



## December 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you as we move through this wonderful season of Advent, anticipating and celebrating our Lord's birth.

This season of Advent that we celebrate in the weeks before Christmas is a time for Christians to anticipate the arrival of Jesus in our lives, both as a baby and in the future when he comes to us again. Pastor Edmund Steimle says that "The Christian story is a story of God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us." That's what Advent, and ultimately Christmas, is really about: God coming to us in person here on earth to be present with us, to speak with each of us who is ready to speak to Him. This is a time we are invited to examine our relationship with Jesus and our readiness to meet him in this world as well as the world to come.

During Advent and Christmas we often hear that Jesus' "presence" with us is the best "present" of all. Often when I think of the word "presents" in any of its uses, I am reminded of a particular Christmas back when I was in my late teens.

My grandparents, parents, sister, and I were all gathered to open presents that Christmas morning. We had a rather embarrassing pile of them that year, with the whole living room floor pretty much covered with presents, except for where we were sitting. I was in a dining room chair and was closest to the tree. I also was nominated to hand out the presents. That sounded good to me so I undertook the fun task of playing Santa.

However, this situation went awry when I leaned over the arm of my chair to reach a particularly small and distant present and kept right on going. I seriously overbalanced the chair and there wasn't much I could do to stop myself from going over, partly because my reflexes aren't very impressive before 10am. J The worst part was the chair tipped over in slow motion so we all had plenty of time to watch me inexorably fall, plenty of time to imagine all those lovely presents being crushed beneath my weight.

My sister, being a true sibling in every sense of the word, was the only one who reacted with any speed. In the horrified silence she yelled, "The presents, Jenny! Not the presents!" Evidently, my reflexes were better than I expected or I am just very obedient because I did save the presents at my own expense. I managed to fall into the Christmas tree instead which then fell into the wall.

I had a brief moment of feeling proud of myself for avoiding disaster but then was

**continued on next page**

## PASTORAL NEWS



*---continued from front page*

entirely overcome with relief at the realization that Dad had only just turned the video camera off a minute before my swan dive! Praise the Lord for His mercy! The day ended well because Dad and Grandpa did help me up once the surprise had worn off and we had a lovely and memorable Christmas.

Life will leave us scratched and bruised. We will all fall into our share of Christmas trees. But if we keep Jesus' presence in our lives secure, He will pick us back up and help us along.

So, resting in that confidence, do we guard the presence of Jesus in our lives with the same zealotry that my sister and I guarded those Christmas presents under our tree? Do we make our relationship with Jesus the most important thing in our lives, that one thing we will sacrifice everything else to save, or do we let the hustle and bustle of the season distract us from our focus on Him? I love these words from verse four of a traditional Advent hymn, "Fling Wide the Door."

*Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;  
our hearts are open wide in trust.  
O, show us now your lovely grace,  
upon our sorrows shine your face,  
and let your Holy Spirit guide  
our journey in your grace so wide.  
We praise your holy name,  
from age to age the same!*

This Advent season and beyond, may we open our hearts wide to trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ so that we are ready to meet Him. May we make our journey with Him the most important thing in our lives, more important than presents, parties, and obligations; and may our lives make it clear to others that the one we will fall into a Christmas tree for is Jesus.

Christmas blessings in Him,  
Pastor Jenny

## Worship in December

**December 6, 10:00 am**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Communion

"A Cracker Advent"

*Scriptures: Luke 3:1-6, Luke 1:68-79, Malachi 3:1-4*

**December 13, 10:00 am**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

"A Wonder-filled Advent"

*Scriptures: Luke 3:7-18, Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7*

**December 20, 10:00 am**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant "The Gift"

*Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Hebrews 10:5-10*

**December 24, 4:30 pm**

Christmas Eve

"A Gas Station Christmas"

*Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:2-7*

**December 27, 10:00 am**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Hymn Sing & Plymouth Playhouse outing to "Away in the Basement"

*Scriptures: Psalm 148, Luke 2:41-52*



# CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST'S COMMUNITY



## [Advent Workshop Dec. 6](#)

Christ's Community Church is hosting an Advent Workshop on December 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be holiday treats, crafts, and fun. Soup will be provided and there will be something for the entire family. Join us for fun as we decorate the Activity Room, make ornaments, and prepare Christmas Eve candles.



## [Salvation Army Bell Ringing Dec 12](#)

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will provide volunteers to staff the red kettle campaign for the Salvation Army. Our location is JC Penny in Maple Grove. Shifts are 1 hour each and will run from 9:00-11:00 am and from 3:00-8:00 pm. This is truly a great Christmas season experience. Where else can you be a part of a cause which raises so much money in such a short amount of time? The sign-up sheet is available on the kiosk.

## [Putz Showing Dec. 16 & 20](#)

Come share with us our Christmas Putz, a cherished German tradition retelling the wonderful story of Christ's birth through narration and music! There will be a showing available on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am, a showing for the Girl Scouts on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, and a showing on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## [Christmas Party—Dec. 18](#)

The Moran family invites you to join us at the parsonage on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for the Pastor's annual Christmas open house! Stop by any time for some hors d'oeuvres and fellowship. If you haven't seen the renovation on the parsonage, this is a good time to see how wonderful it looks!

## [Christmas Program Dec. 20](#)

The children's Christmas program will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. This year's touching story is "A Christmas Pageant – The Gift", celebrating the night Jesus was born! We hope to see you there, along with your family and friends. Rehearsals for the Christmas Program will be December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 13<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School.

## [Christmas Eve Lovefeast Services](#)

Please join us on Christmas Eve for a traditional Moravian Candlelight Lovefeast! With beautiful music, decorations, and the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, this service is a wonderful way to experience the true meaning of Christmas. We welcome all to this service and hope you and your loved ones are able to join us. The service begins at 4:30 pm. Please see the kiosk for volunteer sign-up opportunities for Ushers, Greeters, Deiners, Candle Lighters, and Nursery.

## [Operation Christmas Child](#)

Thank you to all who contributed to our shoebox campaign this year. Over 54 boxes were filled and transported to the OCC Distribution Center. If you happened to include a personal note in your shoebox and you receive a response from a child, please share it with the congregation.

## [Christmas Flowers](#)

One of the special traditions of the Christmas season at CCC is the way we decorate the church! You are invited to help us bring the beauty of Christmas flowers into our worship area. Your donation lets us enhance our worship and is your opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one. Watch for further details.



## **PASTORAL NEWS**

### **December Men's Breakfast—Dec. 12**

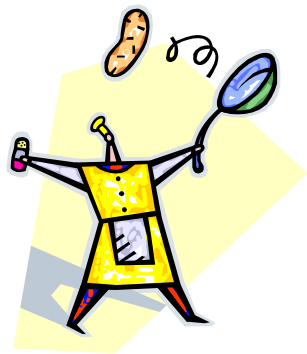
The December's Men's Breakfast will be a pancake fundraiser breakfast for CROSS at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill! This event will be Saturday, December 12th at 8:00 am at 14400 Weaver Lake Road in Maple Grove. Please contact Wally Mortenson for more details.

### **Simpson Shelter Update—Dec. 13**

Our next date for making sandwiches for Simpson Shelter is Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> following the service. Thank you for your support!

### **Pancake Breakfast—Dec. 27**

December 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am will be CCC's next Pancake Breakfast. Come share with us a delicious breakfast and fellowship. November's Pancake Breakfast raised approximately \$167.00 for church maintenance costs. Many thanks to those who help prepare the meals and to those who come enjoy the meals!



### **“A Church Basement Ladies’ Christmas—Dec. 27**

Come and continue the Christmas celebration by joining us at the Plymouth Playhouse for “A Church Basement Ladies Christmas” at 2:00 pm on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are still available!

### **Worship with MGLC—Jan. 17**

The joint worship with Maple Grove Lutheran Church will be on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 am service. They will be welcoming us with Moravian music and a pancake breakfast to follow. More details will be coming soon.

### **Moravian Music: Singing Our Song—Feb. 6**

Gwyneth Michel, Assistant Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, will present a two-hour workshop on our rich Moravian musical heritage, exploring the vast storehouse of vocal and instrumental music left by our ancestors – much of which is still uncharted territory. The workshop will culminate in the creation of a Singstunde – an early form of Moravian worship that is being revitalized in today's churches. The workshop is scheduled at CCC on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 -12:00 pm with lunch following. The Singstunde is February 7<sup>th</sup> during worship.

### **MN Teen Challenge**

Thank you to MN Teen Challenge for sharing their inspirational stories and amazing choir. Due to the generous support of our congregation, we were able to raise \$535.00 for them!

**Thank you:** “Thank you so much for hosting Minnesota Teen Challenge Choir. We hope you were blessed by the testimonies and songs. We hope to see you again in the future.” Blessings, Deborah Tomey

### **In Loving Memory of Cyndy Brinkman**

We extend our sincerest sympathies to the family of Cyndy Brinkman who went home to be with her Lord on October 20th. We will miss her deeply here at Christ's Community Church and remember with gratitude to God her steadfast faith and spirit of fun.

**Thank you:** “Thank you for remembering Cyndy with the flowers. She would have appreciated your kind gestures very much. Thanks also to those who were able to attend her memorial.” Gary & Family

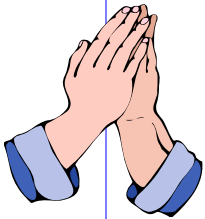


## **PASTORAL NEWS** continued

## **C.R.O.S.S.**

*“Christians Reaching Out in Social Service”*

### Prayer Meeting



Often times we find our strongest moments of prayer in groups. If you would like to lift up our worship each Sunday in prayer, please join us on Sundays at 9:50 am in the lounge.

### Please Pray For:

- Those who are dealing with health issues.
- Those who are recovering from illness.
- Those who have suffered the loss of a loved one this year.
- Our servicemen and women who are abroad and at home.
- Our country and its leaders.
- Our denomination and its leaders.

### Thank You to the Outgoing Elders

Thank you so much to **Dale Beumer, Bruce Kalland, and Maureen Carlson** for serving on the 2009 Church Board of Elders. They served well and faithfully, and we appreciate all they have done. May God bless them as they continue to serve Him.

### Installation of New Elders

Our newly elected Church Board of Elders, Greg Jones, Terri Bischoff and Karene Heupel, will be installed into office on January 10th, 2010. You can show your support for your leaders and your church by attending that day. Please keep these faithful servants in your prayers.

### In the Hospital / Nursing Home?

If you are admitted to a hospital, be sure to call Pastor Jenny or have someone call her. Hospitals cannot notify churches that you have been admitted. Even if the stay in the hospital is short, Pastor Jenny would like to come and visit you.

### CROSS upcoming events:

--**Sat., Dec. 12th** - CROSS will have a breakfast fundraiser again this year at Applebees in Maple Grove. Mark your calendar for that morning, when you can enjoy a delicious breakfast and support CROSS at the same time!

--**Sun., Dec. 13th** - A "Christmas with Cate Fierro" featuring holiday music and a silent auction will be held at the Yellow Tree Theater in Osseo with proceeds going to CROSS. If you have an item you would like to donate for the silent auction, please contact Marian Mortenson.

### Meals on Wheels' Drivers needed:

If you would like to volunteer as a driver for Meals on Wheels, please contact Coordinator Melissa Erickson, (H)763-551-0342 or (Cell) 763-229-8062, for details and possible ways they could use your help. The service area includes Maple Grove, Osseo and Rogers.

### Holiday Food Request:

Please check the CROSS Kiosk for food items needed especially during the holidays for families who depend on the CROSS food shelf to help make their holiday meals special. Some of the items listed which you may wish to add to your grocery list include: canned sweet potatoes, creamed soups, turkey gravy packets, creamed corn, canned fruit, jello, and baking supplies such as brown sugar, etc. Monetary donations are also welcome.

### Church Office Hours

**The new office hours for CCC are:  
Monday & Wednesday - Friday: 9:30 to 2:30 pm. Pastor Jenny is not in Tuesdays.**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

## CCC December Volunteers

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Welcome & Announcements	D. Olson	M. Carlson	D. Beumer	J. Ohrt
Audio / Visual:	J. Holtmeier	S. Ellingson	Jones	K. O'Rourke
Scriptures:	G. Jones	D. Beumer	M. Carlson	D. Olson
Ushers:	K. Giles	Swansons	S. Sandell / K. Kothrade	Enns
Greeters:	Mortenson	Ohrts		Jarvis
Nursery:	K. Kothrade	B. Kalland		Weizenegger
Children's Church:	Communion	B. Feller-Pickett	B. Kalland	B. Ellingson
Snak & Yak Host:	Steucks	Jarvis	B. Ellingson	D. Olson
Treats:	L. Thielen	K. Heupel	M. Carlson	Landes
Prayers of the Church:	Communion	V. Caple	D. Olson	K. O'Rourke
Children's Chat:	V. Caple	B. Feller-Pickett	C. Steuck	T. Bergstrom

## Advent Candle Lighters

December 6:     Seek Home  
 December 13:   Jon & Felicia Enns  
 December 20:   Dale & Janet Beumer  
 December 27:   Nick & Casey Langseth



## Unity Prayer Watch—Dec 2

Don't forget we have our 24-hour Prayer Watch on Wednesday, December 2nd. If you are willing to pray for fifteen minutes, then we need you to sign up on the kiosk! Prayer guides are available to assist you in praying. The following is the prayer schedule for December 2<sup>nd</sup>:

1:00 AM	Deb Hjermstad	9:30 AM	
1:15 AM	Deb Hjermstad	9:45 AM	
1:30 AM		4:00 PM	Janet Beumer
1:45 AM		4:15 PM	Karene Heupel
5:00 AM	Paul Moran	4:30 PM	Joe Anderson
5:15 AM		4:45 PM	Mike Abeln
5:30 AM	Liz Rosca	9:00 PM	
5:45 AM	Dale Beumer	9:15 PM	Barbara Feller-Pickett
9:00 AM	Marian Mortenson	9:30 PM	Troy Hallstrom
9:15 AM	Donna Olson	9:45 PM	Barb Kalland

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### General Fund / Operating Account

Giving	Beg. Bal.	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
<b>July</b>	\$ (2,031.45)	11,224.14	10,713.94	(1,521.25)
<b>August</b>	\$ (1,521.25)	12,443.13	11,860.07	(938.19)
<b>September</b>	\$ (938.19)	12,289.49	10,318.56	1,022.74
<b>October</b>	\$ 1,022.74	8,419.53	10,849.49	(1,407.22)
<b>YTD</b>	\$ 3,671.15	\$ 112,071.42	\$ 117,149.79	\$ (1,407.22)

**Including unpaid obligations ( \$23,264.31 )**

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 4	Keith McIlveen
December 6	Jacob Astrup
December 8	Cole Hallstrom
December 9	Michael Abeln
December 11	Collin Abeln
December 13	John Fairbairn
December 17	James Fairbairn
December 17	Jodi Kolstad
December 18	Alison Brinkman

December 20	Jason Astrup
December 27	Gene Heupel
December 28	Jesse Astrup
December 29	Matt Nastu
December 30	Casey Swanson
December 31	Dale Beumer

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December 27	Michael & Barbara Abeln
December 27	Bob & Carol Steuck

### To Contact the Pastor

**Pastor Jenny Moran**  
 14508 95th Avenue  
 Maple Grove MN 55369

(763) 420-5636

[pastorjenny@ccc-mg.org](mailto:pastorjenny@ccc-mg.org)  
 or  
[office@ccc-mg.org](mailto:office@ccc-mg.org)

**Pastor Jenny's Office Hours:** 9:30 am to 2:30 pm  
 Monday, Wednesday — Friday



## **DISTRICT NEWS**

### **WESTERN DISTRICT UPDATES AND SOUTHERN PROVINCE NEWS**

Sister Rita Andersen shared with the Rudolph congregation that she will retire at the end of December. Please hold our sister in your prayers as she looks forward to some new endeavors!

The Waconia, Sister Bay, Lake Auburn and Rudolph congregations are in various stages of the call process. Please hold these communities in prayer as they seek pastoral leadership to assist them with their ministries.

There have been four pre-synod area meetings so far in Southern Wisconsin, Northeast Wisconsin, Southern Minnesota and Central Minnesota. This weekend the Illinois and Indiana churches will gather at New Hope in Indianapolis. On Sunday afternoon, Grace and Unionville will gather in Flint, Michigan. Additional meetings will be held at Shepherd of the Prairie, North Dakota (11/21), Morongo, California (1/16) and Saratoga, Wisconsin (1/23). During these meetings we are taking an extensive look at our Health Care, Life, Long Term Disability and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance program. In addition, conversation is directed to the Alternative Quota System and the 2010 Provincial Budget.

Three positions have been eliminated in the Northern Province, one of which includes Sister Esther Glas who has been a faithful servant in the Western District office for 27 years. We thank Esther for her work and she will be missed.

### **Congratulations Peg Chamberlin!**

**Rev. Peg Chamberlin was installed as the 25<sup>th</sup> president of the National Council of Churches of Christ (NCCC).** Rev. Chamberlin has been the executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) for 14 years. The council is considered one of the premier state councils of churches in the country. This will be the first time that the head of a state council of churches has served as president of the NCCC.

In 2009, Chamberlin was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. On the council, she serves on the task force focused on economic recovery and fighting poverty. Rev. Chamberlin is Moravian clergy and a member at NMC. Congratulations!

**13250 - 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369**


**[www.ccc-mg.org](http://www.ccc-mg.org)**

**Change Service Requested**



# December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> -Pastor Jenny Off -Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> -9:30 am: Osseo Gardens / Berkshire -24-hour Unity Prayer Watch -7:00-8:00 pm: Choir	<b>3</b> -9:00-11:00am: Comforter Makers	<b>4</b> -10:00 am to 1:00 pm: Homeschooling Group	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> -8:45 am: Sunday School -9:50 am: Prayer (Lounge) -10:00: WorshipCommunion -11:00 am: Snak & Yak -4:00-7:00 pm: Advent Workshop	<b>7</b> -6:00 pm: Board Meeting -6:15 to 8:00 pm: Girl Scout Troop -7:00 to 8:00 pm: Barb A's Girl Scout Troop	<b>8</b> -Church Office Closed	<b>9</b> -7:00-8:00 pm: Choir	<b>10</b> -9:00-11:00am: Comforter Makers	<b>11</b> -6:30 pm: Young Adult Party at the Parsonage. Bring a dessert or appetizer!	<b>12</b> -8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Applebee's in Maple Grove
<b>13</b> - 8:45: Sunday School -9:50 am: Prayer (Lounge) -10:00 am: Worship -11:00 am: Snak & Yak and Simpson Sandwich Making -2:00 pm: Piano Recital	<b>14</b> -6:30 to 8:00 pm: Girl Scout Troop	<b>15</b> -Pastor Jenny Off -Church Office Closed	<b>16</b> -6:30 Putz Showing -7:00-8:00 pm: Choir	<b>17</b> -9:00-11:00am: Comforter Makers	<b>18</b> -6:00-8:00 pm: Parsonage Christmas Party	<b>19</b> -Sandell Family Reunion
<b>20</b> -8:45 am: Sunday School -9:50 am: Prayer (Lounge) -10:00 am: Worship & Christmas Program -11:00 am: Snak & Yak -11:30 am: Christmas Putz Showing	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> -Pastor Jenny Off -Church Office Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> -4:30 pm: <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas!!</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> -8:45 am: Sunday School -9:50 am: Prayer (Lounge) -10:00 am: Worship -11:00 am: Pancake Breakfast -2:00 pm: Plymouth Playhouse	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> -Pastor Jenny Off -Church Office Closed	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> -Church Office Closed -Comforter Ministries New Year's Brunch <i>New Years Eve</i>		