

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 2014

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 50 No. 11

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"The Gift That Keeps On Giving"

Gift giving can be extremely hard work at times, especially when the gift is for someone who seems to have all they need. We scratch our heads wondering, "What can we give them that will be appreciated or useful?"

Several years ago one of America's larger retailers used the catch phrase, "Give a gift that keeps on giving." I don't remember which company used that phrase, but I believe it was designed in an attempt to urge its customers to buy its appliances. Why give something like flowers, candy, or perfume—those gifts will wear out or be used up in a short period of time. Instead, why not give a blender, a stereo, a CD player, an iron, a toaster, a washer or dryer, or a garbage disposal. These may not be the most romantic of gifts, but they can be used day after day.

To those of us who are extremely practical, this makes a lot of sense. Why buy something that will last only a few days or weeks at the most—when a home appliance or an electronic device can be used day after day. In truth, many of us have thrown a lot of those electronic appliances into the trash, because they wore out and stopped giving.

Unlike many of our gifts, which soon wear out and get thrown away like so much of yesterday's garbage, our gracious Father God gives us the gift that keeps on giving—his Son! That's what Christmas is all about. **"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life"** (John 3:16).

Jesus is the gift that never tarnishes, spoils or fades away—a gift that can never be consumed—a gift

that is more precious than silver, gold, or platinum—a gift that is more precious than life itself—a gift that knows no limits—a gift that is given in "full measure and running over"—a gift that keeps on giving. I don't know about you, but I think that I'd be willing to wait in long lines in order to get something like this.

Because it is impossible for us to achieve our own salvation, God has shown us his love by giving us his Son! When Jesus was born in Bethlehem the time was right for God to work his plan of salvation: the virgin conceived and gave birth to her first-born, the Son of God. By being born of a woman, God identified himself with us. He further identified himself with us by living under the Law. In order to satisfy the demands of God's holiness it was necessary that the Law be lived out completely and without sin. You and I can't do this, that's why the Son of God was made man—that he might fulfill all righteousness for us.

God's love is made known in the gift of his Son and what a difference this makes in every day of life. If you're facing a difficult day at work, remember God's love for you in Jesus. If the school day seems to be overwhelming, you're not alone—Jesus is with you always. If there are family problems that don't seem to get better, Jesus is near. If you're lonely, if you're ill, if you're in need of assurance, remember God the Father loves you. He has shown how much he loves you by giving you his Son. God the Father has given us the gift that keeps on giving—Jesus!

Blessings in Jesus as you prepare to celebrate his birth,

Pastor Marcus Powers

**Financial Information—
October 2014**



Financial Report

| | <u>Oct. 2014</u> | <u>Year-to-Date</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Offerings | \$ 20,289.75 | \$ 204,611.34 |
| Building Fund | 7,622.76 | 16,354.76 |
| Memorials | 500.00 | 7,745.11 |
| Misc. | 3.00 | 1,003.34 |
| Special Projects (Non Budget) | <u>275.00</u> | <u>7,773.50</u> |
| Total Income | <u>\$28,690.51</u> | <u>\$237,488.05</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Missions and Outreach | \$ 3,916.66 | \$ 25,733.66 |
| Salaries and Benefits | 12,125.45 | 135,098.85 |
| Mortgage Payments | 7,622.76 | 19,321.26 |
| Christian Education | 75.00 | 5,656.80 |
| Admin. and Maintenance Non Budget | 664.84 | 38,014.38 |
| Disbursements | <u>184.00</u> | <u>6,403.98</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$ 24,588.71</u> | <u>\$ 230,228.93</u> |
| Net Income (Expense) | <u>\$4,101.80</u> | <u>\$ 7,259.12</u> |

Loan Progress Report

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Principal Balance at 8.10.07 | \$ 190,000.00 |
| Less: Principal Pmts to Date | (167,617.98) |
| Principal Balance at 10.26.12 | <u>\$ 22,382.02</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

Christmas Worship

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

**Dec. 21st - Sunday School Christmas Program
10:30am**

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

**Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Worship
9:30am**

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

CHURCH RECORDS TO CLOSE:

The financial records for 2014 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 2014 must be in by December 31st.

Offering packets for 2015 are available to all members in the narthex after each worship service starting December 7 or you may come to the church office during office hours and pick them up. But **please do not use them until 2015.**

Soup and Sandwich

Time for Soup & Sandwich again! Thursday Advent services (Dec. 5, 11 & 18) 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.

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 8th**. 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 Heling |
| Nannette Neerhof | Marijo Pitsch |
| Jane Woodard | Kelly Jaeger |
| Jean Brauer | Dawn Brauer |

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 7TH
sponsored by
The Social Activities Group

We will be Christmas caroling this Christmas season on Sunday, Dec. 7th to some of our members' homes.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 3:30pm and carpool for caroling. Afterwards, we will go to Steve & Marijo Pitsch house, 2533B Creekside Ct., for pizza and drinks. The cost will be shared by all. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

Please mark your calendar for Dec. 7th at 3:30pm to share the birth of Jesus Christ to our shut-ins.

This-N-That:

- We appreciate the response by many of you in supporting the food pantry and the distribution of food baskets for the holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas). Your willingness to contribute cash and non-perishable food items is one way of demonstrating your Christian faith. Thanks again for your benevolence.
- The Sunday school children continue to demonstrate the joy of worship and service to the Lord on those Sundays when they participate in our worship services. We'd encourage all families to be present on those particular days (generally the third Sunday of each month) to witness the enthusiasm of these young Christians—their excitement is contagious!
- During the month of December there are many additional times of worship (the Sunday School Children's Christmas Program, Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve). If it's been a while since you were last in the Lord's house, why not take advantage of these opportunities to be strengthened in your faith. As God tells us, "Let us not give up meeting together (worshiping), as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." (Hebrews 10:25). Please join us to hear again the Good News of Christ's love.

Mary Martha Guild News

Pastor Powers opened the November meeting with a devotion. Jeannie Jentsch, Development Director, from the Salvation Army was our guest speaker. She informed us of the many services and programs that the Salvation Army provides to our community.

Tuesday, December 2, 12:00pm will be our Christmas party at Rupp's Restaurant located at 925 N. 8th Street. Remember to bring a \$5.00 gift for the gift exchange.

Members are asked to bring 4 dozen cookies for the cookie sale to be held on Sunday, December 14 **between** services in the church narthex. Cookies will be \$8.00 a box.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Committee

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.

Elders and Spiritual Care

One of the primary responsibilities of the Elders is with the spiritual life of the congregation and to encourage all of our members toward a life of active worship. In order to assist in this process the elders recently divided the congregation into nine equal zones of approximately 36 family units (a family unit being all those living at a single address). Each zone has been assigned to an elder who will then make contact with each family unit over the next year. Again, the intent is to offer encouragement, to listen to your concerns regarding church life, and to answer any questions you might have about our congregation.

We wanted you to be aware of this outreach effort within the board of Elders in order to avoid any surprise. As you receive this friendly call from your elder, please take a few minutes to speak with him and to be encouraged in your Christian faith and living.

The following chart shows the elders and their zones of responsibility:

| Elder | Zone |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Mike Feudner | Abhold-Bubb |
| Arnie Gesch | Burhop-Franzen |
| Ron Halverson | Frazier-Hohn |
| Steve Heling | Hurley-Krieski |
| Tim Hintz | Krueger-Meulbroek, Brandon |
| Daryl Jaeger | Meulbroek, Brenda- Ourada |
| Jim Murphy | Pantel-Sabrowsky |
| Todd Priebe | Saeger-Tenpas |
| Bill Stroo | Thao-Zchetsche |

Rummage Sale, 2015:

We're baaaaaack! I know it seems that we just had the rummage sale (and we did), but it is now time to plan and save for next year's sale. We need your goodies...so clean out those closets, empty the attic, go through those boxes stacked in the basement and garage for years to find goodies for the next church rummage sale. It will give you something to do during our long cold winter. Each year I think...nobody can have anything left...but each year, I find more stuff to donate from our house (my husband would say that we could fill the fellowship hall by ourselves, but little by little it will go).

Invite your friends and relatives to donate to our sale too. This past October, a couple members were offered items from elderly friends who downsized and moved to apartments. Their elderly friends were not members of Our Savior's but had heard of the sale and wanted to help us out. How generous and gracious of them!

The sale for 2015 will be Friday, Oct. 16 and Saturday, Oct. 17. Plan to help the day of the sale and the two weeks prior to prepare for the sale...mark your calendars. Come join in on the fun!

Any questions, please contact Clara Murphy or Mike Feudner.

Parish Nurse News

Dear Friends in Christ:

Christmas Blessings to one and all.

Ending 2014 on a health note (Consumer Reports on Health – Dec. 2014)

1. Overhaul medicine cabinet

Some medications are OK to use up to one year after expiration date (tetracycline can become toxic and should be discarded on or before expiration date). Don't just throw meds out into the trash.

- bring to a pharmacy
- locate a "drug drop" of Sheboygan County.
- mix meds with cat litter, coffee grounds, or sawdust sealed in a plastic bag and then toss in trash
- recycle pill containers

*REMEMBER to remove all identifying information from container labels.

Keep meds in a kitchen cabinet away from the stove.

2. Make over your fridge

- Rotate shelves – stock up on pepper slices, carrot sticks, cut fruit, hummus, yogurt, hardboiled eggs and keep at eye level. Store in clear containers. Put sweets, cheese, butter and other foods you want to cut back on in the crisper. “Out of sight out of mind”

- Keep the pitcher full. Fill a glass pitcher with unsweetened tea or water with cut up oranges, other fruit, mint, ginger or cucumbers.

- Spice up side door – salsa, mustards, pesto, jarred garlic, roasted red peppers and artichoke hearts. These are low calorie and fat and can be used as a base for sauces, dips and toppings.

- Cook then freeze – whole grains and beans can be frozen. Store one or two servings in individual freezer bags and stock in freezer.

3. Assess your insurance.

- Review whether your current health coverage is truly best for you.

- If you've met your deductible schedule elective office visits, tests and procedures before year's end. If you wait, your deductible resets and you'll be paying a lot more out of pocket.

- Use your flexible spending account.

- If you buy insurance – re-enroll by December 15.

4. Get the screening tests you need

Not everyone requires a complete head-to-toe physical each and every year. But you should keep tabs on the screening tests for heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases that are recommended for you. Below is our list of the tests that most healthy people need, and how often they need them. “If you are up-to-date and know your numbers, pat yourself on the back,” says Marvin M. Lipman, M.D., Consumer Reports chief medical adviser. “If you're not, put ‘make a doctor appointment’ on your to-do list for the new year.”

- Blood pressure: At least every two years; annually if your readings are high.

- Cholesterol: At least every five years if you're a man 35 and up or a woman 45 and up and have a history of high cholesterol levels or heart disease.

- Diabetes: Every three to five years if you have any of these risk factors: systolic blood pressure over 135 or diastolic pressure over 80, obesity (with a body mass index of 30 or higher), or LDL (bad) cholesterol over 130.

- Colon cancer: For people ages 50 to 75, a colonoscopy every 10 years, sigmoidoscopy (an exam of the lower third of the colon) every five years, or a stool test every year.

- Cervical cancer: For women ages 21 to 65, a Pap smear every three years, though women 30 to 65 can go five years between tests if they have the human papillomavirus (HPV) test to detect the virus that can cause the cancer.

- Breast cancer: For women ages 50 to 74, a mammogram every two years. Women in their 40s and those 75 and up should talk with a doctor about getting the test.

- Osteoporosis: Women 65 and up should get a dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan once. Men 70 and up should talk with a doctor. The need for follow-up tests depends on the results of the first test.

- Aortic aneurysm: Men age 65 to 75 who smoked at some point should have an ultrasound once to detect a potentially deadly ballooning of the main artery that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body.

Prayerfully submitted,

Deb Kuitert

Blood Pressure Screening: Sunday, December 7

Office Hours: Mondays 2:45-4:50pm
Thursdays 4:00-5:55pm

Our Savior's Youth Page

December 2014

Brett Meulbroek: Youth Coordinator - (920) 207-6528 email: oslyouthcoordinator@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
REHEARSALS WILL BE AT THE
FOLLOWING TIMES:**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH
FROM 1-2:15 FOR GRADES
1-7.**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH
FROM 9:10 - 10:15 (ALL
CHILDREN)**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST
FROM 9:10 - 10:15 (ALL
CHILDREN)**

**Our Savior's Sunday school
Christmas Program: Sunday
December 21st at 10:30
a.m.**

**Youth Christmas Shopping
on December 5th**

**Drop gifts off on December
10th**

**CEP Christmas Party
December 17th**

**No CEP on December 24th
or 31st**

**No Sunday school
December 28th**

Christmas

This year Our Savior's Lutheran Church will be having their annual children's Christmas Program on December 21st at 10:30 a.m. It will be presented by the Sunday School Children and is entitled "Let the Children Come."

The following is an excerpt from the program for the book of Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have Him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Jesus made it clear that his invitation to "come"

was not only for children but also for people of all ages. The message of his love is for all people. Those who trust him as a little child does by faith become his children. So, come and learn of God's most precious gifts to us, his children.

I hope that you all are willing to join us to see our Children's unique story telling of the birth of Christ.

God's Christmas Blessings

Brett

Fundraiser Update:
I would like to thank all of you for your generous donations, purchasing of baked goods at our bake sales and our Pizza Ranch Fundraiser night. We raised over \$1300.00 and will be able to provide Christmas to 10 children and there parents this Christmas.

THANK YOU!!

| ~ December 2014 ~ | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | 1 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings | 2 12:00pm Mary Martha Christmas Party at Rupp's | 3 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir | 4 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion | 5 Youth Salvation Army Shopping Night | 6 |
| 7 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship 1:00-2:15pm Sunday School Rehearsal for Grades 1-7 3:30pm Christmas Carolling | 8 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council | 9 | 10 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir | 11 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion MARY MARTHA BAKE SALE BETWEEN SERVICES | 15 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE | 16 | 17 3:30pm CEP 5:30pm Handbells 5:00pm Youth Night Christmas Party 6:45pm Choir | 18 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion | 19 | 20 9:00-11:30am Youth at Bethesda |
| 21 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Service | 22 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse | 23 | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion OFFICE CLOSED | 25 CHRISTMAS 9:30am Christmas Day Worship OFFICE CLOSED | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:00am Divine Worship 10:30 Divine Worship with Communion | 29 | 30 | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:00pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion OFFICE CLOSED | Notes: No Thursday evening service on January 1. New officers and board members will be installed at the Sunday, January 4th 10:30am service. | | |