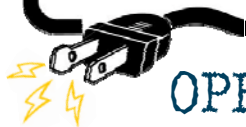


The Live Wire



Volume 3, Issue 26



OPERATION DEEP FREEZE

Operation Deep Freeze is an emergency cold weather outreach of the Coalition for Compassion and Justice "Open Door" program. If the area temperature goes below 20 degrees, Open Door literally opens its doors at night for the homeless to have a place to sleep. If snow is falling and staying on the ground, the facility is available at 30 degrees. This outreach has been utilized by 11-25 people on six nights so far this year, with more cold nights inevitably on the way. Open Door is asking area churches to provide food so that a warm meal is available as well as a place to stay. AELC has been asked to help for 3 days on the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Due to schedule and facilities limitations, it is best if casseroles and desserts can be brought in one week ahead of time and frozen, so meals will be on hand when needed. If you would be willing to donate food, please contact Agnes Curtis (445-1866) for more information. You can read about the Open Door program by visiting the CCJ website: www.yavapaiccj.org.

And [John the Baptist] would answer and say to them, "Let the man with two tunics share with him who has none, and let him who has food do likewise." Luke 3:11

AELC STAFF

- Dr. Dan Storvick.....Senior Pastor
- Rev. Adam Marquardt.....Associate Pastor
- Rev. Jack Shannon.....Associate Pastor
- Rev. Wally Cole.....Visitation Pastor
- Kate Howell.....Director of Administration
- James Klein.....Minister of Music
- Jake Madlock..... Dir. of Contemporary Music
- Debbie Smith..... Director of Children's Ministry
- Lori Barbe.....Dir. of American Lutheran School
(928) 778-7049
- Donna Hamrick.....Office Manager
- Amy Buettner.....Ass't. Dir. of Children's Ministry
- Ryan Collier.....Interim Student Coordinator
- Eileen Klein.....Organist
- Larry Lee.....AV Technician
- Geri Onnen.....Administrative Assistant
- Jeff McReynoldsFood Services Coordinator
- Phillip Bucklein.....Custodian
- Tom LeickCustodian

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24

TRADITIONAL— SANCTUARY
4:00 PM (Family Service), 6:00 PM (Candlelight),
8:00 PM (Candlelight), and 10:00 PM (Candlelight w/Holy Communion)

CONTEMPORARY— FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:00 PM (Candlelight w/Holy Communion)

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM Traditional in the Sanctuary

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1
REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE



CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER—Join other AELC family members and their guests in the downstairs Youth Center for an informal Christmas Eve dinner on Saturday, December 24

from 7:00—8:30 PM. A sign-up sheet is available in the church office. This meal is a "planned potluck," so please indicate how many will be attending in your party and the item(s) you will bring.



WHAT'S UP?

Christmas Greetings — "A Christmas Prayer," by Robert Louis Stevenson:

The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven,
and crowns another year with peace and goodwill.
Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wisemen.
Close all the doors of hate and open the doors
of love all over the world.

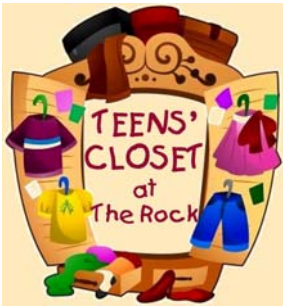
Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings,



(Continued on Page 4)

IN GRATITUDE

A big thank you to Ron Finken and the Accurate Building Maintenance team for the gratis cleaning of the Narthex and Parlor carpeting. We appreciate this generous gift! **Parish Life Staff**



TEENS' CLOSET UPDATE—Thanks to the Board of Deacons, Teens' Closet at The Rock is now formally a sanctioned ministry of American Evangelical Lutheran Church!

You are invited to attend a Teens' Closet fundraiser at Papa John's Pizza on Wednesday, January 11.

Both area Papa John's locations (1090 W. Iron Springs Road, Prescott and 7584 E. Highway 69, Prescott Valley) will be participating. Take the night off from cooking and order pizza! Just mention Teens' Closet in some way either when you order or pick up your order. A portion of all food sales on January 11 will go directly to the Teens' Closet, and the proceeds will be used to purchase needed supplemental items.

Thank you so much for welcoming and supporting this awesome AELC ministry! **Krystal Koons**

Heartfelt thanks to you, dear church, for your absolutely amazing outpouring of love to the children and families of Taylor Hicks Elementary School!



You donated Christmas presents, warm winter clothes, shoes, and much needed cash and gift cards for 140 children, teens, and parents...representing 40 families at Taylor

Hicks! A special thank you to the anonymous donor who graciously covered all of the remaining tags on the Angel Tree so all of the families would have some

Christmas gifts and necessities. Please pray for these families this Christmas season, that they may know the joy of Christ!

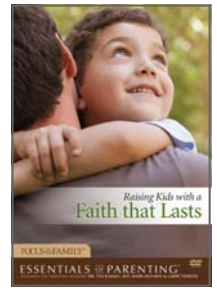
Also, thanks to all who volunteered for the over 500 different positions for Walk Through Bethlehem this year. It is such a blessing to work with so many of our American Lutheran family. A special thanks to Dale

The Live Wire

The Live Wire is the bi-weekly newspaper of American Evangelical Lutheran Church in Prescott, AZ. It is made available to members of the congregation and others upon request. *The Live Wire* is also available online at www.americanlutheran.net. Subscriptions by mail are \$12 annually. If you have material for or questions regarding *The Live Wire*, please contact Director of Administration, Kate Howell at 445-4348 or kate@americanlutheran.net. The deadline for articles and graphics for the next issue is December 28 at 2:00 PM.

GET INVOLVED

PARENTING FOCUS CONNECTIONS CLASS—The new Sunday morning Connections class, "Raising Kids with a Faith That Lasts" will be led by Brant & Jennifer Smith and runs January 8 – February 12, 2012. This DVD-based class introduces you to one of your greatest privileges: Helping your child begin a relationship with God. You'll see how everyday conversations, family fun, and purposeful projects build spiritual foundations your son or daughter can rely on for a lifetime and beyond. Sign up through the church office, or contact Larry & Connie Ellis at 443-8458 for details.



CALL FOR STORIES! God has come into each of our lives in miraculous ways; AELC member, Cindy Craig is looking for those stories to compile. Whether they are small or large, please consider praying about sharing your story. Cindy wishes to glorify God if you are willing to help—NOTHING will be compiled without your approval. Contact Cindy at 776-1784 or email joygerm@cableone.net for more information.

HAND IN HAND widow support group will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 11:30 AM at Las Fuentes Resort Village. RSVP to June Poe (778-3771).

REMINDER that Arizona School Tax Credit forms for 2011 must be postmarked by December 31. There are two school tax credits available for individual taxpayers: One for contributions to public schools and one for contributions to Private School Tuition Organizations. Visit the "Tax Credits" page of www.azdor.gov to learn more about this program or to download forms.

WOMEN OF WISDOM'S WINTER 2012 SESSION IS JAN. 4—FEB. 22... ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Andress for repairing the chariot, to Affinity RV for the use of the golf carts, Olsen's Grain for the donation of straw bales, Lynn Schmidt at CVS Pharmacy for water and cookies, Prescott High School ROTC who volunteered in our parking lot, and the many families who loaned us their animals! There is a group of dedicated women, Dorothy Foster, Alyce Blank, Fern Cole, JoAnn Dovala, Sherry Thomas, and Connie Ellis, who craft ornaments for our 2,000 visitors each year.

For the first time in 15 years, Walk Through Bethlehem had to close a performance on Saturday evening due to the snowy and icy weather. Regardless, over 1200 people braved the snowy weather to experience what it was like at the time of our Lord's birth during the other three performances. **Debbie Smith and Amy Buettner**



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO P.J.

I am the Christmas Spirit:

- ... I enter the home of poverty, causing pale-faced children to open their eyes wide, in pleased wonder.
- ... I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.
- ... I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old glad way.
- ... I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood, and brighten sleep with dreams woven of magic.
- ... I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.
- ... I cause the prodigal to pause for a moment on his wild, wasteful way and send to anxious love some little token that releases glad tears--tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.
- ... I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred manhood of what might have been and pointing forward to good days yet to be.
- ... I come softly into the still white home of pain, and lips that are too weak to speak just tremble in silent, eloquent gratitude.
- ... In a thousand ways, I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched.

I am the Christmas Spirit. (E. C. Baird)

What's the difference between the "Christmas Spirit" and the "Christian Spirit?" The "Christmas Spirit" comes out but once a year. But the "Christian Spirit" is revealed in how we live out our faith on a daily basis.

Maybe the best gift we could give to the world this year is not something we can wrap in fancy paper and place under a tree. Maybe the best gift we could give the world would be to open our hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit...to make the "Christmas Spirit" a central part of our life and faith *every single day of the year!*

MERRY CHRISTMAS...and may the "Spirit of Christmas" capture our hearts in such a way that we bear God's light, truth, and love the whole year through! And that is: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO P.J.

Pastor Jack Shannon

CROSSFIRE
GATHERING MEN
 Real Men. Real Life. Powerful Truth.



A SERVANT SAYS

Merry Christmas to all! I pray that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Both Pam and I are looking forward to having our two college kids, Luke and Olivia, join us this Christmas season in Prescott. As part of the church family we look forward celebrating with you the great and wonderful things God has done with and through us, as well as the miracles that lay ahead this coming year.

As we continue to develop local ministry strategies for 2012, we have been blessed and privileged to see and experience the generous hearts of our church members supporting needy families and their children through various local outreach ministries, like the Angel Tree serving the needs of impoverished kids at Taylor Hicks Elementary School, Teens' Closet serving teens in need at The Rock, the volunteers feeding and loving the 300 high school teens each week at The Rock, and the new launch of Operation Serve projects throughout our communities. (Operation Serve will be on hold until the middle of January 2012, when we will continue to expand on new strategies for intentionally serving in the lives of others.) I thank many of you that have gone out with me to serve and impact others for Christ at locations like Lake Valley Elementary School and Camp Yavapines, as well as reaching out to a struggling older couple in Prescott Valley. Blessings to each of you for your sacrifice and servants attitude reflecting Christ to others both locally and internationally. For example, the funding of five wells a year ago in Uganda, and your service in impacting poor families and kids in the Dominican Republic through mass weddings, youth camps, construction projects, and dental and medical work. In the year ahead we will be spending some time doing much needed work in Haiti, responding to the continued crises from 2010's 7.0 earthquake.

We are very pleased that Ryan Collier is working with us on a part-time basis during this transition with our Student Ministry. The Search Committee invited a candidate for the full time position of Director of Student Ministry this past weekend. We do have another candidate coming to visit us in mid-January 2012. We are confident that God will be calling the person of His choosing sooner rather than later. Please continue to keep this in prayer.

May the Lord continue to bless and protect each and every one of you as we reflect the Love, Peace, Joy and Hope that can only be experienced through our Lord Jesus Christ. Blessings to all!

Pastor Adam Marquardt

COMING SOON: "being God's man. . .in tough times"

This 8-week Bible study from the Everyman series begins Thursday, January 5 in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast served from 5:45 AM; study is 6:00 – 7:30 AM and consists of large group fellowship and teaching as well as small group discussion. Crossfire is a non-denominational program for men of all ages. Contact Dan Olsen (776-0495) for more information.

["What's Up?" continued from Page 1]

and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our bed
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Christmas Giving

As we come to the end of the year, I am grateful for the frugal ways and careful stewardship of my co-workers on your church staff. Thanks to them, and to the generous giving of many in this church, our bills are paid and our accounts are current. However, we are seeing a shortfall in income, which means there are projects unfunded, maintenance items deferred, and initiatives on hold. I know there are many, many worthy organizations doing godly work that depend on the contributions of those who believe in their work. Do you believe in the godly work of AELC? I invite you to make a generous, extra gift that our work may continue and expand the Kingdom.

Christmas Gatherings

Louise and I will have the joy of all our kids and grandkids coming home for Christmas. Chaotic, joyful, nostalgic, food- and fun-filled, it will also be a time of remembering why we gather: Not just for family, but for re-telling the story of Him who draws us together into an

eternal family. We will light candles, sing carols, and read the Christmas story.

What better time could there be to invite those who have yet to join the family or faith, or those who have fallen away to 'come home' to their Lord and his family? Why not invite a friend or guest to come and worship with you this Christmas?! I say to my friends, "4, 6, 8, and 10. Can you remember these four numbers?" They always say, "Yes." I say, "Good! Those are our service times on Christmas Eve. If you're not tied down somewhere else, come and join us. And on Christmas Day, we'll worship at 10:00 AM again!"

May God Give You Someone from Whom You Receive Joy this Christmas.

May God Give You Someone to Whom You Can Give Joy this Christmas.

May You Again Find Him Who is the Source of All Joy, Our Savior, Jesus.

Pastor Dan Storvick

P.S. Good Idea: Read the Christmas Story to yourself, your family and friends. The stories are told in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-21.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Mondays, December 26 and January 2 for staff Christmas and New Year's holidays. The office will re-open on Tuesdays, December 27 and January 3 at 8:00 AM.

CALENDAR

Monday 12/19

8AM Prayer Group
10:30AM Women's Cursillo Group
2PM Cursillo
6PM Celebrate Recovery Men's Step Study
6PM End Times Class (filming)

Tuesday 12/20

8:30AM Katharina von Bora Quilters
1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
5:15PM Columbarium Committee Meeting
7PM Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 12/21

8PM Peals of Praise

Thursday 12/22

1PM Chancel Chimers
4:30PM Heavenly Chimers
5:45PM Celebrate Recovery
6PM Contemporary Worship Rehearsal
7PM Sanctus Choir

Friday 12/23

11AM Christmas Dinner Setup

Saturday 12/24

4PM Christmas Eve Family Worship Service
6PM Christmas Eve Contemporary (Candlelight/ Communion)
6PM Christmas Eve Traditional (Candlelight)
7PM Christmas Eve Potluck Dinner
8PM Christmas Eve Traditional (Candlelight)
10PM Christmas Eve Traditional (Candlelight/ Communion)

Sunday 12/25

10AM Traditional Worship



Monday 12/26—OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 12/27

8:30AM Katharina von Bora Quilters
1:30PM Miracle Prayer Time
5:15PM Columbarium Committee Meeting
7PM Men's Bible Study

Wednesday 12/28

8PM Peals of Praise

Thursday 12/29

1PM Chancel Chimers
4:30PM Heavenly Chimers
5:45PM Celebrate Recovery
6PM Contemporary Worship Rehearsal
7PM Sanctus Choir

Friday 12/30

Saturday 12/31

12PM Acolyte Training
7PM A.A. Group

Sunday 1/1

8 & 10:30AM Traditional Worship
10:30 AM *Changes* Contemporary Worship
10:30AM Chino Valley Worship
5PM *Come Alive!* Contemporary Worship



Monday 1/2—OFFICE CLOSED