



# The Illuminate

*A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church*

## Family of Christ Vision Statement

**Family of Christ** is a family of God where all are welcome as we worship and grow in spirit and in life by...



- ~ **Connecting the scriptures** with our Christian faith and life experiences
- ~ **Serving** and caring for our neighbors and communities
- ~ **Building** relationships between people of all ages and walks of life
- ~ **Transforming** our world by teaching love, grace, peace, and kindness
- ~ **Moving purposefully** into God's future

and we ask God to help guide us.

### *Pastor's Reflection*

*Who believes what we have heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this? Isaiah 53:1 As translated in "The Message"*

I really like this verse from Isaiah 53. It seems to capture the wonder, awe, and mystery of God's ambitious plan to save the world and set things to rights beautifully. Think about it. Who would have thought God would act as he does? That the same God that created, brought the flood, restored the earth, parted the sea and brought manna from the heavens would put aside all that power and come in poverty? Who would have thought God who is "totally other" would find a way to meet us in the depths of our humanity and abide with us there? Who would have thought it would take the

cross for the point of it to come to light? Who would have thought life could come out of death? Who would have thought...?

We usually talk about Advent as a season of waiting. We are waiting for the Christ child to be born anew in our lives. This is more than a

*Who would have thought  
God's saving power would  
look like this?*

seasonal slogan or platitude. It is an honest prayer. The Season of Advent reminds us that we await the ultimate Advent in the coming kingdom of God. For the past several Sundays, the scripture readings and gospel texts urged us to be on alert and ready, and we should. Perhaps one way we can

do that is to use a simple spiritual practice. I invite you to take time to deliberately contemplate the mystery with Isaiah. Daily prayerfully ask,

*Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this?*

Then, stop and look for the fingerprints of God around you.

It's not complicated, but I guarantee you will be blessed.

During the Season of Advent let us contemplate the mystery, embrace the wonder, and even submit our fears, questions and doubts to the infinite potential of life shaped by the reality of God incarnate.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,

*Pastor Kit*





### December Social Concerns



#### Baby Food

Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, it really does help our neighbors. Please place your donation in the marked basket by the sanctuary door. Thank you for your support.

### December 3, 10 & 17



#### Advent Soup Suppers and Worship Services

During Advent, our Wednesday Family Nights @ Family will continue with soup suppers from **5:00pm to 6:15pm** followed by Holden Evening Worship at **6:30pm**. (6:45 pm on Dec. 3rd) *See page 4 for the details.*

### December 6



#### Great Winter Coat Drive Give Away

Please donate your unneeded winter coats, warm clothing, & boots.

We will distribute them to anyone in need in our community on Saturday Dec. 6th starting at 9am.

### December 6th

Sugar Plum Fairy Tea at the Grant House  
Saturday Dec., 6 1- 3 pm  
\$30 adults, \$15 Children  
3 Course meal, tea, ballerinas

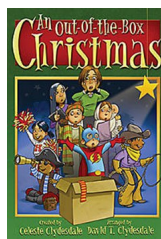


Sign-up in the family room or speak with Susan Dollinger, (360) 573-5031

### December 18

Our next Senior Lunch Bunch will be Thursday December 18 at 11:30 a.m. Watch the weekly bulletin for details.

### December 14



#### 'Out of the Box'

this years youth Christmas program will be performed Sunday December 14th at 4:00 followed by a Spaghetti Feed dinner to help support our FOC youth groups.



### December 20



#### Christmas Boxes Assembly 10 am

We'll meet in our Family Room to assemble the Christmas boxes for the deliveries to neighborhood families after worship on the 21st.

*See the details on page 6*

### December 20

#### The Longest Night

*A message of hope for those who experience grief and loss during the holidays...*

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm** (see page 3)



### December 24

#### Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

6 pm

8 pm

10 pm

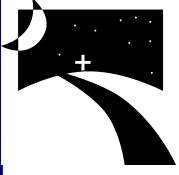


### December 28-31st

#### WHO at St. Paul



The sign up sheet for our shifts at St. Paul is on the board across from the Family Room door. The guys do all of the chores so it a very easy job but a very rewarding Christmas experience.

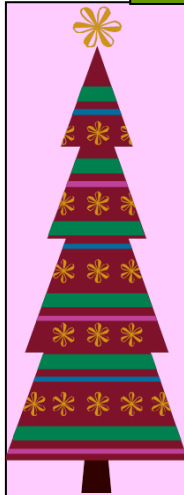


**The Longest Night** ~ A service of light in the shadows of darkness. A message of hope and an oasis of peace for those for whom the season is hard...**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm**

The holiday season fills every corner of the public square with trees flocked to the hilt, carols and holiday songs, Santa, and shouts of merry! It's a magical time. But for some of us, the holidays are hard. There is an empty chair at the table. Maybe we're far from family, or the family is under an extra measure of stress. Maybe you're longing to get back to basics. Whatever the reason, the holidays are tough and you just wish there was a little space to be honest about that. Sound familiar?

*The Longest Night service is that place.* This gentle candle lit service weaves our honest need with the sweet mystery of the babe of Bethlehem and the embrace of community that welcomes everyone just exactly as they are. If the holidays and traditional services are tough for you, or if you would welcome a gentle time, please join us.

## ADVENT FESTIVAL



**JOIN US FOR ADVENT FESTIVAL**

**Fun For Everyone!**

**WEDNESDAY**

**DECEMBER 3rd**

**6:00-7:00 PM**

**6:00-6:15 Christmas**

**Carols Sing-a-Long**

**6:15-7:00 Crafts for everyone**

**WEAR CHRISTMAS SWEATERS**

**And other Christmas attire**

**Ice Cream Floats**

**Soup Supper from 5-6:15**

**Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm**

### **Adult Education At Family**

**Sunday at 9:45**—join Pastor Kit in the Library as we continue our exploration of the writings of the Great Reformer, Martin Luther. During December we'll be looking at Luther's Large Catechism and the Book of Concord. Many of Luther's works are available for free online. Pastor Kit will provide some copies and links where you can find them.

#### **4 Small Group Bible Studies gather for study fun and fellowship!**

**Tuesday Morning at 10:00-11:30**—We laugh, share, and explore the depths of interpretation and meaning that help to connect the scriptures for Sunday to our lives and time. Pastor says this group helps her in the sermon department too! Come Join Us!

**Wednesday Night at 6:00**—*The Book of Faith Bible Study* led by Edie Dietzen and Linda Marousek is a thought provoking look at scripture in its context connecting it to our faith tradition and daily lives. Using The Book of Faith series of bible study materials by Augsburg Fortress (our ELCA publisher) the discussions are rich bringing lots of information about historical context, language, genre, and tradition that allows us to not only learn but to grow in understanding, community and faith.

**In Home Small Groups—Monday evenings** a mixed small group meets hosted by Jerre and Sharon Crisp. This group is using a wonderful study authored by Max Lucado. On **Wednesday afternoon** a women's small group is hosted by Donna Lucky using various materials and resources.



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS "FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY OF CHRIST" JOIN EXCITEMENT!!!**

**DURING ADVENT OUR WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY WILL HAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FORMAT! ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS WILL BE FROM 5:00-6:15 P.M., HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WILL BEGIN ON DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 6:45 DUE TO THE ADVENT FESTIVAL. DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup> HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WILL BEGIN AT 6:30P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY, CHOIR PRACTICE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS.**

Take the night off from cooking, and relax and enjoy the fellowship while you enjoy a hot dinner prepared by loving hands. **During Advent our Soup Suppers are Pot Luck—No Charge!!! A freewill offering for the sandwich "fixins" is appreciated.** After dinner, join in on one of the scheduled activities. There will be:



*Soup supper is from 5:00-6:15, activities begin at 6:00 p.m.*

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> Join the intergenerational Advent Festival with crafts and activities for the whole family. Little Christians and Route 56 classes will be on recess this night so families can participate in the Advent Festival.**

*On December 10 & 17th join us for:*

*Little Christians for children PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade is a night of lots fun, crafts, and fellowship from 6:00-7:00p.m.*

*Route 56 is our fun youth group for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth! Fun, service, and faith supporting conversations makes this an awesome time! We meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m.*

*Confirmation with Pastor Kit & Pam Ausman ~ brief class at 6:00, then it's off to the sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer*

*Bible Study with led by Edie Dietzen and Linda Marousek  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ 7:00--8:00P.M*

**Calling All Soup Chefs! Signup Sheets for Advent Soup Supper Pot Lucks on December 3, 10 & 17<sup>th</sup> are in the Family Room!**

**Family night, including Little Christians, Route 56, and confirmation is on Christmas recess the 24th and 31st and will resume Jan. 7th.**

# FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

**Friends of the Carpenter Craft Sale December 7<sup>th</sup>!**



Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> Friends of the Carpenter will be here at Family offering crafts for sale just in time to for Christmas! Items will range from small Christmas ornaments for just a few dollars to toys and wood artwork to major items like garden benches and nesting tables. Our purchases will help support the day shelter and caring ministries at Friends of the Carpenter. Tom Iberle, the new Director of Friends of the Carpenter will be with us at each service to share a greeting. Be sure to visit with Tom between services and learn more about what's happening at the other FOC!

***We don't slowdown in December here are FOC!  
We're busy sharing the love of Christmas with our neighbors!***

**Giving Tree** brings Christmas joy to 100 children in need in our community. Please return all Giving Tree items unwrapped with the tags attached to the church by **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.**



We are gearing up to staff the **Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) at St. Paul December 28<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>.** You'll want to sign up early! Can't volunteer but want to help? The grocery needs for the week will be posted on the wall outside the Family Room. Your help feeding our homeless neighbors will be a great help!

**"Gobble, Gobble"** it's time to get ready for the **Turkey Trot!** We'll be packing those boxes on Saturday, **December 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10 a.m.**



Volunteers will be needed to deliver holiday food boxes to our neighbors in need on **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>!** We will pick up our food boxes from the Family Room immediately following the 11:00 service.

That's just the tip of the iceberg! It takes everyone being connected and involved to keep the ministry of Family moving strong. So, if you have not connected to a ministry there's no time like the present! Get involved. You will be blessed!

# Preschool

MMM... MMM... MMM... The upstairs kitchen sure smelled good as our pies made by the children for our Pumpkin Pie and Popcorn feast were baking.

Baking is always a fun experience for the children at preschool. It exposes them to basic math concepts with the measuring and pouring of ingredients. This month their baking experience was making the pumpkin pies for our Pumpkin Pie and Popcorn Feast. They each got to invite 1 special guest to accompany them for our Thanksgiving activities and celebration on November 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Christmas Programs

Our Christmas programs are on Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 and again at 1:45 as well as on Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. It is always a joy to see the children perform. They will be singing a variety of Christmas songs, even a couple in Spanish.



## Preschool Date Night

We are looking forward to our first Date Night of the school year. On Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> Preschool will be hosting Date Night for friends and families of the congregation and preschool program. It is scheduled from 5-8 pm. We will be serving dinner, playing games and watching a movie. The cost is: \$ 15.00 for one child, \$ 25.00 for 2 children, \$ 35 for 3 children... This event is staffed with preschool teachers and high school students. This year we may even have a few middle school children helping.

## Breakfast with Santa

Miss Jackie has received her call from the North Pole letting us know that Santa is coming to Family of Christ. He is scheduled to arrive on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> around 9:00 and will be departing around 11:00. We will be serving pancakes and sausage for breakfast. There will be Christmas activities for the children to make and families will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa. Cost for breakfast: Adults: \$ 3.00, Children: \$ 2.00, Photo with Santa: \$ 5.00.



Merry Christmas from the Family of Christ Christian Preschool Staff



## Turkey Time Is Here!

As you read this Illuminate, we'll be gathering and freezing turkeys you've donated that were on sale around Thanksgiving. The storage shelves in the Family Room are piled high with canned foods and we're starting to mark the food "thermometer" created by Barbara Martin. This unique tool on the south wall will visually measure how many items we have for the Christmas dinners for needy families and how much more we need to reach our goal.



Now, what do we do with all the turkeys and food items you ask? **On Saturday, December 20 at 10 a.m. those folks who want to help fill the brightly wrapped boxes you see on our storage shelves, will meet and work until all are loaded with food** (boxes that is not folks). Then on Sunday December 21 right after second service, those people who will deliver food boxes will assemble near the freezer in the Family Room to get their turkeys and assigned boxes. If you can sign the clipboard on the food box shelves, that will help us know how many drivers to expect. The boxes are delivered to the needy families that afternoon. This is an event that brings Christmas joy to not only the families receiving dinner, but to those of us delivering. I hope this becomes a Christmas tradition for all of us.

## Another WHO Opportunity

We had a great time serving homeless families who were able to stay at St. Andrew the second week of November. Forty one people from Family of Christ took time out of their busy lives to volunteer evenings, over nights, or mornings with mostly smiles on their faces. The guests are very appreciative of having a warm, safe place to stay during the winter.

Now, we have the opportunity to relax a bit and serve at the men's shelter at St. Paul Lutheran downtown. from Sunday evening, Dec. 28 through Wednesday morning, Dec. 31. We will need approximately 25-27 people and since the space is small and work load very light (the guests do all the chores) it is a good place for volunteers who don't feel they can do the work in the big space at St. Andrew but would still like to help.

Training at St. Paul is offered every Sunday at 5 p.m. If you'd like to consider volunteering but have questions, please call Judy at 573-5120. The sign up sheet is on the wall next to the kitchen. Thank you in advance.

## WHO Report for November

During the week of Nov 9-16, the WHO program was staffed by folks from Family of Christ, the pre-school, and Bethel Lutheran Church. *First of all, huge thanks go to the volunteers, and everyone who donated groceries, or money for supplies and groceries, for the nearly 50 guests who stayed overnight each night.*

About fifty volunteers from FOC and the pre-school staffed the three shifts, in addition to those from Bethel. Enormous amounts of food were provided, laundry done, and many, many hours covered so that our neighbors could be warm and safe on those nights.

Judy Enders recalls one interaction with a small boy who showed her his drawing and told her it was Jesus. She asked if he goes to Sunday School, and he said no. She could tell he was a bit vague on who Jesus is. She said,

“Jesus is the reason we have Christmas!” And she could see the wheels turning in his head, making some new connections.

Families with numerous children from ages 3 – 14 stayed at WHO. The temps were the coldest we have had this fall, and guests were glad for new donations of warm clothing, along with the meals and warm beds. Guests were mostly quite cooperative, helpful, and willing to work within the rules of the program. Some machines gave volunteers special challenges, like the washer/dryer that wouldn't spin or dry towels, and the vacuum cleaner that blew out rather than drew in dust. The volunteers mostly rose above these difficulties and hospitality was still provided to all!

Our next volunteer week is Dec 28-31, at St. Paul in the men's shelter.

## Sunday School News

Our attendance at Sunday School has been wonderful and the children have been excited to come and learn what the day's Gospel lesson is. For grades Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grades, the children are following the Lectionary format which helps them to better understand what we are also learning while in church! Our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes have been starting their lesson journey in the Old Testaments. This gives them a solid understanding of the history of God's people and adds context to who Jesus is and why Jesus is so important.



We came together as one on November 23<sup>rd</sup> for our first Heifer International gathering, and the children learned a bit about this wonderful organization and how their offerings will help those who struggle all over the world. This time, we focused on the benefits of what llamas can bring to families. Llamas are hardy pack animals and they supply wool, hides, rope, candle fat and manure pellets for fuel. They are excellent guards for sheep and cattle! Our activities included making ponchos to remind them of the wool that comes from the llamas to help keep people warm. We also played "Leapin' Llamas with gunny sacks to remind the children that llamas are herd animals and like to stay together.



Our next Heifer International gathering will be February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to know more about this organization, we have some good information on our Sunday School bulletin board!

Our Sunday School children are excited to perform this cute Christmas musical for everyone on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. They have been learning and rehearsing under the direction of Pam Ausman and Teare Caton.

Following the performance, you are invited to a Spaghetti Dinner. All proceeds will help support our Youth & Family ministry. Come and support our children, we know you won't be disappointed!!

There are no classes December 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. We will resume back again on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of our teaching staff, we wish you and your family much Peace & Christmas love.....

~Cheri Herzog  
Sunday School Coordinator



### ***Head Um Up and Move Um Out~~The Christmas Roundup!***



**December 13<sup>th</sup>** we are off to the **Christmas Round Up from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the Clark County Saddle Club. We'll be bringing all those toys, undies and sock we've collected to kids in need in our community. There are lots of ways you can be involved. See the article in November's Illuminate. Let's stuff that box in the Family Room with lots of wonderful gifts for the kiddies!

Anyone who wants to volunteer for the event should contact Kim Koon by phone 721-8500 or email [ke59@hotmail.com](mailto:ke59@hotmail.com).

### **Confirmation Ministry**

*What is Confirmation? Confirmation Ministry is the two year faith formation and education process that begins in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade that leads up to our youth Affirming their Baptism on Pentecost Sunday.*

The first two months of this year on Wednesday nights we've been exploring the many different kinds of religions/faiths in our world and where we as Lutheran Christians hold common ground or differ in practice and understanding. We've even looked at a few non-Christian traditions.

These conversations help us to meet folks with whom we differ with respect and to grow deeper in our own faith. On Sunday mornings Pam Ausman has been exploring the formative stories of the Old Testament. It's amazing how these stories continue to connect to our human experience. Keep our Confirmation youth in your prayers as they continue on the journey toward making their Affirmation of Baptism.

## Centering Prayer?

“It is changing my faith and my life.” That is what I said to the Family of Christ Outreach Committee in 2007, when I asked them to sponsor an introductory workshop on Centering Prayer. We had more than twenty participants in that introductory workshop in May 2007, and Family of Christ has had a small Centering Prayer group ever since. But that introductory workshop was a long time ago, and we thought that new people might be interested in this practice of silent prayer, so we will offer the introductory workshop again, beginning with a session from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church on Saturday, February 21.

What is Centering Prayer? It is a silent prayer method, practiced for 20 minutes twice a day, that is meant to help us deepen our relationship with God. Here is how the teachers of Centering Prayer describe it:

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

Please consider joining us for the introductory session on Saturday, February 21. Questions? Call Linda Marousek at 425-466-4358.

## December Birthdays

1st Jerry Swan	14th Dale Wilken
2nd Josh Wuethrich	16th Diedrich Eisenbarth
3rd Natalie Hastings	16th Alex Terry
6th John Bearham	17th Sabrina Eisenbarth
7th Malena Groel	17th Chuck Roll
7th Allan Herzog	19th Chris Herzog
7th Bobbie Lardie	22nd Elizabeth Beck
7th Marilyn Wilken	25th Harold Broers
10th Lana Hobson	27th Stephen Herzog
12th Judy Enders	27th Gail Sieckman
12th Jackie Ochsner	28th Erin Marble
14th Jeff Collell	

## December Anniversaries

1st Ian & Teare Caton  
6th Chris & Cheri Herzog  
10th David & Laura Holmquist  
23rd Judy Enders & Dave Slocum  
26th Keith & Becky Lowery  
28th Dan & Ann Corlett

### **"Ring the Bells of Heaven...there is joy today, pealing forth the anthem of the free!"(.....a song written about us.....)**

"Ring of Joy" has 5 youth and 3 supportive adults. We are building skills and will be ringing in worship again soon! There is room for more. It's not just about the music. It's about growing our young people in faith and life! Through bells, our youth learn fast, ask great questions, watch directions and become a part of the team. Our adult ringers are great mentors, helping our youth grow into great ringers. What teamwork! Everyone is welcome! "Ring of Joy" is ringing for the Christmas Eve 6 pm service. We are already making plans for after Christmas, as we learn more techniques and more music to share. It makes me smile when folks call me a "ding-a-ling," I invite you to join us as we "ring in God's praises!"

**"Exultation Ensemble"** has EXCITEDLY added Gail Sieckman to the ensemble of Jeanne Downing, Debbie Broers, Evelyn Kinder, Lorraine Gonzalez, and Sandie Beems. A full 2 octave choir needs 8 ringers (only 2 to go); 3 octave choir needs 11 ringers; and (my dream) 5 octave choir will have 14+. Gentlemen there's a part for you with the big bells! "Exultation Ensemble" will ring soon and for the Christmas Eve 8:00 service. Join the fun and become one of God's Musicians!!!!!!

Your faithful "Ring Leader", C. Sue Lincoln







## Help for suicide prevention and awareness

Mental Health Ministries at [www.mentalhealthministries.net](http://www.mentalhealthministries.net) states that more than 36,000 people in the United States die by suicide every year and that it is the country's 10th leading cause of death. Among youth aged 15-24, suicide is the third leading cause of death. Older men (60+) die by suicide at a rate that is more than seven times higher than that of older women; the rate for white males aged 85+ is over four times higher than the nation's overall rate of suicide.

While suicide may affect some age groups and racial/ethnic groups disproportionately, it is a devastating mental health issue that cuts across all ages, socioeconomic statuses and cultures in every community. The tragedy and impact spreads beyond the victim to their families, friends, school, surrounding communities and further.

In addition to the many resources that Mental Health Ministries provides, Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry directs people to resources at [www.elcaspn.org](http://www.elcaspn.org) that can help the church to lift up this important ministry. Through the initiatives of this independent Lutheran organization, the hope is to help ELCA congregations talk about suicide and mental illness, create synod task forces that build awareness and reduce stigma, encourage and help establish seminary based educational programs on mental illness and suicide prevention, develop sources of help for rostered leaders, and provide documentation on suicide. Jerry and Elsie Weyrauch, members of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, Ga., founded this ministry after losing their daughter to suicide.

overall purpose is to call attention to and take action on the goals of the ELCA messages "Suicide Prevention" and "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness," both available as free downloads at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org). They also encourage people to download and use the congregational study guide for the ELCA message on mental illness. This study guide helps leaders to move congregations into discussions on the messages and ultimately take action. "The most important thing the church can do is to live out its call as the body of Christ," states the ELCA message on mental illness. That is what we do together as the church when we lift up suicide prevention, talk openly with one another and care for people at risk of committing suicide or survivors of suicide victims.

"Reprinted from **Seeds for the Parish.**"

Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry's

## FRIENDS of the CARPENTER

Presents a Fundraiser Concert  
Christmas with Jim Fischer & Friends  
Saturday Dec. 6th, 2014

Two shows: 3 pm & 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church  
4300 Main St., Vancouver 98663

Special guest appearances by:

Northwest Harmony Chorus  
King's Way Christian High School  
Holiday entertainment for the whole family!

Tickets: \$15 Advanced, \$20 Day-of-concert

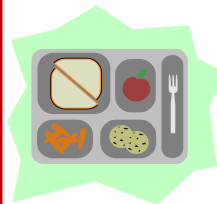
For ticket and information call: (360) 750-4752

[www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)



Quilters meet every first Wednesday at 10 a.m. Thank you to Betty Parry (pictured) for donating a quilt for our raffle last month. Congratulations to Cleo Norcia for winning the quilt! Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 3rd.

## Million Meals



At the time of this printing we have donated enough funds to provide 1,580,743 meals.



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

# ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

## Holy Land: Recent Israeli land declaration hinders peace, Bishop Eaton says

Saying such actions by Israel "reinforce despondency among the Palestinian people, limiting optimism that a political solution will be found," ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton commended the Obama administration for urging the Israeli government to reverse its recent declaration as "state land" 988 acres in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7704](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7704).

## Sierra Leone: ELCA synod responds to Ebola outbreak

"Our hearts have broken as we have heard stories of the spread of the disease," said ELCA Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod Bishop Kevin Kanouse. In response, the synod has raised more than \$85,000 to provide aid to the synod's companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. See [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/61](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/61). Learn about ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's letter to West African Lutheran leaders at [www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/59](http://www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/NewsBlog/59).

## Toss the "Third World" label?

Is the often-used term useful or accurate in today's global community? Austin Propst, ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission country coordinator in Madagascar, says it's neither useful nor accurate. See [www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2014/10/141021-Majority-World-not-Third-World](http://www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2014/10/141021-Majority-World-not-Third-World).

## Mission of the Month: Training global church leaders in Hong Kong

The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong trains leaders who serve throughout Southeast Asia, China and even in Europe. Share this inspiring story with your congregation. For a colorful Word document to display on a bulletin board or use in a newsletter or PowerPoint presentation, visit [www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch](http://www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch).

## December Serving Schedule

	December 7		December 14		December 21		December 28
	8:30	11AM	8:30	11AM	8:30	11AM	Only one 10 am
Greeters	Dave & Karen Yankee	Jim & Alina Staub	Bill & Bev Wagner	Sandra Farrell	Dale & Marilyn Wilken	Chris & Cheri Herzog	Jerry & Edie Dietzen
Ushers	George & Carol Hoffman	Tom & Sandi Sandeen	Rick & Jackie Ochsner	Andrew Ness/ Kim Koon	Les & Beth Stark	Gary Endresen	Jerry Dietzen
Acolytes	Kylie Terry	James Hastings	Dylan Terry	Diedrich Eisenbarth	Charlie Cameron	Valerie Patterson	Christien Born
Assisting Ministers	Linda Marousek	Susie Caton	Neal Adolf	Neal Adolf	Pam Ausman	Ian Caton	Gail Sieckman
Cantors	Randy Osborn	Susie Caton	Neal Adolf	Neal Adolf	Pam Ausman	Ian Caton	Dale Wilken
Readers	Jennifer Beems	TBD	Brian Hanneman	Dale Wilken	TBD	Pam Ausman	Ian Caton
Communion Hosts	Les & Beth Stark	Jim & Carol Collell	Al & Pat Doud	Marilyn Wilken	Brian & Jeri Hanneman	Ian & Teare Caton	Harold & Debbie Broers
Coffee Hour	McKabe & Amy Karcher	Debbie Broers/ Evelyn Kinder	Colin & Alice Huff	Andrew & Carolyn Ness	Dale & Betty Perry	Herzog Family	Rachel Nelson
Altar Flowers	Evelyn Kinder		Kathy Slabicki		Christmas Poinsettia's		