

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

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December 2007



IPLC

Inviting in God's Name
Proclaiming the Gospel
Living in Fellowship
Caring for others

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

There have been a few times in my many years as a student that the all-night paper writing marathons and studying till the wee hours has forced my body to find moments for sleep at times that were not always convenient. For all the teachers and retired teachers in the congregation (and I know there are many of you!) my public confession is this: there have been a few times that I was the student who fell asleep in class.

I hate to admit it, but over the many years that I attended college and seminary, about once a semester I would find myself feeling a bit like a bobble-head doll as I fought with all my might to stay awake. My head would drop, then snap up again. I would try to take copious notes to keep myself awake, I would drink numerous diet cokes, I would tap my toes or stare at the professor. But there were a few times where I just could not keep alert.

December 2nd, the first Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new church year. Over the next year we will travel through the gospel of Matthew, preparing for the birth of our Savior and following his life narrative as told in Matthew. Over the next four weeks we will explore some of the tension in the gospel of Matthew- a sense that God's people need to be alert, to wake up, to look around them and see the world the way it is. In our Old Testament lessons from Isaiah we will hear incredible images of the world that God desires, while Matthew's gospel will force us to look at those places where we frequently fail to be alert to God's intentions for the world.

For some, church can become a bit like those classes that used to put me to sleep. The events of our lives tire us out, families and work commitments require plenty of our time, and church can begin to feel like just another obligation. Instead of actively engaging in worship we can find ourselves just going through the motions, not noticing that our souls have fallen asleep. During this season of Advent I encourage you to hear the words of Matthew that cry out to us to wake up! Be alert to God's intentions for the church and the world. Wake up! Keep your eyes open, be aware and alert to the movement of the spirit!

As we journey through this season together I hope that the Word of God we hear on Sunday morning will dwell in your richly. Listen for the promises and intentions of God in Isaiah, hear the words of Matthew that cry out to us. Listen deeply, keep your eyes and your ears open, and keep awake.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Petersen

FROM THE DESK OF THE MIDWEEK COORDINATOR:

The season of Advent and Christmastime are my favorite times of the year. Advent is the promise and preparation of the feast of Christ, known as Christmas. Christmastime allows us to shout out as Christians; Jesus Christ is Born!

Midweek worship will prepare our hearts and mind during Advent on Thursday December 6th and host our Christmas potluck and Christmas sing beginning at 6:00 pm on December 13th, with FAITHCHICAGO and the IPLC GRACE Praise Dancers.

Midweek will resume on Thursday January 3, 2008.

Much prayer, Much POWER!

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

On Sunday, January 6, we will be celebrating the Epiphany when the three wise men led by the star came and brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the baby Jesus. Epiphany is the season of light.

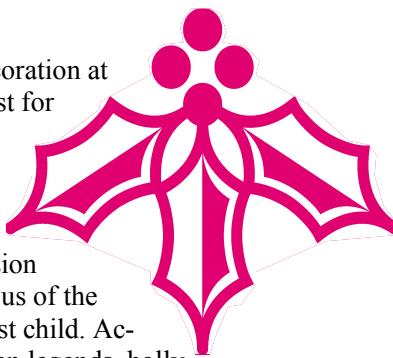
We will also be acknowledging and celebrating the gifts we bring to worship. Worship is the work of the people. There are many ministries of worship and leaders ³/₄ Acolytes, Altar Guild, Assisting Ministers, Bells, Bread Bakers, Book Bearer, Communion Assistants, Chancel Choir, Crucifer, Ensemble, Gift Bearers, Lectors, Praise Dancers, Sunday School Choir, Torch Bearer, Ushers.

Let each and everyone of us be the light, go out into the world, and be a part of the priesthood of all believers.

+ CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS +

Holly

Holly is a popular decoration at Christmastime, not just for its beauty but also for its religious significance. Holly's thorny leaves and red berries symbolize Jesus' Passion and blood, reminding us of the fate awaiting the Christ child. According to old Christian legends, holly first sprang up under Christ's footsteps, and his cross was made from the wood of holly.



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

This month we take a break from our "pre-1950s mode" and sneak a peak at what was happening at IPLC a decade ago, in December 1997:

The month began with everyone recovering from our traditional "Hanging of the Greens" party on Nov. 30.

The Rev. Kendrick Wm. Suter was our pastor, and Roger Bingaman was the director of music. After two years of service, Karen Roth was finishing her role as the church secretary.

Calvin Johnson served as the chef for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 6. ... WELCA hosted its annual Christmas party on Dec. 10. ... Community Friends, our neighborhood senior citizen group, hosted its annual Christmas party on Dec. 12. ... IPLC was collecting coats and hats to donate to the Lutheran Family Mission on the West Side, and we also participated in the Uptown Ministry's Christmas Shoe Box Drive. ... "Mr. Dan The Music Man" began teaching piano and guitar lessons at IPLC.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, the Irving Park Fine Arts Committee presented a Christmas Extravaganza at IPLC. It was directed by Roger Bingaman, and featured a program of sacred and secular music complete with traditional and contemporary Christmas music. The featured singers were Jennifer Layman, Sara Stern, Erich Buchholtz, John Hacker, Carolyn Irvin and Bart Lind Smith.

On Monday, Dec. 14, Sandra Stumme led a Bible study on the "Word Heard Around the World." ... We averaged about 150 people at the Sunday morning worship services.

The Children's Christmas program, "No Ordinary Night," was presented on Sunday, Dec. 21. It featured an assortment of adorable sheep, little angels and shepherds from our Sunday School. ... Lynette Schroeter was Sunday School superintendent. ... Our Confirmation Class had five students: Alex Haneberg, Heather Hjelmgren, Rebecca Krause, Larissa Mariano and Britta Schroeter.

The church was adorned with its traditional poinsettia garden during the Christmas Eve and Christmas services. ... Some familiar names served as lectors: Jan and Fred Glure, Noel Nape, David Hall, Sharon Iverson, Elmer Haneberg, Gordon Johnson, Betty Fridlund, Pat Desecki and Bruce Anderson.

Students were honored at Student Sunday, Dec. 28, when Wendy Faucher provided special music.

—Ralph Greenslade

A LETTER FROM MEAGAN SHERMAN-SPORRONG

This morning I sat at my desk at St. Stephen's and looked at the lectionary text for the week. I realized that this Sunday is Christ the King Sunday, and the last Sunday after Pentecost. As I reflected on the season of Pentecost, the longest church season, I remembered that the last time I worshiped with you at IPLC was on the second day of Pentecost, 25 weeks ago, way back in June.

That next Sunday I began my internship at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on the South Side of Chicago. I am entering my 6th month here as "Intern Pastor Meagan" and I have to say I am really enjoying the South Side. My supervisor is Booker Vance. Many of you might remember him as IPLC's Teaching Parish student 20 years ago. I find it interesting how the Spirit works things out.

Pr. Vance and I get along great – which is always a plus with any internship. I am learning a great deal from Pr. Vance. He is very involved with social agencies on the South Side and also with the ELCA. I am learning ways to be a pastor to the people that attend the church, but also how to be a pastor to people in the neighborhood that might have another church home, or no church home at all. He is giving me space to learn and many opportunities for growth with-in the walls of St. Stephen's, the community, and the ELCA. Pr. Vance allows me to lead worship and preach twice a month at St. Stephen's and he's asked me to do pulpit supply at another South Side church that does not have a pastor or an interim right now. He makes sure I have the opportunity to attend workshops and lectures on what we are working on – the latest is Stewardship. He is letting me lead meetings and bible studies and organize worship services. He is being supportive when I approach him with different ideas and lets me approach the congregation with the ideas.

I am grateful that I have the opportunity to do internship in Chicago and in a neighborhood that I was not previously familiar with. The church is located in the Chatam neighborhood which is a middle class African-American neighborhood and the church membership matches the surrounding neighborhood quite well. Being in this context is teaching me a lot about Urban Parish Ministry, which is where I feel called to serve. I am learning how a church runs from offering income to offering income with no endowment and no savings. I guess this is also allowing me to understand the challenge of getting paid decently as a pastor in a struggling urban parish. As an intern I

receive \$200 a month because this is all the church can afford. All the other interns in my class receive \$1000 plus their tuition paid for, health insurance and a car allowance. I just get the \$200, nothing else. Ingrid's day care is \$780 a month, so this means that internship is costing me quite a bit of money each month. This is the reality of many urban churches. There are months that the church cannot make payroll and will ask that checks not be cashed until the next Sunday's offering comes in. This also means that Pr. Vance has to work with the neighboring funeral homes as a supply pastor for extra income. This seems to be the reality for most of the churches in this area. I am glad to have a reality check of what it may mean for me financially if I do pursue urban parish ministry.

I am learning different ways to lead worship, funerals, and weddings (we don't use the LBW, let alone the ELW here). I am learning different pastoral care skills and learning that pastoral care includes going to the pre-natal check up with a 16 year old girl that is nervous about her HIV blood test results or going down town with a woman that is about to loose her home due to the recent mortgage crisis or offering support to family and community members after a shooting a block away and then how to call a Town Hall meeting in response to the shooting.

I have six more months as "Intern Pastor Meagan" at St. Stephen's. I am looking forward to the beginning of a new church year and learning different ways to celebrate Christ's birth, death and resurrection. My internship is over on June 16 and I am excited about worshipping once again at IPLC this summer. Isaac and Ingrid send their love and say hello. Isaac is currently applying to PhD programs for Environmental Ecology. He hopes to begin his studies right after I graduate from seminary next spring. And Ingrid's first birthday is coming up on the 11th of December. She is quite the toddler. She walks all over the place and lets is beginning to let her mom and dad know who the real boss of the house is.

Grace and Peace to all of you,
Meagan Sherman-Sporrong

Lectors are needed each Sunday morning at the 10:30 am and at other special services during the year. If you would like to serve the church as a lector, please contact Sharon Iverson. At present lectors are needed for Sunday, December 23; Christmas Eve (10:30 am and 11:00 pm); several readers are needed for Christmas morning (10:30); December 30 and all of 2008.



**Order
Your
Poinsettias**

CHRISTMAS GARDEN

A garden of Poinsettias will decorate the chancel area at Christmas. Plants may be placed in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special, or in gratitude to God. The plants are \$8.25 each. To order, please send the following information along with payment to the church office no

later than Sunday, December 16.

NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT, OR AFTER DECEMBER 16.

Please use a separate order sheet for each plant.

You may take your plant(s) home after the Christmas morning worship service.

In memory of

or, in honor of.....

or, other wording

.....

Placed by

Phone.....



THE HEARTFELT CHRISTMAS TREE

There is a special Christmas tree
That lives within the heart.
It isn't pine, and can't be bought
At any store or mart.

Each branch holds some fond memory
Of joyful Christmas cheer,
Reminding us of those we love
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath this Christmas tree
Are stacked up very high
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands
Through every passing year
With lovely gifts and blessings
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,
While angels sing God's praise;
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared,
And blesses ALL our days.

—Peggy Ferrell



**Merry
Christmas**

WHAT DOES A CONFIRMATION STUDENT, A BABY CHICKEN, AND A PIG HAVE IN COMMON?

This year, our three confirmed students, Ben Bole, Tony Perez, and Sheneka Williams chose a very special confirmation gift. Each student decided on an animal given in their honor to support the global mission of the ELCA. All three chose baby chickens, and we threw in a pig for good measure! If you are interested in learning more, visit www.elca.org/giving or www.elca.org/hunger!

DECEMBER 2007

Readings for the Month

- 1 John 21:24-25
- 2 **First Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44
- 3 Genesis 6:11-22
- 4 Genesis 8:1-19; 9:8-13
- 5 Matthew 24:23-35
- 6 Isaiah 54:4-10
- 7 Hebrews 11:1-7, 32-40
- 8 Psalm 124
- 9 **Second Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- 10 Isaiah 24:1-16a
- 11 Isaiah 40:1-11
- 12 Matthew 12:33-37
- 13 Genesis 15:1-18
- 14 Acts 13:16-33a
- 15 Psalm 21
- 16 **Third Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
- 17 Isaiah 29:17-24
- 18 Zechariah 8:1-17
- 19 Acts 5:12-16
- 20 Psalm 42
- 21 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
- 22 Genesis 17:15-22
- 23 Genesis 21:1-21
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20
- 25 **Christmas Day**
Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98,
Hebrews 1-12, John 1:1-14
- 26 Luke 2:1-10
- 27 Isaiah 9:2b-7
- 28 Psalm 96
- 29 Genesis 1:1—2:4a
- 30 Psalm 97
- 31 Titus 2:11—3:7

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & David Hall - December 14, 1996
Anne Puotinen and Yazid Ebeid - December 17, 1994

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ayla Benson
Dianne Plambeck
Loretta Sherman
- 3 Holly Lundquist
Aimie Rucinski
Rochelle Wilson
- 6 Shirley Atkinson
- 7 Dallas Brodersen
- 8 Pat Desecki
- 9 Brooke Petersen
- 10 Reuben Erickson
- 11 Marie Grunst
Ingrid Sporrang
- 14 Sue Biedron
- 15 Wendy Faucher
Lillian Heminover
Alan Johnson
- 16 Kathleen Swanson
- 17 David Hall
- 18 Mike Biedron
Rebecca Haneberg
Sylvia Harrison
- 20 Holly Cheslak
Gloria Rucinski
Kenneth Swanson
- 23 Noel Nape
- 24 Lee Stein
- 28 James Smith Grattan
- 30 Marga Burbatt
- 31 Jeffrey Greenslade



In an Advent speech in 2002, Pope John Paul II said, "The liturgy of Advent helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come and who comes continuously."

DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 am-Chapel, Sunday School, Adult Studies No Chapel December 2, 16, or 30 10:30 am-Traditional Service 11:45 am-Ensemble rehearsal			MID WEEK WORSHIP Thursdays at 7:00 Christmas Potluck December 13			1 10:00 <i>Confirmation, Hanging of the Greens</i> 10:30 Basketball
2 Profits and Angels, an Advent lessons and carols	3 3:00 MAP 7:00 Women's Volleyball	4 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	5 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel Choir	6 3:00 MAP 7:00 Midweek	7 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies Only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	8 10:30 Basketball
9*	10 3:00 MAP 7:30 Congregational Council	11 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	12 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel Choir	13 3:00 MAP 6:00 Potluck 7:00 Midweek	14 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies Only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	15 10:30 Basketball
16* Sunday School Program Christmas Morning LIVE	17 3:00 MAP 7:00 Miriam Circle	18 3:00 MAP 7:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Basketball	19 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 3:00 MAP 4:30 ICCIP 7:00 Girl Scouts, Bells 8:00 Chancel Choir	20 3:00 MAP 7:00 Midweek	21 9:00 Jammin' with Julie 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies Only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	22 10:30 Basketball
23*	24 Christmas Eve 10:30 Family Service 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:30 Worship	26 Office Closed	27 7:00 Midweek	28 7:00 Boy Scouts 8:00 Alkies Only 9:00 Men's Volleyball	29 10:30 Basketball
30*	31	Please check weekly bulletins for any schedule changes. 				

TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2007, VOLUME XXXIV, No. 12

Visit our Website: <http://www.iplc.org>

Rev. Brooke Petersen, Pastor
pastorpetersen@iplc.org

IPLC Office
office@iplc.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday:
9:00 am Sunday School, Chapel and
Adult Studies
10:30 Holy Communion

Thursday, Midweek Worship
7:00 pm

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bruce Anderson
Paul Clausen
David Hall
Jill Hjelmgren
Karen Lurie
Lynette Schroeter
Lee Stein
Holly Van Essen

Phil Bole
Sue Geisler
Elmer Haneberg
Eleanor Kepp
Noel Nape
Bill Sherlock
Sandra Stumme
Darcie Wadycki

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Gordon Johnson
Richard Wielock

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Chris Richard

Director of Ensemble
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Erin Day

Youth Director, erin@iplc.org

Dawn Benson & Phil Bole

Custodians

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TIDINGS

