

MESSENGER



Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Central States Synod

Carol at the Manger

*Holy Child within the manger,
long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to ev'ry stranger,
come as home for ev'ry fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you are found.*

*Once again we tell the story –
how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory
wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
kindle ev'ry land and race.*

*Holy Child within the manger,
lead us ever in your way,
so we see in ev'ry stranger
how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving
and our spirits strong and true.*

With One Voice, 638
Text & music: Marty Haugen
Tune: Joyous Light

O Come All Ye Faithful!

Christmas Eve Services will feature candlelight and carols, greens and bells, Holy Communion and the Christmas message in churches around the world and here in our area of Kansas! Christmas Eve services will gather families and friends:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Christ-Eureka: 9:00 p.m. | Christ-Wichita: 4:00 and 7:00 pm. |
| Cross of Glory: 7:00 p.m. | Emanuel: 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. |
| Gloria Dei: 5:00 and 11:00 p.m. | Good Shepherd: 6:00 p.m. |
| Lord of Life: 5:30 p.m. | Our Saviour's: 8:00 p.m. |
| Reformation: 5:30 and 11:00 p.m. | Resurrection: 5:30 and 11:00 p.m. |
| St. John: 6:00 p.m. | St. Paul-Peabody: No info |
| St. Paul's-Wichita: 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. | Zion: 10:30 p.m. |



“Hark! The herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King!’”

Christmas morning comes on Sunday this year. Welcoming the birth of Christ, worshipers will celebrate the festival at these times. Let Christmas morning worship become your tradition.

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Christ-Eureka: 10:30 a.m. | Christ-Wichita: 10:00 a.m. |
| Cross of Glory: 10:00 a.m. | Emanuel: 11:00 a.m. |
| Gloria Dei: 10:00 a.m. | Good Shepherd: 10:15 p.m. |
| Lord of Life: 10:00 a.m. | Reformation: 5:30 and 11:00 p.m. |
| Resurrection: 10:00 a.m. | St. Paul's-Wichita: 9:30 a.m. |
| Zion: 10:00 a.m. | |

Ring out the old... Ring in the new!

Saturday evening services at several churches will complete 2011 on New Year's Eve. Check your church for service times for Sunday morning, New Year's Day, January 1, 2012. *Saturday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 p.m.:* Emanuel, Lord of Life and Reformation



Area Annual Meeting gathers mission-minded members

When Pr. Gary Harris welcomed representatives of area ELCA congregations to Lord of Life on Nov. 19, he spoke of congregations as “mission stations.” The business of the Area Ministry and sharing by members carried out that theme.

Area Ministry 5 looks to the future together. Pr. Phil Vickers (Area Clergy Dean, Emanuel) conducted the meeting. He met with other Area Ministry Deans at the recent Bishop's Convocation. He urged churches to designate representatives and contact persons in addition to pastors. Gary Withrow (Emanuel) was elected Lay Chairperson. He brings skills in management and told of his experience bicycling across the country! The

Continued on page 2.



Area Annual Meeting, continued

positions of secretary and treasurer are open. Thanks were extended for the services of Clark Sholts (Resurrection) and Laurie Peterson-Flaharty (Cross of Glory) who have completed their services as treasurer and secretary.

Congregations are asked to contribute \$1 per confirmed member to support the Area Ministry, including scholarship funds for seminary students, for youth needing help to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, and for mailing the Area *Messenger* newsletter.

Leaders highlighted ministry ideas. Pr. Vickers sees the Area meetings as opportunities for sharing ideas and action. People with specific interests, passions, and vision are encouraged to attend and participate, so congregations can support one another in ministry, and not just go it alone. Gary Withrow shared his vision of an **Area team to respond to disasters**, similar to Emanuel's team that helped in Joplin.

Pr. Dave Fulton (St. Paul's-Wichita) offered the idea of a **workshop on how to proclaim and share the Gospel, to energize our various ministries.** Pr. Harris and Pr. Tamara Keen (Good Shepherd & Our Saviour's) are participating in the **ELCA Transformational Ministry 2.0 program**, training leaders to train leaders in the concept of congregations as "mission stations." The first meeting was at Good Shepherd, with more meetings coming up. Teams will be identified to visit and work with congregations. Astonishing fact: These days about 82% of high school graduates have *no* faith experience, whereas in 1965 about 93% had church experience.

Congregations shared significant missions. Pr. Maureen Howard reported that **Christ-Eureka** finds Wednesday evenings more effective than Sunday School in reaching area young people. About 20 children are enjoying the "Spark Rotation" program. At **Christ-Wichita Pr. Chad and Lynde Langdon** were preparing for a trip to Haiti (first week of December). Pr. Langdon presented the opportunity to help resettle Burmese refugees along with Episcopal Immigration Services. See article.

Emanuel has a "Second Sunday Serving" program. Pr. Vickers and Gary Withrow found that the skills and spirit of a distance mission work trip can also be put to work locally to make minor repairs for people who need that help. Christ-Eureka has a similar program.

Good Shepherd recently held its annual big sale. Nelson Haugk and Pr. Keen announced that the proceeds will benefit various programs –and the left over clothing, furniture and housewares are given to social services throughout the area.



Pr. Gary Harris (Lord of Life), Pr. Phil Vickers (Emanuel), and Gary Withrow (Emanuel) gathered around the cross made of wood from Peace Lutheran Church, Joplin, which was destroyed by a tornado. The cross' base is part of a pew, broken stained glass from the sanctuary is glued to the base, and a building brick accompanies. The cross, brick and a message album are visiting Area Ministry 5 congregations, for members to send greetings of encouragement and hope.

Lord of Life is preparing for a community event "**Breakfast with Santa & Cookie Walk**" on Dec. 4. Everyone is invited – and Lynda Harris is among the cookie bakers preparing goodies. Pr. Harris spoke of the importance of "**relational ministry.**" Through member John Person, a retired Colonel, Pr. Harris has met chaplains and others at McConnell AFB. Lord of Life is hosting a Sunday event for area youth once a month (possibly soon twice monthly). Pr. Harris has also initiated "**Theology on Tap**" at Old Chicago weekly for informal conversations.

Resurrection is taking part in Haysville's "**7 Project**" for youth, according to Loretta Holmes and Pr. Elizabeth Cummings. Young people gather for inspiration and service.

St. Paul's Community Breakfast continues to be a significant service to a growing number of people, serving about 175 - over 200 people every Saturday (the first Saturday at Fairview Christian Church). Area 5 congregations and groups offer generous meals. Elaine Harvey asked for volunteers for Thanksgiving weekend's Saturday.

The glimpses of congregational missions were inspiring, and a fitting celebration of "Christ the King weekend."





Advent workshops for children were interesting, faith-filled, and fun. At Gloria Dei, crafts, story and snacks included making Advent wreaths with their hands as the leaf template.



Children used cloves to make a pomander. In the 16th & 17th centuries, cloves were a spice more precious than gold. “Clove” is from Latin “clovus,” meaning “nail,” a reminder of the nails of Jesus’ cross.

Children in many Area congregations are preparing to be part of the Christmas story in the Sundays before Christmas. The children of **Gloria Dei** will present the Christmas story at their seventh annual **Epiphany Lessons and Carols service** on Friday evening, January 6, at 6:00 p.m. A soup supper will follow.

Youth of Christ-Wichita served as volunteer hosts and guides at **“Lights on St. Paul”** of The ARC of Sedgwick County, benefitting people with disabilities.

Sunday School children of St. Paul’s-Wichita, GoZones! After-School Program kids, and the Women’s Mission Group will join together to contribute to the **ELCA Malaria Fund**. This Epiphany project is to make net pins to give to those who contribute.



“An exciting mission opportunity has come to us,” announced Pr. Chad Langdon (Christ-Wichita). **Refugees from Burma (Miramar) are coming to Wichita** soon. Congregations are needed to help them settle here.

Pr. Langdon met with Fr. Earl Mahan (St. John’s Episcopal) and representatives of Episcopal Immigration Services. One family per month will arrive soon. Congregations will serve as “cultural buddies,” furnishing an apartment, providing food and transportation for several months, helping newcomers find ESOL classes, bus services, and learn the uses of kitchen appliances and indoor plumbing. The average cost will be \$2,500 per family – congregations could work together.

Area Ministry representatives were enthusiastic. Pr. Langdon will coordinate and serve as a “connector” for ELCA congregations, and will host an introductory meeting soon.

New Youth Coordinator at Gloria Dei is Victor Peterson. Contact him at victorpeterson@gmail.com, 316-409-7257.

“Celebrate the 50s” was the theme of the youth-sponsored Progressive Dinner at Reformation. Party-goers, youth and leaders arrived dressed in pink jackets and poodle skirts, leather jackets, and slicked-back hair for guys.

After first courses in 4 homes, a catered dinner was elegantly served by youth who were raising funds for activities, especially the National Youth Gathering.

Colorful lights and 50s music were offered by a DJ, with a dance teacher showing steps for jitterbug and “slow dancing.” The event was as much fun for high school youth and their leaders as it was for those who were 1950s grads.

Photos: Kimberly Lindemann



How many came to your place for Thanksgiving dinner? Emanuel welcomed about 650 for their 9th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner – members, neighbors, families, singles, people in need and people helping! Cooks and servers started their work about 3 a.m., and started serving just before 11:00!

A season for serving

Congregations are reaching out in many ways. Angel Trees offer possibilities for Oaks Indian Mission, nearby schools, GoZones! After-School kids and others. Operation Holidays in Derby and Wichita as well as Salvation Army and other opportunities are among the giving-efforts of congregations.

Good Shepherd's newsletter is full of ways members are giving and serving... quilts and personal care items for Ronald McDonald House, gifts for VA Hospital, quilts for Wichita Children's Home, Angel Tree for Grace Lutheran Church's food assistance, and food for Kansas Food Bank!

St. John's has a "noisy offering" in months with 5 Sundays. Recently the offering went to "Streetlight Ministry," serving homeless people. Another offering collected a blessed \$666, with \$222 going to each beneficiary: Wellington Angel Tree, needy school families, and Oaks Indian Mission.

Christ-Wichita distributes government commodity foods each month, as a "sub-station" of United Methodist Open Door. This month Stephanie Albright picked up the food and Elmer Hoyer delivered to those needing that service.

Good question!

What does it mean to say "I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting" and to live that belief today? That's the question addressed in the Sunday morning Advent adult forums at Gloria Dei, led by Pr. Tom Schaefer.

Using the Bible and the book "Surprised by Hope" by Bishop N.T. Wright, the class will consider heaven, life after death, the Second Coming of Christ, and faithful living, among key Christian beliefs.

Cookies abound!

Cookie exchanges are a special treat of the season. At **Upper Fall River Church**, members of **Christ-Eureka** and Upper Fall River will enjoy an evening of Christmas carols, refreshments, and fellowship at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. This is a special, inspiring, and joyful Christmas event at the "little country church."

Christ-Wichita shares a partnership with nearby **Park City Pride**. They will enjoy a pizza meal at Park City Pizza Hut to benefit the organization, then pack 50 food baskets to give to families in need. They will join with the Pride at the new Park City Library as Santa and the Prairie Rose Wranglers arrive to delight about 400 kids and their families.



Gloria Dei members John Fuller, Dan True, David Shriner and Dennis Erickson traveled to Joplin to assist with the Tulsa Habitat Build there.



Advent Gaudete Festival of Lessons and Carillon will be presented on Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. by Gloria Dei Parish Choir, Children's Choir, Carillon and Jubilate Youth Bells, Gloria Dei Ringers, with congregational hymns. It will be followed by their Annual Advent Dinner sponsored by Gloria Dei Youth. All are invited and welcome.

Area Ministry 5 Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. Clergy/AIM, PMAs & families party to welcome new clergy families (Pr. Elizabeth and Rory Cummings, and Pr. Chad, Lynde, and Vivine Langdon) at home of Pr. Gary and Lynda Harris, 110 N. Karren Ct., Wichita.
 Tuesday, January 3, 9:00: Clergy, AIM, PMAs meeting at Resurrection.
 Saturday, April 21, WELCA Cluster at Resurrection.
Preachers' text study on Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., St. Paul's.



Arnold and Audrey Dilley (Gloria Dei) were surprised on Sunday, Dec. 4, with a reception honoring them for their 5 years of coordinating Gloria Dei's serving at the Community Breakfast at St. Paul's. Audrey and Arnold have also been active in other community services for many years as well, inspiring others to take part. Gloria Dei serves the Breakfast on the 5th Saturdays, which always draws a big crowd of guests.



Praying together in the Spirit of Christ

Most of our Area 5 congregations pray for one another in Sunday worship, recognizing that we are one in Christ. A bulletin announcement might read: "Each week area congregations pray for one another. This week we join in praying for ____." The petition might be "We pray for our Bishops Mark Hanson and Gerald Mansholt and for ____ Lutheran Church and Pastor ____." The schedule:

- Dec. 11: Cross of Glory, Derby, Interim Pastor Thomas Hallstrom.
- Dec. 18: Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Bishop's Associates Pr. John Kreidler, Pr. Janice Kibler, and Pr. Len Dale; Bishop's Assistant Dan Glamann; JP Palmer; other staff.
- Dec. 25: Retired pastors of Area 5: Pr. Robert Albin, Pr. Mike Clark, Pr. Larry Cross, Pr. Sally Fahrenthold, Pr. Henry Hartman, Pr. Bill Horn, Pr. Robert Kloth, Pr. Al Lindberg, Pr. H. O. Lindeblad, Pr. Paul Reimers, Pr. John Schroepfel.
- January 1: Emanuel, Hutchinson, Pr. Tim Carey and Pr. Phillip Vickers
- Jan. 8 Gloria Dei, Wichita, Pr. Peter Jacobson
- Jan. 15: Good Shepherd, Wichita, Interim Pr. Tamara Keen
- Jan. 22: Lord of Life, Wichita, Pr. Gary Harris
- Jan. 29: Our Saviour's, Mulvane, Supply Pastor Tamara Keen



Alan and Annette Lindal (Gloria Dei) traveled with Lutheran pastors and musicians in Germany in November in a musical & religious heritage tour by the Lutheran World Federation. Here the group is in front of the Castle Church door in Wittenberg where Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on October 31, 1517. Annette is in the rust-color coat. Alan is not in this photo.





*“Breakfast with Santa”
& “Christmas Cookie Walk”
~Saturday morning - Dec. 10th ~
“Christmas Holiday Experience”
~8:00 am to 11:30 am~*

In a Christmas Holiday atmosphere!

Breakfast as you arrive...

Holiday crafts and Games...

Pictures taken with Santa...

Christmas Story with Mrs. Santa Claus...

~“Christmas Cookie Walk”~

~Buy boxes for \$6 or larger boxes for \$12~

Walk through the tables & Fill up your box!

~“Home-made Christmas Cookies”~

*Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 11215 W. 13th Street North
(Between Maize Rd & 119th St.), Wichita*

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Thanks for your news notes. Please send news and photos to Pr. Sally Fahrenthold at sallyf@cox.net or address below, before the 4th of the month. Newsletter is usually sent about the 10th each month. Please distribute copies of mailed newsletter or color newsletter that is e-mailed. New names are welcome for mail or email list. Congregations may forward the newsletter by email to the congregation's email list. This Messenger newsletter is a service of Area Ministry 5 ELCA.

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