

THE WITTENBERG



DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 12

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*

People of Wittenberg:

It may surprise you to learn that I prefer Thanksgiving to Christmas. Although it's a close contest, Thanksgiving earns extra points for simplicity. We gather around a table, offer thanks for blessings, fill our bellies and enjoy the company of loved ones. I suppose Christmas provides these same opportunities, albeit after we dig through the sales ads, gift wrap, boxes and bows.

Luke's version of the Christmas story is wrapped in simplicity and humility. Mary is too young and green to be a mama. Joseph is a commoner carrying those universal fears that come with being a father. Bethlehem is really no place to deliver a baby. Jesus is placed in a trough because, "there's no room in the inn." There will be no family photo album, professionally published birth announcements or Sunday morning christening followed by a family dinner. Yet in all this austerity, God in the Flesh comes to humanity to heal, encourage and save.

Here's to Christmas simplicity! At the center of all the parties, family feasts, gift exchanges, greenery and lights, may you re-encounter the good news that binds us together - God comes down to dwell among us.

Peace be with you,
Michael

SERVING THIS MONTH

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 12/4- Ira & Sue Ruff
12/11- Mr. & Mrs. Chris Swygert
12/18- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Cary & Amber
12/25- Joan Caughman

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Julia Shealy

NURSERY—

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 12/4- Kayce Shealy, Marti Burns
12/11- Linda Almgren, Katie Black
12/18- Rebecca Reed, Wendy Epting
12/25- Michael Reed, Lynne Rauton

2-3 YR. OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 12/4- Susan Shealy, Chrissy McNabb
12/11- Scarlett Summers,
Debra McDonald
12/18- Catherine Oxner, Myra Cantrell
12/25- Susan Shealy, Chrissy McNabb

GREETERS

Narthex:

Jerry & Tissy Price

Commons Area:

James & Bobbie Smith

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

John Oxner

LAY READER

Beth Long

ALTAR GUILD

- Freida Banks, Wyman Banks,
Hazel Cooper, Debbie Reynolds,
Torry Dickey, Ann Nichols,
Debbie Sawyer

USHERS

- Larry Lorick, Robert Epting,
Dean Rodgers, Rondoll Watson

NURSERY

Kayce Shealy, Chair

- 12/4- Linda Almgren, Paula Miller
12/11- Dawn & Tracy Bedenbaugh
12/18- Jennifer & Mike Patrick
12/25- Catherine & John Oxner

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 12/4- Dawn & Tracy Bedenbaugh,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh
12/11- Michael & Rebecca Reed
12/18- Doris Antley, Joan Caughman
12/25- Jennifer McInnis,
Chip & Jennifer Spradley

TELLERS

- 12/4- Billy Rauton, Rebecca Reed
12/11- Dean Rodgers, Betsy Dority
12/18- Erin Thomas, Bob Wiley
12/25- Marti Burns, Bill Caughman

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Jennifer Spradley, Advisor

12/4- Acolyte: Eli Sherman
Alms Bearer: River Rauton
Crucifer: Jesse Rauton

12/11- Acolyte: Mason McInnis
Alms Bearer: Parker McInnis
Crucifer: Rachel Creech

12/18- Acolyte: Emma Osment
Alms Bearer: Emily Miller
Crucifer: Harlee Miller

12/24- Acolyte: Haven Banks
Acolyte: Wills Swygert
Alms Bearer: Ross Shealy
Crucifer: Nevin Rodgers
Banner Bearer: Aubrey Rodgers
Bible Bearer: Brandt Shealy

12/25- Acolyte: Emily Davis
Alms Bearer: Taylor Davis
Crucifer: Cambey Reep



KICS

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 11 from Noon until 2 p.m.

Bring six items (toiletries, Kleenex, lotions, snack items, etc.) for gift baskets.

Ham Sandwiches – Parker Black

PB&J Sandwiches – Emily Miller

Three bags chips – James Banks

Cookies – Wyatt Summers

Cupcakes – Matthew & Sara Reed

20 juice boxes/pouches – Emma Osment

20 juice boxes/pouches – Eli, Abi & Mimi Sherman

Paper plates & Napkins – Adam

For more information, please contact Cher Davis (892-6965), Paula Miller (532-5014), Marti Burns (604-8608) or Pastor Sherman.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, December 4, we gather during 11 a.m. worship for our semi-annual congregational meeting. At this meeting we elect Congregation Council representatives, have a second reading of constitutional amendments regarding Congregation Council membership, and take action on both the 2012 Wittenberg Budget and the 2012 Wittenberg Pre-school Budget. We also consider the adoption of a proposal that creates the Wittenberg Endowment.

Congregation Council submits a slate of council nominees for your consideration. The nominees are: Jerry Price, Tracy Creech, Scott McNabb and Joann Wells. Additional nominees will be accepted from the floor of the meeting. If you intend to submit a floor nomination on December 4, please ensure that your nominee is willing to serve on Congregation Council.

You are invited to prayerfully consider your personal commitment to the ministries of Wittenberg in 2012. We bring our commitments before the altar during worship on December 4.

2012 YEARBOOK

It's time to start compiling those year-end committee reports, schedules, directory changes, etc., for the new yearbook. Please submit all information to the church office by January 1.

KARAOKE CONCERT

Jeff Long hosts a concert of karaoke music at Camp Kinard on December 11. Concert time is 4-6 p.m. Join Jeff and our friends at Camp Kinard for music and refreshments.

Donations of non-perishable food items for Wittenberg Pantry are appreciated. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with Camp Kinard at 532-2235.



*The Sherman Family
invites you to a
Christmas Drop-In
Sunday, December 18
at the Parsonage
following the Wittenberg Christmas Party*

WITTENBERG SINGLES FELLOWSHIP

We've had some great activities lately, and participation is growing! Thanks to everyone who has participated. For those of you who haven't joined us yet, you have plenty of opportunities coming up to join in the fun and fellowship!

Friday, December 9 we will enjoy a special Christmas Dinner prepared by Margaret Caughman (cooking school graduate). Join us at her home around 6 p.m. Cost is \$10. Because of the preparation involved, RSVPs are important on this event. Please let Tracy Creech know if you plan to attend (cell 803-429-7259, home 803-532-3104, email t.f.creech@gmail.com).

Saturday, December 31 we will gather to ring in the New Year! Location to be announced. If you plan to attend, please let Tracy know so that we know about how many to expect.

As always, please feel free to invite adult single friends and family who might be looking for some Christian fellowship.

NOVEMBER STATISTICS

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
11/6	75	159
11/13	79	124
11/20	79	141
11/27	75	142
YTD Regular Offering		\$198,985.87
Needed		260,642.26
Difference		(61,656.39)
YTD B.F. Offering		68,710.00



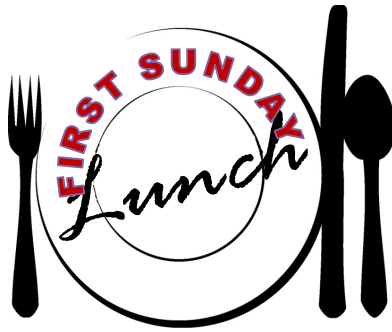
Christmas Drama

Sunday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service 5:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service 10:30 p.m.



First Sunday Lunch December 4
hosted by the
Men's and Women's Softball Teams

Menu includes Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert.
Proceeds from the meal will go to the Building Fund.

Please join us!



2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 offering envelopes will be available to pick up beginning Sunday, December 4. They will be located on a table in the concourse area to the left of the elevator. Please remember to pick up your envelopes by the end of the year and begin using them the first Sunday in January.

DONATIONS FOR 2011

If you want your gifts to the church to be counted for 2011 please remember to make your donations to the church by Sunday, December 25, 2011. Thank you for your cooperation.

WITTENBERG



2012 WELCA HANDBOOK

The end of 2011 is coming soon, and we need to begin plans for 2012. Each circle needs to provide updated information for the 2012 women's handbook to Connie Kramer by December 12. Please include changes in membership, officers, phone numbers, meeting dates, times and locations. So far only one circle has turned their information in.

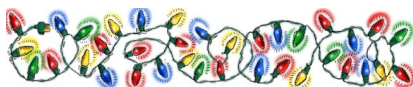
Circle Meetings:

- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. We will visit shut-ins and take gifts, then enjoy a Christmas Luncheon.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. Susie Hendrix is leader.
- ◆ **Circle IV** meets Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will put together Christmas deliveries and have a short meeting.
- ◆ **Circle L** meets Dec. 5 for a Christmas Outing.
- ◆ **Hannah Circle** meets Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. for Christmas Dinner.



PARISH LIFE OUTING

Come see the wonderful display of Christmas lights at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia! Meet at the Church at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6. We will have a quick meal at Harbor Inn in Lexington, then drive through the park to see the lights. Cost of the trip is \$4.00 per person plus the cost of your meal. Sign-up sheets are located in the gathering areas of the Church. Contact Dean Rodgers if you have any questions. Come join us!



COUNCIL DINNER

7:00 p.m.
Thursday
December 11

Wittenberg Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 9, 2011

Present: Bob W., Robert E., Bill C., Billy R., Ervin C., Betsy D., Cher D., Torry D., Marty B., Erin T., Brent S. (Tres.), Furman C. (Sec.), Pastor Sherman

Absent: Dean R., Rebecca R., Connie K. (FS)

The meeting was called to order by Bob W. at 7 p.m.

Pastor Sherman offered a brief devotion.

Pastor's Report: Pastor S. submitted his report electronically (see attached), and commented to that new plan.

President's Report: Bob W. reported that the Executive Committee met and has provided a slate of four (4) nominees for Council terms beginning January 2012, as follows: Joan Wells, Jerry Price, Tracy Creech and Scott McNabb. M: Exec. Comm.; 2: Billy R. This was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brent S. stated that the financial report is pretty routine, with no problems at present. He mentioned that an item in the Assets line represents funds that the Pre-School have paid to the church for payroll withholding. These funds will be sent at the appropriate time for payment. He also stated that some funds from Thrivent were applied to the Building fund payment. The BF loan balance is currently \$390,000.00. He also stated that the annual audit was satisfactory. The report was approved. M: Robert E.; 2: Bill C.

Approval of Minutes from August and Sept: The August minutes were not distributed by the WLC office before the Sept. Council meeting, but were approved. M: Cher D.; 2: Erin T. The September minutes were approved, pending 2 minor corrections (Bill C. attendance, and Ervin C. stated that the chairs that were removed from the back of the church will be available on a FCFS basis, rather than offered for sale.). M: Bill C.; 2: Robert E.

Financial Secretary Report: Connie was absent. She had submitted a written report which was accepted. M: Ervin C.; 2: Billy R.

Other Business: Stewardship & Finance: Betsy D. stated that the 2012 Budget is under development by S&F Comm., and will be presented to Council at November meeting. She also stated that the funds for Food Pantry will not be included in the calculation for the Apportionment since these are "pass-through" funds. The contracts proposals have not arrived and are needed to finalize the budget.

Pastor Sherman stated that Karen will work an extra 5 hrs/week in order to handle additional duties in the church office (scheduling of all events in the church as well as putting church records in digital format).

Billy R. asked about **cleaning service**. Brent stated that WLC pays \$350.00/mo for routine cleaning and special cleaning increases the monthly costs. It was noted that additional cleaning may be necessary at times, and will add additional costs.

Bob W. noted that the interest expenses have decreased from \$30K to \$21K due to the pay-down of the loan. Brent S. added that he is investigating a new loan with a lower rate.

Betsy D. commented that the documents for the proposed **WLC Endowment** are nearly complete and plans are to submit the proposed Endowment to Council at November meeting and to the congregation in December, if approved by Council.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Pastor Sherman remarked about recent issues over the use of the Sr. Adults SS room for **Pre-School** activities as well as use of some space in the kitchen for storage. This was addressed with Eric and seems to be under control.

Bob W. asked Erin T. about the financial reports from **Pre-School**. She distributed the current Financial Report. Brent asked how the PS Program is advancing. Erin stated that is going well and the kids seem to enjoy the program to the extent that some cry when they have to leave at the end of the day. Brent asked about the church/religious aspect of the program. Pastor Sherman stated that he presents Bible related information at least weekly. There were several positive comments from the group. Bill C. asked about the status of the area in the old building that was originally intended to house the PS. Pastor Sherman stated that the architect has a set of plans that are believed to be those for the old building and the effort to satisfy DHEC is progressing.

Property: Bill C. reported that there were some leaking problems recently following the heavy rain. The leaks have been identified and repaired.

Bus Project: Cher reported that several used buses have been identified and distributed copies of the advertising pieces and prices. Bob W. stated that WLC needs to get the donated funds in hand in the event that an acceptable bus is found.

Pastor Sherman remarked about the need for WLC to have an **“Incident Report”** form for use in case there is a notable incident at WLC involving injury or damage.

Candles: Cher asked about the candles and the issue of keeping them lighted. Pastor Sherman stated that these are new fuel candles and not wax candles. Some adjustments are needed in the candle stands as well as the lighting. Worship & Music Comm. is addressing this matter. Cher also stated that it was brought to her attention that sometimes there may be too many people (children and/or parents) in the room while children dress for OSJ duties. Cher appreciates parents helping children dress for OSJ, but it is sometimes crowded.

Food Pantry: Robert E. reported that Jeff Long has taken over most of the daily operation of the Food Pantry.

Cher stated that the first Sunday lunch in November will be hosted by Hanna Circle and funds will go to the bus fund. This was approved. M; Cher D.; 2: Robert E. Marty B. stated that KICS is hosting a bake sale at the Music, Ministry and Motors event with proceeds going toward the bus fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Furman Cantrell, Secretary

WITTENBERG FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Anniversary!

Melvin & Earlene Swygert

12/1/1956—55 years

Boddie & Nelle Rinehart

12/4/1955—56 years

Chris & Robbin Swygert

12/21/1996—15 years

Furman & Myra Cantrell

12/23/1967—44 years

Gerald Sr. & Letha Long

12/27/1981—30 years

Larry & Elwanda Lorick

12/28/1969—42 years

Vivian & Grace Epting

12/31/1943—68 years



He was
called
Jesus...

Happy Birthday!

1- Andy Hendrix

6- Pete Osment

7- James Banks,
Pierce Kirby

10- Dorothy Curran,
Scarlett Summers

11- Joan Caughman

14- Anna-Claire Osment

17- Annette Caughman

20- Brady Nichols, Jr.,
Pastor Michael Sherman,
Heather Smith

22- John Mullins

23- Emma Shealy

24- Melvin Swygert,
Larry Wurtz

27- John Banks,
Larry Lorick,
Megan Rish

28- Earlene Swygert

28- Haven Banks,
Davy Taylor

30- Wesley McNabb

31- Sue Nichols

LET US PRAY

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Joan Caughman, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Sybil Ergle, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Mary Alice Hyler, Bucky Johnson, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Beth Long, Brady & Sue Nichols, Clyde Oswald, Debbie Reynolds, Benjie Rikard, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, Robin Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, John Watkins, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Von Auerhamer, John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Family of Laura Black, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 1 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), The Family of Peggy Buzhardt (wife of Lynn Buzhardt), Ruby Caughman, Jimmy Clark (brother-in-law of Nancy Woodell), Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), The Family of Ann Lewis, The Family of Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Donnie & Lynn Moak (friends of Debbie Reynolds), Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), The Family of Elsie Speaks, Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), Susan Turner (sister of Mike Almgren), The Family of L.G. Whitman, and members of our Armed Forces

