

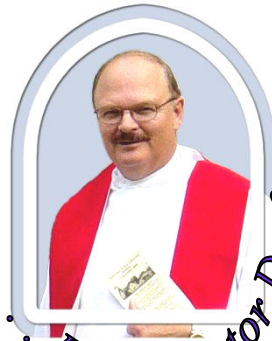


Rev. David Johnson, Pastor  
E-mail: [johns468@gulftel.com](mailto:johns468@gulftel.com)  
<http://www.LutheransInSilverhill.com/>

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**  
**Worship Service 10:00 AM**  
**Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays**  
**Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM**  
**Women's Bible Study**  
**3rd Saturday 10:00 AM**

**Hear Pastor Dave's**  
***God's Loving Kindness***  
***in the Morning***  
WHEP Radio AM 1310  
6:44 AM Sundays

## The Month of **Christmas**



*From Pastor Dave*

**Romans 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

**Luke 1:14** "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

**Perspective.** Economic times are certainly trying today as we look back at the past few months. The retail world got positively paranoid and gave up on marketing for Halloween and began putting Christmas paraphernalia out weeks before October 31. Yes, "Christmas in October!" But we have lived through years when Christmas decorations have started showing up in September, and of course, there are stores that focus on "Christmas in July!"



**God's Planning.** We don't think that Jesus was born in December, but the church has marked the birth of Christ using an old date of celebration from the pagan world. What was a pagan holiday has become a holy day which acknowledges God's

work in the world. The Book of Romans reminds us that Christmas did not just happen. We could trace the promise of the Savior deep into the Old Testament prophecies and find its roots back in God's promise to Adam and Eve that there would be a Savior to save people from sin. The prophets revealed that the Savior would "redeem" mankind. St. Paul tells us that the whole universe was waiting for restoration through Jesus Christ, and that we are being restored through His work in Heaven at this time, but the process commenced with the birth of Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

**God's Immediate Lead-Time.** John the Baptist was a child of promise, just like Jesus. We do not appreciate John the Baptist, because his ministry was overshadowed by the Lord. Luke reveals that the wonderful birth of John was not without recognition. Little did the people recognize that John was to be the forerunner of the Lord, preparing the way. But, check the record here—John was just a few months older than Jesus! Yet, John was busy in ministry before the Lord began His earthly ministry. We do not know for how long, but the evidence suggests that he was probably ministering years before Christ enters the picture with His disciples and ministry. John's lead-time in preparing people for the coming of the Christ was crucial to the success of Jesus' ministry in some way that we just do not fully understand.

**A Promise Fulfilled.** We are all familiar with the Lord's coming to earth. Yes, the Lord came from somewhere else, and He came to earth in a miraculous way into a fully human body. Just as our Heavenly Father fathered the First Adam, God Himself is involved with the Second Adam (the human Jesus Christ) as father. We live in a time when people want to humanize Jesus and deny His divinity. Matthew reminds us that God is involved. Christ is no accident, regardless of where you put His birthday. The Bible with its prophets

and with God's own voice within its pages, affirms that Jesus Christ is not just another human, but very special even as the First Adam of Eden was a first-of-a-kind creation.

**Prayer for Christmas.** Times are difficult for many people this Christmas season. As we begin Advent and celebrate Christmas in just a few short weeks, let's pray for our friends and family and for our nation and its people, that all may know the Lord Jesus Christ for Who He is. Pray for a friend or neighbor to join you in worship this Christmas as we recognize the fulfillment of God's great plan of salvation for mankind.

*--Pastor Dave*

















*If any of you lack wisdom,  
let him ask of God, who giveth  
to all men liberally,  
and upbraideth not,  
and it shall be given him.*

—James 1:5



# December 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 	4	5	6
7 	8 	9 	10 	11	12	13
14	15	16 	17 	18	19 	20 
21 	22	23 	24  Christmas Eve	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26	27 
28	29	30	31	 <b>Altar This Month:</b> Vera Avera		

### Activities

Wed Dec 3	Light Supper 6 PM Advent Vespers 7 PM
Fri Dec 5	Open House 6-8 PM
Mon Dec 8	Council Meeting 7 PM
Tues Dec 9	Men's 710 7:10AM
Wed Dec 10	Light Supper 6 PM Advent Vespers 7 PM
Wed Dec 17	Light Supper 6 PM Advent Vespers 7 PM
Sat Dec 20	Women's Bible Study
Wed Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 PM
Thur Dec 25	Christmas Day



### Birthdays




Dec 16 Betty Pitcher  
 Dec 19 Ella Kubina  
 Dec 19 Becky Vasko  
 Dec 27 Mack Gibbs



### Anniversaries



Dec. 23 Ralph & Neysa Utter



### Flowers

are an important part of our worship service. Flowers that commemorate special people, events, or occasions are always appropriate on the altar or in the sanctuary. If you would like to provide flowers please contact the person in charge of the altar for that month to coordinate details for delivery and placement.

### From the Treasurer . . .

## Budget Recap

Oct 31, 2008

YTD	Receipts	Expenses
Gen Fund	\$55,307	\$58,428
Debt Fund	\$7,605	\$7,642

~ D. Tasso, Treasurer



## Zion's Messenger is Now Just a Click Away!

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Darlene

