, Gifts of Hope and this Basket Auction, you might even be able to do all of your holiday shopping! How cool would that be?!



*Formerly known as the Koinonia Basket Auction

CTS Advent Afternoon

Advent Afternoon is on Sunday, December 3, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. Please contact Valerie or Mary Ann if you'd like to attend or to help out, or (if you'd rather) put your name on the signup sheet in the hall. They would like to have a count of participants so that they could better plan the materials they are going to require.



Equal Exchange Coffee Sales Move to Second Sunday of the Month!

The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming! Do you have enough coffee to get through the holidays and all that entertaining? Do you have a coffee aficionado on your gift list? Special requests can be made by calling Robert (a.k.a. Buzz) at 301.540.7472. He will try to accommodate requests, but makes no guarantees (you never know what is or is not available at any given time). Oh, yes, don't forget the teas, hot cocoa, and chocolates,* either! All great for entertaining and for stockings!

*The chocolate is especially excellent. [ed.]



Trinity's Nativity

Holy Power,
tempt us with wild creativity,
lure us into your future,
soak us with deep dreams of beauty,
spin us with visions of complexity,
swirl us with exuberance for justice,
laugh us into knowing your holy power,
You Who dream universes into today.

Holy Human,
drool us into tasting the world of every infant,
sneeze us into breathing the air of every lung,
walk us into moving with every living thing,
smell us into knowing how we feed the earth,
hear us into caring how we know each other,
touch us into feeling with neighbors' every nerve,
see us into loving darkly rich roots of new-old life,
You Who break open the journey every day.

Holy Passion,
bind us into our friends and enemies, surprisingly,
prod us into the stranger and outcast, hopefully,
bring us into earth's soil, sea, and sky, caringly,
turn us into unknown paths and dreams, daringly,
hug us into needed anger and deep protest, strongly,
rock us into your spirited holy passion, fervently,
You Who hold us in the universe night and day.

For dreaming the universe,
breaking open the journey,
holding us here night and day,
we whisper, sing, and shout praise and thanks to You,
Holy Power, Holy Human, Holy Passion,
complexly dancing, intimate God.

Elizabeth Bettenhausen, for University Lutheran Church,
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1999



Gaithersburg HELP's Current Panty Needs

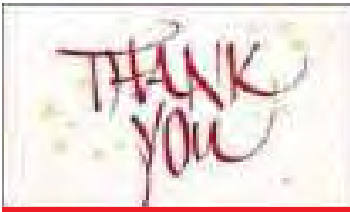
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Soups
- Cereal
- Instant potatoes
- Boxed rice mixes
- Large paper grocery bags

—Joanne Eater

Thank You

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the lovely cards, emails, and phone calls expressing condolences upon the death of my father. You will never know how comforting the sentiments are to me and my family at this time. CTS is a true family, and I am proud and comforted to be part of this family.

In the Peace that passes all understanding,
—Linda, Buzz, and Julia.



Gifts of Hope

Service Ministry

Secret Santa Time

There are 20+ children who need our help to have a Merry Christmas. The list of children is in the hallway with their personal information (age, sizes) and wish lists. The lists include clothing and toys. As a family you may buy everything on a child's list or pick 1 or 2 items. It's up to you. Please put your name next to what you will buy. Make note of that item, the child's name, age, size on a piece of paper that is provided for your convenience. Bring in your NEW, unwrapped item(s), labeled with the child's name, by the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 10th. We will be having a wrapping party after the 11:00 service. Some sort of lunch will be provided, probably pizza. I must deliver the gifts to the school by Monday, December 11th. Money donations will be accepted to finish up any shopping, but I much prefer that you do the shopping. We also need wrapping supplies...paper, bags, boxes, bows. If you have any questions, please contact me.



—Valerie Mayer
301-869-7127
valerie@vmwishes.com

Gifts of Hope, the alternative giving market

How does it work?

- Peruse the catalog
- Select the service organization project you would like to support
- Buy it as a gift for a person you would like to honor
- Get a gift card and insert sheet describing the project
- Give it for Christmas or any other special occasion throughout the year

The special CTS congregational project this year is to support St. Matthew Church in Liberia on a project, such as one selling rice, that they are proposing to increase their congregation's financial independence. It would be great to support our sister congregation.

Come to the Gifts of Hope display on Sunday mornings throughout Advent to pick up catalogs and order forms, and to purchase your gifts. You may also view the 2006 catalog at the website: <http://www.lutherplace.org/giftsofhope/index.htm>.

—Connie Graf

Ethnic Recipes

Another in our series this year

My favorite “holiday” cookie cutter, is a set of dinosaurs—literally—that I acquired in the 1970s and used to make the Gingerbread Cookies for my nieces and nephews at the Holiday time. This became an expected holiday tradition while they were growing up. What I remember most about my “Swede-Fin” grandmothers cooking were her homemade donuts fried in deep fat—but those I’ve never made. The next thing I remember was her practicality as a cook—she had served as a lumber camp cook when a young wife in Michigan, and usually cooked from memory and instinct. The only meal she actually taught me to cook was the Holiday Turkey and trimmings—as a teenager. But after seeing her kill and clean a chicken for the pot, I was not inclined to follow too closely in her footsteps.



Swedish Gingerbread Cookies

Makes 10 dozen cookies [depending on size]

2 teaspoons ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon ground cardamon
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, melted
¾ cup molasses [tip: spray measuring cup first with cooking spray to prevent sticking.]
½ cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons cold water
1 large egg
3 cups all-purpose flour

1. Combine ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, cardamon, cloves and salt. Stir in butter. Add molasses and sugar; mix well. Stir in water and egg.

2. Place flour in a large bowl and make a well in the center. Pour in molasses mixture. Gradually stir flour into molasses mixture until flour is completely incorporated.

3. Knead dough lightly in bowl until a smooth ball forms. Shape dough into a disk, wrap in plastic wrap, and chill for 8 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease 2 baking sheets. Divide dough into 8 pieces. On a floured surface, roll 1 piece to 1/6 inch thickness, keeping remaining dough chilled. Using a 2 ½ inch holiday cookie cutter, cut dough into shapes; reserve trimmings. Transfer cookies to baking sheets, spacing 1 inch apart.

5. Bake until browned, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Repeat as directed with remaining dough and trimmings.

Submitted by Patricia Abelard Andersen, granddaughter of Sofia Lydia Blomquist (Blomquist), daughter of Matts Johansson Pass Blomquist of Pass, Finland, and Susanna Sofia Gustafsdotter of Jeppo, Finland. This is an area just across from Sweden, that spoke Swedish, and shared the same culture and church, back and forth across many generations.

CTS Advent Party

The annual CTS Advent Party will be on Saturday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. This year, Barbara and Tony have generously offered to host the party at their house. As usual, bring a covered dish to share. Barbara and Tony will provide the drinks. All are welcome.

Party!

No Room In The Inn

Joseph and Mary traveled home with memories of the place where they were born and raised and plans for the future of their soon to be born son. On arrival, however, they discovered that due to the economic conditions of low supply and high demand, no decent housing options were available to them. With so many people returning, the real estate market was on fire. Housing prices were skyrocketing and rental units went to the highest bidder. They applied to get on the list for low-income housing, but the wait was at least two years. Since Mary was pregnant, they were eligible for the family shelter but they would not get in before the due date. With no other options left, our Savior was born homeless in a cold, lowly and smelly manger. When Jesus was born, we know that the shepherds and wise men came with gifts and praise. There were others who came to the manger who had little to offer except love.

Tom and Jane arrived in their car with all their worldly possessions packed in the back seat and the trunk. Their baby was now 22 years old and living on his own. They had to move into their car after a huge international company decided to buy a somewhat smaller national company and then fired all the managers in order to maximize profits. Tom was working as an electrician for the county but they needed two incomes to afford housing. Jane had already experienced major trauma growing up with an abusive father and living in their car at times pushed her deeper into depression. They came to the manger with love in their hearts and offered to help Mary and Joseph in any way possible.

John was sleeping in a covered area of a baseball field. He had been living on the streets for longer than he cared to remember and his past was littered with wreckage and torched bridges. The bottle had taken him places he never intended to visit and his family preferred to keep him at a distance. John knew the meaning of scorn and rejection

better than most but he longed to travel a different path. The yoke around his neck was heavier than any man could bear and John knew he was in desperate need of a Savior. John came to the manger on his knees and all he could give to Jesus was his self-will.

Sarah once lived a successful life in Atlanta but that life was now a faded memory. She kept all of her possessions in three or four folding shopping carts, which meant she could only travel at a snail's pace. She would cross the street one cart at a time and she spent her nights on the sidewalk of IHOP or some other business. While Sarah was not forced to sleep in the cemetery in chains, there were times when Legions would take over her mind. Sarah had been arrested twice for swinging her cane at the local police officers. They came because she was screaming at the demons only she could see. Society had decided that Sarah needed her freedom as if it was somehow her choice to live this tortured existence. While Sarah's past was faded, her love for Jesus was able to shine through all the insanity. She could have come to baby Jesus asking that the Legions be cast into the pigs so they could drown. Instead she came to Jesus to sing to Him and profess her boundless love.

If you feel moved to help out the people listed above (not their real names) or other guests of the Lamb Center, a needs list is by the Lamb Center box in the narthex.

Have a blessed Christmas,
—Dave Larrabee



WANTED...

The best

**CHILIS, CORNBREADS, and
CHOCOLATE DESSERTS**

for the

**Chili Cook-Off/
Cornbread and Chocolate**

Dessert Bake-Off

at the

**Congregational Dinner
Sunday, December 10**

5:00 PM

Vote by donation for your favorite recipes.

Funds to support Youth Ministry activities.

Sign up sheet on Bulletin Board to enter

Contact Barbara if you have any questions (301-963-6236)



FaithTalk: Confirmation at Home: To finish our Worship series, please join us as a family for Advent Vespers this month – Wednesday evenings at 7:30. (You can also join us for a simple soup supper at 6:30.)

Yard Sale: Total - \$1,979.65, with \$1,741.65 going into the gathering Fund and \$198.00 going into our Youth Tithing Fund. Thank you again for your support!!

Gifts-In-a-Jar (or -In-a Bag) Fundraiser: Order forms are still available on the YM bulletin board for this annual fundraiser - just in time to help you with any holiday gift-giving dilemmas. Orders are due by Sunday, December 4 - and will be ready for delivery at the Congregational meeting Sunday evening, December 10! This is the sixth year for this fundraiser and we appreciate your support!!

2006 ELCA Youth Gathering - *Cruzando: Journey with Jesus* – Each month, you'll hear from one of the youth who attended the gathering this past summer. Listen to their reflections...and ask them to share their experience with you. *"Cruzando has affected me in many ways. It has affected me by giving me a better understanding of my Religion. It has also showed me some of the great Christian music and it has made me closer to my youth group. I do think Cruzando has changed me because now when I meet someone new I don't judge the person, I try to get to know them and relate to them in every way. Cruzando has also helped me not being so shy around people I don't know. That is how Cruzando has affected me in the many ways it did."* – Jonathon Clagett

December Activities

Senior High Koinonia and Confirmation Koinonia

Postponed during December

Chrysalis 2005 / Caution: Deconstruction Zone Ahead

Fri, Dec 1 - Sun, Dec 3

Metro DC Synod's annual Youth Ministry event for Senior High youth. We'll plan to leave from CTS at 3:30 Friday afternoon. Bring clothes for the weekend and your toiletries – and don't forget your sleeping bag and towels bedding and towels - we're back at the 4H Center! - and money for dinner on the way there Friday and lunch on the way home Sunday. Call Barbara if you have any questions!

Advent Soup Suppers / Vesper Services

Wed, Dec 6, 13, and 20, 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Vespers / CTS

Join us for a simple soup supper followed by the Advent Vesper service as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. If you want to come, but need a ride, let Barbara know.

Gifts-In-a-Jar Assembly

Sat, Dec 9, 9:00 AM - Noon / CTS

We've taken the orders; now it's time to assemble the jars and fill the orders. This is a YM fundraiser and we need everyone's help! And it's a lot of fun!

Secret Santa Shopping

Sat, Dec 9; Following GIAJ Assembly (Approximately Noon - 3:00 PM)

Following the GIAJ assembling we're going shopping for our Secret Santa youths. We'll stop for lunch somewhere along the way, so bring some extra dollars for fast food. Please let Barbara know that you're joining us so we have enough drivers!

Santa Lucia Service

Sunday, December 10, 11:00 AM / CTS

During the 11:00 service we will present the story of Saint Lucy and collect the Secret Santa gifts. If you'd like to help with the sorting and wrapping after the service, please let Valerie Mayer know - it's a lot of fun!

Chili Cook-Off / Cornbread and Chocolate Bake-Off / Basket Auction

Sun, Dec 10 / CTS

This is an annual YM fundraising activity that bookends the December Congregational meeting and it really is a lot of fun. The evening starts with plenty of great food with the Chili Cook-Off / Cornbread and Chocolate Bake-Off where diners determine the winning chili, cornbread and chocolate dessert by voting with donations for their favorites and concludes with the auction of gift baskets donated by various CTS groups. The youth will again offer their famous holiday cookie baskets where each youth provides 2-3 dozen or so of their favorite cookies - so come prepared to bid and buy! Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards if you're interested in entering your favorite chili, cornbread or chocolate dessert into the competition. Don't miss this annual event! (Oh yeah, and the congregational meeting is in between!)

Gaithersburg Help

Mon, Dec 11, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Volunteers for December – Albert and Julia; we could use one more – call Beth and let her know you can help!

Upcoming Activities and Events

Gaithersburg Help

Watch for an email from Beth Lashof with dates for Jan, Feb and Mar

Film Night

Fri, Jan 5, 7:00 PM / H-K

Suggestions?

Senior High Koinonia / Dinner Out

Tues, Jan 9, 6:30 - 9:00 PM / H-K

Put this date on your calendar and check back for the restaurant.

Confirmation Koinonia

Tues, Jan 23, 6:30 - 8:30 PM / H-K

Thirty-Hour Famine

Sat, Feb 10 – Sun, Feb 11

Souper Bowl Sunday (Rehearsal on Sat, Feb 10)

Sun, Feb 11

Yes, I know it's a week late, but Tony and I will be at the YM Extravaganza Feb 4th.....

Homeless Shelter Dinner

Sun, Feb 11

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tues, Feb 20, 6:00 - 8:00 PM / CTS

Shekinah 2007

Fri, Mar 9 - Sun, Mar 11

Metro DC Synod's annual Youth Ministry event for 7th and 8th graders - save the dates!


Check your email 1-2 times per week for reminders and updates!

For information about current/future CTS Youth Ministry Activities, contact Barbara at 301-963-6236 or by email at bharnar@comcast.net (H-K: activities at the Harner-Kerlavage home; CTS: activities at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church)

CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2006

As of November 13th, 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 AM Holy Communion 9:50 AM Christian Education 11:00 AM Holy Communion 4:00 PM Advent Afternoon <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	4 8:00 PM Parish Council	5 8:30 AM Montg. Conf. Pastors' bible study 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups	6 12:00 PM -1:30 PM NA group 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups 6:30 PM Advent Soup Supper 7:30 PM Advent Vespers	7 6:30 PM Sr High Koinonia	8	9 9:30 AM -3:30 PM Winter Quiet 3:00 PM -5:00 PM Luganda class 6:00 PM U2 or Rock Mass Gifts in a Jar
10 8:30 AM Matins 9:50 AM Christian Education 11:00 AM Holy Communion 6:00 PM Congregational Meeting <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11	12 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups	13 12:00 PM -1:30 PM NA group 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups 6:30 PM Advent Soup Supper 7:30 PM Advent Vespers	14 6:30 PM Confirmation Koinonia	15	16 Advent Party
17 8:30 AM Matins 9:50 AM Christian Education 11:00 AM Holy Communion <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	18 8:00 PM Worship committee	19 8:30 AM Montg. Conf. Pastors' bible study 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups	20 12:00 PM -1:30 PM NA group 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups 6:30 PM Advent Soup Supper 7:30 PM Advent Vespers	21	22	23 10:00 AM Greening of the Church
24 9:30 AM Holy Communion 11:00 AM Acolyte Rehearsal 7:00 PM Children's Liturgy 11:00 PM Solemn High Mass <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve</i>	25 11:00 AM Holy Communion  Christmas	26 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups 7:30 PM St Stephen's day Eucharist	27 12:00 PM -1:30 PM NA group 5:30 PM -8:45 PM AA groups 7:30 PM St John's day Eucharist	28 7:30 PM Holy Innocents' day Eucharist	29	30
31 8:30 AM Matins 11:00 AM Holy Communion <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> New Year's Eve	SHARP 6:30 am - 2:30 pm Mon - Thur ESOL 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Mon_Thur Brownies _Girl Scouts 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm Thur Footnotes deadline is third Sunday of each month.					

Servants' List for December (continued)

**December 24, 2006
Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve**

7:00 p.m. Children's Service

Acolytes TBD, TBD
 Altar Preparation TBD
 Communion Assistants Dave Larrabee
 (vest) Paul Bender
 Communion Bread The Mayers
 Prayer Leader Dave Larrabee
 Lector Dave Larrabee
 Usher Tom Eastlack
 Greeter Connie Graf

11:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass

Acolytes Thurifer TBD
 Crucifer TBD
 Bookbearer TBD
 Torch Bearers TBD
 Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Assistants Pat Andersen
 (vest and process) Dave Larrabee
 Communion Bread Inge Harman
 Lector Roger Rasnake
 Prayer Leader Frank Foge
 Usher Steve Garvey
 Greeter Wilma Garvey

**December 25, 2006
Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes TBD, TBD
 Altar Preparation Wilma Garvey
 Communion Assistants Chuck Eater
 Steve Garvey
 Communion Bread Wilma Garvey
 Prayer Leader Dave Larrabee
 Lector Dave Larrabee
 Usher Mike Mayer
 Flowers given today by The Lessens

**December 26, 2006
St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
7:30 p.m. Holy Communion**

Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Assistant Sandy D'Angelo
 Lector Polly Brody
 Prayer Leader Pat Andersen

**December 27, 2006
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
7:30 p.m. Holy Communion**

Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Assistant Pat Andersen
 Lector Bob Andersen
 Prayer Leader TBD

**December 28, 2006
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
7:30 p.m. Holy Communion**

Altar Preparation Bob Andersen
 Communion Assistant Chuck Eater
 Lector Pat Andersen
 Prayer Leader TBD

**December 31, 2006
First Sunday of Christmas
8:30 a.m. Matins**

Acolyte TBD
 Lector Vernon Toelle
 Usher Vernon Toelle
 Greeter Ernie Graf

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Acolytes TBD, TBD
 Altar Preparation Sandy D'Angelo
 Communion Assistants Dave Larrabee
 Mike Mayer
 Communion Bread The Eastlacks
 Lector Pat Andersen
 Prayer Leader Dave Larrabee
 Usher Dave Larrabee
 Greeter Tom Eastlack
 Flowers given today by Jean Bonald

Launder Altar Linens in December TBD