Rejoicing in the Way

"It is nothing new to tell you that Christmas is a time to celebrate. The world does not hesitate to give its help so you can feast, sing, play, drink, give parties. But it will work doubly hard to keep Christ from "spoiling" the Christmas celebration and support all efforts to keep separate church and state, church and business, church and school, church and family. They do not want any religious influence in the celebration. 'What's Christ got to do with Christmas?' is their view." (George W. Bornemann, Prepare the Way, CPH, 1988).

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

That's right – it's time to celebrate!! Christmas is "almost" here and the goose is getting fat. The parties, the shopping, the headaches are all before us yet again. The guy with the red bucket ringing that annoying bell standing in front of the department store will say to me, "Happy Holidays," to which I will answer, "Blessed Christmas." While inside the myriad of displays will be so overwhelming to this novice shopper I won't even know where to begin. The same Christmas music sung by the same artists I've been hearing every year my entire life will be set at eardrum piercing decibels. The one thing I will go into that store to purchase will most likely be sold out an hour before I get there. I will choose another gift and then prepare to stand in line for what will seem like an eternity with my one simple item. I will finally get back to the car, look at my watch, and think to myself, "I only have twenty more gifts to go." That's right – It's time to celebrate!!

In the above quote Pastor Bornemann hears the world ask, "What's Christ got to do with Christmas?" With so much happening this last month of the calendar year, I wonder if good "God-fearing" church-going folks aren't saying the same thing. I don't mean to say we *want* Christ out of Christmas. It's just that Christmas has become so much more than the celebration of the Savior's birth. We, along with the world, can easily lose focus of what is important. Rather than seeing Christmas as a tremendous blessing, we view it as a burden – another day we have to clean the house, bake cookies, buy gifts, and go to all those programs...

Again this year we are blessed to make Christ the biggest part of our CHRISTmas celebration. Midweek Advent Services will "Prepare the Way" for our grand celebration of the newborn King. Do come and be a part of either our Wednesday morning or evening Services. Our theme, "Prepare the Way" will indeed do just that. Our anticipation of Christmas will have God's people "Rejoicing in the Way" of our Lord. Amazing how much our Lord loves us – to be like us – to live as we live – to die for us.

Our Lord's birthday celebration at Christmas "Prepares the Way" for Jesus to take on all your sins at the cross. Christ doesn't get in the way of our celebration of Christmas. He IS the celebration of CHRISTmas. May the celebration of the newborn King in His Holy House this Christmas be a blessing to you and yours.

In Christ's Service,

A King Well Ahead of His Time

St. Athanasius was a 4th century bishop from Alexandria and a champion of the Nicene (and that is to say, the truly universal Christian) faith. The extensive Athanasian Creed (LSB 319-20), which gives a lengthy explanation of the Holy Trinity, was named in his honor, though probably not written by his pen. However, one known work attributed to Athanasius is *De Incarnatione Verbi Dei* ("On the Incarnation of the Word"), which is always appropriate for this time of year. This early church father says in this work: "What king that ever was, before he had strength to call 'father' and 'mother,' reigned and gained triumph over his enemies?"

It's paradoxical (to say the least) to think of the reality of God dwelling in human flesh, even as a helpless infant. The God who created and sustains the universe and everything therein, who rescued his people from Egypt, who destroyed hundreds of thousands of his people's enemiesthis God now rests in a manger, unable to say "father" or "mother." His resurrection and victory over death were long prophesied, even in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15) to mark Him as a King well ahead of His time.

Christ's birth was unlike any other birth. Of the great patriarchs, Abel was born of Adam, Noah of Lamech, Abraham of Terah, Isaac of Abraham, Jacob of Isaac, David of Jesse, Solomon of David: each of these great men had a father to whom he could point as the maker of his existence, in part. But who was born of a virgin only? "Not by human flesh and blood, by the Spirit of our God, was the Word of God mad flesh – woman's Offspring, pure and fresh." (LSB 332:2) After the time of Moses' birth, his parents hid him from the Egyptians. He was made known through the house of Pharaoh when he was discovered. David was virtually unknown by many in his neighborhood and Samuel until this prophet asked Jesse if he had another son. David was anointed and then all knew of him. But it was not only man who announced Christ's birth; a star also proclaimed that the God of God and Light of Light had come into the world.

St. John said at the beginning of his Gospel: "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:9-14) In knowing Jesus Christ, His disciples truly knew God. The man Jesus Christ was the way in which God chose to reveal Himself. While there was infinitely more to know about God, He wanted to be recognized in a finite body. The same can be said of His disciples today. We receive Him, believe in His Name, and so have been given the right to become children of God. And while there still is infinitely more to know about our God, we still recognize Him in the infinite Word joined to finite things: water, bread, and wine distributed by finite men. Let us seek to know God more fully in these gifts in which we recognize Him.

In Christ's Service,



YOUTH NEWS



SR-LYF / JR-LYF

Grades 9-12

Grades 6-8

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR OTHERS

Sunday, December 4

5:00-7:30 PM

Youth will gather at Christ Lutheran at 5:00 PM and travel to Wal-Mart. While there, participants will purchase gifts for 8 children who are being served by the Pastor and staff of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (711 S Benton Blvd. in the Northeast neighborhood of Kansas City, MO).

Youth will return to church to wrap all of the newly purchased gifts. This event may conclude as early as 7 PM. We will try to have a light supper provided for those who participate.

The eight children we are purchasing gifts for are listed below...first name only...ages following their names. What a GREAT opportunity we have to pray for them as they are already coming to Our Redeemer for church and Sunday School. Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work with these children and their parents.

> Melanie – 9 Leslie – 1 Destiny – 2 Antonio - 5 months Izabel – 5 months Gabriela - 5 Antonio - 4 Angel - 3

Little Lambs / KFC/JR-LYF

Infant-Kindergarten Grades 1-5

& COOKIE DEL

Sat., Dec. 10 2:00-4:00 PM

Our annual day of Christmas Caroling (with Cookie Delivery) is scheduled for Saturday, December 10. We will meet at church and likely break up into a couple of groups, each group making 6-8 home visits. This event is always fun! **PARENTS/DRIVERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT!**

FOLLOW THE STAR

Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 11 at 2 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the month of December, our PK-8 children will be exploring Bible stories with the following titles and references:

Dec. 4Luke 1:5-25
Dec. 11Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 18An Angel Visits JosephMatthew 1:18-25
Dec. 25Luke 2:1-20

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

December, 2011

Sunday Morning Adult - 9:30 AM Ephphatha Room "Parables"

Sunday Morning High School/Young Adult - 9:30 AM David Room (LYF Room)

"Higher Things Magazine - Selected Articles"

Tuesday Morning - 10:30 AM Walther Room (Church Overflow) "Christianity: The First Three Centuries"

Wednesday Afternoon/Evening – 5:30 PM South Lounge "God is in the Laundry Room"

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study - 6:00 AM **Fellowship Commons** "The Minor Prophets"

CAP GLOVE MITTEN TREE

In the Ephphatha Room during the seasons of Advent and Christmas To Benefit:

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Join us for Midweek Advent Services

Advent is preparation time for Christmas, as Lent is preparation time for Easter. While Lent is taken more seriously in the church, as it precedes crucifixion and resurrection, deeds which bring home to us personally our Savior's sacrifice for sins, Advent seems mild as it follows the joyful Thanksgiving season and shortly precedes Christmas and New Year, surrounded by commercialism (Rev. G.W. Bornemann – Prepare the Way, CPH 1988).

Advent signals the beginning of a new, liturgical Year for The Church. Advent is the place to aid us in rightly preparing for our celebration of Christmas, Christ's Birth. One such aid is the ADDITIONAL (not optional) Worship opportunities: 10 A.M. AND 7 P.M. Services...



Wednesday Nov. 30th, Dec 7th, 14th, 21st

Advent Midweek 1 – Prepare the Way: Get Ready and Prepare – Mark 1:1-4 Advent Midweek 2 – Prepare the Way: With Prophets of God – Luke 1:55, 70 Advent Midweek 3 – Prepare the Way: By Repentance – Matt. 3:2; Mark 1:14-15 Advent Midweek 4 – Prepare the Way: We Believe and Trust – Luke 1:18, 34

December Acolytes

8:00am 10:45am

December Trevor Crystal Michael Marfield
Blake Faller Jackson Foutch

Advent Services – December 7 @ 7pm: Brayden Basch, Thomas Henrichs December 14 @ 7pm: Trenton Pride, Joseph Ramos

December 14 @ 7pm: Trenton Pride, Joseph Ramos December 21 @ 7pm: Mark Buchholz, Joseph Ramos

Christmas Eve - December 24 @ 6pm: Johnathon Knopp, Matthew Knopp, Otto Gaiser, Jordon Trager

@ 11pm: Michael Kuhn

Christmas Day – December 25 @ 10am: Blake Faller, Jacob Arnold New Year's Eve – December 31 @ 7pm: Nathan Cox, Andy Keck

Dress and behavior

- Your dress code shall consist of dark colored pants and socks and dark colored shoes; clean and combed hair.
- Watch your posture when walking in the chancel. It is expected that you sit upright, both feet on the floor and do
 not stare out into the congregation. Also, acolytes are part of the worshiping community and are expected to sing
 hymns and participate in the liturgy.
- You are responsible for securing your own substitute if one is needed. You are to be in the sacristy and vesting no
 later than 15 minutes before the service.
- Please do not talk during worship!!

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Jacob Arnold	10:45am	Austin Hall	8am
Andy Basch	8am	Robby Henrichs	8am
Brayden Basch	8am	Andy Keck	10:45am
Mark Buchholz	8am	Johnathon Knopp	10:45am
Nathan Cox	10:45am	Matthew Knopp	10:45am
Trevor Crystal	8am	Michael Kuhn	substitute
Blake Faller	8am	Michael Marfield	10:45am
Justin Ferguson	10:45am	Trenton Pride	8am
Jackson Foutch	10:45am	Nicholas Shepherd	sub only
Otto Gaiser	8am	Jordan Trager	8am
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OASIS (Everyone 55 and better!)

Christ Lutheran Lunch Group (CLLG) went to Golden Corral on November 15th. There were 21 in attendance. That was the last time the group will go out for 2011. But they already have a list ready of places to try in 2012! Be sure to join them if you are able. They always have a good time. Contact Joyce White for more information.



Orchids and Onions



Orchids to Pastor Arnold, Sue Crystal, and Larry and Heidi Scroggins for driving and chaperoning our youth participants to Heit's Point for the Confirmation Retreat in November.

Orchids to those who helped with the fall cleanup/work day. A special thanks for those who helped outside with picking up leaves and laying mulch in the flower bed out front; Steve, Richard, Dave, D.J., Jim, Vonnie, and Carl.

Orchids to Jan Sittig who gives her time and talent to Pre-K,

Orchids to Bane Gaiser who donated a scanner to Pre-K.

Orchids to Al Wilson who donated a desktop computer to Pre-K,

Orchids to Steve and Jackson Foutch for their continued work on the drainage issues on the east side for the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – January 14, 2012

Martin Luther Academy, along with the Platte County Optimist Club, will hold a fundraiser Pancake Breakfast at Christ Lutheran Church.

Time: 8AM - 11AM

This 'All You Can Eat' Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. Cost for adults will be \$5, children 10 and under will be \$3.

For more information contact Lynda Reinert at 741-9296.

We get letters.....

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for your prayers, words of comfort and encouragement, and cards. Your caring thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Jan Sittig and Family

Dear members of Christ-Parish,

Thank you very kindly for all your cards and prayers during my recent physical rehabilitation in the nursing center. It has been a tough road but the good Lord is taking care of me. I do appreciate you keeping me in mind. Thank you for everything. Meredith Arnold (Pastor's mother)

Lay Bible Institute — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will hold a four session Lay Bible Institute on the topic of "Are We Still Fighting the Crusades?" on Jan. 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1, 2012 in Sieck Hall, Room 202 on the Seminary campus. Crusade is still a powerful word. Whether applied to current armed conflicts or used as anti-Christian polemic, certain ideas and images of the crusades seem to be alive and well. But what were the crusades, really? This course will define crusade, examine the religious origins of the crusading movement, recount the conquest of the Holy Land (as well as its subsequent loss), and explore the expansion of the crusading idea beyond the Middle Ages. This Lay Bible Institute will be led by Dr. Paul Robinson, associate professor and chairman of historical theology. The cost is \$30 per person and registration is due by Jan. 9, 2012. For more information, contact continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486 or ce@csl.edu.





Happy Birthday



12/1	Lorie Kuhn
	Aaron Rhodus
	Ashton Scott
	Alex Houghtlin
12/2	Pat Saving
	Ann McLauchlen
	Patrick Colvin
12/3	Jacquelyn Shoemaker
	John Fairhurst
	Joseph Ferguson
12/4	Will Hisle III
	Derek Sanders
	Lauren Grace
12/5	Robert Richardson
	Kevin Schneider
	Paul Silvio
12/6	Taelynn Shupe
	Tristen Ford
12/7	Amber West
	Diedre Molenkamp
	Addison Clark
12/8	Todd Moe
12/9	Troy Fredde
	Yasmin Scott
12/10	Genevieve Chrisman
	Resi Dammann
	Holly Saving
	Spencer Moore

Brian Odegaard

12/11	Andrew Spidle Jennifer Ringvelsk Andrew Shoemake Karie Shoemaker Alexis Daley
	Mark Buchholz
	Jessica Baker
12/12	Earl Flakne
	Albert Bennetts
	Craig Drummond
	Chad Rea
	Abigail Kramer
12/13	Jean Rea
	Lynette Northen
12/15	David Willhauck
	Don Frerking
	Sarah Wood
12/16	Harold Shipman
	Irene Jones
	Lisa Rogers
	Matthew Gehrke
	Alexander Smith
12/17	Martha Carr
	Lilli Hobbs
	Kayla Kelly
	Leah VanWinkle
12/18	Betty Morton
	Howard Gibson
	James Thomas

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	Lionel Lance
12/20	Leslie Gilbert
	Emily Finley
	Brian Almanza
12/22	Glenn Sittig
	Nicholas June
	Kylie Ziller
12/23	Murl Howard
	Myrna Limback
12/24	Jeff Ferguson
	Doug DeLay
	Creston Celeste
12/25	Rhett DeLay
12/26	Marilyn Steffens
	Kalyn Morris
12/27	Sandy Sperl
	Mary Jane Foutch
12/28	Robert Edwards
	James Hogan
	Ryan MacPherson
	Megan Waylett
12/29	Janet Jones
	Kristi Kolega
12/30	Mary Groth
	Allen Wilson
	Kylene Cummins
12/21	Evalua States

Christmas Store

The "Christmas Store" that is sponsored by the Lutheran Mission of the Good Shepherd will be held again this year, December $13^{th}-16^{th}$. They will be looking for volunteers who are willing to work in the storeroom on December 3^{rd} (sorting gifts by age and gender), those willing to help with set-up and/or assisting shoppers on the $10^{th}-16^{th}$, and those willing to volunteer to bring food for the volunteers.

All items in the Christmas Store are new items (\$20 - \$25 suggested retail value) as this may be the only nice gifts some of the families will receive. All donated items need to be at the LUMA Mission Center, 3007 Mercier, KCMO by December 12th so they can be inventoried and sorted. (Earlier is even better.) Contact Linda Verman at 913-948-9700, ext. 1 or email her at luma@lumakc.org, or contact Pat Enomoto at 816-454-3226.

Information from our Director of Grounds

The grounds crew will need help next year with the following:

- Someone to help with routine maintenance on the lawn equipment.
- Someone to help with any repairs on the on the lawn equipment.
- Someone to keep the garage stocked with gas and oil.
- Someone to be one of the lawn crew chiefs.

If you can help, please contact D.J. Dammann at <u>d.j.dman@hotmail.com</u> or 913-710-3666.



New directories!

Our new "Directory of Disciples" will be coming out soon after the start of the new year.

PLEASE look at the 2011 directory and check your information. If there is anything that needs to be updated, please contact the church office so we can make the necessary updates. Let us know of updates before the directory is printed, so your fellow members (and your Pastors), will be able to reach you. Thank you!!!!

Discipleship Data

Accessions Communicant:

Krysia Gornicki - transfer from Holy Cross

Darryl and Heather Hulber - transfer from Holy Cross

Accessions Baptized:

Merek, Cypher, and Greyson Hulber, with parents

Deletions:

Corky (Robert) and Lowana Keller, Shelia Keller, Darrell Goedecke - released at own request Robbie Keller - released by self-exclusion, Meggen and Brock with parent

News from Christ Lutheran Pre-Kindergarten

For many weeks now, the evidence of Christmas has been all about us--at least the commercial side. The malls and stores proclaim a "Merry Christmas" (or at least Happy Holidays), and market various things designed to be given as gifts. The students at Christ Lutheran even sold gifts and cards through the Kleinhenn company in a recent fundraiser! The bright lights, beautiful colors, delightful music, and overall holiday spirit develop a feeling that does not exist at any other time of the year.

As Christians, we begin to reflect during this season of Advent on the real reason we have all this "stuff" and celebrating. It comes from the commissioning of the shepherds just over 2000 years ago when the angel said, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11. As we listen to this familiar passage of Scripture we realize that the greatest gift of all came wrapped without a bow.

Students at Christ Lutheran will have Christmas Programs on December 20th at 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. that will link the reason for celebrating with the birthday of Jesus. Please join us in Tumble Town as we give glory to God on high!

For more information on our Pre-Kindergarten Program, or for a school tour call 741-8031 or e-mail Mrs. Chrissy Heiss at christpk@christlc.com.

Greetings to you in the name of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

December is such an exciting time of the school year as we prepare for the coming of the Savior during Advent. The children get so excited to tell the wonderful story of Jesus' birth through songs and actions in our annual Christmas Program.

I invite you to attend our Children's Christmas Program held at MLA in our gym on Tuesday, **December 20**th at **7:00pm**. This is a great experience for our students, and a great way to spread the Gospel message of Jesus the Messiah. I hope you are able to attend and share in the joy of this holy season.



As we are preparing for Christmas during the Advent season, we also are preparing for the 2012-13 school year. In order to share with those who may not know much about us, or seek to learn more, we are hosting an Open House for prospective families to visit MLA, meet its teachers and learn more about its program. The Open House will be held on **Thursday, January 19th from 4:00pm – 7:00pm**. If you are able to make this, that will be great; if not, please contact me to set up a time for a private tour and meeting. If at any time you have any questions or would like to know more about MLA, please contact me.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support of Martin Luther Academy. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to do the Lord's will in this place.

Happy Advent to all of you and have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Yours in Christ, Principal Rick Schneider

Calendar of Events:

November 28th – December 9th – Student Council Food Drive Saturday, December 3rd – Cookie Walk at MLA Gym Friday, December 9th – Spelling Bee at MLA Gym Tuesday, December 20th – Christmas Program at MLA Gym Wednesday, December 21st (noon dismissal) – Monday, January 2nd – Christmas Break

Benevolence Fund

We've just celebrated Thanksgiving and are moving into the Advent Season. We have much for which to be thankful, especially the gift of our Savior and our faith in Him. Some of our neighbors are struggling financially at this time. While they are still blessed in many ways, they could use help with some of their financial and physical needs. Is there a way you can help them? If you have been blessed financially and are able to help others in this way, we would really appreciate you considering a gift to the benevolence fund. Even if you don't think your contribution will do much, please remember that God can work wonders with a "small" amount. Any amount you can give will be appreciated. Checks can be made payable to Christ Lutheran with a "note" for benevolence and given to Pastor Arnold. Thank you.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to concerns raised by members of the congregation regarding women's suffrage at Christ Lutheran, the Elders Committee began a study of the issue during their Spring retreat. It has been the practice at Christ Lutheran that only male members of the congregation are entitled to vote. This practice is dictated by Article IV of the Constitution.

After careful consideration and prayerful study, the Elders Committee resolved to hold a series of educational congregational studies led by our Pastors on the matter with the intent to hold a Voters Meeting to determine the congregation's will regarding this practice.

The Elders believe it is important for these meetings to include Christ Lutheran members only and therefore will not conduct them during our regular Sunday Bible Study but during a specially scheduled time. We plan to conduct these meetings in February and March of next year. Once these meetings are concluded, a Voter's Meeting would be held during the last week of April or first week of May.

If you should have any questions, please contact your Elders or myself.

In Christ, Bane Gaiser Director of Elders

Notes on the Liturgy #17 — Sanctus

The Sanctus is a rich burst of praise sung before the Lord's Supper. It continues the Preface. The Proper Preface concluded with the words, "Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:" With that introduction, the Sanctus begins with the [cherubim's] praise found in Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth (which is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts"); heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory..."

The church may be visibly separated by geography, language, false doctrine, time, death, etc. but we are in reality one body in Christ. In regard to the Lord's Supper Paul says, "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf (I Cor. 10:17)." Thus, we sing the angel's praise. We join with the angels and the whole church, for together we are one church. Outwardly we are divided but in Christ we are one body.

The Sanctus continues with the Benedictus that says, "Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." These words are drawn from Psalm 118:25-26 and Matthew 21:9. Hosanna means, "save now" and became an expression of praise. Historically, it was customary for the Jewish Passover to end with the singing of Psalms 115-118. The Gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus and his disciples concluded the Passover/first Communion by singing a hymn (Mk 14:26). These are also the same words that the crowds greeted Jesus with as He triumphantly entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. They are the words used to greet the promised Messiah. It is no accident that this triumphant greeting is combined with the words of praise heard in the heavenly throne room. The combination of the "Holy, holy, holy" and the same words that the crowds greeted Jesus with on Palm Sunday serves as a confession that this Jesus who now comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine is the Triune God who Isaiah saw in the heavenly throne room.

Theologically, the last phrase of the Sanctus points us to the elements in Communion. Our 'Hosanna...Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" finds its fulfillment in the reception of the Sacrament. Under the masks of bread and wine, Jesus comes to us and gives us His very own body and blood for our forgiveness. Interestingly, Reformed churches expunged this portion of the Sanctus for the very reason that they deny the truth of Jesus' words when He said, "This is my body, This is my blood." (Lutheran Worship History and Practice, pg. 422)

These notes were originally written in 2001 by Pastor David Oberdieck and have been edited. The entire series of articles may be found at http://steadfastlutherans.org/liturgy

(The following information is from the Missouri District regarding Joplin.)
Current financial gifts given through the Missouri District have increased to \$148,152.80 (11/16/11). These gifts have been received by the Missouri District to aid Immanuel Lutheran Church to provide needed assistance to Joplin residents.

Trent Davis, Immanuel's director of disaster response, sent the following: "We have a couple of large projects in progress that are waiting on plumbing, HVAC and electricians, people who are licensed in other states can work on our projects as long as things are done to code. If we could make a special appeal that would be helpful, once the mechanicals are done there will then be inside work for teams to do Dec-Feb where we are also a bit thin on teams at the moment."