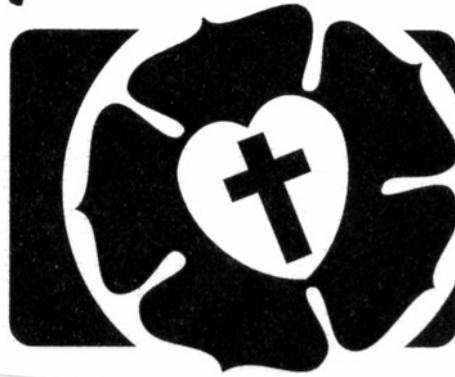


# university lutheran church



January  
2008



**SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 17, 2008**

Celebrate University Lutheran's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Watch for details in February in the newsletter and Sunday worship folders

**Huge Thanks!**

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We are always grateful for the willing hearts and hands in preparation for the Advent and Christmas season. Bob Tripp again helped load up the Christmas trees, while Bill Fritz, Dave Hull, Kristen Tollefson, Mary Kunstman and Pastor Gary helped place and light them. The wonderful wreath, with Kate Cross' nimble hands and instructions, had Mary Peterson, Gloria Peterson, Ruth Wootten and Beth Wootten assisting. Jennifer Johnson tidied up the church school rooms, Carmen and Allan Bieber cared for the paraments and poinsettias, and Lynn and Art Becker made sure offending trees and branches along the driveway and sidewalk got their comeuppance! The children placed their own Christmas trees along the sidewalk--though John Mayhew provided essential arms for holding little Jacob! Thanks to all!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 27 following worship. Reports are past due. If you have not turned in your report, please e-mail it to [info@ulctempe.org](mailto:info@ulctempe.org). Sunday January 13 & Sunday January 20 there will be a budget hearing for anyone wanting to look over the proposed '08 budget. The By-Laws will also be available for review, as a revised edition will be pending approval at the meeting. A good attendance makes a good meeting! Hope you can be there!!



## Pastor's Notes

Gary N. McCluskey, Pastor

As one ages, the temptation of cynicism grows stronger. Many you have heard me say half in jest, "If you do not become more cynical as you grow older, you are not paying attention!"

Among many things, the Christian faith is a call away from the cynicism that tempts and taunts us. Christian faith is a call to hope. Advent has recently passed. It is a time of hope. That does not mean with the passing of Advent, hope is gone for another year. One of the reasons many love to celebrate the New Year is to put behind the past year and to embrace the New Year as a time of hope. It is new and therefore open to being different.



Norman Cousins writes: "The starting point for a better world is the belief that it is possible. Civilization begins in the imagination. The wild dream is the first step to reality."

For this New Year, what if we began by believing 2007 does not have to repeat the mistakes of 2008? What if we believed 2008 could truly be a better year not just for us, but for all? What if we began to live as though we believed this?

The opposite of cynicism is not optimism. It is hope. Hope that good things can happen. Hope that each of us can make a difference. Hope that this New Year is worth embracing.

Happy New Year!!

## Lutheran Senior Assembly "Rally in the Valley"

Monday, Tuesday, February 18-19, La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, 6300 E. Bell Road  
Featured Speakers

Dr. Dick Hardel, Youth & Family Institute  
Paula Sturgeon, synod council member

Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, Bethany Lutheran, Englewood, CO, Bible Study leader  
Kate Adelman, worship leader

Special Guests: Dr. Anderson, Annie Glasgow from Minnesota  
Bishop Steve Talmage preaching

Look for posters in the Campus Center  
Brochures/registration available on the desk at the church entrance.

### ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP

The issues discussion group will meet on Saturday, January 19, 6 pm, at the home of Gloria Peterson. All Men & Women of the congregation are invited to participate. We'll be discussing "WORK & PLAY--WHAT'S THEIR VALUE?" Call Gloria (968-3945) to find out what you should bring for the potluck supper. Contact Mary Kunstman (marykunstman@mkserv.com) for a copy of the discussion material.

## A Time for Prayers

Did you make a New Year's resolution? As we look forward to 2008 maybe one of our resolutions could be to think of others more. Can we ever be too compassionate? As we start the new year we have so much to be thankful for and lots of dreams I am sure we would like to see become a reality. How about starting the year and each day with a prayer? As I think on the year past and on my hopes for the new one, I'd like to share a prayer from "Illuminated Prayers" by Marianne Williamson.

Dear God,  
May miracles replace war,  
May miracles replace hatred,  
May miracles replace judgment,  
May miracles replace fear,  
in me and in the world.  
Amen.



It seems fitting as we look forward to a new year that we not only think of ourselves and our families but to the country and world in need. Maybe, if we keep our eyes and hearts open, we will see miracles in 2008.

The prayer group meets each Wednesday at 5:30. Although we will not be meeting January 2, please consider joining us every Wednesday in the Sanctuary starting January 6. All are welcome.

Beth Wootten

## PRAYER PAL EXCHANGE – Sunday February 3.

Many of us have been praying throughout 2007 for our prayer pal. Being a prayer pal is an opportunity to connect with someone else in our community on your schedule without attending meetings or committing to a certain amount of time.

On Sunday February 3, we will we will get our new prayer pals for 2008. That Sunday, everyone, no matter what age, may put his or her name on a piece of paper and drop it in the prayer basket. During the Sharing of the Peace we will introduce ourselves to our 2007 prayer pals. As you leave the church you will select your new prayer pal for 2008.

If you haven't been involved before, please plan to join us this year. Your prayers are felt. Not only does the person you are praying for benefit but you will feel the benefit of praying for someone else. It is often a good way to put your own cares in perspective. Being a prayer pal is anonymous and easy and about reaching outside of yourself and caring about someone else in the community. What a wonderful process to be a part of!

## Winter Items Needed!

As many of you have noticed, the weather is getting colder. For those who are without shelter, this can be a crisis. To help alleviate the situation for people in the Valley who cannot afford winter clothing, the social ministry committee is holding a winter clothing drive. The clothing will be given to area homeless shelters and food banks. So please bring new or gently used sweaters, coats, scarves, mittens, and hats to the campus center! Thanks!



## A Special Thank You. . .



- to Lori Jensen and Carmen Bieber for making lefse dough.
- to Carmen Bieber, Lori Jensen, Heather Twaiten-Malone Loomis, and Kristen Tollefson for loaning us their lefse grills and lefse making equipment
- to Torry Dixon for running the projector for our Wednesday worship services...and Open Forums...and all those times we called on Torry's technical expertise
- to Bob Tripp for picking up and delivering our Christmas trees.
- to all who purchased items from the Fair Trade sale for Lutheran World Relief.
- to Jeanne Sims for editing our newsletter each month.
- to Art and Lynn Becker for quick response to cutting trees knocked over by all the rain and wind.
- to those who pray regularly for our faith community
- to all who took part in our service of Lessons and Carols. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season! The reputation of this service is growing as evidenced by the increased attendance!

## Condolences

- to Jacqui Pagel on the death of her grandmother, Joveta Dixon. Joveta's memorial service was held in our sanctuary December 7.
- to Aiko Yamada on the death of her grandfather, Shoi Chi Yamada in Japan.

## The LCM Dinner Theater Returns!

This year's LCM Dinner Theater will be held at Desert Cross, April 4-6. The play "Do Something" will make it's debut. In line with that title, *do something!*...go mark the dates on your calendar! Make plans to invite friends!

## Campus Ministry Schedule

Sunday: Worship 10:30am followed by dinner



Tuesday: Discussion group on campus, 11:40am, led by Haley Van Erem, meet outside the MU by Einstein Bagels

Wednesday: Bible Study 5pm, Dinner 5:30pm, Worship 6:30pm

Thursday: Simpson's Bible Study 10pm, Campus Center

Look for other groups/opportunities throughout the semester! We had a game night in October, a Thursday noon discussion group, and a retreat in Albuquerque during the Balloon Fiesta.

## NEW ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS!

With the start of the New Year, you may have a bit more time to communicate your message of the season to your representatives in Congress. As this is written, the outcome of the Farm Bill--the subject of our Offering of Letters this year--is uncertain, though by mid-December the Senate had finally passed its reauthorization with some improvements in eligibility and funding. A conference with House members would help determine whether those massive subsidies, which were not capped in the Senate version, to corporate growers would continue; perhaps by the time you read this you'll know.

So, why not send New Year's cards to your elected officials, letting them know of your concern for hungry and poor people in the US and around the world. Let them know that in this season of hope, you want them to support policies that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Some points to make:

\*In 2008, the needs of hungry and poor people around the world need to be kept in their hearts and reflected in positive legislation and funding;

\*Worldwide, more than 850 *million* people are chronically hungry in a world that has enough food for everyone. Here in the US, more than 35 *million* people live in households that struggle to put food on the table. Our weekly contributions to the food bank will not be enough.

\*There are effective ways to fight hunger and poverty. Progress has been made, as more than 20 million *additional* children have been able to start school in Africa, and 1.2 million Africans are receiving lifesaving HIV/AIDS medication so they can continue to work and care for their families.

The pen, put to paper, is mightier....



The Men's breakfast and discussion will be held on Saturday January 5 at 8:30am Join us!!!

## Immigration Discussion

The Social Ministry committee would like to extend an invitation to the congregation and the community to join together for an evening of education and perception on the issue of immigration. We are hosting a panel discussion on this important topic on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 7:00pm, at the church. Our panelists come from all different perspectives, and have a wide range of experiences that will help us all learn more about this pressing and relevant issue. We hope that your, your friends and neighbors, and your families will join us for a few hours on a Sunday evening to learn about immigration from people who approach it from all angles. Child-care will be provided at the church for those who need it. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Gary or call Ellie Strang at 480-894-0378.

## Directories

Have you received your bright yellow church directory? They are available on the desk at the church entrance.

## NOTES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council met on December 11.



Work is almost completed on the revision of the By-Laws. The finalized version will be reviewed at the January Council Meeting; then approved copies will be made available to the congregation for two Sundays prior to our Annual Meeting on January 27.

Several task forces have been activated to work with the contractors of the Cell Phone Tower, study the use of a credit card service and satisfying some exceptions found by our insurance company.

Some concern was expressed about our projected income for 2007; we will need a very good December to meet that objective.

Social Ministry will be having a panel discussion on Immigration at church the evening of January 20. The Men's Bake-Off brought in \$425. There will be a 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at ULC on February 17. The Campus Ministry is having another Dinner Theatre production April 4-6, 2008.

Mary Ann Salz



### **Coming to Phoenix, Arizona ~ January 2008!**

Have you always wanted a greater understanding of the biblical story but felt like you lack the appropriate resources to do so? How about joining us for a three week tour through the Biblical narrative. It will be a fun, comfortable, and fully guided course that works from Genesis all the way through Revelation; looking at the Biblical story as a whole. This multi-media tour is a great way to get familiar with our church's story and raise confidence in Biblical reading. Start your new year with us on Tuesday and Thursday evenings January 8th - 24th, 7:00 - 9:10 pm at Esperanza Lutheran Church. Course will be led by Matt Knopf, a recent ASU LCM alum!

### **ANNIVERSARY.....Mark Your Calendars!.....ANNIVERSARY**

We'll celebrate our 55th anniversary Sunday, February 17 following worship. Already creative minds are at work planning a great time. Who can ever forget last year's Game Show Extravaganza? Who can ever forget that was the day it was revealed on "What's My Line" that Gloria Hawkinson's first job was that of a spy in Europe? Don't miss out!

### **PARISH LIFE ACTION TEAM**

The Parish Life Action Team is responsible for hospitality and social opportunities within the congregation. Special events and celebrations are planned and coordinated by this team. Contact a team member when illness or other causes create a need for meals, rides, or visits. We see ourselves as coordinators because it requires the whole congregation to make events happen. We are always very thankful when everyone pitches in to help set-up and clean-up for every event. Thank you. We welcome additional team members and promise a creative and fulfilling volunteer opportunity.

Marilyn Brown, Debbie Hull, Trudy Stewart

## Property Update

In February of 2007 ULC/LCM hired Peter Marotri to create a highest and best use appraisal for our property. That process continues and on Tuesday December 18, Pastor Gary, Trudy Stewart, Beth Wootten and Peter Martori met with Don Courvillion of the ASU Foundation and Steve Nielson of ASU Planning to discuss our property, ASU's plans for its future development and the possibility of working together to achieve common goals.

## Cell Phone Tower

A congregational meeting was held, Sunday, December 9 with the purpose of discussing and deciding a proposed cell phone tower. An unanimous vote decided to allow T-Mobile to build a cell phone tower on the NE corner of our property. The income will be \$800 per month beginning upon the date of construction. It is likely the permit process through the City of Tempe could take at least 6 months, with construction to begin no sooner than June or July. Posted on the moving kiosk is a picture of what this tower will look like (Palm tree) and facts associated with the tower.

## A Very Successful Fair Trade Fair

Our sale of artisan items from Lutheran World Relief, SERRV and a Greater Gift was very successful. We advertised the sale and opened up the Campus Center Nov 23 for the afternoon and had about 25 people stop in. Several were from the neighborhood who received our postcard, others read about our fair in the newspaper and more saw our signs and stopped in. Everyone who walk in purchased items, got to know a bit more about alternative giving and chatted with Marilyn Brown, Jennifer Johnson, Trudy Stewart and Ruth Wootten who spent the afternoon at the fair.

We had doubled our order this year and sold almost half the items in the first two weeks! Thank you so much for your support of peace and justice, people in need and our mission as Christians to help our neighbors. It is wonderful to be able to shop and know you are helping others.

Thank you to Anna Marx for helping to select the items, to Brice and Melodee Nelson, Trudy and Margene Stewart, Ruth Wootten, and Marilyn Brown for setting up the tables and display.

Beth Wootten

## Center for Religion and Conflict

March 26: "*The Battle for Baghdad: What the Outcome Will Mean for Iraq, America, and the World*" John Burns, Chief Foreign Correspondent and London Bureau Chief, New York Times

April 10: "*Annual Lecture in Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies*" Ira Chernus, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder



April 21: Templeton Research Lectures: "*Facing the Challenges of Transhumanism*" Daniel Sarewitz, Director of the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes and Professor of Science and Society, Arizona State University

All events are free and the public is invited. Tickets may be required for some events. Further information regarding times, locations, and tickets can be found at [www.asu.edu/csric](http://www.asu.edu/csric) or 480.727.6736



University Lutheran Church intends to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all of God's people, regardless of race, situation, family status, sexuality, size, shape and place in the world. ULC is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation registered with Lutherans Concerned/North America. Thanks be to God for the blessings we have and the differences we share!

## January Birthdays

Jan. 01	Ryan LaPier
Jan. 07	Ashley Kinsey
Jan. 07	Jackson Loomis
Jan. 12	Art Becker
Jan. 12	Ariana Hill
Jan. 12	Eric Nash
Jan. 15	Kelsie Hiester
Jan. 15	Ron Hill
Jan. 16	Andrea Kurelovech
Jan. 20	Tom Schroeter
Jan. 24	Kathleen Snyder
Jan. 27	Ellie Strang
Jan. 27	Ruth Taege
Jan. 29	Carmen Bieber
Jan. 29	Kallie Knutson
Jan. 30	Dave Hull
Jan. 31	Lois Robertson



If your anniversary or birthday is missing and you would like to have it in the newsletter in the future, please call the church office.

Thank you!

## Newsletter News

Don't forget to get your newsletter articles to [news@ulctempe.org](mailto:news@ulctempe.org) by the 15th of each month. If you have not received a confirmation from the editor by the 17th of the month, please call Jeanne Sims at 480-203-8847 to ensure she has received it.

If you are submitting an article, please be sure to check it carefully for errors in spelling and grammar.

## Worship Assistance

Ushers, greeters, communion assistants and lectors are always needed for Sunday worship. Sign up on the kiosk on the sidewalk outside the church. Thank you!

## Web site

Have you checked the church web site ([www.ulctempe.org](http://www.ulctempe.org)) lately? It is always changing and up to date. There is a large picture gallery of past events. Check it out! Thanks to Terry Pochert for designing and maintaining the web site!

## Volunteer Opportunity!

Like kids? Like bread? How about volunteering? If so, Elise Deringer Wendte would like to talk to you. Great Harvest Bread Company is looking for volunteer storytellers for their preschool program called "Tunes and Tales," a free reading in the bakery on Tuesday mornings. Volunteers are never asked to read more than one morning a month, and they receive much love, bread, and coffee for their time and energy. If this sounds interesting, please contact Elise at 405-640-5337 or [deringerwendte@gmail.com](mailto:deringerwendte@gmail.com). Thanks!

## Printer/copier cartridges



Campus Ministry can turn used cell phones and printer and copier cartridges into a recycling center in Northwest Phoenix for cash. Our last batch yielded \$420.00! Thanks to all who bring in their phones and cartridges for recycling. Campus Ministry and the environment thank you! Sorry, they do not accept Epson products.