



First United Methodist Church of Lockport
1000 S. Washington St., Lockport, IL 60441



THE METHODIST CHIMES

December
2009

The Pastor's Advent and Christmas Message

Welcome to the Christian New Year, *Advent*. The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian calendar, different from the Greco-Roman calendar that we normally observe. *Advent* is the season of *waiting and hoping*. Focuses on the preparation on the coming of *Jesus Christ* as the promised *Messiah*. Advent came from the Latin word *adventus* meaning *to arrive*. Christians observe this season during the four Sundays before Christmas day. This may involve lighting candles in the *Advent wreath*, by different members of the church or with their families and selected readings from the Old and New Testaments. The middle candle in the wreath is the *Christ candle*, which is lit on *Christmas Eve* service or *Christmas Day*. The season of Advent once again beckons us to have a self-introspection to clear out all that pollutes us and hinders us from welcoming *Christ* in our midst.

During the *Advent* season that leads us to *Christmas*, I am always reminded of my favorite scripture passage from *John 3:16*, *For God so love the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him may no die, but will have eternal life*. The gift of the *Christ Child* is what *Christmas* is all about. God's greatest gift to the world. God's most amazing gift to you and for me. But it becomes our responsibility, to receive the gift; to welcome the gift; to accept the gift; and to celebrate the gift. God offers us the gift of *Jesus Christ*. A gift that money can't buy, a gift that always fits you, and a gift wrapped in heaven.

This season of *Advent* leads us to celebrate the gift of of the Christ Child at *Christmas*. We at *First United Methodist Church* have dedicated several celebrations and ministry events this month in preparation to welcome the greatest gift of all *Jesus Christ*.

Nov. 29- Dec.20 –*Celebrating the Season of Advent* during Sunday worship services.

Dec. 4 – *Ginger Bread House* making 6:30 p.m.

2, 9, 16- *Advent Study & Fellowship* 6:30 p.m.

5- *Aurora District United Methodist Men Advent Breakfast Fellowship* 8 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens during Saturday praise and worship service 5 p.m.

12- *Christmas Cookies Pound by Pound* 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Janine Mahalick Christmas Concert 5 p.m.

13- *Sunday School Christmas Celebration* during Sunday worship service.

24- *Christmas Eve Services* 6 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

27- *Festival of Christmas Carols* during Sunday worship.

This season is a holy time for the church to celebrate; therefore we encourage you to reserve these dates in you calendar to participate in celebrating the *Advent* of the promised *Messiah* who comes to us on *Christmas Day*.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to all from our house to yours.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE GREATEST GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR!

+Pastor Noah & Reanna



Saturday, December 5 - Saturday Praise & Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens

Pastor Noah preaching; Music by: Eric Oberg

Sunday, December 6 - 10:15 a.m.; Pastor Noah preaching

Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208);

Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

FISH Pantry Collection; Sacrament of Holy Communion; Coffee Hour



Saturday, December 12 - Saturday Praise & Worship- 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Noah, preaching

Music by: Janine Mahalick Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 13 - 10:15 a.m.; Pastor Noah, preaching

Third Sunday of Advent; Sunday School Christmas Program

Lectionary Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;

Philippians 4:4-7 ; Luke 3:7-18



Saturday, December 19 - Saturday Praise & Worship- 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Noah, preaching

Music by: Eric Oberg

Sunday, December 20 - 10:15 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 (UMH 199)

Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Circle of Love Collection; Sacrament of Holy Communion



Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

We will have our Family Christmas Eve Service for young children.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 at 10:00 p.m.

We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Service with candlelighting.



Saturday, December 26 - Saturday Praise & Worship - 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Noah preaching

Music by: Eric Oberg

Sunday, December 27 - 10:15 a.m.; Pastor Noah preaching

First Sunday after Christmas; Festival of Christmas Carols

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148 (UMH 861);

Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Change for Missions offering; NO Fourth Sunday Dinner



**UNITED
METHODIST WOMEN**

**Rachel Circle - Tues. Dec. 1,
7:30 p.m.** — Rachel Circle will meet
on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the

home of Carolyn Brauch

Bykota Circle - Tues. Dec. 8, 12:00 p.m. -

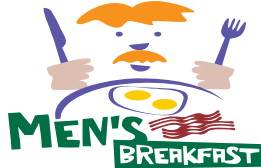
Bykota Circle will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 8
at 12 noon at George's Restaurant for a Christmas
Luncheon. We will go to Harriet Hamilton's after
the luncheon.

Sarah Circle - Wed. Dec. 9, - TTBA

Annual Christmas Party - Hostess is Amy Visser.

**AURORA DISTRICT ADVENT
COMMUNION SERVICE AND
BREAKFAST -**

on Saturday,
December 5th 8:00 AM to
10:30 AM at Lockport First
UMC, 1000 S Washington, Lockport IL. Hosted by
the United Methodist Men of Lockport First UMC.
Worship led by Reverend Noah Panlilio OSL. We
will celebrate Communion with our brothers from
across the District. Breakfast will be served in Fel-
lowship Hall after the Worship Service. A District
UMM meeting will be held after breakfast where we
will discuss the different men's ministries / pro-
grams at our churches.



**THERE WILL BE NO MEN'S BREAKFAST
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6.**



Christmas Eve

**CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP SERVICES**

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24
at 6 p.m.—We will have our Family
Christmas Eve Service for young
children.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 at 10:00 p.m.

We will have our traditional Christmas Eve Ser-
vice with candlelighting.

Book Club News



The FUMC book club enjoys
lively discussions and dessert
monthly. All are welcome. We did
not meet in November due to the
Thanksgiving holiday being on our
regular meeting date. Christmas Eve
is the fourth Thursday in December, also our regular
fourth Thursday meeting time. We will be meeting in
between, on December 3rd. We will be sharing an appe-
tizer potluck and meet at the home of Goldie Lorenzen,
at 7 pm.

Our book for the combined November/
December meeting is "A Christmas Story" by Jean
Shepherd.

If you enjoy reading a variety of books, along
with conversation and dessert, give this group a try. We
always have a great time. Questions...call Lynn Farr
@815-838-8554 or email @ RaisorFarr@sbcglobal.net

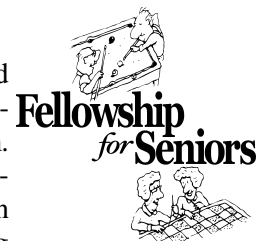


Hospital
Visitation

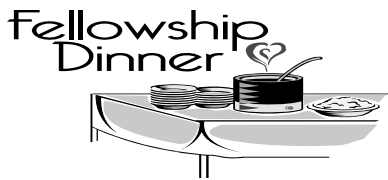
Please let Pastor Noah or Mary, our
Administrative Assistant, know if
you are in need of a pastoral visit in
the hospital or at home or if you are
in need to have a meal prepared be-
cause of a hospitalization. Call the
church office at 815-838-1017.

**FIRST UMC
SENIORS FELLOWSHIP**

All beautiful people 60+ are invited
to our Luncheon fellowship on Sat-
urday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m.
in Yeoman Hall. This will be a pot-
luck luncheon bringing your own
table settings. But if you can't bring
any dish to share, don't fret, know that you are still wel-
come and bring along a friend with you.



Advent is the beginning of the
Church Year. It begins on the
fourth Sunday before Christmas
Day. The word **Advent** means
"coming" or "arrival." It is
marked by a spirit of expecta-
tion, of anticipation, of prepara-
tion, of longing.



THERE WILL BE NO FOURTH SUNDAY DINNER IN DECEMBER. SEE YOU IN JANUARY!

New Budget for 2010

The Finance Committee and Church Council would like to announce that a new budget has been passed for 2010. This budget is in the amount of \$216,282.00. This budget has plans for many things, including paying our staff and our bills, and also includes our apportionments which for 2010 are \$25,524. This amount is a reduction from our 2009 apportionments of \$1428.00. This brings our monthly apportionment payment to \$2043.66. Within our budget we have plans for Missions, Go Team, Worship and Education, which includes the Sunday school program, as well as everything else the church does. With your faithful giving we will be able to make all of our hopes for the wonderful programs planned at our church happen. The cost of doing everything in our budget is \$18,024.00 per month....\$4160.00 per week. Can we do this?? I believe we can. It will take dedication on the part of every member of our congregation, but, I believe that with your faithfulness and God's help, we can fund our budget, make our plans happen and pay our apportionments in full.

+ Christian Symbols +



E v e r g r e e n T r e e
 These trees, which keep their green leaves year-round, are symbolic of Christmas, eternal life and God's everlasting love. In the Bible, evergreen trees are called the "cedars of Lebanon," suggesting growth (Psalm 92:12), height (Amos 2:9), fragrance (Hosea 14:6) and steadfast faith.



Lockport Food Pantry

It is with sincere thanks that we report to you that your contributions of non-perishable food items and cash donations have allowed the Food Pantry to serve a growing need in our community. The Lockport Food Pantry completed the first nine months of this year with some unusual numbers.

The number of individuals served during this period increased 37% over the previous year, while cash contributions increased only 29%. By searching for better purchasing methods, total disbursements increased only 22%. We could not have served all who came for assistance without your extra help, and it is appreciated.

Your continued effort in food contributions and cash donations, which allows for the purchase of perishable items, is most appreciated. The need is great and increasing; may God continue to bless you as you consider how you may be of service in helping others.

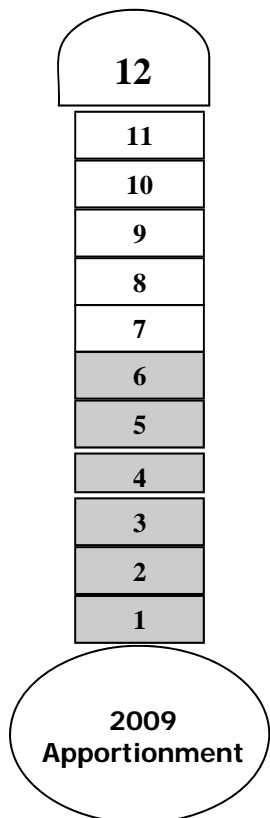
We also have need of volunteers who may have time to help in the Pantry. The Pantry is open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Volunteer Coordinator is Virginia Coffeen; telephone 815-838-6517.



We will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to give to the children who come to the Lockport FISH Food Pantry. There will be a box on the piano in the sanctuary for your donations. We will collect donations through January



Thank you to everyone who continues to support Circle of Love through their time and financial gifts. Circle of Love is always in need of people to work on Wednesday mornings. Thank you for supporting this special ministry. — Jennifer Queeney



**Saturday, December 12
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Our cookie sale will be Saturday, December 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (note change of time).

We are looking for people that are interested in baking several batches of cookies for our sale. A clip board will be passed in church.

Cookies can be dropped off Friday, December 11th from 6 to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Saturday, December 12 from 8 to 9 a.m.

Why bake many different kinds of Christmas cookies when you can come to our sale and fill your container with your choice of Christmas cookies — a pound for \$5.00.



There will be a Hanging of the Greens service at the 5 p.m. Praise & Worship Service on Saturday, December 5. All are welcome and are invited to this special service.



Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to all who helped make our ham dinner a success. Special thanks to everyone on the Mission Committee who worked so hard.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported our various mission projects this year. This is a wonderfully supportive congregation.

Thank you from the Parsonage:

Thank you to the Board of Trustees, Darren Stein and Tim McNamara who installed new lighting fixtures and a ceiling fan in the parsonage family room.



Christmas Program

The children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 13 during the Sunday 10:15 a.m. service.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Leadership Caucus & Installation of Church Leaders and Committees will be held on January, 30, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Yeoman Hall.

BIBLES & HYMNALS ON THE WAY TO THE PHILIPPINES

Stacks of our used Bibles & Hymnals which have been sitting in our library, will find a new home. The UMW paid for the shipment of the Bibles and Hymnals to be donated to a United Methodist Church which was underwater for several weeks after the deluge of flood water that hit the country by a typhoon. The Cainta UMC lost everything including several pews taken out by the strong flood current. The Bibles and Hymnals will help them continue to rebuild their worship life.



REMEMBER TO KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN OUR PRAYERS: To those that have been hospitalized and are now recuperating; all our homebound; our missionaries in Zimbabwe, Larry & Jane Kies and their four children; Ken Clark; Lois Brown; Carlton and Marilyn Baumgartner; for our Natural Church Development Health Team; people losing jobs or unemployed; homeless and hungry people; Prayers for Linda Vruwink, Lynn Farr's cousin, who is going back to Mayo's Clinic on 10/21/09 and hoping for good news; Prayers Erica's baby, (friend of the Shinn's daughter Becky), who needs a liver transplant – Erica is donating part of her liver for the transplant; Prayers for Gary Marinellie's friend and co-worker, Sue, who has cancer; Prayers for Nicole, cousin of Mike (Sara Farr) Vollmer, sophomore in H.S., who was diagnosed

with congenital hearing loss; Prayers for better health for Louella Landon; Prayers for Susan Bown's cousin Jerrin Jacobs, who was electrocuted at work and is in serious condition with heart problems; Catherine Eckman who had knee surgery on October 22nd; David Michael, Mike and Amy Visser's new baby boy, is doing well but will be hospitalized for at least 9 weeks; Prayers for better health for Seth Bowlan – who came down with the flu; Prayers for full recovery for Sue Martin (friend of the Farris) who had surgery cancer and will be having minor chemo treatments; Prayers for healing for Mary Ann Barnes, who fell and broke her hip; Ronda Jenkins' friend, Rosemary – going for second round of chemo treatments; The FISH Pantry is in desperate need of cash donations for Christmas; Prayers for the families of the victims and those who died at Fort Hood, Texas; Prayers for Peggy George's nephew Jim, who is having angioplasty to remove a blood clot; Prayers for Linda Brown's co-worker, Debbie, who is having chemo treatments; for all the men & women serving our country in the military. May we keep all in need in our prayers - those who are grieving, those taking care of the aged/sick/dying, and our own special intentions that we hold dear in our hearts.



GINGERBREAD HOUSES ARE BACK!

Join us on Friday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Yeoman Hall for our annual Gingerbread Housemaking Craft night. A donation of \$2.00 per house will help defray the cost of the meringue and decorations. Bring one box of frosting for each house you build and you may also bring an appetizer to share while building the gingerbread houses.

Please RSVP to the church office by November 30 with the number of houses you plan to build. (This is so we have enough meringue on hand for your creations). Questions? Call the church office at 815-838-1017.



JOYFUL NOISE COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

First UMC is organizing an ongoing community children's choir for children ages 4 and up. Children will learn basic vocal techniques as well as sing energetic songs with dancing and movement. No previous musical knowledge is required, and you do not have to be a church member to join. Just bring your love of singing! Donations are appreciated, but not required. The choir will perform several times a year at the church and other locations. **Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, December 5, 2009.**

Rehearsals will be held every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Education building. Any child age 4 and up is welcome. For more information, contact Kristin Price at 815-603-8678.



Pastor Noah will be conducting an Advent Fellowship Worship series on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Yeoman Hall beginning on December 2, and continue on December 9 and 16. The study will start with a light supper. The study will be a look into how other cultures celebrate Advent.

Volunteers in Mission Experience

February 23-March 7, 2010

THE PHILIPPINES

THE MISSION PROJECT

The Philippine VIM project has two-fold objectives. First, is to **bring the love of Jesus** to the whole people of God. Second, is to **build relationships** in the hearts of the Filipino people, the church and the community.

The project site is within the **North Luzon Philippines Annual Conference**. The Mission project site is **ASBURY COLLEGE** a United Methodist institution in the town of Anda, province of Pangasinan. The town of Anda is famous for its beautiful **Hundred Islands** white beach resort, 150 miles north of Manila city. The mission project will focus on repair, and painting the interior of school facilities. In addition to the project itinerary, the VIM team will have the opportunity to have exposure visits to different **United Methodist Church** related mission sites and related institutions in Metro Manila.

REGISTRATION FEE – \$2,100 inclusive of airfare from Chicago and vice-versa, food and lodging for 10 days, ground transportation and donation for the project expenses. A down payment of **\$500** is requested. Deadline for application is on **December 30, 2009**.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE - **Volunteers In Mission** are both lay and clergy people engaged and dedicated in doing the work of Jesus Christ and in fulfilling the work to which God called us, we embody the; **UM-VIM motto: "Christian Love In Action."** For Further Information contact: *Philippine VIM Team-Leader: Rev. Noah R. Panlilio 815-838-1017*

MULTIVITAMINS AND NECKTIES FOR VIM TRIP

The Volunteers in Mission Team to the Philippines is collecting multivitamins and gently used men's neckties. The vitamins will be distributed at a local medical health center and the gently used neckties will be distributed to rural pastors in depressed areas. Please bring your donations starting December 15, 2009. There will be designated boxes.

— Thank you, VIM Team

WATCH FOR PASTOR NOAH'S GOSPEL MUSIC CD

Pastor Noah is producing his own CD music of his favorite songs. The songs are a variety of Gospel songs sung by Pastor Noah himself. The CD's will be available this December. A donation of \$15.00 for each CD will go to the Volunteers in Mission Trip to the Philippines.



New Bible Study Series

SIMPLE RULES FOR MONEY

A Bible Study series "The Three Simple Rules" That Will Change the World – Gain All You Can – Save All You Can – Give All You Can will be offered on

Wednesday evenings beginning on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 7 p.m. in Dystrup Study. Sean and Kim Kelly will lead the class. If you are interested in attending, please call either Sean and Kim at 815-838-4205 or you may call the church office at 815-838-1017 so that we know how many books to order. Thank you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marissa Thompson is originally from Bloomington Normal. She moved here last year from Ottawa, IL. She teaches computers at Fairmont school. She is also going to school for her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University. Pat and Dick Burnett invited me to visit the church with them after I told them about having troubles finding a church I liked. I came here a couple of times and noticed everyone was very friendly and welcoming. As such, I have decided to join the church and look forward to being a member.

Jennifer Johnson was born in Camp Springs, Maryland at Andrews Air Force Base Hospital. Jennifer has a great interest in music. She has been playing the flute since age ten. She played the flute and piccolo in the Lockport High School Band. She has also studied music at Joliet Junior College where she received a Music Talent Scholarship in February 2008; and where she's been in many student recitals, three student honors recitals and one student chamber recital in which she played a flute duet. Besides playing flute and piccolo, she plays the B-flat clarinet at the Intermediate music level and the piano at the easy music level. Jennifer sings with the Chancel Choir and she feels very humbled and excited to be a member of the group.

ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec.** 5 - Paul & Lynn Farr (1970)
 26 - Jim & Jean Shinn (1960)
 27 - Mike & Sharon Petty (1967)
 30 - John & Becky Meyer (1977)

**BIRTHDAYS**

- Dec.** 3 - Amanda Manthey
 Pattie Piotrowski
 4 - Jennifer Burek
 Roger Jacobson
 6 - Zak Viall
 9 - James Brauch
 Jocelyn Burek
 Sara Dunn
 11 - Doris Hubbs
 12 - Jan Koger
 13 - Tom Burnett
 Addyson Hill
 Alexander Wigton
 14 - Michael Piotrowski
 15 - Jillian Queeney
 Gabrielle Voulgaris
 17 - Steven Walker
 20 - Jayden Hoffman
 21 - Nicholas Nunley
 22 - Kay Rothlisberger
 Jean Shinn
 23 - Matthew Berard
 26 - Cameron Kitsmiller

If you have any additions or corrections, please notify the church office, 815-838-1017.

NOW AVAILABLE—N.I.C. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION & GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING (POSTMARKED DEADLINE OF APRIL 1, 2020)

There are a number of ways to receive the application: Download a copy from the Conference website: www.umcnic.org (Click on "Ministries", then click on "Higher Education & Campus Ministry") (Note that the eligible Year in School Status is as of Fall 2010) Request an e-mail attachment be sent to you. Request a copy be faxed to you. Request a copy to sent to you via snail mail.

Contact: Mrs. Gladys King-Lucas Marcy-Newberry Association, 1073 W. Maxwell Street, Chicago, IL 60608, 312-829-7555 ext. 118, mnagkl@aol.com Please note: Send your applications now to avoid the last-minute rush.

JOYS

- Phil Winters reported that over 400 people attended our Haunted House/Fun Fair, which took in over \$1,000.00. The Bake Sale went well, too, taking in around \$150.00. Phil thanked everyone for all their hard work, especially Jan Koger, Ashley Koger, Sue Bown & Deb Chapp for the Fun Fair.
- Congratulations to Mike and Amy Visser on the birth of David Michael on 10/25/09!
- Sunday, November 1 was the tribute to Dick Dystrup. It was wonderful and the Choir's tribute song was beautiful!
- David Michael, Mike and Amy's new son, is doing very well.
- Ronda Jenkins' friend Rosemary thanks everyone for their prayers.
- Prayers of joy from Sunday School children – thank you for my toys and food, thank you for my family and friends.
- Joyce Volling reported that \$763.00 was made from the Ham Dinner last Saturday. Joyce thanked everyone for their help and for coming to the dinner.
- Rella Sutton's son Jim does not need to see his oncologist any more.
- Maxine Smith's friend Glenna had 2 perfect lung scans.

"An Ode to Christmas Lights"

Bursting through December nights
 That could be long and cold,
 Our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
 With colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
 And from trees both small and tall,
 The lights cry out, "We have good news!"
 We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,
 The sorrow, war and fear;
 But God has sent his Son for all,
 To show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.
 Christ's with us day by day,
 Illuminating paths so we
 Can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.
 Make your world shine clear and bright.
 God's love surrounds and blesses us.
 Come, celebrate God's Light!
 —Peggy Ferrell

Sunday School News

Sunday School is up and running! Class for ages 2-99+ meet every Sunday from 8:45-10:00.

Our theme for Sunday School is:

“Everybody’s a Winner on the J Team!”

We hope to see you there!

We are always in need of volunteers to help out in classrooms, substitute or even to teach. If you are interested please call the church office.

Did you know...

Prayers should be a part of your daily life—even children should pray to God as often as they can!

Say this prayer everyday through out the coming month:

Dear God,

Help me to use the gifts you have given me to do your work. Amen



Joyful Noise Children’s Choir



We are excited to say that we will be starting a children’s choir!! The children’s’ choir is open to children ages 4 and up. The choir will meet every Saturday from 3:30-4:30. Rehearsals will be held in the singing room (2nd floor of Education building). The choir will be led by Kristin Price (a local musician who sings periodically at our church) and Ashley Koger will be assisting her.

**The first rehearsal will be:
December 5!!**

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendars!



December 4:

Making of Gingerbread houses;
6:30 PM

December 5:

Joyful Noise Children’s Choir; 3:30
-4:30

December 6:

Practice for the Christmas program during Sunday School

December 12:

Practice for the Christmas program; 9:00-12:00

December 13:

Christmas Program during the 10:15 worship service

Mission Project

We will continue to collect money for the Heifer Project during Sunday School. Information about Heifer was sent home with your child at the beginning of last month.



YOUTH PAGE

AND FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES


These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

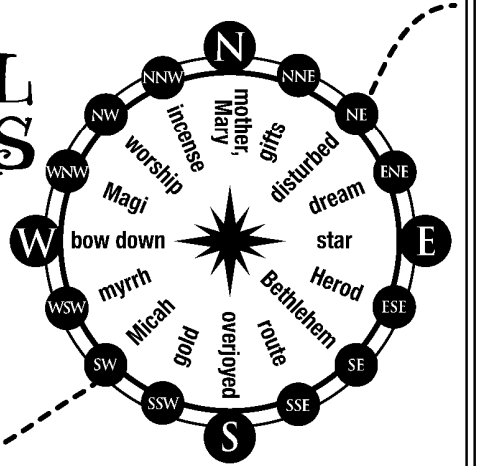
What you do:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)



SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
 _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route