

September 2011



NATIVITY NOTES

**Lutheran Church
of the Nativity
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PASTOR'S COLUMN



It's hard to believe that summer is nearly over and school has started up again. Where did the summer go? At church we are gearing up for our fall programming. Sunday school will be starting on September 4th (I know, it's Labor Day weekend, but not everyone leaves town!). This year we will have a pre-school class with Ms. Charlotte returning as the teacher. We will hold an elementary class

for those who are interested. There will also be an adult class-with the leaders to be finalized. (If anyone wants to help lead the adult class, please see Pastor ASAP.) I can't stress the importance of keeping up with our Christian Education. So often people feel that once they graduated high school or college or reach a certain age, there is no need to continue with Sunday school. However, I am a firm believer that we can never reach a point in our lives in which we have learned all that our Lord wants to teach us. Each day is an opportunity to learn more about and become closer to God. I hope and pray that you will make Sunday School a priority this year.

Another opportunity for learning is the Wednesday night Bible Study. We are currently studying the book of Acts and we will announce what we will study next closer to the time when we are completing our present study topic. Please join us at 5:30 for a meal and 6:30 for the study time. We meet on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th

Wednesdays of the month.

I hope to see all of you in Sunday school and/or Bible Study this year.

God Loves You and So Do I!
Pastor Dena

SAVE THE DATES

Wed, 8/31 - Midweek Dinner & Bible Study

Sun. 9/4 - Sunday School begins

Mon. 9/5 - Discipleship Meeting

Wed. 9/7 - Choir Rehearsal begins

Sat. 9/10 - Men's Breakfast

Sat. 9/17 – Lutheran Night at the Braves

Tues. 9/20 – Fellowship Meeting

Fri.-Sat. 9/23-24 – Handbell workshop

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Wednesday Nights

During the summer we began a Wednesday Night program. Each Wednesday we began with a meal at 5:30pm and then an activity at 6:30pm—on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday we had Bible Study, and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, we had a different type of worship service. I am please to say that the Bible Study nights have been going very well. These **will continue** as scheduled. However, the weeks for Wednesday Worship were not as successful. Therefore, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays will no longer be scheduled. During the seasons of Advent and Lent we will continue to hold our traditional seasonal dinners and worship services and will take a break from Bible Study during those weeks.

BIRTHDAYS



Richard Carpenter	09/02
Renee Miller	09/02
Dena Lane	09/03
Edna Ellingsen	09/04
Heather Gretsinger	09/09
Michelle Webb	09/12
Anna Lee Heidt Harris	09/14
Holly Bacon	09/21
Tevanni Hop-Wah	09/27
Shirley DeVries	09/29

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Many thanks to those of you who participated in our summer social ministry projects! I am happy to report that, with the help of a grant from Thrivent, we were able to contribute **400** sack lunches for MUST Ministries' Summer Lunch Program. Through the course of the summer-long program, 69,724 lunches were provided to needy children in Cobb and Paulding counties. Your donations of chips, juice boxes, peanut butter and jelly were greatly appreciated, as was the time spent assembling the lunches after church and delivering the lunches to the collection location.

I am also proud to report that we were able to sponsor **60** school uniforms for students at Garrett Middle School. This far exceeded our goal of providing 25 uniforms! Again, thank you to all who participated.

C.A.M.P.

For the past couple of months, CAMP has experienced an increased demand for services, without a corresponding increase in donations. To help them re-stock their shelves, we are bringing back our monthly drives for CAMP. Each month, we will collect a different staple food item and supplies for them. For the month of September, we will be collecting **canned meats** (for example: tuna, ravioli, Spam). Please leave donations in the narthex.

In addition to food and supply drives, we will also receive a special offering for CAMP on the 5th Sunday of the month.

Operation Christmas Child

We are supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year. Through this program, Samaritans' Purse is able to 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 be collecting items for the boxes throughout September and October.

The collection schedule will be:

September 4th & 11th - school supplies (pens, pencils, crayons, coloring books, writing pads)

September 18th & 25th – toiletry items

(toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hair clips, wash cloths)

Be on the lookout for collection boxes around the church where you may leave donated items. 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.

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

Garrett Middle School Uniform Drive

Pastor Dena is pleased to announce that once again, when a need for our community has been made known, you have come through with greatness! When we announced the drive to help provide uniforms to students of Garrett Middle School whose families may have a difficult time purchasing them, I challenged you to make contributions so that we could provide 25. Well...at the end of the three week drive, we raised enough for **60** uniforms! Way to go!

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Breakfast will be held on the second Saturday of the following month, **October 8th**.

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!

OTHER NEWS

Council 2011

Saturday, August 20th, the present council members and the newly elected council members met for our yearly retreat. One of the items of business was the election of officers. Serving our congregation this year and their position on council are:

Andy Doyle, President
Warren Kriss, Vice President
Mark Boyer, Secretary
Cynde Welch, Treasurer
Ken Lade, Financial Secretary
Carl McGourk, Council Member
Amelia Eskildsen, Council Member-Youth representative
Richard Welch, Council Member
Pat LaClair, Council Member
Judy Willis, Council Member

Please share with them your thanks and appreciation for serving you and your congregation!

Acolytes and Crucifers

We are seeking more persons who would like to be a part of our worship service by serving as an acolyte or crucifer. Training will be provided! There is no age limit--neither too old or too young---well ... maybe you might be too young as you must be able to safely carry the lighter or cross safely and be tall enough to reach the candles. There will be a training session on Sunday, September 18th at 8:30am. Please see pastor before then if you are interested. All who are currently serving as an acolyte or crucifer should attend as well...there may be some changes made with which you need to become familiar.

Worship Sign Up

You will notice that there is a sign up poster, similar to signing up to provide altar flowers, on the bulletin board near the mailboxes. We are asking persons to sign up for the various serving positions which make up our worship services (acolyte, crucifer, ushers, greeters, worship assistants, readers, communion presenters & helpers, nursery attendants.) This will give you an opportunity to pick the Sundays you are able to serve our Lord. Please Sign Up! (If you don't, then Pastor Dena may have to come and "draft you" into service!)

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Dena will be holding a meeting of parents and potential confirmation

students on **Sunday, September 11th**, following the worship service, during the fellowship time. If you have a student who is in the **6th grade or above** and has not been confirmed, then please plan to attend this meeting. Scheduling of classes and other information will be shared and discussed. Please let Pastor know if you are planning on participating in the confirmation program and are unable to attend this meeting.

LABOR DAY!

Please remember our brave men and women who have fought and died so that we might maintain our freedom. God bless them and their families!



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: Andy Doyle; Vice President: Warren Kriss; Treasurer: Cynde Welch; Financial Secretary: Ken Lade; Secretary: Mark Boyer
Council Members: Richard Welch, Amelia Eskildsen, Carl McGourk, Pat LaClair, Judy Willis

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."***