



Christmas for Everyone

It is time for our annual participation in the **Christmas for Everyone** event. This has become a special time for Elmwood. I am so amazed at how many of you give your time and money to this. It has really become a special ministry to this church.

For those of you that are new here, Christmas for Everyone is an event headed up by the Red Cross and organized by Faith Baptist Church. Families that meet certain criteria can register their children with the Red Cross to be sponsored by other families willing to provide them with Christmas gifts. Faith Baptist gathers all of the names of the children and distributes them to volunteering churches. They provide us with the child's name, age, sex, clothing size, and a small wish list. Last year we sponsored around 75 children.

What I really like most about our involvement is that we are a distribution site. So not only do we provide gifts, but the families come here to pick them up. We provide free gift wrapping, hot soup, and caring people to get to know them. That, in my opinion, is the truly great part about our involvement. We get to interact with the families.

The truth is this: Christmas truly is for everyone. I don't mean the gifts. I'm talking about The Gift – Jesus! In John's gospel account (not a traditional Christmas gospel) we are told, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of **everyone**. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to **everyone** was coming into the world"* (John 1:1-9).

As we prepare for distribution day on **December 12** let's remember that Christmas truly is for everyone. God wants all people to know that the story of Christmas is a story for everyone. The gift that God gives is a gift for everyone everywhere. Peter reminds us that God is *"not wanting anyone to perish, but **everyone** to come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

-Gilbert

Forgotten God

I recently finished reading a book by Francis Chan titled *"Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit."*

As you may have guessed from the title, Chan writes in his new book about his thoughts of how, as a Christian community, we have become people of safety instead of people of the Spirit.

One of Chan's main points is that living by the Spirit means living dangerously. People that follow Jesus ought to look different from those around them, and do things that others might consider foolish. After all, we worship a God who willingly offered His life, and died a horrible death. This is not exactly common sense for humans, let alone a deity. Yet, in that action, which we might consider foolishness, there was an outstanding amount of wisdom.

Living dangerously may look foolish to those around us who do not wish to live according to the Spirit. But, living our lives safely- living our lives according to the wisdom of this world, leaves no room for God to act, and leaves no place for us to see His actions.

Chan reminds us of the story of Gideon, who when faced by a conglomerate of armies brings his thirty-two thousand men to battle. Before the fight, however, God dismisses all but three hundred of Gideon's men *"in order that Israel may not boast against [God] that her own strength has saved her"* (Judges 7:2). God wants us to rely on Him, and wants us to know that we do so for His praise, not our own.

Are you relying on God, or on something else?

-Phil



Dick Waterstraat had gall bladder surgery on Monday. He hopes to be dismissed by Wednesday or Thursday from Clarian Arnett Hospital....**David Brutans'** surgery to remove part of his liver went well on Monday....**Edith McCoy** is receiving hospice care....**Melissa Willison** fell Monday injuring her ankle. She saw an orthopedic doctor on TuesdayDoctors found skin cancer on **Elaine Crowder**....**Ted Holderfield** is home and doing great!.... **Beth Holt** has hand surgery on October 29....Continue praying for **Jim Kiefner**, **Bud Darby**, **Kaden Koebeke**, **Sara Postlethwait**, **Roger Birky**, **Delores Hill**, **Clifford & Betty Farner**, **Annie Crowder**, **Diann Doty**, **Jan Lucas**, **Charles Moore**, **Hattie Coffel**, **Dorothy Walters**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Valley Stockton**, **Irene Sims**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, and **Minnie Scott**.

In the military: **Joe Newman** (*Naval training*), and **Brent Kaufman** is serving in Iraq.

Women are invited....

Barb Newberry is hosting a get-together for women at her home on Friday, **October 30, at 6:00 PM. Requirements:** bring your own 6" sub sandwich and a drink. She will furnish the rest of the food. Also, a **must:** come dressed in "Halloween attire." **We need those who plan to attend to sign up on the women's bulletin board or call Barb by Wednesday, October 28, so she can plan for enough food.**



Elmwood's 2nd annual Trunk or Treat is this **Saturday, October 31, from 1:30 until 3:30 PM (setup is at 12:30)**. The theme this year is **GAMES!** Think board and card games. The reason we have chosen to assign a theme is so we can help all the participants become less overwhelmed with too many possibilities. Each participating vehicle can host a game, which is optional, but welcome. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Here are a few ideas: Bozo buckets, Mystery object(s) hidden under a cloth or in a container, plastic horseshoes, velcro darts, etc. We hope to have at least one vehicle per LIFE group. We need donations for candy, decorations, crafts and photos for the visitors. Questions? See Dana Miller, Rachel Ravellette, Katy Travis or Angela Asbill.



A baby shower for **Angela Loy** and their new baby, **Ramsey Scott**, is being planned for **Sunday, November 8, from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock** in the afternoon. Scheryl Gaylor is hosting it at her home, 4524 Bur Oak Lane, Lafayette. Angela Asbill and Vicki Vaught are the hostesses. Donations will be accepted by them for a group gift, or suggestions for a gift: older outfits and diapers.



Karina Lynn was born Wednesday, October 21, to **Cami & Travis Koebeke** at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis. She weighed 4 pounds 14 ounces. She is doing well. Grandparents, **Jack & Sue McCoy**, and big brother, **Kaden** are delighted. For right now she remains in NICU at IU Medical Center.



Men, mark your calendars for the upcoming men's breakfast on **Saturday, November 7, at 7:43 AM until 8:59 AM.**



Thank you church family for the outpouring of love in so many ways during my knee surgery and recovery. You helped to make it all much more pleasant. God is good.

Thelma Hoyt & daughter, Susan

Eagle Scout Honors

Seth Mullen has his **Eagle Scout** ceremony at Elmwood on **December 5 at 3:00 PM.**

October 25, 2009

Class: 136 Worship: 246

Contribution: \$6,884



Leadership Training for Christ

We call it Leadership Training for Christ, Midwest LTC, LTC, etc. but whatever we call the ministry, it is one of the best things we do in the churches of Christ for leadership development among our young people. Since we have several new families around, I thought it might be useful for me to introduce or re-introduce you to LTC. The convention will not take place till May, but the holidays are upon us and we all know what happens to our schedules and our brains during this time.

What is LTC? Leadership Training for Christ is an organization designed to stimulate and encourage spiritual, mental, and social growth among *young men and women in grades three through twelve*. Its mission is to achieve this growth by developing skills in leadership, Bible knowledge, and Christian service. Skill development in each of these areas will be accomplished through participation in a variety of individual and group events. These events will take place within the context of a wholesome and supportive environment designed for the purpose of fostering enthusiasm and high achievement among the participants.

MWLTC Events: Each regional LTC has its own personality and regional interests. Each one is also unique from the others because of the location, the people involved, the various congregations participating, and many other factors. Because of this, different LTC's will often feature different events in which the students can participate. Many of the LTCs have several in common though. At Midwest LTC, we have three distinctly different types of events.

Pre-Convention Events are those in which students finish their projects or activities prior to convention, mail them into MWLTC, and have their efforts evaluated based on a set of criteria (shown on a judging form). The events are **Bible Class Teaching, Christian Websites, Christian Writing, Radio Minute Message, Short Film (NEW EVENT FOR 2010!), and Video Bible Drama.**

Challenge Events are similar to Pre-Convention Events in that they are finished prior to convention. However, the results are typically some type of report. There are no "evaluation" criteria. Rather, students earn a medal based on how much they did in the events (e.g. number of service projects). The events are Leadership Challenge, Outreach Challenge, Scripture Challenge, and Service Challenge. Here at Elmwood, we highly encourage all students to participate in Service Challenge.

Convention Events are those in which students present their projects or performance at convention. Their efforts are evaluated at convention based on a set of criteria (shown on a judging form). The events are Alternative Art, Bible Bowl, Bible Reading, Bulletin Boards, Group Singing, Live Modern Christian Drama, Puppets, Scrapbooks, Signing and Interpreting for the Deaf, Song Leading, Speeches, and Traditional Art.

MWLTC has been a great blessing to the young people specifically and to the church as a whole here at Elmwood. We will be getting sign ups out soon and we will need plenty of adults to help us hone our gifts, talents, and abilities to bring glory to our Awesome God. Let me know if you are interested in any way or if you have any questions.

- Lee



October Prayer Focus: The Spirit Within Us
Pray that the Spirit will help us in our weaknesses and continue to intercede for us. Ask that we will use the Spirit to encourage and lift each other up in our faith.



Betty Lucas wishes to be recognized as a member of Elmwood. Betty lives by herself at 2350 N. 23rd St., Lafayette, 47904. Her phone number: 415-5628. Betty has been worshipping with us for some time now and is involved with Senior Servants and Tuesday morning Bible study. Welcome, Betty!

Shults-Lewis



Milk Money Contribution

One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. That collection will be **Sunday, November 8**. That day **Ray Crowder**, the Shults-Lewis director, will speak to the combined adult classes at 9:30.



Christmas Hang-ups

Elmwood's Christmas Musical, **Christmas Hang-ups**, has rehearsal this **Wed., October 28, 6:20 PM** for children in **Pre-K through 6th grade**.



October 28, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
October 30, 6:00 PM....Barb Newberry's Halloween fun
October 31, 1:30-3:30 PM....Trunk or Treat, Elmwood
November 7, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood
November 8....Shults-Lewis Milk Money contribution
December 12....Christmas For Everyone distribution day

Read:
Ezekiel 22-37; Psa. 141-150
John 9-11

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 46: November 9-15

There is a Psalm...

As Christians, our goal is to become more like Christ, and ultimately to please God. It is important to remember, however, that before God sent His son as the *perfect* image for us to emulate, there were others He loved whose examples may be less intimidating... flawed beings like us who made their share of mistakes. David is a great example. David messed up a LOT, yet, in spite of his faults, he kept praising God and giving Him glory, and we know that he was “a man after God’s own heart.” But what did he do that made him stand out, and are we striving to do the same things?

Like David, we are apt to call on God when we’re in trouble, but do we praise Him for His awesome power or just ask for a favor? When we are angry with God or are feeling totally alone, we are quick to let Him know, but do we praise Him at the same time for all the ways He has blessed us in the past? Do we ask for relief “that I may praise your name” (Psalm 142:7) or just for our own selfish comfort? Then do we remember to *actually* praise Him when things get better? When everything is going well, do we remember to give God all the credit for our talents and successes? Do we praise Him “every day... forever and ever” (Psalm 145:2) no matter what is going on in our lives? Do we truly stand in awe of His fearful, amazing power, and call on others to worship Him alongside us? This is what David did: no wonder it pleased God! If you need a little inspiration, there is a psalm for every situation or mood you find yourself in, and how you can use it to praise God!

-Vicky and Dan Martin

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Joe Ruhl 463-6822 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

 Our Vision:
 Knowing Christ,
 Making Christ Known.



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