

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 2015

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 51 No. 11

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Not Our Ways

Every 10 years in the USA a census is taken of the entire nation, the next one is scheduled for 2020. A head count of every citizen is required according the U.S. Constitution; some of the information obtained from the census is for the apportionment of seats in the U. S. House of Representatives, the number of electors to the Electoral College, and government program funding.

How would it affect you if you were required to return to the state where your ancestors originated for the census? Some of you would have to travel long distances, to Connecticut, California, Florida, or Texas. Linda and I would have to travel to Oklahoma—that's where our parents and grandparents lived. It would certainly be a huge inconvenience and we might wonder, "What are our governing officials thinking?" That had to be the feeling of Joseph and Mary: What on earth was Caesar Augustus thinking?

Joseph was forced to close up his carpentry shop, pack up provisions, and take Mary, who was not far from delivering her child on a dangerous and exhausting journey. In accordance with the emperor's demands, Joseph and Mary set out over the dusty, rocky roads of Galilee, toward Bethlehem, the city of David. It was about sixty miles as the crow flies, but the mother-to-be didn't have it that easy. Up and down the rugged hills, following the contours of the land, and avoiding trouble spots—the journey was probably closer to eighty or ninety miles and would be a six or seven day journey.

They drew closer to Bethlehem and to Mary's delivery. They had been told by angels who this child would be, but did they recall the prophecy of Micah who predicted Bethlehem as the birth place of the

Messiah, "**But you O Bethlehem, Ephratha, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you shall come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,**" (Micah 5:2)? Did they consider God's role in leading Caesar to make a decree that would send them to Bethlehem just at the time this divinely conceived child was to be born? It's likely not the way you and I would have planned it, but then God's ways are not our ways.

Sometimes we romanticize the birth of Jesus, especially as we look at the manger scenes in our homes and at church. We see Joseph and Mary looking on in wonder and love, a warm glow emanating from the baby Jesus. We have a tendency to leave Jesus in Bethlehem's manger and if that's the only image we have of Christ and Christmas, we miss the point of his coming. Jesus grew in stature and wisdom before God, he became a man, leaving behind the throne of his crib to take on the throne of the cross, giving his life as the necessary payment for the sins of the world—yours, mine, and all people—so that we might live in the hope and promise of life eternal which comes because of what Christ has accomplished by the way of the cross and empty tomb.

This is the great gift of Christmas and it's likely not the way that you and I would have planned it, but then God's ways are not our ways. We probably wouldn't have required the forgiveness of sins to arise out of the crucifixion of Jesus, but God doesn't conform to our expectations any more than we conform to his. His way of doing things leads to forgiveness, salvation, and eternal Life—and that's the gift of Christmas! It's for you, for me, and for all people.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Marcus Powers

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. 20th - 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 2015 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 2016 are available to all members in the narthex after each worship service starting December 6 or you may come to the church office during office hours and pick them up. But **please do not use them until 2016.**

Soup and Sandwich

Time for Soup & Sandwich again! Thursday Advent services (Dec. 3, 10 & 17) will follow a Soup & Sandwich supper in the fellowship hall. If you would like to make a soup or some bars, please let Helen Bergeron (457-0516) know. We need about 4 - 5 soups on December 3 and 17, which means about 15 volunteers are needed. On December 10, we will have New England hot dog dinner.

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.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

sponsored by
The Social Activities
Group

We will be Christmas caroling this Christmas season on Sunday, Dec. 6th to some of our member's homes and nursing homes.

We will meet at the church parking lot at 3:00pm and going out to carol. After we will go to Diana Foth & Jack Posewitz home, 2222 County Rd. Y, for Pizza & drinks. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to let us know you will be attending.

Please mark your calendar for Dec. 6th at 3:00pm to share the birth of Jesus Christ to our shut-ins.



Social Activities Group Sponsoring the "Christmas Giving Tree"

The Giving Tree will be going up this month in the narthex. This year's Giving Tree gifts again will help Salvation Army Families of Sheboygan.

This year, Our Savior's will be sponsoring 4 families (7 adults & 13 children) in need. Please take one or more gift tags and purchase the item(s) on the gift tag. Place the donations **UN-WRAPPED & with the gift tag on the package (It is very important that gift tag is on the package so we know which person and which family receives the gift.)** under the Christmas tree or in the barrel marked "Giving Tree Donations". Some tags will have a dollar amount on them. For those, please put money and the gift tag in an envelope. That money will be combined with other money gifts to purchase the gift that the child or adult requested. Also, if you purchase a gift card, please put them in an envelope with the gift tag. Items should be placed under the tree no later than **Sunday, December 13th**. If you have any questions, please contact Marijo Pitsch @ 980-3981 or any of the members of the Social Activities Group

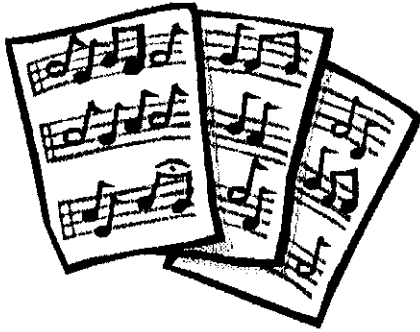
The Social Activities Group wants to thank everyone in advance for their support and outreach of our community.

Upcoming Events sponsored by the Social Activities Group:

- January 31, 2016 – Annual Chili Cook off
- March 20, 2016–Palm Sunday Luncheon
- April 23, 2016 – Frank the Pizza Man

Social Activities Group Member:

Robyn Bemowski	Linda Fleck
Gail Hajenga	Marilyn Heling
Clara Murphy	Marijo Pitsch
Jane Woodard	Kelly Jaeger



Adult Choir

The choir has been a recipient of a monetary gift from the Mary Martha Guild.

A new Advent song has been purchased and will be performed at the 8 AM service on December 6th and again on December 13th at the 10:30 service. We are very thankful to have been given this gift to buy new music. Two other songs were purchased and are scheduled for January and February.

We are grateful to the ladies of Mary Martha for their generosity.

Since the choir is not as large as it used to be, it is easier for our small group to sing SAB (three part music), then to sing SATB (four part music). I keep seeking out additional singers, because we really need them. But the small group we have is dedicated to providing good, inspirational music. God has blessed them in their efforts. I am busy looking for more 3 part music.

A big thank you to the children of the Sunday School, their teachers, Virginia, Bret and the parents, who made the choir piece, "He's Got the Whole World/This is My Father's World", such a success. Without the efforts of everyone, this piece would not have been the wonderful musical offering it was in November.

It has been a good year for our choir and for me as their director. Thank you to all those who have taken the time to tell me that they appreciate our music. Working with all of you at Our Savior's has been a blessing in my life.

May God give you all a Blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Elaine Phillips

Mary Martha Guild News

Pastor Powers opened the November meeting with an opening prayer. And a short lesson on "Reflecting, Sharing."

The Secretary's report was given by Mary Jo Pitsch. Delores Williams gave the Treasurer's report. It was decided, that we would give a donation to the prison ministry at a later date.

A date was then set for the Christmas cookie sale. It was decided that we will have the sale on Sunday, December 13, before the early service and between the two services. We also decided that the ladies should bring their cookies to church on Saturday, December 12th by 10am to be boxed. The price will be \$8.00 for two dozen cookies.

It was also decided that our Christmas Party will be our next meeting on Tuesday, December 1 at Rapps restaurant, downtown. A \$5.00 gift is to be brought for gift exchange.

Kay Fowler from TLC dress shop gave some great demonstrations of scarf tying techniques.

After Mrs. Fowler's demonstration, hostesses Clara Murphy and Ann Fredericks served all with rainbow sherbet and various kinds of homemade cookies and coffee or tea.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Marcie Sorenson – Committee Member

German Christmas Service . . . will take place at Trinity Lutheran (824 Wisconsin Ave) on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00pm. The service is conducted in both German and English. The guest preacher will be Rev. Donald Hougard from Benediction Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. A time of fellowship to follow the service with Kaffee, Kakao, Glühmost, deutsches Gebäck und Gemütlichkeit.

LIVING NATIVITY- "COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE" . . . Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School, 1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan is sponsoring a living nativity Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th. The viewing will take place between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Each viewing will take place every half hour, lasting about 20 minutes each.

FLOWER CHART POSTED:

The flower chart for 2016 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.

Parish Nurse News

Dear Friends in Christ:

Christmas Blessings to one and all.

How does your physician treat you? If your relationship with your doctor is less than you think it should be, what can you do?

Get to the point.

A typical visit to the doctor's office lasts 10-20 minutes. So start by saying exactly why you are there. State the most important reason first. Writing down concerns before your appointment helps so you won't forget things.

Talk about all treatments.

Let your doctor know ALL the prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs, supplements and herbs you take regularly. IF you didn't finish or fill a prescription, let them know. The doctor may think the med didn't work and prescribe a stronger one.

Know your health history.

If your history is complicated, write it all down.

Take notes.

Jot down key information.

If you plan to change doctors:

Don't stress over explaining your reasons.

Request your medical records.

You may be charged a "reasonable" fee and your records should be forwarded within 30 days.

Research new candidates.

Make sure they are board certified. Check if the new doctor is affiliated with a hospital you trust. Check about office policies such as same-day appointments if necessary, how after-hour medical problems are handled, and how soon you can expect the doctor to get back to you by phone or secure e-mail.

Make sure the new doctor can take you on.

Make sure the doctor is accepting new patients and that your insurance plan will be accepted.

Prayerfully submitted,

Deb Kuitert

Blood Pressure Screening: Sunday, December 6

NEW Office Hours: Mondays 2:45-4:45
Thursdays 3:45-5:50pm

several weeks. They will be available in the narthex area of the church.

- The Board of Elders and Church Council would like to commend the congregation for your past financial support and pray that you will again be motivated by God's love shown in Christ Jesus to offer your continued and increased support for Christ's kingdom work. What a privilege we have in managing life and life's resources for the purpose of sharing the Gospel with others!

Dial 452-PRAY Celebrates 40 Years

Dial 452-PRAY is celebrating its 40th year of service. The organization is the area's only telephone ministry, providing daily devotions and prayers. Dial 452-PRAY was founded in 1975 to provide Christ-centered phone devotions, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which can be reached at (920) 452-7729. The devotions are recorded by lay readers from area churches and are read from Christian publications with special permission from publishers.

The Bethlehem Lutheran Women's Missionary League spearheaded the ministry when they heard a similar devotional line in Milwaukee. Currently a board of directors oversees the work, along with a pastoral advisor. In the fall of 2012 the tape recorder system was replaced by a computerized system through the efforts of board member Mark Stolzenburg and is currently housed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

In 2003 the group launched its web site, www.dial452pray.org, which includes information about the group, links to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and local Lutheran churches, along with other Lutheran organizations. Prayer requests may also be submitted via the Web.

The group meets bi-annually and is supported solely through volunteers and individual and group donations and can be contacted through its web site.

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, non-perishable food items, and your time is a loving way to demonstrate 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.

- Care Packages were sent in early November to our college-aged members. We thank those of you who made donations, and those who helped to sort, package and mail the 'Care Packages.'

- Recently, Jerry and Judy Kaboord spent several hours shampooing the carpet in the church. We appreciate their willingness to take on this dirty but necessary job.

- All newly elected and re-elected officers and board members are reminded to attend the December meeting of the various boards and church council to which you were elected. We will meet on Monday, December 7th, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Also, please mark your calendar for the installation of church officers and board members on Sunday, January 3, 2016 at the late service.

- Please be sure to pick up your weekly offering envelope packet for 2016 over the next

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
917 MEAD AVE.
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081

Non-profit Organization
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December 20
10:30a.m.

**WORSHIP WITH US
EVERY WEEK**

Every Thursday at 6:00pm
With Communion

Every Sunday at
8:00 & 10:30am
Communion 1st & 3rd at 8am
2nd & 4th at 10:30am

Sunday School
9:15am

Sunday Adult Bible Study
9:15am

Monday Morning
Adult Bible Study
10:00am



Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 & 6:30 p.m.
(Comm. served at both services)
Dec. 25th
Christmas Day Worship
9:30am
Dec. 31st
New Year's Eve Worship
6:00pm (with communion)

~ December 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00pm Mary Martha at Rupp's Downtown	2 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	3 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	4	5 5:00pm Meet at Church for Memories Play
6 7:30-10:30am Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship 3:00pm Christmas Caroling	7 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings	8	9 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	10 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm New England Hot Dog Dinner 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	11	12
13 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	14 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	16 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	17 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	18	19
20 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Service	21 10:00am Bible Class 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse	22	23 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	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 8:00am Divine Worship 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	28 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:00pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion OFFICE CLOSED	Notes: New officers and board members will be installed at the Sunday, January 3rd 10:30am service.	