

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
December 2011 Newsletter

201 South Montgomery Highway
Birmingham, AL 35216
www.vestavialutheran.org
205-823-1883



LCVH's Advent and Christmas Schedule of Worship

- Nov 27:** First Sunday of Advent (Advent wreath activity for Sunday school)
- Nov 30:** Midweek 6PM Advent Fellowship Dinner
Midweek 6:45 Worship & Children's Rehearsal
Christmas Tree Decorating
- Dec. 4:** Second Sunday in Advent
- Dec 7:** Midweek 6PM Advent Fellowship Dinner
Midweek 6:45 Worship & Children's Rehearsal
- Dec 10:** 9:00 AM Children's Rehearsal (Sat. Morning)
- Dec 11:** Third Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM Worship – No communion
10:30 AM Children's Christmas Program (no communion)
- Dec. 14:** Midweek 6PM Advent Dinner
Midweek 6:45 Worship (*Lamb Family Christmas Concert*)
- Dec 18:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec 21:** Midweek 6PM Advent Dinner
Midweek 6:45 Worship
- Dec 24:** 4PM Family Service
7PM Christmas Prelude – Special Music
7:30 Candlelight Communion Service
- Dec 25:** 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
No Bible Study or Sunday School
- Dec 31:** 6PM New Year's Eve Service with Communion

GETTING THE WORD OUT

"Starting January 10th, the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will be starting a new class using **James: Mercy Triumphs** by **Beth Moore**. This class will provide a personal study experience plus 8 group video sessions of this in-depth Bible study. James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer. We invite all women of the congregation and any friends to participate. We meet from 9:30 - 11:30 on Tuesday mornings in the Board Room. Please contact Wendy Pickard (wlpickard@aol.com or 970-6920) if you are interested in ordering a member book for the class." Member Guide's for the Beth Moore study starting in January will be \$16.45 and to please let JoAnne or Wendy know if you are interested in having one purchased for you.

The Board of Elders would like to welcome the 12 new families that recently joined our church family. We offer you a warm welcome, and we look forward to growing and serving with you as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are currently working toward posting Pastor Ahlemeyer's sermons to the church's website. This will serve as a wonderful outreach tool to all who visit the church website. Please look for this addition to our website in the coming month.

As 2011 comes to a close, the Board of Elders would like to thank all LCVH members for allowing us to serve you. Many of you have faced a year involving sickness, loss of loved ones, and other hardships, but we pray that you may continue to look to God for guidance, place your faith and hope in Him, and live each day knowing that the ultimate victory has been won through the cross of Christ. We look forward to serving you in 2012. As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your elder. May God bless you in the coming year.

Jonathan Doroh, Head Elder, LCVH

WELCOME TO THE LCVH FAMILY !

Beth and Stan Glasscox, Sigrid and Thomas
 Kyra & Sean Hagan & Raeven
 Whitney Heins
 Robert & Tricia Sipes, Ella Grace & John Robert
 Mary and Ed Sype
 Rachel and Paul Norris, Payton & Phillip
 Stefan Paul and Ellen Schulze, Luca and Lilli
 Stu Stuedeman
 Kevin and Ashley Taylor
 Ken and Jan Trucks
 Greg and Peggy Welland
 Beau and Adrienne Williams

KidzQuest for December



During the month of December, the children will be practicing for the Christmas Program during the Sunday school hour on December 4th and 11th. On December 18th, the children will be going to Mt. Royal Towers to share the music that they've learned with the residents there.

Please note: There is no Sunday school on December 25th or January 1st.

**You are invited to the
Children's Christmas Program
"Chris-Myth Busters"
Sunday, December 11th
10:30am worship service**

Ethan has a new sister, Michelle. Only Michelle isn't a cute little bundle of joy. She's a pretty big kid, adopted, and a bit of an annoying trivia buff. When Michelle starts busting some myths about Christmas to Ethan's friends, it causes quite a stir. Ethan, Lily, Becky and Abby begin to wonder: Were there more or less than three Wise Men? Was Jesus really born on December 25th? And what about the angels, did they sing or not? What, no innkeeper? After reading the biblical account of the birth of Jesus, Lily, Becky and Abby are still confused. Through it all, Michelle learns that even though some facts about the very first Christmas might not be clear, the truth about why Jesus came is everywhere in Scripture.

Please come join in the celebration! Invite your friends, relatives and neighbors! This is a "not-to-be-missed" event!

Rehearsal Schedule for Christmas Program

Sunday	Dec. 4 th	9:00am
Wed	Dec. 7 th	5:45pm – speakers & soloists
		6:30pm – all children
Saturday	Dec. 10 th	9:00-11:30am – Dress Rehearsal
Sunday	Dec. 11 th	9:00am

MANY THANKS!

To all who helped make the Christmas Program so amazing! Your help is so very much appreciated – from the setting up of the stages to the painting of the stages, from the lighting of the stages to the sounds of the music! **THANK YOU!!!**

Christmas Eve Rehearsals for Adult Choir - Every Wednesday night after midweek Advent services

Ruth Johnson, Children's Ministry Director, Children's and Adult Choirs Director



Project HOPE Update

My November 1-10 trip to Uganda was filled with many pleasant surprises. The best thing that I heard was that the rains started falling again right after my April visit. Hence the crops were growing in our friends' gardens, and there was sufficient food on their tables. Contrary to what I expected, there were no requests for food in the three villages we sponsor. A wonderful surprise!

In Kamuli there was a very joyous celebration for the dedication of a four room school which we and several friends of our congregation supported to the tune of \$35,000.00. There was much singing and dancing by the children and their mammas, and, of course, there were many speeches given by local politicians. A new school year will begin at the end of January, and over 100 children from Kamuli will now have the opportunity to attend a first class school.

One of the biggest surprises came in Kateete when I asked how the people, who had received pigs from the church's piggery, were doing. I learned that one widow started her own piggery which flourished even during last winter's drought. With the proceeds from the sale of her pigs she purchased a small plot of land on which she is slowly but surely building a three room house. A man who had started his own piggery, but who had to sell his pigs during the drought, took the money from the sale of his pigs and bought two pregnant goats. Each of the two goats produced two goats each. Soon he will sell the four goats, and with the money from the sale he will restart his piggery. Thus he will have both a goat business and a pig business. Quite a surprise!

For the first time since I have been going to Uganda I preached at Bukobo instead of Kateete. There was also the surprise of being asked to baptize 15 children during the Sunday service. We are also providing the funds (\$25,000.00) for the construction of a school in this remote village. It too will be ready for the start of school at the end of January.

As expected there were requests for funds for new projects. The schools in Kamuli and Bukobo need latrines at a cost of \$5,000.00 each. Kateete submitted a request for help in starting an agricultural project on their land. They would like to grow corn, potatoes, and soy beans and use the proceeds to support church projects. To begin they will need seed and tools and also water harvesting and irrigation systems, all of which will cost approximately \$5,000.00.

So, yes, there were lots of surprises, but none can compare to the surprise "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." To think that, in spite of our sin, our Father in heaven would still love us and would send His own dear Son to save us is an awesome surprise. May God bless each of you with a holiday season filled with beautiful surprises adorned with His love.

Pastor Cliff Hellmers, Project HOPE Coordinator



Nelson with his goats



One of 15 baptisms in Bukobo



New school in Kamuli



HELPING HANDS

is collecting items for the upcoming mission trip to Nicaragua in January. The items needed are as follows:

- small size baby powder
- teething rings
- small baby rattles
- small size hair gel
- hair clips
- small scarves
- sample size cosmetics, soap and shampoo
- costume jewelry

If you can help with any of these items, please place them in the baskets in the foyer!!! If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Tunnell at 970-1086. Thanks!!!



The Lamb Family

Special Christmas Concert here at LCVH on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:45 p.m.

The Lamb Family (Christian family violin quartet from Tuscaloosa) will perform a Christmas concert at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14th in place of one of our midweek advent services this year. Invite family and friends! To learn more about the upcoming Lamb Family concert please visit their website @ www.lambfamilymusic.com. Concert is a free will offering.

After the concert you are invited to support our confirmation trip to Stone Mountain, Georgia on December 28th by purchasing some Christmas cookies!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Dave Norby | 14 Ellen Ballard | 26 Neely Clayton |
| 4 Emma Seltz | 15 Jana Perry | Micah Clayton |
| 5 Gertie Hengel | 18 Christel Pawlas | 28 Matt Riha |
| 6 Jennifer House | 19 Eric Ardovino | 29 Amberlee Passmore |
| Bryce Collins | Samuel Ardovino | 31 Lauren Crain |
| 7 Mary Frances Lembke | Joey Siebold | |
| 8 Mark Clayton | 22 Mia Barberini | |
| Jonathan Doroh | 23 Susan Cook | |
| 9 Mara Jambor | Shane Lauppe | |
| Shelby Armstrong | Evan Swanagin | |
| Ken Trucks | 24 Carol Kester | |
| 10 Phoebe Wu | 25 Heather Boyle | |
| 12 Libby Geisler | | |
| Emily Swanagin | | |
| 13 Dale Phillips | | |

2012 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE BOXES have been placed in members' church mailboxes.

DECEMBER 2011 THOSE WHO SERVE

Please note: December Midweek Advent Worship ser- vices are not in- cluded.	SUNDAY, Dec 4	SUNDAY, Dec 11	SUNDAY, Dec 18	SATURDAY Christmas Eve Dec 24	SUNDAY Christmas Day Dec 25	SATUR- DAY Dec 31 NEW YEARS EVE 6:00 PM Worship
	Children's Christmas Pro- gram-10:30 worship	Nicholas Dietschweiler	Sarah Cain	To be determined	10:30 AM Worship Only	
ACOLYTES						
8:00	Kristen Decker	Nicholas Dietschweiler	Sarah Cain	To be determined	None	
10:30	Taylor White, Carter Crownhart, Mary Frances Lembke	No acolytes	Meagan Mooney, Logan Komp, Sam Walter		None	
ALTAR CARE	Sharon and Paul Smith		Sharon & Paul Smith	Debbie & Al Riha	Debbie & Al Riha	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS						
8:00	Bob Kleinstein, Brian Cain	No Communion	Bob Kleinstein, Jason Lueck	4:00 PM Don Schmidtke, Sandy Dacheux 7:30 PM Gene Strand, Ben Hogan, Sandy Dacheux Jonathan Doroh	10:30 AM only Gene Strand, Scott Mooney	6:00 PM Kuehnert & Doroh
10:30	Ben Hogan, Mark Walter	No Communion	Scott Mooney, Jonathan Doroh			
COUNTERS	Decker & Weidman	Hammel	Piasky & Barberini		Hogan & Hogan	
GREETERS						
8:00	Bettie Zimmer	Ann Zarzour	Jane Schrubbe	None Assigned	10:30 only Lee and Elaine Par- rish	
10:30	Donna Crabb Stan Susina Phyllis Stroom	To be determined	Kim Rieger Doris and Ed Schulz		Scott & Amy Mooney	
READERS						
8:00	Pastor Mazak	Henry Piasky	Gene Meyer	To be determined	No 8:00 AM serv.	Ron Pass- more
10:30	Ellen Seltz		Keith Johnson		Scott Mooney	
USHERS						
8:00	Lueck & Norby	Como & Grau	Israel & Kleinstei	To be determined	No 8 AM	
10:30	Hogan, Mooney, Wojcik, Smith	Kuehnert, Phillips, Schroeder, Smyly	Norman, Pickard, Passmore, Gaert- ner, Riley	None Provided- For the 4 or 7:30 pm worship Parents welcome to use the nurs- ery	White, Schneider, Schulz, Valasek, Riha	None Provided
10:30 Nursery	Arianna Shirk Becky Wolf	Barbara Mooney Megan Mooney	Kim Blackenburg, Katie Wolf		Jennifer House & Heather Boyle	