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# The Challenge

A newsletter of Mt. Carmel Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2011

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## ADVENT A SEASON OF PREPARING



Advent on the mount is gearing up and we are going to have a great time!

Look in this issue of the Mt. Carmel Challenge for times and days where we will put up our Christmas tree or listen to a choir concert.

The Sunday Worship will be simple and family oriented. Sunday November 27, at our family Mukala worship we will kick off our season with families receiving an Advent calendar along with other ideas for to help kids learn about Advent.

It is about waiting and preparing for Christmas. Nobody likes to wait, but it is an

important skill to have. Patience is a good attribute to practice and to teach to our children.

Our focus will be on getting all the characters ready and in place.

Watch for the 8 foot high 30 foot long Bethlehem scene. The night sky on our wall will be filled with stars and angels.

Help us put up the stable up and get the animals all settled for the birth of a child.

Our theme this year for Advent is, "Who are...?". Who are these angles, who are these shepherds, who are these animals and finally who are Mary and Joseph?

Once we have everyone and everything in place we will celebrate Christmas on December 24th with carols and communion. Christmas Day will be a multi-generational improvisational Christmas play where we will all get to become those characters in Bethlehem with costumes and masks.

Christmas is a season here in the church. The song, "Twelve Days of Christmas," is based on not just the day of Christmas, but the 12 days that make up the season culminating with Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi who followed the star. But there will be more about Epiphany in the next issue of the Mt. Carmel Challenge.

Pastor Glenn

## MT. CARMEL ARTISTS PERFORM:

**STEVE CLEVELAND** with

*The Barkers*, WEDNESDAYS, at the Kenton Club,  
8:30 - 10:30 pm, 2025 N Kilpatrick Street,  
Portland 97217, [www.thebandthebarkers.com](http://www.thebandthebarkers.com)

*The Sportin' Lifers*

[www.sportinlifers.com](http://www.sportinlifers.com)

*Chata Addy*

[www.chataaddy.com](http://www.chataaddy.com)

**KLAUS FERGUSON** with *Quintillion* (Latin Jazz Fusion)

<http://www.quintillionpdx.com>

**JOHN KEYS** with *Beltaine* (Celtic):

<http://www.beltainemusic.com>

## 🎵 MT. CARMEL MUSIC 🎵

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Any time you would like to share a special piece of music with us at worship just let us know. Please contact Lisa Frenz.

**JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSALS:** We meet Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome. We generally sing at the 10:00 a.m. worship twice a month.

### THE MT. CARMEL CHOIR SINGS:

Warm-up is at 9:40 a.m. on the Sundays we sing.

December 4, 10:00 a.m. *The River Will Rise*

December 4, 2:00 p.m. *Christmas Concert*

December 18, 10:00 a.m. *English Advent Carol*

December 24, 9:00 p.m. *Chill of the Nighfall, The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem*

December 25, 10:00 a.m. *Allelu, Alleluia*



**KEEP THIS INFORMATION HANDY:** When Pastor Glenn is gone: Emergency Pastoral Care is available. Please call Pastors Donna and Timothy Herzfeldt-Kamprath at 503-656-0110 (w) or 503-884-4935 (h).

**BAD WEATHER CLOSURE PLAN:** If there is a bad weather situation and a possible closure of Mt. Carmel call the church at 503-244-5143. We will change the greeting to indicate a closure at least two hours before service time. Pastor will also send an email to this list with the closure information. The Lewis & Clark inclement weather line is 503-768-SNOW and would also make a good source of local conditions for Mt. Carmel. Campus Safety posts adverse weather conditions/closures even during winter break and holidays.

**LAST ONE LEAVING THE CHURCH:** Please remember to close all inside doors when leaving Church, double check the front and back doors to be sure that they are locked and secure. Check coffee pot to make sure no red lights are on. Check to make sure that the library and sanctuary thermostats are set at 62 when leaving.

**THE CHALLENGE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Items for THE CHALLENGE are generally due the 15th of the month: Email them to Lisa Frenz at [frenz@lclark.edu](mailto:frenz@lclark.edu)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – DEADLINES:** In order to shorten the time it takes to do announcements on Sunday morning, we are trying to get most of them into the bulletin. This means it would be best if any announcements for the Sunday bulletin could get to Lisa Frenz ([frenz@lclark.edu](mailto:frenz@lclark.edu)) by Tuesday night.

Announcements for the e-news should get to her by Monday morning, as she tries to get this out sometime between Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning.

**THE CHALLENGE DELIVERY METHOD:** If you would like to receive *The Challenge* via email contact Lisa Frenz at [frenz@lclark.edu](mailto:frenz@lclark.edu).

**WEEKLY UPDATES:** If you want weekly e-updates on the doings at Mt. Carmel contact Lisa Frenz at [frenz@lclark.edu](mailto:frenz@lclark.edu) and get “What’s Happening.”

**PRAYER BOX:** If you have a prayer concern please write it out on paper and place it in the “prayer box”, a wooden chest, on the shelf in the sanctuary. These are not taken out of the box but kept completely confidential. The *Prayer Circle* prays for those concerns at their Sunday meeting.

**TAKE TIME FOR PRAYER:** Join the *Prayer Circle* at 9:30 a.m. and prepare yourself for worship. We pray specifically for Mt. Carmel’s future and other prayer concerns.

**WORSHIP – FIFTH SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH:** On the fifth Sundays of the month we will have a Blessing For Healing as well as Holy Communion. The next fifth Sunday is October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH:** After the Sunday morning worship Children’s Message, *Children’s Church* is now in session! Any child is welcome to participate in a brief lesson. They will return in time for Communion. *During Advent and Christmas we encourage the children to participate in the entire service. Children’s Church will resume in January*

# THE KING IS COMING SOON!



**CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Start the holidays with song! The choir will be presenting *A Portrait of Christmas*, a concert of Christmas carols and songs on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.



**It's Everyone's Christmas Pageant!**

## Christmas Day

**Sunday, December 25, 2011, 10:00 a.m.**

Everyone who walks through the door is an actor. Annal Frenz will direct the action as we live and share the Christmas story.

Grandparents bring those grandkids. Aunts and Uncles bring those nieces and nephews. Parents bring your kids and their friends. It's time for the **Who-Knows-What-Will-Happen Improv Christmas Pageant**.

Feel free to come as a character: sheep, shepherds, donkeys, dogs, cats, and other criters; angels, wise-persons, citizens of Nazareth or Bethlehem, or ?????? - it's up to your imagination (Annal's always up to the challenge of fitting your special character into the story).

Simple costumes will be available at the door.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a celebration in carols and candles with Holy Communion at 9:00 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS TREE TRIMMING PARTY!

Come and join us for the fun of decorating our Christmas tree and the church on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a family Christmas craft project at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. After we eat, we'll put up the lights, deck the halls and end with some Christmas carols around our freshly decorated tree! **Put Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> on the calendar!**





**LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES  
NORTHWEST 2011 HOLIDAY SEASON  
ADOPT-A-REFUGEE FAMILY PROJECT  
CHRISTMAS FAMILY:**

This year our family is Somali. They are: Ismael Siraji, Khadija Nassir, Sumeya Bwana, Zahara Bwana, Asma Bwana, Mohamed Mohame, Jr. Siraji Shaani, Fatima Ali.

Please take a gift card from those posted in the front hallway with a suggested gift item on it (all items should be new, unless otherwise specified). We need them at the church by Sunday, December 18. Please wrap the gifts and put the tag with the name of the recipient on it (cut the name off the item).

Please note, there are tags for a bicycle & helmet, and baby umbrella stroller. These are definitely on the only if possible list.

**PLAYING SANTA:** If you would like to help deliver our gifts to the Ismael Siraji family, please contact Pastor Glenn (pastorchase@msn.com). We usually do this the week before Christmas at a mutually agreeable time.



**INTERESTED IN A SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB?** Looking for a forum to discuss your deepest thoughts on life? A group is forming in January which will pick out a book to read and meet once a month for discussion. We are tentatively thinking about meeting on one Sunday afternoon a month at church. Options are open as to where people want to meet and if there will be food. I have agreed to be the initial contact person. You can email me at kdoylelawpc@aol.com if you are interested. Susan Doyle

**ALL IT TAKES IS A COUPLE OF HOURS:** If you would like to deliver and serve our First Friday Meal to the Transition Project's Hoyt Street Shelter, please sign up on the sheet on the hall bulletin board. If you have questions contact the church office.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** There are NO Committee meetings in December. *Growth Committee* will meet, Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. *Outreach Committee* meets, Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, after worship. *Resource* (7:00 p.m.) and *Council* (8:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:** We will meet Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m. at the Golden Touch Restaurant, Barbur Boulevard & 19th Avenue. Come join us for a "dutch-treat" breakfast.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

**THE HOLIDAY SEASON @ MT. CARMEL**

**ADVENT**

Four Sunday's Leading Up Till Christmas

The church has a different calendar than the world. In the everyday world the New Year begins on January 1. Here in the church our new year begins on November 27, 2011 with the first Sunday in Advent. With a new year come changes.

**COLOR**

One of the ways to tell the seasons of the year is to simply sit in the sanctuary and look up to the altar. Behind the altar is a colored cloth that changes depending on the season. This season is Advent and the color will be blue. Blue is a symbolic color for royalty. It reminds everyone that Advent is a time for preparation for the king of both heaven and earth who will be born in a stable in Bethlehem. Watch carefully and you will see the cloth change from blue to white on Christmas Eve.

**ADVENT WREATH**

This is an old tradition that dates back many centuries. The wreath has four candles, one for each week of the season. Every Sunday morning we will light another candle helping us to count down till Christmas. Four Sundays four candles.

**JESUS CANDLE**

The large white candle is really called the, "Paschal Candle" but I like to tell kids that it is the Jesus Candle reminding us that Jesus is in the house. We light it during a baptism, or a funeral to remind us that Jesus follows us throughout our lives. It also gets lit during Christmas and Easter.

**THE GOSPEL OF MARK**

At the beginning of every Advent we change the primary Gospel for our year. Last year we spend a lot of time in Matthew. This year many of our gospel stories come from the Gospel of Mark. Remember that there are four gospels. The rest of the New Testament is made up of letters. Gospels are where we find the words and the teachings of Jesus. Most scholars agree that Mark was the first gospel put to paper. The New Testament was written in Greek. Mark is an interesting combination of Greek and Aramaic (which was the language of Jesus). It is also more of a "street Greek" than an academic writing. It is the shortest of the four gospels and many refer to it as the "hurry up" gospel because the word "immediately" is used many times. WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF MARK.

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Coming in January 2012:</b> Choir Epiphany Party: Friday, January 6 Epiphany Celebration: Sunday, January 8 Annual Congregational Meeting: January 22, after worship				<b>1</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>2</b> 5:00 p.m. Burnside Meals  5:30 p.m. Tree Trimming Part Family Crafts 6:30 p.m. Potluck	<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Golden Touch Restaurant
<b>4 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer 9:40 a.m. Choir warm-up 10:00 a.m. Worship: Shepherds 11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting 2:00 p.m. Choir Christmas Concert	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. RCPB	<b>8</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer 10:00 a.m. Worship: Animals 11:15 a.m. Fellowship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>The Challenge</i> Deadline	<b>14</b> 12:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. RCPB	<b>15</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>16</b> Noon Jean's Meals	<b>17</b>
<b>18 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a.m. Prayer 9:40 a.m. Choir warm-up 10:00 a.m. Worship: Mary & Joseph 11:15 a.m. Fellowship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 12:00 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. RCPB	<b>22</b> 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> 8:45 p.m. Choir warm-up 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Carols & Communion: Baby Jesus
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> 9:30 a.m. Prayer 9:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up 10:00 a.m. Improv Pageant 11:15 a.m. Fellowship	<b>26</b> <i>Stephen, Deacon            and Martyr</i>	<b>27</b> <i>John, Apostle and            Evangelist</i>	<b>28</b> <i>The Holy Innocents,            Martyrs</i>  12:00 p.m. Quilting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>

## Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling In Christ" Congregation  
We warmly welcome all people regardless of age, race,  
ethnicity, sexual orientation or identity.

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[www.mtcarmellutheran.com](http://www.mtcarmellutheran.com)  
Mt. Carmel, Open Doors Open Hearts.  
*Where traditional faith intersects progressive values.*

## DECEMBER 2011



### ADVENT ON THE MOUNT

This year we will be including families in our simple yet meaningful Sunday Worship. Whether you are a family of one or ten join us in this Advent season preparing for the arrival of Jesus. We will be using a LARGE manger scene that will continue to grow each week with Angels, Shepherds, Mary and Joseph and finally the baby Jesus. Here is what you can look forward to at Sunday worship.

#### November 27, 2011 Sunday #1 ANGELS

The worship will focus on Angels and how God sends angels to humankind throughout the Bible. Everyone can get an Advent Calendar of their own to help count down the days till the arrival of Jesus. We will be inviting people to help put the angels in our Bethlehem sky during worship.

#### December 4, 2011 Sunday #2 SHEPHERDS

Who were the shepherds and what part do they play in our Christmas story? What did they wear? How did they become shepherds? We will be putting the shepherds and their sheep in our manger scene.

#### December 11, 2011 Sunday #3 ANIMALS

Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents. We will focus on these major characters in the Christmas Story.

#### December 18, 2011 Sunday #4 MARY AND JOSEPH

#### December 24, 2011 Christmas Eve BABY JESUS