

eCHRONICLE

PREMIERE ISSUE JANUARY 2010

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5555 SOM CENTER ROAD
WILLOUGHBY, OHIO 44094
Learning Hour 9:00 a.m. (ages 4 yr. to adult)
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

www.christlchurch.org

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DON'T MISS THESE JANUARY EVENTS

The January 2010 Calendar of Events is sent along with the eChronicle as a separate .pdf file.

1/8-1/10 SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING
1/17 FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

FROM PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's amazing to me that the new year and a new decade are upon us. As you know, the world has changed over the last decade. Cell phones are here to stay and "texting" is how a lot of folks communicate. I'm used to getting my music through CDs, but most people are downloading off the Internet. Everything keeps evolving and changing. Even the church needs to keep changing. In order for a church to grow, it can't stand still. It must keep changing. It must keep up with our world. If we're not changing and growing, we're dying.

Back in September 2009, a representative group from the congregation took a survey as part of a program called National Church Development. At the December Council meeting, we personally received the results of that survey from the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Ron Zoesch. The survey looked at eight essential characteristics of a vibrant congregation and ranked them in relation to other churches. The characteristics included: Empowering Leadership, Gift-based Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Effective Structures, Inspiring Worship Service, Holistic Small Groups, Need-oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships. Our highest score was "Gift-based Ministry" and our lowest score was "Passionate Spirituality."

A Health Team has been assembled and will meet this month with Pastor Zoesch to begin to discuss a series of questions related to helping us look at "Passionate Spirituality" as it pertains to our congregation. In other words, we'll begin the process of diagnosing exactly where our congregation is with regard to this quality. We'll also be looking for ways to involve the whole congregation in this discussion. The purpose of the Health Team is not to figure out solutions to this issue but rather to find ways for the whole congregation to be part of helping us grow in the area of "Passionate Spirituality."

What Pastor Zoesch made clear is that as a congregation grows and improves in one area of ministry, it helps improve the health in other areas of ministry in a church. I'm looking forward to these discussions. I anticipate that this will bring some new life and vitality to all that we do at Christ Church.

It's a new year and the start of a new decade. I believe God has some new plans and some new ideas for us as a congregation. I ask that you keep our Health Team, our new Council, and our congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

In hope and confidence,
Pastor Dave

PASTOR DAVE ON THE GO...

January 8-9:	Synod Youth Gathering	January 19:	Pastor and secretary's lunch at Breckenridge as part of the Willoughby Clergy Ministerium
January 16:	Thielo family Christmas celebration at my sister Joy's home	January 22:	attend the Neil Simon play "Lost in Yonkers" with Ruth, my dad and his wife Pam

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT THE CONGREGATION (AND BEYOND!)

New Officers and Council Members

At the annual congregational election/budget meeting, the following officers were elected:

President:	Steven Winkler
Vice President:	Sue Krech
Recording Sec'y:	Linda Hazen
Financial Sec'y:	Lois Sbrocco
Treasurer:	John Roeland

Also elected were the following Council members:

Julie Belich
Elden Campbell
Cara Clemens
Evan Conell
Carol Soos
Cannon Thompson

The Nominating Committee for 2010:

Patti Pund
Lois Sbrocco

Please keep all of these newly-elected leaders of the congregation in your prayers during the coming year.

Wanted: Family Pictures

The picture board in the Gathering Area needs updated pictures of some of our families and pictures of our newest members. If your picture is a faded ghost of its former self, or you can't be found on the board, please bring a recent picture to church and give it to **Beth Christopherson** so that we can keep the board current. We appreciate your help with this.

Do We Have Your Correct Address?



The church directory will be updated in January and available to the congregation soon. If there are any corrections to be made to your address, e-mail address, or phone number, please let the office know.

Welcome to the Family!

Caitlin Frances Soos, born on December 1, 2009, became a member of the family of Christ through baptism on December 20. Caitlin is the youngest granddaughter of **Marty and Carol Soos**, and baby sister of **Caley Bodjiak and Cassie Soos**. Please keep this youngest member of Christ Lutheran in your prayers.

St. Olaf Choir's Severance Hall Concert to Benefit LAOS

The St. Olaf Choir will make a rare appearance at Cleveland's Severance Hall on Monday, February 1, 2010, with 40% of the concert proceeds benefiting Lutheran Agencies Organized in Service (LAOS) here in Northeast Ohio. The St. Olaf Choir, with 75 mixed voices, is the pioneer a *cappella* choir in the United States. For nearly a century, the choir has set a standard of choral excellence and remained at the forefront of choral artistry. The choir's mission is to provide music of the highest quality that lifts people's hearts and spirits, incorporating a diversity of voices and cultural traditions into the chorus of the Christian faith.

Tickets for the performance are available at www.clevelandorchestra.com or by calling the Severance Hall box office at 216-231-1111. Group discounts are available.

Thank You

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary during this festive season. Please plan on taking your plants home AFTER the worship service on January 3.

Web Site Update

Evan Conell has revamped our whole christchurch.org website. Be sure to go on line and urge your friends and family to take a look. If you have any suggestions, please let Evan know. Also thank him for all the hours and effort that he gave to improving our site. Way to go, Evan! Thanks so much!

FROM THE NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD

The print version of this month's *Chronicle* included a copy of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's November letter. You can view a .pdf file with her letter by clicking here: http://www.neos-elca.org/unified_mailing/2009/11-2009/Bishops_Newsletter.pdf

GROUP HAPPENINGS

COUNCIL

Highlights of the November and December 2009
Council Meetings
submitted by Laura Johnson, 2009 Council President

Much of the council's time in its final two meetings of 2009 was devoted to preparations for the congregational budget/election meeting originally scheduled for November and later postponed until December 13. **John Roeland** presented a proposed 2010 budget on November 2, and Council approved its submission to the congregation for a vote. However, by mid-November the preliminary stewardship drive results were available and showed a larger-than-expected decline (13%) in total committed giving from 2008. In response, the finance committee recommended the meeting be postponed and that the budget be revised in light of the anticipated decline. In December, the finance committee recommended to Council further budget cuts in several areas, and Council voted to submit the revised budget proposal to the congregation.

Also in December, Council welcomed back **Rev. Ron Zoesch**, who shared the results of the natural church development (NCD) survey the church took in September. Plans were made for the NCD "Health Team" to begin meeting in January 2010 to address the church's "minimum factor" per the survey – passionate spirituality. **Elden Campbell** reported that the church website has been completely overhauled by **Evan Conell** and the new site will go online soon. **Sue Krech** presented ideas for a communication box which members can use to present ideas and issues to church leaders. Finally, Council approved the purchase of 40 copies of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (the remainder needed) before the price increase takes effect in January. The hymnals will be paid for with memorial money received throughout the year.

DECORATING COMMITTEE submitted by John Pund

Many thanks to the hardy souls who came to decorate the church for Christmas on December 12, and to have some wonderful chili, sweets and other good food and beverages sponsored by the Women's and

Men's Groups. **Ray and Pat Batich, Darlene and Brittany Carroll, Roger Heston, Laura Johnson, John and Patti Pund, Mike Sbrocco, Margo Smolic, Carol Soos, Melissa Thompson (and Connon, Jr.), and Jean Vaught** hauled, hoisted, and hung decorations until the sanctuary and Gathering Area were once again a festive arena for Advent and Christmas. We hope to make this an annual event, so remember this next year!

MEN'S GROUP submitted by John Pund

The Men's Group will meet Saturday, January 9, at 9:00a.m. for their monthly planning and fixing meeting. One agenda item to start thinking about is the Car Cruise-in for August. Bring your ideas and have some coffee and doughnuts.

PRAYER AND NEEDS TEAM

Just a note: Please remember that you can request a prayer for yourself, a loved one or friend, or for anyone or anything that is weighing heavy on your heart. You can request a prayer by:

- 1) emailing a request to clcprayer@roadrunner.com
- 2) calling **Barb Conell** at (216) 210-5499
- 3) placing a request in the "private prayer request" box located in the Gathering Area on the wall to the left of the church office door
- 4) placing a request in the basket in the sanctuary for the Sunday morning prayers.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE submitted by Laura Johnson

The 2009 stewardship drive "We Say Yes!" drew to a close on November 29. The drive featured stewardship Bible studies, bulletin inserts, letters, and temple talks – all with the theme of accountability and saying "Yes" to God. Thank you to **Sue Krech, Patti Pund, Brock Hoover, and Betsy Butke** who spoke to

the congregation during worship and shared their personal experiences and thoughts about giving. I also very much appreciate Brock Hoover's assistance in helping me lead the Bible study discussions in the Sunday morning adult class; **Beth Christopherson's** help with photocopying and placing the inserts in our bulletins; and **Ruth Thielo's** coordination and hosting of a wonderful coffee hour following the Commitment Sunday worship service.

The church received 34 commitments totaling about \$83,400. There are 43 active "giving units" (i.e., households/families) on the membership rolls, so nearly 80% of the families who regularly attend church have made a commitment to give in 2010. Unfortunately, the amount of committed giving fell about 13% (approximately \$12,700) from 2008. However, this is mainly attributable to the loss of commitments from members who have left the church or are no longer attending regularly. We celebrate and give thanks to God for the increased commitments turned in by 13

giving units as well as the 7 new commitments we received (from units who did not commit in 2008, including new members). I consider this year's drive to have been effective if only for the fact that 16 giving units (over a third of the active units!) made a commitment this year that was a step up from their 2008 response. Thank you to everyone who has said "Yes!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL
submitted by Sue Krech

Thank you to all who helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 20. We hope you enjoyed the program and refreshments. And remember – there can never be too many shepherds.

There was no Sunday School on December 27, but classes resume on January 3. The children will start a new semester of the Witness program during class time; they will continue to work on learning the Ten Commandments during the opening.

OTHER IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1	Heather Vokic	25	Pauline Brondos
	Anna Farrington	26	Joshua Tkautz
2	Ted Whittington	27	Carol Soos
9	Lawrence Vokic	28	Debbie Hackney
13	Jeff Heston	31	David Dodaro
	Kyle Johnson		

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

10	Evan Conell	19	Pastor Dave
14	Erica Johnson	20	Joshua Tkautz

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

27 Ray and Pat Batich

ATTENDANCE

THIS YEAR				LAST YEAR		
Date	Sun. Sch.	Church	Communion	Date	Church	Communion
11-22-09	22	71	50	11-23-08	72	59 (congregational mtg.)
11-29-09	23	72		11-30-08	87	
12-06-09	31	83 (est.)		12-07-08	65	
12-13-09	23	71		12-14-08	90	
12-20-09				12-21-08	115	(Sun. Sch. prog.)

THOSE SERVING US IN JANUARY

ACOLYTES

3 Lexi Vokic
10 Lisa Butke
17 Brittany Carroll
24 Tim Carroll
31 Evan Conell

ALTAR GUILD

Patti and John Pund

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

3 Barb Conell
10 Mark DeLaney
17 Beth Farrington
24 Brock Hoover
31 Wendy Johnston

COMMUNION BREAD

Sue Krech

COUNTERS

see the financial secretary for schedule

GREETERS

3 Ray and Pat Batich
10 Dave Dodaro and Caley Bodjiak
17 Kevin and Maggie Gibson
24 Jeff and Roger Heston
31 Brock and Zachary Hoover

NURSERY

3 Becky Fricke
10 Cheryl Hoover
17 Barb Conell
24 Linda Hazen
31 Heather Vokic

snack: the Gibsons

PRAYER LEADERS

3 Sue Krech
10 John Roeland
17 _____
24 Beth Christopherson
31 Beth Farrington

READERS

3 Laura Johnson
10 John Pund
17 _____
24 Betsy Butke
31 Darlene Carroll

OPEN/CLOSE

3 Thielos
10 Punds
17 Seglers open, Soos' close
24 Krechs open, Gibsons close
31 Whittingtons

USHERS

John Roeland and Mike Sbrocco
(Dave Dodaro and Ted Whittington)

FLOWERS

3 _____
10 _____
17 _____
24 from Darlene Carroll, in memory of Oscar
and Donna Johnson
31 _____

COFFEE HOUR / FELLOWSHIP TIME

3 _____
10 _____
17 _____
24 _____
31 _____

If you cannot serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to arrange for a substitute and let the church office know. If you would like to serve, sign up at the table in the Gathering Area, or speak to Beth Christopherson and she'll put you in touch with the person in charge of that ministry.

A LOOK AHEAD: THOSE SERVING US IN FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES

7 Alyssa Dodaro
14 Lindsey Dodaro
17 (7:00 p.m.) Colin Farrington
21 Bob Johnston
28 Carl Thielo

ALTAR GUILD

Darlene Carroll and Carol Soos

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

7 Sue Krech
14 John Pund
17 (7:00 p.m.) Barb Conell

COMMUNION BREAD

Patti Pund

COUNTERS

see financial secretary for schedule

GREETERS

7 Mario and Ann Picciano
14 John and Patti Pund
17 (7:00 p.m.) Mike and Lois Sbrocco
21 Shane and Tori Segler
28 Steve and Velta Winkler

NURSERY

7 Maggie Gibson
14 Becky Fricke
21 Cheryl Hoover
28 Barb Conell

PRAYER LEADERS

7 Brock Hoover
14 Sue Krech
17 (7:00 p.m.) Pastor Dave
21 John Roeland
28 Beth Christopherson

OPEN/CLOSE

7 Hestons
14 Thielos
21 Punds
28 Seglers open, Gibsons close

READERS

7 Beth Christopherson
14 Barb Conell and Caley Bodjiak
17 (7:00 p.m.) Mark DeLaney
21 Beth and Anna Farrington
28 Keith Fricke

USHERS

Roger and Jeff Heston
(Mike Sbrocco, Steve Winkler)

FLOWERS

7 Bob & Jean Vaught, for their 60th
anniversary
14 _____
21 _____
28 _____

COFFEE HOUR / FELLOWSHIP TIME

7 _____
14 Secret Valentines
17 Ash Wednesday potluck
21 _____
28 _____

Need to look further ahead? Check out the schedules posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and the sign-up sheets on the table in the Gathering Area.