

# AUKE TALK

November 2009 Edition

## THE PASTOR'S PEN

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Advent is coming – make ready for the Messiah's arrival

Advent will begin soon – Sunday, November 29 to be precise. You might recall that Advent (Latin for “coming”) commemorates the arrival of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, into the world. It is a season when we prepare and wait expectantly for the coming of our Lord, including his second advent.

The season of Advent also marks the start of the Christian year, which includes the following seasons and holy days: Advent – the season to prepare for Christ's arrival; Christmas – the celebration of our Lord's birth; Epiphany – Christ's appearance to the entire world; the Baptism of the Lord, Ash Wednesday and Lent – the season that marks Christ's call for sacrificial discipleship; Holy Week and Good Friday – the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion; Easter – the day and season of resurrection, the Ascension of our Lord into heaven; Pentecost – the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church; “Ordinary Time” – the long season that focuses on the teachings and daily activities of Christ, and finally, Christ the King Sunday – the culmination of the Christian year, which celebrates Christ as the eternal king.

Advent is rich with signs and meaning. Perhaps the most visible symbol is the Advent wreath. The circular wreath contains five candles, one for each of Advent's four Sundays and a Christ candle representing our Lord's eternal presence. We light one candle each week to mark the passing of time as we make ready for Jesus' nativity on Christmas morn. At Chapel, like many churches, we focus on vital Christian attributes as we illuminate each candle. The first candle represents the hope of Christ's coming, the second candle dwells on the peace Christ brings to the world, the third candle symbolizes the joy we have in Jesus, and the fourth candle proclaims Christ's love.

Purple is the liturgical color of Advent and it is meant to encourage us to meditate on our need for deliverance from evil and oppression. Advent invites us to cultivate an active spirit of expectation as we wait with deep longing for the salvation that only Christ can bring. One excellent way to practice Advent is to commit to reading Scripture and praying daily. To that end, Chapel provides an Advent devotional guide to all who want one. It will be available soon; I encourage you to take one and use it daily.

This holy season of waiting and preparing for the arrival of the Messiah our Lord is a wonderful gift to all of us. Observing Advent intentionally and faithfully will produce an even more glorious Christmas celebration as we grasp more profoundly what the coming of Jesus truly means for each one of us and for the cosmos itself! Advent is coming – make ready for your Messiah's arrival.



## JOIN THE FIBER FELLOWSHIP

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*Saturdays at 10:00am  
in the church Library*  
For all ages interested in learning and celebrating fiber creations. We meet in the Chapel by the Lake Library for knitting, crocheting, stitching, and sharing our lives through conversation and prayer.

We will be viewing the Women of Faith DVD from this year's WoF conference, A Grand New Day. Join us any Saturday that you can make it.

## SEEKING USHERS FOR 11:15 SERVICE

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Help us continue to cheerfully and effectively serve our fastest-growing worship service! The 11:15 service is in desperate need of ushers. We should have 4-6 ushers at every service; however we are down to 2 or fewer on any given Sunday. If you can commit to one Sunday a month or to be on call as a substitute usher, please contact Sara Chambers via the church office immediately.



## JOYFUL NOISE

Sara Chambers, Worship & Music Director  
schambers@chapelbythelake.org  
(907) 789-7592 x.231

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."  
Colossians 3:16,17*

## You too can "usher in" Advent

**Light candles, play music, read scripture, usher... 'tis the season!**

The season leading up to Christmas is full of anticipation, excitement, and activity. Just as we give thanks for our many blessings, we are thrust into a whirlwind of preparation for holiday parties, travel, food-centered celebrations which require planning and cooking, Operation Christmas Child, assisting Love INC and The Glory Hole, end-of-semester panic, and, of course, shopping. Somewhere in the mix, we are called to worship, hopefully more than just Sunday morning.

When Sunday morning rolls around, though—November 29 through Christmas Eve—we will light Advent candles and recall scriptural passages that herald the birth of our Lord Jesus. We do this at each of the three services for those four Sundays, plus Dec. 24, which means **sixteen individuals or families are needed to light Advent candles and read scripture.**

In addition to lighting the Advent candles, **we need ushers for the Christmas Eve services.** (We are also in need of more ushers at the Sunday 11:15 service from now into 2010.) Chapel attracts many people who don't normally attend church, so they should be greeted with smiling faces. Christmas Eve ushers also manage candle duty.

**Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this worship experience or if you have questions.** I can be reached by email at [sara@chapelbythelake.org](mailto:sara@chapelbythelake.org), church extension 231, or home at 789-0841.



## Local musicians join Chapel in Worship Leader Training

Three Juneau churches were represented at a training held in Smith Hall on October 16. Christian and professional musician Sadao Uehara led us through the spiritual aspects of leading worship and working as a team. Members of Chapel's choir, bell choir, worship bands, and sound crew fellowshiped with musicians and techs from Word of Life Church and Emmanuel Lutheran. We plan to follow up with additional workshops, including "improving sound on the chancel and at the board" and ensemble recording sessions!

Folks involved in the music ministries of Juneau churches are invited to join a local email listserv to get connected, stay in touch, share information and resources, and worship together. Visit [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and search "Juneau Worship Leader" in the Groups section. Questions? Let me know.

Sara Chambers  
Worship & Music Director

## LONG RANGE PLANNING

Progress report, November 2009

**“Unless the LORD builds the house,  
its builders labor in vain...”**

(Psalm 127:1)

The Session, in December 2007, initiated the Long Range Planning Committee to study and address future needs at Chapel by the Lake. The committee in turn went to the congregation to determine how we could better serve our Lord and Savior in facilities and programs **“TO KNOW JESUS AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN”**.

### **Major progress has been made:**

- ✓ In-depth congregational survey conducted on both facilities and programs.
- ✓ Statement of faith by a member family in contributing \$100,000 for a new elevator in the Narthex.
- ✓ Narthex and Smith Hall is first target for improvements. This represents a great start in addressing many major comments from the survey and demonstrates an action of compassion and love in providing reverent access to all—an invitation to worship, and study in the Lord’s house.
- ✓ The Session has been included in all aspects and has approved funding for professional expenses (e.g. architectural and engineering). This work, for the most part, is now completed and cost to build is being determined.
- ✓ A Building Committee has been nominated. We have commitments from members of the congregation and are ready for activation.

The final details before we can start construction are currently being address and one of those details is the funding. There are some funds on hand plus the contributor’s \$100,000 for the elevator. There are plans to borrow from Alaska – Northwest Synod, which needs the approval of the congregation. A congregational meeting is being planned for this purpose and to update what has been done and the expected goals for 2010.

Again we remind everyone that this is a members and friends of Chapel by the Lake endeavor. As a congregation we have identified our goals to strengthen and expand our worship and mission. It is awesome how we have come together in the past to achieve what needs to be done. With faith and prayer we can continue our dedication as Christians on the move.

Long Range Planning Committee

## THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

### **Annual Community Thanksgiving Service:**

This year the community Thanksgiving service will be at Chapel by the Lake, 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 25th. Ministry and worship will be provided by various fellowships from the body of Christ in Juneau. Please come and join us!

### **Chapel by the Lake Thanksgiving Potluck:**

Come join us in fellowship and thanksgiving as the Chapel by the Lake Thanksgiving Potluck will be November 26th at 3:00pm. We will have our Thanksgiving meal together and then have board games for people that want to stay and play. The sign-up sheet will be in Smith Hall. If there are any questions they can ask Lara Martin or Beth Dobson.

## 5TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S ADVENT BRUNCH

### ***Chrismons: symbols of Christmas***

December 5, 2009

10am-12pm in Smith Hall



Please join us for brunch, a short program and craft sale. We ask each participant to provide 5 handmade crafts, i.e. something knitted, baked, glued, sewn, assembled, etc... Please deliver items to the Chapel prior to 8pm. on December 4th. A drop box/basket will be located in the Narthex.

Items in the general sale will go from \$1-\$10. There will be a silent auction for special items. All proceeds go toward future women’s ministries.

*Please RSVP in Smith Hall including your childcare needs.*

**Chapel by the Lake**  
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**Return Service Requested**

**Please note:**

*We are currently updating our church database.  
If you received this newsletter and would like to  
be removed from the church mailing list, please  
let us know. We apologize if you have done this  
already and are still receiving the newsletters.  
We hope to be 100% up-to-date by year's end.*