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Middletown Messenger

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LAA Brings Holiday Cheer To Middletown

On Friday evening, December 14, Middletown had the privilege of hosting Louisville Adventist Academy's annual Christmas program. With our school at an all-time high of 95 students in grades PreK-12, our church was filled to capacity. Even with added chairs lining all the walls and at the end of each pew, it was standing room only!



Grades 5-10 Choir conducted by Traci Oms

The program began with a prayer and welcome by our own Pastor Marius, immediately followed by our PreK/K class with a sweet performance of two songs, "Happy Birthday, Jesus" and "There Was a Little Baby", as well as a short poem. Our high school drama team then presented "God with Us", which told the nativity story and shared the perspectives of the various individuals involved.

The 1st-5th grade choir was next, performing traditional arrangements of "I Wonder as I Wander" and "The Little Drummer Boy". The high school drama team then returned to share an inspiring pantomime of the life of Christ, set to the music of "In the First Light" by a cappella

group Glad.

The last performance of the evening was an impressive choir of all students in grades 5-10 (54 members!), singing two songs beautifully in four-part harmony. First there was a remixed gospel version of "Angels We Have Heard on High" entitled "In Excelsis Deo", then an angelic arrangement of "Ding Dong Merrily On High". Many in the congregation commented on the enthusiasm and focused energy that the choir students put into their performance.

The program ended with a prayer by Principal David Matthews and an offering that went toward drama team and music program expenses as well as our Christmas families. (Each year, LAA raises funds to support families within our student body who could really use a boost at Christmas, and we supply them with groceries and gift cards to help meet their basic needs.)

As a constituent church of LAA, we rotate the hosting of the Christmas program and spring vespers with the other full constituent church, Louisville First, where the school is located. Mark your calendars now for Spring Vespers which will be held at Louisville First Seventh-day

Adventist Church on Friday evening, May 3!

What is a constituent church? It is a church who directly contributes funds from their budget to our school, the amount of which is determined by a formula of school budget, church tithe base and member students. As a constituent church, we also receive a designated number of board positions, and two of Middletown's members currently hold the position of Board Chairperson (Traci Oms) and Treasurer (Arden Hagele).

We are so thankful for the Lord's guidance of our school and its growth. Please keep our school in prayer as we have started a building program that will add needed classrooms within the next two years, with a vision of adding a gymnasium in the future.

If you missed the performance, it is available for viewing online on the Middletown Seventh-day Adventist Church YouTube channel by searching for the church's name or visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9dI45XfeSU>.



Grades 1-4 Choir conducted by Traci Oms

EVENTS

JANUARY

5 ♦ General Fellowship Meal

2, 4 & 5 ♦ Revive Us Again Week

FEBRUARY

2 ♦ General Fellowship Meal

15-17 ♦ Pathfinder 7up Retreat (ICC)



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"A safe environment... where people relationships become kingdom relationships"

A Flaming Hot Fair

It's not enough to join a church and show up every week or two. Middletown needs the involvement and participation of all of its members to be successful. God has blessed each person with gifts and talents that can be used to build His kingdom, but sometimes members, especially new people, need a little help finding a place where they can lend their specific skills for the betterment of the church.

Enter the annual ministry fair, an event when ministries have an opportunity to "strut their stuff" and attract new volunteers to work in various capacities. During the fair, attendees visit booths to learn about each ministry's purpose and activities and chat with the ministry leader to see if it's a mutual good fit.

This year's ministry fair featured something new and spicy: a chili and soup cookoff showing off



Middletown's culinary talents. On Sabbath, October 20 right after morning service, more than 20 steaming crockpots of various peppery-hot chilis and savory soups were assembled on the cookoff table in addition to the 19 ministry booths circling the fellowship hall.

Festive Wheel-Of-Fortune-style signage welcomed fair-goers to the event. Over 100 attendees carried their "passports" from table to

table to get them stamped at least five times before they could go through the food line. This additional booth traffic resulted in dozens of new volunteer sign-ups!

Each pot was labeled with the name of the dish and the cook so folks would know whom to compliment on a pot well-cooked. In addition to several pots of traditional vegetarian chili (with and without pasta!), the cookoff table featured vegan white chili, peanut butter soup from Ghana, vegan broccoli and cheese soup, black bean soup, minestrone, tomato soup, potato soup, and cauliflower soup. Of all the scrumptious dishes on display, Lloyd Graves' vegetarian chili seemed to be the biggest hit.

We thank everyone who participated in this event, and we're already looking forward to next Fall's Ministry Fair and Chili & Soup Cookoff!

Check Out Our New "Face Book"!

Since July 2013 when the last church directory was published, dozens of people have come and gone at Middletown. Sometimes families are here briefly while finishing school or on a short job assignment before they're off to their next destination. Whatever the reason for people's arrivals and departures, the constant comings and goings can make it challenging to learn everybody's names and faces, let alone keep in contact with them.

The Communication Team decided to take on the project of creating an updated "face book", a printed directory that would help members to match names with faces and better acquaint themselves with our growing congregation. They knew it would be a monumental task as many of Middletown's members are not at church every Sabbath due to travel and other obligations, but the team was determined to make it happen.

For several weeks beginning in October, Curtis Tucker faithfully set up his camera, tripod, and lights in the fellowship hall after morning service to make it more convenient for 74 busy families to be photographed for the new directory. Mellanie Hunter and Tabitha Sikes gathered

contact information forms and shooed families into the photo area. Mellanie combined the pictures and information in an easy-to-read layout which was then printed in color by Barbara Hagele. As in previous directories, in addition to the names and pictures of regular attendees, many of our missing members are listed. This will make it easier to reach out to missing members and invite them to return.

The finished directories debuted on Sabbath, December 22, the 56th anniversary of the church's original dedication in its former location as St. Matthews Seventh-day Adventist Church, as detailed in the Church History in the front of the directory. Every individual and family pictured and/or listed in the directory may pick up their copy from a member of the Communication Team.

Near-future plans include developing a secure online directory that members can access anytime and which will be kept up to date as members' information changes. Stay tuned for further details as this phase of the project unfolds.

