



ARE WE THERE YET?

Is it Christmas yet? Oh yes! says our contemporary culture. Look at all the decorations in the streets, look at all the lights in the trees, listen to all the songs on the radio! No, not quite! says our Lutheran tradition. It is still Advent.

What is Advent? Advent is a season all its own, with its own mood and purpose and with many wonderful gifts which we might easily miss. It is a season of waiting, watching, and joyful expectation.

I am fortunate to have been raised in a home where Advent was embraced and observed as a special time of the year, a time of mystery, magic, and suspense. During Advent we children were taught about waiting. Waiting does not come easily. We live in a very impatient culture, and waiting has to be taught and learned. Fortunately, there were many activities which made the waiting interesting and fun. We had an Advent-Calendar which helped us count down the days to Christmas. Beginning with the first day of December, each morning we could open a small gift from the Advent Calendar - a tiny celebration that we had come one day closer to Christmas. Then there was the Advent wreath with its four candles, one for each Sunday in Advent: "First one, then two, then three, then four... and then the Christ-Child at the door" we learned to recite. Then there were the many beautiful Advent Songs, expressing our longing to welcome the birth of the Savior. We also spent some of the long, gray winter afternoons making ornaments, baking cookies, and making homemade gifts. Advent also meant reaching out to neighbors. Our church provided a list of homebound people and then groups of children went to visit them and to sing carols and bring a small gift. And so, in all these many ways we children learned that waiting was more than passing time, or even "killing" time. It was an engaged time, a holy time, filled with meaningful activities.

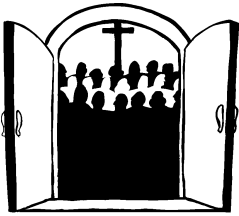
Finally, on Christmas Eve, the Christmas Tree appeared - as if by magic. At least this is how it seemed to us children. My parents had some secret tricks to hide the tree from us until the last minute. Finally we were allowed to enter the dark room in which the candles (yes real candles!) of the Christmas tree shone their magic light. And then - and only then! - it was Christmas: The holy night when we celebrate the birth of the Savior, the most special night of the year, a night which was surely worth waiting for.

I wish all of you a very blessed and holy Christmas in whatever tradition you and yours celebrate Christ's birth.
Pastor Bea



NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The Natural Church Development (NCD) Team will be meeting December 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome to join the discussion as we continue to discern the next phase of our congregation's calling. To learn more or provide additional input, contact Theo Olson at tjo_range@yahoo.com.



Congregational
MEETING

RESULTS OF NOVEMBER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our November 7th congregational meeting, we elected five members to serve on our congregational council. Chelsea Mathis, Michael Flanagin, Peter Moen, and Wanda Roszel were elected to serve from January 1st, 2011 to December 31st, 2013. Linda Sparling was elected to fill the seat vacated by Dorothy Crum, with a term ending December 31st, 2012. Please take a moment to thank them for stepping up to this important work.

At that same meeting, we also discussed the draft of the proposal for our 2011 budget. This proposal is still a work in progress.

Finances will be tight, and the council needs your input on ways to increase giving, reduce expenses, and to get the most out of our expenditures. The draft is available online at http://cgs-plan.home.mindspring.com/2011_Budget/ If you do not have internet access and would like to obtain a paper copy of the current draft, please contact the church office.

COMING SOON: THE ANNUAL REPORT

It's time to start gathering your thoughts for the annual report.

If you lead a Ministry or a Committee, please take a few minutes to write down this year's major accomplishments and challenges, and your plans for next year. Please send your input to the church office. To reduce costs, the annual report will be made available electronically via the congregation's website in time for the January annual meeting. If you do not have internet access, please contact the church office if you would like to sign up to receive a printed copy.



ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 23RD, 2011

Our Annual Meeting will be on January 23rd, 2011 in the Great Hall, starting at 11:30 a.m. There are currently five major items on the agenda:

- 1) Ratification of the constitutional amendment approved at our June 6, 2010 congregational meeting, moving the election of the treasurer to the same meeting as the election of council members;
- 2) Approval of the congregation's 2011 budget;
- 3) Election of six members to serve a single one-year term on the Nominating Committee;
- 4) Election of one lay male and one lay female member to attend Synod Assembly and similar gatherings;
- 5) Election of a treasurer.

If you are interested in any of the elected positions, please contact any member of the congregational council for more information.

Randy



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We have been asked by the Lord's Pantry at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church to provide gifts for six year olds (25 girls and 25 boys) this Christmas Season. During the year the Lord's Pantry provided food for 35 to 60 low income families a day. Every year they provide food for many families at Christmas and in addition to this they make an effort to have a gift for their clients' children from newborn through 13 years of age. Many of the families are referred to them from Second Harvest food bank. If you would like to take part in this project you can take a card off our Christmas giving tree in the narthex and bring a new **unwrapped** toy or game for a boy or girl as indicated and place it under the tree. The dead line for the gifts will be **Sunday December 19**. If you would like to donate some food also the following are the items needed:

Cranberry sauce, Canned pumpkin, Evaporated milk, Pkg. gravy mix, Stuffing mix, Stove top dressing, Canned broth, Canned sweet potatoes, Canned fruit and vegetables

Food items can be placed under the tree also.



2ND MILE GIVING FOR NOVEMBER IS PLTS

Welcome to PLTS, a faith and learning community dedicated to excellence in theological education for developing leaders for the church in the world. Our beautiful location, dynamic faculty, cutting-edge curriculum, closely-knit community, and membership in the Graduate Theological Union provide a unique setting for wrestling with issues of Christian faith, discipleship, and the communication of the Gospel to a world in need of truly good news.

PLTS is an inclusive community and offers hospitality to all who participate in our programs of study. As disciples of Christ committed to public leadership among God's people in diverse and challenging cultural contexts, we eagerly learn from and welcome one another's diversity, including, but not limited to, theological perspective, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, relationship status, age, physical ability, social and economic status and sexual orientation.



POINSETTIAS BENEFIT “RAISE THE ROOF” NOVEMBER 28 THRU DECEMBER 26

Each year, it is our custom to give a monetary gift, in lieu of buying a live poinsettia. For those of you unfamiliar with our previous years of purchasing live poinsettias, we went “green”, literally, with a one time purchase of potted silk poinsettias that do not require an annual monetary expenditure, delivery, watering, dusting or disposing of dying poinsettias after Christmas. Thus, going green allows a welcome opportunity to put the use of silk poinsettias to a very good cause. This Advent season, our annual poinsettia gift will benefit “Raise The Roof”.

Beginning Sunday November 28 through Sunday, December 26, you may make a donation of your choice by hanging a poinsettia gift card on the barren “green” silk tree and filling out the donor information. Your gift will be given in memory of or in honor of whomever you designate on the back of the poinsettia gift card. Checks should be made out to CGS Raise The Roof and placed in the “GOD BLESS YOU’ box provided. On Sunday, January 2, 2011, a list of the loved ones so honored by the donors will be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

At this particular time in our Church season, it is apparent that with the many property projects that need funding, it is very appropriate for us to contribute to “Raise The Roof”. Raise The Roof originally began when we really needed to do just that. The Great Hall roofing was financed with the first Raise The Roof. This is probably Raise the Roof #3 or #4, even though we do not need another roof at this time. It is said, charity begins at home and CGS is our Church Home!

Mary Baechler and Janet Keeley



SILICON VALLEY GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Please allow me to introduce myself: I'm Shawn Reifschneider, Artistic Director of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus (SVGMC) and Music Director of the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo. As a holder of a Master of Divinity degree, I know what a special time of year this is for many of our congregations.

At this time, I would like to extend a personal invitation to you, your friends and family to attend the next SVGMC concert entitled “A Merry Little Christmas.” The chorus and I want to celebrate with you the upcoming holiday season in song. Our program spans a wide spectrum of holiday favorites and is guaranteed to move and inspire you with an unforgettable experience of unity and harmony.

Please join us for “A Merry Little Christmas” on December 10 and 11 at 8 pm and December 12 at 3 pm at Christ the Good Shepherd church at 1550 Meridian Avenue, San Jose. You may visit our website for more details www.svgmc.org

ADVENT CALENDAR

December 5—Second Sunday in Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service including "Meet St. Nicholas"
 December 12—Third Sunday in Advent
 10:00 AM Worship Service with celebration of Santa Lucia and Our Lady of Guadalupe
 12:30 PM Children's Violin Concert followed by Advent Tea
 December 19—Fourth Sunday in Advent
 10:00 AM CGS Sunday School presents "The King's Birthday"
 3:00 PM German Advent Worship, Advent Crafts and Advent Tea

Celebrate Christmas Eve at Christ the Good Shepherd



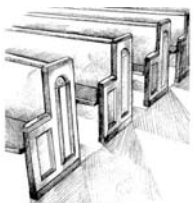
3:30 PM Family Service in German
 5:00 PM Family Service in English
 11:00 PM Candlelight Service

Stay for refreshments after the services

← COME AND SEE →
 ALL ARE WELCOME

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 408-266-8022
www.cgslc.org
 find us on facebook





News from the Pews **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

I am very sad to inform you that Richard Mason, a long time member of Christ the Good Shepherd has died last night, Tuesday, November 17, 2010. He had struggled very bravely to recover from a serious surgery. Please keep in your prayers his wife Barbara and his children Rick (with Margaret and Chloe) Dawn (with Dianna). He was inurned in the CGS Columbarium November 22nd.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

On Reformation Sunday Oct 31, 2010 a group of amazing you new members joined CGS. I am still in the process of getting to know them, and I am impressed by the wealth of life experiences and passion they bring with them. Pastor Bea

Henry Melvin Mack (Mel) and LaVerne Mack

Mel and LaVerne have been active church members in various faith communities. They have been visiting CGS since this summer. Both are willing to help with mailing and are available to cook for special events.

Michael Flanagin

He was born in Maine, and moved with his family to the Bay Area in 1971. He has also lived in Eugene (OR), Denver (CO), Tacoma (WA), and Dublin (Ireland, for work). He is a Project Manager at ADP, which is most commonly known for providing payroll solutions. He loves to sing, and has participated in church choirs, university choirs (he attended Pacific Lutheran University for one year), men's choirs, and gospel choirs!

His Lutheran heritage started with his mother, who attended a Lutheran Church after she was married because it was the closest church to her house. Michael has been on 4 mission trips: 1 to Germany and Austria, and 3 to Argentina, where he was part of a music group that ministered to local churches in the La Plata area.

Michael is interested in genealogy, and has traced several lines of his family back to the mid 1600's, when they emigrated from Europe. Two family lines were of the earliest settlers in Maine! He enjoys reading, and also spends a lot of time on his computer.

Michael has already begun to share his many gifts with the congregation. He serves on the worship and music committee and has recently been elected to the church council.

Gregg Zigler

After completing college in his home state of Indiana in 1984, Gregg moved to San Jose and has lived here ever since. For more than 20 years, he has earned a living by writing computer programs and by giving coworkers hints on how to do the same. For fun, he enjoys singing and dancing and acting on stage. Gregg says he used to be proficient at meditation and thinks "rereading favorite authors like Eckhart Tolle and attending Taize services would be good for me".

Richard Wooden

Richard was born in Colorado and taught high school for 4 years in a suburb of Denver before moving to Great Falls Montana where he worked as a high school counselor. He was married in Montana and had two children before he "fully understood" his sexual orientation. He remains close with his former wife and his two children and three grandchildren. Richard moved from Los Angeles to Campbell two and a half years ago in order to be close to his daughter and her three children. He is retired and volunteers at the Billy DeFrank Center.

He was raised as a Baptist, and while in Los Angeles served as an acolyte in an Anglican Episcopal Church. He especially enjoyed the services at St. Thomas in Hollywood. He was pleased to find CGS because of its friendly accepting atmosphere.

Richard enjoys movies, theater, reading, and some sports. Two fairly recently read books that have had a profound effect on him are "The Soloist", by Steve Lopez ; and "A Child Called It" and "The Lost Boy", both by Dave Pelzer.

Rosy McCloskey

Rosy moved to San Jose from Philadelphia in 1981. She likes to sing, paint, garden and read. She is learning Italian and hopes to travel to Italy in the future. One of her favorite activities at CGS is Mission Mouse Club. She has also joined the choir and is helping with the children's ministry.

Lynne Sagan (joining as associate member)

Lynn was raised in Wisconsin, lived in Kansas City for 10 years. She moved to the Bay Area when she graduated from College in '92. Her former career has been a High-Tech Equipment Systems Engineer, and now she is running her own business for Online Marketing and Business Consulting. Her hobbies and interests include the outdoors, cooking, movies, horseback riding, and now working out. One of her favorite places to go is Yosemite. People who inspire her are John Maxwell, Seth Godin, funny books (she says she needs a mind break from time to time) and her coach. She is a graduate of US Space Camp - which she says makes her a "Certified Space Cadet in more ways than one".

Chelsea Mathis

In September, 2009 Chelsea moved to San Jose from her home town of Monroe, Michigan after spending a year with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Jerusalem and the West Bank. She is passionate about traveling and hopes to someday explore more of the Middle East. Chelsea has been playing the bassoon for 12 years and currently plays with the Foothill College Symphonic Winds Ensemble. She is a proud alumna of the University of Michigan (Go Blue!) and is the marketing and outreach coordinator at Hospice of the Valley, a non-profit end-of-life care provider. Chelsea has an interest in Interfaith work and Peace and Justice issues and has begun to serve on the Social Action Committee. She has also recently been elected to the church council.

