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HERE AND NOW

Volume LI January 1, 2010 #1



January

- 4 Charles Fehring
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OUR PEOPLE

We express our deepest sympathy to Aileen, Kristi, Steve Collin and their family on the death of Elbert on November 23 at Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, MN. A Funeral Service for Elbert was held at LCR on December 5, 2009. A private internment was held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN.

The Collin Family sends it's thanks to all who helped with the lunch and in the service. In addition, thanks to the staff and members for the support they showed the family during this time.

Thank You to Nancy Lund, Lois Palm and DeLoris Swanson for their dedication to the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans "Care in Congregations" program. Thrivent has recognized their work by sending them a letter of appreciation and a small gift.

You are wished a blessed and joy-filled New Year!
From the LCR Staff

Save the Date!

LCR Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 2010 following worship in the Commons. A potluck lunch will be served.

Annual Reports are due in the Church Office Friday, January 15, 2010 in order for the Congregational Report to be ready for distribution on Sunday, January 24.

The December/January Schedule for the Wednesday morning Bible Study that meets weekly in the Westwood Room at Westwood Lutheran Church from 10 -11 a.m. will be:

December 23 & 30 the Study **will not** meet.

January 6 the Study **will** resume meeting weekly.

A special "Evening of Music" concert to benefit STEP! Ten congregations within the St. Louis Park faith community (including LCR) have come together to sponsor an enjoyable "Evening of Music" concert to benefit STEP, the SLP emergency program and food shelf. All are welcome, and the event is open to the public, Saturday, January 23, 7:00 pm, at the SLP High School auditorium (6425 W 33 St.).

Giving to STEP just got easier! To make an online gift to STEP with your credit card at any time before the end of 2009, go to: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Step-St-Louis-Park-Emergency-Program> (no credit card fees) --100% of your tax-deductible donation will go to STEP and you can also arrange an on-going gift to STEP. Questions? Contact Jackie or Kate at 952-925-4899.

We Pray: For health and well-being: Jean Quist; Gloria Olson; Carol Drake's son-in-law, Jeff; Arlene Palmquist; Nancy Lund's brother, Ken; Eleanor Hunsberger's grandson, Jahhee and family; Ray Anderson; Nancy Lund, Dennis Hovde's father.



Keep Awake! God's People Keep Advent

“Be alert! Keep awake” warns Jesus in Luke 21. Keeping watch, staying awake, and fueling hope are all part of our Advent faith repertoire. But it is a struggle: for this is the season when our ‘opportunities’ to celebrate stretch both our calendars and our checkbooks. How can we focus and prepare to celebrate the comings of God –past, present, and future –when we are so busy and overwhelmed?

It is not that our society does not watch. We see cameras in nearly every store, bank, or institution we visit. Beware of running stoplights; you may have just made a movie! Every time we visit an internet site we know that we create a ‘cookie’ that helps marketers profile our every whim. And, it has become apparent –especially after ‘9-11’—that the federal government is making sure it has access to records ranging from phone calls to any library book we may check out.

We are called to an even greater discipline of watching and waiting in hope. Even though we live fully in our culture, our hopes, dreams and values are not identical with the anxious suggestions that real love is represented most effectively by beautiful diamonds, the latest in technology, and whatever else we can ‘cram’ under the tree. Of course, we celebrate and give gifts. But our celebration reflects our great joy in God ‘entering the human story’ for the life of the world.

This Advent, Lutheran Church of the Reformation will once more offer the community a chance to step off the ‘gerbil wheel’ of busyness and take time at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings (Dec. 2, 9, and 16) for Advent Evening Prayer. The focus of our meditations will be the amazing illuminations (prints) from the St. John’s Bible, recently completed by Donald Jackson. Although these services will be brief, they will strengthen our faith moorings and *prepare us to celebrate Christmas with even greater joy and gusto!*

Pastor Tom

Notes from the Treasurer

This is how we look financially through October 2009

	2009 Budget	October Exp/Inc	Year to Date	% Budget
Total Expense	161,155	14,104.95	120,551.04	74.8%
Total Income	125,466	9,084.46	111,696.94	89.0%
Surplus (Deficit)	(35,689)	(5,020.49)	(8,854.10)	24.8%

LCR Worship Attendance

11/29	43	12/13	3
12/6	3	12/20	4

Average: 3

Advent Evening Average:

We pray for health and well-being of: Jean Quist; Gloria Olson; Elbert Collin; Carol Drake’s son-in-law, Jeff; Arlene Palmquist; Ray Anderson; Nancy Lund’s brother, Ken; Jackie Olafson’s daughter, Mary; Eleanor Hunsberger’s grandson, Jahhee and family; Nancy Lund, Dennis Hovde’s father; the family of Carol Drake’s brother Floyd; Sally Thompson on the death of her sister Gail.

Thank you to LCR from St. Louis Park Friends of the Arts for an annual membership donation of \$150.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dale Stenseth will .

We are looking ahead

The December Schedule for the Wednesday morning Bible Study that meets weekly in the Westwood Room at Westwood Lutheran Church from 10 -11 a.m. will be: December 23 & 30 the Study **will not** meet
January 6 the Study **will** start meeting weekly

Poinsettias are Coming!

Carsten Slostad, Music Director at LCR, is part of the following holiday concerts:

- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 6, 4 pm, Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St, Downtown St Paul, [Fundraiser for] Phone 651-224-4728, (Wells Fargo/Travelers/Sounds of Harmony Holiday Concert), [Project Home].
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 13, 4 pm, Julekonsert, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 715 Minnetonka Mills Rd., Hopkins, (Norwegian Glee Club, American Swedish Institute Male Chorus, 7 Gifts), freewill offering.
- ◆ Noontime Concerts, beginning Monday, Dec. 14 at the Wells Fargo Bank Rotunda, 6th & Marquette, Minneapolis, (Wells Fargo Chorus, Directed by Carsten), free.
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 20, 4 pm, (7 Gifts, A Women's Sextet Invitation Christmas Concert), See Carsten or Peggy for invitation and concert details.

STEP HOLIDAY SERVICES & NEEDS

STEP will offer a Holiday food & toy Program for December.

FARE FOR ALL HOLIDAY PACKS--

A reduced cost program through Fare For All Locations across the Twin Cities. Pre-registration is not needed and payments can be made by cash, EBT, credit or debit cards. For more information:

<http://www.emergencyfoodshelf.org/OurFamilyOfPrograms/FFA/Express/PackagesandPrices.aspx>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT THE INCREASED NEED IN YOUR SLP COMMUNITY:

- Host a food drive for STEP to support on-going food needs
- Make a monetary contribution to support STEP's food shelf and other services; in order to respond to the growing needs, STEP will need an increase of 14% in income for the fiscal year
- Sponsor a food item for our December food distribution, such as 800 cans of chicken broth: Contact Kate at 952.925.4899 x14 for more information
- Sponsor a gift for our December toy distribution; we expect to serve over 1,000 children this year

For any questions about this information, please contact Jackie or Kate at 952.925.4899.