



Contacting Pastor Dave

Church office hours

Tuesday-Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Email

pastordave@comcast.net

Home phone

(303) 617-4141

Page 2: Gift Drive
Page 4: Attention Homes
Page 5: Meet Lara Otto
Page 6: News from Emily
Page 8: Holiday Craft Bazaar
Extra Feature: 2011 Advent Season Events

WORSHIP at
10:30 a.m.
ONLY on
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
AND
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Two Opportunities For Worship Every Sunday!

- 8:00 a.m. Casual Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship service and Children's Sunday School
- Holy Communion 1st Sunday of each month

Words from Pastor Dave



The Christmas Tree is a Christian Symbol



For families in North America, Germany and other parts of Europe, the Christmas Tree is the symbol of the Christmas season. The pine tree played a symbolic part because they stayed green and alive when other plants appeared dead and bare. They represented everlasting life and hope for the return of spring. The fragrance and essence of the Christmas trees have been an integral part of the celebrations as well as of the family unit since time immemorial. The celebrations usually begin with the selection of the tree, and carries on with the decorations until the day of Christ. Gifts are placed under the tree, as family and friends gather around to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Christmas tree is decorated with colorful ribbons, ornaments, glistening garland, blinking lights, and a star atop the tree. The Christmas star has traditionally been associated with the spirit of the celebration and there is something very special about it. The significance of the star is found in the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. No matter how the tree is decorated it still symbolizes a timeless Christmas tradition of families gathered together exchanging presents and love.

A Christmas Prayer

*Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

~Pastor Dave

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR BUILDING

Our church building is needing some necessary improvements. We had the trees professionally trimmed and dead branches removed after the last snow storm to prevent damage to the church and preschool. We have installed a new closet in Fellowship Hall for storage of chairs and tables. We need to replace part of the outside north wall that provides a hand rail for the wheelchair ramp, as it is rotting. We need to paint, replace valances and window shades in Fellowship Hall. Our heating and ventilation system has to be revamped and updated to allow for adequate heating and ventilation for the entire building. The total cost for all improvements is approximately \$5000.00. Please prayerfully consider how you might help.

Blessings, *Pastor Dave.*

ADOPT-A-CHILD AND SENIOR GIFT DRIVE

The Adopt-a-Child / Senior Gift Drive is once again preparing for our annual Christmas gift delivery. This program is sponsored by the Louisville Community Food Bank and is in its 5th year. Each year letters are sent to participating food program families and seniors to inquire about their desire to participate in the gift program. So far this year we have requests from 124 children and 46 seniors. These individuals often comment that "Without your help we would not be able to give a gift to our child this Christmas!"

We place Christmas trees at the City of Louisville office, Louisville Recreation Center, Louisville Methodist Church and at I Behavior in the Colorado Tech Center. Trees are decorated with paper ornaments which include information about the gift recipient.

If you would like to participate, please pick up one of these ornaments, purchase the gift, wrap it, tape the ornament to the gift and return it to the SAME location by December 11th. We encourage you to speak to your family, volunteer organizations and place of work so that we can involve others in this holiday event.

On December 17, Santa himself will deliver the gifts for children, with help from the Louisville Fire Department and on a real fire engine. It is quite a sight, and we are always touched by their surprise and joy. Senior gifts are delivered with their food baskets, and their gratitude is always heartfelt.

Last year we realized that there were individuals who would rather donate money than gifts to the food bank, so we have made that possible as well. There will be turkey, snowflake and tree-shaped ornaments on the trees that can be returned with a monetary donation in boxes provided at the respective gift-tree locations.

We are blessed to live in the #1 most popular city in the United States. But there are still many less fortunate families and seniors in our community who deserve our help. Your concern can be expressed in Christmas gifts that fulfill the wishes of these children and seniors. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have any questions please call:

Louisville Food Bank Christmas Gift Coordinators:

Janice Stewart - 303-530-5254

Chris Wecker - 303-666-7540



Church Council Briefs — Nov. 2011



Finance — reported another month with a positive cash flow. The budget for the new year was approved at the annual Church Charge Conference on Nov. 10.

Trustees — have a need for help with snow removal, so a sign-up sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall. They are also looking into options for making the Sanctuary accessible for those with physical disabilities.

Jefferson Street Preschool — will have a float in the Louisville “Parade of Lights” and reported that all else is going quite well.

Christian Education — related that the new Sunday School curriculum has the kids very excited and that the new volunteers are doing a great job. We are beginning to see more consistent attendance numbers.

Youth Fellowship — will be helping to pack lunches for “Attention Homes” on November 13th and handing out Community Food Share bags on November 20th. They are really getting into the new study program on God and money.

Pastor Dave — reported that stewardship pledge cards are still coming in. If you have not yet sent yours in, please do so soon.

Music — is preparing for the Children’s Christmas program to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the 10:30 a.m. service. The Christmas Cantata will be presented at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 11. There will be additional special music provided on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Worship — is busy planning the upcoming Advent season. The “Hanging of the Greens “ will take place on Sunday, Nov. 27. Lunch will be served for those helping. Three Christmas Eve services will be offered at 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Day and New Year’s Day will each offer only one service at 10:30 a.m.



UPCOMING ATTENTION HOMES ACTIVITIES

In November we packed between 150 and 200 lunches for the Attention Homes staff to distribute to homeless teens on the streets of Boulder. The staff walks the Pearl Street Mall and the Boulder Creek areas daily to hand out these lunches to homeless youth. We delivered the lunches to Attention Homes and they were SO VERY appreciative. We essentially gave the staff a week-off from doing this lunch-packing task themselves. So thanks again to the generosity of LUMC-- for donating food items, helping pack and for keeping these youth in your prayers.

***For December:** As seems to be the case every month, we're asking the congregation for donations to help make Christmas a little brighter for these youth. Since we can't be certain which kids will be at the permanent home or the shelter, at any given time, we will focus on more generic gifts. We thought it might be nice to do a "gift card" drive for the kids. We talked to the staff and they gave us some ideas for gift cards: Target, Michaels, Dick's or Sport Authority, McDonalds, CU or Bronco events, movie tickets (Century Theater in Boulder is closest), and Gateway Fun Park passes.*

So that the gift cards don't get lost or mishandled, please hand them to either Carol Hill, Sue Peverley or Pastor Dave. We will collect them and bring them all to the home/shelter in mid-December, along with hosting a small party with Christmas cookies and cider.

Thank you again for your support of this new outreach program.

Carol Hill and Sue Peverley
Mission Co-Chairs



FOOD BANK NEWS

December Food Baskets

Packing: Sunday, Dec. 11

(following the 10:30 service and including a soup lunch for all volunteers)

Delivery: Saturday, Dec. 17 at 9:00 a.m.

(this is where we always need the most folks to help)

Christmas Food Bank activities are exciting, fulfilling and exhausting. The excitement part is that there are a record number of requests from both children and seniors — altogether we have about 200 requests for assistance. The fulfilling part is that we have such a generous-giving congregation. And the exhausting part ... well, that speaks for itself. But many hands will make lighter work! Please join us in this important ministry of our church.



Youth News

Our youth were greeters at Kings Soopers in Louisville and Sunflower Market in Lafayette on Sunday, November 20, handing out food bags to customers for Community Food Share.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 4 — 4:00 p.m. Regular meeting to continue our discussion about Christian attitudes toward money

Sunday, December 18 — 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party — details to come

Youth Leadership Conference is coming up early in February - we are making plans to attend the event, at the Highlands Ranch location.

"Regular Meetings" are planned for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Contact Janeen Hill at janeen_hill@hotmail.com, if you have questions regarding any Youth Fellowship events



JEFFERSON STREET PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHERS — LARA OTTO

A Colorado native, Lara Otto began her teaching career after graduating from high school in 1990. For the past 20 years, Lara has taught preschool in the Boulder area. During this time she has taken the opportunity to attend workshops, complete continuing education classes, and develop mentoring relationships with other teachers working in the Early Childhood Development field. Most recently, Lara was been the lead teacher and program director for a private school in the Gunbarrel area of Boulder. While serving there she was inspired to continue and complete her education in Early Childhood Development. When Lara is not in the classroom — either teaching or learning — she is home with her family. She loves living in the Colorado sunshine and is excited to be a member of the Jefferson Street Preschool staff. We offer a hearty LUMC welcome to Lara Otto!

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the Jefferson Street Preschool, please contact one of the committee members:

Nancy Holloway - npaluh@msn.com

Sheila Newton - swnewt@comcast.net

Claire VanMeter - vanmeterrc@gmail.com

Sandy Gormley - gormleys@earthlink.net

Visit the preschool website at: www.jeffersonstreetpreschool.com



Give All You Can ***By Emily Spearman Cannon***

Emily, pictured here after donating 10 inches of her hair to "Locks of Love", is LUMC's sponsored Candidate for Ministry. You may contact her at: ecannon@mtso.edu

Ah, the holiday season is upon us...it's time to deck the halls, trim the tree, and turn up the Christmas tunes! (Don't tell my mom—she's very strict with her "no-Christmas-music-'til-after-Thanksgiving" rule—but there's a radio station in Columbus that's been broadcasting holiday music since November 1st, and I've tuned in several times!) There are cookies to bake, parties to attend, and of course, presents to buy!

Christmas shopping is paradoxically one of my most favorite and least favorite parts of the holiday season. On the one hand, I *love* buying gifts for people. I like to wander around the mall and take in all the Christmas-y sights and smells, I like picking out gifts that will make my loved ones smile on Christmas morning, and—despite my lack of talent with tape and scissors—I like wrapping the gifts in festive paper and bows before tucking them under tree. (And I don't mind seeing a gift or two with *my* name on it either!) But on the other hand, the over-commercialization of Christmas really is somewhat depressing. People get so focused on finding that perfect gift that they forget their manners, their priorities, and their budgets. When legions of shoppers are dueling over parking spaces, screaming at frazzled cashiers, and taking out a second mortgage so that they can buy Junior the hottest new video game console—all to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace—something has gone wrong. (Here's a prime example of things going wrong: I recently saw an incredibly tacky toy catalogue in the middle of the usual Sunday paper inserts. It was specifically addressed to children, who were instructed to "Circle all the stuff you really want, then show it to Mommy and Daddy so they can come to _____ and buy it for you!" There were also little messages on each page that said things like "Don't stop circling!" and "You don't want another ugly sweater from Aunt Mildred, do you?" Classy, huh?)

It's quite the dilemma, isn't it? Holiday shopping gives us the opportunity to be generous with our loved ones and—as the media keeps reminding us—stimulate our flagging economy, but we don't want to turn into retail-crazed consumption monsters, do we? It can be hard to find a happy medium when it comes to balance faith and finances. But fortunately for me, I am currently taking a course on United Methodist Doctrine, and John Wesley's writings are chock-full of brilliant advice on money and consumerism. (And lest you think that 300-year-old writings aren't applicable to our modern context: just a couple weeks ago, we had a fascinating in-class discussion about what Wesley would have to say about Wiis and iPhones!)

Wesley's teachings on money are incredibly simple: he urges us to *Earn* all we can, *Save* all we can, and *Give* all we can. We're supposed to provide for ourselves and our families, certainly, but the ultimate goal of earning money is not so that we have something to spend...it's so that we can provide for both our future needs and for the present needs of others. And it's worth noting

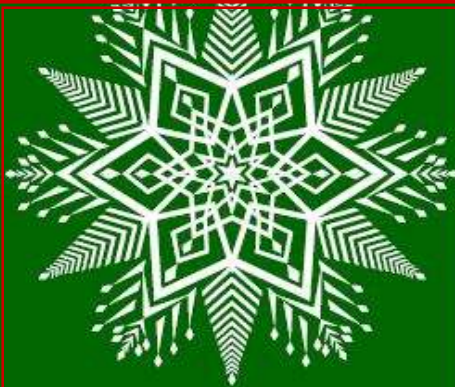
that “all we can” means “all we can *within reason.*” We’re not supposed to spend so much time earning that we neglect our family or our religious duties, we’re not supposed to save so much that we become hoarders and misers, and we’re not supposed to give so much that we starve ourselves. It’s all about moderation!

Of course, this is all easier said than done. It’s perfectly easy for me to say that I don’t like consumerism, but in reality I’m still coveting the pretty necklace and the cute sweaters I saw advertised today. It’s unrealistic to suggest that we all stop wanting, buying, and spending...it’s just not going to happen, and that’s probably okay. But we can all agree to make a few small adjustments in our own behavior, right? So if you’re willing, please raise your right hand and repeat after me,

“I, _____, promise to remember that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday and not my own. I promise to cherish time spent with family and friends, and I promise to remember that happiness cannot be measured in dollars. I will offer my time and treasures to ministries that help the less fortunate. I will be generous in my gift-giving, but I will not break the bank. I will be kind to my fellow shoppers and I will be courteous to store employees. I will not be greedy, and I will be thankful for everything I have, everything I receive, and everyone I love.

If you’re interested in learning more about taking the consumerism out of Christmas, I recommend that you check out the Advent Conspiracy website (<http://www.adventconspiracy.org>) And for all you Netflix Streaming subscribers out there, there is a hilarious documentary available called “What Would Jesus Buy?” (If you’ve ever wanted to see a performance art troupe/ “gospel choir” get kicked out of Disneyland, Walmart, and Starbucks, this is the movie for you!)

Have a blessed holiday season, LUMC...and I’ll see you all at Christmastime! :-)



The stockings are hung, the tree is alight. Celebrate the season on this festive night.

Appetizers there are and beverages too. Follow the star, we’ll be looking for you.

Young Adults Holiday Party

Date: December 3, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm

Eric & Reyanne Guerrero’s house

600 Mathews Circle

Erie, Co 80516

RSVP: 303-828-3932 or email at eraquerrero@earthlink.net

Please bring a White Elephant gift and a home made holiday goody to exchange



The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



Holiday Craft Bazaar

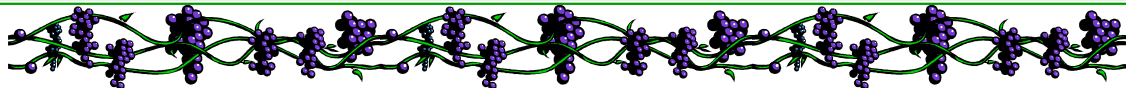
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011

10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Non-perishable food donations for the
Louisville Community Food Bank
accepted at the door.

Drawings for *door prizes* throughout the day.

Call (303) 666-8812 for more information



The Grapevine is a publication of:

Louisville United Methodist Church

741 Jefferson Avenue Louisville, Colorado 80027

(303) 666-8812

Pastor Dave Christensen

Email: pastordavec@comcast.net

Home phone: (303) 617-4141

Web site: www.louisvilleumc.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/louisvilleumc.org

WANT TO GET A HEAD START? The newsletter
deadline for the next issue is Sunday,
December 18th. Please email any articles,
pictures, email address changes or

suggestions, to the editor:

donna@thespearmans.com

Send mailing address changes to:

sheilaspankler@earthlink.net



Upcoming 2011 Advent Season Events at LUMC



Monday, Nov. 28th—Sunday, Dec. 11th, Christmas Gift Trees

Gift Trees to benefit children & seniors receiving food baskets will be located at LUMC & around town; please drop off purchased gifts where you picked up the tag or at Louisville United Methodist Church by Sunday, Dec. 11th

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sermon: "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

11:45 p.m. Hanging of the Greens & Soup Lunch

Friday, December 2, Louisville Parade of Lights

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Local School & Church Choirs on Main Street in front of Chase Bank

7:00 p.m. Parade of Lights down Main Street

Saturday, December 3, Holiday Bazaar at Louisville United Methodist Church

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Shop the Craft Boutique & Bake Sale

Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sermon: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

10:30 a.m. Children's Program, "The Fresh-from-God Baby"

Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Choir Christmas Cantata, "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem"

12:00 p.m. Packing of Food Baskets at LUMC

Saturday, Dec. 17, Louisville Community Food Bank

Starting at 9:00 a.m. Delivery of Food Baskets & Gifts

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sermon: "For God So Loved the World"

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Three Candlelight Christmas Eve Services w/ Sermon: "Abound in Hope"

6:00 & 8:00 p.m. A Service Of Carols and Light w/
the Christmas Story for the Children

11:00 p.m. A Service Of Carols and Light w/ Communion

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Sermon: "God with Us"

Enjoy your day with family and friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

