

## Listing of Ministries

### SUNDAY

Intercessory Prayer	9:00 am
Sunday School	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am

Adult Discovery Group	6:00 pm
Kids Club	6:00 pm
Wired/Grouped (Youth Groups)	6:00 pm

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Nursery (through age 3)
Pre-K to grade 2
Grade 3-5
Youth, Grades 6-12
Young Adult
Adult

### WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
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### Our Mission:

\*To bring honor to God by helping people everywhere.

\*To learn to trust and obey Jesus.

### Our Priorities

- \*Exalting God's Name
- \*Exploring God's Word
- \*Encouraging God's People
- \*Exhibiting God's Character
- \*Expanding God's Kingdom



Editors: Kimberly Kantorik  
Pat Houpt  
Cheri Young

## The Best Christmas of All

(Fiction written in the first person)

Should I doubt God? He has been so faithful to me in the past. Actually, He's been faithful to me my whole life. And that's a very long time! So why should I doubt Him now? It's just that He promised that I would see His Messiah before I died and there aren't many years left.

It wouldn't be so important to me if the nation weren't in such deep trouble. There is so much corruption and our leaders have gotten us into debt to other countries. Everyone is looking for someone to lead us out of the mess we are in and get us back on the right track. So where do we turn? That's what I've been asking God and I thought He had given me a pretty clear answer.

As a matter of fact, I heard a little while ago of something that happened in Bethlehem. A couple who had traveled there to register for the census ended up having a baby in a cattle stall because that was the only place they could find to stay. I guess there was quite the uproar when word got out. It got everyone stirred up. Even shepherds knew about it from some strange experience they supposedly had with some angels. Yeah, right!

And then I wake up this morning feeling compelled to come here to the temple. It's not the best of days, bitter cold and gray. There are the usual people here for sacrifices and offerings for everything from thanksgiving to forgiveness of sins. Wait! Here is a couple coming to give their offering for purification after giving birth. It's a beautiful baby boy six weeks old. That's about when I heard of the story from Bethlehem. There is something so special about that baby boy – could it be?? Let me get closer. Yes, Lord, by Your Spirit I know that this is Your Messiah, humbly born to be our Savior. I feel like singing!! *"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, You may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

Maybe they will celebrate His birth in the years to come. If so, then this would have to be considered the best Christmas of all.

(Based on Leviticus 12 and Luke 2:22-32)

*Pastor Tim*



Feb. 11 Youth Spaghetti Dinner

Feb ? Mahaffey Camp's Valentine Dinner

# Worship Assistants

	A-V Tech / Computer	A-V Tech / Sound	Ushers
12/2	Patrick R.	Dave G.	Denny B./Chris H./Eric Mc
12/9	Angie P.	Doug Mc	Bob L./Matt L./Hans S.
12/16	Eric Mc	Dave G.	George O./Ben S./Isaac P.
12/23	Sean A.	Kevin R.	Mike B./Sean A./Joe L.
12/30	Luke S.	Doug Mc	Dave G./Patrick R./Sean R.
1/6	Matt L.	Kevin R.	TBA
1/13	Sean R.	Dave G.	TBA
1/20	Patrick R.	Doug Mc	TBA
1/27	Angie P.	Kevin R.	TBA

## Safe Place

	Safe Place/SS	Safe Place/MW
12/2	The Onuskos	The McCrackens
12/9	The Youngs	Judy Miller
12/16	The Grumbines	Pat H.
12/23	Darlene H.	The Halls
12/30	The Onuskos	The Houpts
1/6	The Youngs	The McCrackens
1/13	The Grumbines	Judy Miller
1/20	Darlene H.	Pat H.
1/27	The Onuskos	The Halls



Nursery Attendants



	Nursery/SS	Nursery/MW	Food Fellowship
12/2	Donna Mc	Amy S./Angie P.	Cherry L.
12/9	Cheri Y.	Christy H./Abby M.	McCrackens
12/16	Pat H.	Julie L./Luke S.	Caryl P.
12/23	Wendy R.	Cherry L./Abby P.	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
12/30	Donna Mc	Lisa P./Noah S.	Pohlands
1/6	Cheri Y.	Christy H./Abby M.	Shrivers
1/13	Pat H.	Amy S./Angie P.	Gibsons
1/20	Wendy R.	Julie L./Abby P.	Houpts
1/27	Donna Mc	Cherry L./Luke S.	McCrackens

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

for the February edition is

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>

[kimkantorik@verizon.net](mailto:kimkantorik@verizon.net)



## December

- 14 – Robert Lukon
- 19 – Brody Chismar
- 26 – Valerie Burger
- 29 - Hans Semelsberger
- 30 – Jaxson Gibson
- 30 – Jodi and Mark Henry
- 31 – Pastor Tim
- 31 – Josh Chismar

## January

- 6 – Eli Keffer
- 10 – Dustin Hall
- 11 – Cameron LeBlanc
- 12 – Chloe Pohland
- 17 – Heather Keffer
- 18 – Mary and Joe LeBlanc
- 19 – Kevin Smith
- 25 – Kyle Clem

## Governing Board

After a time of prayer, November's business was reviewed. Other topics of discussion were:

\*Nursery Guidelines as well as the Children's and Youth Ministry Workers Policy Last month's modifications of each of these were again reviewed. Several minor changes were made then both forms were approved

\*Volunteer Personnel Form Changes to the form were discussed and made. Pastor has some follow up to do so this topic was tabled until next month

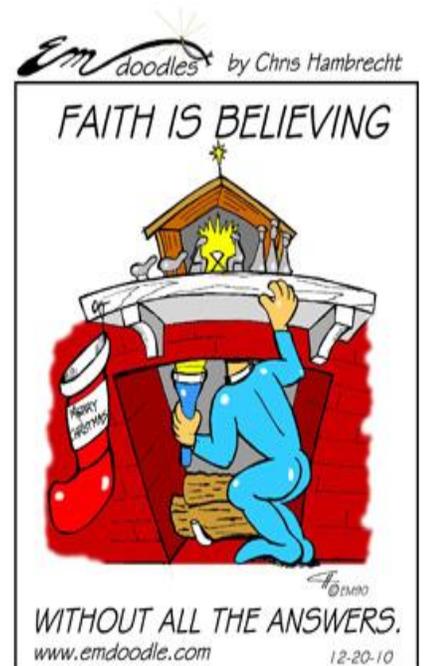
\*Date for the Annual Congregational Meeting was set for Jan. 9, 2013 with a snow date being Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*By-law Revisions Rewording of Article X, Bylaw H and Article XIV, Bylaw Section B, 2 were discussed. *Board approved that these amendments be brought for approval at the congregational meeting.*

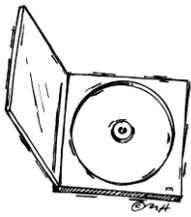
The next meetings are scheduled for **December 18<sup>th</sup>** and **January 15<sup>th</sup>**, 2013.

## Church Humor

It was the day after Christmas at a downtown church. The pastor was out front looking over the manger scene set up on the front lawn when he noticed the Christ Child was missing. Right on cue, he turned to see a little boy with a red wagon coming down the street and in the wagon was the figure of the infant Jesus. So the pastor asked the boy, "Well, young man, where did you pick up your passenger?" "I got Him here, from the church" replied the boy. "And why did you take Him?" the pastor questioned. "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus, and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him a ride around the block in it."



*Used with the artist's permission*



## CD's Now Available

Latrobe Alliance Church is now offering CD recordings of our services. You can order individual CD's of services you have missed or you can subscribe to weekly CD's. There is no charge for this service. For further information, see Eric McCracken.



**May all your troubles  
be as short as your New  
Year's resolutions.**



This annual meeting is scheduled for **Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>**. Your attendance is extremely important.



## Christmas Festivities At LAC

Always a busy season here at Latrobe Alliance Church, the festivities start off early in December, so check our calendar. On the **2<sup>nd</sup>** of the month, we are having the Annual Church Christmas Party at 6pm right at the church. We enjoy a hearty meal and good fellowship at the table, followed by singing carols. The Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long through the halls of the Latrobe Rehabilitation Center will take place on the afternoon of the **9<sup>th</sup>**. This is always a tremendous blessing to the carolers; the residents and employees seem to enjoy it as well. The **16<sup>th</sup>** is the Annual Christmas Pageant, where church members share their talents with the rest of us. Following the Pageant, Pastor Tim and Cheri have an Open House to which we are all invited. The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will take place at 6pm on the **24<sup>th</sup>** as we prepare our heart for the true reason for the season.



# MISSIONS CONFERENCE

We had a successful and inspiring Missions Weekend this past September, when Christine Queer Doren visited with us and shared about her recent work in Macedonia. Each of the events was well-attended. Twenty women at the Friendship Breakfast learned how to make a perfect omelet from Chef Mark Henry and heard Christine's talk on "The Paradox of the Egg." Hearts were touched as we learned that while we can't put our cracked lives back together ourselves, God can completely restore us...so that He can "crack" us again and use us in a good way. Our Sunday school hour had 25 participants, and Christine shared much about Macedonia's historical, cultural and spiritual heritage. We also heard about Macedonians she has met whose lives have been touched by Christ. She shared more of the same during the worship service and at the Taco Dinner- where 45 of us made our own tacos and were served by the Youth Group.

The Faith Promise pledges during the weekend totaled \$2900. In the coming months, look for Missions Moments videos during our worship service, which will feature different places and people where the international ministry of the CMA is at work. We also look forward to sharing about specific international workers from Western Pennsylvania each month, in the pages of this newsletter.



We had 80 kids register this year! Pray for these kids that a seed was planted and they will come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior

## Digging for Contractors

Even though we are in the midst of the holiday season, progress on the building program continues, by the grace of the Lord.

A major general contractor has provided a bid that was very overpriced and did not even address the phase one plan that was presented. Chet, our architect, stated that many of the items were priced 75% higher than costs he and we have seen. But from this we have realized that the first important step is to obtain definitive bids from contractors for solely preparing the site in accordance to the site plan provided by Benchmark that accounts for water runoff.

In December, we will be having a meeting with these contractors, those that will be moving the dirt, putting drainage in place and having the ground in place for constructing the building. Please be praying for this meeting that He would raise up a contractor that will do the work inexpensively. Also please let the building committee know of any site contractors you may want to recommend.

Many thanks for all your prayers, the most essential work for the building.

This year's Trunk or Treat was held on Oct 27<sup>th</sup> from Noon-2pm. There was another weather threat predicted; only this year it was rain.

The GO Committee was well prepared for the day. Trunks ringed the parking lot and everyone went to work decorating them. Food preparations were going on inside and containers of candy were being passed out for the "trunkers" to pass out to our guests.

As the time drew near, all of the participants gathered in a circle for a word of prayer before our 2<sup>nd</sup> Trunk or Treat began.

Soon cars started pulling into our parking lot and little ones in costumes got out. One at first, then three, then they kept coming in groups with smiles on their faces. It was the most amazing feeling to see this. Goose bumps! The hair on the back of your neck stands up! God is amazing!

We scurried to make sure everyone visited the registration table first. Then they had a bite to eat and went into the sanctuary where they heard the salvation message. As they came out, they received a treat bag then went out into the parking lot and visited our decorated trunks to gather candy.

The "trunkers" enjoyed fellowship with each other as we manned our trunks and passed out the candy to the children. Our desire was to show them God's love.

We ran out of hot dogs. Praise God! We had 10 trunks signed up and 15 were there. Praise God! And the rain held off until everyone had left. Praise God!

We were all tremendously blessed by this experience. Perhaps next year you will consider being part of Trunk or Treat?



## Missions Moment

Meet Ben and Sarah Carey who are currently serving in Waren, Germany. They have three young children, Travis, Hannah and Emma. They recently hosted two teenage siblings for a weekend in hopes of deepening their relationship with them. Their oldest son Travis recently started school and is doing really well. There may be an opportunity to help at the school with teaching an after school English program. They are grateful for the help they receive from Alliance people, for support, encouragement and prayers. Unable to come to the states for Thanksgiving, they will be celebrating with German friends, reflecting on the importance of thankfulness. When asking their children what they are thankful for, Travis replied "that I am God's friend forever." Hannah says she is glad God is our shepherd and always with us. Emma is grateful for mommy and daddy. Prayer requests for Germany are openness to the truth and for the Holy Spirit to break through in the lives of individuals so they could encounter Jesus Christ and his presence. To read more about the Careys and their work, struggles and lives, access [thecareyjourney.xanga.com](http://thecareyjourney.xanga.com)



## Church Family News



### Dynamo Defends Championship

Once again, the Latrobe-Unity Parks and Recreation Department Soccer League tournament championship was won by a team coached by Bret Pohland and a core group of players, including Chloe Pohland. Team "Dynamo" defeated the "Impact" to capture the regular season championship. A picture of the championship team appeared in the *Latrobe Bulletin* on Nov. 14th.



[www.latrobecma.org](http://www.latrobecma.org)

Dave Grumbine, Webmaster



## Spaghetti Dinners

The youth-served monthly Spaghetti dinners will be held

# Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> & Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

Monetary donations are being accepted to buy food so that it is consistent from one dinner to the next. You can place these donations in an offering envelope and mark it "Youth Spaghetti Dinner". We are also accepting donations of desserts. There will be a sign-up for desserts on the bulletin board in the entryway prior to each dinner. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Wendy Rounds or Donna McCracken.



To put a request on the Latrobe Alliance Prayer Chain, please call Bret or Lisa Pohland at (724) 532-2210