

Wittenberg Lutheran Church
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Leesville, SC 29070

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WITTENBERG WITNESS

January 2009

Volume 10, Number 1



Blessing of the New Building & Congregational Meal
January 4 following the 11 am Service

(Meal Provided by the "Kitchen Crew")

PO Box 3447 + Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070
803-532-4636 + wittenberg@pbtcomm.net
Visit our website: www.wittenbergleesville.org

SERVING IN JANUARY

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1/4- Mr. & Mrs. John Oxner
1/11- Mr. & Mrs. Boddie Rinehart
1/18- Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Epting
Mr. & Mrs. Vivian Epting
1/25- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Cary,
Amber & Will

ALTAR GUILD

Debbie Sawyer, Ann Nichols,
Torry Dickey, Elizabeth Barnes,
Catherine Oxner

GREETERS

Barbara Nivens & Wendy Epting

WORSHIP ASSISTANT & LAY READER

Kayce Shealy

NURSERY—

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 1/4 -Marti Burns, Pete Osment
1/11 - Paula Miller, Eric Dickey
1/18 - Summer Burns, Julia Shealy
1/25 - Elawanda & Larry Lorick

SCS ASSISTANTS—

PRE-SCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

- 1/4 - Lisa Cook
1/11- Toshia Banks
1/18- Robbin Swygert
1/25- Joan Caughman

NURSERY

Mari Burns, Chairperson

- 1/4- Barbie & Dean Rodgers,
Debbie Sawyer
1/11 - Torry & Eric Dickey,
Marti Burns
1/18- Toshia & Freida Banks,
Kayce Shealy
1/25 - Rebecca & Michael Reed,
Jennifer Patrick

USHERS

Robert Epting, Chairperson
F.H. Hendrix, III, Michael Reed,
Brian Shealy

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Bill Caughman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 1/4- Elwanda & Larry
Lorick, Paula Miller
1/11- Cher & Todd Davis,
Sonya Cary
1/18 - Stacy & Pete Osment,
Bill Caughman
1/25 -Jennifer & Chip Spradley,
Jennifer McInnis

TELLER

- 1/4- Debbie Sawyer
1/11- Ginger Caughman
1/18- Robert Cook
1/25- Eric Dickey

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Connie Kramer,
Ross Shealy
3 - Sybil Ergle
5 - Abigail Sherman,
John Oxner
8 - Elizabeth Barnes
9 - Caroline Hope Cook
11 - John Ruff, Kim Hendrix
14 - Amber Cary, Carlynn Cary
16 - Stacey Sherman
17 - Julie Price
18 - Jane Hare
19 - Emily Finger
20 - Todd Davis
21 - Rebecca Leaphart
24 - Rebecca Reed
27 - Ira Ruff
31 - Avery Finger



LET US PRAY

In our prayers let us remember: Doris Antley, Wyman Banks, Margaretta Beckham, John Bedenbaugh (Tracy Bedenbaugh's father), Rhonda & Dennis Bedenbaugh, the Father of Debbie Black, the Family of Scott Black (Freida Banks' niece), Shana Bouknight (granddaughter of Mary & Carl Cook), Peggy Buzhardt, Jane Speaks Cochet, Lisa Cook, the Tony Corley Family, the Family of Taylor Cox, Dr. Jim Crumley, Dorothy Curran, Kathy Derrick (wife of Randy Derrick), Joanne Feaster (mother of Jason Feaster), Family of Chris Folger (friend of Debbie Price), Jane Hare, Ed Hoover, Leila Hoover, Jason Howard, the Family of Mae Keisler, Ramona Langford, Eddie Leaphart, Samantha Leaphart, Ann Lewis, Carla Long, Letha Long, Ricky Long, Thelma Lorick (Larry Lorick's mother), James McLeod (grandfather of Kayce Shealy), Eileen Mitchell, Brady Nichols, Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), Ann Oswald, Stephen Pautz (grandson of Dean & Sybil Eargle), the Mother of Landis Price, Mauri Register, Sue Ruff, Bobbie Shealy, the Family of Leon Shealy, William K. Shealy, Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), Ray Smith, the Family of Dr. William Speaks, Pauline Steele, Aaron Stewart, Wills Swygert, Dan Warner, the Tracy Waters Family, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson, Benjy Watson, Members of our Armed Forces.

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
12/7.....	103	171
12/14	92	160
12/21	93	184
12/24.....		287
12/28	64	119



FOOD PANTRY

An expanded Wittenberg Food Pantry now opens Thursdays from 6-8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon to accommodate the schedules of food-insecure families in our community.

The Food Pantry Team invites you to participate in this important ministry. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Donations of non-perishable foods (especially meats, fruits and soups), diapers, and baby formula are needed and very much appreciated.

CIRCLE L

Circle L will meet at 7 pm on Monday, January 5 in the Commons Area of the New Building.

OSJ

Dawn Bedenbaugh is preparing the 2009 Order of St. John schedule. Please contact her for more information.



PANTHER PALS

Lexington School District Three continues to seek volunteers to serve as mentors to children and youth in Batesburg-Leesville. Panther Pals, the District's mentoring program, requires about an hour of service per week and a commitment to be a positive influence in a young person's life. If you would like to learn more about Panther Pals, please speak to Brian Shealy or Pastor Sherman.

20 - Something Sunday School Class...

Begins in February; contact the church office if you would like to be on the mailing list for the class.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Rhonda Bedenbaugh, Advisor

- 1/4- Acolyte: Haven Banks
Almsbearer: Aubrey Rodgers
Crucifer: Nevin Rodgers
- 1/11- Acolyte: Tate Feaster
Almsbearer: Ross Shealy
Crucifer: Brandt Shealy
- 1/18- Acolyte: Emily Miller
Almsbearer: Harlee Miller
Crucifer: Davey Taylor

- 1/25- Acolyte: Wills Swygert
Almsbearer: Lane Bedenbaugh
Crucifer: Zane Bedenbaugh



Thank You!

Thank you to all parishioners and friends of Wittenberg who prepared for and/or participated in the 2008 Advent & Christmas Worship Services.

Hundreds of hours of rehearsals and countless offerings of talent made the "season" both beautiful and memorable.





Speak to Pastor Sherman if you would like to attend the January 11 training event.

Announcing the very first SC Synod community service blitz day, called *Operation Inasmuch*, in cooperation with **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Join Hands Day!**

How can churches get involved?

There will be four training events in January around the state, where congregational teams are invited to attend. You are also encouraged to include youth and young adults in your congregational teams.

"...Truly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

MATTHEW 25:40

Find out more about Operation Inasmuch at <http://www.operationinasmuch.com>

Training dates and places:

CHARLESTON AREA:
Saturday January 10, 10:00am-1:00 pm
Faith, John's Island

NEWBERRY AREA:
Sunday January 11, 2-5:00 pm
Grace, Prosperity

COLUMBIA AREA:
Saturday, January 17, 10:00 am -1:00 pm
St. Paul's, Columbia

GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG AREA:
Sunday, January 18, 2-5:00 pm
St. Michael's, Greenville

(Service blitz day will be May 2.)



South Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends,

There is something about serving the needs of others that transforms how we look at everything else around us.

I am very excited about this opportunity we have as South Carolina Lutherans serving together the hurts and needs of others all around us. This synodwide event on May 2 will be like one large mission trip for all of us into our own back yards and communities.

God's work. Our hands. We can make such a difference! Please plan to be an active part of this.

Peace,

Bishop Herman



Bishop Herman Yoo

May 2 event sponsored by
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Let's thrive!



Join Us for Our

Chrismon Tree "Removal"

Friday, January 2
6:00 p.m.

Following the "removal," we gather for dinner at Mi-Rancho

RECEIVED IN THE PASTOR'S INBOX....

My friend and I recently spent our Christmas vacation on Lake Murray, and attended Wittenberg Lutheran Church on Christmas Eve. The Church was lovely, and we enjoyed the candle-light service so much. As we left the Church on our way home, we experienced car trouble, and ended up stranded on the side of the road at the intersection of 245 and 391 at 12:15 AM. Although we were just a short distance from the Church, not many cars were passing us. Just a few minutes later, a car turned around to come to our assistance. Church member Davis Taylor turned out to be our Christmas Angel. He stayed with us for well over 1 1/2 hours to make sure we got help and would not leave until he was sure a tow truck was on the way. Mr. Taylor made several phone calls for us, trying to find someone to assist. Although his wife was waiting for him at home, he insisted on staying with us. We wanted you to know how much we enjoyed the service and also to let you know how blessed we felt to have Mr. Taylor's help. In spite of the car trouble, we have fond memories of the kindness and selfless gesture of one of your church members. Please express our gratitude to Mr. Taylor.

Jim Bohn and Linda Novosel

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

Dreams do come true! For a number of years it has been a dream of mine, and many others, in our congregation, that we would have a new building to enable us to better serve the educational needs of our congregation. A Strategic Planning Ministry team was formed. This group worked long and hard to determine the needs of our congregation. After this group determined what was felt to be the needs of the congregation, a capital campaign was held, a building committee formed and three plus years later we are using our new building.

December 14, 2008~the Sunday School opening was held in the Social Hall of the new building, the two nursery classes occupied their rooms and the senior adults had class in the social hall as they sat on their new chairs which will be moved across the hall into the new senior adult Sunday School classroom as soon as the rest of our furniture arrives. The pre-school children will have two openings on Sunday morning~one in the new building for the two and three year olds and the second in the Kindergarten/Children's Church Room, for the four and five year olds.

The Youth Room (old social hall) has new furniture and other im-

provements are underway. Some work is planned for the library area of this space and the audio-visual library will be moved to this area.

The nursery on the main floor of the educational building has been painted and new tables added. This room is now the Kindergarten Room, which is used for Sunday School for the 4 and 5 year old and Children's Church.

Work is under way in the large classroom at the end of the hall upstairs in the Educational Building~the Young Adult class will move into this room and the present young adult classroom will become a classroom for the "20's Class". The Lectionary Class will be using the new classroom behind the chancel as soon as it is ready!

What a wonderful way to start 2009! Thanks be to GOD for our many blessings! And my heartfelt thanks goes to the membership of Wittenberg for the way they have allowed God to use them in this ministry.

Joan Caughman, Sunday School Supt.

BLESSING OF HOMES

What is an Epiphany Blessing of Home - Chalking the Door?

A short liturgy is used during marking our homes, usually at the main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work or visit throughout the coming year. We mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

We chalk, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," meaning "May Christ bless this dwelling." These letters inscribed between the numbers of the year of the ceremony. Thus, as people are given the opportunity to participate in the chalking of the door, they will inscribe one or more of the symbols: 20 C M B 09

The Parish Life group would like to organize a Chalking the Door for January 10, 2009 to begin at 4:00 PM at the first home for chalking. Along with the chalking we will have a progressive dinner. Each home to be chalking will prepare one dish that each person in attendance will taste. Who ever is the last to have their door chalking will be the dessert home. Sign-up sheets will be in the usual locations.

Please contact Debbie Sawyer for more information



January 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EVERY SUNDAY: Communion—8:30 am Sunday School—9:30 am Worship Service—11 am				1	2 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry 6 pm— Removal of Chrismon Tree	3 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry
4 Noon—Building Blessing and Lunch 6 pm— Teens 7 pm— Cottage Bible Study	5 9 am— Coffee & Conversation 7 pm— Circle L @ Commons Area	6 1 pm— Circle V 7 pm— Circle IV 7 pm— Theology Downtown	7 Noon—Alzheimer's Support Group 7:00 pm—Western Conference—LMM 7:30 pm— Choir	8 7 am— Teen Bible Study at Hardee's 4 pm— Grief Support 7 pm—Preschool Team 6-8 pm— Food Pantry	9 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry	10 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry 4 pm— House Blessings & Progressive Dinner
11 4 pm— Catechism 2 pm— Inasmuch Training 6 pm—Teens 7 pm—Congregational Council	12 9 am— Coffee & Conversation 7 pm— Lutheran Men	13 10 am— Morning Circle	14 7:30 pm— Choir	15 7 am— Teen Bible Study at Hardee's 6-8 pm— Food Pantry	16 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry	17 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry
18 5pm— Lutheranism 101 6 pm— Teens	19 9 am— Coffee & Conversation	20 7 pm— Theology Downtown	21 7:30 pm— Choir	22 4pm— Grief Support 6-8 pm— Food Pantry	23 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry	24 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry
25 10:10 am—Breakfast 6 pm—Teens	26 7 pm Lutheran Men	27 Deadline for February newsletter	28 Noon— JOY luncheon 7:30 pm— Choir 7:30 pm—MSG	29 6-8 pm— Food Pantry	30 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry	31 9 am-Noon— Food Pantry