



# *The Messenger*

*December 2012*

**Pastor Gregory Pope**

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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## **The Ancients Too Anticipated Him**

As Advent is a season of anticipation, let's put ourselves in the shoes, or sandals, of the ancients. Let's pretend in this article that we are ancient Israelites. We're gathered at the temple on the Sabbath day to hear the high priest give us the message from God's Word. He opens up the scrolls and builds our anticipation:

Who do we wait for? I will show you. He will be king. **"He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom."** He will reign forever. **"Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."** He will be God. **"He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"** (Isaiah 9).

He will be God's Son. **"I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"** (Psalm 2). He will have a miraculous birth. **"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel"** (Isaiah 7). He will be from Bethlehem. **"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times"** (Micah 5). He will do miracles of love. **"Be strong, do not fear; your God will come . . . Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy"** (Isaiah 35).

What will he do? He will save us from our sins. **"He was crushed for our iniquities . . . by his wounds we are healed."** (Isaiah 53). He will give us life after death. **"I know that my Redeemer lives . . . I myself will see him with my own eyes – I and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"** (Job 19).

*Pastor Gregory Pope*



## ***Message from the President***

During the past year our Ladies Circle has purchased new tables and additional chairs for the Fellowship Hall. They have also invested in a new chair rack which will provide better storage for the chairs when not in use. Even though I am a month late for the official Thanksgiving holiday, on behalf of the Church Council and the Congregation, I would like to use this opportunity to say "**THANK YOU**".

These items were chosen to replace existing furnishings that, after many years of service, needed updating. The new tables weigh less than the ones they replace and are a bit narrower which affords us greater space between rows. The old tables are currently stored in the Family Center and are available for use by any member of the congregation. There is a sign out sheet in the church office and there is no charge to our members. We will record how often these old tables are used and determine if this is a popular service we can offer. If it becomes apparent that these tables are not used on a regular basis, other options will be discussed.

Our dear departed member, Lillian Borgwardt, was moved to remember the church in her last Will and Testament. I am sure word has passed around regarding this subject. We have received the funds and the council is in discussion. We will keep you informed once we are prepared to suggest how Trinity should disperse this loving gift.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.....

*Gary Vetter, Trinity Congregational President*

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## Prominent People of the Bible

### Mary

*Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.  
(Luke 2:19)*



It's Christmas time and there's so much to wonder about.

Almost every child has snuck into the room to slide under the tree and gaze at the presents. "I wonder what they got me." Tiny hands cannot be restrained from grasping and shaking the package to assess the contents. "If only I could see what's in there."

Can you imagine holding the baby Jesus on that first Christmas Eve? Mary didn't have to sneak a peek or guess. She knew. He came from her, but he was sent from God. Mary compared what she'd been told with what was now happening. She couldn't comprehend how the "contents" of this little package might affect her life but now she could see him. She marveled at the love of God. God with us! And then gazing into his precious face she embraced God's Son, "Hello Jesus. Welcome to your new home."

One Friday, 33 years after Mary pondered the miraculous birth of the Son of God, she had to say goodbye. She watched him go. She believed that his innocent death covered the guilt of every sin. She knew that she couldn't keep him here because he belonged there on the throne with his Father. She remembered, like only a mother can remember, everything that was said of him, everything that was done to him, everything he had told her. Deep in her heart she trusted that she would see him again and hear him return the greeting, "Hello mother, welcome home."

Part of the mystery of Christmas is learning how to say hello to Jesus before you have to say goodbye. His coming has changed our going. His greeting on the other side ties directly to our believing that he came to save us sinful human beings. "Hello, welcome home," he'll say to all who trust him as Savior. And the gift of eternal life which he bought for us by his birth, life, and death will be completely unwrapped.

Join Mary in gazing at this wonderful Child by reading Luke 2. Take a bit more time to ponder what's in God's special "present" by worshipping with us this Christmas.



#### **Graphic for Mary: *Manger***

Mary's role in God's plan for salvation was to give birth to Jesus. The manger reflects Jesus' humble birth.

**More information is located online at [WhatAboutJesus.com](http://WhatAboutJesus.com). Look for the *What About ... Prominent People* link.**

## News from the WELS

*From the office of President Mark Schroeder*

### **An Advent message**

We live in a culture that seems to be growing more godless every day. Morals are declining, families are disintegrating, and violence is increasing. The church braces daily for Satan's unrelenting attacks of false doctrine from within and hateful opposition from without. Every day we see reminders that the love of many, even within the church itself, seems to be growing cold. Church members grow lax in their desire to hear the Word; congregations struggle not just to grow but to survive.

It would be tempting for us to despair and to look at the future with fear and uncertainty. But then we are reminded that fear and despair have no place in how a Christian views the future. We hear our Savior's assuring promises of his protection and presence: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" ([John 16:33](#)). "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). We are reminded of the power of God's Word, a Word that will never return to him empty but will always accomplish the purpose for which he sent it. And then there is that clear message of the book of Revelation that so beautifully assures us that Jesus will return in glory to take us home forever.

This Advent season, when hope begins to fade and confidence starts to erode, remember those promises and pray the Advent prayer in our hymnal: "Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords" (*Christian Worship*, p. 123). God will answer that prayer as you prepare, with repentance and joy, to celebrate the first coming of your newborn Savior and to await the second coming of your victorious King.

Serving in Christ,  
*Mark Schroeder President*

### **Donations for Sandy's victims**

WELS volunteers in New York City are coordinating the distribution of winter outerwear, blankets, and quilts for those affected by Super storm Sandy. The effort, led by WELS Christian Aid and Relief, is centered at Sure Foundation, Queens, N.Y.

WELS members have generously responded to requests for items to help keep Super storm Sandy's victims warm this winter. Mr. Mark Vance, director of operations for Christian Aid and Relief, says, "Boxes are coming in to Sure Foundation every day from around the country. We have received items from individuals, schools, quilting clubs, churches, and ladies aid groups. The response has been outstanding!"

On Sun., Dec. 2, five Sure Foundation volunteers worked with Vance to unpack the donations that have already been received. Items will continue to be collected until Dec. 15. Donations of winter outerwear, blankets, and quilts can be sent to Sure Foundation, 64-20 Roosevelt Ave., Woodside, NY 11377.

Distribution of the items is already beginning. Ms. Pat Schlosser, a member of St. Paul, Menomonie, Wis., arrived in New York City on Dec. 2 to help oversee the distribution process.

Schlosser says, "My heart just soared when Mark [Vance] called to ask me to go to New York to help."

Schlosser will stay in New York for two weeks to continue to unpack and organize the donations. She, Vance, and Sure Foundation volunteers will deliver the majority of the donations from Dec. 12-16.

Distribution points have been coordinated close to WELS churches in areas that were affected by Superstorm Sandy, including Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, and New Jersey. Donated items will include information on the area churches for recipients who are seeking spiritual help.

Finally, Vance reports that any further cleanup efforts by Christian Aid and Relief for WELS members who sustained damage from Sandy are being postponed until spring 2013 due to the unpredictability of the winter weather. Christian Aid and Relief is continuing to distribute grants to those who need financial assistance after the storm.

To help relief efforts on the East Coast, you can submit a gift online at [www.wels.net/hurricanerelief](http://www.wels.net/hurricanerelief) or send a check to WELS Re: Christian Aid and Relief hurricane fund, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53222-4398.

### **Schultz to be new hymnal director**

Rev. Michael Schultz has accepted the call to serve as director of the synod's next hymnal project. The project is a collaboration between the Conference of Presidents, Northwestern Publishing House, and the Commission on Worship. The plan is for the new hymnal to be available in 2024, the 500th anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal and 31 years after the publication of the current WELS hymnal, *Christian Worship*.

A 1989 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., Schultz is currently serving Sola Fide, Lawrenceville, Ga. He will begin his new call on Dec. 1, joining the editorial staff of Northwestern Publishing House, which is funding his work. As chairman of the Hymns Subcommittee for *Christian Worship: Supplement*, Schultz is already familiar with some of the work ahead of him.

In addition to coordinating the pew edition of the new hymnal, Schultz will also explore emerging and changing technologies and how those technologies should be used to serve WELS congregations' worship needs. The goal for the 2024 hymnal is that all additional resources will be available at the time of the original publication, making it important that Schultz begin his work immediately.

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director of the Commission on Worship, calls Schultz a "Renaissance man." Gerlach details the many gifts and experiences that Schultz brings to this call, including being gifted in poetry and translation, which Schultz uses to create new or altered hymn texts, some of which are included in *Christian Worship* and *Christian Worship: Supplement*. He also plays the guitar and compiled the guitar edition of the supplement; creates digital music files to help congregations without musicians; and is a member of WELS' Institute for Worship and Outreach.

Schultz notes, "It's a humble privilege to take up this work. Working with others who have that same love for the work and for the Lord will undoubtedly prove to be a rewarding experience and prayerfully will be for the edification of the people of our church, and for the glory of our Savior."

### **NPH president retires**

Mr. Jerry Loeffel is retiring as the president of Northwestern Publishing House after 34 years at NPH, the last 22 as president. His retirement is effective at the end of 2012.

Loeffel says, "I'm very grateful for God putting me into this position and being able to serve my Lord for the last 34 years at Northwestern Publishing House and 22 as president. And he has blessed me over those years with many good, dedicated people; that's what I'm going to miss—the friendships I've created over the years."

In the more than three decades at NPH, Loeffel says he has seen plenty of growth and blessings, but one thing he says that has changed the publishing house over the years is the use of technology. The way technology is used—from the production process to, now, the delivery process with e-books—has helped NPH continue to produce quality religious materials.

Prof. John Hartwig, chairman of the NPH board of directors, says, "I thank God and thank Jerry for the many years of faithful service he has provided to Northwestern Publishing House and the synod and wish him all God's blessings in his retirement."

Loeffel and his wife live in West Allis, Wis. He is looking forward to more time to travel and volunteer and spending more time with his two children and five grandchildren.

With Loeffel's retirement, NPH is in the process of seeking a president, responsible for providing strategic leadership to establish long-range goals, strategies, plans, and policies. This position also includes overseeing all functional areas of NPH including product development and production, distribution, order and subscription services, NPH Christian Books and Gifts store, non-proprietary merchandise buying, human resources, finance/accounting, information systems, print buying, and sales and marketing. Interested candidates can [apply online](#).

### **New associate director for CLS**

Mr. James Rademan has accepted the call to serve as associate director for the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) beginning July 1, 2013. In his new role, Rademan will be the new executive director of WELS School Accreditation (WELSSA) and serve in a leadership and administrative capacity for this process. He'll be assisting the district presidents with the formulation of Lutheran elementary school call lists and will provide support for the school strengthening initiatives at CLS.

"I am very pleased that Jim has accepted this call," says Mr. Greg Schmill, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools. "Jim's faith and trust in the Lord and his passion for the ministries of our WELS schools will be a tremendous blessing in the work of CLS." Schmill adds, "Jim will be able to hit the ground running in July thanks to his experience with WELSSA, his service as a district schools coordinator and on the WELS New Teacher Induction committee, and of course, his many years of service as a WELS teacher and principal."

Rademan graduated from Dr. Martin Luther College in 1982 and earned a Master's degree in teaching and instruction from Western Michigan University. He is currently serving Peace, Hartford, Wis., as the principal and upper grades teacher, a position he has held for the past 22 years.

"For the past five and a half years I've been the Southeast Wisconsin district coordinator for CLS, and I've had an opportunity to volunteer with the New Teacher Induction committee," says Rademan. "I taught all of the Leadership Institute Modules, and I'm very excited about contributing to the current focus of the Commission on Lutheran Schools to do all we can to strengthen our Lutheran schools."

Rademan will serve as a resource person for WELS schools, teachers, and principals, providing personal assistance and support. "After 31 years with working with kids, I find great enjoyment working with young teachers and younger principals and sharing best practices I've learned during my years of experience. I feel that having strong schools is the best way for us not only to survive in this competitive environment but also to honor and glorify our God with our best efforts," says Rademan.

### **Women's Ministry meets**

The WELS Women's Ministry Committee met Nov. 9-10 to review the progress of the 10-year-old effort. Now part of the WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship, the Women's Ministry Committee was started with the mission to "assist congregations in nurturing, encouraging, and equipping women to faithfully and fully use their God-given gifts to glorify God in the home, church, and the world."

Since its founding, the Women's Ministry Committee has accumulated a number of ideas to help start, revitalize, or expand the opportunities for women to serve within their congregations in ways that are in harmony with biblical roles. To gather and distribute these ideas, the committee is working with

district presidents to build a network of district level contact persons and eventually designate contacts within the congregations.

"I was in awe when I reflected upon all that the committee had been able to accomplish through the years even though they have no budget, no called staff, and rely entirely on volunteer labor. As a committee, it strikes me as having been extremely productive," says Rev. Paul Wendland, president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis.

Women's Ministry executive committee member Marilyn Miller says, "We are thankful that God has blessed WELS with educated, well-trained, talented, and capable women who are motivated to use their gifts to serve in our gospel-focused mission."

The committee's long-range plan includes writing an abbreviated edition of its foundational Bible study *Heirs Together* to encourage wider use within the congregations and our schools, increasing visibility of Women's Ministry and available materials, encouraging cross-generational ministry, taking the content of the leadership conference into the districts, reaching women of different cultures, and encouraging women to commit themselves to a sound study of the Bible and its doctrines.

The third triennial Women's Ministry conference will be held July 19-20, 2013, at WLS with the theme: "Women preparing for Christ-like service."

### **The Bible-The Book of Peter**

This month's part of the Bible focus is a look at the Book of Peter.

#### **THE APOSTLE PETER**

Peter names himself as the author of the two letters that carry his name. Peter is a very prominent figure in the Gospels and Acts. We could write much about his life. For a more complete biography of Peter, see a Bible dictionary. He is known by three names. His original name was Simon, short for Simeon; Jesus gave him the name Cephas, Aramaic for "rock;" his most common name, Peter, is Greek for "rock." With his brother Andrew, Peter was a fisherman by occupation. Two towns on the Sea of Galilee served as his hometowns, Bethsaida and Capernaum. Peter was a married man. At first Peter was probably a disciple of John the Baptist. Then Jesus called him as his disciple and told him that he would make him a "fisher of men." Together with James and John, Peter was one of the disciples of Jesus' "inner circle." The three had the privilege of being especially close to Jesus and accompanied him at times when the others did not. Peter was often the spokesman for the disciples. Speaking for the disciples, it was Peter who made the strong confession to Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" ([Mat. 16:16](#)). In the four lists of the disciples, Peter is always named first, indicating his prominent place among The Twelve. At the time of Jesus' passion, Peter is very visible. He helped prepare the Passover Feast, objected when Jesus wanted to wash his feet, insisted he would never fall away from Jesus, and slept while Jesus prayed at Gethsemane. He defended Jesus with the sword and then became very weak and denied Jesus. Later he repented, witnessed Jesus' sufferings, ran to the open tomb Easter morning, and was the first of the disciples to whom Jesus showed himself alive. At the Sea of Galilee, Jesus reinstated Peter and told him to feed his "lambs" and "sheep." From the Gospel accounts we can gather that Peter was naturally impulsive, that is, he was often quick to speak and act without first carefully thinking. We can also see that at times he was very self-confident and bold, and at other times weak and cowardly. Peter's total humanness comes through clearly in the Gospels. Jesus took this totally human man and made him into one of the "pillars" in His church, as we see in the first 12 chapters of Acts. It was Peter who preached the sermon on Pentecost Day when about 3,000 were added to the church. It was to Peter that God gave a special vision and the realization that in Christ He accepts Jews and Gentiles alike.

In the Epistles we also find a few references to Peter. We learn that Paul needed to correct Peter in Antioch because of his inconsistent way in associating with Gentiles. Peter evidently received Paul's correction in a loving, brotherly way (Gal. 2:11-21). A reference in [1 Cor. 9:5] indicates that Peter did much traveling for the sake of the Gospel and that on his travels he was accompanied by his wife. We have no further Biblical information about Peter besides his own words in his two epistles. Tradition says that he died as a martyr in Rome during the persecutions under Nero and that, like his Savior, he was crucified. (While the Roman Catholic Church insists that Peter was bishop in Rome for 25 years and served as a first "pope," there is no New Testament evidence for this. Peter would not have reached Rome until near the end of his life.)

### **PETER'S FIRST EPISTLE:**

#### **To whom was it written?**

Peter addressed his first epistle this way: "To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia." All of these provinces are located in Asia Minor, particularly the northern part. There is a question whether the Christians in these provinces were Jews or Gentiles. Peter was primarily the apostle to the Jews (Gal. 2:7-9), but there are a number of passages in this letter that make it sound like his readers were Gentiles (2:9-10; 4:3-4). Perhaps there were both Jews and Gentiles among the people addressed by Peter. Who was the missionary who first reached these people with the Gospel? Again we do not know. Perhaps it was Paul, although we do not hear of him going to the northern provinces of Asia Minor. Perhaps it was Peter himself.

#### **From where and when was it written?**

Peter calls the place that he was writing from "Babylon" (5:13). It is commonly thought that this name was applied figuratively to the city of Rome. Just as Babylon was the great enemy of God's people in the Old Testament, likewise Rome with its paganism and persecutions was the enemy of God's New Testament people. Therefore Rome may have been called "Babylon." If this is so, then Peter was writing from Rome perhaps shortly before the persecutions under Emperor Nero; perhaps he wrote about 64 A.D.

#### **What was the occasion for 1 Peter?**

The Christians addressed by Peter were suffering some kind of persecution. Perhaps their lives were not being threatened but they were being slandered and abused by the people around them (3:16-17; 4:4; 4:16 etc.). What was Peter's purpose in writing to these Christians? Peter himself answers this in 5:12: "I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it." From the rest of his letter it also is clear that Peter wanted to encourage the Christians by giving them hope in their trials. He wrote also to admonish them to live lives that are worthy of their Savior who bought them by his blood. What are the special characteristics of 1 Peter? 1) It is filled with words of hope for Christians under trial. "A living hope" is what Peter says we have by Christ's resurrection. Furthermore, a Christian's suffering is only "for a little while;" then comes our inheritance in heaven. Peter not only encourages suffering Christians to have hope, but gives them solid reasons for their hope. For this reason, 1 Peter has been called the "Letter of Hope." 2) 1 Peter has few words, but those few words contain much rich spiritual truth. For example, read 1:3-6 to see how much Peter can pack into a few words. Peter's style is a good example for preachers who think they have to produce a great number of words to say something important. THEME: "PETER ENCOURAGES SUFFERING CHRISTIANS WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE"

## SOME KEY PASSAGES FROM 1 PETER:

"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you." (1:3-4) "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1:18-19) (Compare with Luther's explanation to the Second Article of the Creed.) "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (2:9) "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (3:15) "If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you." (4:14) "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (5:7) "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith."



Adult Bible Class on Sundays meets at 8:15 am in the Trinity Fellowship Hall. The new class will look at the book of Acts and compare the history of the early Christian church to the history of our Wisconsin Synod, with an emphasis on evangelism. Please join us!

The Thursday night Bible class is the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 6:30 pm. The class is "How Can They Teach That?" We are having class on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll announce soon whether we'll have class on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.



## Announcements

### Sunday School

Please remember there will be practice Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> right after Sunday worship. The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 p.m. There will be no Sunday school Sunday Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. It will resume on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Trinity Ladies Circle

Our last meeting was held on November 20, 2012. Pastor Pope led us in a devotion about the occult and demon possession. The discussion reminded us that Satan is very real and is always working to erode our faith. We were also reminded of the fact that he's no match for our Savior and that we need

to remain ever vigilant and use the Word of God to fight the daily temptations that Satan places before us.

After the devotion, elections were held for vice-president and secretary. Officers for 2013 are as follows:

President	Lisa Petersen
Vice-President	Lisa Kiesow
Secretary	Diane Smith
Treasurer	Darlene Kiesow

At our regular business meeting, we decided to decorate the altar area with blue poinsettias during the Advent season and red poinsettias for Christmas (the same as last year). We also decided that it would be a good idea to replace the ribbons and bows on the wreaths that are placed in church for the Christmas season. This was done on December 1 when we worked with other members of the congregation to decorate the church for Christmas.

The Ladies' Circle will serve the Christmas Potluck/New Member Welcome on Sunday, December 9th. We will also make cookies to be included in the Christmas shut-in bags.

Thank you to all of the ladies in Trinity Ladies' Circle. The members of the group serve our congregation in many ways, and our meetings are always interesting and fun. All confirmed ladies of the congregation are invited to join us at our next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 22.

### **Trinity Teens**

The Trinity Teens did the cabin at Camp Sinawa with the theme of "Jesus Loves the Little Children". We used circle shaped ornaments of flags from around the world. There were dolls around the Christmas tree from different nations, provided by Desirae Kiesow and Linda Grunow. There was an informational board done by Lauren Petersen explaining how different countries celebrate Christmas. There was a beautiful banner that was made by Trisha Petersen and Desirae Kiesow. The outside lights were hung by Tyler Petersen. There was Christmas music playing in the back ground. There were magnets made up with our church's information that we let people take to promote our church and included the times of our worship services, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day services. Thanks to Trisha Petersen, Lauren Petersen, Desirae Kiesow and Tyler Petersen for all your hard work in decorating the cabin. It was beautiful!! Thank you to all our church members who came to check out our cabin and for supporting Camp Sinawa. We are always looking for more of our church youth to get involved in our activities. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month after confirmation class. We are open to suggestions for activities that the youth would like to do. Have a Merry Christmas!

### **Altar Guild**

Thank you to the group of four women who volunteered to make a 5<sup>th</sup> group. The Altar Guild members should have received a new schedule and instructions in their mailbox. Also, there is a bulletin board in the west room for the Altar Guild. There you will find the information for setting up Communion and miscellaneous information.

### **Blood Drive in January**

The Red Cross has been pleased to work with us. We are planning to have the next blood drive at Trinity on Wednesday, January 23, tentatively from 2:30 – 6 pm. The Board of Evangelism will announce more details soon.

## **Building and Grounds**

A suggestion was made by one of our church members, to have a railing on the front porch of the parsonage, for safety purposes. A new maintenance free railing has been installed. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Thank you to Karl Hansen for installing the railing.

We contacted three stained glass window restoration companies, requesting updated proposals for storm window replacement and refurbishing of the wood trim on the stained glass window frames. We also requested a proposal to include painting or covering the louvers in the steeple.

The speakers for the carillon have been replaced in the steeple, by Northern Sound & Video. The music should now be heard with more volume and clarity.

## **Remember SCRIP**

If you would like to purchase SCRIP, just pick up an order form in the lower level of church. Fill it out and take the completed form with payment to MLHS or put it in an envelope in Cindy Williamson's church mailbox. If you take the order to MLHS, it will normally be filled while you wait. If you put it in Cindy's mailbox, the order will be filled and put back in your mailbox on the following weekend. If you have any questions, please contact the SCRIP office at 682-0215, ext. 116, or Cindy Williamson at 758-2726.

## **Church Directories**

If you would like a Church directory the cost is \$10.00, please contact the church office @ 758-7500.

## **New Members**

We are asking that new members please drop off a 4x6 picture of themselves or their family to the church office or to get their picture taken at the church office. We would like to update the new member board in church to welcome our newest members. Also if you had information sheets in your mailbox, please get them back to the church secretary so we can get your information into our computer system. Thank You!

## **Address Change**

Please notify the church office if you have a change of address, phone number or e-mail address. We need to keep our church records up to date. This is important for church mailings and helpful to Pastor and the Church secretary. Thank You!

## **Church Office Hours**

The church office hours are as follows: Monday and Wednesday 8:30-1:30; Thursday and Friday 9-2

## **Thank Yous**

We received a thank you from Peter's Pantry on the food that was donated. If you would like to read the letter it is posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you to the people that donated the use of their nativities for the month of December and to those that bought poinsettias to decorate the church. Thank you to those who helped decorate the church – many hands made light work and many good ideas were brought to fruition! Also, thanks to those who volunteered to help with the service and meal for Walter Woepse's funeral last month. May the Lord continue to comfort his family by the gospel.

## **Newtonburg News**

### **Student Web Site**

This website was designed and created by the students in 7th and 8th grade as part of their technology class. Click on the link and check it out:

[http://www.stjohnsnewtonburg.org/site/default.asp?sec\\_id=140007310](http://www.stjohnsnewtonburg.org/site/default.asp?sec_id=140007310)

### **PIE Aluminum Can Drive**

There are wooden bins located on the South end of the school, that are for your clean aluminum cans. Please no tin – mix (Slim-fast, or cat food cans). This will be here for about a month.

### **Basketball**

We are looking for a Girl's A basketball assistant. If this opportunity interests you, please contact Mr. Tesch or the school office. Thank you!

## **Manitowoc Lutheran High School**

**MLHS Christmas Concert** "Come to Bethlehem and See" will be presented at the Manitowoc Capitol Civic Centre on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 and again at 7:30pm. New this year is the addition of the Lakeshore Lutheran Youth Choir, comprised of 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from area WELS congregations. Please join us as the Christmas story is told in word and song! Tickets are not needed; seating is on a first-come basis.

**Christmas Concert Recordings Available** Orders Due by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. CDs of this year's MLHS Christmas concert are being professionally recorded, and are available for purchase. Orders must be submitted, along with \$20 payment, by the end of the 7:30 concert. Please contact the MLHS office to place your order; CDs can also be ordered at the concert. A downloadable version of the concert will also be available for \$20 by Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at [www.tuneswoon.com](http://www.tuneswoon.com).

**Inter-Active Calendar** Curious about the date of a concert or time of a game? Check out everything on the MLHS calendar, UPDATED DAILY, by visiting our website Dates, times, locations & more info is updated every day so YOU can ALWAYS have the most current info possible!

**Facebook** If you haven't yet, keep track of all-things-Lancer by liking us on Facebook. Keep an eye on how we're doing toward our \$100K Science Room Renovation gift challenge via the "Beaker-Watch". Invite your friends, too!

**\*\*Raise money for MLHS just by searching the Internet with GoodSearch – [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) - powered by Yahoo!**

# Church Attendance for November



Combined total for Saturday/Sunday

## November 2009

**Week 1:** 42/107=149  
**Week 2:** 22/107=162\*  
**Week 3:** 43/82=125  
**Thanksgiving:** 133  
**Week 4:** 30/111=141

**Monthly: 710**

*\*Sunday School sang*

## November 2011

**Week 1:** 39/126=165  
**Week 2:** 54/66=120  
**Week 3:** 40/59=99  
**Thanksgiving:** 132  
**Week 4:** 36/93=129

**Monthly: 645**

## November 2010

**Week 1:** 40/142=162  
**Week 2:** 53/114=167  
**Week 3:** 42/76=118  
**Thanksgiving:** 113  
**Week 4:** 40/79=119

**Monthly: 679**

## November 2012

**Week 1:** 44/119=163  
**Week 2:** 42/122=164\*  
**Week 3:** 41/94=135  
**Thanksgiving:** 115  
**Week 4:** 68/89=157

**Monthly: 736**

*\*Sunday School sang*

*“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”  
John 4:24*



## *A Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to...*

12/8 Scott Bratz  
12/8 Mark Kiesow  
12/10 Kaitlin Bushman  
12/10 Jozee Dobbratz  
12/11 Todd Glaeser  
12/11 Shelby Johnson  
12/11 Jody Lovell  
12/12 Benjamin Kiesow  
12/12 Joshua Kiesow  
12/13 Lawrence Teesch  
12/14 Brittany Kenneke  
12/15 Alex Free  
12/15 Elaine Sieker - 94 yrs. Young  
12/17 Denise Preston  
12/21 Meadow Drake  
12/21 Joe Drake  
12/23 A.J. Kenneke  
12/24 Lorena Nagel - 99 yrs. Young

12/26 Janet Matthias - 84 yrs. Young  
12/26 Breanna Hansen  
12/26 Chase Skinkis  
12/27 James W. Ott  
12/31 Eunice Barnes  
12/31 Emma Krueger

### **January Birthdays**

1/2 Diane Smith  
1/2 Chad Hackmann  
1/4 Larry Hochkammer  
1/4 Lucille Vetter - 89 yrs. Young  
1/4 Alan Sieker  
1/6 Adam Petersen  
1/7 Sally Propson  
1/11 Randy Siebert  
1/15 Steve Schreiber



## *Happy Anniversary To...*

1/12 Greg & Rhonda Buechner – 8 Years!  
1/18 Alan & Marlene Sieker – 48 Years!

***If you have a December/January birthday or anniversary and it is not listed correctly please let us know so we can update your information. Thanks!***

**Date: Ushers on Schedule:**

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December 8<sup>th</sup> Alan Sieker (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), Mark Kiesow  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Derrick Krey (Server), John Smith (Server), James Ott, Andy Fisher  
December 15<sup>th</sup> Larry Hochkammer, Peter Liermann  
December 16<sup>th</sup> Gary Vetter, David Petersen, James Glaeser, Paul Nagel  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Dave Williamson (Server), John Smith (Server), August Teesch  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> Ron Kasten (Server), Brian Glaeser (Server), Wayne Otto, Len Arnold

**Christmas Eve Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** Keith Petersen, Andy Kiesow, Mike Kiesow, Jeff Tuschel

**Christmas Day**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** Derrick Krey, Marty Kiesow, Dave Mellstrom, Jeff Kasten

December 29<sup>th</sup> Greg Buechner, Steve Pleuss

December 30<sup>th</sup> Gary Vetter, Todd Bergmann, Elwood Free, James Ott

**New Year's Eve Service**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** Ron Kasten (Server), Warren Lutze (Server), Mark Kiesow

If you are unable to make your scheduled service, please call Brian Glaeser @ 775-3941.

**Communion Liturgy:** Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for you for the remission of your sins.

May this strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Depart in peace; your sins are forgiven. Amen.

**Altar Guild: December– Group 1:**

*Helen Isaacson, Darlene Kiesow, Donna Nagel, Elaine Petersen*

***Our Greeters for December***



*December 9<sup>th</sup> Elwood & Denise Free  
December 16<sup>th</sup> David & Tara Mellstrom  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> Cheri Hebert & Jennifer Pope*



## Bible Quiz – “Parables”

1. What wage did those hired on the third hour get?
  - a. One denarius
  - b. Two denarii
  - c. Three denarii
  - d. Four denarii
  
2. A householder lent out his vineyard to husbandmen. The husbandmen killed the householder's son because:
  - a. He used to whip them
  - b. He was a thief
  - c. He was the heir
  - d. He was demanding taxes
  
3. What was the ratio of wise to foolish virgins?
  - a. 9/1
  - b. 7/3
  - c. 6/4
  - d. 5/5
  
4. What distinguished the wise virgins from the foolish?
  - a. They read their Bible more
  - b. They had more oil for their lamps
  - c. They had food for the journey
  - d. They didn't sleep
  
5. At what time did the bridegroom come?
  - a. At midnight
  - b. At noon
  - c. At 6am
  - d. At 6 pm

**Answers: 1.) a [Matthew 20:10] 2.) c [Matthew 21:38] 3.) d [Matthew 25:2] 4.) b [Matthew 25:4] 5.) a [Matthew 25:6]**

# The Birth of Jesus

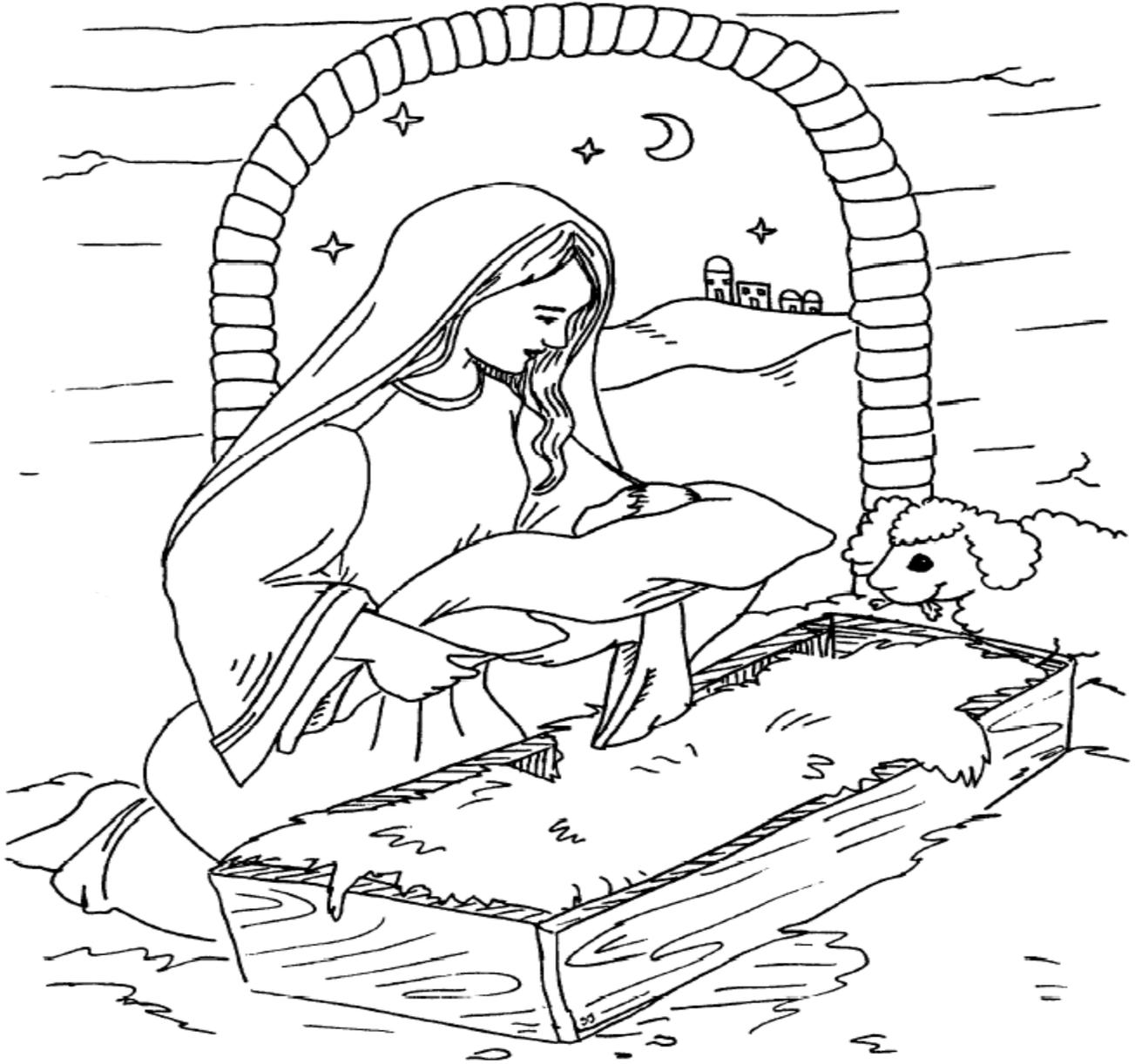
And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



J B E T H L E H E M N G I H K  
 S A F P V T E N C D N Z B H H  
 F H A T Y F S O N B B D Q B J  
 A V E R E P D R K C A M G Z O  
 S S A P N P V U R I B G Q D S  
 E M D B H A E O I Z Y A K H E  
 L B X I C E I C E N S U S L P  
 S Q O H V V R B R O O M G R H  
 I M U R A N R D B S W S A R K  
 Y F E S N C A B S C H I L D R  
 C M A S L V A X F T E I S E G  
 A J H E S Q M E Z I Z L G K P  
 Y T G K Z I T G S C M N W R Y  
 A N G V W E A G J A A S R X G  
 A Z H X Y W Y H M M R S F F C

SAVIOR	CENSUS	MARY	MANGER	BORN
CAESAR	SON	JOSEPH	MESSIAH	ROOM
CHILD	SHEPHERDS	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

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