



# The Dove



The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church of Malden  
December and January 2010

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 17, 2010**  
**Following Worship**

Come and share in the conversation about our shared life in ministry!

*Committee Chair Persons : Please have your annual reports into the church office to be included in the 2010 annual report by Friday, January 1st.*

## The Pastor Chimes In

I came upon a poem titled: "Twas the Beginning of **Advent**". It is based on the famous poem about Christmas Eve. The poem in a fun way, touches the heart of this season of **Advent** that we are about to begin

"Twas the beginning of Advent and all through the  
all through the Church

Our hope was all dying we'd given up on the search.

It wasn't so much that Christ wasn't invited,

But after 2,000 plus years we were no

Longer excited.

Oh, we knew what was coming no doubt about that.

And that was the trouble it was all "old hat."

November brought the first of an unending  
series of pains

With carefully orchestrated advertising campaigns.

There were gadgets and dolls and all sorts of toys,

Enough to seduce even the most devout  
girls and boys.

Unfortunately, it seemed, no one was

Completely exempt

From this seasonal virus that did all of us tempt.

The priests and prophets and Certainly the kings

Were all so consumed with the desire for "things!"

It was rare, if at all, that you'd hear of the reason

For the origin of this whole holy-day season.

A baby, it seems, once had been born in the  
mid-east somewhere on That first holy-day morn.

But what does that mean for folks like us,

Who've lost ourselves in the hoopla and fuss?

Can we re-learn the art of wondering and waiting,  
Of hoping and praying, and anticipating?  
Can we let go of all the things and the stuff?

Can we open our eyes and open our ears?  
Can we find him again after all of these years?  
Will this year be different from all the rest?  
Will we be able to offer him all of our best?

With him he brings wholeness and newness of life  
For brother and sister, for husband and wife.

The Christ-child comes not by our skill,  
But rather he comes by his own Father's will.

What can't make him come with parties  
and bright trees,

But only by getting down on our knees.

He'll come if we wait amidst our affliction,  
Coming in spite of, not by our restriction.

His coming will happen of this there's no doubt.

The question is whether we'll be in or out.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

Do you have the courage to peer through the lock?

Can we block out commercials, the hype and the malls?

Can we find solitude in our holy halls?

Can we keep alert, keep hope, stay awake?

Can we receive the child for ours and God's sake?

From on high with the caroling host as he sees us,

He yearns to read on our lips the prayer:

Come Lord Jesus!

As **Advent** begins all these questions make plea.

The only true answer: We will see, we will see.

## **While We Wait**

Advent for many of us is a busy time. Carve out the time now for reflection and preparation for the birth of Jesus! We will be journeying through Advent together with the small book called *While We Wait*. Reserve your copy for \$5.00, by speaking with Pastor Angela. Mark your calendars now for Wednesdays in December 2, 9, 16 from 6:30 – 7:30 in the parish house. We will work through 3 Bible Studies together and reflect together on the season of anticipation!

### **Do you like to sing?**

#### **Join the Choir!!**

Would you like to learn *how* to read music and be part of a vibrant and God-lovin' singing group? Come join the First Lutheran choir. All are welcome! Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for some learning and singing. If you have any questions or hesitations about joining, please talk to Yun Lee.

## **Lucia Fest**

Our 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Lucia Fest will be on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.00 at the door (\$10 for a whole family). Come for the traditional Lucia bride ritual, but also for the fun and fellowship! Many members will be displaying their awesome talents too. Swedish baked goods and coffee available after the show!

## **Congregation-Wide Conversation**

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> following worship, we will be gathering for further conversation regarding our ministry together. (Snow/bad weather reschedule day is December 20<sup>th</sup>). Note this is NOT an annual meeting. We will be discussing the proposed 2010 budget and answering any questions. This is in preparation for the Annual Meeting scheduled on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Christmas Worship Help**

Are you going to be around for Christmas and would like to serve? We need worship volunteers for the Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are looking for altar guild, assisting ministers, ushers, greeters, readers, and acolytes. If you are able to help out, please contact Annette in the Parish Office as soon as possible at [office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net](mailto:office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net)

## **Come Christmas Caroling**

On Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> we'll go caroling around the neighborhood. Dress warmly. We will leave from church at 3:30 p.m. and walk together around the neighborhood spreading some Christmas cheer. We have been snowed out the last two years, we will make it this year. Join us as we reach out to our neighbors during Christmas.

## **Davenport Christmas Worship**

Come and spread the Christmas story with the residents of the Davenport Memorial Home at 70 Salem Street in Malden on Saturday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m. We will worship and fellowship together! Contact Pastor Angela Freeman if you have questions or need a ride. Also, if you are able to play piano for

## **Join us for the Christmas Pageant**

This year the Sunday church school will again present a Christmas pageant as part of the family Christmas Eve service at 4:00 P.M.

Our pageant this year is called "Christmas Light: Then and Now." Through music, poetry, and prayer we will celebrate the Light of Christ coming into our darkness by remembering Jesus' birth, seeing Jesus in other children, and inviting Jesus into our lives now.

We hope that you will join us for the 4:00 service. You do not need to be part of a Sunday school family or be accompanied by small children. Everyone is welcome at this celebration of our Lord's birth.

## **Christmas Pageant Rehearsals**

Christmas pageant rehearsals have been scheduled for the following three times:

Saturday, December 5, 9:30-10:30

Saturday, December 19, 9:30-10:30

Sunday, December 20, 9:00-9:30 (please note slight time change for this day).

Please try to bring pageant participants to as many rehearsals as you can. If your child will miss a rehearsal, please let Karin Albright know (phone: 781-322-4312; e-mail: [karin.albright@verizon.net](mailto:karin.albright@verizon.net)). A cassette with music for practicing at home is also being distributed.

## **Doll Needed for Pageant**

Do you have a baby doll that we could borrow for this year's Christmas pageant? We already have one suitable to represent Baby Jesus; what we are looking for now is one to represent a modern baby. We would like to use a realistic-looking doll that is similar in size to a real baby and can be held like a real baby. Hair and skin color do not matter, and the doll can look like either a girl or a boy. We are of course looking for a plaything and do not want to borrow any doll that is fragile, a collector's item, or of any special value. If you can help, please let Karin Albright know (phone: 781-322-4312; e-mail: [karin.albright@verizon.net](mailto:karin.albright@verizon.net)).

## **AA Worship Service**

Open Doors Ministries and Saint Nicholas Mission are pleased to welcome all those who have been affected by addictions to our first monthly offering of a Recovery Eucharist. This special Mass is offered to deepen spiritual growth and lasting recovery and to celebrate in God's healing grace. A Recovery Eucharist incorporates the "12 Steps" into the liturgy and offers opportunity for the laying on of hands for healing whether the intention is for yourself, someone you love, or to simply receive a blessing, believing in the power of God's love and compassion for all who suffer.

Sunday, December 13th @ 5:30 p.m., St. Nicholas Mission (meeting in First Lutheran Church, 98 Waite Street, Malden, MA

All are welcome to participate as fully as you like.

Blessing and Prayers,

Reverend David Dismas, M.Div., S.T.M.

## **Tri-CAP Holiday Gifts**

If you are providing a gift for a child through the Tri-CAP Head Start, please bring it to church on Sunday, December 13, when the gifts will be blessed. If you cannot be at that service or have any questions about this program, please let Karin Albright know (phone: 781-322-4312; e-mail: [karin.albright@verizon.net](mailto:karin.albright@verizon.net)).

## **Let there be light...**

There are many ways we can communicate with the people who live in the neighborhood of our Church. A properly maintained church building is one way. Clean surroundings is another; this elicits respect and a sense that communal responsibility is being taken seriously. Adding other features that are inviting and welcoming will add to a favorable impression.

Signs are informative. They stand for our identity, and communicate the degree to which we are welcoming outsiders.

Flowers and shrubs create a different reaction. The observer is left with a pleasant feeling that takes hold of us whenever we observe the natural beauty of this world.

A light in an otherwise darkened world, if directed at an object that incites our imagination, makes us curious and can leave us in a hopeful state of mind.

Recently we placed several lights at the most attractive stain glass windows in the church, the base of the tower, and the steeple. The effect is quite unique. What was dark and lifeless in the evening hours will now be noticed for the light that comes from within. It conveys a spiritual message of mystery.

We hope that this latest effort will add to the favorable image our neighbors have of First Lutheran. More efforts are needed. Your council is engaged in a continuous dialog to envision what these additional steps ought to be. Your support, prayers, and engagement are needed in this discernment process.

In Christ,

Rolf Bandle  
Church Council

## **Christmas Worship Times**

### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Pageant and

Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. Candle Light Worship

With Holy Communion

### **Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion



# Youth News December/January



## December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Saturday: Attending the Christmas service at the Davenport has become a youth group tradition! It is fun to celebrate Christmas with the residents. We would like volunteers to read during the service. It is important to practice your reading ahead of time to make sure you read loudly and clearly. Please let Pastor Angela or me know if you are willing to be a reader. The service is at 10:30 at the Davenport Memorial Home. Let Pastor Angela or Joanne know if you need directions or a ride.

Sunday: Caroling!!!! I know...I know. We have been snowed out the last two years. This year it is going to happen. I can feel it! The youth group will meet at 2:30 to put candy canes together with invitations to the Christmas services for the neighbors. At 3:30 we'll be "fa-la-la-ing" around the neighborhood. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth and get to know our neighbors!



## January 9<sup>th</sup> (Second Saturday in January)

Happy New Year! We'll be celebrating the new year with a party and some planning for "Youth Group 2010"! Bring snacks to share! Bring your ideas for 2010. Bring a friend!

## Youth Group Calendar

**Worship Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 Lucia Fest (No youth group meeting)**

**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Davenport Christmas**

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 2:30 Youth group meets at church  
(Caroling at 3:30)**

**Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 New Year's Party/ Planning for  
2010!**



[www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org)  
Freedom, NH  
1-603-593-4773

## December

4-6 God Jul Weekend

CC\$1500/adult; \$110/student; \$550/family  
SH & RL \$138/adult; \$108/student; \$500 family  
HC \$120/ADULT; \$90/student; \$425/family

26-1-1 Christmas & New Year Extravaganza:

Family/day: CC \$175 SH&RL \$160 HC \$132  
Adult/day: CC \$62 SH&RL \$57 HC \$48

## January 2010

1-3 A Retreat for Church Councils

8-10 Scrapbooking Retreat

11-14 Adult Mid-Week Skit Retreat

15-18 Martin Luther King Jr. Family Vacation Weekend

26-28 Rostered Leaders & Spouses Retreat

29-31 Winter Hike for Beginner Adult Hikers

For any other questions please contact  
[www.calumet.org](http://www.calumet.org) or call Joan Rossi at 781-231-0447.

## Let us Pray

*Please keep these persons and situations in your prayers throughout the month.*

Julie Maxon and the family of Lindsay Toft, Anne Kelloway, Pamela Wilson, Richard Strobel, John Lundstrom, Ross MacDonald, Bernie Colson, Paul Constantino, Jane Marchand, Laura Knowles, Nancy Graham, Laura Rosa & family, Dorothy Klasner, Ted Doucette, David Pike, Jon Abedon, Joan Casico, the ministries of the New England Seafarers Mission, Refugee Immigration Ministries and Bread of Life, St. Nicholas mission, all those seeking employment, and expecting mothers, Britta, Melissa S., Amanda, Alyana, Melisa B., Denise, Hilda Clark, Bill Blackstone.

*Please note that names will normally remain on the prayer list for approximately a month. If you would like the name or prayer request to remain on the list longer, please call or email the church office.*

## Weekly Information to Share?

For weekly bulletin announcements or worship assistant changes, please send the news to Annette by **noon on Wednesday** of that week to [office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net](mailto:office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net)

## Church Directory

Updated directories of First Lutheran members and friends is now available. They are in the boxes near the fellowship trays in the sacristy. Please find yours and bring it home with you.

## February/March Newsletter

The deadline for the February/March 2010 issue of the Dove will be January 20, 2010. Have your information into Annette by noon on that day. Thank you!([office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net](mailto:office.firstlutheranmaiden@verizon.net))

## In Case of Adverse Weather

We hope we never have to use this service, but in case we have to cancel worship services because of adverse weather, this is how you would find out. Go to WCVB, Channel 5 or Closures will also be listed at [www.thebostonchannel.com/closings/index.html](http://www.thebostonchannel.com/closings/index.html)

If you have a computer, a cell phone, or a similar device capable of receiving e-mail, however, you do not have to stay glued to our television set or page through all of listings at this website! Instead, you can go to the site and register to receive First Lutheran closing information as e-mail as it becomes available. If you don't have a computer but do have a way of receiving e-mail, call the church office. We can get you set up.

## Altar Flowers

Altar Flower calendar sign up for 2010 is ready for you to fill out. The flowers are beautifully arranged by the local florist, Wildflower Designs. The sign-up calendar is in the church near the side door. We invite you to sign up a Sunday when you would like to have the altar flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. You can also call the church office to request a Sunday. The cost for a Sunday is \$30.00 and can be made out to First Lutheran Church.

## Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

www.thriventbuilds.com

### Habitat in Bedford Needs Tools

The construction trailer at the site in Bedford, Mass was broken into and \$3500 worth of power tools and supplies were stolen. If you have used tools in good condition or are able to supply Habitat with new tools, please contact Habitat at 978-629-0927. Some tools needed are: 2 Cordless sawsall with batteries, 1/2 Hammer drill, 18 Volt Charger, Skill Saw, Dewalt Batteries, Tape Measures, Hammers...

### Housing Families Inc. of Malden needs your help!

Do you want to volunteer to help kids and have fun serving? Housing Families is looking for volunteers for their Children's Program. They need help with tutoring and morning childcare. Training, support, and fun is provided—they just need you! For more information, please call Heather at 781-322-9119 x33.

### Bread of Life

We at First Lutheran Church work to provide a meal every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Malden. We need you to help make this program successful. The number of meals we serve each month per feeding is reaching beyond 100. There are many hungry people in the community. Come and be a part of this important work.

Also, we continue to collect dried food goods to be brought over to the Bread of Life office in Malden for their distribution needs. The basket in the front of the sanctuary is for that purpose. Thank you for your continued support of this important food ministry in Malden.

### Church Office Holiday Hours

Christmas Office Hours: Monday, December 21 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 22nd 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the office will be closed on Christmas Eve.

New Year's week: Tuesday, December 29th 9:30 to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 30th 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Office will be closed on New Years Eve.

## December/January Birthdays Happy Birthday!

### December

Mark Melhorn	8
Andrew Baldi	11
Peter Brown	11
Lara McKenna	11
Leonora Dymont	12
Karin Albright	16
Max Mattos	19
Helen Lundstrom	24
Helen Nelson	28
Elinor Sundquist	29

### January

Ilene Mattos	1
James Keller	3
Randy Williams	4
Bertha Brickley	15
Hannah Brickley	25

If you don't see your name on this list and would like it added to our database, please contact the church office.

### Congratulations to:

\*\*Rolf and Edda Bandle on the birth of their granddaughter on December 1, 2009, and to the proud parents Britta Bandle and her husband David Carll.

### Directory Changes

Please note that the correct e-mail address for Lee-Ann Lanzillo should be [rensalk183@verizon.net](mailto:rensalk183@verizon.net)

### Condolences



### Saints in Light

We give thanks to God for the life and memory of our brother in Christ,

**Amil A. Olson**

Grant him eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

## Blue Christmas at Saint Nicholas Mission

For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television or in greeting cards.

They may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one or after a divorce. Perhaps they have been unable to have a child, or have suffered through an emotional trauma. Or perhaps they feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations.

In recent years, many churches have attempted to reach out to people who feel such burdens by adding Blue Christmas services to their worship offerings.

These services have a more quiet, somber feel than a traditional Christmas worship service. Scripture, music and meditations/sermons focus on the comfort God offers during dark times.

Saint Nicholas Mission will offer its version of a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Lutheran Church, 98 Waite Street, Malden. All are welcome to participate. For more information, please email [david@themissionparish.com](mailto:david@themissionparish.com) or call him at 617-884-2121.

## Simply Giving Electronic Fund Transfer

*“When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket.”*

*Deuteronomy 26:1-2*

## FIRSTFRUITS GIVING MADE SIMPLE THROUGH THE SIMPLY GIVING PROGRAM!

Ever find yourself running out of the house Sunday morning, checkbook in hand thinking, “I’ll write my offering check when I get there”?

Through the Simply Giving Electronic Fund Transfer program, your regular offering can be made electronically. Your offering to God will be made for you automatically! Even if you are away, you can be sure that your offering will continue on a regular basis.

*(continued in the next column)*

This program is offered as an opportunity for members to be consistent in their giving, which benefits the church as well. Transfers are made electronically from your bank account to the church account. You decide the schedule for the transfer, weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. Changes can be made at anytime.

Please consider enrolling in this program. Authorization forms are available from Donna Kerry or by contacting the church office. If you have any questions or would like further details, please speak with Donna [d.kerry@verizon.net](mailto:d.kerry@verizon.net) or 781-322-6982

Several members have already enrolled in the program, and are already seeing how well it works! Won’t you join them?

## Advent Devotions

Would you like Advent devotional materials to use at home? Blue leaflets with prayers for use around an Advent wreath are available on the table at the back of the church.

“Praying Advent” on the Creighton University website

([www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/](http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/)) has wonderful devotions for each day of Advent and Christmas. (Since this is a Roman Catholic university you may find an occasional difference such as December 8 celebrated as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.)

The devotions are written for adults, but the site also includes ideas for celebrating Advent at home with children. Besides devotions, the site includes articles such as “Preparing Children for Advent,” “The Three Comings of Jesus,” “Praying Advent as Parents,” and “When time permits only one, brief prayer a day.” A visit to the site index will show you everything available. These resources are most easily read online. If you would like a printed booklet of daily Advent meditations for adults, *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*, based on the Magnificat, can be downloaded in PDF format (16 pages) from

### Luther Seminary’s website

([www.luthersem.edu/advent/](http://www.luthersem.edu/advent/)). Finally, coloring pictures and other children’s activities for Advent and Christmas are available at [www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk). See especially [www.activityvillage.co.uk/christmas\\_nativity\\_coloring\\_pages.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/christmas_nativity_coloring_pages.htm).