



***“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, Who was lying in the manger.”*** (Luke 2:15-16)

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

These treasured words are from Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. This shows us the response of the shepherds to the news the angel brought them about a wondrous Child – a wondrous Savior – being born in Bethlehem. Take careful note of what the shepherds do – they “hurried off” to find this Jesus and worship Him. In the hectic hurried pace our December lives often become, I marvel at these shepherds. They wouldn't let anything stand in the way of their rushing to the manger and worshipping the Savior. They knew this was the most important thing in their lives and they wouldn't miss it!

As we are set to enter December we have multiple avenues available to us so that we can show the same devotion of these Christmas shepherds. Here are some thoughts I have on our multiple **worship opportunities** in December:

### **Advent Services**

During the season of Advent we have special services on Wednesdays. This Advent season is unique because we have four Wednesdays in Advent. The first three of these Wednesday services are the Advent Services by the students in our school. Nov. 30 is Grades 5-8; Dec. 7 Grades 2-4; and Dec. 14 Preschool through Grade 1. All of these services are at 7:00 pm. It is a pure joy to see the kids share in the message of Jesus' birth!

We also offer a brief, 30 minute service on those three Wednesdays (November 30, December 7 & 14) at 5:30 pm. This is especially for those that aren't connected (via family or otherwise) with the Children's Advent Services.

### **Special Advent Service – December 21**

This Advent season is the longest Advent can be – four full weeks. We will have a special Advent Service on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm. This service will especially utilize

the high school youth of our congregation.

### **Christmas Eve Services – Slight Changes**

Over the past few years we have noticed a change taking place at our Christmas Eve services. In previous years our 5:00 service has been increasingly more attended and the 7:00 service has been decreasing in attendance. The 5:00 service has become a very packed service (not much room for more attenders) and the 7:00 service has significantly decreased. While it is difficult to determine what, exactly, is causing this we are making two changes to see what effect this will have. First, we have changed the times from 5:00 and 7:00 to **4:00 and 6:00 pm**. With many families gathering for Christmas Dinners, etc. we pray the new times are more helpful for people to keep worship a priority on Christmas Eve.

Second, while the earlier (4:00 pm.) service will remain “traditional” and the later (6:00 pm.) service remain “contemporary,” we are making some soft adjustments to the Contemporary Service to make it a “Carol-Based” service with very familiar and favorite Christmas songs and hymns done in a softly blended format. We pray these changes give more people the opportunity to worship our Savior on Christmas Eve.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight with Communion (11:00 pm)**

While both the 4:00 and 6:00 pm Christmas Eve services will conclude with traditional candlelight, we are offering a new service this year – a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 11:00 pm. This service will both begin and end with candlelight and will also feature a celebration of the Lord's Supper. I believe it has been many years since Suburban Bethlehem has had a service like this. It has always been a personal favorite of mine.

### **Christmas Day – 10:00 am ONLY**

You may have heard about the uniqueness of Christmas this year. Christmas Day falls on a Sunday (known among pastors' families as a “Preacher's Christmas”). This is only the

the third time this has happened in the last 20 years (1994 & 2005 the previous occurrences). Our Pastoral Staff and Board of Elders put a lot of thinking into what we were going to do for Christmas Day (would we maintain our customary Sunday schedule OR go with our usual Christmas Day schedule). We decided to go with our usual Christmas Day schedule – one service at 10:00 am – with a slight twist. Andrew Schempf has been working with all the musical groups of SBL and each group will take part in this service. What a blessing this is! On Christmas Day we will gather in one worship service as we together worship our newborn Savior! What an opportunity to join together with those who often worship at a different service! I especially invite you – no, I challenge you – to pack the church on Christmas Day! On a normal Sunday we have just under 500 people in worship – can we reach that same number on Christmas Day? Let's "pack the church" on Christmas Day.

Thank you to all the musical groups for working together on this day....and I think I've heard Andrew talk about some other special groups for just Christmas Day! (There will not be any Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Christmas Day.)

### **New Year's Eve – 7:00 pm Worship**

We end the year 2011 with our New Year's Eve worship at 7:00 pm. We gather around Word and Sacrament for one more time as we thank and praise God for the blessings of this year.

### **New Year's Day – 8:45 and 11:00 Worship**

Since Christmas Day is a Sunday this means New Year's Day is also a Sunday. For this Sunday we have decided to just have an 8:45 (traditional) and 11:00 (contemporary) worship service. We will have Adult Bible Class at 10:00 am that Sunday (but current plans are for no Sunday School that day). We begin 2012 by gathering together for worship – 2012 is a unique year as it gives us 53 Sundays on which to gather for worship.

Please note that on Sunday, January 8 we

resume our regular Sunday worship schedule: 7:30, 8:45 and 11:00 am.

I pray these worship service opportunities are tools in the hands of our Savior to grow each of us in faith in Jesus, our newborn King! I look forward to celebrating with you in all of these special worship services!

With you at the Manger,

*Pastor Bill*

### **Eight Gifts That Don't Cost Anything**



Gifts  
from the  
Heart

- **The Gift of Listening** - But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- **The Gift of Affection** - Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- **The Gift of Laughter** - Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."
- **The Gift of a Written Note** - It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- **The Gift of a Compliment** - A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.
- **The Gift of a Favor** - Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.
- **The Gift of Solitude** - There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- **The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition** - The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

**Pastor Dave Dubbelde Begins Ministry at SBL** ~ December 1st is the start date for Pastor Dave Dubbelde to begin his ministry among us as Pastor Emeritus. Pastor Dubbelde's duties have increased from previous Pastors Emeritus – so that he will be working 20 hours per week. His areas of responsibility include: Regular Preaching (18 times per year); Sick & Shut-in Ministry (he will visit roughly 2/3 of our shut-ins each month), Pastor Keith Knippenberg & Pastor Bill Mueller visiting the remaining 1/3); Ministry to our Inactive Members; and also – and these are new items for this position – Senior Ministry and providing some assistance with Outreach Ministry.

**Praising God for His Servants** ~ As this newsletter is going to press we are attempting to recognize those servants of our congregation who are concluding their ministry among us: Kathy Enterline (leaving at the Christmas break), Linda Harlow, Pastor Bill Barlow and Klarissa Towne. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin announcements.

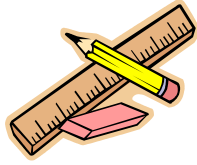
**2012 Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School Auction** ~ Put the date on your calendars – Saturday, March 17 6:00 pm at Sweetwater Sound is our annual auction. This event is for every-one who is connected with Suburban Bethlehem. Please consider now what item you would like to donate for the auction...and what you'd like to shop for at the auction.

**Gluten Free Communion Wafers** ~ Pastor Bill Mueller and our Board of Elders have recently become aware of a member who, because of health concerns, needs to commune with gluten free wafers. If you have a need for gluten free wafers, please speak with Pastor Bill or any of the Elders. Thank you!

#### **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:**

- **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY:** Join us in the school commons at 10:00 am for some fellowship and a better understanding of Scripture.
- **Sunday Morning Small Group Women's Bible Study!** We meet during the Sunday School hour at **10:00 am** in the nursery classroom at schools so that children three and under may join us. **If you have any questions, please call Susan Kanning (241-3026)**
- **Senior Youth Breakfast & Sunday Bible Study** - We have a special Bible study time set aside for all of our high school youth every Sunday from 10:00-10:55 AM in room 204. This is a great chance to nourish yourself both spiritually and physically (there will always be food).
- **Women's Afternoon Bible Study** ~ We will meet every **Tuesday from 1:30 - 2:45 pm** at the church. This is a more traditional Bible study with weekly take home scripture studies. Please call Tina Harmeyer @ 436-8592 about childcare questions and the book that we will be studying.
- **A New Evening Women's Bible Study** ~ Please join us for a newly formed evening women's Bible study. **We meet on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm.** Our first book to study is "Friendship of Women" by Dee Brestin. Please call Angie Zelt (710-5558) for the meeting location or if you have any questions. We are praying to see you there.
- **Women's Morning Bible Study** ~ We will meet every **Wednesday from 8:00 - 9:15 am.** This is a "Walk - Talk" Bible study. We will walk in small groups around the school/church parking lot as we discuss scripture and how it relates to our lives right now. Please call Tina Harmeyer @ 436-8592 for more information.
- **Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study** ~ Meets in the school commons every **Saturday at 8:00 am.**

# *Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School*



## *SBLS Times*

*December 2011*



### **Our Mission:**

*We believe that Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School and all our members exist to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ and to go share the good news of His love with our community and the world.*

### **Stay in Touch With SBLS**

**[www.suburbanbethlehem.org](http://www.suburbanbethlehem.org)**

**<http://fastdir.com/sbbs>**

### **Advent Service Offerings Reminder**

Please remember that all the plate offerings given at the Advent services will be designated for the Student Tuition Assistance Fund. This fund helps supply necessary financial help to some in our school who struggle with ability to pay for their child's education at Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School. These gifts help not only current children, but also will continue to help many children in the future. Think how often we spend \$10, \$20, \$30 or more on eating out or on some unnecessary item of our desire. Loving donations to the School Tuition Assistance Fund can give a very special gift of Christian education to a child who otherwise may not be able to attend our school. Please prayerfully consider what God would have of you and how He can make your gift become a gift for eternity.

### **Call Process Update**

The School Ministry Board has been busy working on finding the next kindergarten teacher to replace Mrs. Enterline. Numerous candidates have been interviewed and very soon (maybe by the time you are reading this) a Call/Contract will be issued. While

we all mourn the loss we feel due to the Enterline's move, we must focus on both the great experience that so many little ones have had at the feet of Mrs. Enterline and also the joy God has in store more so many kindergarteners in the future through the ministry on whoever He places in our school. Please pray for the new teacher during this transition and also praise God for the many faithful servants He has blessed SBL with over the years.

### **Commitment To Be A Worshipping Family**

All parents with children enrolled at SBLS and who are members of our church have signed a form with this title. We believe that God desires us to be in worship together. It is healthy for the body to join together to hear God's Word, praise His name, and build each other up in love. We feel so strongly about this that we have imposed this commitment upon ourselves and hold each other accountable for the same. Each quarter the Elders check the attendance of our member school families. For those who have attended at least 50% of the time SBLC marks their tuition as paid. In essence, the church gives a grant to those who are active and participating in the life of our congregation. Statements are sent to families who are identified by the Elders as worshipping less than 50% of the time.

**We just started a new quarter so you have every opportunity to worship regularly with your family here at Suburban Bethlehem.**

***See you in church!***

In His Service with you,

***Rich Brune***

## December Birthdays

1 Edwin Dornseif	18 Larry Branning
1 Amy Loppnow	18 Faith Felton
1 Scott Stahlhut	18 RaeLane Tarr
2 Linda Stritmatter	19 Joan Hankel
2 Anita Hille	19 Kyle Zelt
2 Patricia Brundige	20 Wilma Schmidt
2 Hunter Jett	20 Danielle Snyder
2 Benjamin Reusser	20 Jacob Gallmeier
3 Sharon Fox	20 Dylan Bienz
3 Gary Branning	21 James Weimer
3 Anna Jank	23 Nancy Schneider
4 Joann Myers	23 Dean Hille
4 Lydia Lahey	23 Kevin McGuigan
6 Colin Harmeyer	24 Brook Zeedyk
7 Stephanie Kolkman	24 Jacob Stevens
8 Angela Mock	25 Amy Branning
8 Krista Griewank	25 Donna Bartz
8 Kalyssa Krockner	25 Bridget Knepper
8 Brandi Bolyard	25 Forrest Foellinger
9 Pam Brune	26 Sara Tuttle
9 Tyler Beiswanger	26 Mindy Ecenbarger
9 Samuel Felton	27 Robert Harrison
9 Emma Schaefer	27 Ashley Frederick
11 Leanne Stockert	28 Randall Lewis
11 Ian Graft	28 Jodi Belschner
11 Kaitlyn Joyal	28 Kelly Castle
12 Wilmer Rodenbeck	28 Lindsey Koeneman
12 Paul Schaefer	28 Kelsey Greener
12 Dan Stahl	28 Bethany Gottschalk
12 Hope Kanning	29 Karen Eastom
13 Jared Joseph	29 Aubrey Gallmeier
14 Angie Zelt	29 Alexander Arlic
14 Sarina Arens	30 Tony DeTar
16 Kerry Moss	30 Mason Ostrander
16 Emily Gebhard	30 Courtney Welker
16 Matthew Gebhard	30 Michael Rogers
16 Jordan Beard	30 Zachariah Arlic
16 Kate Griewank	31 Basil Bear
17 Ava Johnson	31 Sandra Berger
18 Carole Streit	31 Joshua Lewis
18 Dan Batchelder	31 Jady Stevens

*"God Bless and Keep You the Whole Year Through"  
If your birthday is not listed or is incorrectly listed, please  
call the church office at 484-7873 with the  
correct information. Thank You!*

## On the Horizon

### January

School Resumes	3
Growing Disciples	TBD
Women's Retreat - God is Sovereign (Lutherhaven)	20-22

### February

Fish Fry	11
Ash Wednesday Worship	22

### March

Daylight Savings Time Begins	11
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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

What an eventful time of year we are into right now! We have just completed our Faith Commitment Sundays, our own personal look into the many blessings our Lord has given us and how we will in turn give back a portion of those gifts to Him.

Then, just as we have seen those blessings, we stop and celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday with our family and friends. This quickly rolls us into the month of December and a brand new Church Year. The Advent Season reminds us once again of the greatest gift of all, our Lord Jesus Christ. As we move through December we feel the excitement of Christmas build in our everyday lives. We plan family celebrations, dinners, and gift purchasing and giving, all the while trying to keep our focus on Jesus' birth.

It is during this hustling, bustling time that we as a church family remember the many gifts that our church/school staff gives to us throughout the church year, and also remember them with a gift from our membership. Please use the enclosed envelope (put your envelope number on if you want it recorded), and place it in the offering plate by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Christmas Blessings,  
Steve Kanning



### Lutheran Youth Fellowship - LYF

**Donate Your Cans!** – Thanks again to all of your support. We will continue picking up cans the 1st Sunday of every month. Just add your cans to the truck parked by the dumpster between the second and third service on Sunday. Here’s a secret... if the truck isn’t there leave your cans next to the dumpster (or talk to Justin) and we’ll still get them.

### Junior Youth (Middle School Youth)

**Seventh & Eighth Grade Coffee House** – The last Tuesday of every month is “seventh & eighth grade coffee house” day. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us from 7:30-7:50 for free “coffee like” beverages, pastries, and maybe even some hot chocolate. This is a free event. At the end of every coffee house Justin will make sure we all get to class in time. ***December’s coffee house will be on the 20<sup>th</sup>.***

**Junior Youth Christmas Party** – Join us Saturday, ***December 17th from 9:00 - 11:00 am*** for an awesome Christmas party. We’ll be meeting in the commons. There will be snacks, a craft, “The Impossible Present”, maybe some fun in the snow (if we’ve got snow), and an awesome seasonal Bible Study.

### Senior Youth (High School Youth)

**High School Sunday Bible Study & Breakfast** – We meet every Sunday in room 204 (upstairs from the commons) for breakfast and a Bible Study. Bible Study runs from 10:10 AM to 10:55 AM.

**“LYF “Christmas Party and Advent Service** – Join us for a great youth party following the 7:00 PM Advent service on 12.21.11. We’ll be hanging out in the commons & gym till 9:00 PM.

**December’s Senior “Night LYFs”** – Our weekly Senior Lutheran Youth Fellowship activities will be a bit different in November as we begin to approach the holiday season. Check out the dates below.

***12.7.11 – Sweetwater Sound @ 7:15 PM***

***12.14.11 – Commons/204 @ 7:15 PM***

***12.21.11 – Advent Service @ 7:00 PM followed by party in the commons***

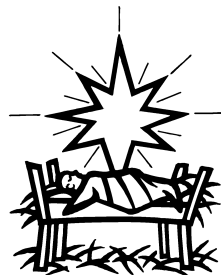
***12.28.11 – Commons/204 @ 7:15 PM***

### EIGHTEEN2TWENTY-FIVE

**Sweetwater Thursdays** – All on our young adults (being classified between the ages of 18-25) are invited to join us for our bi-monthly gatherings. We meet in the cafeteria of Sweetwater from 7:30-9:00 PM. Your friends, significant others, and roommates are all welcome to join us. Decembers’s Bible Study will on 12.1.11 & 12.15.11.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas @ the Gudel’s** – All of our young adults are invited over the Justin and Allison’s house for a special Christmas/Holiday Dinner on ***December 29***. Dinner starts at ***7:00 PM*** (but people can drop by any time after 6:30 PM).

***AS ALWAYS FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT OUR ACTIVITIES***



R E M E M B E R  
**THE CHILD**

## Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

As we draw closer to the joy of Christmas we invite you to worship our Lord Jesus regularly during this holy season.

**Nov. 30** (Advent Midweek ~ 1)

5:30 pm – Advent Worship

7:00 pm – SBLs Grades 5-8 Advent Service

**Dec. 4** (Advent 2) regular Sunday Worship Services at 7:30, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:00 a.m.

**Dec. 7** (Advent Midweek ~ 2)

5:30 pm – Advent Worship

7:00 pm – SBLs Grades 2-4 Advent Service

**Dec. 11** (Advent 3) regular Sunday Worship Services at 7:30, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:00 a.m.

**Dec. 14** (Advent Midweek ~3)

5:30 pm – Advent Worship

7:00 pm – SBLs Nursery – Grade 1 Advent Service

**Dec. 18** (Advent 4) regular Sunday Worship Services at 7:30, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:00 a.m.

**Dec. 21** (Advent Midweek ~ 4)

7:00 pm – Advent Worship Service (youth participating)

**Dec. 24** (Christmas Eve)

4:00 pm Traditional Service

6:00 pm Carol Based Contemporary Service

11:00 pm Candlelight w/Communion

**December 25** (Christmas Day)

10:00 am Festival Worship with Communion

(No Sunday School or Bible Class)

**December 31** (New Year's Eve)

7:00 pm Worship with Communion

**January 1** (New Year's Day)

Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. (Adult Bible Class only at 10:00 a.m.)

**January 8**

Resume regular Sunday Morning Worship Schedule: 7:30, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:00 a.m.)





*The Stephen Ministry of Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church consists of compassionate and trustworthy lay ministers who share a Christ-centered journey with people who are hurting.*

## **THE STORY OF STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry - where did it all begin? It dates back to 1974 when Kenneth C. Haugk, a Pastor and Clinical Psychologist, was Pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Fresh out of seminary, his strengths and heart were in care giving ministry, and he was looking forward to making a positive impact on his congregation and community by providing pastoral care to all those experiencing divorce, grief, hospitalization, discouragement, and other life difficulties.

Very quickly, though, he found that the needs for care by far exceeded that which he alone could provide. He faced one of a Pastor's greatest frustrations: seeing people slipping through the cracks because their urgent needs are going unmet. In November of 1974, he discussed the situation with two seminary friends over a cup of coffee. The conversation turned to *Ephesians 4* and "equipping the saints for the work of ministry." Haugk realized that God didn't intend for Pastors to monopolize ministry. Rather, God gave all His people gifts for ministry and one of his roles as Pastor was to equip others to use their gifts in ministry.

Haugk returned to St. Stephen's with a plan. In the coming months he recruited nine lay people who had the gifts and heart to do caring ministry. He then used his combined backgrounds in theology and psychology to develop a training program in Christian care giving. By March 1975 the nine were commissioned as "Stephen Ministers." Their first care receivers included a widower, a blind person, a young woman with cancer, a truck driver forced to retire early, and an inactive member struggling with faith issues.

The impact was immediate. People began receiving the focused Christian care they needed. Fewer people were slipping through the cracks, and Haugk found he had more time to perform his other pastoral duties. The Stephen Ministers were surprised by the spiritual growth they encountered as they saw God working through them to bring love and healing to others.

The story would have ended there, had not two of the Stephen Ministers cornered Haugk on a hot May morning after worship services. "This is good stuff," they said to him. "We're not going to let you go until you promise to bring this ministry to other churches!" Still wearing his vestments and perspiring from the heat, Haugk gave in and agreed to find a way to bring Stephen Ministry to other churches.

In November 1975, Haugk and his wife Joan founded the not-for-profit Stephen Ministries organization and began bringing Stephen Ministry to other congregations. It spread like wildfire. There are more than 7,000 congregations from more than 90 Christian denominations that now have been trained as Stephen Ministers, a number that grows by tens of thousands each year. More than a million people across the United States, Canada, and the world have been touched by God's love through a Stephen Minister. And that is the mark of God's doing, because finally the story of Stephen Ministry is a million stories and more of caring ministry.

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We were trying to begin our next educational class for new Stephen Ministers before Christmas. Unfortunately we only have two applications returned, and we need at least four [4] to make the class work. We do many active "situations" as part of the teaching process.

We have moved the next tentative class start in February. If you are interested in this Ministry, please contact Pastor Bill, or any Stephen Leader or Minister to get an application.

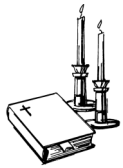
*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

The Parish Assistant Call Committee has held its first meeting. The members of the committee are Dan Schwarz (chair), Faith Felton, Justin Gudel, Keersten Nichols, Leroy Schaefer, Linda Schaefer, and Angie Zelt. Pastor Bill also serves as an Ex Officio member.

We covet your prayers as we work through the process of searching for the person that the Lord has chosen to work with us in our ministry here at Suburban Bethlehem. Suburban Bethlehem has a considerable history of having a female Pastoral Staff member. We intend to continue that history by searching for a woman to fill the Parrish Assistant position. She will assist with Parish Pastoral Care and in leading the Women's Ministries and Stephen Ministry. She will also serve as the Pastoral Staff representative for the Summer Day Camp Ministry as well as serve as the Ministry Volunteer Coordinator. Additional details of the qualifications and responsibilities of the position are found in the job description available in the back of the church.

The committee has requested that the LCMS district office provide candidate names from many ministry classifications/titles. We also solicit candidate's names from members of the congregation. Members may submit names by providing the information requested on the forms that are available in the church. Any elder or committee member can assist you with the form.

The committee also solicits input regarding any ministry area that you may feel is being overlooked.



**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT** The date is **Sunday, December 4, at 6:00 PM** in the Commons. **We will need Hostesses** for a table of 8 to 10 people. The tablecloths, lighting, and tea lights will be provided. Favors will be made for each guest and the deserts as well as the table service will also be provided. **Husbands** will be asked to serve so that the women can participate in the real story of Christmas as Linda Harlow will take us through the Nativity Walk. A \$2.00 charge is asked for all the who sign up. **Please contact Kathleen Yarrington (482-5058) for more information. Or to purchase your ticket!**



**Please help yourself to one of the CHRISTmon ornaments and look on the back of each to see what is needed by the individual.** SHOP, WRAP and ATTACH the ornament to the outside of your gift. **Please make sure all gifts are returned under the tree no later than SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18.** If you would prefer to provide a cash donation, envelopes will be provided on the tree as well. Place your envelope/gift in the box under the tree. Cash gifts will be used to purchase a ham or turkey and other perishables for the families to enjoy a CHRISTmas dinner! **Questions?** Please contact Jane Wiehe 433-5734 or Anita Trick 338-0303.



**BLOOD DRIVE** Did you ever stop to think just how life changing giving blood can be? The Christmas Season is about the life changing gift we received in Jesus! Would you consider helping the life of another this joyous season by donating blood here at SBL on Sunday, December 18th!

**Did you play an instrument in Grade School or High School but haven't played in awhile?** Here is your chance to get playing again! **For our last Advent service this year on December 21st you are invited to come and play with the Suburban Bethlehem "everyone's invited" band!** We will be playing several pieces for the service. Don't worry they aren't too difficult, I'll be happy to give you the music in advance and spend some time practicing with you.

Please consider this opportunity to shake off the dust of your instrument and use your talents here at church. We will rehearse after church at 12:15 December 18th for an hour or so. We will also meet at 6:00 pm Wednesday, December 21st to run through the music before the service which begins at 7:00 pm. **Hope to see you there!** For questions call Andrew Schempf 403-1802





**"Worship for Shut-Ins"  
December 2011**

**December 4, 2011 — 2 Peter 3:8-14**

**"I Hate to Wait"** by Rev. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, Holy Cross ~ Ft. Wayne, IN. Peter tells us in his second letter that the end of time is coming. In the meantime, God's people live lives of "holiness and Godliness." Our waiting finds its meaning and worth in the One Who left eternity and entered into the fray of time-bound living, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Savior steps into time, sacrifices for us "on time" and saves us in time for eternity. This changes the way we measure time, the meaning we ascribe to time and how we manage our time.

**December 11, 2011 — 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

**"Give Thanks in Everything"** by Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier, III, CTS ~ Ft. Wayne, IN. The opposite of giving thanks is to be ungrateful. We are to give thanks in all circumstances, because of blessed Gospel realities. This means joyful thanksgiving.

**December 18, 2011 — Luke 1:26-38**

**"Promises Made-Promises Kept"** by Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran ~ New Haven, IN. God has made many promises over the years. Every one of them has been kept. He promised Zechariah and Elizabeth a son, John. He promised Mary a Son, Jesus, Who would be our Savior.

**December 25, 2011 — John 1:1-14**

**"The Word Became Flesh"** by Rev. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul's ~ Decatur, IN. The Word became flesh...the Son of God truly became man and was born as a real baby. He is the Word...the Son of God, One with the Father and the Spirit, Creator of the world...Who had appeared in Old Testament times. Now He does not merely appear, but He becomes a human being. This is the only way He could save us; and He does!

**Gestures of Generosity**

Friday is Library Day at school and Angie Zelt has been the school librarian for the past 11 years. She helps the students find materials, check out books and check in returned books. She arranges and order materials and records it all into the computer. What is her favorite part of her volunteer work? The children! Ask Angie about her work and you can tell she loves what she does. The next time you see Angie say "Thank You" for your service.

*The Stewardship Board will feature an unsung hero each month to say "thanks" for their love of the Lord through their time and talent. If you know of an "unsung hero", please let a Stewardship Board member know and we will feature them in future newsletters.*



**What's Happening at CLHS**

**Christmas at the Embassy** - The Concordia Lutheran High School Music Department presents Noel at the historic Embassy Theatre on Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students/seniors and are on sale at the high school through December 9 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

Make sure your holiday plans include this annual concert, with music from Concordia's choirs, orchestra and band, and guest elementary choirs from St. Peter and Central Lutheran School. The concert will include both traditional and contemporary Christmas favorites. It will be a grand event to celebrate Christ's birth in fitting style. For information about the show, contact Dianne Moellering at (260) 483-1102, ext. 198 or [dmoellering@clhscadets.com](mailto:dmoellering@clhscadets.com).

**Holiday Items Sale at the Thrift Shop**—Celebrate the season and decorate your home in style with half off all Christmas items from December 16 through 23 at the Concordia Lutheran High School Thrift Shop. Some exceptions may apply. The Thrift Shop is an ideal way to support the high school—and save money at the same time.

The shop is located at 3436 N. Anthony Shopping Center. **Hours are:** Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Please note that the Thrift Shop will be closed on December 24 and 31.**



*Central Lutheran School  
Christmas Walk  
"White Christmas"  
Sunday, December 11th  
Noon to 5:00 p.m.*

*"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" Isaiah 1:18*

*Please take an afternoon to relax and enjoy the company of our CLS family and friends as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth.*

*Cost includes ticket for entrance to the 6 area homes and cookie walk. The homes will be decorated for the holidays. You will get to sample a different cookie at each home! Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased now at Central Lutheran School or at the churches after morning services on November 20th – December 11th . Addresses of the homes are printed on your ticket and you can tour them in any order you would like.*

*Proceeds go towards our 5th and 6th grader's Washington, DC Trip in 2013*

Christmas Blessings 2011



To my Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Family:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. This is a special two part messages to all of you. First I wanted to tell you that I have prayerfully decided that it's time to step aside as a permanent Elder here at Suburban Bethlehem. It has been my great privilege and honor to serve over the years but I feel that this honor needs to be shared so my thoughts and prayers are with the person God picks to take my place.

Second, I wanted to take a moment to offer to each of you a Christmas Blessing. As the blessed day of Christmas comes closer it gives each of us a chance to reflect on this past year, on next year and on the lives of ourselves and our family. Last year each of us I'm sure had happy times and maybe some sad and lonesome times. We made new friends and lost some old ones but that's what life is all about. This coming year is before us; just like a field covered with newly fallen snow it's clean and unmarked. We don't know what might happen, or what challenges or joys are before us. We only know that everything is in God's hands and that our trust and faith needs to be there also, our lives are in His hands. So to all of you the people we love, always remember that on Christmas and every day of our lives God's love like the smoke from a chimney in a silent, peaceful valley comforts, encircles, and holds us and our family close to our Savior, Jesus the Son of God. It's Christmas time and the peace of the Lord is upon us all.

A Blessed Christmas and the very best of God's new year.

Dan Linnemeier and all your Elders brothers in Christ

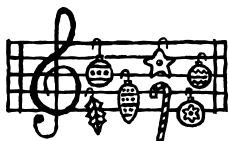


Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

We are thankful for the new beginnings we have celebrated this past month with the Baptism's of Josh Lewis, Michaela & Veda Null, Anthony Ehinger, Abby Hoffman, Miranda Becker & Landin Bandor. Also, we pray for strength for the Tom & Schmidt families after the loss of Elaine Tom & Paul Schmidt.

**BY THE NUMBERS:**

968 Baptized members  
732 Communicant members.



The Christmas season is marked by a plethora of lights, shopping, and of course music! Many people's favorite songs are heard and sung during this season. Here at Suburban you will have the opportunity to hear all kinds of different music and be a part of what the season really is all about, Jesus! His birth and God's work in the world of sending His Son to redeem us. During our Advent Midweek services you will have the opportunity to hear students from our grade school recounting the message of Christmas through spoken word, songs, and instruments. You will hear the Bethlehem Chorale singing the story, the handbells ringing out the good news, and Redeemed and Resonate adding to the throng. You will hear students and members of the congregation sharing their musical talents throughout the season. Make sure to be a part of our regular Sunday services, Midweek services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Join in the celebration singing songs of Christmas and proclaim the Savior's birth.

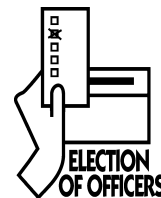
In Christ,  
Andrew Schempf



"Growing Disciples"

**Growing Disciples at Suburban Bethlehem**

Are you interested in membership at Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church? The next offering of "Growing Disciples" will begin on Wednesday Mornings – starting January 18 at 10:30 am, place to meet will be determined. For more information about this class – or discussing membership at Suburban Bethlehem – contact Pastor Bill at [billm@deeplyrootedtogrow.org](mailto:billm@deeplyrootedtogrow.org)



As we are preparing for next year with the **ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR SBL**, we

are looking for people willing to serve in various capacities on our church boards. If you would like to serve in a position and have your name on the ballot, contact Steve Kanning (244-4769) or Rob Myers (482-1911) Thank you for your consideration.

Anyone who was unable to return their Faith Commitment card during the Sunday and Thanksgiving services may still do so by putting it in an envelope marked "Financial Secretary" and placing it in the offering plate.