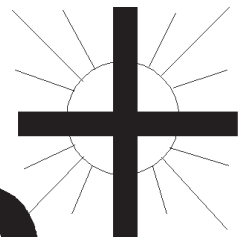


Sharing  
God's  
Abundant  
Love

# The Light

Community of Love Lutheran Church



December 2009

Sunday, December 20th:

## Experience the Advent/Christmas Season as Never Before

On December 20th we will be celebrating the "Hanging of the Greens" during the regular 9:30 am service. This will be done by Community of Love's Sunday School.

The Service will explain the different symbols of Advent & Christmas. After the Service you are invited to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Light refreshments will be served.

**But you also have a part in this Service.** During the Service, "gifts" will be brought forward. We are asking you to write an "act of kindness" you will do for someone. Put the "act of kindness" on the piece of paper and put the paper in an envelope. you may decorate the envelope if you wish. Bring your envelope to church by December 13th.

Thank you for helping with our presentation.



## Farming Our Land on 896

We were pleased to have received \$4132 for our corn this season thanks to the expertise and hard work of Gottlieb Strohmaier.

# Pastor's Perspective

## Our Best Gift

Our best gift is not a present but a presence.

I recently attended a clergy conference at which the subject of social capital was presented. One of the books quoted was *Bowling Alone*, by Sociologist Robert Putnam, Simon and Shuster, 2000. Here are a few of Putnam's findings.

- Between 1980 and 1993 individuals bowlers increase 10% but bowling leagues decreased by more than 40%
- In the mid-70s, Americans entertained in their homes 14-15 times per year. Now we only do so about 8 times a year.
- 25 yrs ago Americans went to an average of 12 club meetings per year. Now that figure is about 4 times a year.
- Church membership which had been in major decline from the 60s through the 70s seems to have leveled off, but members are attending worship less, joining fewer committees and participating in church activities less.

Many valid conclusions can be made concerning these findings, but the one I would lift up to all, particularly at this time of year, is the loss of social presence. We come to the manger all too frequently as individuals and not as communities. We prioritize our time and service with our own path in mind and do not often consider the gift of presence that we can both offer and receive and how important that gift is. A church half full singing is not the same worship experience as a full church singing. A committee of two does not have the same impact on the community and the world as a committee of eight might.

Your presence is a very important gift to all of us and I would urge you to not be stingy with your gift. This is not an effort to cause you to send your life into great chaos. No, I would suggest your presence is a greater gift when it is given freely and not begrudgingly.

God has given us the gift of presence in the form of a small baby who came to share himself with us. His gift of His presence has changed each of our lives in ways we may never fully understand, but in our hearts we know that this has been the gift of a lifetime.

'Tis the season for sharing. Won't you share yourself with us?

Have a blessed Christmas,

*Pastor Dan*

# Council

# Corner

Our finances are as follows:

We had a brief discussion about the objectives set for each Ministry during our January , 2009 Council Retreat. This list has been a part of our council meetings since the retreat. After a solid start, we have slowed progress in completing as many objectives as possible. In December each Ministry will summarize their progress and plans for the coming year to complete their objectives.

Budget items are due before next council meeting.

Annual Meeting reports are due January 1st

Stewardship schedule for November 22nd through the Congregational Meeting in January.

We gathered 42 Thanksgiving baskets together and distributed them as follows: 10 to hospice, 28 to Neighborhood Services, and 4 to people identified by those in our congregation.



## The Recipe Box

### **NANNY'S OATMEAL CAKE**

From the kitchen of Linda Hettinger

1 1/2 c. boiling water  
1 c. quick oats  
Pour water over oats and set aside to cool.

1 c. brown sugar  
1 c. white sugar  
1/2 c oil  
2 eggs  
Mix together.

Sift:  
1 1/2 c. flour  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt

Add to mix and mix in oatmeal. Bake in 13 x 9 inch pan at 350 degrees for 35-40 min. Frost with Penuche Icing.

### **EASY PENUCHE ICING**

1/2 c. butter  
1 c. brown sugar, packed  
1/4 c. milk  
1 3/4 c. sifted confectioner's sugar  
Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in brown sugar. Boil and stir over low heat 2 min. Stir in milk. Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Cool to luke-warm. Gradually add confectioner's sugar. Beat until thick enough to spread. If icing becomes too stiff, add a little hot water.



# The COL Calendar

**Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16, 7:00 PM: Faith Discovery (formerly known as Midweek Worship and Study):** Each week in Advent we will consider how people became aware and prepared for this special new relationship offered by God through the "Babe of Bethlehem." [Wednesdays 7:00PM]

**Mondays, December 7 and 21, 12:30 – 2:30 PM: Daytime Bible Study,** meeting at the home of Ed and Virginia Walter, 248 Azalea Lane, West Grove, PA. We are currently studying Fruit of the Spirit. We meet first and third Mondays of each month. Bring a sandwich, beverages and desserts are provided.

**Saturday, December 5th, beginning at 5:30 PM: Open House at the Milley's,** 1 McCormick Way, Lincoln University, PA. Come and join the COL family, as we gather for food, fellowship, and fun. Bring a toy to support our Silver Springs Martin Luther School toy drive.

**Saturday, December 12th, Christmas Caroling at Harrison House.** We will meet at the church at 3:00 PM, carol at Harrison House at 3:30, then return to the church for supper.

**Thursday, December 17th, WOW Christmas Gathering** at the home of Ed and Virginia Walter, 248 Azalea Lane, West Grove, PA. We will watch a Christmas movie and celebrate the season. Gifts of love and your presence only --- NO Pollyanna exchange this year.

**Friday December 18th and Saturday December 19th, Homemade Cookies with "Love".** Cookie bake and sale fundraiser

for the Emergency Fuel Fund at Neighborhood Service sponsored by Service to Others. Drop off homemade cookies at the church by December 18th for assembly and pick-up on the 19th.

**Sunday December 20th, during the 9:30 AM worship service: Children's Advent Celebration and Hanging of the Greens.** Will begin hanging the greens during this special service and will continue with a time of fellowship as we complete the task following the service.

**Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Services,** Please note the new times !!!

3:00 PM Family Service

8:00 PM Candlelight Service

We are trying to provide worship times that will accommodate most people's schedules and needs. The afternoon service is geared for young families, those who will be traveling in the evening, and those who do not like driving at night. I anticipate this service will be a very lively time. The evening service will be a traditional candlelight service. The Holy Eucharist will be a part of both of these services.

**Sunday December 27, 9:30 AM: a Service of Lesson and Carols.** One more chance to sing some great Christmas music.

**Sunday, January 3, following Sunday School, Chalking of the Doors .** We will celebrate Epiphany by gathering at the main entrance to homes or other establishments to ask God's blessing on the dwellings and on all who live or visit there. You may participate as a 'chalker', 'chalkee' or both.

# Don't forget our new times:

Christmas Eve Services  
3:00 pm & 8:00pm

## Community of Love Christmas Gathering

The Milley Family is again offering their home to host a Community of Love Christmas Gathering at 5:30pm on Saturday, December 5, 2009. As in the past unwrapped toys will be collected for distribution to the children of the Martin Luther School at Silver Springs.

Thank you for your caring outreach to others!!!

## ***Ladies of COL – Join us for a night of Christmas Fun!***

Join the Women of Worship (WoW) group as we celebrate the Christmas season at Virginia and Ed Walters' home at 6:30 p.m.

We ask that you bring an appetizer or dessert to share, but no gifts are needed! We are foregoing having a Pollyanna this year and enjoying each other's company instead.

Please RSVP by Monday, December 14 so we can plan accordingly.

Hope you can be a part of this fun filled evening!



## Thanksgiving Baskets Update

The Thanksgiving Baskets campaign was a HUGE success this year! We were able to put together 42 baskets that were delivered to COL family/friends,

## Birthdays *December & January*

Anita Anderson	12/01
Michele van Krieken	12/02
John Pollich	12/04
Tom Repetz	12/09
Ralph Petersen	12/10
Joyce Vasques	12/16
Kathryn Brandt	12/28
Janis Walker	12/29