

The Steeple Light



Advent and Christmas Season Schedule

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT

"Covenantal Conversations: Christians in Dialogue with Jews & Judaism"

November 30, December 7 and 14 at 7:30 PM.

All sessions take place in the Chapel.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK BRUNCH AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 am - 12:00 PM

Carol Sing and Fair Trade Craft Fair

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 4 at 11:00 AM

A service of lessons and carols that highlight the Advent season of anticipation and hope.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, December 17 at 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Music, singing and dancing with Monte Leister

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 PM

Carolers should meet in the Parish Hall at 6:00 and plan to leave at 6:15 PM.

Upon return, refreshments will be made enjoyed.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24

Family Service at 5:00 PM

Candlelight Service at 11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM

One Service for the congregation.



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From the Senior Pastor

The People Who Walked in Darkness

The title comes from the First Reading for Christmas Eve, from the ninth chapter of Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.”

At Christmas we celebrate, with the whole church on earth, the birth of Israel’s Messiah. As the gospel of John says about him: “All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

There is no question that we are a people who walk in darkness. As a country we grope, as one does in the dark, to find solutions to problems that seem intractable and overwhelming. As a community we live on an island of plenty in a sea of growing austerity, our good fortune perhaps blinding us to the harsher realities that exist almost everywhere else. As a congregation, though strong and stable, we nevertheless worry about what could be a darker future. How can we pass on to our children a faith that can give them the spiritual resources they surely will need to help them deal with an increasingly difficult and complex world that faces an uncertain future? How can we reach out to and attract a new and dynamic demographic, i.e., more young people, without losing sight of the many older ones among us who have labored long and hard to support and extend this ministry? How can we as a congregation, as we continue to move into a shadowy, uncertain and unpredictable future, adapt to new situations while still remaining faithful to the gospel and to the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church?

We haven’t a clue as to what the future holds in store for us, but we do know this for certain: Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, and nothing, not even the powers of death, can keep him from creating the new world that will be shaped by his love, his grace, his forgiveness, his reconciliation, and his peace.

That means, I believe, that Resurrection’s mission is to be a beacon of light in a world of darkness. This mission calls us to serve as a refuge of grace in an unforgiving, unfair, and unrealistically demanding and impersonal work environment. We are called to be a community of mutual support and acceptance in a society that, despite the many notable exceptions, remains economically, ethnically, and racially segregated. Resurrection is called to serve as a sanctuary of the gospel’s power, promise, and truth in an expanding spiritual wasteland.

“The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestations of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

--The Rev. Dr. Scott Ickert

ELCA bishop visits White House to discuss Israeli-Palestinian conflict

CHICAGO (ELCA) - The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), attended a Nov. 8 meeting at the White House as part of a group of ecumenical faith leaders. They asked that the United States take a stronger stance in its opposition to the rapid expansion of Israeli settlement construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The construction threatens the viability of a future Palestinian state, thus precluding a two-state solution and support for a shared Jerusalem.

Hanson and the other faith leaders met with Dennis Ross, special assistant to President Barack Obama, and Catherine Powell, director for human rights, Office of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the National Security Council. The meeting took place before Ross announced his resignation Nov. 10.

The faith leaders discussed U.S. policies towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and problems facing Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. They expressed hope for a high-level U.S. administration visit to the Middle East, especially in Bethlehem, which would include meetings with Christian leaders.

According to Hanson, continued meetings with the Obama administration are "a priority because of our commitment to our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. It is also carried out in the commitment we have made in the ELCA's Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine.

"As we began our conversation with Mr. Ross, I expressed disappointment. We hear our Christian partners in the region question the United States' commitment. They wonder why the U.S. has not been more vocal about the increased settlement construction. I told Mr. Ross that we repeatedly hear Palestinian churches say they see this as a moment of abdication by the U.S. administration."

Reflecting on the meeting, Hanson said,

"More progress must be made toward the goal of a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. Since our meeting a year ago, the prospects for peace seem to have diminished with the expansion of settlements and the absence of face-to-face negotiations."

According to a Nov. 10 news release from Churches for Middle East Peace, the church leaders who attended the Nov. 8 meeting said they are disappointed with developments since their 2010 meeting at the White House.

"The position of the Palestinian Christian community is precarious," stated the release. "There are constant problems of obtaining visas for clergy who must travel outside Jerusalem and the West Bank. Restriction on movement between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is a problem that undermines Christian life. Church leaders are humiliated at check points."

Ecumenical leaders at this year's White House meeting included Hanson; Katharine Jefferts Shori, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church; Denis James Madden, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore and chairman-elect of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Neil Irons, executive secretary of the Methodist Council of Bishops; and Sara Lisherness, director of compassion, peace and justice for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

The meeting was arranged by Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 24 national church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S. government policies that promote a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Courtesy of the ELCA News Service

Lutheran Malaria Initiative Continues Ground-Breaking Work through Generous Gift from ELCA



Baltimore, November 4, 2011 – The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has pledged \$250,000 to support Lutheran World Relief’s anti-malaria work in Tanzania through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

Malaria is a devastating disease that kills nearly a million people a year, mostly children under age 5. Spread through the bites of infected mosquitoes, malaria is preventable and treatable. The Lutheran

Malaria Initiative is part of a global effort to put an end to malaria deaths by 2015.

LWR works with its longtime partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), to educate people about prevention, symptoms and treatment of malaria. The highly successful program supports church and community outreach programs; trains healthcare workers in church-run health facilities to diagnose and treat malaria; and helps rural clinics, often cut off from efficient communications, manage their flow of medical supplies and take advantage of government subsidy programs.

Since 2007, the project has reached more than 1.7 million people across 13 ELCT dioceses with critical information about prevention and treatment. With this generous gift from funds raised through the ELCA Malaria Campaign, as well as ongoing support from Lutheran congregations, groups and individuals nationwide, LWR and the ELCT will expand these proven strategies to help even more people in more communities.

“The ELCT is an important, long-term partner of both LWR and the ELCA and we are pleased to be able to come together in support of their efforts to end malaria in their communities,” said LWR president and CEO John Nunes. “As Christians, we cannot stand by and watch this disease needlessly continue to devastate families and communities. Working together, we can help eliminate the threat of malaria for millions of God’s children.”

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative is a partnership of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), made possible with support from the United Nations Foundation.

Courtesy of Lutheran World Relief News Service

From the Youth Christian Education Coordinator

The **AFAC food challenge** was a great success. Our adults won the challenge, but what we were able to do as a congregation can't allow anyone to feel as though they lost. The adults brought in a total of 188 items. The Youth brought in 174 items, which brought the total to 362.

Another service project to bring awareness to hunger was a mini crop walk on Washington Boulevard. After returning from the crop walk, the youth prepared 197 family bags of rice and oatmeal to be distributed to families in need through AFAC. The crop walk and bags of grain increased the number of food items donated to AFAC from RELC to 559.

I shared with the youth a conversation I had with someone while leaving AFAC, after dropping off food from our challenge. The gentleman walked by and I asked how he was doing. His reply, "I am blessed." As I looked at his hands he was holding two bags of groceries that he had picked up from AFAC. I shared with the youth that if it weren't for our challenge, this man might not have had anything to hold. I love when we can share examples of how our small part can have such a huge impact. Many thanks to Edd Nolen for his HUGE PART in taking food down to AFAC.

The **youth sang** during the 11:00 service on November 20. Did you hear the angels sing? Alina Trimble led the youth in their singing. One of my favorite comments following the service regarding the youth was, "I have been praying for this."

Our **Family Night** was fantastic with our local, National Champion of Speed Stacking, William

Polly, entertaining everyone in our crowd. William is eleven and shared his passion with our youth. He gave tips on how to stack and he stacked against everyone who wanted to challenge him. When William stacked it looked as though the one stacking against him was just moving in slow motion. It was a GREAT night and some of the kids have asked if he can come back! I have a feeling some of the youth might also find some stacking cups underneath their Christmas tree this year.



What does December hold for us? Just another month filled with friends, fellowship and fun.

On December 16, will be our **Family Night** at 6:30pm. Join us for pizza and the new Veggie Tales movie, "The Little Drummer Boy." Selfishly I picked this movie for our event since it is new and I have not yet seen it. You are never too old to see a movie like this so I ask that you join us for an evening to celebrate Jesus.

On December 17, we will hold our **Christmas Potluck Festival**. This is an evening to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Musician and singer, Monte Leister will perform. Plan to enjoy great music, song and dance. Plans are underway for the youth to perform and we can't forget the birthday cake! **This is one birthday party you won't want to miss.**

On December 18, the **youth will sing** during the 11:00 service. Later that evening, we will have **caroling** and goodies. All youth and adults are welcome. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 6:00 and head out no later than 6:15. Upon our

Continued on page 4

From the Youth Christian Education Coordinator (continued from page 3)

return we will have goodies, hot chocolate, and memories that will last a lifetime.

On December 24, the **youth will bring up manger pieces during our 5:00 service.** We would like them to be dressed in character this year. Please let me know if you would be able to assist the youth in getting into costume prior to them carrying their piece up to the front.

On December 25, Tis the Reason for the Season. **Church service for all at 10:00 AM.**

There will be **no Sunday School or Word on December, 25 and January 1.**

On a personal note:

As this year comes to a close I'd like to thank all of you for taking the time to get to know the youth through the AFAC challenge, service projects, family nights and supporting them with their singing and various programs that they participate in. What a delight it is to see our youth actively engaging themselves through service and building relationships with our church family along the way.

With tons of love,

Angie Brooke

Announcements and Updates**Welcome Anteneh Gebresalassie!**

On Sunday, October 30, 2011 the congregation voted to call Anteneh Gebresalassie as the next Associate Pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church. We welcome Anteneh, his wife Sophie, and their two young children to Resurrection and look forward to his ministry with and among us. Anteneh, who will be ordained in Kansas in December, will begin his ministry at Resurrection on January 1, 2012.

RELC Welcomes New Members!

Michael Lieb and **Jessica Bender** were welcomed as members of RELC on Sunday, November 27. RELC is also happy to welcome **Natalie Grace Lieb, Katherine Ellington Leib, Claire Elizabeth Bender,** and **Vera Frances Grez** into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. They were also baptized on Sunday, November 27. We are so happy that they have all become a part of our church family.



Announcements and Updates

The Secret Santa Tree is Here!

Share your many blessings with those in need this Christmas! RELC is again sponsoring (as we do every year) four families in our own community who must count on the generosity of others for even the basics. Of course there are also cards that name some fun gifts too--everyone needs something fun at Christmas! The tree is loaded with cards you may pick from that list the sex and age of each recipient, along with a gift that would be greatly appreciated. You may pick a gift for an individual, for the family, or you can donate cash by taking one of the envelopes. The money will be used to purchase anything not donated, along with gift cards for food. When you pick a card, follow these easy instructions:



1. Take the top card with you.
2. Sign your name on the bottom card and leave it on the tree.
3. Wrap the gift you purchase.
4. Tape the top card that you took from the tree, make sure your name is on it, and tape it to the gift.
5. Place the gift under the tree when you return to church.

These gifts **MUST BE AT THE CHURCH BY DECEMBER 11!** The Sunday Circle will be sorting and delivering gifts that same day. This deadline is set by the organizations who give us the names and lists for the families, so there can be no exceptions. Many, many thanks for your generosity.

Save the Date: RELC Church Retreat April 13-15, 2012



Come Away on Retreat... with your church family. We had a fabulous time last year and would love for even more of our congregation to join us in exploring, praying, hiking, laughing, singing. Join us for a congregation-wide camping (heated cabins) and fellowship experience at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp in Fort Valley, VA. All are welcome. Food and lodging are included in the price of \$75 (ages 2-10) and \$100 (ages 11 and up). Contact Teri Deal by email or phone with questions: teri1jay@msn.com or 703-573-0025. More details to coming soon.

Announcements and Updates

Gifts of Hope



Gifts of Hope, the alternative gift giving program for the Metro DC Synod, is now available in the narthex. Alternative giving involves giving a symbol of a gift to one person, while the actual item goes to someone who needs the gift. For example, you would give a card that tells a person that a basket of books has been made available to homeless children as a *Gift of Hope*. This program enables us to purchase unique gifts which truly reflect the gift God gave us, His Son Jesus Christ. Last year Resurrection purchased \$1,400 worth of gifts to support Gifts of Hope. Let's help make our total this year even greater!

Christmas Potluck Brunch and Fair Trade Craft Fair

Everyone is invited to a potluck Christmas brunch hosted by the Sunday Circle in the parish hall on **Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 AM until noon**. Bring a breakfast dish (casserole, fruit, coffeecake, etc.) and enjoy the company of friends at this busy time of year. Eat up, sing carols and browse at our 2nd Annual Fair Trade Fair with crafts from around the world available for purchase—including some real bargains this year!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|----------------------|----|----------------|
| 1 | Joseph Handley | 15 | Katherine Eisenreich | 25 | Charlie Hughes |
| 2 | Christian Konstantinov | 16 | Michael Smith | 25 | Linda Wallen |
| 2 | Peggy Legg | 17 | Bob Deily | 26 | Craig Hall |
| 3 | Emmaline Hemmer | 18 | Winnie Biggio | 27 | Bill Lofgren |
| 5 | Brandon Rinker | 21 | Chris Dinan | 30 | Randy Brooke |
| 8 | Irene Williams | 22 | Ed Bouchard | 31 | Abigail Eckle |
| 8 | Owen Williams | 22 | Emma Koppelman | | |
| 15 | Tom Cooney | 23 | Jane Williams | | |

DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Steve Sapp | 16 | Rachel Sapp | 26 | Maggie Hirschberg |
| 2 | Noah Aldonas | 20 | Chris Duckworth | 28 | Hanna Gagelin |
| 4 | Paul Forest | 22 | Alyce Lovelace | 30 | Bob Deily |
| 4 | Laura Mortensen | 23 | Peter Gugel | 30 | Gay Mount |
| 5 | Betty Ratherdale | 26 | Kiersten Bergman | 30 | Michelle Stroberg |
| 9 | Anna McDonald | 26 | Liam Hadley | 30 | Diane Yeager |

DECEMBER STEWARDS

| | 12/4 | 12/11 | 12/18 | 12/25 |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Worship Assistant | Amy Feira | Jeanette Barkley | Carter Askren | Norm Phillion |
| Crucifer | Helen Chaale | Heidi Dech | Gary Mortensen | Patti Mugavero |
| Communion Assistants | Glen Mason Ted Mortensen Melody Zeigler | Alan Rinker Pam Olson Steve Sapp | Jeanette Barkley Randy Correll Glen Mason | Judy Hughes Debbie Howell Jeanette Barkley |
| Lector | Gay Mount | Jack Shoen | Kyle Glister | Pam Olson |
| Acolyte | Jamie Ehlers | Christian Konstantinov | Nolen Wine | TBD |
| Greeters | Doug and Teri Deal | Spike Caudle Leslie Nolen | Suzi Bohnert Pat Ickert | TBD |
| Church Lockup | Ted Mortensen | Don Hanson | Bill Bergman | Ron Bergman |
| Sunday Morning Closing | Juan Cuesta | Charlie Hughes | Ted Mortensen | Steve Sapp |
| Lead Usher | Maggie Mount | Maggie Mount | Maggie Mount | Maggie Mount |
| Usher Team | Lee Hanson Don Hanson Mimi Van Poole Marina Hoppe | Lee Hanson Don Hanson Mimi Van Poole Marina Hoppe | Lee Hanson Don Hanson Mimi Van Poole Marina Hoppe | Lee Hanson Don Hanson Mimi Van Poole Marina Hoppe |

DECEMBER 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 9:00 - 11:00 AM Clothes Closet 9:00 AM Christmas Brunch and Fair Trade Craft Fair |
| 4 Congregation Care Sunday 11:00 AM Advent Service of Lessons and Carols First Communion Sunday 12:15 PM Forum on the 2012 Proposed Budget | 5 7:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting | 6 | 7 7:15 AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel 7:30 PM Wednesday in Advent Christianity and Judaism Program in the Chapel | 8 Meals on Wheels 7:30 PM Congregation Council Meeting | 9 | 10 Steeple Light Deadline 9:00 - 11:00 AM Clothes Closet |
| 11 9:30 AM Adult Forum 12:15 PM Forum on the 2012 Proposed Budget | 12 7:30 PM Bible Study | 13 9:30 AM Pre-school Movement 10:00 AM Christian Service Group | 14 7:15 AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel 7:30 PM Wednesday in Advent Christianity and Judaism Program in the Chapel | 15 7:00 PM Evangelism Committee | 16 6:15 PM Family Night | 17 9:00 - 11:00 AM Clothes Closet 5:00 PM Christmas Festival and Potluck Dinner |
| 18 12:15 PM Finance Committee Stewardship Committee 6:00 PM Christmas Caroling | 19 12:00 PM Bible Bunch Christmas Play | 20 7:30 PM Property Committee | 21 7:15 AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel 10:00 AM Morning Circle | 22 12:00 PM Lunch Bunch | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 9:00 - 11:00 AM Clothes Closet 5:00 PM Family Service 11:00 PM Candlelight Service |
| 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Worship Service | 26 7:30 PM Bible Study | 27 10:00 AM Christian Service Group | 28 7:15 AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel | 29 Meals on Wheels 7:30 PM Book Club | 30 | 31 9:00 - 11:00 AM Clothes Closet |

Church Staff

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Scott Ickert | Senior Pastor | pastorscott@relcarlington.org |
| Dr. Roy Guenther | Organist and Choir Director | royeilchr@cox.net |
| Steve Black | Financial Secretary | finance@relcarlington.org |
| Carole Smith | Treasurer | carolesmith@his.com |
| Gay Mount | Administrative Assistant | office@relcarlington.org |
| Angie Brooke | Christian Education Coordinator | randy_angie@hotmail.com |
| Martha Foster | RELC Preschool | rlwp@copper.net |

Committee Chairs**Committee**

Altar Guild
 Book Club
 Choir
 Clothes Closet

Education
 Evangelism & Discipleship
 Finance
 Library
 Membership/Fellowship
 Memorials
 Mutual Ministry
 Personnel
 Property
 Resurrection Seniors
 Shawl Ministry

Social Ministry
 Steeple Light
 Stewards Scheduling
 Stewardship
 Usher Teams
 Worship & Music

Contact Person

Lyn Curran
 Tom Mugavero
 Roy Guenther
 Teri Deal
 Suzanne Tsitsibelis
 Kristin Wine
 Gary Mortensen
 Mark Linton
 Anita Nolen
 Tom Mugavero
 Sarah Linton
 Tom Van Poole
 Maggie Mount
 Ted Mortensen
 Mary Ellen Caudle
 Mary Lou Albert
 Becky Sapp
 Linda Wallen
 Jennifer Mitchell
 Becky Sapp
 Glen Mason
 David Zeigler
 Bill Betzold

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 zeigler.david@gmail.com
 onecretin@aol.com

Congregation Council

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Term Expires | January 2013 | January 2014 |
| January 2012 | Ron Bergman, Secretary | Gary Mortensen |
| Jeanette Barkley, President | Doug Deal | Gail Flatness |
| Chris Dinan | Leslie Nolen | Bret Howard |
| Jennifer Lindamood | Elaine Roeseler | Clark Person |
| Kerry Zbicz | | |

Upcoming Events at RELC

- Christmas Brunch and Fair Trade Craft Fair -- December 3
- Advent Service of Lessons and Carols-- December 4
- Steeple Light Deadline -- December 10
- Family Night -- December 16
- Christmas Festival and Potluck Dinner -- December 17
- Christmas Caroling -- December 18
- RELC Weekend Retreat -- April 13-15, 2012
- ELCA Youth Gathering -- July 18 -22, 2012

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
6201 Washington Blvd.
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