

Christmas celebrations planned

By Leslie Forbes

December's hustle-bustle and hodgepodge of Christmas trees and imitation Santas makes one wonder about the season's true meaning. But religious organizations on campus are busy taking the commercialism out of Christmas and putting celebration and charity back into the season.

"Christians are more mindful of the need of others now," said First Baptist Church Pastor Gayle Baldrige. "There's an extra element in Christmas this year with unemployment. People are going hungry and need help. Everyone's getting reinterested in people," he said.

Baldrige said the church, 1340 K St., is helping to support the Peoples City Mission and the Salvation Army during December with donations. The church also has a pantry of food kept stocked year-round for anyone needing a hot meal.

The University Lutheran Chapel (Missouri Synod), 1510 Q St., follows the university's schedule and will close Dec. 12, said Kent Stephens, director of Christian Outreach.

Wednesday, they will conduct a special Advent service at 9 p.m., he said. Anyone interested in caroling at the Lincoln Regional Center with church members on Dec. 11 should meet at 6 p.m. in the chapel, he said.

Wesley House, 640 N. 16th St., collects money for and sponsors children through the Christian Children's Fund and tries to give a little more to them during this

season, said Mark Randall, minister and director for Wesley House.

Their calendar includes a Communion service this Sunday and an Advent service with a guest speaker on Thursday at 9:30 p.m. The final service will be on Dec. 12 at 9:30 p.m. and will include special Christmas music. A Christmas dinner will be served Dec. 12 at 5:30 p.m. for \$3. A short service and caroling will follow the dinner.

The church's special services include a Christmas program with singing and a drama Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. and a Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 320 N. 16 St., follows the university schedule and will cut down on the number of Masses after a midnight Mass Dec. 14, said Lori Vasa, secretary. Also, a special collection of gifts will be collected for Lancaster Manor residents.

Vasa said they will have Mass at 10 a.m. Dec. 15 and 16, and 7 every morning thereafter. On Dec. 24 there will be a vigil Mass at midnight, and Masses are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Dec. 25 and 26, she said.

St. Mark's On The Campus Episcopal Church, 1309 R St., invites anyone to go caroling on Dec. 11, said Joanne LeFevre, secretary. Interested people should meet in the church's lounge at 7 p.m.

LeFevre said that the church is collecting food and clothing during the Christmas season and they also keep a year-round pantry stocked.

On Dec. 24, the church will have a Christmas Eve festival at 11 p.m., she said.

Maranathans conduct survey

Immigration and drug abuse were the topics of a campus survey conducted Thursday by Maranatha Campus Ministries International on the north side of the Nebraska Union.

Robert Neve, Maranatha member and UNL survey coordinator, said students attending 50 major college campuses across the United States were polled.

"The main purpose of the survey is to let the senators and representatives in Congress know how college students feel about issues," Neve said.

Neve said the polls are conducted 11 times a year and published in the magazines, which are sent to each senator and representative in Congress.

"The issues we deal with are all mostly political, not totally moral," Neve said. "But all things we deal with have moral implications."

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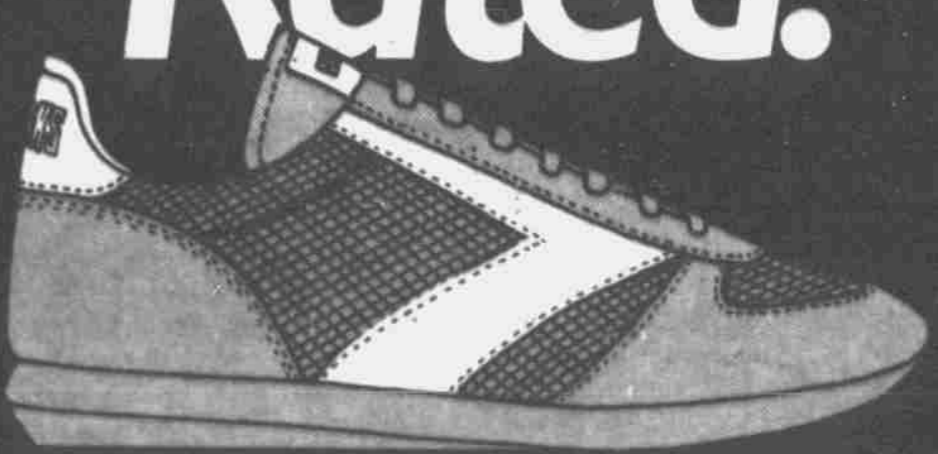
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