

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 2016

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 51 No. 11

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Dear Saints of Our Savior's:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

During the season of Advent John the Baptist makes his annual appearance to usher in a time of transition and preparation for the Lord. His ministry was to point to Jesus and say "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" His was a ministry of transition from the old covenant to the new. His ministry was to prepare God's people for the ministry of God's Son, Jesus the Christ.

How appropriate that during the Advent season we are in the time of transition and preparation for receiving your next permanent pastor. The "Ready for the Future" meetings and surveys are coming to an end. I anticipate that nearly 100 members of Our Savior's – both young and old - will have taken part in the "Ready for the Future" process. To bring the process to an end and so that all members will have had an opportunity to take part, I will offer three final opportunities to participate in a "Ready for the Future" meeting at church. On Sunday, December 4, 11, and 18 in place of the adult Bible study we will hold an abbreviated meeting in the church basement for those who were not able to attend a small group meeting at a host member's home.

In January, the feedback offered at the "Ready for the Future" meetings and surveys will be presented to the boards and committees, the church council, and finally the voters for review and approval. The regularly scheduled voters' meeting will take place on January 15th. After that, the elders committee will begin its work of recommending to the voters a permanent pastor.

May God grant you a blessed Advent and Christmas season filled with the joy Christ brought to the world by taking on flesh to be our Savior.

Pr. Jim Schulz +
Intentional Interim Pastor



Christmas Worship

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

Dec. 18th

**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
9:30am (with communion)**

Dec. 31st

**New Year's Eve Worship
6:00pm (with communion)**

Jan. 1st

**New Year's Day
9:30am (with communion)**

Soup and Sandwich

Time for Soup & Sandwich again! Thursday Advent services (Dec. 1, 8 & 15) 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.

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.



Food Pantry Update

The Lord has blessed us indeed! The Lord certainly works through you, His people. Case in point: a person in need of food called the church seeking items to put together a Thanksgiving dinner. Food from our pantry supplied almost everything but the turkey. They were well pleased with what was given to them and thanked us for being a blessing. Three days later, a member of our church was given a 20# turkey from work. They had already purchased a turkey and called me to donate it to someone in need. Checking back with the family in need, they still had no main course. God, at just the right time, provided the needed turkey to make their dinner complete.

To this generous family and to all our members, Thank you for thinking of others and sharing God's love with those in need. The bounty collected on Thanksgiving Eve will assist countless others throughout the next year. Bless you!

Janine Bergeron, Kathy Launer & Helen Bergeron,
Food Pantry Committee



Social Activities Group Sponsoring the "Christmas Giving Tree"

The Social Activities Group has again put up the giving tree. It has been decided that this year's recipient of our generosity will be Mary's Room, a non-profit, non-denominational, pro-life organization that helps to meet the physical needs of mothers and their children in Sheboygan County.

Mary's Room was started in Dodge County by a mother who, after her daughter, Mary, went off to college, used Mary's room to house maternity clothes and baby items for mothers in need. In 1992, three mothers worked together to start a Mary's Room in Sheboygan. The mission of Mary's Room is "to put Jesus' love into action by helping financially needy mothers and their babies."

Items needed are: newborn diapers; diapers - size 4, 5 & 6; sleepers - size newborn; receiving blankets; crib and twin size blankets; baby wash; baby shampoo; pajamas boys & girls - size 3T & 4T; socks boys & girls - 3 & 4 year olds; clothing boys & girls - size 2T, 3T, 4T and 4; winter jackets boys & girls - 2T, 3T & 4T; baby monitors, and portacribs. Feel free to take more than one ornament off the tree. Cash will also be collected to go towards the last two items. If you would prefer to donate cash rather than shop, the committee will be glad to do the shopping for you.

All gifts must be under the tree, or cash given to Marijo Pitsch or Jane Woodard (checks written to Marijo or Jane), by Sunday, December 18th. Please do not wrap the gifts. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



FLOWER CHART POSTED:

The flower chart for 2017 will be in the narthex, next to the ushers' room in the cabinet, starting November 27. 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.

CHURCH OFFICERS INSTALLATION

Our **newly elected and re-elected officers and board members will be installed at the 9:30am service on Sunday, January 1, 2017.** We appreciate the eagerness you've shown for service to the Lord and others by allowing your name to stand for nomination. God grant you faithfulness and strength as you serve Him.

Thank you to those officers and board members who have served the Lord and our congregation during the past year. Your time and talents are a gift from the Lord and you have willingly used them for God's purposes and His glory.

CHURCH RECORDS TO CLOSE:

The financial records for 2016 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 2015 must be in by December 31st.

Offering packets for 2017 are available to all members in the narthex after each worship service starting December 4 or you may come to the church office during office hours and pick them up. But **please do not use them until 2017.**

Mary Martha Report

On Tuesday, November 1, Mary Martha ladies and Pastor Schulz met at the Sheboygan County Sherriff's Department for a tour of the new communications system. Pastor Schulz opened with a prayer. Sherriff Todd Priebe guided us through the various offices and mainly the new very impressive communications room.

After our tour, we returned to church for a brief business meeting. Coffee, hot apple cider and bars were served.

Our December meeting will be our yearly Christmas party at Rupps at 11:30am on Tuesday, December 6th.

Committee Members

Parish Nurse News

Christmas blessings, remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

We've all been told about the signs of stroke, but let's review:

- F – (Face drooping)
- A – (Arm weakness)
- S – (Speech difficulty)
- T – (Time to call for emergency care)

But what about if you experience some of these symptoms for just a minute or so? You may have suffered a TIA (transient ischemic attack). It may indicate that there was a temporary interruption of blood flow to part of your brain. Although TIAs don't cause permanent damage, they are a warning sign that you are at high-risk for a stroke and you need immediate medical attention. You should be evaluated, tests should be done and treatment initiated. As always, life style changes, weight loss, control of blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol may decrease your risk factor.

During the holiday season we may be stressed, over-indulge, lack sleep, etc. As stated above, remember why we are celebrating and go easy on yourself.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kuitert

Blood Pressure Check:
Sunday, December 4th

Office Hours
Mondays 9:00-11:00am
Thursdays 3:45-5:50pm

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 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.

- 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 5th, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Also, please mark your calendar for the installation of church officers and board members on Sunday, January 1, 2016 at the 9:30am.

- Please be sure to pick up your weekly offering envelope packet for 2017 over the next 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!



Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Miss Phyllis Schroeder

Age: 73

Died: November 3, 2016

Laid to Rest: November 11, 2016

Mrs. Anita Redeker

Age: 83

Died: November 4, 2016

Laid to Rest: November 7, 2016

Mrs. Delores Krieski

Age: 93

Died: November 16, 2016

Laid to Rest: November 22, 2016

Mr. Humberto Enriquez

Age: 82

Died: November 26, 2016

Laid to Rest: December 1, 2016

Memorial Gifts

\$600 in memory of Carol Dern

\$1,865 in memory of Anita Redeker towards air conditioning

Ask the Interim

Q: What are some customs that help us come to a fuller understanding and appreciation of Holy Baptism?

A: The obvious meaning of Holy Baptism is a washing away of sin. Just as water washes dirt from the body, so water used with the promises of God in Baptism washes away the guilt of sin. As Ananias said to St. Paul: "Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). There are other aspects of Baptism that God has revealed in his Word to deepen our trust and life in Him.

Those who attended a recent divine service when there was a baptism noticed that we followed the hymnal's instructions to begin the rite of Holy

Baptism at the entrance to the nave (nave is Latin for "ship" and refers to the seating area of a church building). Since Holy Baptism is a sacrament of entrance into the family of God, bringing an unbaptized person into the place of the baptized helps us visually and symbolically come to a fuller understanding that Baptism makes a change in the relationship between God and the unbaptized. St. Peter tells us that just as Noah and his family were saved in the ark, so Baptism now saves us by bringing us into the saving ship/ark of God's Church, which is present where God's baptized people are most often gathered for worship in the nave:

"God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you." (1 Peter 3:20-21).

Some churches place the baptismal font at the entrance to the church to teach how Baptism makes us worthy to enter the church to worship as one of the saved. When leaving the church after the divine service the font then reminds us how Baptism empowers us to live the gospel in a world hostile to faith.

Other common customs that are helpful in teaching the theology of Baptism:

The sign of the cross: Making the sign of the cross is a remembrance of Baptism. It reminds us of what St. Paul said to the Roman Christians:

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with

him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (6:3-11).

What Paul said to the Romans is also why our font has eight sides. Eight-sided fonts recall the eighth day, the first day of resurrection. The early church father Ambrose said fonts are eight-sided "because on the eighth day, by rising, Christ loosens the bondage of death and receives the dead from their graves."

Baptismal Gown and Funeral Pall: A baptismal gown is a white garment that a candidate for baptism wears at the rite of Holy Baptism. The funeral pall is a white sheet that at a funeral service is draped over the casket of one who has been baptized. Both items are reminders of what Baptism does for the baptized. As St. Paul said,

"all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27),

and St. John saw in his vision of heaven:

"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:13-14).

From cradle to grave Baptism covers us with Christ's righteousness and makes us all equal dear children of a heavenly Father.

Paschal Candle: The Paschal Candle represents the resurrected Christ as the light of the world. It is lit at the Easter Vigil and placed lit near the altar during the Easter season. When there is a baptism it is placed lit near the font. Some churches will light a small candle from the Paschal Candle and give it to the baptized person as a remembrance of their baptism. When there is a funeral it is placed lit near the casket. The Paschal Candle reminds us of what Jesus said:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

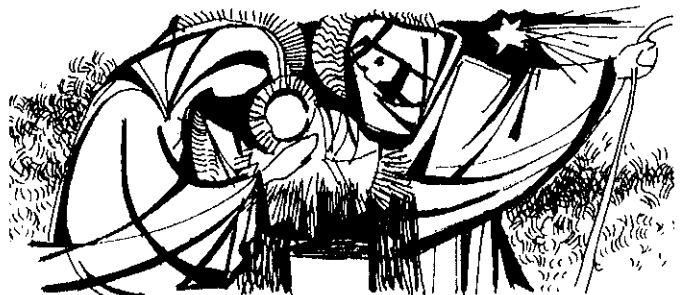
Sponsors/Godparents The practice of having sponsors for baptism is not commanded in the Bible but goes back to the beginning of the Christian Church. Christians so respected the blessings and responsibilities which baptism conferred that the Church led adult converts through a lengthy (sometimes up to three years) time of preparation for Holy Baptism at the great Vigil of Easter. During this time of instruction and preparation individual Christians from within the church would "sponsor" the adult candidate for baptism by teaching and modeling their faith to them. As time went on, more children than adults were being baptized and so the original purpose for sponsoring a candidate for baptism lost its meaning. Today, sponsors witness the baptism for the child. If the parents want the sponsor to pray for the child and assist in the child's spiritual training, it's obvious that the parents would want the sponsor to believe, teach, and confess what the parents believe, teach, and confess based on the Bible.

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



~ December 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Divine Service	2	3
4 7:30-10:30am Blood Pressure Check 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Service of the Word	5 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Board Meetings	6 11:30am Mary Martha @ Rupp	7 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	8 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Divine Service	9	10 Youth at Christmas Party for SCIO 5:00pm Meet for Memories Theater Trip
11 8:00am Service of the Word 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Service	12 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council	13	14 3:30pm CEP 5:05pm Youth Christmas Party 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	15 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich 6:00pm Divine Service	16	17 10:00am Christmas Food Basket Delivery
18 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Service	19 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse 10:00am Bible Study	20	21 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	22 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion
25 Christmas Day 9:30am Christmas Day Worship with Communion	26 9:00-11:00am Parish Nurse	27	28	29 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse	30	31 New Year's Eve 6:00pm New Year's Eve Worship Service with Communion