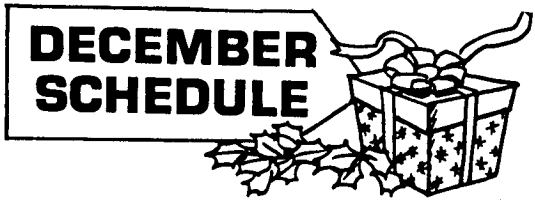


# The TRUMPET

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Boxholm, Iowa

Rod Meyer, Pastoral Associate  
Annette Peterson, Church Office Secretary

Vol. XXXVII  
No. 12



Monday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. DECORATE THE CHURCH

Wednesday, December 7, 4:45 - 8:00 p.m. SWEDISH SUPPER

Sunday, December 11, 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
12:00...COUNCIL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 p.m. Boxholm Lighting Contest...at the Community Building

Saturday, December 17, 12:00 Community Club Bake Sale; 1:00 p.m. Santa visit & Drawing to follow

Saturday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - choir sings!

Sunday, December 25, 9:30 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY JOINT WORSHIP with Faith Luth. at Trinity



SMÖRGÅSBORD



I know people are well into Christmas mode, but liturgically, it's still just Advent. The message of the Season is 'wait & watch' for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, as previewed by His FIRST coming, & to 'work while it is light' – a reminder to stay on task with the work that Christ has given us to do. People simultaneously whine about how stressed or busy or miserable or depressed they are at Christmas, & then make noise about "living Christmas all the year through". Yeah, THAT would be fun! It's not Christmas we should be trying to maintain throughout the year – it's ADVENT! Individuals who get swept up in or run over by the trimmings & hyper-activity of Christmas have missed the boat already.

It is like meeting with a prospective bride, who will gladly spend 12-18 months planning her wedding day, but resists spending any real time at all planning a lifetime of marriage. Some of those weddings are indeed spectacular MGM production versions of some bridal ideal: they make great run-ways for marriages that will inevitably end with all the flash & fiery excitement of the Crash of the Hindenburg.

We do the same thing when celebrating Christmas. We have bought into some Hollywood ideal of the perfect Christmas tree & the perfect Christmas gift - the perfect family gathering & meal & candlelight service & on & on, ad nauseum. We have reduced it to some kind of superlative photo opportunity.

Well, it's easy to have that perfect, stress-free Christmas. All you need to do is hire professional actors to play your family, & have them recite some script that you've hired written. And you'll need a team of caterers, decorators, professional lighting experts, make up artists, costumers, etc. You'll need about 8 months lead time & a quarter of a million dollars, but perfection takes time & money.

You need to realize that you're going to have to put your real family into storage for the holidays, because invariably - if you use your OWN family - somebody's going to say or do something to tick someone else off, or Uncle Buddy will get belligerent after he drinks too much. Or your granddaughter will use this occasion to debut her new tattoo – which she has never seen herself, due to its location. Or your toddler will bite his/her prissy cousin, pushing the cousin's prissy, overprotective parents into something that mimics an epileptic fit.

And make sure you get enough storage room, because you won't be using your own things, either. Because, let's face it – you've got some pretty tacky Christmas decorations. And your china setting is getting more than a little chipped, & there's only a 35% chance that the gravy boat you put back together last year with Krazy Glue is going to hang together when you put it on the table this year. It's time to admit to yourself that neither House Beautiful or Architects' Monthly are going to call you again this year – possibly because you have left your hole-diggin' dog do most of your landscaping...

**We need to put things in perspective.** If we properly prioritize our lives (our earthly lives, but most especially our eternal lives), celebrating Christmas will fall into its proper slot; somewhere between getting an exceptionally good haircut & finding just what you were shopping for on a clearance rack. If your expectations are much higher than that, scale them back.

The first Christmas was perfect, because God had his hand in every detail. You'll never do as well, because – well, **You Ain't Him.**

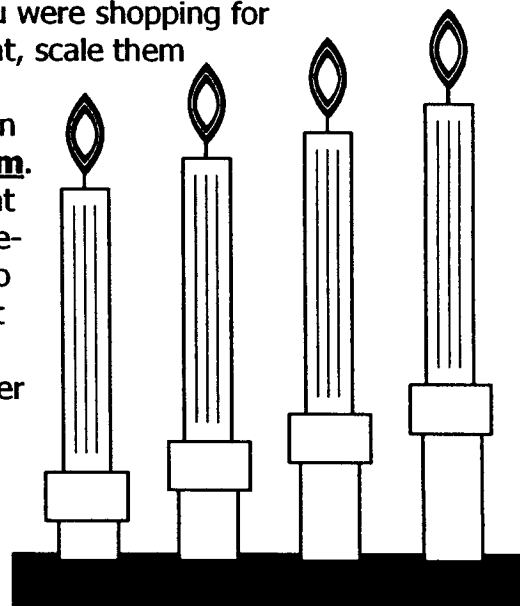
(I should have that embroidered on a pillow...) Everyday since that first Christmas, God has been doing something new. He's got something new for you to do today also, & it doesn't have anything to do with getting your shopping done or getting the divinity candy to set up.

Let's put the season into its proper context: It doesn't matter where you or the kids or grandkids are spending Christmas. It's all about where you all will spend eternity.

That's what the first, subsequent & the most recent Christmases are really all about.

Welcome to Advent.

rod





## Church Council

The **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL** met on November 8 with the following members present: Pastor Rod, John Swanson, Rich Larson, Larry Krakau, Gwen Scheetz, Roberta Clausen, Larry Fatka, Randy Lehman and Rhonda Nelson.

- Pastor Rod led devotions from Matthew 25
- Larry Fatka reported October income at \$8,123.00 and expenses were \$6,742.91. Balance on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>: \$2,566.30; \$2,660.00 was paid to disaster relief for Hurricane Katrina. Larry Krakau reported offerings this year to date were \$37,402.55.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Nov. 23 at Faith, Harcourt. Advent will begin on Nov. 27 and the Sunday School Christmas Program will be Dec. 11. Voted to hold Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m. and invite Faith, Harcourt, to join us.
- Stewardship Sunday will be Nov. 20 and the Council will serve a baked potato bar following worship.
- Rich reported Memorial Checking Account had \$604.39 and Savings \$4,326.43. He also reported that the Memorial Committee had voted down oil candles for Advent.
- Mike Peterson will take care of fixing the damaged window in the storage room off of the chapel.
- Pastor Rod reported that the Countryside Ministry representatives would be in Church on Nov. 13 with their questionnaires. Roberta reported that the Twin River Valley Conf. 8 Fall Assembly would be held on Sun. afternoon, Nov. 20 at Grace Luth. in Ft. Dodge.
- Larry Krakau reviewed the proposed budget for 2006.
- Motion was made and passed to apply for Thrivent for matching funds for proceeds from the Swedish Supper to be used for piano and organ repair and window repair.
- Voted to pay the \$60 registration for Kate Alevantis to attend the Living Liturgy Event for Lay Ministry.
- Renaye Wyganowski has requested a transfer to Redeemer Luth. Church in Fridley, MN
- The Council Christmas dinner will be held on Dec. 11 after worship.
- Meeting was adjourned and we closed with The Lord's Prayer.

- Rhonda Nelson, Secretary



**AREA CHRISTMAS EVENTS.....SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7:00 P.M.**

**GOWRIE COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**  
at Zion

**ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT (to benefit Habitat  
for Humanity)**  
at the Boone H.S. Auditorium

# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

## DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

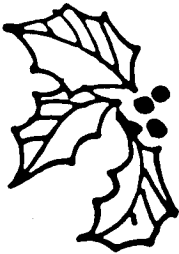
**“Act Boldly With Patience”**

We continue our studies with stories about people from the Bible & also people of today.

## DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Faith Group

- Thursday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.** HOPE GROUP; Hostess: Mary Ann Haleen;  
Devotions: Mary Ann; Lesson: Thelma Anderson;  
Roll Call: A Christmas Story of Poem
- Monday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.** DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS  
Preparations for Swedish Supper through Wednesday..
- Wednesday, December 7, 4:45 – 8:00 p.m.** SWEDISH SUPPER
- Tuesday, December 13, 2:00 p.m.** FAITH GROUP; Hostess: Marie Bengtson;  
Devotions: Annette Peterson; Lesson: Christmas;  
Roll Call: Christmas verse
- Wednesday, December 14, 2:00 p.m.** GENERAL MEETING; Bible Study with  
Pastor Rod; Hostesses: Miriam Group  
.....MIRIAM GROUP; Potluck Supper at church  
with our families.....date will be announced!!
- Wednesday, December 21, 1:00 p.m.** WORSHIP AT OGDEN MANOR – Faith  
Group



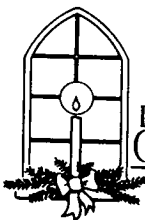
Just a few days ago we observed Thanksgiving. We have so many blessings and have so much to be thankful for. At this time of the year we have the opportunity to remember several people and places with the thought that we will bring joy to others who are less fortunate. Some gifts were brought in for the Madrid Home. Our Mitten Tree will be in place just after the Swedish Supper so bring caps, mittens, scarves, etc. and we have usually given them to our school districts and then also share with Beloit Children’s Home. I just spoke to a lady at Beloit and we will continue to place gifts under the tree in the narthex for these children. She said indoor games and toys, videos, socks, towels, puzzles, art & craft supplies and winter wear...these would all be welcome. Our Women of the ELCA gave monetary gifts to The Madrid Home, Bethphage, Prison Ministry, Hospice, and Lutheran Services.

Many hands will be busy in the next few days as we prepare for our last Swedish Supper. It takes a lot of work but the results have always been worth all the work! I would like to thank Norma and Linda for co-chairing this event and also thanks to everyone who helps in any way.

I would like to thank Mary Ann Haleen and Annette Peterson, secretary and vice-president for their service in the last two years. Annette remains as vice-president & I say welcome to Doris Peterson who will be our new secretary. As we begin this last month of 2005, I want to thank everyone for their willingness to take part in all of our activities – quilt work days, serving and taking part in preparing kits for Lutheran World Relief and also just for coming to our meetings. As we prepare to begin the Year 2006, let us continue to work together & keep our organization alive and well!!

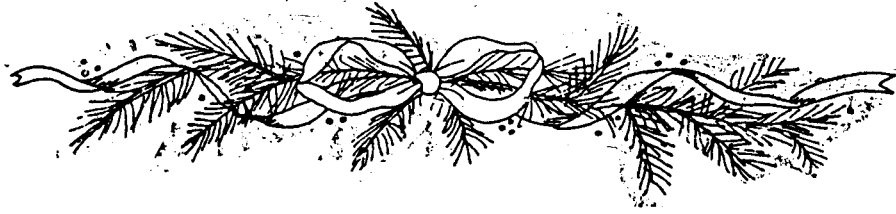
May your Christmas be filled with Love, Joy, and Peace.

-Women of the ELCA President, *Gwen Scheetz*



Come  
Decorate for  
Christmas





**HOSPITALIZED** since the last newsletter: Jr. Sundell, John Ferrari

**SYMPATHY...**

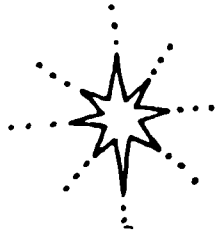
Our sympathy is extended to Shorty & Doris Peterson on the death of their granddaughter, *Olivia Bennett*. Her funeral was on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Methodist Church in Ogden.



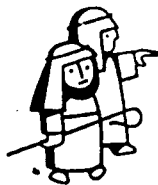
**THANK YOU...**

*We would like to thank all of you for your sympathy, cards, and prayers during this time of sadness over Olivia's death. We are so grateful for all of our good friends and our loving church family.*

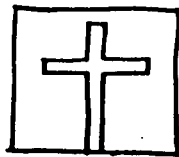
-Shorty & Doris Peterson



**FLOWERS** in the altar area on Sunday, November 6, were given in memory of loved ones by Mark & Heidi Blair & family.



*...The simple shepherds heard the voice of an angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their wisdom.*



*...If we do not have Christmas in our hearts, we shall never find it under a tree.*

*...Under most Christmas trees on December 25 there will be many gifts. On Calvary's tree there was only one gift, but it included all others... God's gift of his only begotten Son.*



**A MEASURE OF OUR LOVE & FAITHFULNESS:**

(GIVING)	(ATTENDANCE)
Sun., Oct. 30: \$1,218.00	52
Sun., Nov. 6: 1,317.00	50
245.51 Telephone dividend	
100.00 Organ fund	
Sun., Nov.13: 765.00	49
100.00 Thanksgiving	
Food Pantry: 7 bags of food items	
Sun., Nov.20: \$1,853.00	64
330.00 Thanksgiving	
Thanksgiving Eve: \$662.50	
Sun., Nov.27: \$ 400.00	49
535.00 Thanksgiving	
100.00 Thrivent	

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** dish soap, flour, sugar

**LAY READERS FOR DECEMBER**

- 4 Rhonda Nelson
- 11 Christmas Program
- 18 Randy Lehman
- 24 Scott Larson (Christmas Eve)
- 25 Kate Alevantis

December 4 Communion Ass't: Dustine Peterson  
Stewards: Rich and Kim Larson  
Head Usher: Rick Bengtson  
Helpers: Rich Larson, Scott Larson  
Altar: Norma Henrichs, Annette Peterson, Irene Westfall  
Bulletins: Annette Peterson, Ken Peterson  
Financial Sec: Larry Krakau  
Church Treasurer: Larry Fatka  
Newsletter assemblers: Gwen Scheetz, Marie Bengtson, Norma Henrichs, Annette Peterson

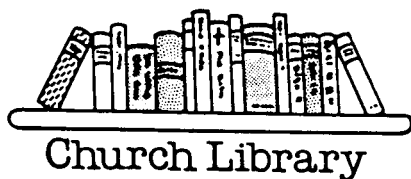
**POINSETTIAS GIVEN:**

In memory of *Reuben, Kathryn, Carol Joy & Paul D. Swanson* by the Chuck & John Swanson families.  
 In memory of *Howard & Mildred Stark*, by JoAnn Eddy & Loni Ferger and families.





*"Send forth Your light  
and truth, let them guide us."*



New Books:

"Light From Heaven" by Jan Karon

This is the final volume of the Mitford series. Father Tim and Cynthia are farm sitting at the Meadowgate Farm. Cynthia is working on a violet wall calendar and has discovered The Flower Girls. Father Tim has been anointed vicar to a long-closed mission church and has been given the mandate to get it up and running ASAP. We meet a host of new characters as well as getting to know the good people of Mitford again.

"The Christmas Hope" by Donna Van Liere

After their son was killed five years ago, driving home from college on Christmas Eve, Patricia and Mark Addison have long given up hope of ever having a joyful Christmas.

As a social work, Patricia bends the rules and takes five year old Emily, who has just lost her mother, into her home. This is a story of love in the face of loss, joy when all seems hopeless, and how the light of God's healing love can shine into the darkest of places.

- Norma Henrichs, Librarian



## Mitten Tree



The *Mitten Tree* holds mittens, caps, & scarves to give to the needy in our schools & to the Beloit Children's Home. Bring in your donations after the Swedish Supper & place them on the tree-thanks so much!

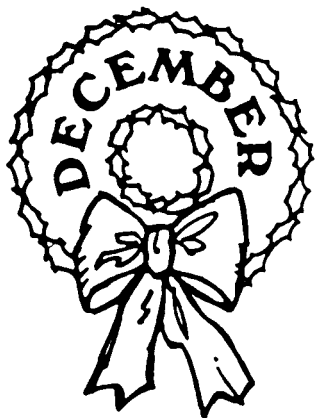
ALSO

Place donations for *Beloit* (indoor games, toys, videos, socks, towels, puzzles, art & craft supplies & winter wear) under the tree in the narthex!

*Any gifts will be welcome.*

# DECEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship/Communion	5 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Decorate the Church for Christmas	6	7 <u>4:45 - 8:00 p.m.</u> <b>SWEDISH SUPPER</b>	1 <u>2:00 p.m.</u> Hope Group	2	3
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School & CHOIR REHEARSAL <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> ...Food Pantry Sunday <u>12:00</u> Council Christmas Dinner	12	13 <u>2:00 p.m.</u> Faith Group	14 <u>2:00 p.m.</u> Women of ELCA General Meeting <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation; Boxholm Lighting Contest, Community	15	16	17 <u>12:00</u> Bake Sale at Comm. Bldg. <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Santa visit, followed by the Drawing
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School (CHOIR) <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship	19	20	21 <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Worship at Ogdan Manor-Faith Group <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation	22	23	24 Christmas Eve <u>11:00 p.m.</u> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE</b> 
25 The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day <u>9:30 a.m.</u> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP</b> with Faith Luth., at Trinity	26	27 ...Newsletter preparation...	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



## BIRTHDAYS



4	JoAnn Clausen	24	Irene Westfall
5	Neil Anderson	25	Gary Henrichs
7	Craig Reutter	26	Lisa Ferrari
7	Mildred Sundell	28	Ann Marie Lundvall
8	Justin Peterson	29	Debbie Anderson
24	Bob Nibel		

The message of Christmas:

Come home to his love.  
Let us celebrate his love  
by welcoming him into  
our hearts and lives,  
not just once a year but  
every day we live.

*May God bless  
us all this Christmas  
time as we make our  
way to the manger  
and celebrate the  
gift of his love and  
life!*

*Merry Christmas*