



Parish Visitor

Bringing the good news of **Christ Lutheran Church** into your home!

December 2010

Advent Midweek Worship A Season of Song

This Advent, during our midweek services, we will be treated to some wonderful music. On **December 1**, join us as we celebrate the season with "**A Cowboy Christmas**" featuring the cowboy band Baloney Creek. Sounds of the season will be punctuated with familiar music wrapped up in big cowboy cloth wrapping paper and tied with a lasso! Don't miss this one!



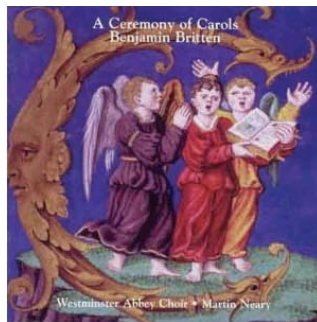
After each Advent Worship, stay awhile and spend some time with the musical guests and artists. Join us in the CLC and enjoy Christmas Cookies, hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and some Christmas fellowship!



December 8, join us for "**The Bells of Christmas**" as handbell choirs from the area join forces to ring in the season. You will be dazzled with sweet melodies and other great surprises!



December 15, join an auditioned children's choir, our own Musica Consortium and a classical harp, as we perform Benjamin Brittan's "**Ceremony of Carols**" and other traditional Christmas music that is sure to get you ready for the season of Christ's birth.



Children's Christmas Program *Silent Night*

The Christmas Story Through the Eyes of the Deaf Shepherd Boy

Sunday, December 19

8, 9:30 and 11 am

See page 7 for more information



December 22, join our choir and guest singers as we climb aboard a "**Singing Christmas Tree**" downtown, next to the Enchanted Playhouse on Main Street for Christmas carols and a retelling of the Christmas story. This is a fun family adventure that will be a seasonal favorite!

Monthly Newsletter for Christ Lutheran Church

3830 W Tulare Avenue • Visalia, CA

On the Web at: www.clcvisalia.org

Phone: 559-732-1851

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Pastor Malison's News for the Pews

During my sabbatical this summer, Christopher and I had a chance to go on a tour of the University of Indiana. We were there because a friend of ours was being recruited by the IU basketball team. No doubt it was who we were with, not who we were, that made the difference. We had every member of the men's basketball team coaching staff come up, introduce themselves, ask us about ourselves, and take a genuine interest in us. Even the head basketball coach bent over backwards to make us feel at home.

I tell you that story because this season people will be coming to church that may not come to church very often. This is one of those times when people without a church home will consider coming to a church for a variety of reasons. It is important to know something about those reasons:

- Some come out of a sense of tradition; they went to church on Christmas Eve as a child and they remember it being a special time.

- Some come out of obligation; they are told church is not an option by family members who go to church.

- Some come out of curiosity; they want to see just what is going on behind closed doors.

And some come in search of healing; the holiday season can be hard to those suffering

emotionally, and these people come looking for help.

If you are reading this and you call CLC your church home, please consider being as gracious as those basketball coaches at Indiana University. Go out of your way (and perhaps out of your comfort zone) to say hello to someone you don't know, to shake their hand, to introduce yourself, and to ask them a little about themselves (and to *really* listen to what they have to say!). You might also consider parking a little further from the front door to allow our guests to have the best parking spots, and to sit further forward in worship to save the back rows for them (visitors generally hate sitting too far forward).

Here's the thing about it: what we have to offer is something even better than Indiana University basketball (as good as Hoosier basketball might be!); we have the good news that in our confused and scatter world, where hardship and trouble seems to be commonplace, the Messiah has been born, and lives within us. It is because of this Messiah, Jesus Christ, that we are able to live with greater purpose and greater joy. It is because of Jesus that we can thrive while others wither.

Remember our mission statement: *To experience Jesus and live like Jesus, so that those desiring greater meaning will enjoy an abundant life in Christ.*

Now is the season to believe those words, and to live them out.

Pastor Brian Malison

Brian can be reached via email at Brian@clcvisalia.org.

CLC Staff

Brian K. Malison

Lead Pastor

Lim Forgey III

Minister of Music

David Lemon

Youth Minister

Patti Dudley

Director of Servant Ministries

Dianne Aldrich

Director of Spiritual Formation

Ann Aakre

Director of Discipleship
Ministries

Mike Johnson

Church Administrator

Patty Endres

Office Manager

Carol Zarndt-Salvador

Financial Secretary

Kristina Smoot

Executive Secretary

Glen Crownover

Director of Multi Media

Dennis McGuire

Facility Coordinator

Marti Fleming

Nursery Coordinator

Ron Hoffman

Parish Counselor

Don't miss out on Christmas Eve Worship At Christ Lutheran Church Friday, December 24, 2010

5 pm-The Service of Children

This service is especially for children and young families.

6:30 pm-The Service of Carols

Highlighting the wonderful music of this night.

11 pm-The Service of Candles

Reflecting the warmth and glow of a special night of worship.



Parish Visitor Deadline: Articles for the Parish Visitor should be submitted by the third Tuesday of each month.

YOUTH Connect

I recently read a blog on relevantmagazine.com about why art should matter to Christians. It explored many different ways that we can find and utilize art in our daily lives. Many people (myself included) cannot adequately draw a stick figure, but that doesn't mean that we can't still find something to express ourselves creatively. Within the youth department we have started a yearlong journal. Each time we have a lesson students are able to express what they have just heard in their own unique way. Many draw, some write, some are more literal and some are more abstract, but each one is as individual as the students themselves. I am hoping that at the end of this school year, we can collectively look back at the journal and see the journey that God has taken us on as a group. I am confident that we will be able to see an amazing journey through pictures, stories, and any other forms that may take shape.

We have started signups for the annual Christmas Retreat – It will again be in San Diego from December 26-29. The cost is \$140 for individuals \$125 for multiples and if students bring a friend they are only \$100. Some scholarships are available; please see me for more information. Sign up on the board in the foyer of “the House.”

Useless Fact of the month: A coat hanger is 44 inches long if straightened

Unfunny of the month: Q. what do you call a boomerang that won't come back? A. a stick

Peace, David

David can be reached via email at david@clcvisalia.org

Ninth Grade Confirmation Class

Ninth graders will meet with Pastor Malison for a session on “Church Membership,” Sunday, December 12, 2:00 pm at the church. Ninth graders will also meet their mentors during this class.



Adult Bible Fellowship

A new study begins Sunday morning, December 5, and continues through December 19: “Advent Conspiracy.” Are you tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This year, take a stand! Join the groundswell of Christ followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be—a joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirits.

Worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all. And find out how to have a Christmas worth remembering, not dreading.

Join this group in the CLC Fireside Room from 9:30 until 10:45 am. And come early to get



Sunday Morning Education

Adult Bible Study and Discussion continues each Sunday at 9:30 am in the Conference Room of the CCC. This class focuses on the sermon’s weekly Gospel lesson, and there are plenty of opportunities to participate in group discussion. Bring your Bible!



GIVING — October

	Monthly		Year To Date		Net Difference
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
Income for Church Operations	\$77,062	\$70,812	\$758,402	\$685,441	(\$72,961)
Designated Giving for October: \$14,291		Designated Giving for the Year To Date: \$359,711			

African Relief Christmas Global Barnyard Project

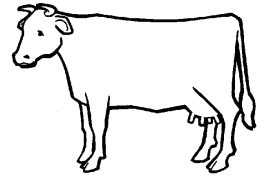
*The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen;
it had been just as the angel had told them. Luke 2:20*



Isn't it amazing that the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, was first announced to a group of lowly shepherds tending their sheep in the fields? In this Advent season, what better way to commemorate the birth of Jesus than to purchase a farm animal that will increase the quality of life for a family in Africa.

The African Relief Team will be sponsoring a "Global Barnyard" event three Sundays, November 28, December 5 and December 12. you can exhibit the true "Christmas Spirit" by impacting a family with a life-altering gift of a cow (\$500), a goat (\$50.), a pig (\$30), etc. Goats are especially beneficial as they multiply rapidly, provide nutritious milk, eat drought resistant plants, shrubs and grass and can be cared for by children should their parents be suffering from AIDS. Cows are especially valued. If you can't afford to purchase a cow by yourself, share the cost with other families.

Let Christ Lutheran Church be as generous as in the past, knowing that our dollars can be life saving in a country so stricken by poverty. In addition to being a wonderful Christmas gift for friends and relatives, the purchase of a farm animal would be a great gift for grandchildren as an example of giving to those in need.



Campus Updates

Our endowment balance was reported last month to be \$313,681. This was actually our beginning 2010 balance, my mistake. Our actual balance as of 11/12/10 is \$343,928 so we're doing well as we strive to reach \$400,000. Prayerfully consider how you can help us achieve this goal.

Our strategic planning process continues, as we zero in on our main initiatives at CLC. You will hear more about this as we move towards 2011 and we begin to bring many of these initiatives to life.

Our 2011 budget forums will be held on Wednesday, December 1st at 5:30 p.m. in the CLC, and again on Sunday, December 5th at 10:30 a.m. in the CCC. Board President Bob Hartman and I will walk through the details of this budget with all who are interested. All members will have received a copy of this budget in advance of these forums. One adjustment not yet shown in the 2011 budget is the change in the Church Administrator position, which I have held for just over 2 ½ years. I've proposed to Pastor Brian, and he's accepted, that we make this position part time as the duties can be handled with fewer hours now that our BURO project is done. The board has been advised and also approve of this change. We will provide updates as often as they occur so that everyone is aware of how this will impact our congregation.

Mike Johnson

Mike can be reached via email at mike@clcvisalia.org

The CLC Spiritual Gifts Inventory is now online!

It is fast and easy to take.

Look on our web site www.clcvisalia.org. You are gifted by God to help him grow His kingdom through serving. You might ask, where do I begin?

Take a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. For further information or questions contact Patti Dudley at pdudley@clcvisalia.org.



From your Health Team

We sing TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY and normally associate the holidays with happiness, joy and celebration. The holidays, however, can carry with them the seeds of exhaustion, stress, sadness and depression. How can we prepare and celebrate the holidays to avoid unnecessary stress. Here are some tips.

1. Focus on the purpose of the Holydays. That's not a misspelling. As Christians these are special days we celebrate, holy and set aside. Focus on the meaning of each Holyday and incorporate it into your preparation and celebration. Ask yourself what does this day mean to me as a Christian. Talk about the preparations with your family.

2.. Decide how much you can spend on gifts...make a budget. Write down your expenditures. Save yourself from the post-holiday depression of "How could I have spent that much.?"

3. Learn to say "No" without feeling guilty. Be in charge of your life. Know what you can reasonably accomplish during the season to avoid resentment and guilt. Try to schedule your time to accomplish your tasks realistically.

4. Take a breather. When you feel overwhelmed, stressed and exhausted. Stop. Go outside. Look at the sky, a tree, take a walk and marvel at the miracle you are. Take a breath and savor it.

5. Make sure you SEE. Get enough Sleep, Exercise and Eat with moderation. Depression feeds on exhaustion, lack of exercise and poor eating habits.

6. The Holydays may bring sadness if we mourn the recent loss of a loved one or think of parents, and family who once were a part of our celebrations. Rather than deny those memories, regard them as precious, give thanks for the time they were with us and rejoice in the love and joy they brought into our lives.

7. If you feel lonely or isolated - don't sit in it- reach out. Tell a friend how you feel. Try to make new friends...join a group....volunteer for a good cause to fill your life and gain new experiences. If your depression is too much, seek help.

8. Acknowledge your feelings. Turn to the Psalms and you will find a psalmist who shares and supports you by finding your strength in the Lord. You belong to Christ and are a part of Christ Lutheran Church. You are not alone.

Ron Hoffman, MFT, Ed Psychology

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 5

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself." The Message, Luke 12:29

Pledge cards were mailed out late November in preparation for Consecration Sunday, December 5. These are the things we hope you will do...

- Pray and ask God what percentage of your income He is leading you to give in 2011.
- Fill out the pledge card and bring it to worship on December 5.
- Come forward when directed in worship and joyfully expect God's blessing on CLC because of your gifts and the gifts of others in 2011.

December — Calendar of Events

This calendar is updated weekly and is available online at www.clcvisalia.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	29 9:30 AM Old Men Coffee @ Burger King-Demaree 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens	30 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 7:00 PM AA	1 11:40 AM Pre-school Chapel 5:30 PM Budget Forum 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 7:00 PM Advent Worship	2 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	3 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	4 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Singing at the Delta Home 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
5 Consecration Sunday Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 10:30 AM Budget Forum 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 PM Esther Circle	6 6:00 PM CLCW Baby Shower & Potluck 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	7 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	8 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 7:00 PM Advent Worship	9 11:40 AM Pre-school Chapel 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	10 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	11 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 AM Second Saturday Serve Youth Event 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
12 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am 9:05 AM Semi-Annual Congregational Mtg 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 2:00 PM 9th Grade Confirmation 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	13 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens	14 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 4:00 PM CLCW Board Meeting 6:00 PM Prayer Team 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	15 11:40 AM Pre-school Chapel 5:30 PM Praise Adventures 5:30 PM Youth CORE Events 7:00 PM Advent Worship	16 7:00 AM Finance Team 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:00 PM Executive Team 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	17 6:30 AM Well Women @ Valhalla's 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	18 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 4:30 PM Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
19 Children's Christmas Program at 8, 9:30 and 11 am 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 12:15 PM PrimeTimers Christmas Music Potluck 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	20 ChristKids Closed for Christmas Vacation 6:30 PM Cub Scout Dens 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 Parish Visitor Deadline 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 5:30 PM iMatter Board Meeting 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	22 7:00 PM Singing Christmas Tree Downtown Visalia	23 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 5:40 PM Handbells 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 6:30 PM Worship Choir 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	24 Office Closes at Noon 5:00 PM Service of Children 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship 6:30 PM Service of Carols 11:00 PM Service of Candles	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
26 Worship @ 8, 9:30 & 11 am Youth Christmas Retreat 9:30 AM Sunday Education for All 1:00 PM Lahu Worship 6:00 PM 7-8th Grade Confirmation	27 ChristKids Closed for Christmas Vacation Office Closed Youth Christmas Retreat 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack	28 Youth Christmas Retreat 9:15 AM Staff Prayer 5:30 PM ChristKids Preschool Board Meeting 6:00 PM Church Board 7:00 PM AA 7:00 PM AI Anon	29 Youth Christmas Retreat	30 4:20 PM Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 PM Christian Meditation 8:00 PM RELATE @ "The House"	31 6:30 PM Freedom Fellowship	1 10:00 AM Singing at the Delta Home 10:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous 7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

CLCW ANNUAL BABY SHOWER

December 6, 2010

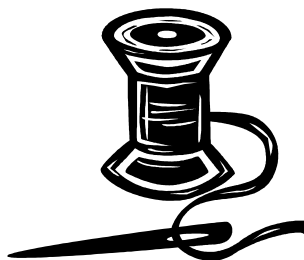
6:00 pm - CLC BUILDING

Please bring salad or a casserole, as well as an unwrapped gift for sizes infants through child's size 14. All gifts will benefit the needy of Tulare County.



SEWING WITH HOPE

TO PRESENT PILLOWCASES



The women at the House of Hope have been sewing pillowcases during the year for the Foster Children of Tulare County. They will attend the Baby Shower on December 6th and present them to the organization. SEWING WITH HOPE was started about 2 years ago to teach the residents how to sew. They make projects that they can keep or give away, but this year they also made something for someone in need. SEWING WITH HOPE is funded by Thrivent Insurance Company and the CLCW.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 12

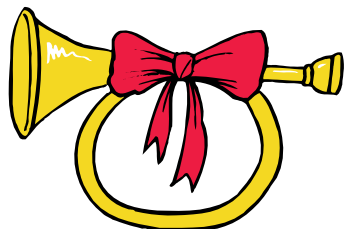
9:05 am in the Sanctuary

- Approval of the 2011 Congregational Budget
- Approval of the 2011 Prayer Team

Job Opening – Receptionist

Applications for a receptionist for the church office are being accepted now. Hours for this job are 12 – 5 Monday through Thursday and 10 – 1 on Fridays. Ideal candidates must be outgoing, friendly, organized and flexible with advanced-level skills in MS OFFICE. Applications can be obtained during office hours from Patty Endres.

PrimeTimers Christmas Potluck



Sunday,
December 19 at
12:15 pm

Lim Forgey, Minister of Music at Christ Lutheran Church, presents Christmas Music. Sign up in the foyer, and join us for a good time.

ChristKids News



Classroom Fun

The holidays are such a fun time for preschoolers. We love learning the Christmas story and making gifts for our families. This year we will spread some joy to our community by singing at the Manor and collecting food and gifts for community families.

Christmas Chapel/Cookie Social

Join us for Christmas Chapel on Wednesday, December 15 at 11:30 am. All 80 of our preschoolers will be singing their favorite Christmas songs with great joy and celebration! Cookies will be served after the performance.

*They will call him Immanuel-which means,
"God with us."*

Matthew 1:23

*With Joy,
Barbara*

Email: ChristKidspreschoo@sbcglobal.net

Children's Christmas Program

"*Silent Night-The Christmas Story Through the Eyes of the Deaf Shepherd Boy*" will be presented at all three services (8:00, 9:30, and 11:00) on Sunday morning, December 19, as a part of worship.

Children wanting to be in the program can attend Sunday School Openings, which begin around 9:30 each Sunday morning in the Music Suite, or talk with Ann in the church office. One large-group rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 18, at 4:30 pm.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

“FEAR NOT”

In the Christmas story there is a liturgical refrain: “Fear not.” These words, spoken by angelic creatures, were meant to calm the fearful hearts and worried minds of old temple priests, a young woman, and a scattering of shepherds as they received news of the birth of the Messiah. In these frightening days, maybe they are words we need to hear too. Come to worship, not just to hear, but to receive the good news that we have a Messiah!

8 AM — Liturgical Worship/Traditional

9:30 & 11 AM — ChristSong Worship

DATE	THEME	BIBLE TEXT
December 5	<i>When Fear Paralyzes</i> <i>Special: Consecration Sunday</i>	Luke 1:8-20
December 12	<i>When Fear Motivates</i>	Luke 1:26-38
December 19	<i>Faith Defeats Fear</i> <i>Special: The Children’s Christmas Pageant at 8, 9:30 and 11 am Worship</i>	Luke 2:8-12
December 26	<i>A Christmas Gift: The Fear of the Lord</i>	Psalms 111:1-10

