

# WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm w/Communion  
Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am  
9:15am Sundays - Family Bible Hour for all ages

DECEMBER 2013

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 50 No. 11

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ oslcsheboygan.com ♦ e-mail oursavior917@sbcglobal.net

## The Gift of Christmas

**<sup>10</sup>And the angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord . . . <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:10-11, 20)**

I think that most of us love to receive gifts. I would even suggest some of the most encouraging words we can hear are when someone says, "This gift is for you."

This is how the angels speak of the greatest gift of all, the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ. Their message is not just, "A child is born," but "A child is born for you!" That "for you" makes all the difference in the world—that "for you" makes Jesus birth personal.

Jesus is not born for himself—his birth—like everything else that Jesus is and does, is for us, for all sinners, for our benefit and for our blessing. This is the great surprise of Christmas. We could never deserve such a wonderful gift. In fact, if God were to give us what we deserved, he would hand us over to death and hell, "**for the wages of sin is death,**" (Rom 6:23).

Instead of giving us what we deserve, God gives us the very thing that we don't and never could deserve: he gives us his Son in the flesh. "Here is my Son for you!" he says. And our response is one of surprise—"For me?? He couldn't be for me!" Such a gift sounds too good to be true, but it is true—Jesus is born for you!

This message was heard by the shepherds out in the fields near Bethlehem and in faith they went to see and take hold of God's gift. Additionally, we see how faith worked its way in the life of the shepherds—they leave the manager marveling over the things they had heard and seen.

The shepherds went on their way rejoicing, for they had heard and seen the Good News of God's gift of love. It's the same with us. We, by faith, take hold of the gift of Jesus and like the shepherds, our hearts are also filled with wonder as we hear the Good News proclaimed by the angel—a **Savior has been born for you!** Like the shepherds we marvel and give thanks for all that we have heard and seen.

Just like his birth, Jesus did not die for himself—he died for you, me and all people. He died for our salvation. He died in our place, taking upon himself our sin, suffering our punishment, and dying our death. We thank God for all that Jesus does for us. Having Jesus, we have everything: forgiveness, salvation, life, the kingdom of God, and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven.

For the shepherds, these gifts were too wonderful to keep to themselves. They "**made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child**" (Luke 2:17). They filled Bethlehem with the Good News of God's gift of love—Jesus the Savior. May God grant us his Holy Spirit so that, filled with the wonder of Christmas, we would sing and speak of the gift that God has made know to us. "**For you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**"

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,

Pastor Marcus Powers

**Financial Information—  
October 2013**



**Financial Report**

	<u>Oct. 2012</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Offerings	\$ 18,624.27	\$ 205,740.97
Building Fund	1,985.00	17,192.51
Other	<u>13,710.80</u>	<u>(1,496.71)</u>
Total Income	<u>\$34,320.07</u>	<u>\$221,436.77</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Missions and Outreach	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,633.33
Salaries and Benefits	10,141.39	47,455.08
Mortgage Payments	1,514.00	23,208.70
Christian Education	451.76	4,434.55
Office and Maintenance	2,947.27	38,822.29
Other	<u>9,147.69</u>	<u>30,370.30</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 16,661.32</u>	<u>\$ 244,871.65</u>
<b>Net Income (Expense)</b>	<u><b>\$9,317.96</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 51,512.52</b></u>

**Loan Progress Report**

Principal Balance at 8.10.07	\$ 190,000.00
Less: Principal Pmts to Date	<u>(140,333.23)</u>
Principal Balance at 10.26.12	<u><b>\$ 49,666.77</b></u>

·The interest rate is 4.875%, fixed for 10 years and the monthly payment of \$950.

·The Church Council has decided that the monthly loan payment should match the monthly contributions whenever giving is greater than \$950.00.

"We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee."

"And we believe Thy Word,  
Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
We do it unto Thee."  
(LSB 781)

**A Christmas Greeting**

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11).

What a wonderful message the angels bring. Our Savior, the Lord of all, took on frail human flesh and was born a baby. This baby grew up to be the one who sacrificed Himself to take away sin. Not just for a handful of people, but for all people, as the angels told the shepherds. May we rejoice and find peace in the angels' message not only in December, but throughout the entire year.

May God richly bless you with his peace, hope and love not only on Christmas, but throughout the new year.

The Staff of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

Kory Bajus, secretary  
Virginia Johnson, organist and hand bell director  
Deb Kuitert, parish nurse  
Elaine Phillips, choir director  
Bill and Lou Ann Stroo, custodial  
Tim Winkel, outside maintenance  
Brett Meulbroek, Family Christian Education Coordinator  
Pastor Marcus Powers

**OUR SAVIOR'S MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod is a family of believers growing together in faith as we joyfully **worship** the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit we willingly **serve** our Lord Jesus Christ and **share** his love with others.

**WORSHIP...SERVE...SHARE**

## CHURCH RECORDS TO CLOSE:

The financial records for 2013 will close on December 31st. To the many faithful members whose weekly offerings throughout this year have been such a blessing for the Lord's work, our Lord says, "Well done good and faithful servant." To those who feel they missed opportunities to participate in Christ's great work through Christian giving, there's still a little time left to give before the year ends! All offerings for 2013 must be in by December 31st.

Offering packets for 2014 are available to all members in the narthex after each worship service starting December 8 or you may come to the church office during office hours and pick them up. But **please do not use them until 2014.**

### Christmas Worship

Special services of this holy and joyous season at Our Savior's are:

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30am**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Worship  
4:00 & 6:30 p.m.  
(Communion served at both services)**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Worship  
9:30am**

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve Worship  
6:00pm (with communion)**

### Memorial Gifts

\$400.00 in memory of Robert Stein  
\$300.00 in memory of Gary Klumb

## Social Activities Group Sponsoring the "Christmas Giving Tree"

The Giving Tree will be going up in the narthex starting Nov. 11th with items for purchase until Dec. 8th. This year's Giving Tree gifts will again be used for families from the **Salvation Army** of Sheboygan.

This year Our Savior's will be sponsoring 4 families in need. Please take a gift tag or as many as you like and purchase the item(s) on the gift tag and place the donations **Wrapped & WITH the Gift Tag on the package (very important that gift tag is on the package so we know what person and what family the gift goes to also we need you to put the dollar amount on the tag - Salvation Army is requesting this for record purposes)**. Place gifts under the Christmas tree or in the red barrel. You will see some tags that have a \$\$ amount on them, please put money and gift tag in an envelope and that money will be combined with other money to get the gift that the child or adult requested. Also, any gift cards please put in an envelope with the gift tag also. Items should be placed under the tree no later than **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact any of the members of the Social Activities Group.

The Social Activities Group wants to thank everyone in advance for their support and out reach for our community.

### Social Activities Group Member:

Robyn Bemowski	Linda Fleck
Gail Hajenga	Marilyn Helling
Nannette Neerhof	Marijo Pitsch
Jane Woodard	Kelly Jaeger
Jean Brauer	Dawn Brauer

### PASTORAL ACTS

#### FUNERAL

Debora L. Richards  
Age: 58  
Died: November 14, 2013  
Laid to Rest: November 30, 2013

## **FLOWER CHART POSTED:**

The flower chart for 2014 will be in the narthex, next to the ushers' room in the cabinet, starting December 1. Members wishing to donate flowers are asked to select a date by placing their name on the appropriate line. Flowers may be given to the glory of God in observance of special events, anniversaries, birthdays, many blessings or in memory of Christian loved ones.

The flowers are supplied by Caan's Floral Co. The cost of for the two vases is \$26.00 and the centerpiece is \$24.00. Kory will contact each donor about mid-week before the specified Sunday to determine the occasion for acknowledgment in the Sunday bulletin.

On your Sunday, simply place the amount for the flowers in a plain envelope marked "Altar Flowers" with your name on it in the offering plate.

### **PLEASE NOTE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

1. We appreciate the tremendous response of our people over the years to beautify the chancel altar with flowers. However, we can only accommodate so many donors per Sunday, so note carefully the designated spaces, and do not add your name when spaces are full!
2. It is the responsibility of the donor to pick up the flowers in the chancel immediately following the late service. If this is not possible, you may get them on Monday morning.
3. All flower payments should be made no later than the Sunday the donor selected.

Thanks again to all our people for this extra loving act.

### **Thanks to all who donated towards the Thanksgiving Food Baskets.**

Ten families received items to make a Thanksgiving dinner along with other food thanks to your generosity. With Thanksgiving being so late in November, it will be just 3 short weeks until we deliver the Christmas food baskets. If you were not able to donate before, or would like to contribute again, the Food Pantry Committee would welcome your offering of canned goods, dry goods and other nonperishables. Your monetary donation will allow us to get a Christmas ham for our ten families along

with other fresh fruit and vegetables. Items can go in the barrel in the Narthex, monetary donations can go in the offering plate or mailed to the church and marked "Food Pantry".

While shopping for the Thanksgiving baskets, a woman (not a member or someone I even know), saw the abundance of food I was purchasing, all my coupons and the lists and papers. I told her I was shopping for the Thanksgiving food baskets at Our Savior's. She asked if she could make a donation, I of course said yes (expecting a few dollars), and to my surprise, she handed me \$40! I thanked her with a huge smile and asked for her first name and told her we would offer up prayers of thanks to God for her generous heart. Thank you Lord for people like Linda!

### **Soup and Sandwich**

Time for Soup & Sandwich again! Thursday Advent services (Dec. 5, 12 & 19) will follow a Soup & Sandwich supper in the fellowship hall. If you would to make a soup or some bars, please let Helen Bergeron (457-0516) know. We need about 4 - 5 soups each Thursday, which means about 15 volunteers are needed. Soup & Sandwich is open to anyone and families are especially encouraged to come and eat before church, making it easier to attend church on a school night. Come and enjoy the soup, your own masterpiece sandwich and good conversation with someone across the table. A free-will offering will defray the cost of the sandwich fixings. Questions - contact Janine Bergeron.

### **Ink Cartridge Update:**

Thanks to your generosity, most of the office supply needs are being paid for with your recycled ink cartridges. Since collecting the empty cartridges in May of 2013, we've collected a total of 302, which means \$604 in FREE office supplies!! The paper you're reading this on - FREE! The papers handed out at the Christmas Parade - FREE! The 2014 yearly calendar in the office - FREE! Keep those cartridges coming - the possibilities are endless! Cartridges can be put in the "cartridgelike" receptacle in the Narthex. Thanks!!!!

## Youth and Sunday School News

Jesus is the light of the world, but did you know we are his lights too? Jesus said to his followers, "You are the light of the world. ...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven," Matthew 5:14 and 16.

Sometimes we use words, but often it is our good works that point people to our heavenly Father. People say "Actions speak louder the words."

During Christmas season we tend to display these actions more frequently. We give money to the bell ringers, we donate items to the food pantry or give a child a warm coat. But what about when Christmas is over? Will our lights continue to shine brightly? It is my hope that you will take that light that shines so brightly during Christmas and through your actions continue to have it burn brightly throughout 2014.

### Updates:

Since the second week of October the youth of the congregation have been fundraising to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts for children through the Salvation Army. I am proud to say that as the time I am writing this we have raised over \$800.00 through our Brat Fry, bake sales and the Penny War, (which continues through December 8<sup>th</sup>), to buy gifts for 10 children this Christmas season. The youth of the congregation will be shopping for gifts on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THESE FUNDRAISING ENDEAVOURS. IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!!

### Christmas Program Rehearsals:

Will take place during the Sunday school hour on December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have a final dress rehearsal on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-10:05

This year's Christmas Program entitled Christmas Lights will take place Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Doors will be open at 10:10 to get your seats.

We will have Sunday school on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a party to celebrate Jesus' birth.

We will be looking for donations of treats for this party.

## THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>.

Sunday school will reconvene on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

God's Christmas Blessings to you and your Families

Brett Meulbroek  
Our Savior's Youth Coordinator  
[oslyouthcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:oslyouthcoordinator@gmail.com)  
(920) 207-6528

## Mary Martha Guild News

Some of our Mary Martha Guild members worked in various areas to help the Fall Luncheon group as they set up and later served at the Fall Luncheon. All other members attended the luncheon as a group and we all agreed how happy we were to have passed on the responsibility of planning and serving and enjoyed being on the guest end of this very well planned function. The new committee did a wonderful job and hopefully this will again become an annual event for our congregation and guests in the future.

Immediately after the luncheon, we met in the Youth Room for a short meeting.

Our Christmas Party will be held at Rupps Fireplace Room starting at 11:30am. This year's committee (Linda Powers, Nancy Kuitert, LaVerne Kaiser and Gloria Meseck) will do the planning and there will be a \$5.00 gift exchange.

Our Christmas Cookie Sale will be held in the narthex between services on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to remind all members to deliver their cookies to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and 10:00am and hopefully to also help with packaging the cookies at that time. This should only take about an hour.

As we concluded our meeting, Lou Ann Stroo and Janine Bergeron, co-chairpersons for this year's Fall Luncheon, Craft & Treasures and Bake Sale, surprised us with a large bouquet of roses and each spent a few minutes thanking us for our help with

this year's event and the notes we had shared from our previous Mary Martha Holiday Faires. They then presented a lovely rose for each lady at the meeting. This was a completely unexpected, very thoughtful gesture and was greatly appreciated by all of us.

### Parish Nurse News

Dear Friends in Christ:

Christmas Blessings to one and all.

1 in 6 people get food poisoning each year. A few tips on how to prevent being on or causing others to suffer during the holiday festivities.

1. Select meats that are not above the edges of the refrigerator case at the super market. The cases only keep things truly cold as far as the walls go up.
2. Look for lean cuts (round or loin).
3. Turkey and duck breast are better than the whole bird.
4. Read the ingredient list. Some turkeys are injected with saltwater and other additives that add a lot of sodium.
5. Storing and prepping is extremely important.
6. Fresh turkey in the refrigerator should be used within one to two days.
7. Frozen bird can last up to a year in the freezer.
8. Uncooked port and beef roasts – three to five days in the fridge, four to 12 months in the freezer.
9. Throwing meat in the fridge is the simplest but ample time is needed. A large turkey requires 24 hours per 5 pounds.
10. Defrosting in cold water is quicker, but water should be changed every ½ hour.
11. Defrosting meats in the microwave is OK, but meat should be cooked immediately.
12. Meat should not be thawed on a counter as bacteria can multiply more rapidly.
13. Avoid rinsing poultry and fish as it can splatter contaminated droplets around the sink and counter.
14. Cook it enough. Use a meat thermometer even if you are an excellent cook and feel you can tell by color and texture that the meat is done, play it safe.

Have a wonderful holiday, but try not to overindulge.

(Information taken from Consumer Reports on Health – December 2013)

Prayerfully submitted,

Deb Kuitert

Blood Pressure Screening: December 1

### Rummage Sale 2014:

Planning has begun for the 2014 rummage sale. It was decided at our committee meeting that monies earned from the 2014 rummage sale would also be designated for reduction of the church debt. The 2013 rummage sale reduced the debt by \$5,581.24. This only was possible because of the generous donations by members of the congregation and the many hours of time expended by church members to set up and work the days of the sale. Kudos to all involved!

Can we possibly beat this figure next year? We could, but it depends on the members of the congregation. We need you to continue to save items for the sale. If you are getting new furniture, save your old furniture for the church rummage sale...(Ladies, this is an excuse to get rid of old stuff. :)) As you have family gatherings, invite them to save items also. This past year, a couple of my girlfriends donated items to our sale that they would have normally dropped off at one of the local thrift stores. We realize that many of you have your own rummage sales during the summer; please consider donating the items leftover from your sale to the church.

The dates for next year's sale are Friday, October 17th and Saturday, October 18th. Your help is sorely needed to organize, set up, and work the days of the sale. We realized that we needed additional help in certain areas to make the sale run smoother...more cashiers, especially at peak sale times. It really was a great way to meet other church members and to forge new friendships. Please consider getting involved. Chair persons for the 2014 rummage sale are Mike Feudner and Clara Murphy. If you have any ideas or questions, please feel free to speak to us.

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church – 452-4005 – [oursavior917@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oursavior917@sbcglobal.net) – [oslscheboyan.com](http://oslscheboyan.com)

◀ Nov 2013      ~ **December 2013** ~      Jan 2014 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 7:30-10:30am Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9-11am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship 4:40pm Meet for Holiday Parade at US Bank	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study 3:00-5:00pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings	<b>3</b> 11:30am Mary/Martha Christmas Party @ Rupp's 7:00pm Scouts	<b>4</b> 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 6-4:5pm Choir	<b>5</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>6</b> Youth shopping for presents for Salvation Army	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	<b>9</b> 10:00am Bible Class 3:00-5:00pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Scouts	<b>11</b> 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 6-4:5pm Choir	<b>12</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Service	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Class 3:00-5:00pm Parish Nurse <b>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Scouts	<b>18</b> 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 6-4:5pm Choir	<b>19</b> 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9-11am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	<b>23</b> 10:00am Bible Class	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm & 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS 9-30am Christmas Day Worship <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b> NO THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 10:30am Divine Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:00pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>Notes:</b> There will be no Thursday Evening Worship on Thursday, January 2, 2014.			