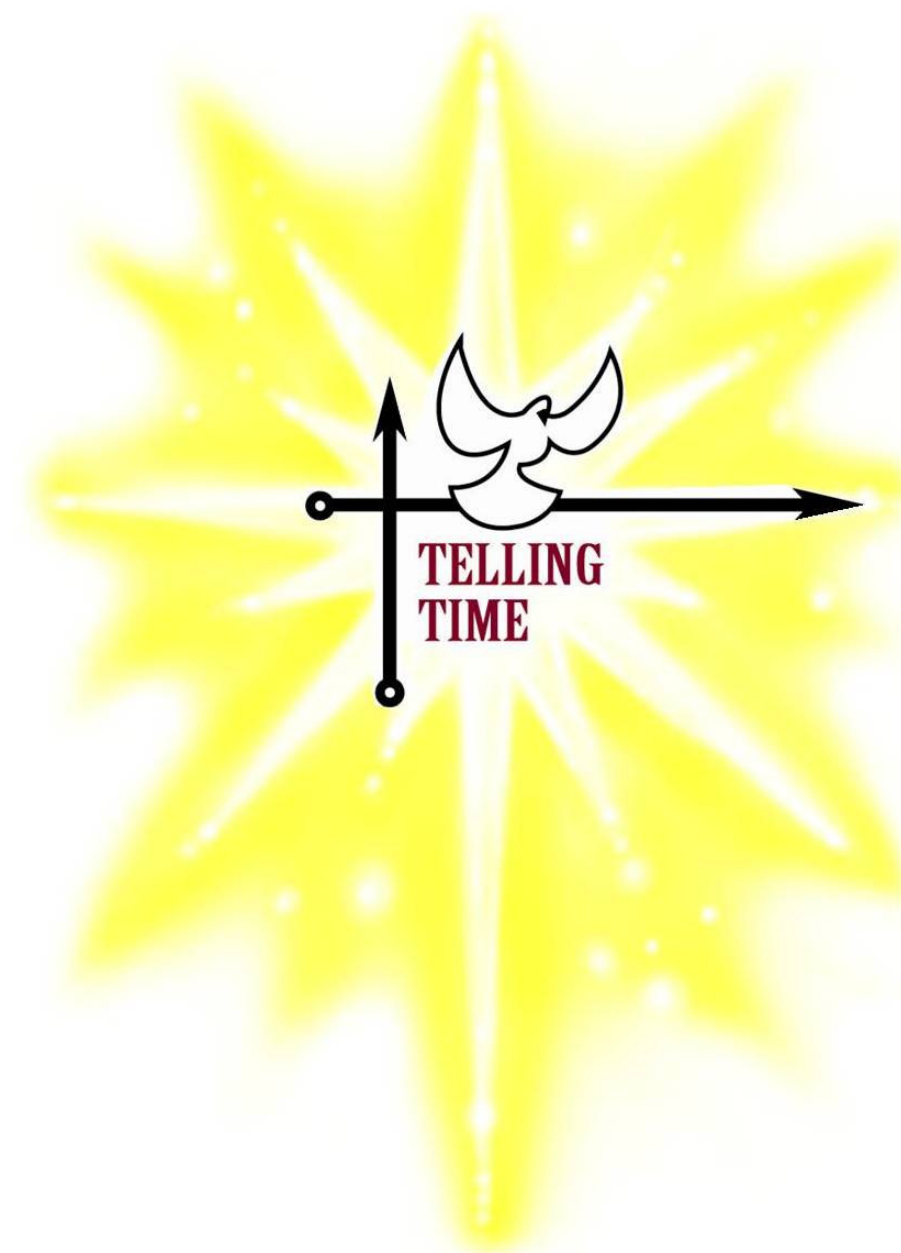


This Week at Westminster

Today, Dec. 18	9:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Celebration, Sanctuary
	9:00 a.m.	Adult Education, 106A
	9:00 a.m.	Midders Christmas Party, 305
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Education, 209
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Celebration, Sanctuary
	4:30 p.m.	Sunday Night Supper, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	High School Youth Christmas Party, 401
Monday, Dec. 19	8:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting, 106A
	9:00 a.m.	Mom's Time Out, 208/210
	1:00 p.m.	Loving Hands Knitters & Crocheters, Lounge
	7:00 p.m.	Green Group, 209
	7:00 p.m.	Hessville Volleyball Practice, South Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 20	9:30 a.m.	WPC Moms Group, 209/210
	4:30 p.m.	Midders – Pizza With A Purpose, South Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Praise Team Practice, Sanctuary
Wednesday, Dec. 21	7:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Bible Study, 209
	1:00 p.m.	Ladies Playing Cards, 209
	6:30 p.m.	Mission Meeting, 106A
	6:30 p.m.	Women of the Tent Bible Study, 302
	6:30 p.m.	Joyful Strains, 109
	7:00 p.m.	The Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Supervision, 101
	7:00 p.m.	N.A. Meeting, 305
	Thursday, Dec. 22	7:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.		Mom's Time Out, 208/210
9:00 a.m.		Samaritan Center Meeting, 301
9:15 a.m.		Bruce's Bible Study, 209
5:30 p.m.		High School Volleyball practice, South Hall
6:15 p.m.		Westminster Handbell Choir
7:00 p.m.		Fair Meadow Volleyball, South Hall
7:00 p.m.		High School Thursday Night Jazz, 401
7:30 p.m.		Westminster Chorale, 109
7:30 p.m.		A.A. Group Meeting, 305
9:30 a.m.		Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 23	8:00 a.m.	A.A. Group Meeting, 305
	11:00 a.m.	Brass Quartet Practice, Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec. 24	4:00 p.m.	Family Worship/Pageant, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary
	10:00 p.m.	Traditional Worship, Sanctuary



Westminster Presbyterian Church

8955 Columbia Avenue Munster, Indiana
219-838-3131 wpcmunster.org
revbruceh@sbcglobal.net

December 18, 2011

Traditional Celebration

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Worship Focus: *Bethlehem's Light of Joy SHINES on the Darkness of Fear!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign the Friendship Pad in your pew)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A LARGE PRINT BULLETIN OR A HEARING DEVICE,
PLEASE ASK AN USHER

PRELUDE: *Greensleeves* (an organ and flute prelude) Charles Callahan
Mike Pennanen, flutist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song.

People: Sing all the earth for the light has come.

Leader: Awaken our drowsy hearts to the message of love.

People: Stir our darkness that we may hear again love's wonderful song.

Leader: May those glad tidings be heard the world over.

People: May the coming of the Prince of Peace help and heal and bless all humanity.

ALL: Make us all Children of Bethlehem reflecting God's light.

* **HYMN:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

NO. 28

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Today we come bundled in ourselves, O God. We come with coats made of burdens we can't shed; hats pulled over our eyes so we can't see the light; and hands covered by mittens which keep us from knowing the warmth of human touch. Lord, we are prepared for winter but not for the light of your coming. Warm our souls that we might risk the journey to Bethlehem. And now, hear our silent prayers as we journey to you asking forgiveness.

PRAYER REQUESTS

*Prayer is a way that we show concern, and we invite God to be a part of our concern.
Please take time to pray for these individuals and families.*

Damian Santay	Dave Gott
Jill Meyers	Pat Warot
Bud Vance	Beverly Hughes
Karen Comstock	Jan Lund
Jim Jaracz	Gail Dixon
Promela Mehta	Kim Karlen
Karen Galocy	The Mizwicki Family
Gordon Stamper	Katie Casper
Dr. Jerry Smith	Darlene Smith
Chuck Weier	Marianne Comstock
Bob Hart	Ellie Wynn

The Stephen Ministers

Robbie Osterman, serving in Iraq

Morgan Sidenbender, daughter/Wendy Borbely

Amelia Oliver, friend/Sally Resch

James Daum, brother/Marianne Comstock

Moira Lukas, sister/Peggy Ogren

Therese Niemiec, sister/Jean Dixon

Virginia Briseno, mother/Diane Karlen

Barbara Dartoszuk, friend of Karen Comstock

Donna (Brumm)Wright, friend of Wendy Borbely

Lisa Baltus, friend/Sue Guy

Richard Gardner, friend/Martha Wilke

Rich Risch, friend/Dan & Shari

Crass Family, friend/Gordon & Nancy Stamper

Lester Schoon, father/Ken Schoon

Connie Vukovich, friend/Kelly Comstock

If you have prayer requests please contact the church office at 838-3131. These names will appear on the printed list. Please call again when the situation or person has improved and may be removed from the list. Prayer concerns will be left on for one month. They will be renewed if requested. Some people are in need of prayers, but do not want their names to appear on the printed list. If this is the case, please contact the prayer chain leaders, John Karcher (923-8023) or Clara Hanus (836-5727).

Christmas Events

December 21

7:00 p.m. *The Longest Night Service...A Blue Christmas.*

December 23

10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant Rehearsal

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. Family Worship & Children's Pageant
Chorus and the Joyful Strains

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight
Worship & Communion

10:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight
Worship & Communion

December 25 Christmas Day Worship

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship (one worship service)
Childcare will be available for children Nursery - 3rd Grade

Women's Luncheon: All women are invited to a program and luncheon on **Wednesday, January 4 at 11:00 a.m.** Our guest speaker is Naomi Taubin, Emissary from Israel to the Jewish Federation. Let's welcome her and any of your friends. Naomi will share information about "**Jewish Spirituality**" enhancing our current study of the rich traditions and the spiritual practices of Judaism including grieving, Sabbath, prayer, attentive eating, hospitality, mourning, candle-lighting, and other customs. Please R.S.V.P. Clara Hanus or the church office 219-838-3131 for a reservation **on or before Monday, January 2.** Cost is \$6 per person to cover luncheon expenses

ALL CHECK REQUESTS for 2011 must be dated and submitted to the Financial Secretary by **noon on Friday, December 30, 2011.** The Financial Secretary's mailbox is located on the bottom left side of the mailboxes in the work room (102A), next to Bruce's office.

ALL DONATIONS MADE TO WPC which are to be included on your 2011 statement must be put into the folder on the desk in the main office that is labeled 2011 donations, no later than **noon on Friday, December 30, 2011.**

Loaves & Fishes Ministry to host Jan. 1 football party for the homeless in Fellowship Hall! Help us host our special guests from the City Rescue Mission on New Year's Day. Please contact Ed Harrison, Bunny Schlotman or Sally Van Bokkelen, if you can help

Congratulations to **Jane Bomberger** and **Kathy O'Donnell**, recent graduates of Leadership Northwest Indiana (LNI). The mission of LNI is to increase the awareness and understanding of issues pertinent to the betterment of Northwest Indiana among a diverse group of community leaders. Your church family is proud of you! You're making our community a better place to live!

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: God never gives up on us – even in the darkness of our lives,

People: God's love lights our way.

Leader: In God's son we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

People: Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI**

NO. 579

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION (adapted from the former P.C.U.S.)

Leader: We believe that Jesus was born of a woman as is every child,

People: Yet Jesus was born by the power of God which is like no other child.

Leader: In Jesus, God and human life became One, though they can be spoken of separately, they cannot be separated.

People: We believe that in the coming of Jesus is the coming of the promised rule of God.

Leader: Through this birth, life, death, and resurrection Jesus brings the relationship between God and people that God always intended.

People: This is the joy of the Advent season!

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

NO. 23

OUR PRAYER FOR OTHERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. ~Amen.

ANTHEM: *Whence is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing* a French carol
arr David Willcocks

Westminster Chorale, Tim Wittkamp, soloist
*What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes?
Never so bright, the day-star waking, started to climb the morning skies?
Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer haste away,
Run ye with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Saviour born today.
Praise to the Lord of all creation, glory to God the fount of grace;
May peace abide in every nation, goodwill in men of every race.*

SCRIPTURE READING AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Isaiah 55: 6-9, 12-13 (Old Testament, page 685 –Large print, page 839)

Luke 2: 8-20 (New Testament, page 58 –Large print, page 71)

(Pew Bibles are located alongside the hymnals on the shelves under the pew.)

MESSAGE: *Taking Christ Out of Christmas: Pros & Cons*

Rev. Bruce E. Haapalainen, D.D.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Sing a New Noel* a French carol

Howard Cable

Ladies of the Choir

Sing a new Noel, now sing again Noel, faithful people come, give thanks to God so dear.

Let us sing Noel for this our newborn King, sing a new Noel, now sing again Noel!

*In Bethlehem Mary and Joseph saw round their sleeping child the beasts
did watch in awe.*

His cradle was amidst a bed of straw, sing a new Noel, now sing again Noel!

*Stars saw there one whose radiance lit the night, guiding from the East those waiting such a
sight. To Bethlehem three Kings by it were led. Sing a new Noel.*

One carried gold, another one bore myrrh, frankincense the last, it's fragrance filled the air.

Precious gifts for such a precious child. Sing a new Noel.

For forty days old Simeon kept his faith, then between his arms the newborn Child was placed.

Two turtle doves lulled him with their chants of praise. Sing a new Noel.

***DOXOLOGY**

NO. 592

***HYMN:** *The First Nowell* (verses 1, 2)

NO. 56

***BENEDICTION:**

POSTLUDE: *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*

Keith Chapman

***Please rise in body or in spirit**

***WESTMINSTER IS A COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE
TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S LOVE TO SERVE AND GROW AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS***

Thank you for sharing a part of your weekend with us.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is a place Where People Care!

WORSHIP NOTES:

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Verdeen Strain

ASSISTANT ORGANIST: Don Hill

PIANIST: Nat Stasinski

ELDER HOST: Colleen Ogren

WORSHIP LEADER: Sara Monroe

DEACONS SERVING COFFEE: Mary Lou DiCostanzo; April Cafmeyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Today at 10:30 a.m. – *Early Church History: An Introduction – Monastic Movements and Ideals* -Presenter: Kurt Hendel (209)

Each year we remember our loved ones on ***The Longest Night Service...A Blue Christmas***. Pastor Bruce will be giving a short meditation with prayers. Music always fills our souls connecting God's voice with our stories. *Bringing Light into the Night* Luminaries will be lit to carry to the prayer garden letting our deceased family lights shine in the night. Come join us at **7:00 p.m. on December 21st**.

Today and next Sunday **December 25th** we will observe **First Fruits** giving. This is an opportunity, for those who wish, to share the first installment of our three year Capital Campaign commitments.

Mission Marketplace has lots of items for the holidays. These are especially great for **LAST MINUTE SHOPPING**. Also, we now have Fair Trade organic teas of many different types. Stop by and check us out by the Lounge in the northeast corner of the Gathering Space.

The beauty of our sanctuary: Tim Sweeney designed and constructed the church icons that hang just below the wall sconces. Notice the detailed work on each one! He and Shari LeMonnier chose and hung the fabric that drapes the paintings (Shari's work, of course). More paintings hang in the hallway next to the music and resource rooms. And if that weren't enough, Gladys Cook's beautiful mosaic bells hang in the Narthex to remind us of the four themes of Advent - Joy, Peace, Love and Hope. We thank these artists for their work, year after year, that brings 'life' to our surroundings.

The 2011 Giving Tree is adorned with Duduza dolls. In 2012, Heart for Africa will be distributing **shoes** to the children of Swaziland and would like to give them a hand knit doll at the same time. These dolls are called "**DUDUZA**" (**comfort**) **dolls**. They are hoping to have 10,000 dolls made to distribute in July, 2012, but also want to sell 500 dolls to raise funds for the El Roi home for abandoned babies in Swaziland. You may select this mission or another of your choice and receive a card or a purchased doll for the special person on your Christmas List. Donations will be received until December 23.