

Spirit of Hope Update



Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24th:

4:30 p.m. Kid-friendly Family Service
7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25th:

8:45 a.m. Service of Carols

No 11 a.m. service, Adult Forum, Jump Start or Choir Practice

Sermon Text: Luke 2:8-20

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you! May your Holidays be filled with “Glad Tidings of Great Joy”, as we celebrate our Savior’s birth.

Thanks to all who donated **Poinsettias** to honor loved ones or to honor the Christ Child. Your generosity has made our Sanctuary beautiful! A special thanks to Ethel Bloedorn and Marion Bergstrom who coordinated this special yearly event.

Don’t forget to Invite someone to Spirit of Hope for *Christmas Eve*. Bring your neighbors, relatives and friends and spread the glorious word - *Christ is Born!*

Join us **Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25th for a **Service of Carols** at 8:45 a.m. (There will be no 11 a.m. service on this Sunday.) *Come and enjoy some of your favorite Christmas music!*

SOH Office Closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd in honor of the holidays.

Leadership Retreat in January - Join us at Our Savior’s, Gold Canyon at 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 20th and 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, January 21st as we come together as a team to discuss our future. Please RSVP to the church office, 480-396-8300 by Friday, January 6th.

SOH Stitches “Scarf Drive” - The Wednesday morning “Stitches” group is collecting warm scarves to wear - either handmade or store bought - for the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church in Phoenix. Bring your scarves to church anytime up until January 15th, 2012. Contact Sylvia Humleker, 480-982-6712, if you have questions.

Check out the proposed changes to our **Spirit of Hope Constitution**. Attached you will find the proposed amended Constitution as prepared by Terry Williams and other leaders of our congregation. The portions highlighted in gray are mandatory ELCA changes. The yellow highlighted sections indicate changes proposed by SOH locally and more specific to our congregation. Underlined text indicates SOH changes to the wording of the Model Constitution. The intent of most of the changes is simply to clarify

and add more detail to our existing constitution. The proposed Constitution will be voted on at the SOH Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 10 a.m. Talk to Terry Williams, Dorothy Hansen or any Council member if you have questions.

No Adult Forum this Sunday, Dec. 25th or January 1st. Adult Forum will reconvene Sunday, January 8th at 10 a.m. when we will plan another exciting year of forums. Come and share your ideas.

Confirmation will not meet Wednesday, Dec. 28th. Confirmation will meet again on Wednesday, January 4th.

No Women's Bible Study on Thursday, Dec. 29th. Join us Thursday, January 5th at 1 p.m. as we launch 2012 with our special group of ladies.

Provide some warmth - Blanket Weekend is coming January 21-22, 2012. Bring a blanket for someone who has no relief from the cold. Needed are your new or gently-used blankets, sleeping bags, quilts and afghans. Each church service that weekend will have a special offering time to place donations at the altar. Talk to Meri Weiler (701) 680-7065, if you have questions.

Special Coffee to help **victims of violence** - An exclusive blend of coffee beans that will benefit LWR's East African producer partners is now available. This smooth, balanced blend of African whole beans will help the mothers, sisters, and daughters who have been affected by the ongoing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ask for **Congo Coffee Project** (whole bean only) which is only \$8.25 per 1 lb. bag. Equal Exchange will donate \$1 per bag, selling it to the Panzi Foundation through our wholesale program. *See the LWR display in the narthex for more information.*

Woodcarvers and **Men's Bible Study** will not meet Monday, Dec. 26th. They will meet again on Monday, January 2nd. See Curt Davis for more information.

Make a difference. With so much changing, many are asking themselves what they can *do*. If you are, consider joining the small but faithful group of members and friends who clean our church. Just 2 hours a month devoted to varied tasks from light housekeeping to floor waxing and rug shampooing can enable you to *really make a difference* to all who worship here. Besides the many physical benefits, this ministry can bring you the absolute joy of being part of an extremely important task force. The need is great - *but the rewards are greater*. If you can help, contact Jerry Hansen at 480-292-9033.