

# From Your Pastor

Once again, we find ourselves ending one year and looking toward the entrance into another. We find ourselves celebrating a New Year. This is an important time for us much beyond a general celebrational evening the night before. While such an activity is one that I look forward to observing with family and friends, I wish to take this opportunity to share a focus of new things within our lives as brothers and sisters bound together in this congregation.

The year of our Lord, 2005, is one wherein we will celebrate newness. We look forward to the new addition under construction at this time. I know we will REALLY celebrate our entrance into that structure especially after a few months of taking the scenic route into worship and fellowship. No doubt, we will celebrate new birth, new opportunities of vocation, new paths of life with graduates, and many more.

Beyond the things mentioned previously, we will celebrate newness in our Lord Jesus. Every Christmastide gives to us the moments to pause and focus on the miracle of the Son of God, the Word becoming flesh to dwell among us, showing the glory of God in the fullness of grace and truth. Having been baptized into Jesus, we have become new creations by His grace. That newness is restored to us in the absolution/forgiveness of our sin. Rather than carrying the burden of our sins, Jesus removes them and gives us newness in Himself as He comes to us in, with, and under Bread and Wine to give us His Holy Body and Blood. Knowing Jesus in this way, He makes it possible for us to be made new in the attitude of our minds and to put on the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

This New Year is a time then that we can really focus on newness in our Lord. Strained relationships in families will be healed. Hearts breaking in marital crisis will be restored. Friendships in the storms of turmoil will be calmed. In fact, whatever needs to be made new in our lives Jesus can do.

This is the blessing of being faithful the use of Word and Sacrament in the closing of an old year and entrance into the New Year. Apart from Jesus there won't be much newness ahead. With Jesus, not only will there be newness but there is as we remember His words of triumph:

I am making everything new!...These words are trustworthy and true. *Revelation 21:5*

Wishing you a blessed *NEW* Year!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
2200 Third Avenue  
Dodge City, KS 67801

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #250  
Dodge City, KS 67801

Return Service Requested

Stewardship Newsletter Article January 2005 (from LCMS.org)

***Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do.***

In January many people make resolutions they believe will improve their lives, relationships and work. The beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future, especially for a "preferred" future. Managing diet, exercise, time and stress are among the most popular resolutions.

The beginning of a new year is also a good time for Christian stewards to reflect on the past and make plans or resolutions for a "preferred" future. The second of our eight LCMS Biblical Stewardship Principles states that "Christian stewards are managers, not owners." This is a reminder that God is the rightful Owner of all things and has entrusted to His stewards life and life's resources to manage wisely and well for His purposes. However, since God's stewards are at the same time saints and sinners, good stewardship is a challenge. The "saint" part of our nature loves God and His will and wants always to do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all we think, speak and do. The "sinner" part of our nature causes us to think the things we surround ourselves with belong to us to use in any way we see fit. We like to think that somehow we have worked for and earned all these things. The truth is that God is the Owner and Giver and we are the managers and receivers.

Perhaps our first stewardship resolution should be to remind ourselves daily that all we are and have are gifts from God. Then some other appropriate resolutions are in order. These may include offering more of our time for worship, Bible study, prayer and volunteer ministry. These may also include offering our talents and skills for the greater benefit of our church and community. These may also include resolving to make our giving more Christ-like by doing it in a firstfruit, proportionate and sacrificial way.

A happy New Year to you all and may you resolve always to do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all you do because, as St. Paul reminds us, "your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58b)

Celebrate LCMS World Mission Month with *Ablaze!* January has been designated as World Mission month to inspire participant to understand the core principles of the *Ablaze!* movement, so that the Gospel will be shared with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

## Board of Education

The Board of Education met on December 5, 2004 with four members present and one guest.

The Christmas program report was given by Jacque Schawe, one of the co-directors. Programs covers have been ordered. Practice is proceeding well. The Ruth Guild agreed to serve refreshments after the program.

The Sunday school report was given by Marilyn Wagner. Attendance for November averaged 26 students and 30 adults.

Old Business: It was recommended to purchase Dillon's certificates to use when getting the candy for the children's Christmas sacks.

The offering on the day of the showing of *"The Passion"* was \$38 and more came in to go toward the fundraiser in the following week. The funds will be matched by Thrivent. Part of the money raised will go to purchase a digital camera for Board of Education use. Luci Snodgrass and Nancy Vierthaler will be shopping for cameras.

New Business: Barbara Gregg has consented to be the director for Vacation Bible School.

Luci closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Mercer, Secretary

## Board of Stewardship

The Board of Stewardship met on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> with six members and Pastor present. Topics discussed were: ordering 2006 offering envelopes. This will be discussed in further detail in the January meeting.

The handing out of current 2005 offering envelopes. All members that currently get envelopes will receive them by the end of this year by either mail or delivery.

A report was given on the response of inserting Committed Together envelopes in the December newsletter. The response so far has been favorable.

Our next meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. One item of business will be making a decision as to what organization we will designate the Ash Wednesday offering to go to. Meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gaylon Boger, Board Member

## Board of Trustees

The board met on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with two members present along with Dean Cole, Elder advisor and Ron Albrecht. Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

Several bills were presented and approved for payment. The parking around the church was discussed. The board feels it needs to make the church as accessible as possible for members. Options that were considered for discussion purposes were: valet parking with the help from the ushers, making the front drive as handicapped parking only with handicapped signs placed along the drive that is open, putting up signs along the street on the west side of the church (This would need to receive city approval.) Using the drive in front of the church would be a better option as it is on church property. More will be announced to the congregation for assistance in entering during our construction period.

In other business, the board approved a bid to remove the shrubs in front of the church. Also in this bid would be to install sprinkler system and plant grass.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Setzkorn, Secretary

## Mary Martha Guild

The Mary Martha guild met on December 16, 2004 in the church basement. Those present were Janice Boger, Virginia Bell, Betty Setzkorn, DeLoris Boger, Arlene Bunnell and Pastor Jahnke. We were happy to have as a guest, Pat Bush.

Pastor led the topic entitled, "Christmas in Our Lives – God's Love Reaching to Us Through Us." God's love for us never ceases as He sent Jesus to be our Savior. The group sang "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

The business meeting was conducted by DeLoris. Members shopped for Christmas gifts for the shut-in members. They will be delivered before Christmas. Mission service reported one more quilt has been made. We were told if donations would like to be given to the Prison Ministry to contact the District office.

Pastor gave the Benediction at the close of the meeting. We all enjoyed refreshments brought by all members. Next meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. We welcome you to come to any of our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene Bunnell, Secretary

### January Helpers of the month

**Elder** – Bob Holt

**Acolytes** – (early) Mitchell Goedeken, Lindsay Underwood & **Jan 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30 am**  
(late) Chris Peterson, Abby Pflughoeft

**Ushers** – (early) Frank Goedeken, Greg Underwood, Mike Setzkorn, Mike Ryba  
(late) Gerome Copeland, Lane Copeland, Arde Ramthun, Dean Cole

**Ushers don't forget New Year's Day service @ 9:30 am**

**Altar Service** – (1<sup>st</sup>) Ramona Cole, Una Durham, Cindy Haskell, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Karen Ryba, Hazel, Tilton

**Organist** – 1/1 Marilyn, 1/2 Arlene, 1/9 Nancy, 1/16 Barb, 1/23 Nancy, 1/30 Barb

**Offering Counter** – Todd Pflughoeft

## Ruth Guild

Ruth Guild met on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lucy Wiens home with a covered bowl dinner. Eight members and one guest were present.

Jacque Schawe led us in our topic, "Christmas in our Lives". Joni Reiter handed out our prayer list and who to call. A report was given that 43 people were served at Soon IL Holt's funeral dinner.

A motion was made to give a donation to three places. The Manna House, Brownie Troop for blankets and Crisis Center.

Next meeting will be January 6<sup>th</sup> with Barbara Jahnke having topic and Lucy, devotions and Joni, Hostess.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucy Wiens, Secretary



The annual **Epiphany party** is scheduled for Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7 pm at the Goedeken's home, 2909 Toalson. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift and a munchie to share. To participate in gift exchange we ask that you be high school age and older. All ages welcome to come and enjoy food, beverage and fun.

## BIRTHDAYS

01/02 Grant Powers Jr.  
01/03 Diana Copeland  
01/04 Emma Hagemeyer  
01/05 Kaleena Setzkorn  
Tarra Ryba  
01/06 Diana Long  
01/07 JC Riekenberg  
Deidre Holsten  
Trevor Ryba  
01/09 Joni Reiter  
01/11 Mandi Holsten  
Ron Gall  
John Hamilton  
01/12 Lisa Hogan  
01/16 Earl Cuyler  
Arlene Bunnell  
01/17 Judi Jahnke  
01/18 Cortnie Dohrmann  
Sandy Showalter  
Goldsberry  
01/19 Bart Ratts  
01/20 Jeremy Neeley  
Eric Snyder  
Lee Ramthun  
01/21 Chris Harms  
Fred Maskus  
01/23 Jim Gall  
01/24 Kris Ball  
Sharon Goedeken  
Kevin Eichman  
Cheyenne Ball



01/25 Judy Rumsey  
01/27 Jeffery Maskus  
Klinton Cantu  
01/29 John Ball  
Clifford Wilson

## ANNIVERSARIES

01/03 Fred & Virginia  
01/05 Frank & Dorothy Fromm  
Mike & Norma Nail  
01/11 Roy & Evelyn McGee  
Jerry & Molly Pegelow  
01/12 Steve & Merrill Powers  
01/14 Larry & Debbie Harris  
01/22 Leonard & LesLea  
Bockelman  
01/24 David & Pam Neeley  
01/27 Richie & Cathy Meadows

Please see the monthly helper list printed in this newsletter.



The congregation of Holy Cross is invited to witness the marriage vows of Christopher Runquist and Rebecca Roth on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.





## We Want To Hear From You!

With the recent Church software upgrade, we now have the ability to correspond and communicate with our members electronically by email for many of our regular mailings and communications. In the attempt to be good Stewards of our office supplies, postage and resources we would like to hear from you!

If you would like to receive any of the following items listed below electronically by email, please place an X in box(es) of interest to you.

- Quarterly & Annual Contribution Statements
- Acolyte Schedules (**will be posted on the new website**)
- Usher Schedules (**will be posted on the new website**)

**\* Monthly Newsletter & Weekly Bulletin (soon to be available on the new church website. The address is [www.hclcdodgecity.org](http://www.hclcdodgecity.org))**

Other items of interest \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your home email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please place your completed form in the offering plate or give it to an Usher or the Church Secretary*



2005 will be a year of change for HCLC. As we have already seen the changes happen since October of 2004. Here is a brief update of what you will see unfold.

The exterior lower level concrete walls have been completed along with the new basement floor. The steel has been ordered and is scheduled to be here for erection in January. After the steel erectors have completed their work the upper level floor of the addition will be poured with concrete.

Following the pouring of the concrete main level floor, the framing crew will arrive to begin building the exterior/interior walls and set the roof truss and decking for the new roof on the addition. The same time the framing crew is here, they will also be setting/installing the windows for the addition. The exterior brick has been ordered and is to arrive in February. Schedules are subject to change due to weather and building material production schedules.

Traditionally, January is the month of making commitments. Commitments to family, vocation or your physical well-being. The Committed Together Committee and the Board of Stewardship ask you to re-affirm your commitment to God's church for his work here. If you have not been able to make a commitment yet, please prayerfully consider your commitment for the New Year!

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a Committed Together envelope to help assist you in beginning your New Year commitment. Additional envelopes for your use are located on the east & west sides of the Church narthex or in the church office. Take as many as you need for your monthly or weekly commitment.

***“Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and your plans will succeed.”  
--Proverbs 16:3***



**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2200 Third Avenue Dodge City,  
Kansas 67801-2596

Dear Members & Friends of Holy

Cross:

The Altar Guild of Holy Cross invites you to participate in providing flowers for the altar this coming year. Flowers may be given .. as a gift to the glory of God; to commemorate weddings, anniversaries, and other significant events in members' lives; or as memorials to departed loved ones.

Flowers are symbolic of the beauty of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some think of them as adding their praises to the worship of God's people. So that they may carry on their ministry of praise and service, they will be given to the sick/or shut-ins after they have served their purpose in God's house. **DONORS MAY DESIGNATE TO WHOM THEY WANT THEM GIVEN!**

The Altar Guild purchases for the donors. The cost will be \$25.00 for both vases. Donors may share the cost of the flowers, price subject to change during the year. When in season, garden flowers, appropriate for church display, may be furnished by donors. When this is done, the Altar Guild should be informed through the persons in charge of flowers by Thursday, and the Guild will then assist in the arranging/placing of the flowers. Donors are asked to bring garden flowers to the church by noon on the day before they are to be placed on the Altar.

Should there be a conflict of dates, because one or more donors have requested the same date, the Altar Guild will try to arrive at a suitable solution. Ordinarily, the first person requesting a certain date will get THAT DATE.

For orders .. contact Una Rae Durham at 227-6973 and please **PAY AT THE TIME OF ORDERING.** Make checks payable to the **ALTAR GUILD** and mail to .. Una Rae Durham, 2211 Howell, Dodge City, KS 67801.

I [WE] desire to place flowers on the Altar on the following dates...

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK

We request the Altar Guild to purchase flowers for us.

We will provide garden flowers when in season.

We will share the cost of flowers with

\_\_\_\_\_.

Flowers are to be placed ...

as a gift to the glory of God.

as a memorial to \_\_\_\_\_.

to commemorate \_\_\_\_\_.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE..flowers may be placed during Advent and Lent. If the Altar is taken, flowers may be displayed on either side of the CHANCEL as deemed appropriate by the Altar Guild.