

October 2011



# NATIVITY NOTES

Lutheran Church  
of the Nativity  
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## PASTOR'S COLUMN



At about this time every year, I start to wonder where has this year gone? It seems like only yesterday I was preparing for Advent and Christmas- where does the time fly? This fall there will be several new programs started at Nativity and there will be more information to follow elsewhere in this newsletter. However the

one thing I want to focus on here is how we are growing in our Christian Education.

It saddens me that Sunday school started over a month ago and so far these are the statistic for September: 1st week-0 students, 2nd week-0 students, 3rd week-5 students, 4th week-3 students. And please note that these numbers include our young people as well as adults! Obviously something needs to change in regard to our Education program. Therefore here are the changes we will be making:

- Starting **October 16th** we will be starting a "**Children's Church**". All children will be encouraged to start in the sanctuary for the beginning part of the worship service. The Children's Sermon will be moved to before the reading of the 1st lesson, instead of just before the reading of the Gospel passage. After the children's sermon, the children will be led from the sanctuary into the fellowship hall for a Bible lesson and activity. At the time of

communion, the children will be brought back into the sanctuary for the remainder of the service. The lesson and activity will be geared towards 4 year olds-4th grade, however older children would be welcome to stay in the sanctuary for the entire service and the younger children will be brought to the nursery. The Bible Lesson and activity will be rotated between 4 teachers. I have two definite confirmed teachers, and a third possible one. I will be looking for a 4th teacher. Please let me know if are willing and able to support our children in their Christian education.

- In addition, I will be starting a **mid-day weekly Bible Study**. This is in addition to the Wednesday night Bible Study that is currently taking place. The start date and time for this class is Tuesday, **October 18th**, at 12:00 noon. The First book we will study is one of the books that was very important to Martin Luther: Paul's letter to the Romans. You are invited to bring your Bibles and a sack lunch and join me.

In these times of multiple religions growing stronger though out our country, I want to stress how important it is for us to keep studying our Bibles and our theology. It is time to stand firm in our faith and be in study and pray for what is God's will for us as individual Christians and as Christians gathered together in our little part of the world. I hope you will join me on October 18th.

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

## SAVE THE DATES

- Wed, 10/12** – Daytimers
- Sat, 10/15** – Men's Breakfast, Game Night
- Sun, 10/16** – Children's Church begins
- Tues, 10/18** – Mid-day Bible Study begins
- Sun, 10/23** – Ministry Fair
- Sun, 11/20** – Thanksgiving Dinner

## BIRTHDAYS



Don Virchow	10/06
Paul Haffly	10/10
Chris Lane Jr	10/11
Christine Buttram	10/12
Josephine Burney	10/14
Kristina Aldred	10/17
Carolyn Stephens	10/19
Derek Parrilla	10/20
Haden Lade	10/22
Sam Honea	10/24
Bill Beyerlein	10/25

## MINUTES EXCERPTS

### Excerpts from the August Council Retreat:

1. A motion was passed move the monies from the Julie Koempel Memorial Fund to the Mission Fund then ask for donations in order to meet Nativity's obligations to its Mission Child.

2. A motion was passed to use monies from the Feldt Memorial, Bette & Warren Johnson Memorial, and the General Memorial fund to pay for a new center speaker in the Sanctuary.

3. Council elected Andy Doyle as President, Warren Kriss as Vice President, Ken Lade as Financial Secretary, Cynde Welch as Treasurer, and Mark Boyer as Secretary.

4. Council made the following committee assignments:

Youth and Christian Education: Amelia Eskildsen

Worship & Music: Warren Kriss

Fellowship: Carl McGourk

Social Ministry and Property: Richard Welch

Finance: Judy Willis

Stewardship: Pat LaClair

### Excerpts from the September Council Meeting:

1. Children's Church is being planned to begin in October. The children will leave early in the regular Service and return in time for Communion.

2. Music Sunday will be November 13th.

3. Monthly, an award badge will be presented to one member in recognition of their service to Nativity and to the community. At the beginning of each month, the award badge will be reassigned.

4. Ministry Fair will be held on October 23rd as the Stewardship Kickoff.

5. An "Extra Dollar Program" will begin on October 2nd where extra dollars from wallets will be requested every week.

Mark Boyer  
Council Secretary

## YOUTH MATTERS

### The 2012 National Youth Gathering

The 2012 National Youth Gathering is coming up soon. While the event won't occur until July 2012, registration opens the first week of October. As of this writing we have 5 potential youth and 1 adult who are planning to attend. Many youth and young adults from our congregation have attending this tri-annual event and have wonderful stories about the fellowship, learning, work and fun of attending the Gathering. Fund Raising has already started. As of this writing we have about one-fourth to one-third of the total amount of funds needed. Please continue to support the youth of our congregation as they make plans for this wonderful event!

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Breakfast will be held on the 15th of October and then on the second Saturday of the following month, **November 12<sup>th</sup>**.

# SOCIAL MINISTRY

## C.A.M.P.

During the month of October, we will be collecting **canned soups** and **plastic sandwich bags** for CAMP. Please leave donations in the basket in the narthex.

Since October is a 5-Sunday month, we will receive a special offering for CAMP on October 30th. Please make checks payable to Nativity and indicate "CAMP" on the memo line.



## Diaper Day

Cobb County Diaper Day is **Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Agencies that will receive diapers donated during this event are: CAMP, MUST Ministries, Cobb Family Resources, Reconnecting Families and YWCA Battered Women's Shelter Program.

Diaper Facts:

1. Food stamps do not allow for the purchase of hygiene items (like diapers),
2. Diaper rash and increased crying due to soiled diapers lead to more stress for struggling families,

3. Day care centers require parents to provide their own disposable diapers,
4. Diapers are expensive and may be cost prohibitive for low-income families.

*Donated diapers can make a huge difference for struggling families in Cobb County!*

## Operation Christmas Child

We are supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year. Through this program, Samaritans' Purse will provide thousands of children around the world with shoeboxes containing small toys, school supplies and hygiene items. Because they must be assembled in early November, we will continue collecting items for the boxes throughout October.

The schedule for collecting items for the shoeboxes is:

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** - toiletry items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hair clips, wash cloths)

**October 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** – toys (small cars, balls, small dolls, yoyos, jump ropes)

You may also sponsor a shoebox for a donation of \$7. Please make checks payable to Nativity and indicate "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line.

Thank you to Tina Palm and our Youth Group, who will be coordinating the assembly and wrapping of the shoeboxes. Donations of shoeboxes, wrapping paper, clear tape and large rubber bands would also be greatly appreciated.

## Cobb and Douglas County Community Services Board (CSB)

**\*\*\*Attention Bakers - Refreshments needed.** We have been asked to help provide refreshments for the CSB's Fall Festival on **Tuesday, November 1** at the Austell Center. Cookies, brownies and other delicious goodies are encouraged! When possible, please package items in single serving plastic bags (for example: 2-3 cookies or brownies per bag). Additional information about this will be included in October bulletins.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact **Heather Boyer**.

### STEWARDSHIP



### Ministry Fair

Mark your Calendars! October 23rd, following the worship service, we will be holding a Ministry Fair. This will be a fun filled time where we can celebrate the past, present and future ministries of our wonderful congregation.

There will be food, displays, a raffle for wonderful hand crafted items, and maybe even a little bit of entertainment. This is also a wonderful time for you to invite a friend to join us and worship and to see how Nativity is serving our Lord

though out community and worldwide ministries.

Come and Join us! Let's Party!

### Honoring Carl McGourk

If you were at church on October 2nd you saw something new. Each month we will be honoring someone in the congregation who goes the extra mile in serving the people of our Community. Our first honoree is Carl McGourk. Carl has been involved for many years with C.A.M.P. He has a very long list of accomplishments, of which only two are: picking up donated food from grocery stores several times per week, picking up items from the Atlanta food bank. Next month Carl will help us choose the next person to recognize and honor for their service to our community. If you have someone you would like to recognize, please let Pat LaClair know.

### Give the Extra Buck

Another new program started on October 2nd is the "Give the Extra Buck" campaign. In these days of economic hardship, we know that we all have faced higher bills and expenses and the church is no different. We need your help in meeting our expenses, but also in supporting our community. We would like to be able to help our neighbors and the service organizations that we support over and above what we are already doing. For instance, did you know that C.A.M.P. is the busiest food bank in the state?! The need is over and above what is being donated. Periodically we will ask you to "Give the Extra Buck" that may be in your wallet or purse so that we may help others in Christian Love.

## OTHER NEWS

### New Website

Over the next few weeks you may notice some drastic changes in our website. We are striving to make it more user friendly for those who will be updating the information as well as for those who come to the website looking for information. We will also be working to inform and attract visitors who may have simply googled "Lutheran Churches" in the area, or even simply "Churches" in Austell. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like our website to do, please don't hesitate to let Pastor Dena, Andy Doyle, Judy Willis know of your suggestions.

### Facebook

At the same time that we are updating our website, we will also be setting up a facebook page. This form of social networking is used by several of our members and will help provide information to those on Facebook in a very quick

manner. It will also be linked to our website. Joining facebook is also another way for visitors to gain information about our congregation and ministry.

### Happy Reformation Day! October 31, 1517



#### Nativity Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dena Lane	Director of Music: Judy White	Director of Chancel Choir:
Organist/Pianist: M. Rebecca Martin Sale	Director of Handbell Music: Judy Willis	Webmaster: Judy Willis
Director of Children's Music: Deidre Eskildsen	Sunday School Superintendent: OPEN	
Custodian: Elizabeth Eskildsen	Office Administrator: Leslie Boland	
Nativity Notes Editor: Becca Childers	Youth Enabler: Tina Palm	
Council President: Council Members: Andy Doyle; Council Members: Warren Kriss, Amelia Eskildsen, Carl McGourk, Richard Welch, Judy Willis, Pat LaClair		

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 AM-12 PM

#### **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](http://www.nativity-ga.com)**