

November 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
Email: Office@nativity-ga.com

PASTOR'S COLUMN

It's hard to believe that it is almost the holiday season. By the time you receive this, Thanksgiving will be less than 4 weeks away and Christmas is less than 2 months from now. What makes this time of year so different than any other time? Many of you do a great job in keeping the focus on the significance of Christmas Day-which of course is the celebration of Our Lord and Savior's Birth. We often see reminders that proclaim "Jesus is the real reason for the season!" But if that's the case, shouldn't we be celebrating all the time? And why should we be extra thankful only one Thursday in November? Shouldn't we express our gratitude to God and to each other every day of the year? AS you begin all of your preparations for Thanksgiving and Christmas, I offer these few suggestions that may inspire you to think and act differently for the next few weeks.

- Take time to spend with God. Instead of picking up the latest sales flyer, pick up your Bibles and spend 15-30 minutes in the presence of God and his word. Before heading off to the malls and stores, spend times in quiet reflection. Spend time in the arms of God-and not fighting other harried customers in lines at the stores.

- If you are not already doing so, get in the practice of saying grace at EVERY meal-even when you are in public. (after all what is table grace-but the time to thank God for your blessings). Get in the practice of saying a table grace that is not spoken from rote (i.e., "Come Lord, Jesus..." or "God is good...") but one that is spoken from the heart. Use this time to reflect on your day, your family and your blessings.
- Think of ways you and your family can celebrate without busting your budget. Maybe doing something for someone less fortunate might be an idea that you would like to adopt. After all, if this is Christ's birthday, why do we get gifts? Don't let yourself build up credit card debt that will take months to pay off.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, spread Joy throughout the whole world and share God's love with someone in need.

God Loves You and So Do I!
Pastor Dena



BIRTHDAYS



Fred Krautwurst	11/02
Patrick Maurer	11/04
Hannah Hughes	11/09
Maylene Dundee	11/11
Stacy Hughes	11/16
Clay Eskildsen	11/17
Jarred Honea	11/21
Deidre Eskildsen	11/24
Kristen Shippert	11/27
Dot Llewellyn	11/28

STEWARDSHIP

The ministry fair on October 23rd was a great success. Hopefully you had a chance to look at the display posters to see all the different ministries that make up the focus of Nativity's ministry program. The raffle of craft items was a huge success and much fun as well. The \$422.00 raised from the raffle will be used to support our mission child, Jailson. (Look for the letter from Jailson on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall building.) Jailson is the Mission Child that we have been sponsoring for several years. This has been a ministry of the Sunday School. However, since the attendance of our Sunday School has dwindled, so have the Sunday School Offerings. The money raised from the Ministry Fair Raffle will help in our sponsoring of Jailson.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Ministry Fair and to all who donated items.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Breakfast will be held on November 13th and then again on December 3rd.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



C.A.M.P

CAMP's **Holiday Programs** need our SUPPORT!

1) CAMP is planning to provide holiday feasts for **1,200 local families** in need this Thanksgiving. Through their relationship with the Atlanta Food Bank, CAMP can provide a family with a full Thanksgiving dinner (including a turkey) for \$10. We have the opportunity to help by sponsoring a family for \$10 (2 families for \$20, 5 families for \$50, etc.). There are special **green envelopes** in the pews that are specified for CAMP Thanksgiving.

2) For Christmas, CAMP will be sponsoring their **Annual Christmas Toy Program**. Toys will be provided to children up to 11 years of age. Last year, almost 900 children received toys through this program. Donations of new toys (not wrapped) can be brought to Nativity by Sunday, **December 4th** or delivered to CAMP by **December 8th**. Some suggestions for toys include:

Girls: (ages 3-5) - dolls, Disney items, games, dress up and play jewelry items; (ages 6-8) – Barbie items, arts and crafts, play jewelry, "Fur Real" friends; (ages 9-11) jewelry, bath products, arts and crafts, "Sillyhair" dolls.

Boys: (ages 3-5) – large trucks and cars, building blocks, learning games; (ages 6-8) – Hot Wheels, Racetracks, Legos, Cars II figures, RC Cars; (ages 9-11) Transformers, Nerf toys, skateboards, RC Cars.

Educational toys for all ages are also appreciated.

3) Finally, we will be collecting **rice and dry beans** to help with CAMP's food pantry during the month of November.

FELLOWSHIP

Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner

The Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner will be Sunday, November 20th beginning at 5:30pm. Don't forget to sign up for what you will be bringing.

ADULT MINISTRY

All adults between the ages of 35-55 are invited to participate in the newly formed ministry group. Several of us met on Friday, October 28, to discuss developing a ministry for this age group. The next event will be lunch after church, November 13th, at a local restaurant. At that time we will also discuss a name for the group, and other activities that are of interest. If you have children, there will be someone who will keep them in the church nursery for you so you can have an adult only meal and fellowship.

YOUTH MATTERS

Important Dates!

The youth would like to thank Nativity for all that they have done to support the youth, it means so much to us for all the support that you give to us. Please join us **November 6th** after church as we assemble all the shoe boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. On **December 11th** after worship the youth will be having a **bake sale** to help cover the cost of travel and food for the National Youth Gathering that will be taking place in July of next year. There will be all kinds of goodies just in time for all of your holiday parties. Thanks again for all that you do for the youth!

Tina Palm



SAVE THE DATES

Sat, 11/12 - Men's Breakfast **Sun, 11/6**
- All Saints Sunday; Youth's Operation
Christmas Child
Sun, 12/4- CAMP Toy program deadline
Sun, 12/11-Youth Bake Sale after
Church

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nativity Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dena Lane	Director of Music: M. Rebecca Martin Sale
Director of Handbell Music: Judy Willis	Director of Chancel Choir: M. Rebecca Martin Sale
Organist/Pianist: M. Rebecca Martin Sale	Webmaster: Judy Willis
Custodian: Elizabeth Eskildsen	Office Worker: Leslie Boland
Nativity Notes Editor: Becca Childers	Youth Enabler: Tina Palm
Council President: Andy Doyle	VP: Warren Kriss
Secretary: Mark Boyer	Treasurer: Cynde Welch
Financial Secretary: Ken Lade	
Council Members: Carl McGourk, Richard Welch, Pat LaClair, Judy Willis, Amelia Eskildsen	

NATIVITY'S VISION VERSE:

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

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