

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 2020

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

No. 11

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ oslcsheboygan.com ♦ e-mail oslcsheboygan@gmail.com

Dear Saints of Our Savior's:

Our hope of eternal life is based on the premise that there is a God in heaven who directs the course of human history in all its details. God has a real interest in not only history in general, but also the life of each individual human being who has ever entered human history. Nowhere do we see this more clearly than when God Himself enters the world as an individual human being. God Himself steps right into human history and shapes it so that it heads right to the end and goal He desires.

This is what St. Paul was getting at when he said to the Roman Christians, "...whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom.15:4). Paul is saying that as you read about the events recorded in the Bible, you will see God's hand in them all. Life is not a series of random karmic forces with undirected consequences. God is present and at work in this world and in your individual life, to bring you to the goal that He has set for you, and along with you, His whole creation.

Maybe you need that encouragement right now. Just when things are moving along nicely ... "bam," you face a setback or challenge of some kind: Car breaks down...where are you going to find the several hundred dollars for new brakes? Sickness enters your life...these days COVID-19 lurks around the corner. You're doing well, but someone you love is not, maybe they are facing a cycle of setbacks and difficulties. It's not hard to see that life is hard. And the temptation is to say it's God's fault...at best we think he doesn't care, at worst we think he's doing it on purpose for a reason we don't think is right. God doesn't just sleep the centuries away until the alarm which He set in the beginning goes off, awaking to see how things turned out. He is present and active in His creation, moving it along to a particular end.

May your Advent preparations for Christmas give you hope. God came first in the flesh when he was born in Bethlehem to be the world's Savior. The God-Man Christ will come again on the Last Day to usher in the new heavens and the new earth, the home of righteousness – and our hope will be fulfilled with perfect, eternal peace. It's all according to God's plan.

Pr. Jim Schulz +

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



Happy Holidays to All:

Due to the pandemic this year the Social Activities Group will not be putting up a giving tree in the Narthex. However, we still want to carry on the tradition. We would like to collect monetary donations and share them with the Sheboygan County Food Bank, who in turn distributes food to food pantries and other agencies in Sheboygan County helping thousands of people suffering from food insecurity.

Please help by dropping off cash or a check at the church, mailing to the church, or dropping an envelope in the offering plate titled "Giving Tree". The monetary amount is at each individual's discretion. We will accept donations until December 25.

All checks should be made out to Linda Fleck.

If you have any questions, please call the church or one of the following committee members: Robyn Bemowski, Linda Fleck, Gail Hajenga, Kelly Jaeger, Clara Murphy, Marijo Pitsch or Jane Woodard.
Thank you for your help.

Join us for worship!

Christmas season

*Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve
Candlelight service 4:00p and 6:30p*

*Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day
Festival service 9:30a*

Please Note: Because of space limitations due to COVID-19 health guidelines, please sign up for Christmas Eve services on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office.

We will also be live streaming the services for those who are not able to attend in person.



CHURCH RECORDS TO CLOSE:



The financial records for 2020 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 2020 must be in by December 31st.

Offering packets for 2020 are available to all members in the narthex after each worship service starting December 13 or you may come to the church office during office hours and pick them up. But please do not use them until 2020.



FLOWER CHART POSTED:

The flower chart for 2021 will be in the narthex, next to the ushers' room in the cabinet, starting December 3. Members wishing to donate flowers are asked to select a date by placing their name on the appropriate line. If you need to, you may call the office and reserve a date. 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.





Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

December 2020

1. Farmers Market gift certificates make great stocking stuffers in any amount! You can also buy SCIO Farmers Market t-shirts for only \$5. Call the market office for more information, 920.457.7272 x.111.
2. Bridgeway Updates: Our family of 5 continues to adjust to virtual schooling and mom working full time. Staff has stepped in to assist the children in making sure they are online and present when they need to be in class. Mom continues to attend counseling weekly and work with the case manager on a budget. The kids are enjoying participating in the "kindness challenge"! They really enjoy coming up with ways to share kindness with others.

Another mom and her 2-year-old daughter continue to thrive in the Bridgeway program. Mom continues to participate in the W2 program, birth to 3, weekly counseling and is still getting much needed dental work done. One of her biggest dreams has been to go back to college. Last week, she was accepted at Lakeland University. She is so incredibly excited to start classes and work toward a degree in Psychology. She also is extremely proud of her sobriety. She admitted she never thought she could "live life, on life's terms" until she felt the love, support, and encouragement from Bridgeway staff.

Outreach/Aftercare-In addition to the residential families at Bridgeway, our case manager has worked with an additional 14 families in outreach/aftercare within the past month. We are experiencing an increase in the number of families who are homeless and working through barriers such as mental health issues and active addictions.

3. Bridgeway could use the following items: Box noodles, baking soda, vinegar, corn syrup, and cornstarch. Additional needs can be shared by contacting our program manager at ashleigh@sheboygancountyinterfaith.org.
4. As we come to the end of a really difficult year, please remember SCIO in your giving plans. The needs of our community have never been greater, and our revenue is down from lost fundraising events and churches not gathering. Donations can be made through PayPal at <https://www.sheboygancountyinterfaith.org/ways-to-give/> or checks mailed to PO Box 73, Sheboygan WI 53082. We look forward to a season of restored hope and celebration!

December 2020						
◀ Nov 2020						Jan 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	3 6:00pm Divine Service	4	5
6 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Service	7 6:30pm Board Meetings	8	9 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	10 6:00pm Divine Service	11	12
13 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Service	14	15 6:30pm Council	16 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	17 6:00pm Divine Service	18	19
20 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Service	21	22	23 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship OFFICE CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS 9:30am Christmas Day Worship OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 8:00am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 6:00pm Divine Service OFFICE CLOSED	Please sign up to attend Christmas Eve services. You may sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 452-4005.	