

Trinity Lutheran To Host Advent Recitals

Trinity Lutheran Church’s Christmas gift to the community on Yankton, Bach’s Lunch, is approaching its 29th season with a series of three Advent recitals.

The first recital, Dec. 6, features organist Wyatt Smith. He is a native of Rapid City and is a senior at USD pursuing a degree in organ performance. In 2011 he won the American Guild of Organists’ Regional Competition for Young Organists (a major accomplishment for such a young competitor) and as a result played a recital as a “Rising Star” at the 2012 national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Nashville this past July. He has performed throughout the U.S. — including Colorado Springs, Colo.; Lincoln, Neb.; Caldwell, Idaho; Seattle; Boston; Washington and a number of other venues.

The South Dakota Brass Quintet will perform the second recital in the series on Dec. 13. Trumpeter Dr. Rolf Olson and hornist Dr. Gary Reeves are the founders of the group which was established in 1996. Other members are trumpeter Dr. Clayton Lehman, USD Professor of History, trombonist Dr. Jonathan Alvis, Professor of Low Brass at USD, and tubist Charles Dibley, adjunct faculty member in the USD Department of Music. The quintet always plays a holiday concert as part of USD’s National Music Museum’s Brown Bag series — the year’s best-attended recital.

Dec. 20 is 2012’s final recital, this one by flutist Cynthia Miller, accompanied by pianist Kathleen West and organist Marilyn Nyberg. Miller’s early musical experiences include winning several regional and national piano competitions, a flute scholarship at the University of Minnesota at Duluth as well as a vocal career. She is a professional Argentine Tango dancer and, following her diagnosis of and treatment for breast cancer, authored a book “My Tango with Cancer: A Dancer’s Journey of Breast Cancer Survival and Growth.” She is the daughter of Mike and Helen Miller of Yankton.

The Bach’s Lunch posters are designed by calligrapher Lelia Elder.

Lunch of a choice of two soups plus a specialty soup plus crusty bread, beverage and a sweet is served at 11:45 a.m. in the Friendship Room. Terre Berkland is in charge of the soups; Linda Larson and Nora Lee are in charge of the dining room. The concerts begin at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Parking is available in the new lot west of the church and along and across Broadway.

Wreath Contest & Tree Of Lights Announced

VERMILLION — Dakota Hospital Foundation (DHF) announces the 2012 Wreath Decorating Contest. Community members are invited to submit a live or artificial wreath (up to 26 inches in diameter) decorated to your personal style or theme of choice.

Decorated wreaths must be submitted with a completed Wreath Contest registration form on Wed, December 5 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Special arrangements may be made for an earlier drop off.

All wreaths entered will be auctioned at the Dakota Hospital Foundation Tree of Lights Open House and Wreath Auction being held on Thursday, Dec. 6. All proceeds will assist in funding the new Sanford Arts program at Sanford Vermillion.

TREE OF LIGHTS

The Tree of Lights program in its sixth year provides community members with the opportunity to purchase a light in memory of, in honor of, or as a special holiday greeting to friends, coworkers and loved ones. Lights purchased may serve as a unique holiday gift. A special holiday ornament card is sent to intended recipients. The four-story evergreen located at the corner of Main and Plum Streets at Sanford Vermillion has been designated for the touching Tree of Lights display and will remain lit throughout the Holiday Season.

The Tree of Lights Open House (on Dec. 6) will take place at the Al Neuharth Media Center in the Concourse and Freedom Forum Conference Room. The evening will feature a lovely variety of hors d’oeuvres and refreshments beginning at 5 p.m. with the Wreath Auction starting at 6 p.m.

“Attendance at our annual holiday celebration has continued to grow each year. We are especially excited about the second year for the Wreath Contest,” commented Linda Kogel, DHF Board member.

“We had a nice variety of entries last year and look forward to this year’s participation with the additional option to decorate an artificial wreath,” concluded Kogel.

Wreaths will be judged on several criteria including originality/creativity, arrangement, theme, and “WOW” factor. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: Best of Show, Best Individual entry and Best Business/Organization entry. Additional prizes may be awarded

For more information on the Tree of Lights & Wreath Contest/Auction project visit us at sanfordvermillion.org.

District 1 Farmers Union Set To Meet In Tripp

The December meeting of District 1 Farmers Union will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Sport Bowl and Café, Tripp. Guest Speaker will be Dakota Plains General Manager Matt Winsand.

The public is invited to attend.

MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of November 26. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk.

Yankton Elementary Schools

Monday — Oven Fried Chicken
Tuesday — Italian Dunker W/ Sauce
Wednesday — Nachos
Thursday — Tavern
Friday — Cold Cuts On Goldfish Bread

Yankton Middle School

Monday — Pancakes
Tuesday — Walking Taco
Wednesday — Chicken Nuggets
Thursday — Lasagna
Friday — French Bread Pizza

YHS A Line Menu

Monday — Chicken Strip Wrap
Tuesday — Nachos W/ Toppings
Wednesday — Meatball Sub
Thursday — Shrimp Poppers
Friday — Italian Dunker W/ Sauce

YHS B Line Menu

Monday — Philly Cheesesteak Pizza
Tuesday — Primavera Casserole
Wednesday — Teriyaki Chicken Rice Bowl
Thursday — Chicken Noodle Soup
Friday — Wrap

YHS C Line Menu

Monday — Hot Ham & Cheese
Tuesday — Chicken Burger
Wednesday — Round Pizza
Thursday — Hard Shell Tacos
Friday — Hamburger

Sacred Heart Schools

Monday — Chicken Teriyaki Stick
Tuesday — Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
Wednesday — Hamburger
Thursday — BBQ Chicken Sandwich
Friday — Pepperoni Pizza

The Center — Yankton

Monday — Potato Crunch Fish Or Meat
Tuesday — Tater Tot Hot Dish
Wednesday — BBQ Chicken
Thursday — Pork Chop W/ Mushroom Sauce
Friday — Meatloaf

Tabor Senior Citizens Center

Monday —
Tuesday — Spaghetti Bake
Wednesday — Swiss Steak
Thursday — Salmon Loaf
Friday —

Traditions are made & developed year by year -
so, remember The Pantry - to include in your traditions and to help you build your memorable traditions.

THE PANTRY

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Car Radio Won’t Drain Battery

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

My 16-year-old son drives a 2008 Honda CR-V. He wants to play the car’s radio while the engine is off. He wants to sit in the car with the radio on while he is killing time, or while waiting for me while I am in the store. I have told him it’s not a good idea, since it could kill the battery. He doesn’t believe me, since his friends supposedly listen to the radios in their cars without the engines running. He says they do it “all the time” — listening from 10 minutes to half an hour — and have “never” had a problem with killing the battery. What’s your opinion? Can you resolve this standoff? —**Sarah**

TOM: Is it his car? If it is, what do you care? If he kills his battery, you can refuse to give him a jump-start until he writes “I will always listen to my sainted mother” 1,000 times.

RAY: Of course, if it’s your car he’s driving, then I understand why you’re concerned. But you really don’t need to be.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: The radio uses a very small amount of current — maybe a couple of amps. That’s not enough to kill a battery that’s in good condition. Not even close. So, as long as the battery is sound, he can play the radio for an hour or two at a time without doing any harm.

Stores Borrow From Fast-Food Industry’s Playbook

BY MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This holiday season, Burger King won’t be the only place where you can have it your way.

It used to be enough for stores to promise discounts of up to 70 percent off to lure shoppers during the busy holiday shopping season. But the ease of ordering online and the sluggish economy has created more demanding U.S. consumers who aren’t impressed by discounts alone. They want their shopping just like their fast food: not only cheap, but convenient too.

That means they’re no longer afraid to walk away from the cashmere sweater with the perfect fit if the store is crowded. They’re also unwilling to buy those suede pumps that are just the right shade of blue if they have to pay to get them shipped. And they cringe at the prospect of carrying around a bunch of paper coupons; they’d rather be able to pull them up electronically on their smartphones.

Retailers from discounter Wal-Mart to department-store chain Macy’s are doing everything they can to make it easier for this new crop of finicky shoppers to spend their money during the busy holiday shopping season. Several are opening on Thanksgiving Day. Some are offering free layaways and shipping. Many are matching in-store prices with cheaper online deals. And others are allowing shoppers to buy online and pick up their merchandise in stores.

It’s the latest effort by stores to court shoppers like Patty Edwards. Four years ago, Edwards, who lives in Bellevue, Wash., bought all of her holiday purchases at online retailer Amazon.com because she thought it was the easiest way to shop. But this year, she plans to shop elsewhere because there are stores are offering more shipping options.

“Now I’m not necessarily tied to Amazon,” said Edwards, a retail analyst and principal at investment firm Trutina Financial. “I can go to Nordstrom, Saks or Target and have stuff available to pick up. It’s a pretty simple process. That wasn’t the case four or five years ago.”

The have-it-your-way approach is partly a response by merchants to their fear that shoppers will spend less freely this season over worries about high unemployment and a package of tax increases and spending cuts known as the “fiscal cliff” that will take effect in Janu-

ary unless Congress passes a budget deal by then. It also comes as the growth of smartphones and tablet computers have made it easier for shoppers to browse and buy with the touch of their fingertips. No need to battle long lines at The Gap when you can just Google what you want.

That puts pressure on brick-and-mortar retailers, which count on the holiday shopping season for up to 40 percent of their annual revenue, to find ways to get shoppers into their physical stores. That’s becoming an increasingly difficult feat: The National Retail Federation, an industry trade group, estimates that overall sales in November and December will rise 4.1 percent this year to \$586.1 billion, or about flat with last year’s growth. Meanwhile, online sales are expected to rise 15 percent to \$68.4 billion, according to Forrester Research.

“Retailers have to do a little more to grow sales this year,” said Frank Badillo, a senior economist at consultancy Kantar Retail.

This isn’t the first time stores have had to up the ante. Big sales and door busters like deeply discounted TVs used to be the hallmark of the winter holiday shopping rush. But stores noticed over the last several years that Americans were cutting back on spending during the economic downturn, so they ramped up their discounting even more.

Shoppers became addicted to the ever bigger sales. And they began fleeing to online retailers, which can offer much cheaper prices than brick-and-mortar stores because they don’t have the overhead costs of operating physical locations. Shoppers also began to appreciate something else about online retailers: They offer them the convenience of being able to shop within the comfort of their homes or office cubicles.

To better compete, brick-and-mortar stores figured that they’d have to replicate their online rivals’ formula. Shopping in stores needs to be cheap and easy, they figured. So stores began trying new ways to make shopping more convenient last year, such as free shipping and expanded hours. But this holiday season, they’ve expanded the scope and scale of those incentives to include:

— **EXPANDED HOURS FOR SHOPPERS WHO CAN’T WAIT TO HIT THE MALL:** Stores typically open in the wee hours of the morning on the day after Thanks-

giving Day known as “Black Friday.” It’s typically the biggest shopping day of the year. But the Black Friday openings have crept earlier and earlier over the past few years, with retailers such as Macy’s Inc. opening stores at midnight. This season, some stores have expanded their hours even more: department-store chain Sears, toy-store chain Toys R Us, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and others are opening on Thanksgiving to grab those who want to shop after their turkey dinner.

“We saw a shift in how customers are shopping last year,” says Ron Boire, Sears chief merchandising officer. “Members told us some of them want to stay up late. Others like the idea of getting out early.”

— **MORE SHIPPING AND RETURN OPTIONS FOR SHOPPERS WHO COVET CONVENIENCE:** About 44 percent of retailers are offering free shipping this year, a jump from 12.5 percent last year, said Vicki Cantrell, executive director of Shop.org, the National Retail Federation’s digital retail division. And package delivery company UPS, which commissioned a customer service study with research firm comScore, said retailers also are working to make returns easier, by including return labels in packages or providing a link online that customers can use to print labels out. Additionally, some stores, including consumer-electronics retailer Best Buy Co., Toys R Us and Wal-Mart, are offering customers the option of ordering online and then picking up their merchandise in stores.

Danny de Gracia, 32, a political scientist in Honolulu, Hawaii, likes to use stores’ “buy online, pick up in store” option to avoid the hassle and crowds in stores. He said it allows him to just run in and grab his purchases. Gracia, who said he plans to spend no more than \$1,000 this holiday season, last used the service to buy a Sony digital camera for his father at Best Buy.

“It’s easier because when you’re in the physical store sometimes you have to stop, ask questions and get assistance,” he said. “With stores that offer online shopping you can simply search the site, read up and compare options and then purchase, pick up and leave ... It’s an outstanding service that I utilize whenever possible. I wish that it would be available for groceries.”

— **LAYAWAY PLANS FOR FINANCIALLY-STRAPPED SHOPPERS:** Programs that allow customers to pay over a period of weeks have long been used for some holiday shoppers. But typi-

RAY: If your battery is weak and near the end of its life, then, sure, he might kill it by playing the radio. But in that case, it would have died and stranded you soon anyway. And now you can blame it on him!

Don’t get stuck with a lemon. Be an informed shopper. Read Tom and Ray’s guide “How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows.” Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, “Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk.” Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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cally, shoppers have to pay a fee for these so-called layaways. This year, Wal-Mart lowered the fee it charges customers on its holiday layaway program from \$15 to \$5. And Sears and discount chain Kmart, both divisions of Sears Holdings Corp., ditched the fee they charge completely. The two stores previously had charged \$5 for an 8-week layaway and \$10 for 12 weeks.

— **PRICE MATCHING FOR SHOPPERS WHO ARE ADDICTED TO DEALS:** While small mom-and-pop stores long have offered to match the cheaper prices that customers find online, this year big merchants such as Target and Best Buy have said that they also will do that. The move is an attempt to combat the growth of so-called “showrooming,” when customers look at merchandise in stores but buy it cheaper online.

Forrester Research analyst Sucharita Mulpuru said that the online price-matching programs are an attempt by brick-and-mortar stores to keep customers. “The increasing price transparency we’re seeing online is something brick-and-mortar stores have to deal with and deal with it directly,” she said.

— **UPDATED SHOPPING APPS FOR SMARTPHONE-TOTING SHOPPERS:** Shopping apps for smartphones and tablets have been around for a few years, but this year retailers are beefing them up. For instance, Macy’s is launching a Black Friday portion of its mobile app, which highlights Black Friday specials and other deals not advertised elsewhere. It also will have maps and information about where in each store Black Friday deals can be found.

The shopping apps are an attempt by brick-and-mortar retailers to hook shoppers like Stefanie Scott, 35, in Greenfield, Wis. Scott, who plans to spend \$1,000 to \$2,000 on gifts this year, starts her holiday shopping ritual by first checking out deals on Facebook.

Then, she brings her smartphone along on shopping trips and uses mobile apps to get discounts once she’s in the store. She’s also a fan of the “buy online, pick up in store” offers, and recently used one at Best Buy to buy a videogame for her brother-in-law.

“I’m tied to my cellphone,” she says. “Coupons and lists get lost in my purse. It’s so much easier when I’m shopping to whip out my cellphone and have them scan it. The more I can do on my iPhone I’m all for it.”

Mr. & Mrs. Groetken

Cyril and Pauline Groetken will celebrate their 50th Anniversary with an open house; Saturday December 1st, 2012 from 7-10pm in the Copper Room at Ben’s; Yankton, South Dakota.

Their children are:

- Marcy (Darren) Moser - Yankton, SD
- Shelly Moser - Fargo, ND
- C.J. (Kelly) Groetken - Bloomington, IL
- Melissa (Jim) Christianson - Sioux Falls, SD
- Michael (Amy) Groetken - Sioux Falls, SD

An earlier celebration was held in July at the Lake of the Ozarks with their children and spouses and their nine grandchildren.

Cyril and Pauline (Hilsinger) were married December 1, 1962 at the First Covenant Church in Sioux City, IA.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Brought to you by

COALITION FOR A DRUG-FREE YANKTON

DFAA
Drug Free Action Alliance

Gather your family around the table. National Family Week is observed annually Thanksgiving week. Compared to teens who have frequent family dinners (five to seven per week), those who have fewer than three family dinners per week are almost four times likelier to use tobacco; more than twice as likely to use alcohol and almost four times likelier to say they expect to try drugs in the future.

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOSI
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For more information call 605-665-4606 or find us on Facebook at The Coalition For a Drug Free Yankton

GATHER AROUND THE TABLE