

JULY 2011



NATIVITY NOTES

**Lutheran Church
of the Nativity
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PASTOR'S COLUMN

On Sunday June 26th we held a very important congregational meeting in which two items of business were discussed. I want to thank everyone who stayed after church for the meeting. It was by far the largest attended congregational meeting since I have been here.

The first item of business was to discuss and vote on whether or not we would allow Lakeside Family Life Church to use our facilities for their worship services, Bible studies and other events. After some discussion and wonderful questions raised, the vote was 58-6 to allow them to use our facilities. I have been in contact with Pastor Daryl Sheard since the meeting and we have a signed contract and deposit in hand. The first Sunday they will use our sanctuary will be July 17th. **Therefore, starting Sunday, July 17th, our service will be starting at 10:00am.** Please mark your calendars for the change in time.

Pr. Sheard and I are excited about the opportunities this will provide for both of our congregations. We are looking at this arrangement more as a way to share ministry as opposed to two separate worshipping communities that are only sharing space. We have already talked about combining our efforts for things such as a Christmas program in December, VBS for next year, working together with mission opportunities within Austell and west Cobb, having our youth join together for occasional events, and of course some joint fellowship events. We both welcome any ideas you may have for how we can be better servants of Christ together in our community.

The second item of business was the discussion and vote concerning our joining Lutheran Core. I was very appreciative of the questions and concerns that were raised and the lively discussion we had, after which the vote was taken and was approved by 56-8 for us to join Lutheran Core. I want to assure those persons who feel that this was not a strong enough decision concerning our relationship with

the ELCA that we will continue to study, evaluate, and discuss this matter. I appreciate those who attended the question/answer discussion led by Pr. Justin Kollmeyer the week before our congregational meeting. One of the phrases that I took away from that meeting was “finding the church body that is the best fit” for Nativity. I believe that it is important that we think not of changing church body affiliation because we are moving away from the ELCA, but that we are studying and evaluating the possibility of changing our church body because we are moving towards something better. If we can create that kind of mindset, then whatever the outcome, it will be because we have found the best fit for Nativity.

Thank you for your participation in these discussions, the meetings we had in leading up to the vote of Lutheran Core, and for all you do as servants of Christ in our community. May God continue to bless us as we move forward in the direction that Christ is leading us.



God Loves You and So Do I!
Pastor Dena

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, 7/9 - Men's Breakfast

Mon, 7/11 - Discipleship Committee Meeting

Sun, 7/17 – Worship time moved to 10:00 AM
Lakeside starts worship @ 11:45 AM

Sun, 8/7 – Church cook-out at the Virchow's

MINUTES EXCERPTS

Excerpts from the June 12th Special Called Council Meeting:

1. Council passed a motion to amend the June 26th Congregational Meeting Agenda to vote on sharing the facilities with Lakeside Family Life Church and to adjust our service times.
2. Council passed a motion to allow Lakeside Family Life Church to use our facilities in July if the Congregation did not approve a rental arrangement- to allow them time to find alternative accommodations.

Excerpts from the June 20th Council Meeting:

1. Expenses are continuing to exceed contributions by approximately \$250 – 300 per week.
2. A congregational picnic and pool party will be held August 7th at the Virchow's after church.
3. Council is planning on August 20th for their annual Council Retreat.

Mark Boyer
Council Secretary

BIRTHDAYS



Isabelle Heidt Harris	07/01
Barbara Barr	07/02
Julia Boland	07/04
Larry Jackson	07/04
Richard Welch	07/07
Jim Feltman	07/09
Evelyn Feltman	07/09
Brian Culpepper	07/11
Kathy Friton	07/20
Judy Willis	07/22
Isabelle Dundee	07/27
Bob Culpepper	07/29

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's group will meet the second Saturday of the following month, **August 13th**.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



-MUST Ministries Summer Lunches-

Nativity will again be participating in MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program for children in need. We will be assembling **100** lunches after church on the following Sundays:

- **July 17th**
- **July 31st**

The menu will be a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an apple (or other fruit item), a bag of chips and a juice box. Donations of chips, juice boxes and loaves of bread would be greatly appreciated. Please see the poster in the fellowship building for needed items.

Please join us on lunch assembly days!

Heather Boyer

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Handbells Ringers Needed!

Martellato, pluck, damp, echo, shake, thumb damp, mart lift, mallet, swing, four-in-hand – what do these words mean? Both the HiLites and the Rudisill Memorial Handbell Choirs are looking for additional ringers to join them for the Fall Season. Join us and you can learn the meaning of all these and more!

Anyone from 3rd grade through adult is welcome in the HiLites Handbell Choir. No experience is necessary – we will train! Music stays at a relatively easy level.

High school and up with some music experience? We have a spot for you in the Rudisill Memorial Handbell Choir. Music is at a more advanced level, and we enjoy incorporating different techniques and other instruments in our music.

Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings starting August 21st. (Commitment to regular rehearsal attendance is expected.) Contact Judy Willis at the number listed in the directory this month if interested.

Also look for our Facebook Page – “Handbells of Lutheran Church of the Nativity – Austell”, and become a fan!

YOUTH MATTERS

NATIVITY LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP
OUR PRESENT+OUR HOPE+OUR
FUTURE

National Youth Gathering

Thank you to all who stayed after church June 12th to have your car washed

by the youth, and to those who offered a donation to them. For their effort, \$150 was raised. Thanks!

The next youth fundraiser will be a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, July 13th. The dinner will start at 5:30 and then there will be a short worship service following the dinner, starting at around 6:30. Please come out and support our Youth.

The purpose of these fundraisers is to raise the necessary amount for them to attend the National Youth Gathering in July 2012. Registration opens in early October at which time we will have to submit a deposit of \$150 per person attending. The total cost for the trip will be around \$1000/person. We have applied for scholarship assistance with the gathering, but we will not know if we have received any scholarship funds until the time of registration in October. At the present time we have 4 youth and 1 chaperone planning to attend. We are looking for a male chaperone who will also make the trip. Including the money from the car wash, there is approximately \$900 in the youth fund. Therefore you can see the need for the youth to have many different fundraisers between now and June 2012. I encourage you to consider prayerfully how you may be able to support our youth throughout the next year. Remember to save your aluminum cans and bring them to church. The money from recycling these will go to the youth. If you have any creative ideas for raising money, please speak with Pastor or Tina.

Thanks for your support!

OTHER NEWS

-VBS-

Pr. Dena sends a big **THANK YOU** to all those who worked hard to make our "Jungle Adventure" a success: Andy Doyle, Charlotte Beyerlein, Elizabeth Eskildsen, Maylene Dundee, Deloris Poss, Becca Childers & Nick Dundee . These persons put in several hours before VBS and were the persons who worked very hard during the 5 days of VBS. I also extend my appreciation to Richard Welch and Evelyn Feltman for their contributions to the decorations. I especially extend a huge amount of gratitude to **Lisa Hibler** for all that she did. She worked many hours securing the needed personal, designing and assembling the decorations for transforming the fellowship hall into a Jungle, and for making sure things ran smoothly during the 5 days of VBS. She had many helpers along the way, but also contributed many hours by herself. She was definitely the queen of this VBS. Please extend your thanks to her as well.

Cook-out

Save the date of August 7th. There will be a Church Cook-Out Picnic after church at Don and Shirley Virchow's home:

See your church directory or call the church office for their address.

Hamburgers and dogs will be ready by 1:00 P.M. A collection will be taken to cover the cost of the meat. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. There will be fun for the entire family. Bring your swimsuit and towels and favorite game or cards for fun for every age.

Please plan to attend and enjoy the fellowship with your church family. See Carl or Joyce McGourk for further details.

HAPPY 4th of JULY!



Nativity Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dena Lane

Organist/Pianist: Rebecca Sale

Director of Children's Music: Amelia Eskildsen

Custodian: Elizabeth Eskildsen

Newsletter Editor: Becca Childers

Director of Music: Judy White

Director of Handbell Music: Judy Willis

Sunday School Superintendent: OPEN

Office Administrator: Deidre Eskildsen

Youth Enablers: Tina Palm and Josh Lade

Director of Chancel Choir: Jackie Pope

Webmaster: Judy Willis

Council President: Ken Lade; Co-Treasurers: Hyacinth Carpenter & Heather Boyer; Financial Secretary: Marie Leiding; Secretary: Mark Boyer

Council Members: Ken Lade, Andy Doyle, Richard Welch, Amelia Eskildsen, Liza Childers, Basil Dundee, Carl McGourk, Warren Kriss

**Check out our church website which is continually updated:
www.nativity-ga.com**

NATIVITY'S VISION VERSE

***Psalm 25:4-5a: "Show us your way, O Lord, teach us your paths;
guide us in your truth and teach us."***