

## Message from the Pastor

### *A Christmas Letter*

2010 was really a remarkable year at Our Saviour's. Let's remember together some of the events and experiences of this past year. It began with baptism. You may recall the welcoming of little Ceasar and Elijah into God's Kingdom, and they together with their mother Persis, as members in God's community here. God provided worship here, as regularly and as varied and beautiful as God provides the seasons. It has been a year of worship and new beginnings.

We were blessed this year with our partners in ministry, the Reformation Alive congregation, who has faithfully supported our ministry and helped us financially; and the Peniel Congregation who has been such a joyful partner, helping us with our building and gardens and joyfully walking with us as new friends in Christ. I will never forget being surprised by Henri from Peniel, who showed up at the yard sale wearing painting stilts; he spent the day replacing wood and painting the church – all out of love! What a blessing, what a gift, what a miracle! One of the highlights this year was our July 4 celebration in which all three congregations joined together for a picnic, and then found themselves singing *Cantad El Senior* together, out on the lawn, in different languages! It was the closest I have experienced to Pentecost. It was a year in which we experienced miracles in places we often did not expect.

In the Springtime, we ran an ALPHA program on Wednesday evenings. This brought together an intimate group of curious Christians exploring the meaning of Christ. That group continued into the fall where most recently they went on a fall retreat. It was a year of intimacy and gentle opportunity in the Lord.

We celebrated many joys and also mourned together some losses. We remember with the great of love and respect, the presence of Phyllis Fredericks.



Her loss touched us all, while at the same time the certainty of her place in the embracement of God's hands brings hope and joy. Phyllis died in her sleep as she had often said she wanted. God gave her a peaceful passing and answered her pray and for her time with us we continue to be grateful. We celebrated also as we had for some years in the ministry of caring for the young children around us: Lafayette, Tynisha, Keavon, Nick and JayJay, who had become fixtures in our Sunday worship and congregational life. As casualties of the recession, they found their own lives in a state of immediate change, and had to move away suddenly. We miss them still. We join in the struggle and love of Joe and Rose, as Rose needs now special care. We sent off Heather to college in California and Melissa up to New Haven, and have not seen them since. This was a year when we were reminded, about how important it is to appreciate each other while we are with each other – that each moment we have with one another is a gift of God to be cared for and appreciated.

It was a year, for some, it was a year of confronting new health challenges and overcoming or working through them. It was a year to be grateful to be around for another one – that God has not finished with us yet!

It was an incredible year of giving. Our congregation, even though some are older, and we all struggle for a living – that faithful giving in the congregation was consistent and caring and generous. It was a year to be grateful for the generosity of God's people, and to hear that call within each of ourselves. As we will hear in the annual reports to come, it was a year when by careful management and thrifty spending, as well as generous giving, the congregation was able to keep on top of its spending and stay out of financial stress. As the congregation has prayed for resources – God has answered those prayers.

God has given us the blessing of a wonderful musician, Tom, who gives of his time so freely (and sometimes of his cooking) so that all may be fed with soup and amazing music. It has been a year of making a "joyful noise to the Lord!"

In 2010 we will have our first Gospel Christmas Concert. God has given us a new opportunity to make some new friends and to share his Word. He has also sent us some new friends, Stoney Rhodes and his mother Gayle and their musicians and congregants. Where that will lead, we do not know.

Let us pray for where God will guide us in 2011!

*Luv, Pastor Kendall*

*"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots"*

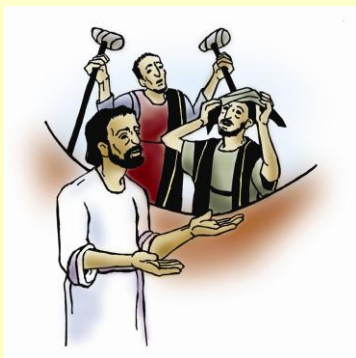
*Isaiah 11:1*

# Worship Schedule ~ *December*



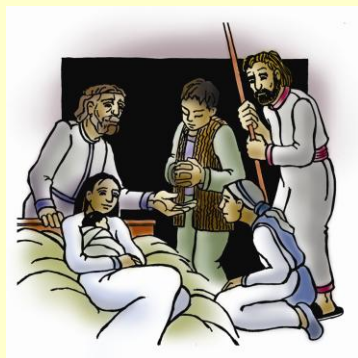
**November 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
10 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
10 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship



**December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
10 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
10 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship



**December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
7 pm – Worship  
8 pm – Reception

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**  
10 am – Worship  
11:15 am – Fellowship



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### FREE CONCERT

A Gospel and local choir concert will be held on Saturday, December 18 at the Church. Mark it on your calendar - FREE – Help us connect with the community. Talent include local artists and folks from our community, Peniel church members will play and our choir will sing.

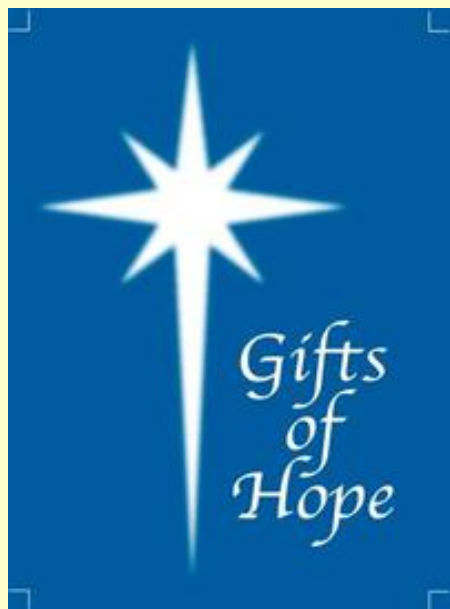


### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

The evening starts at 6 pm with soup supper followed by worship and then choir practice.



### GIFTS OF HOPE



Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift program in the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

What is alternative giving? Traditional gift giving involves buying an item and giving it to a relative or friend. Alternative giving differs in that it involves buying a symbol of a gift and giving the symbol to someone. The actual item goes to someone who needs the gift. For example, traditionally, a child might give a small bottle of perfume to her teacher at Christmas. Alternatively, the child might give her teacher a Christmas card that tells the teacher that a basket of books has been made available to needy children as a Gift of Hope.

If you would like more information or participate, please see Mary Ann Hord.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MITTEN & HAT TREE



Mittens and hats will be collected during the Concert to distribute to children in need in area schools.



Order forms will be included in the bulletin through December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information, contact Mary Ann Hord.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational Meeting is planned for Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> following worship service. Please plan on attending to help set goals and plan for 2011.

We are asking for special giving at this time to help close the books in a the "black".

At the end of Advent into Christmas Eve we hope to have pledges in for 2011. Your cooperation would be appreciated so we can finalize the budget in time for the congregational meeting.



**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**  
4915 St. Barnabas Road  
Temple Hills, MD 20748

**Phone: 301-894-3556**  
**Fax: 301-894-3556**

**E-Mail:**  
[Oursaviours1955@verizon.net](mailto:Oursaviours1955@verizon.net)

**Web Site:**  
[www.oursaviourschurch.org](http://www.oursaviourschurch.org)

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