



# The St. Tim Tidings!

December 2011 • News for members & friends of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, TN 37075

*From the Pastor...*

Advent has arrived. While the secular world in which we live is “celebrating” by singing Christmas carols, placing Christmas decorations up and, of course, having Christmas sales... we are in the season of Advent. We have not yet arrived at Christmas. While we are confident that it WILL arrive, we spend this time in preparation... contemplation... anticipation.

**Preparation** is not so much the frenetic activity we usually associate with the shopping countdown until Christmas. This preparation has less to do with what WE do.... than it does what God does. We ARE prepared. Prepared by God’s action to receive... prepared by God’s action to experience... prepared by God’s action to worship in wonder at the continual advent of Christ. We did not take Christ out of Christmas and we do not put Christ into Christmas. God chose to act without our ascent and continues to act without requiring our blessing.

We prepare by looking back - looking around - and looking forward. We remember the past - celebrate the present - build for the future. Our preparation is purposeful, predictable, productive. It is not activity for the sake of being busy.... it is preparation for an event we know has come, is coming and will come again. It is a making ready so that the celebration may be wholesome and joyous.

**Contemplation** means that we take time to be quiet. Like Mary, we ponder the Advent of Christ. What does this mean for us as a community and for me as an individual? What does this mean for a world so fractured and broken to be prepared for the Advent of healing and wholeness coming into our midst? Big questions for which pondering and contemplation are about the only suitable responses. Less rhetoric and more contemplation would be a joyous gift this Advent season. A gift for the community and the world.

How is God preparing you - me - us? What is our response? These require thought - contemplation. We do not simply string lights and spend lots of money. We are preparing for and being prepared for God’s continual entry into our world. That requires quiet reflection.

**Anticipation** - not of Christmas presents... but of Christmas presence. We anticipate... we long for... we hunger communion with our God. Like water to the thirsty, Christmas follows Advent anticipation. We wait - and watch - and we anticipate the arrival... the incarnation... the creator entering creation. We need more contemplation and preparation!

I invite you to join me on a journey this Advent season.... a journey of preparation -contemplation - anticipation. A journey which doesn’t end with the 12 days of Christmas.... but a journey which continues through life. A journey which takes people of faith into the beauty and joy of heavenly choirs.... as well as the grit and grime of earthly ministry.

God’s Peace-

Pr. Groce



St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
*A Community in Faith of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and  
the Stephen Ministry*

**How to contact us:**

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Hendersonville, TN 37075  
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Council: [council@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:council@sttimothyonline.org)  
Web Manager:  
[webmanager@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:webmanager@sttimothyonline.org)  
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**Staff**

Pastor Lewis Groce  
[pastor@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:pastor@sttimothyonline.org)  
Paul S. Frank, Pastor Emeritus  
Monica Weber, Vicar  
[vicarmonica@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:vicarmonica@sttimothyonline.org)  
Jynni Bowyer, Church Administrator  
[info@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:info@sttimothyonline.org)  
Ginny Gauerke, Program Director  
[programdirector@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:programdirector@sttimothyonline.org)  
Michelle Money, TOTS Director  
[michelemoney@comcast.net](mailto:michelemoney@comcast.net)  
Jay Myers, Director of Music  
Lisa Barry, Organist  
Valerie Trantum, Children's Music

**Congregation Council 2010-2011**

Holly Adkins, Secretary (2011)  
Blair Butz, Planning (2011)  
Bill Lude, Property (2011)  
Melissa Luther, Learning (2011)  
Heidi White, Vice President (2011)  
Sherrie Meyers, Outreach (2012)  
Michele Owens, Finance (2012)  
Sonya Schewe, Worship & Music (2012)  
Mike Stone, Stewardship (2012)  
Cynthia Barnette, Evangelism (2013)  
Sheri Fuchser, Learning (2013)  
Gary Meyer, 2011 President (2013)  
Alex Hansen, Youth (2012)

St. Timothy Activities

Weekly schedule

Worship: Sat. 5:30 P.M.

Sun. 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School: See Page 9 for current  
schedule

Office hours: 10:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. M–F

Sunday School classes

Sun. 9:15–10:15 A.M.

**Nursery:** Up to age 3

K4-K5—Room 10

1st -2nd grade—Room 7

3rd-4th grade—Room 4

5th grade—Room 2

**Youth (6th–12th grade)**

6th-7th-Lutherland

8th—Confirmation Room

(Former Bean Bag Room)

9th—High school—Room 3

**Adult class**—Room 1

Other groups

**Men's Bible Study**

**Women's Bible Study (2 groups W & F)**

**Sunshine Girls Bible Study**

**Intercessory Prayer Circle**



St. Timothy  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
est. 1965

# The Vicar's View

by Vicar Monica Weber

**advent** |  $\square$  ad  $\square$  vent | noun [ in sing. ] the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.  
(Apple Online Dictionary copyright 2011)

This time of year, excitement is all around us: the crisp air fairly snaps and crackles with the anticipation of the season's rituals, music, foods and fellowship. We clean, shop, bake, wrap and prepare for 'the arrival of a notable person, thing or event.' As Christians, this 'notable person' comes to us through an event that most people might consider to be insignificant: a baby is born in humble circumstances. Though that baby was a beloved child of God like each one of us is, Jesus was truly human, and truly divine, unlike no one on earth before or after. Jesus the babe grew up to fulfill Scripture and to reunite human beings with the God that we separate from every time we sin. Advent allows us to ready ourselves to receive God's Son made flesh. It's a time of excitement, but our excitement shouldn't preclude or overshadow the work we need to do in order to celebrate Christmas. We rush around getting ready for Jesus until he 'arrives' on December 24--but how many of us add 'make time for Jesus' to our Christmas To-Do Lists? This Advent, include time for personal reflection, prayer, worship or family devotions. Join us for weekly Centering Prayer, Advent worship and the special Sunday Advent events, to prepare your heart and mind to receive God's greatest gift. The message of Advent is God's hope for humanity: God embodies Godself in Christ, among us. We live out that hope daily as Christians, by being in a community of mutual respect, love and encouragement. As you navigate the holiday hustle and bustle this Advent season, remember that HOPE for Christians is embodied in Jesus, and when we model Jesus in our daily lives, then HOPE becomes an acronym for, "Helping Other People Everyday." May we strive to embody God's love for us in Christ. Peace to you this Advent season!

# From the Program Director

Advent begins right after we are through stuffing ourselves at Thanksgiving and are complaining about leftovers. Now, aren't we blessed that we have plenty to eat and even have leftovers? So what are we going to do with the season of Advent?

I would like to share with you a few of the activities and events that have been planned to make this season more meaningful for everyone.

- November 27 began with the construction of **Advent wreaths**. Please use them and the accompanying prayers to help keep you focused on the waiting, preparing, giving, and receiving that is the season of Advent.
- We continue to involve children in the worship services. The Sunday Church School kids write down their prayer requests and then they are written to reflect their thanks and concerns. They have been excellent readers twice a month during the 10:30 service. This will continue during 2012.
- Wednesday night services are a special way to pause midweek to worship and reflect. Holden Evening Prayer is a beautiful setting that will have you humming as continue to prepare for the birth of Jesus.
- There is still time to fill a shoe box for less fortunate children. Pick one up in the Narthex. Pray for the child as you prepare this special gift. The prayer is the most important part of this gift!
- The Children's Advent Fair will be at 4 P.M. on Dec. 18. Read "This little light" (our Sunday Church School newsletter) for more detailed information . The meal information is included in this issue of the Tidings. Please reserve meals for your family.
- The Sunday Church School children will be writing letters and drawing pictures for the troops. We encourage all members to participate in this activity. Place your letters in the bin in the Narthex by December 6. Remember to pray for this person as you are writing !
- Our new Prayer Shawl ministry begins in January. We will be knitting, crocheting, and sewing prayer shawls and lap robes for people who need the warmth of prayers and concern surrounding them during a crises or special time in their lives. Watch for our first organizational meeting date in the weekly update. In the meantime, begin collecting yarn, fabric, thread and other supplies. If anyone is cleaning out a closet, we will gladly take your scraps!

May the hope, love, joy, and peace of the Advent season abide in your hearts and minds throughout the whole year.

Peace and Blessings,

Ginny Gauerke

[programdirector@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:programdirector@sttimothyonline.org)

# Housekeeping Items

**With the new year right around the corner, this is important information to remember to keep the communication here at St. Timothy flowing for all of us.**

We have a new online Prayer request form, the link can be found from our home page. The prayer request will be sent to our Intercessory Prayer group for inclusion in each weeks prayers. Take a look: <http://www.sttimothyonline.org/prayerrequestform.html>

## **Updated Member Information**

Please make sure your address, phone numbers, and email addresses are correct with the church office. A new directory was printed in October. If your information was not correct in it then please let me know the correct information. We hope to be rolling out a new phone/calling system this month and I would like to make sure we are able to get in touch with ALL of our members. Thanks! Jynni

## **When Are We Meeting?**

Sound familiar? Here at St Timothy it takes many hands to do God's work, and without the committees and groups who take on the tasks of worship, fellowship and church business, not much would be accomplished. We are updating our list of standing church committee and group meetings: please email Vicar Monica ([vicarmonica@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:vicarmonica@sttimothyonline.org)) with the date/time/location of your St Timothy committee or group standing meetings (1st Wed of the month, etc), and PLEASE notify the church office when the date/time of these meetings change by emailing Jynni Bowyer at [info@sttimothyonline.org](mailto:info@sttimothyonline.org). Thanks!

## **Attention All St. Timothy Committees & Groups:**

Our Webmaster, Carol Webster, does an excellent job keeping the St Timothy website up to date...but she can't update anything without your input! It is your responsibility to promote your committee's activities and meeting schedule, so PLEASE send news, photos (JPEG) and upcoming calendar events to Carol on a regular basis. All ongoing and special commission meetings should be listed on the weekly calendar, so please do your part to communicate this info. Our website traffic is rapidly increasing as prospective new members find St Timothy's web page, thanks to Carol's efforts, so please help us put our best foot forward! You can email items to Carol at [cbwebster@comcast.net](mailto:cbwebster@comcast.net). Thank You!

## **Adventsgottesdienst (German Advent Service)**

Am zweiten Adventssonntag, dem 4. Dezember 2011, findet ein Adventsgottesdienst statt. Beginn ist um 16.00 Uhr in der St. Timothy Lutheranische Kirche. Viele Musikanten (inklusive Orgel, Flöte, Gitarre, Geige, Ziehharmonika, Glockenchor, Kinderchor) stimmen mit weihnachtlichen Klängen auf den Gottesdienst ein. Danach sind sie herzlich eingeladen für Kaffee und Weihnachtsgebäck.

Willkommen in dieser feierlichen Adventsstunde!

There will be an Advent service on the second Sunday in Advent, December 4, 2011. The service will start at 4:00 pm at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Many musicians (including organ, flute, guitar, violin, accordion, bell choir and children's choir) will be offering the sounds of Christmas throughout the service. Afterwards you are invited to join us for light refreshments (German Christmas baked goods and coffee) in the fellowship hall.

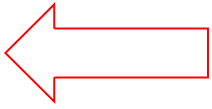
Welcome to this time of Advent celebration!

Reminder- The ALF party will be Saturday December 10 at 7 pm at the Wynbrook Club house. Bring your own snack to share and whatever adult beverage you would like. Ice and soft drinks will be provided. There will be a Dirty Santa Ornament Exchange and musical entertainment by Fred Bacon. The Club house is located on Wynbrook Trace. This is the main entrance into the subdivision off of Saundersville Road. Take Wynbrook Trace until it begins to curve to the right. The Club house is right there.

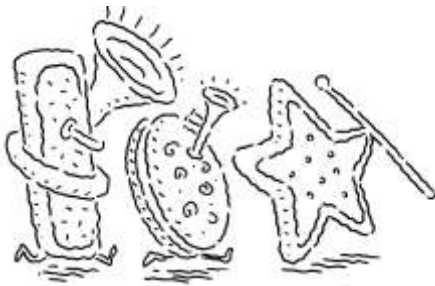
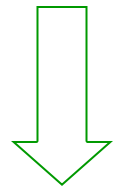


## Mid Week Advent Services

Each Wednesday during Advent at 7pm, we worship using the Holden Evening Prayer. The Sr. High youth will do a skit each week to help to remind us of the reason for the season. Please join us in worship at this beautiful service.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS!**



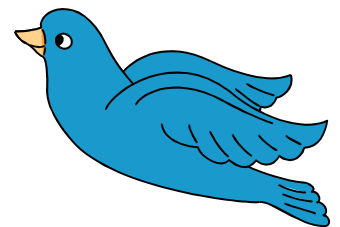
**WELCA COOKIE WALK-** The annual **COOKIE WALK** will be held on December 11th. Further information will be posted in the Weekly Update in November.

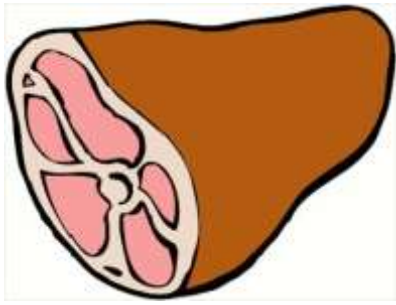
## Cookie Walk

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS-WELCA will hold their annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 5th at the Holiday Inn Express in Hendersonville. Tickets will be sold before and after all church services , beginning on Saturday, Nov.12th and will end on Nov. 27th. All the women of St. Timothy's are invited to this fun event. So please make plans to attend. Guests are also welcome.**

### Blue Birds Christmas Theater - Dinner Event

The Blue Birds Group welcomes all St. Timothy Seniors to join our December theater/dinner outing on December 18. Group tickets for "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus" have been ordered (26 in our group!) If you'd like to join us, and haven't reserved your seat, you can contact the Steeple Players directly at 826-6037 or [www.steepleplayers.org](http://www.steepleplayers.org). Senior tickets are \$12: we're sitting in the first 3 rows of the "100's" section. After the play, we're going to have dinner together at Mimi's Cafe in the Streets of Indian Lake. Call Faye at 851-8503 by December 17 if you plan to join us for dinner and she doesn't already have your rsvp. We're going to collect boxes of cereal again for students at Guild School - please bring them to Mimi's or leave them in the box near the mailboxes in the Narthex by Monday, December 19th.





Haiti Hams are coming....These fine hickory smoked, brown sugar and fruit juice basted, boneless hams will again be available for delivery both prior to Christmas (Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>). They weigh approximately four pounds and are priced at \$27 (this is well below deli prices and we guarantee them to be better than any smoked ham your deli carries). They are great anyway you serve them and make excellent Christmas presents. Please see Brenda Parker to place your order or sign the sheet on the kiosk. Order deadline is December 4<sup>th</sup>. You may pay for them upon delivery with cash or a check to Trinity/HOPE. The net proceeds from each ham will provide meals for 10 Haitian school children for a week.

*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**

**Thank you to all Red Cross Blood Drive Donors!**

**Thanks to all of you who came out and donated or volunteered at the Red Cross Blood Drive on October 16<sup>th</sup>! We had 27 donors and ended up with 31 viable units of blood (those of you who endured the "Big Red" machine got credit for 2 pints because you gave double the red blood cells, the most frequently used blood component!) You helped one of the five million patients in the U.S. who needed blood this year.**

Best regards,

Carol B. Webster

**THANK YOU!**

Thanks are owed to the many people who made our annual Thanksgiving Night in the Fight Against Hunger such a huge success. Special thanks are owed to Donna Cornelius, Ruffie Longrie and Karen See for preparing the food that was served. Thanks also to Baker and Pat Kirkpatrick for their assistance in the kitchen that night. We also appreciate the lovely cakes that were provided to celebrate Pastor's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday – thank you to Teresa Gravelle!

We also want to be sure to thank Frank Bowyer, Jim Dineen and Valerie Trantum for our music that evening. Special thanks to all of the children who stepped up to share their love and gift of singing for us – that was truly special. Thank you, too, to Ashlyn Myers and Nora Komoll for assisting with the raffle ticket sales – they were great helpers! The handmade quilt that Carol Webster donated for the Trinity/HOPE fundraiser was beautiful and the lucky "winner" of that quilt will be announced on December 3.

Thanks are also owed to Vicar Monica for acting as our event emcee. The evening was a great success as we rose over \$3,000 to help feed the children of Font Baptiste School in Haiti. As Pastor Groce said that evening, it was a wonderful example of stewardship in action. None of it would have been possible without your commitment and support. Thank you!



## News from TOTS - December 2011

- Thank you parents and children for your loose change to feed your classroom turkey tin. With this we're able to give our families a great Thanksgiving feast. We will do this again during this month of December for our families. Please look for your classroom **Santa Tin** and feed him with your loose change.
- Special Event: Wednesday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Mr. Schissler is going to share his musical talent with us. Please come and join us for this event.
- Parent's Night Out: Friday, Dec 16 from- 5:30pm-10:30pm. Parents have a night out and children will have a night with games, pizza, movie and friends. Sign up in TOTS office.
- Outside Play: Parents, please remember that all children go outside daily and that they need to bring coats, gloves and hats daily.
- Snow Days: If Sumner County Schools are closed, we are too. If Sumner County Schools open late, we open at our scheduled time. In the event of schools closing early, the TOTS program will do the same. You need to pick your child up immediately. If you cannot pick up your child you will need to make arrangements for your child and notify us.
- Book Exchange: We are asking all children to bring a wrapped book (less than \$5.00) for our gift exchange. All books need to be in by Friday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>
- Dec Tuition: 2day/wk-\$131.25, 3day/wk-\$195.00, 4day/wk-\$258.75, 5day/wk-\$311.25. Please put all checks in the basket outside TOTS and include your child's name on the check.
- Full Rehearsal: **Monday, Dec 12 & Tuesday, Dec 13** from 9:30am to 10:30am we will have Full rehearsal for the Christmas program. If your child does not normally attend on these days please bring them for that hour. Please note: **THIS IS FOR 1 HOUR ONLY!** Make sure arrangements are made to have your child picked up. Regulation only allows us certain student to teacher ratio.
- Christmas Program: TOTS Christmas Program will be Thursday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Christmas Break: Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> : TOTS Closed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by my office or call me. Or you can drop a note in the basket for me. Thanks, Michele

Hear Ye!      Hear Ye!

Sunday School Christmas Tree ....will be in the Narthex.

Students and families are invited to bring an ornament from home and hang it on the tree. All ornaments need to be on the tree by Sunday, December 18 after the Advent Fair. Ornaments will not be returned. Homemade ones are best!

Reminder: We will not have Sunday School on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Christmas Program Supper @ 4 P.M. December 18th

The supper will follow the program.

The meal will feature lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert. Because it is being catered, we need to have reservations from each family who is planning to attend. A suggested donation of \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and free for ages 3 and under.(Maximum donation of \$20 per family). Donations may be given when you reserve to help limit confusion on the day of the Fair.

Return the following form to Ginny Gauerke before Tuesday, December 6, or call in your reservation 615-822-8044 or e-mail: [programdirector@sttimothy.org](mailto:programdirector@sttimothy.org) A reservation is a must!

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### Christmas Program Dinner Reservation

Family name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children under 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children under 3 years of age \_\_\_\_\_

**Turn in your reservation to your child's Sunday Church School teacher** or mailbox # 66 in the Narthex! Make checks payable to St. Timothy and write Advent Fair in the memo.

Shhhh.....

It's that time of year again.

We are collecting for Pastor Groce's Christmas  
Gift.

Please put my name on the envelope and leave it in  
my

Church P.O. Box #185

Thanks for your quick reply!!

Jane Steinhauer

“LET THE GAMES (and fellowship) BEGIN” DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP  
Starting in January

In an effort to take the chill out of the dreary months of winter there is a new group forming at St. Timothy. It is strictly for fun and fellowship, be it learning to play different games together, or just enjoying talking and getting to know each other better. So **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**, bring your favorite games, or just your cheerful sunny voice, and also bring a sack lunch, come join your St. Timothy friends on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 26th** at 11:00 (until whenever) in Fellowship Hall. We plan on making this a once a month festivity on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, except probably not November or December!!

# 70th Wedding Anniversary



G. Orion and Betty Dickson  
will celebrate their  
70th Wedding Anniversary  
with a reception at their residence

Park Place Retirement Community  
31 Executive Park Drive,  
Hendersonville, TN

on December 10, 2011  
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Please join them in  
their celebration!



# *St. Timothy's Christmas* SERVICES

**December 7, 14 and 21, 2011**

7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service

**December 11, 2011**

4:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

**December 18, 2011**

4:00 pm Advent Fair (Children's Program)

**December 24, 2011 (Christmas Eve)**

5:00 pm - Family & Children's Service

8:00 pm - Festival Candlelight Service

11:00 pm - Festival Candlelight Service

Choral music will begin 30 minutes prior to all the Christmas Eve services. Communion will be held at all three services.

**December 25, 2011 (Christmas Day)**

9:00 am Pajama Worship  
Service

Please join us!

# NEWS FROM F.L.Y.

(Fellowship of Lutheran Youth - grades 6, 7 and 8)

DECEMBER 11th: FLY Christmas Party 5pm-7pm, we will meet here at the church for pizza & drinks, a \$5 gag gift exchange and some games. Please bring \$5 for food and drinks and your gift.

COME JOIN US FOR ALL OF THE FUN! If you have any questions, or want to be added to our e-mail list please be sure to contact Mrs. Motz at [jgmotz@bellsouth.net](mailto:jgmotz@bellsouth.net).

## St Tim Youth Event: Save the Date!

Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to attend a Saturday 'retreat' at St Timothy on January 28 from 10am-3pm, hosted by Vicar Monica. A praise band/worship service will be featured, as well as a devotion and introduction to Centering Prayer, an art project, a discussion about starting a video ministry, plus hangout and chat time and yummy food. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and stay tuned for more details!

## SR HIGH ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Activities:

Christmas Party @ Mallory Krauss' December 10th @ 6pm.

Wednesday Night Advent Services - Leading

Packing up shoe boxes for needy children

Christmas Present Wrapping, Sat. 12/17, 10a-2p & Sun. 12/18 8a-noon

Please see any of the Sr. High teachers for more information, Jynni Bowyer, Paul Frank Amy or Justin Groce.

# Wonderful Wednesdays/LL4L Schedule December

## **Wonderful Wednesday's (WW)**

December 7th Christmas craft  
December 14th Christmas party  
December 21 NO WW  
December 28 NO WW

## **Liturgy for Little Lutherans (L4LL)**

No L4LL December 25th or January 1st.

After Children's sermon or at the beginning of the first reading, children 4 yrs old - 3rd grade please meet in the Narthex for L4LL.

Both programs follow the Sumner County School Schedule. If Sumner Co schools are out (breaks, holidays, weather) these programs will be also be out.



## **Gift Wrapping**

St. Timothy Senior High is wrapping Christmas presents Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm and Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 8am-noon in the Fellowship Hall at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 650 E. Main Street, Hendersonville, TN. A free will offering is requested. Please contact the Church office if you have any questions, 615-824-6244.



Bringing HOPE to the children of Haiti  
one bowl of rice and beans at a time.

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## News from Trinity/HOPE

Trinity/HOPE is blessed to have support in this congregation for its feeding programs for the hungry children in Christian Schools in Haiti. Each month we provide an article (as below) which can be published in church newsletters to aid in updating and keeping our supporters current on our programs.

At the moment I am preparing a presentation for the members of a congregation who are interested in mission. I know that sometimes when considering this the desire to go on the trip is so alluring and seems to be the most paramount in its importance. But one truth is so central that it can't be ignored. Because of circumstances, spiritual gift sets, skills, personal preferences, needs of the ministry and many other factors not all of us are called to be the goers who take the trip.

Our roles may be that of a sender or supporter. While these roles may not have the same initial appeal of that of going, they are equally important if not more so than the actual going.

The value of senders is inestimable. I have lots of senders but none more important than my wife who gives me her consent for the trip, agrees for our money to be spent in this way, believes in what we are to accomplish and prays for me and the team's success and safety every day. I would never suggest any member of a team leave without family support, a Christian dedication/blessing of the team, a daily prayer support group as well as outside financial support for the trip if needed. Senders make the trips possible.

No group is more important than the supporters. In my opinion every mission team should have as one of its goals to in some way provide a benefit to those it visits. These benefits can embrace many forms of activity and results: Construction, VBS, Bible Studies, Clean Water Projects, Agricultural Assistance, ESL, Teacher Training and a host of others including our cause of providing a noon meal for children in Christian Schools. Almost all of them require either funding for the projects which may be collected up-front, afterward or on an ongoing basis. Supporters make the ministry work possible.

If God calls you to do mission work it may be in any of these three roles or combinations of them as a goer, sender or supporter. They are all necessary for the ministry to function, they can all be very exciting and each gives us the supreme opportunity to serve God and others.

John Hall, Trinity/HOPE, 2366 Cairo Bend Road, Lebanon, TN 37087



## December Mission and Outreach Focus

### **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

During this time of joyous giving and celebration, our mission focus for December will be the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund—discreetly administered by Pastor Groce—provides support to members of our community of faith who are experiencing unexpected financial crises and hardship. Because the fund is administered so discreetly, we do not share details about who is served, how they are served, why they are served. Instead, we simply focus on the need to participate in the process of serving members of our community of faith from the abundance of the gifts that God has given to each of us.

Please remember this fund during your gift giving season. Donations should be made to St. Timothy, with a notation in the memo section of the check for "Pastor's Discretionary Fund." You can place your check in the offering basket, or you can send it directly to the Church office.



Thank you for all of the support you have provided to our missions during 2011. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a caring and generous community of faith

**St. Timothy Missions and Outreach Committee** is actively seeking new members. We will meet again sometime in January. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Joline West at [joline\\_west@yahoo.com](mailto:joline_west@yahoo.com), or 672-7201. Thank you. **Council Liaisons:** Sherrie Meyers and Heidi White.

## **ST. OLAF CHOIR AND GARRISON KEILOR**

Driving to Illinois for Thanksgiving week, we happened upon The Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keilor who was at the St. Olaf College campus in Northfield, Minnesota. This was part of the celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famed St. Olaf Choir.

St. Olaf is one of the magnificent colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I won't try to duplicate Garrison's delightful humor about St. Olaf, but soon the choir was singing the four stanzas of this well-known hymn:

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.  
... his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.      *ELW Hymn 781*

The famed F. Melius Christiansen was the founder of the St. Olaf Choir. Christiansen's arrangement of "Beautiful Savior" was sung by parish and collegiate choirs. Often "Beautiful Savior" in popular Lutheran culture far surpassed "A Mighty Fortress" as THE hymn of Lutheranism.

Soon over the airwaves the St. Olaf choir was singing:

... Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!      *ELW Hymn 838*

*(Fairest Lord Jesus...begins the translation in some hymnals.)*

Let's take a quick look at a few Christmas variations among ethnicities.

## **CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALS and NON--"CHURCH YEAR" CHRISTIANS**

When a TV channel talks about the "25 days of Christmas," it is expressing an understanding that equates the first 25 days with the Christmas season to such an extent that Christmas decorations are removed on December 26.

## **CONTINENTAL EUROPE**

December 6, celebrated as St. Nicholas Day, is often a time for giving small gifts to children and others.

## **SWEDEN and NORWAY**

December 13 is the day of Santa Lucia, St. Lucy (name means light), when the halo-effect of candlelight on Santa Lucia's head reminds us to be "Christian lights in the world."

## **LATINO / HISPANIC**

Las Posadas (lodgings) is the fascinating custom of "Mary and Joseph" going to homes trying to find lodging and having the door slammed at them at many houses, and then finally arriving at a home where they are welcomed, and a party with food and a piñata commences.

## SWEDISH

The traditional practice is a festive family dinner and the receiving of gifts on Christmas Eve. (In USA, Swedish-American have "Christmas stockings from Santa Claus" for kids on Christmas morning.)

The "dawn Mass" is traditional primary time for Christmas worship with one of following as opening hymn:

LBW Hymn 73 "All hail to you, O blessed morn"

LBW Hymn 59 "When Christmas morn is dawning"

Even with parish Christmas Eve scheduling of services, Pat and I have yet to experience opening gifts on Christmas morning.

## EASTERN ORTHODOX (GREEK, ETC.)

While December 25 has significance for them, the Epiphany of our Lord, the Theophony, January 6 has primary importance. The Baptism of our Lord is a major theme. Many of you are familiar with the "diving for the Cross" in Tarpon Springs, Florida, which has a large Greek Orthodox population.

## OTHER THEMES

Unfortunately, much of the American Christmas sometimes does not get beyond the "cute baby Jesus."

Yes, there is a long history of emphasizing the significance of the incarnation of God in the infant Jesus.

Martin Luther wrote about Jesus, the helpless infant.

St. Teresa of Avila was devoted to Christ, the Child of Bethlehem.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus developed her spiritual life on the simplicity and littleness of Jesus.

**With the INCARNATION OF JESUS, we can depict the incarnate Jesus and his followers.**

*From my confirmation catechism in junior high:*

When God gave the commandments to Israel, He forbade them to make any graven images or likenesses.

God being a Spirit, the making of an image of God would at that period necessarily have resulted in idolatry.

**But since Christ has come in the flesh and was visible among [people], we are permitted to make pictures**

**and images of Him.** Luther preached very forcibly against those persons who, during his absence from Witten-

berg, destroyed the pictures and images in the churches.

[Luther] said that we make a picture of Christ in our heart whenever we think of Him, and put pictures of Him in the Bible and other books; and that therefore **it is not wrong to place pictures or images of Him in our churches, so long as we do not worship them.**

*From LUTHER'S CATECHISM with AN EXPLANATION BY JOSEPH STUMP, page 46*

## THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIAN ART

Luther's argument followed the same biblical understanding which ended the iconoclastic controversy in

Eastern Orthodoxy --- the incarnation allowed for pictures and icons . . . .

**Come to --- and invite friends to --- the E & A Event at 4 pm on Sunday, February 19, when Dr. Robin Jensen of Vanderbilt Divinity School speaks about Christian art. --- JOHN**

WOW Urban Ministry Trip - June - 5 - 10, 2011, Knoxville

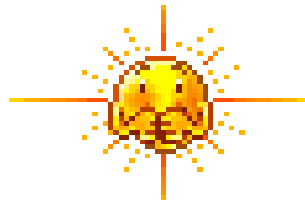
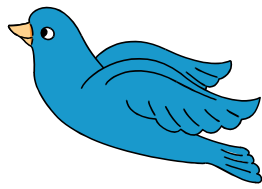
WOW Mission Moment from the youth who served

Monday, June 6, 2011 - On Monday morning I went with a group to a Project Live home. Project Live is a new mission that WOW is participating in this year. Project Live identifies homes where people may need some help around their home, cleaning, yard work, etc. so that they can stay self-sufficient and still be able to live in their homes and not have to move into a nursing home.

**We went to Robert's home. He is 65 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. His house was cute on the outside...but on the inside it needed lots of work! There were lots of clean clothes piled everywhere. They were clean, but unfolded. A girl named Maddie helped me fold ALL of the clothes. It took us ALL day! He told us lots of stories while we were there...such as his dad was a painter for the Manhattan Project. Oh Yeah...and Robert really liked to have you rub his head!**

Lexie Judd





In November the Bluebirds and Sunshine Girls visited Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and Vittle's Restaurant in Nashville. Here are some of pictures of the visit to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, the reception that the members of the church held for us after Father Gregory's talk, and our luncheon at Vittle's Restaurant.



## December 2011

	<b>Saturday - 5:30 PM:</b>	<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>Dec. 31</b>	<b>Jan. 7</b>
ASSISTING MINISTER	David Brau	Jeff King	Jim Dineen	Jim Dineen	John & Mary Frances	<b>YOUTH SERVICE</b>
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Maureen Brau Sarah / Jack Brau	Sharon Campbell Betty Orsland	Alan Honea Audrey Personi	John & Mary Frances Gray		
	<b>Sunday 8:00 AM:</b>	<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Dec. 24, 11:00 PM</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Karen See	Donna Cornelius	Bridget Radford	NEW YEARS DAY	<b>YOUTH SERVICE</b>	
CANTOR	Jim Dineen	Palmer Clemmer	Bert Jergenson			
CRUCIFER	Scott Meyers	Collin Bumgarner	Donna Cornelius	<b>1 SERVICE ONLY</b>		
ACOLYTE	Jake Meyers	Colby Bumgarner	Sam Brugman	<b>9:00 AM</b>		
LECTOR	Sharon Adkins	Aaron Butz	Jane Steinhauer	<b>I</b>		
COMMUNION ASST.	Diane Dusso	Sharon Adkins	Illa Peterson	<b>I</b>		
USHERS	Baker & Pat Kirkpatrick Klaudene Gourley	Tim & Carol Webster	Diane & Dick Dusso	<b>I</b> <b>I</b> <b>V</b>		
	<b>Sunday 10:30 AM:</b>	<b>Dec. 4</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Jan. 1 - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Steve Glor	John Lekander	Connor LaPointe	Jim Dineen	<b>YOUTH SERVICE</b>	
CANTOR	Jordan Wolf	Palmer Clemmer	Bert Jergenson	Fred Bacon		
CRUCIFER	Karen Kral	Mike Stone	Steve Glor	Scott Meyers		
ACOLYTE	Tyler Grant Makayla Grant	Josie Wolf	Katie Owens	Jake Meyers		
LECTORS	Bill Hoffman	Brett West	Rachel Autry	Jane Steinhauer		
COMMUNION ASST.	Joline West	Kathleen Evans	Kristi LaPointe	Karen Kral		
USHERS	Jeremy Tingler Alex House Nicole Steen	Joanne Britt Steve Fox Richard Smith	Ed & Sally Kaler	Baker & Pat Kirkpatrick		

\*\*\* CHRISTMAS EVE / CHRISTMAS DAY \*\*\*

	<b>Dec. 24, 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Dec. 24, 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Dec. 24, 11:00 PM</b>	<b>Dec. 25, 9:00 AM</b>
ASSISTING MINISTER	David Brau	Ron Morgenstern	Karen See	Monica Weber
CRUCIFER	Carter Davidson	Connor LaPointe	Jim Dineen	Kathy Fox
ACOLYTE(s)	Tyler Grant Makayla Grant	Collin Bumgarner Colby Bumgarner	Jeremy Brugman Sam Brugman	Jim Dineen
TORCH BEARERS	John Trantum Witt Trantum	Courtney LaPointe Caitlin LaPointe	Jill Bowyer Peyton Bowyer	N/A
LECTORS	Corinne Davidson	John Lekander	Fred See	Mary Frances Gray
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jim Dineen Joanne Britt	Jeremy Tingler Monica Weber	Steve & Brenda Parker	Jim Dineen
USHERS	Gary & Sherry Freel Cody Hunter	Steve & Sue Petersen Richard Smith	Baker & Pat Kirkpatrick Klaudene Gourley	Steve Fox John Gray

**\*\*If you are not going to be available for your scheduled service, it is incumbent upon you to coordinate with other MOTS participants to find a replacement. It is also very important that the church office is notified of the change.\*\***



Tidings is published monthly for friends and members of:

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*This is a Stephen Ministry  
Congregation*