



Grapevine

December 2010



American Lutheran

December Worship Schedule

ALC Staff

Henry Thorberg - Pastor
 Jane Plettner-Nielson -
 Director of Music
 Clarice Riege Secretary

ALC Council

Executive Committee

President - Doug Dexter
 Vice-President - Michael Welsh
 Secretary - Joel Bacon
 Treasurer - Jason Gustafson

Committee Chairs

Finance-Char Rohl
 Outreach-Ryan Rohl
 Parish Education- Wendy Hirsch
 Property-Mike Wheeler
 Social Concerns-Liz Cooper
 Stewardship-Paul Welsh
 Worship-Mavis Seelmeyer
 Youth- Bruce Spilker

December 5



**Second Sunday of Advent/St. James
Joyful Noise**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion

December 12



**Third Sunday of Advent/St. Paul
Sanctuary Choir/Cantata "Child of Hope"**

8:15 am Traditional Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Praise Worship

December 19



**Fourth Sunday of Advent/St. Peter
Sunday School Sing**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion
 9:15 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion

December 21

7:00 pm Advent Service -Spilker Tree Farm

December 24



**Christmas Eve/Candlelight
Joyful Noise**

4:00 pm Worship/Communion
Sanctuary Choir & Gospel Rings
 7:00 pm Worship/ Communion

December 25



Christmas Day/Communion

10:00 am Worship

December 26



**First Sunday of Christmas - St. Thomas
Special Music**

8:15 am Traditional Worship
 10:30 Praise Worship

Pure Delight



We are coming up on the time of the year which is for children often just a pure delight. Moms and Dads throughout our congregation are busy making the house special for the coming season. There are lights where there usually are none. There is often a tree in the house and even that has lights on it. Presents appear under that tree all brightly colored and many even decorated with bows. The excitement and anticipation grows and grows and grows as the time grows near and before we know it we have raised another generation of consumers! We have another generation who come to believe , “It’s all about me.”

I am quite sure that very few parents want that to be the message regarding what Christmas is all about; but we often reinforce that idea by the things we do and the way we act about those things! Often, I have found myself so caught up in getting stuff for kids (grandkids now) that it complicates preparing myself for the gift of receiving. We have made this season one of giving [GIVING IS GOOD!], and have forgotten that the purpose of Christmas is receiving! The negative wonder of the Christmas story is that we do so poorly at receiving GOD’s great gift to us; and on the flip side, it is about how wonderfully those involved in the story did at receiving. Even those we associate most clearly with gift giving, the wise men, were keenly aware of the gift that had been given on earth among humanity! They brought gifts in thanksgiving for the great gift the world had

been received – gifts which reflected the value and ministry of the one who had been sent!

I most certainly hope that you get great joy out of the giving you will be doing throughout this holiday season! It is and should be a pure delight to give! That delight is multiplied when the one who receives the gift receives it with joy. May all of us be spared the hurt of half-hearted thanks for something that the receivers neither needed nor wanted to get. And on the other hand, may all of us experience the pure delight of having chosen well the gifts we give to people who have received from us the things they really did want and need.

More than that, however, it is my prayer that all of us become excellent receivers of the greatest gift ever given humanity, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. If there is joy in our giving the right gift to the right person, it pales in the face of receiving the pure delight of the right person giving the right gift to all of humanity! Then may we who have received that right gift celebrate with pure delight in thanksgiving for the blessings that are ours in this wondrous season of blessedness!

Pastor Henry

From the Music Director:

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! for the new computers. I am in the process of adding e-mail addresses to the computer. My e-mail address is musicdirector@americanlutheranlincoln.org. Feel free to contact me through this address. It may take a few days for me to respond as I'm not here every day, but I will respond, even if it's just to say "OK" or "Thank you." So, if I don't respond within a week, it could mean I didn't get the message. I have asked several people (but not yet everyone I should ask) to send me an e-mail from the e-mail address they want me to communicate with as it very easy for me to add the name and address by the "add a contact" feature on the program. If I haven't asked you yet, but you are involved in the music program or have a child that is involved, and you have an e-mail address you would like me to use to contact you, please send me your e-mail address. There is a link on the church website with my e-mail address on, if that is easier for you to use than to type in the e-mail address above. There are some people who have mentioned they are having difficulty contacting me using the church website. If you do experience problems, let us know.

The month of December is a little more special than some months and it would be great if we had special music for some services, in addition to the regularly scheduled music. If you would be willing to share your gifts this month, please let me know. I already have some volunteers but would be happy to include more. Thank you for your support of the music program.

Following is the rehearsal schedule for December. Please note, there are some changes in the rehearsal schedule. Rehearsals that would be held on Tues., Dec. 21 have been moved to Wed., Dec. 22.

Joyful Noise – 5:30 - 6:15 on Dec. 7, 14, and Wednesday, Dec. 22 (no rehearsal Dec. 28)

Gospel Rings – 6:15 - 7:00 on Dec. 7, 14, and Wednesday, Dec. 22 (no rehearsal Dec. 28)

Sanctuary Choir – 7:00 - 8:00 on Dec. 7, 14, and Wednesday, Dec. 22 (no rehearsal Dec. 28); also, a rehearsal tentatively scheduled for Sat. morning, Dec. 11, from 10:00 to 11:00

Praise Team – 8:00 – 9:00 on Dec. 7, 14, and Wed., Dec. 22; on Tues., Dec. 28, meet at 6:30 for rehearsal

The schedule for sharing our musical gifts during worship is as follows:

Dec. 5 – Joyful Noise and St. James Praise Team

Dec. 12 – Sanctuary Choir (presents the cantata, "Child of Hope") and St. Paul Team

Dec. 19 – Sunday School and St. Peter Team

Dec. 24 – (Christmas Eve) – 4:00 service – Joyful Noise (meet at 3:30 to warm up)

7:00 service – Sanctuary Choir and Gospel Rings (warm up time to be announced later)

Dec. 26 – Special Music and St. Thomas Team

Jane Plettner-Nielson



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on December 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. The title of this year's program is "Each One, Reach One", which is a challenge for each child to invite someone to participate in the Christmas program with them. All children ages preschool to 6th grade will be invited to participate. No rehearsal necessary for our visitors--they need only show up and wear a costume! Sunday school children will be involved in outreach projects over the next month to encourage and invite others to attend and participate.

All children who wish to participate should show up to church at 1:30 on December 19th. At this time, they will be assigned a costume and an ALC friend who will help them know where to stand, what to do, etc.

Refreshments with desserts will take place after the program. All teachers and children are encouraged to bring one dessert/snack to share.

ALC children will be required to attend a rehearsal on Saturday, December 18th from 10:00-12:00.

For those wishing to participate in special music prior to the Christmas program, contact Michelle Wiggins.

ALC NEWS

Lincoln Cluster Food Pantry

In December, the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry needs: Tomato products, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Fruits, Vegetables, and Juice. We cannot take used, opened, or expired food.

Cash donations are used for immediate needs. To donate cash, place it in the collection plate, clearly marked "Food Pantry"

Once again the Pantry is in need of volunteers to help fill the food orders. They have had some people stop volunteering and really could use the extra help. Contact Patti Flynn at pflynn@lincolnfoodbank.org or 466-8170 ext. 103

Executive Committee and Church Council will meet Thursday evening, December 9th, at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

Advent Gathering Spilker Tree Farm

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

7:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of

Scripture, & Carols

Followed by food & fellowship.

Everyone invited to bring goodies to share!

ALC November Statistics

Change of Address;

Ben Pederson: to 422 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1052

Marcene Renner: to The Legacy
5610 Pioneer Blvd, Apt 292
Lincoln, NE 68506-5195

Dale Rathe: to Legacy Estates
7200 Van Dorn St. Apt 105
Lincoln, NE 68506-3717

Alan & Laura Huesers: to
11460 Flint St.
Platte City, MO 64079-9565

New Members (Rejoined)

Kenneth & Barbara Grosenbach -
6220 Glendale Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68505
Phone - 464-2556



Attendance and Stewardship

	Worship		General	Phase III	Other
	8:15 am	10:30 am	Offering	Offering	Offering
October 24	97 [Mission Sunday]		\$1620.50	\$60.00	\$195.00
October 31	58	104	\$2098.50	\$90.00	\$367.20
November 7	72	93	\$4758.91	\$770.00	\$100.00
November 14	57	76	\$4508.50	\$320.00	\$155.00

Financial Statement

God

Financial Results through 10/312010		
	October	YTD
Budget Income		
Pro-rata needs	\$ 17,879.00	\$153,758.00
Offerings	\$ 16,131.00	\$150,219.00
Difference	[\$1,748.00]	[\$3,539.00]
Budget Expenses	\$ 14,738.00	\$154,502.00
Phase III:		
Debt Obligation	\$ 2,976.00	\$ 29,760.00
Budgeted (mortgage)	\$ 1,796.00	\$ 17,084.00
Phase III Offerings	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 12.676.00
Total Paid	\$ 2,976.00	\$ 29,760.00
Cause of the Month:	\$90.00	

You're Invited

The Josh Brestel Birthday Safari and Toy Drive
will be held
December 11 from 12-3 pm. In the Parish Hall.

Bring a toy and join in the fun. All toys donated will be delivered to Children's and St. Elizabeth Hospital's on Josh's birthday, December 13.

This year we have a very special treat.
"No Better Cause" will be performing at 12:45 pm.

Hope to see everyone on December 11th.

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Vine Street
Lincoln, NE 68503
Phone: 402 466-6488
Email: amlutheran@windstream.net
Web Page www.americanlutheranlincoln.org

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Henry Thorberg, Pastor
Sunday Worship 8:15 am
Praise Worship 10:30 am
Christian Education 9:15 am

Address Service Requested

*I am the vine, you are the
branches.*

*He who abides in me, and I in
him, bears much fruit.*

John 15:5



12/01 Dean Dowding
12/04 Sheri Svehla
12/04 Holly Egger
12/04 Tamara Clark
12/05 Carol Koerner
12/05 Gene Neemann
12/09 Ryan Rohl
12/08 Marilyn Foote
12/09 Dani Burroughs
12/10 Justin Everett
12/12 Dale Clay
12/12 Brody Bluford

12/13 Marilyn Pester
12/13 Jessi Agnew
12/17 Jason Gustafson
12/18 Clarence Cooper
12/18 Geraldine Sabata
12/19 Olaf Ahlquist
12/20 Lisa Rotschafer
12/20 Laura Ray
12/21 Marcene Renner
12/21 Steven Wall
12/24 Barbara Grosenbah

12/25 Doug Dexter
12/25 Delores Coatmen
12/26 Melinda Donahoo
12/26 Jeydon Turk
12/27 Monte Damme
12/28 Kathryn Collier
12/28 Beth Sasse
12/29 Joe Stelmach
12/30 Diane Brestel
12/30 Colin Wiggins
12/31 Esther Sothan
12/31 Leo Nissen