

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Dear Friends of St. John's and Followers of Jesus Christ:

2009 has been a year to get back to basics in our nation and in our own lives. We're seeing what works and what doesn't. We're figuring out where to place our trust and where not to. We're learning to survive in a down economy. Christmas can help us keep things simple. God is good—all the time. Christ is in our midst—all the time. We have joy and peace to share—all the time. Whatever circumstances you are in as 2009 comes to a close, the simple truth remains: God loves us with an everlasting love, and this IS Good News for us and for all the world—all the time! -Pastor Paul

WORSHIP IN DECEMBER IS ABOUT PREPARING AND CELEBRATING!



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
 Sunday, Dec. 6
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE-AARON ABEL FUND
 Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 12-13
HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH
 Saturday, Dec. 12 at 9:00 a.m.
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
 Saturday, Dec. 12 at 6:00 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
 Sunday, Dec. 13, 2:00pm
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm
CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL-COMMUNION SERVICE, 9:45am
And let us invite neighbors and friends to come and adore Him, too!
MUSICAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
 Sunday, January 3, 2010



WE'LL WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ON DEC. 6

If you would like to join St. John's, we'll celebrate an official welcome at worship on Sunday, Dec. 6. We have orientation for New Members on **Tuesday, Dec. 1** or **Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7:00pm** (you pick the date that works into your schedule!) in the Upper Room. *Thank you, current members, for introducing yourselves to new folks and helping them develop important connections within the congregation!*

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE...SATURDAY DEC. 12 at 6:00

Each December we do a special service for those facing the holidays with the absence of a loved one who has died. We invite you to gather for a gentle and uplifting Service of Remembrance, and we promise to remember your loved one with you! *Please extend this invitation to anyone you know who is grieving at this time of year.*



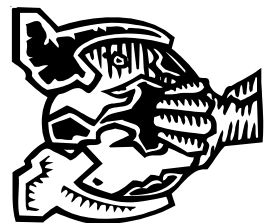
"GREETINGS FROM THE HEART-LIVING CHRISTMAS CARDS"

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 2:00PM

Our Sunday Schools kids have been working hard! Everyone is invited to come! The program will be followed by a refreshment time. Bring a plate of cookies to share.

MERU DIOCESE UPDATES:

- + We have a gift for the Coffee-lover in your family: Mt. Meru coffee in a gift pack for \$19; or in a 12oz. package for \$9; a premium coffee where the growers get a fair wage.
- +Donna Lamberg and Bonnie Puestow will leave for Tanzania on Dec. 28 and spend four weeks traveling with Pastor Elias and Ellie Nasari. They will visit our sister parish (Ulong'a) and share our gifts of chicks and goats. *We can't wait for the photos and stories!*
- +Some rains have finally come to parts of Tanzania and Kenya, and people are planting seeds, though this is not the usual time. Pray for continued gentle rains, and a harvest!



SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS

SOME THINGS IN THE WORKS FOR 2010.

- +Imagine dusting off your Bible, putting aside the fear of showing how little you know, and digging into the best-selling book of all times! We're going to have opportunities for "Book of Faith" conversations, small groups, and studies. www.bookoffaith.org
- +Imagine us teaming up with St. Luke's/Slinger to host homeless families for a week at a time at St. Luke's! Ten Washington County churches are starting "Family Promise", a temporary housing program, that helps families in need. *We need a Congregational Coordinator. Speak with Laura Bartelt or Pastor for more information.*
- +Imagine us also **adopting a chalet** at Crossways Imago Dei Village Camp. Perhaps our youth and families will build a ramp for the chalet and repair the deck this year. Our work crews might want to stay overnight for fellowship, and donate a day of labor. Remember that our camps also offer an affordable, family getaway, winter or summer (including a Christmas retreat!). This wonderful ministry needs our support in tough economic times as well. More information is at www.crosswayscamps.org

END OF THE YEAR GIFTS: Any end of the year gifts must be given or postmarked no later than Dec. 31 if you wish to claim it on your 2009 taxes. Thrivent members can have gifts to our camps, colleges, or Lutheran Social Services matched at the 50% level. 2010 offering envelopes boxes are available at church the 1st weekend in December.

GROWING IN CHRIST, WE WELCOME, WORSHIP, AND WITNESS!