

MAY 2011



# NATIVITY NOTES

**Lutheran Church  
of the Nativity  
2450 Clay Road  
Austell, Georgia 30106**

Office: 770.941.9347  
Fax: 770.573.0380  
WEB: [www.nativity-ga.com](http://www.nativity-ga.com)  
Email: [Office@nativity-ga.com](mailto:Office@nativity-ga.com)

## PASTOR'S COLUMN



Greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus!

In the past couple of weeks, we celebrated and rejoiced in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On our behalf, Jesus willingly went to the cross to redeem us from sin

and death. *"Greater love has no one than this shown that he lay down his life for his friends"* (John 15:13). With the suffering and agony of the crucifixion, Jesus has *"destroyed the devil's work"* (1 John 3:8). In his resurrection, he has given us victory over sin and death. Alleluia, he is Risen!

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, Paul wrote, *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures . . ."* (verse 3). The focus of chapter 15 is on Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of the dead. Paul concludes chapter 15 in verse 58 with the word "therefore." "Therefore" links Jesus' resurrection to our need to be about his work. *"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord . . ."* "Therefore" is the link from knowing to doing. In light of Jesus' sacrifice and

resurrection, we are to show our gratitude and devotion. In the next verse, God's people were encouraged to show their gratitude through the giving of their money. *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income . . ."* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Through faith, we know that Christ's amazing love, which was demonstrated to us on Golgotha, demands all that we are and have. Like the people in the church in Corinth, we give our money for God's work through our weekly contributions. Like the Good Samaritan, we reach out to our neighbors (no matter how close or how far away they are) to respond to their physical needs when disaster hits their life, home or community. Nativity is a congregation that responds well when the need arises and as your Pastor, I thank you for all that you have done, and will continue to do as we seek to do ministry in our community.

Please look for the article regarding just how we can reach out to help those affected by the severe weather during the last week of April. In particular, our first priority will be to assist Charlotte and Bill Beyerlein's family in Alabama who lost 2 children when their home burned to the ground during the tornados and bad storms that swept through Birmingham. Even if you are unable to help in any physical manner, please keep them in your prayers!

God Loves You and So Do I!  
**Pastor Dena**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wed, 5/11** – Daytimers, Music Staff Meeting

**Thurs, 5/12** – Finance Committee Meeting

**Sat, 5/14** – Work Day & Pastor's Ordination Celebration

**Sun, 5/22** – Annual Mid-year Congregational Meeting after worship service

**Sun, 5/29** – C.A.M.P. Sunday & Last Day of Sunday School

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's group will meet the second Saturday of the following month, **June 11th**.

## BIRTHDAYS



Jake McGourk	05/03
Chris Crabb	05/06
Mike Eskildsen	05/06
Tim Johnson	05/06
Kendra Davidson	05/07
Basil Dundee	05/08
Josh Lade	05/08
Richard DeVries	05/09
Shawn Boland	05/11
Jeremiah Meeks	05/19
Bill White	05/19
Logan Goodlin	05/26
Kimberly Wood	05/26
Pat Wilbanks	05/27
Juana Hop-Wah	05/29
Doug Shaw	05/29
Elizabeth Eskildsen	05/31

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### -Disaster Response-

Due to all the storms that swept through all four states that make up the ELCA Southeastern Synod, there is and will be a **need for all forms of help** in the near future. As you have seen the news reports you are aware of just how wide spread is the damage. As information is made available, I will let you know how we can respond as a congregation to our neighbors in light of this disaster. Just as many helping hands came to Austell from all over the country, this may be a time for us to **return the favor**.

I'm sure that many of you may have your own stories to tell, especially in regards to family and friends that you may know who have experienced significant damage.

Our congregation has been affected in such a manner. **Charlotte and Bill Beyerlein's** granddaughter, Crystal and her family, have suffered one of the most devastating losses that anyone can imagine. Their home was burned to the ground during the storms that swept through Birmingham, Alabama. While it is a certain tragedy to lose one's home, they also lost 2 of their small children, Caleb-age 3 and Cole-age 18 months. Their 2 remaining children, Emma-age 6 and Corey-age 3 months were hospitalized, and as of the time this article was written they were still hospitalized. It is reported that their injuries are not life-threatening. Crystal's husband, Justin, also received burns while attempting to rescue the two boys.

Needless to say they are in need for everything. The first and foremost is **prayer!** Please continue to prayer for them now and for a long time as they heal physically, but also for their emotional and spiritual healing as well.

There is **a list** on a table in the fellowship hall. If you are able to provide any of the items listed, please bring them to the church and leave them on the table in the fellowship hall. As always, gift cards of any dollar amount can be utilized. Wal-Mart is one of the best because they sell food, clothes, household items and even a few pieces of furniture, and there is a Wal-Mart located very close to Crystal. Please respond as generously as you are able.

#### -C.A.M.P.-

Anyone wishing to bring in donations is always appreciated. C.A.M.P can use just about any canned food, items of pasta or any dry foods that we can bring. C.A.M.P also needs grocery bags and clothes items. However, with cash donations, C.A.M.P can buy these items cheaper than us buying them. God Bless You and Thanks So Much!

**Carl McGourk**

## WORSHIP & MUSIC



### -Worship Schedule Changes-

At the April Worship and Music Committee, we discussed the changes in our worship schedule.

Due to dwindling attendance at the 8:00 service, as of May 1, 2011, we will **only have the late service**. For the month of May the time of the worship will continue to be 10:45am. Beginning with the first Sunday in June, the time will move to **10:30**. Over the summer, the worship and music committee will set the fall schedule for Sunday school, choir rehearsals etc, with worship staying at 10:30.

### -Summer Hymn Request-

It's time once more for summer hymn requests! Sharpen your pencil, pull out the hymnals, scan carefully your memory banks and send us your favorite hymns list for us to sing during June, July and August. With Easter so late in the year, we have a late start so *do it now!* Request slips will be in the May 1 bulletin. Please remember to include the source for your request - LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship), WOV (With One Voice) or other (be specific as to what the 'other' is). And let us know who is making the request, in case of questions (for instance, there is more than one hymn tune available; which is your preference). Thanks for your ideas.

**Judy White**

## **-Wednesday Night Program-**

Due to the request of several people who want to continue with a mid-week dinner and program, and the request of others to have a Pastor lead Bible Study, and the request of others to hold a mid-week worship service, the Worship and Music committee discussed providing a Wednesday night program **beginning June 1st. Every Wednesday** will begin with a light meal being served from 5:30-6:30pm. There will be a set fee charged for the meal (\$4/adult, \$3/youth, free under three. There will also be a family maximum of \$12.00). We will be looking for **volunteers** to provide the meal. Because of the request for reservations, if you are providing the meal you will know how many plan to attend and you will be reimbursed for the expenses based on the rates listed above. These can be very simple meals, such as pizza, salad and a desert; casserole, salad and a desert; KFC; etc. This is not an event provided by the fellowship committee, so they will not be responsible for providing the meals.

On the **1st, 3rd and 5th** Wednesdays there will be a Bible Study, led by Pastor, from **6:30-7:30**. On the **2nd & 4th** Wednesdays there will be a brief worship service from **6:30-7:15pm**. These services will range from Vespers, Compline, Praise Service, Healing, and Prayer services and will be randomly rotated from week to week. The plan is to **continue** this Wednesday schedule after the summer is over. During the Seasons of Advent and lent, the schedule will be adjusted slightly to include the themes for the particular church season, and the Bible Study will be put on hold during those weeks, to resume after Advent or Lent is over.

Pastor will pick the topic for the first series and will then take suggestions prior to the start of the next series. The first series will be on the **Book of Acts**. We will begin the Bible Study/dinners on Wednesday, **June 1st**. Please let Pastor know by signing up on her **office door** if you are interested in attending so that the appropriate number of study books may be purchased. One study book will be purchased for each family, unless you request a copy for each family member.

We are looking for volunteers to lead a **children's program** on these nights during the Bible Study time. If you are able to volunteer for this (either for one week at a time, or to provide this on an on-going basis) please let Pastor know. Pastor will help coordinate activities that may be provided. This will involve more than just watching the nursery—there will be learning and activities happening for the children as well.

## **YOUTH MATTERS**

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

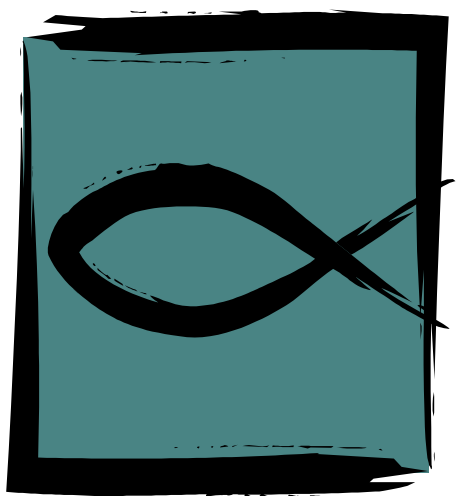
## **-Youth Meeting!-**

There will be a youth meeting on Sunday May 22nd at 9:30am for both youth and parents to talk about the National Youth Gathering that will be talking place next summer! Thanks,

**Tina Palm**

## -Where are they now?-

A Youth Group Reunion is being planned for the summer of 2011! All former and current Youth Group members are being invited. We are looking for members from 1996 to present, in particular. If anyone knows contact information for members who belonged to Youth Groups before 1996, please forward this information to the church office. If Youth members from 1996 would forward their current mailing address, email Hyacinth (hyacinthmcATgmail.com). Also, let Hyacinth know what dates would fit into your schedules. She is planning the reunion for a weekday night in June or early July.



## OTHER NEWS

### -Time To Celebrate!-

Come help us celebrate! **May 18th** will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Dena. In honor of that we will be hosting a potluck dinner on **Saturday May 14th at 5pm**. Thanks so much joining us for this joyous occasion.

**The Palm and Lane families.**

### -For the Moms-



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

**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](http://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."***