



What makes Christmas happen?

What makes Christmas “happen” for you? Where does the joy of the season come alive in you? Is it in the carols? The celebrations? The candlelight services? The music of the Advent season? Perhaps you find it in the shopping and gift-giving. Maybe you see the love of the season in the sparkling eyes of a child or feel it in a loved one’s hug.

Whatever it is, during this holiday season with all its frenzied festivities, stop and remember that night in the stable, those mingled smells of animals and hay, that pain and subsequent joy in the birth of one small child. Breathe deep and feel with Mary, with Joseph, the shepherds, the angels. Feel the birth of Jesus. What is it to experience such joy, such peace? Verbally express to someone close to you what the birth of Christ means to you at this point in your life. Be joyful!

Experience God’s love and peace.

- Anonymous

But the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid. I bring you
good news of great joy that will be
for all the people. Today in the
town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Sunday Services:

9:00 a.m. Bible Study 101
9:15 a.m. Joy Class
9:30 a.m. Parables Class
9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship & Children’s Church

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Ideally Speaking **By Jim Sutherlin**

“A Covenant of Closure”

At the November meeting of the General Board, I presented for their approval the following “Covenant of Closure” between myself and our congregation. I knew you would want to see it and I will be glad to discuss it with you at any time.

“With gratitude for all the love and kindness which has been shown to me as your Pastor; with heartfelt prayers for your future years of service to Christ; and with a renewed commitment to serve your best interests even in my absence; I make these promises:

- That I will separate myself from participation in the life and congregation of West Lake Christian Church for a period of one year.
- I will be a true and loyal friend to individual members and the congregation as a whole, but I will not make pastoral calls, hospital calls, or counsel with members, or preside at weddings or funerals of members, and I will decline all offices, positions and responsibilities in this, my former congregation.
- I will welcome opportunities to be with members socially and will be glad to discuss with them anything except West Lake Christian Church matters.
- I will speak only with the Regional/Area Minister or the current pastor of West Lake Christian Church about any problems I perceive in the congregation, and not discuss them with members of the congregation or others in the community.
- I will communicate with the Regional/Area Minister should confusion, conflict or other differences arise between myself and West Lake Christian Church or its members.

If at the end of one year I wish to participate in the life of West Lake Christian Church, I will communicate such interest to the Regional/Area Minister who will facilitate discussion of this possibility with the congregation and its pastor. If such participation is deemed appropriate, a “*Covenant for a New Ministry When the Previous Minister is Remaining in the Community*” will be established.

I reaffirm my ordination vows as an Ordained Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and my continued commitment to the “*Ministerial Code of Ethics*” which I adopted at the time of my ordination.”



Notes from the Moderator

With very few exceptions, December is a month of endings. One exception of course is the birth of the baby Jesus. For our church it is the end of the ministry of Jim and Judy Sutherlin. They have strengthened my faith and given me new insight into the meaning and purpose of coming to the Lord’s Table each and every time we meet for worship. For this I give them thanks and wish them well in the years ahead.

Every ending signals a new beginning. We will be welcoming an Interim Minister and begin a search for a new minister. The General Board has voted to form a Transition Team composed of church members who will guide the exit of our present minister, advise the Interim during the between period and counsel the new minister as he or she adjusts and settles in. All members and associate members of the congregation will be asked to submit the names of three fellow members that they think would be the very best persons to guide us in the days ahead. These names will be collated and the 3 to 7 most often named will be asked to serve.

Pray for the unity of our congregation. Pray for the work of the Search Committee. Pray that the Transition Team helps smooth the road in the days ahead.

Nip Mohler, Moderator

Treasurer’s Mini Monthly Report

Interest Paid October 1-31, 2007	\$ 2,273.09
Mortgage Balance October 1, 2007	\$ 457,411.81
Principal Paid October 2007	\$ <u>3,487.61</u>
Mortgage Balance October 31, 2007	\$ 453,924.20



There is a clip board on the table in the entryway if you wish to purchase a red or white poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone. The cost for each poinsettia is \$10. Place your check in the Worship Committee’s mail slot in the church office.

The **Best Choice UPCs** will be mailed to the company On Dec. 20. If you have been saving the UPCs for CWF, please turn them in at the church office no later than **Dec. 16**. We appreciate your saving the UPCs each year. Thank you for your support!



Children's Christmas Giving Tree



The Children's Christmas Giving Tree is decorated with ornaments. Each ornament has a number of a child, the age, boy or girl, along with sizes and needs. Please select an ornament then sign the clipboard designating which number you selected.

All presents need to be gift wrapped, bundled together, and the ornament with the number taped to the presents. Please place all gifts around the tree by December 16. The gifts will be taken to the area agencies for distribution at 10 a.m. on the 17th of December.



Carols Candles and Communion

December 24
5:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Day Dinner Tuesday, December 25 at noon



Everyone Welcome!
**Bring a vegetable, salad or
dessert to share.**
**We will furnish the turkey, ham,
mashed potatoes, dressing
and gravy.**

**Peggy Crockett
372-5300**



CWF Christmas Party

All women of West Lake Christian Church are invited to the Christian Women's Fellowship Christmas Party on December 11 at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will be at the Olive Branch Restaurant in Gravois Mills. The cost will be \$15 with a choice of entrées between lasagna, spaghetti, or chicken broccoli alfredo. The cost includes salad, entrée, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity. Please make your reservation with the church office no later than December 7. Please pay Doris Yates or the church office by Monday, December 12.



Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa

You are invited to go caroling with the Praise Team on Wednesday, December 12, at the Laurie Care Center on O road. Help us brighten the holidays for the residents, many of whom are our own beloved church members. We will meet at the Laurie Care Center at 5:30 p.m. After we sing at the center we will continue our caroling at Ashbury Heights on RA road. We plan to return to the Loehr Center for refreshments so you may want to car pool.



Lake Area Community Orchestra presents

Winter 2007 Holiday Concert

Come join us December 2 at 7:30 p.m. for a wonderful evening of holiday music presented by the Lake Area Community Orchestra.

Bring your family and friends and plan on staying afterwards for refreshments.



Pastor Howie saves the third Sunday of Advent.



Soup and Chili Dinner

December 2
11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

If you have not had your chance to purchase a ticket, they will be sold at the door. We thank you for all your support and the joy that you share with us!
Chi Rho Kids Youth Group

Chi Rho Kids

Our Christmas party will be on December 16, following the worship service. Please bring a non-

Congratulations—Great Job!

The following individuals successfully completed CPR and AED training at our church on October 20. It is nice to know that additional members are now qualified in case of an emergency.

Jim Arnold	Terry Betzen	Steve Betzen
John Solomon	Carolyn Solomon	Jim Pate
Nancy Pate	Kathie Williams	Sandy McKim
Angel Ramsey	Marilyn Rothove	Carroll Rinker
Ronnie Rothove		

2007 Diaconates

Thanks so much to all the members that participated as Diaconates during 2007
Marilyn Lyda

A Word From Our Parish Nurse By Betty Greenley



LRHS Parish Nurse Network
Wellness Tip of the Month

Flu Vaccine

There are two types of vaccines: The “flu shot” is an inactivated vaccine (killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. The flu shot is approved for individuals older than 6 months, for both the healthy and people with chronic health conditions. Nasal-spray flu vaccine is made with live, but weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu. It is approved for use in healthy individuals 2-49 years old, but should not be used for women who are pregnant. Each vaccine contains three influenza viruses. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on international prediction regarding the strains of viruses that will circulate in a given year. Both the flu shot and the nasal-spray vaccine are effective at preventing the flu.

The best time to be vaccinated for the flu is during the months of October and November. The vaccine may be given up to the first of January. Yearly vaccinations are recommended for most people. Talk with your physician should you have any question about this vaccination. About two weeks after receiving the vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against the influenza virus infection develop in the body.

Those who should not be vaccinated without first consulting their physician are individuals who are allergic to chicken eggs, individuals who have had a severe reaction to any influenza vaccination, those who have developed Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), children under six months old, and those who have a moderate to severe illness should wait to get vaccinated until the symptoms are resolved.

The effectiveness of the flu vaccine to protect a person depends on the age and health status of the person receiving the vaccine, and the similarity or ‘match’ between the virus strains in the vaccine and those in the environment.

Different side effects can be associated with the flu shot and nasal spray vaccine. Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given, low grade fever and some body aches are the most common symptoms that occur. If illness does occur, they begin soon after the shot and usually last one to two days. However, on rare occasions, flu vaccination can cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The viruses in the nasal-spray vaccine are live weakened viruses and do not cause severe symptoms that are often associated with the influenza illness. Symptoms include; runny nose, wheezing, headache, vomiting, muscle aches, fever, sore throat and cough. Seek your physicians counsel for any concerns.



Thanks What a great job Outreach Team Leaders and Volunteers

The 2007 Outreach Committee teams did another exceptional job in doing work for the church. Thanks to each of the teams that worked so hard.

Week of Compassion White Elephant Auction:
Bobbie Aubuchon

Special Offerings: Nancy Kellstrom
Easter Basket Program: Betty Greenley
Adopt a Road Clean-up: Norm & Judith Richardson
Community for Christ: Nancy Milburn
Westside Senior Center: George Welch
Habitat for Humanity: Nip Mohler
Christmas Gift Tree: Carolyn & John Solomon
Baby Bottle Brigade: Angel Ramsey
Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner: Dick Lyda
Salvation Army Bell Ringers: Nancy & Jim Pate
Christmas Day Community Dinner: Peggy Crockett
Parrish Nurse: Betty Greenley

While I know that the Team leaders worked hard, they could not have accomplished it all without the members of our congregation that volunteered to work with them. Thanks again for a job well done.

Dick Lyda, Outreach Chairman

Have You Met Our Newest Members Yet?

Kent and Mary Elliott joined WLCC on October 28. They moved from Peoria, IL, where Kent retired from Caterpillar and Mary is a retired RN. The Elliott's have 2 daughters and 1 grandson. Kent and Mary enjoy boating, reading, gardening, needlework, the computer, and just being at the lake.

Mildred Wichman also joined on October 28. She is the mother of Kent Elliott and moved with them from Bartonville, IL. Mildred is a retired secretary for an insurance agency. She loves to boat, read, and travel.

Dustin Metcalf joined by confession on October 21. Dustin is in the 6th grade at Versailles Middle School. He has a sister, Cheyenne, and a dog named Sparky. Dustin plays soccer, volleyball and the saxophone. Dustin also enjoys hunting and hopes to get a deer this season.

Walt & Lynn Hicklin joined WLCC November 11. They retired from Warrensburg, MO, where Walt was VP of Student Affairs at University of Central Missouri. Lynn is a retired school teacher. They have 3 children and 4 grandkids. Walt is also a scout for the Canadian Football League. They both enjoy boating, water sports and traveling.

Jim Arnold joined by transfer on November 18. Jim is retired and enjoys photography, silver smithing, hunting and fishing.

Be sure to introduce yourself and get to know our newest members at West Lake Christian Church!

Church Directory Additions

Please make note of these changes.

New Members :



Kent & Mary Elliott	Jim Arnold
Mildred Wichman	(573) 374-3164
(573) 374-8837	73 Shallow Cove Rd.
121 Chestnut Rd.	Gravois Mill, MO 65037
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079	

Dustin Metcalf	Walt & Lynn Hicklin
(573) 374-7505	(573) 374-1396
104 Metcalf Ct.	33283 Greenwood
Laurie, MO 65037	Gravois Mills, MO 65037

Directory additions and corrections are an ongoing item in the newsletter. Please be sure to make the additions and corrections in your directory so that you will always have the most current information at your fingertips.

Thank you! Sandy White



A new year, a new minister, a new format! Coming in January, the Good News newsletter will have a new look. We will continue some familiar styles, but overall you will see a fresh face in 2008.

A NOTE OF THANKS...

Dear Pastor Sutherlin & Church Family,
 Thank you for all your prayers and concern. It has helped in so many ways. My back is doing so well. A special thank you to Jim for spending so much time with our family at the hospital and for your prayers.



May God bless you, Susan and Mike Thrams

Thank you to my church family for all the calls, cards, and prayers thru this trying time. But with your support everything will come out O.K.

Love, Wanda Iiams

Thank you for the contribution to the Westside Senior Center. We appreciate your continued support.
 Sincerely, The Westside Senior Center

Dear West Lake Church Family,
 I want to thank everyone for everything that you have done for Ellis and me. Thank you for the calls, cards, food, and prayers. We appreciate everything that has been done for us.
 God Bless you all, Lorene and Ellis Wilcox

Dear Friends,
 We are grateful for your Groundbreakers 2007 contribution of \$600 to the local Habitat for Humanity. Financial contributions from caring persons like you, along with local volunteer labor and contributions from local and national businesses help to fund the construction of each Habitat home. We are pleased to accept your gift and promise to use it wisely. Thank you for your involvement in this ministry to the community.

Sincerely, Nancy A. Rogers, President
 Lake of the Ozarks Habitat for Humanity

Gene and I thank the loving congregation for the gift during the minister appreciation month.
 God Bless you, Frank Loehr



Christian love and sympathy is extended to Shirley Dennis and family upon the death of Shirley's mother, Wilma Hanna, on October 18, 2007.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to Mary Alice Geise and family upon the death of her husband, Dudley, on November 9, 2007.

Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations



ANNIVERSARIES December

- 12..... Rob & Betty Greenley
- 13..... John & Janice Pinter
- 18..... Doug & Jan Fields
- 20..... Ed & Pat Mock
- 20..... Joey & Angel Ramsey
- 20..... Phillip & Kimberly Underwood
- 24..... Dick & Kay Kastner
- 27..... George & Pat McGuire
- 31..... Fred & Mary Cline

BIRTHDAYS December



- 1..... Ray Beard
- 2..... Ray Harper
- 2..... Sean Nielson
- 4..... Marty McGinnis
- 6..... Mary Alice Geise
- 6..... Lynn Hicklin
- 6..... Gwen Welch
- 7..... Adam Sudduth
- 8..... Bob Thuresson
- 10..... Earl King
- 12..... George Thomas
- 13..... Richard Lyda
- 13..... Judith Richardson
- 13..... Betty Snitker
- 13..... Bill Zimmerman
- 16..... Bob Keene
- 18..... Rhonda Neff
- 19..... Shirley Kirkpatrick
- 25..... Clara Rosche
- 26..... Kimberly Underwood
- 27..... Judy Sutherlin
- 28..... Marilyn Lyda
- 31..... Betty Greenley

If your birthday or anniversary is not included, please notify the church office. Thank you.

DECEMBER 2007

Sun	Mbn	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p align="center">Regular Sunday Morning Schedule</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study 101 9:15 a.m. Joy Class 9:30 a.m. Parables Class & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship & Children's Church</p>						1
<p>2</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Grace Sunday</p> <p>11:30 Congregational Meeting</p> <p>11:30 Soup & Chili Dinner </p> <p>7:30 Community Orchestra</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 Exercise 9:30 Prayer Ministry</p> <p>6:00 Outreach</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Coupon Clippers</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 Worship Committee 6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p> <p>12:00 Salad Lunch Office Helpers</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts Daniel Hall</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Second Sunday in Advent</p> <p>Community For Christ Food Drive</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Exercise 9:30 Prayer Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Board Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Coupon Clippers</p> <p>11:30 CWF Christmas Party at Olive Branch</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p> <p></p> <p>5:30 Caroling at Laurie Care Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Mother's Day Out</p> <p>6:00 Leadership Conference</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Third Sunday in Advent</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>11:30 Chi Rho Kids</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 Exercise 9:30 Prayer Ministry</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>6:00 Stewardship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Diet Class</p> <p>10:00 Coupon Clippers</p> <p>3:30 Evangelism</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:00 Girl Scouts Daniel Hall</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Advent</p> <p></p> <p>And he will be called... Prince of Peace. <small>Isaiah 9:6</small></p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 Exercise 9:30 Prayer Ministry</p> <p></p> <p>5:00 Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> <p>12:00 Christmas Dinner</p> <p></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office is Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Mother's Day Out</p> <p>6:00 Elders</p> <p>6:00 Volleyball</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 Exercise</p> <p>6:00 Dominoes</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Farewell Service for Jim & Judy Sutherlin</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 Exercise 9:30 Prayer Ministry</p>			<p>If you do not see your event on this calendar, it is not on the church calendar.</p> <p>Please contact the church office to get your event scheduled. Thank you!</p>		

West Lake Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Laurie, MO 65037

(573) 374-0647

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Fax: 573-374-8195

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-2:30pm

MINISTRY TEAM

Jim Sutherlin, Senior Pastor

Frank Loehr, Minister Emeritus

Gwen Welch, Treasurer

Dona Johnson, Music Coordinator

Betty Greenley, Parish Nurse

Sandy White, Church Secretary

Christmas Fellowship Dinner and Concert

Our Christmas Fellowship Dinner will be held Sunday, December 16, following worship. The Membership Committee will furnish ham for the dinner. The congregation is asked to contribute salads, vegetables, or desserts.



The dinner will be followed by a concert of Christmas music by our own Judy Sutherlin. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Judy's wonderful voice.

Sunday
December 16
11:30 a.m.