

# The Clarion

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1245 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 610-433-4271

Dec./Jan. 2010/2011

## Advent Schedule

**Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>** - Hanging of the Greens at 9:00 a.m.

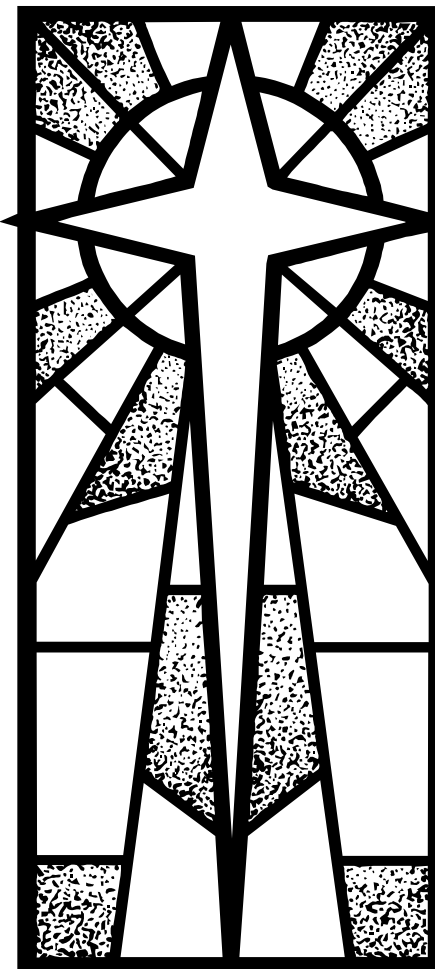
**Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** - First Sunday in Advent

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Noon** - Advent Celebration and Potluck Lunch at St. Stephen Lutheran Church - Christ Church bring desserts.



**Wednesdays, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Midweek Advent Services with soup supper, reflection, and evening prayer at Christ Church.

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Children's Christmas Pageant** at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.



## Christmas Eve Worship Services:

- 11:00 a.m. - Spoken Holy Communion Service in the Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. - Family Service with Holy Communion
- 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Holy Communion
- 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30 a.m. Cookies & Carols in Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Lessons and Carols at Christ Church

**Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>,**

10:30 a.m. Worship and 3 Kings Celebration at St. Stephen Lutheran Church (no services at Christ)

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**The schedule beginning January 16<sup>th</sup> will be as follows:**

- |            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Early Worship                        |
| 9:15 a.m.  | Sunday School/Spiritual Growth Forum |
| 10:15 a.m. | Sunday School concludes              |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship                              |

Fellowship will be from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

# Pastor's Message...

December is an interesting month. For the world it is the last month of the year. For those of us in the church it is the first month of the year. The Church Year ends with a triumphant sound as we proclaim Jesus Christ as our King on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The New Year begins with our welcoming this new king as a baby born in Bethlehem. With this the cycle begins again as we move from the celebrations of Christmas to the somber days of Ash Wednesday, Lent and celebration again with Easter. After the long Sundays of green we are back to Christ the King Sunday.

God understands how much we human beings are people of cycles and routine. God has given us the gift of a church year that takes us through those important things we need to know and to have our faith encouraged by times of reflection and celebration. The church year is a chance to see our time as movement between celebrations, not tearing off a calendar page every day. We see important events of faith rising up to greet us and wish us well as we celebrate and move on.

To reflect a moment, we had a wonderful celebration of Reformation. As we gathered with people from St. Stephen and St. Matthew to honor our Lutheran heritage we experienced a wonderful moment. We felt the joy of being together in a shared space enjoying our tradition. The next Sunday we honored those faithful members who had joined the church triumphant while we heard the cries and coos of those newer saints that were baptized in the last year. Two great Sundays filled with Power and Spirit. Now we are on to the events of Christmas.

Look at all the events in this newsletter and see all the things planned for you as we enter the Christmas season. It is my prayer that you will take time in the busiest of seasons to become unbusy and reflect on all that God has done for you in the birth of a baby 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. It is an opportunity worth embracing.

We are so lucky to be at the beginning of a new church year, a month ahead of everyone else and ready to celebrate.

-Pastor Maxon

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## All Saints in Christ Update

We have made some real progress toward blending with St. Stephen and St. Matthew. This note is to inform you about what activities are going on.

We gathered on October 31<sup>st</sup> for the celebration of Reformation. We had a large choir and people from all three congregations participated in leading the service. On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of the church councils of St. Stephen and Christ met. The meeting gave us an opportunity to get to know each other. We shared faith stories and our commitment to ministry in the west end of Allentown.

We had our first joint Christian Education meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We are making plans for joint activities this year. Next year we have plans to work closer together in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Day Camp.

We are discussing plans for worship. Advent Midweek services are being planned by St. Stephen and will be held at Christ. Lenten Services will be planned by Christ and will be held at Christ.

Pastor Maritza Dolich, Sister Amy Jahn de Torrez and Pastor Woody Maxon are meeting regularly to keep the lines of communication open. Pastor Maritza and Pastor Woody will continue to meet with Pastor Phillips as schedules permit.

Our next blended service will be held on January 2, 2011 at 10:30 am in St. Stephen Church.

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS' DIRECTORY – 2010

Rev. William Maxon, ACSW, Ph.D., Senior Pastor	6357 Larch Lane, Macungie, PA 18062	(610) 965-5439
Ms. Robin Flores, Vice-President	2206 Overlook Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051-1812	(610) 366-0270
Ms. Barbara Wentling, Secretary	325 E. Lynnwood Street, Allentown, PA 18103	(610) 791-0052
Executive Committee Members-at-Large:		
Mrs. Susan Palladino Black	3821 Thomas Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049	(610) 967-5532
Mr. Fred Wuertele	2404 West Highland Street, Allentown 18104	(610) 351-9900

**Council Members:** Susan Palladino Black, Scott Buchman, Robin Flores, Barbara Irvine, Diane Witman Koch, Eugene Lahouchuc, Ruth Loucks, Harriet Rust, William Schantz, Don Shinsec, Grace Siegel, Nadine Smith, Barbara Wentling, Fred Wuertele

## Worship Time Change

The time between events on Sunday morning continues to cause challenges. In the present schedule, worship ends at 8:50 a.m. and Sunday School begins 40 minutes later at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ends between 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and worship begins at 11:00 a.m. a half an hour later. While some of that time is filled with fellowship, we have more empty time than we do used time. **Beginning on January 16 our new schedule is below:**

8:00 a.m.	Early Worship
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Spiritual Growth Forum
10:15 a.m.	Sunday School concludes
10:30 a.m.	Worship

Fellowship time will begin at 9:15 a.m. and continue until 10:30 a.m. offering everyone a chance to gather and interact.

**The schedule will be:**

<b>December 19</b>	<b>Last Sunday of regular schedule</b>
<b>December 26</b>	<b>One Service at 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>January 2</b>	<b>One Service at 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephens (no services at Christ)</b>
<b>January 9</b>	<b>One Service at 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>New Schedule Begins</b>

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## FOOD BANK UPDATE. . .

The holidays are coming, are you getting ready? We plan, buy, bake, and decorate our homes but do we take time to think of those less fortunate in our community and around the world? Christ Lutheran has just completed its fall food drive for the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank. We collected 43 bags and \$640.00 in cash donations. This is much appreciated by the families coming to the Food Bank once a month. The money collected is used for salaries, rent, and buying food. For example - \$300 is spent for eggs a week and \$1400 for rent a month, food purchased from Second Harvest is at a cost of .16 cents per pound.

The number of clients using the Food Bank this past fiscal year (October to October) is almost the same as the previous year - 30,809. There is an increase in the number of single people and a total of 504 new clients.

To continue our mission of supporting the Food Bank we encourage you to bring food (nonperishable) a box or can the first Sunday of the month. *Thank you for supporting the work of the Food Bank and helping those in need in our community!*

-Marie Kirkner

## Deaconess' Word

I've been thinking a lot about gifts lately. 'Tis the season, right?...

While for many people, gift-giving is an uplifting chance to spend time and resources to bring joy to loved ones and show how much you care, I usually feel overwhelmed and stressed by gift-giving. It has to do with my impossible goal to find THE PERFECT GIFT--a gift that neatly sums up how much I value a person's presence in my life and in the world. A trinket or treat, while thoughtful, just doesn't measure up to this standard. I have yet to be successful in finding the perfect gift.

My family and I have talked about my struggle over the last several years, and it has changed the way that we give gifts to each other. Since we are spread out across the country, we tend to think of our time together as a gift, and make efforts to be together around the holidays. We have started to make things for each other. We have started giving gifts that bless people who are in need—like fair trade items, gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalogue or a donation to a local charity in honor of each other. What I most value about this change in our gift-giving is that our holiday season becomes about celebrating the gift of Jesus to this world, and how we are blessed and strengthened in faith through God's presence in and among us.

When we as a family make this as the central piece of our celebration of Christmas together, I find myself finding the joy in gift giving. The gifts that we give are not perfect, but can be small reflections of our thankfulness for each person's presence in the world and small reminders to them of the love that God has for them.

I hope that your season can be filled with the lasting joy that we know in God's love made known to us through Jesus. This is the joy that the angels first proclaimed to the shepherds in the Bethlehem fields long ago. This is the joy that still promises to warm every heart, even those whose holidays are colored with hardship, sadness, loneliness, and bittersweet memories of days gone by. This is the joy that remains when the tree and twinkle lights have been taken down, the cookies have been eaten, and the packages have been unwrapped and paper thrown away. This is the joy that lights all of our days and teaches us to love and care for each other and the whole world.

-Sister Amy

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Lunch and Meeting immediately  
following the 10:30 a.m. service



### Committee Chairpersons:

Please also remember that your Annual Report articles are due in the church office by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, but as always you are encouraged to bring your articles in earlier. Thank You!

This year we request those preparing reports to "streamline" them. Please keep them brief, highlighting only one or two accomplishments/projects of the past year and emphasizing the goals for 2011. As always, please report the names of committee members.

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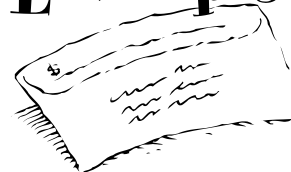
### \*New Offering Envelopes\*

Beginning January 1, 2011, we will be using Church Budget Envelope and Mailing Company to mail your offering envelopes directly to your home, on a quarterly basis.

Watch for the yellow envelope (which will contain the 1st quarter's offering envelopes). It should arrive in mid-December. If you do not receive your offering envelopes before December 20th, please call the church office and ask to speak to me.

-Lori Starr, Financial Secretary

## Offering Envelopes



# CLC Youth Ministry

Mission Statement: *"We are the youth of Christ Lutheran Church who gather in Christ's name to: encourage each other and all children of God; celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ; serve and reach out to others in this community; and to grow in God's love through worship, prayer, learning, fellowship, and sharing of gifts."*

## CHRIST'S KIDS NEWS . . .

Christ's Kids are on the go again. They have baked cookies to send to our troops from the Lehigh Valley Area. They helped to organize the gift tags with the Social Ministry Group for the Ingathering for Topton Foster Home Children. On Basket Bingo day the kids helped the Woman's Group pass out gifts during bingo and helped to clean up.

As an upcoming event, we will be baking cookies for a fellowship hour. The children at our Church will host fellowship on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. So don't be shy - come and find out what the kids do within our Church. Also, if you have a need or an experience to share with the children, please come and have some cookies with us on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Christ's Kids meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 12:00. Come and join us for some fun!**

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## Potato Project Update. . .

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, a small group of volunteers from Christ Lutheran Church took part in "The Potato Project", a very unique service project at Zion Moselem Church in Kutztown. Along with other enthusiastic volunteers from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fleetwood and New Bethel Lutheran Church, we picked potatoes from a field next to the church and then sorted, weighed and bagged them to be distributed at the Fleetwood Food Bank. A total of 490 bags (nearly 1.5 tons) of potatoes were picked that morning. Those that couldn't be bagged were cleaned, cut and made into French fries for the volunteers, right there on the church lawn. Several other congregations from our local mission district helped with this project. Over the course of the harvest, more than 14 tons of potatoes were provided to those in need. It was very cold and windy out there; however, we were kept warm by the spirit of the day. Everyone also seemed to have a SPUDtacular time!!!

-Christa Taylor

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## Lehigh Mission District Ingathering

Thank you to all who donated gifts to the Ingathering this year, to those who delivered gifts to St. John's in Emmaus, and especially to the Social Ministry Committee and Christ's Kids for organizing and wrapping gifts for this drive. Because of your generosity of time and resources, those in need in our community will be warmed by the love of God expressed in these gifts during this holiday season.



## Street Level Communion

**On the first Thursday of each month Holy Communion will be available. We will gather in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m.** We will have a spoken service with a brief homily. The handicap entrance on the side of the sanctuary will be open. If there is a need, we will meet in the sanctuary; otherwise we will meet in the chapel. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Maxon.

## Fair Trade Coffee for sale!

Just a reminder that all sorts of Fair Trade Coffee and tea are available for purchase in the back corner of our worship space. Bags of Regular and Decaf Coffee are available for \$8.00 each, and boxes of Tea are available for \$3.00. If you would like to make a special order for the holidays, please speak with Sister Amy or Grace Siegel. You can order a case of coffee or tea (6 bags or boxes) at a discounted rate. Also, during the months of November and December, there will be catalogues available for you to look at and get ideas for great gifts for friends and family. I highly recommend their chocolate!

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## Fair Trade Fair at Muhlenberg College December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The non-profit festival will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the Muhlenberg College campus in Seegers Union, rooms 108 - 110. Realizing that the Festival is a cause that the church has supported in the past, the students look forward to seeing Christ Church members at the college on these days and thank the members of the Social Ministry committee who will volunteer to assist the students. Parking for shoppers will be available on the horseshoe drive next to the chapel.

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## Moment for World Hunger

Here is the ten month report for our contributions to battle hunger, both domestic and world-wide. Year to date (January 1 – October 31, 2010) our offerings for the Food Bank and world hunger totaled \$6,125. We should remember that in addition many donations of food have been given throughout the year. It is safe to say the monetary value of these donations is hundreds of dollars.

We still have the month of December to make donations to the Food Bank and/or to the Lutheran World Hunger Appeal. Added to November receipts, can we reach \$7,000 for the year of 2010? Guided by Jesus' example of ministering to those in need, we can do it.

-Bob Loucks

### Poinsettias

Each year the church nave is decorated with poinsettias on the fourth Sunday in Advent through the 12<sup>th</sup> Night Festival performances. We invite you to make a contribution in memory of a loved one. Memorial contributions will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Additional poinsettias will be ordered and distributed to the shut-ins. Please return this form to the church office with your contribution. There is no standard charge for the contribution.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_



**Deadline – Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

## Advent Song and Study

So, what about Advent? Why does the Church celebrate this season before Christmas? Is it just about getting ready for the Birth of the Baby? Why do we read the texts that we use on those four Sundays? Why are there special hymns? What is the mood of Advent? What are the symbols? Why don't we sing Christmas carols all of December?

Do you share these or other questions about this Blue Season? Please join Michael Krentz, Sister Amy and Peggy Wuertele at 9:30 in the Chapel on Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 as we ponder the meaning of Advent, sing hymns and study the texts appointed for each Sunday.

**All are welcome!**

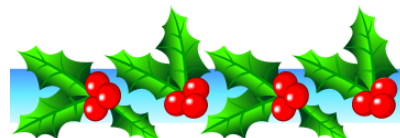


## SOC ET TUEM

**(“Christmas” by Helmut Thielicke)**

When I am asked why I, as a Christian, celebrate Christmas, I answer first and foremost, “Because here something happens to me, therefore something can happen to me – but only if I pause and surrender to it”.

I live in the name of the miracle that God is no silent universal principle but that he comes to me in the depths. I see that in the one who lies as a child in the manger and is like all the rest of us in every other way. I see there how he whom “heaven and earth cannot contain” enters the world of little things – my little things. The world of homelessness and refugee routes; the world of lepers, mental cases, prodigal sons, and poor widows.



## Coming in January....

**It will be a busy day on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at Christ Lutheran!** After our annual meeting, Penn State's Gospel Choir *ESSENCE OF JOY* directed by Dr. Anthony Leach will be presenting a free concert in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. Directly following the concert, beginning at 5 p.m., The Lehigh County Conference of Churches will be holding their Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service entitled “One Voice, One Heart, One God.” The concert and the service will be the final presentation of 4 days of workshops and music in the valley celebrating Black Gospel Music hosted by the PA Sinfonia Orchestra partnering with several organizations and schools, including LCCC.

**IF YOU ARE A SINGER...** please consider participating in the workshop on Saturday afternoon at First Presbyterian Church. For only \$10, you will receive music and a concert ticket and be invited to sing and participate at that evening's concert. **IF YOU ARE NOT A SINGER**, please consider coming to any or all of the musical events and concerts. If you can't make the concert, but you would like to make a donation to offset the traveling expenses for Penn State's Choir it will be graciously accepted...just call the church office or Catherine DeBoeser at 610-392-6453. Check [www.pasinfonia.org](http://www.pasinfonia.org) for more information, registration forms, etc. OR CALL PA SIINFONIA ORCHESTRA at 610-434-7811.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Christ Church  
Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:00 PM  
Penn State Gospel Choir Pre-Service Concert 4:00 PM**

# Christ Church Joys and Concerns

## DEATH

Kenneth R. Maurer, Jr., 10/28/10

## MEMORIALS

### **In memory of Edwin C. Smoyer**

Michael Smoyer  
Jeff & Patricia Calore  
Dodge & Vykje Whipple

### **In memory of Robert McCornac**

Jane Fisher

### **In memory of Robert J. Deutsch**

Georgia Deutsch

### **In memory of Eleanor K. Anderson**

R. Donald & Teresa Walp  
Helen Muschko (for Organ Fund)

## **Blood Donors**

Miller Keystone Blood Center sends us the names of blood donors for our congregation each month. Please remember to let them know you are from Christ Lutheran, Allentown. They greatly appreciate the response from all donors. Special thank you to the following for their donations in September:

**Francis Cannon, John Flamisch,  
Michael Patterson, Mary Statler**

Blood donors continue to be needed throughout the year and new donors are welcome. Just call Miller Keystone 610-691-5850 or 1-800-223-6667 for an appointment. If you have any questions feel free to call Ruth Dex at 610-966-7725.

## **Poinsettia Delivery Volunteers...**

On Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, poinsettias will be delivered to our homebound members. Help is needed to deliver the plants. If you are able to deliver a few, please call the church office at 610-433-4271. The poinsettias can be picked up, near the Chapel, on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

## **THANK YOU NOTES:**

Thank you for the lovely flowers.

-Bob & Elizabeth Kuntz

Thank you for the beautiful fall colored flowers I received. They look so nice on my mantle. Thank you also to Barbara Kramp for the lovely visit.

-Lucy Romberger

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Congregational Services, Inc. and those whom we serve, I want to thank Christ for its contribution of \$162.00. Together we are continuing the Legacy of Caring and Service that is a vital part of LCS's history.

-The Rev. Dr. Dennis S. Ritter  
Executive Director

Thank you so much for the flowers. They are beautiful and it is so nice to be remembered and know that someone is thinking of you.

-Lorraine Erdman

We thank Pastor Maxon for his visit and communion. Thank you also for the flowers Henry received for his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. We both really appreciated everything and are hoping to attend services again.

-Jean & Henry Rappold

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(There are no December birthdays)

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

### **Mrs. Katharine Welty, 1/4**

C/O Frank & Sue Ferrari  
2098 Millstream Road  
Lancaster, PA 17602

### **Mrs. Helga McGee, 1/30**

1055 Newgate Drive  
Allentown, PA 18103



# **The Clarion**

Christ Lutheran Church  
1245 W. Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18102-4372

**Address Service Requested**

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## Sunday Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
**Beginning Jan. 16 - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Church School  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Jan. 16 - 9:15 a.m.)  
(September through May)

Spiritual Growth Forum  
9:30 a.m. in the Chapel (Jan. 16 - 9:15 a.m.)

Office Hours: Mon.– Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(closed for 1/2 hour lunch between 12-1)

Rev. William Maxon, ACSW, Ph.D., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Theodore C. Schlack, Pastor Emeritus  
Sister Amy Jahn de Torrez, AiM, Director of Outreach Ministry;  
Dr. Michael Krentz, Organist/Director of Music; Susan Hill,  
Assistant Organist; Karl DeBoeser, Choir Director; Donna  
Lahouchuc, Christabells Choir Director;  
Nadine Smith, Children's Chimes

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***We joyously share God's love and  
our spiritual gifts with everyone!***

## **December/January Clarion Sponsor:**

In honor of God's many gifts to us all.  
by Mary Statler

## **Inclement Weather???**

When there is inclement weather in the coming winter months, please call the church office to determine if a scheduled event or worship has been cancelled or postponed. Pastor Maxon will leave a message on the answering machine with the relevant information. Also, please check WFMZ-TV and WAEB's "Operation Snowflake" where announcements regarding our scheduled activities will be posted.