



David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

thegoodnews

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My Blessed Cross by Pastor Kurt Loescher

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Perhaps you are familiar with the distinction between the theology of glory and the theology of the cross. The theology of glory says that if you are a good faithful Christian who prays and tries to do God's will with your life, you can expect that God will bless your life with glorious results. The theology of the cross however says that if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus and follow him, you can expect that this sinful world will produce any variety of crosses that you must bear.

The theology of glory says that you should expect and even demand from God that your family life be perfect, your business be successful, and your health be generally good. To a certain degree that makes sense. If you raise up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord, love your wife and are respectful toward your husband, there should be some positive results, but that doesn't mean your family life and experiences won't also include grief and great heart ache. If you run an ethical business and treat your employees with respect and pay them a fair wage, you should expect to stay out of legal trouble and have happy employees who put out a good product. But that doesn't mean that an unethical client or competitor won't take you to court or undermine your business. If you eat right and are a good steward of your health as God wants you to be, you should remain generally healthy, but anything can still happen from cancer to heart disease to a tragic car accident. God does not promise glorious worldly results from our efforts to lead a godly life.

Your church teaches of course what the Bible teaches. "We must go through many hardships to enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Acts 14:22). Jesus taught, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). One passage strikingly teaches that we might well consider the theology of the cross one of the blessings for which we give thanks this Thanksgiving Day. The Apostle Peter's pastoral letter to the churches of Asia Minor instructs them

to repay evil with good and abuse with blessing. After that he wrote this, "*Who will harm you for doing good, but even if you should happen to suffer for doing the right thing, you are most fortunate*" (1 Peter 3:14 my translation). And he wasn't being sarcastic. If indeed you are doing the right thing, that is your actions or words reflect the will and love of God our Father, you can rejoice in your good fortune even if the world heaps abuse on your head. This means that you by God's grace and power through your reading of his Word and participation in his sacraments, know and share in what God says is right and good. What a blessing!

You are blessed because you are definitely on the right side. The Holy Spirit has raised up your mind and spirit to know and approve what God's will is, his good pleasing and perfect will. Mind you, this is the good pleasing and perfect will of the eternal, almighty God of heaven and earth-- your thinking is in harmony with his! That means that your thinking agrees with the Holy Scripture. How fortunate to be on the right side! The enemy can flail about causing bodily harm, emotional turmoil, and every other earthly sadness. But they are on the wrong side and their end will be tragic and eternal. Our joy will know no end, our victory is now over sin, and death, and hell. Like the winning team at the buzzer, no one can change the results.

With Thanksgiving coming this month, we will give thanks to our Lord for all the earthly blessings we enjoy, and they are many! But even if they would be few, as has been the case for many Christians in the past, and still is for some around the globe, we have every reason to know that we are blessed beyond measure. We know and approve of God's good and perfect will. We rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and ultimate redemption from this dying world. So, yes, we even give thanks for the crosses we bear and see them as a great blessing. They are crosses that are ours at the hands of the world that drove our Lord to his cross. They like Jesus' cross, that won our forgiveness, are crosses that remind us that we belong to our heavenly Father. Heaven is our home.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS

*Kathryn Smith (11/1)
Oscar Rathke (11/8)*

NOVEMBER 2017 GREETERS

- Nov. 5, 2017 7:45: No one signed up
10:15: Richard & Rachel Kwiecinski
- Nov. 12, 2017 7:45: No one signed up
10:15: Pam Lee
- Nov. 19, 2017 7:45: Sheila Krause
10:15: No one signed up
- Nov. 26, 2017 7:45: Dave & Jeanie Martin
10:15: Ruthanne Geldon

LAST THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE will be Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7:00pm.



THANKSGIVING EVE service will be Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at 7:00pm. **THANKSGIVING DAY** services are Thursday, November 23, 2017 at 7:45am and 9:30am.



MID WEEK ADVENT SERVICES
Since stores are filled with Christmas merchandise already, you might plan ahead too by putting our midweek **Advent Services** on Your calendar – 3:45 and 7:00pm on December 6, 13, and 20th

NORTHSIDE MINISTRIES THANKS YOU

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus taught what it means to be a good neighbor. Speaking of the three people who saw the injured man, Jesus asked, ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ Your kindness and mercy are a wonderful reflection of ‘Good Samaritan’ living. At Northside Ministries we serve people who are often struggling with both physical and spiritual needs. Your gifts help us reach them with the precious message of salvation through Jesus by providing food and clothing after Bible studies. They may come seeking help with their physical needs, but they leave with food for their souls as well. Your donation is being used to

support this Gospel outreach in the central city of Milwaukee. May our Lord and Savior bless you and keep you in his love and care. Please keep those we serve in your prayers. – In Christ’s service, Deacon Tom Hall

**COUNCIL CAPSULE
HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE OCTOBER 2017 COUNCIL MEETING**

Members in attendance: Pastor Loescher, Pastor Woldt, Mark Ahrens, Todd Backus, Dennis Bell, Josh Boeldt, Tim Gustafson, Jon Kruse, Paul Steinbrenner, David Zarling
Excused: Nelson Erdmann, Kurt Henning, Mike Willis

The meeting was called to order by Paul Steinbrenner at 7:03pm. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Loescher.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2017. Motion carried.

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming:

Bergmann, Jason & Heather; Ava & Avery
Confirmation/Profession of Faith

Outgoing:

None

Note: Correction from last month. Jeff Kwiecinski, was transferred to Mt. Olive, Suamico, not Messiah. The transfer letter was sent to the correct congregation.

Pastors’ Report

Pastor Woldt, Tel. #377-1019, woldt@nconnect.net
Pastor Loescher, Tel. #677-0919, kloescher@davidstar.org

After a month of September filled with meetings and travel, the pastors should remain relatively close to home for the coming months. (With the exception of a weekend wedding for one and a trip to choral fest for the other) We are once again helping the seminary by serving as mentors for four seminary students as they gain practical experience teaching student in confirmation class. First year seminary student Ben Balge will be joining us for his Early Field Training experience. We encourage all members to continue to reach out to people they don’t know in church,

particularly if those people are entering church alone or sitting by themselves.

President's Report **Paul Steinbrenner**

No written report.

Paul Steinbrenner to reach out to Kurt Henning regarding church signs for the roads.

Buildings and Grounds **Kurt Henning klhrconst@gmail.com**

Roger and Jeff continue working around the campus. Thanks for their willingness to serve.

Elementary Education **Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com** **Principal Tim Gustafson, tgustafson@davidstar.org**

Attending: Pastor Woldt, T. Gustafson, M. Willis, M. Kempfert, B. Campbell, T. Oestrich, J McCoy

Hot Lunch- The year got off to a good start. Mrs. Miller mentioned that she has a good group of volunteers and they are doing a good job so far. She also mentioned that she will begin offering lunch to some of the people that stay after Bible class on Wednesdays. She would also like to offer lunch on Parent/Grandparent Day, and the faculty is fine with that.

Technology- All of the Chromebooks are up and running and everything is running smoothly. Over the next three weeks the MAP testing will take place.

Enrollment Numbers- 3K (6), 4K (16), 5K (13), 1st (6), 2nd (10), 3rd (12), 4th (12), 5th (12), 6th (13), 7th (13), and 8th (18) That gives us a total enrollment of 131.

Childcare- The new staff seems to be working out fine, so we have all of the time slots filled. Enrollment in the different sessions continues to be a challenge at times. Some sessions have only 1-2 children and others have 8-12, but the staff is working well with the numbers.

Electives Update- There are three 8th graders currently doing the coding class. The biggest problems that I see is monitoring what is being done, make sure they are working on the lessons, and seeing evidence of progress.

A motion was made and seconded by the Council to purchase two scoreboards not to exceed \$11,000 with

funds coming from the Golf Committee. Motion carried.

Board of Elders

Dennis Bell, dandmbell55@yahoo.com

Both Pastors attended a conference in Elkhart Lake last month. Pastor Woldt attended three meetings one week and two more the next week for the Second Vice-President position. Pastor Woldt has made a suggestion to start out our annual compensation meetings with a Bible Study.

Rod Hendrix reported that The Care for Called Workers Committee has met with five teachers and will be meeting on the balance of the called workers in the near future.

Pastor Loescher reported that he might be doing eight sessions of grief support unless he can find someone else to help.

Jim Siebers informed us that the Advent Decorations will be put up on December 3rd and the trees will be put up on December 16th. All decorations will be removed on January 8th.

It was reported that the Advent by Candlelight would be held Sunday, December 3rd at 6:30 PM.

After working with suppliers of church seating to come up with a solution to flexible seating for our sanctuary, it has been determined that the best route would be stackable chairs. A place to store them will have to be found. We will be getting a sample to evaluate.

Evangelism Committee

Nelson Erdmann, theerdmans@gmail.com

No report. There will be no Living Nativity this year. We could use more volunteers to assist with the committee.

Stewardship Committee

David Zarling, david.zarling@gmail.com

Looking at changes for offering envelopes for next year.

Spiritual Growth Committee

Jon Kruse, krusejon@hotmail.com

Church Library: Hendrix reported there were no new book donations. It was noted that a reminder could go in the bulletin to let everyone know that we are always looking for books.

Cradle Roll: Doris Koeller reviewed the current cradle roll.

Children’s Bible Study: Doris Koeller reported on the children’s Bible study program. She noted she was still looking for several more teachers and that attendance was similar to 2016 so far.

Adult Bible Study: Jon Kruse and Pastor Woldt reviewed plans for adult Bible study. Kruse noted that Jason Walz would be a guest speaker in November. There was discussion on when to have a second class offered.

Other Business: There was discussion on the home Bible study groups.

Pastor Woldt reviewed possible plans for the Advent by Candlelight service with a new format. Volunteers are needed to make this happen in 2017. Jon Kruse will reach out to Lynne Tews regarding the event.

Pastor Woldt reported that Jeannie Martin is continuing to serve as the DS contact for district ladies ministry.

Pastor Woldt discussed upcoming plans for the 175th Anniversary.

Potential to have someone available to watch children during Bible Study.

**Anniversary Committee Report
Pastor Woldt**

No meeting since last Council meeting. Brian Lee will authorize spending of funds as the Chairman of the Committee.

Treasurer’s Report

Josh Boeldt, joshua.boeldt@gmail.com

See written report.

October 10, 2017

2017 September Operating Budget Financial Update

Praise be to God! The total offerings for September were \$54,927, which is about 4% lower than the budgeted offerings—this was, in part, due to about \$5,700 being given to the synod relief fund, which is not an operating budget item. The total income for the month was about 8% lower than budgeted for but is still up about .65% from the budgeted amount for the year to date. The actual expenses for September were nearly 1.5% higher than the budgeted amount but are about 2.1% lower than the budget for the year to date. Looking at the chart below, the actual net loss for the month was \$7,390 higher than the anticipated budgeted loss for the month. The overall fund balance at the end of September shows a deficit of \$59,669.

| | Actual Sept | Budget Sept | Difference Sept | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Difference YTD |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Revenue | \$66,599 | \$72,627 | (\$6,028) | \$701,990 | \$697,440 | \$4,550 |
| Expenses | \$87,609 | \$86,247 | \$1,362 | \$768,576 | \$785,292 | (\$16,716) |
| Net | (\$21,010) | (\$13,620) | (\$7,390) | (\$66,587) | (\$87,852) | \$21,266 |
| Profit/(Loss) | | | | | | |

2017 September Ministries Beyond our Congregation Financial Update

The remittances in September for the WELS mission were 2.5% lower than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were about 12% less than the budgeted amount. The KML Joyful Noise remittances were about 18% less than the amount budgeted for. There was also \$5,710 donated to the Synod Relief fund. The total amount remitted for all missions was about 3.2% lower than the amount budgeted for the year to date.

| | Actual Sept | Budget Sept | Difference Sept | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Difference YTD |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Wisc Ev Lutheran Synod | \$5,845 | \$5,992 | (\$147) | 61,973 | \$64,508 | (\$2,535) |
| KMLHS Operating Fund | \$3,082 | \$3,497 | (\$415) | \$31,149 | \$35,118 | (\$3,969) |
| KMLHS Joyful Noise | \$536 | \$650 | (\$114) | \$4,389 | \$5,975 | (\$1,586) |

2017 September Building Fund Update

The mortgage loan balance as of September 30, 2017 is \$1,185,254. The council’s objective is to maintain a \$100,000 cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 9/30/17 was \$80,824. This balance is down about 4.5% from August.

Josh Boeldt, Treasurer

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports. Motion carried.

Old Business

Establishment of David's Star Endowment Fund (Brian Lee’s communication – recommendation below).

Worship Attendance Trends: A short video WELS Demographics Study was viewed by the council.

**175th Anniversary Fund Controls
New Business**

- Recommendation that the Church Council authorizes the establishment of a David’s Star Gift Trust Fund (DSGTF), with the specific policies of the gift trust fund presented for approval to the Voters at the Annual meeting in January.
- Recommendation that the Council President form an Ad Hoc committee to draft DS Gift Trust Fund policies to be presented to the Church Council in December .

A motion was made and seconded that the Church Council authorizes the establishment of a David’s Star Gift Trust Fund (DSGTF), with the specific policies of the gift trust fund presented for approval to the Voters at the Annual meeting in January 2018; and that the Council President form an Ad Hoc committee to draft DS Gift Trust Fund policies to be presented to the Church Council in December 2017. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Each Board will bring the names of those members not running for the Board or Committee that they have been elected for the next Council Meeting.



Parish Nurse News

Three Big Things!

- **Online Sign Language Course through Martin Luther College!** This 2018 Martin Luther College course provides the basic foundation of American Sign Language through an overview of deaf culture and an introduction to the signing of fingerspelling, numbers, colors, vocabulary words, and beginning-level conversations. The instructor is Mr. Matthew Buchholz, member of the WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Dates for the course: Spring 2018 (January 3rd- May 4th)

REGISTRATION BEGINS OCTOBER 15, 2017.

To register, go to mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/registration

A limited number of \$450 grants toward tuition are available upon request and will be paid upon completion of the course. What a wonderful opportunity!

- I recently attended a lecture at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at UW Madison about **“The Science Behind Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention & Brain Health”**. Very interesting! There are over 50 active research studies currently taking place there, with a group of over 2300 research participants committed to ending AD. More than 5.5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease and it is the 6th leading cause of death in the US. If we could delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease by 5 years, we could cut the number of patients in half. Healthy aging by eating well and incorporating weekly exercise and physical activity can help our brain remain

healthy and perhaps even prevent Alzheimer’s disease. I’m all in for that!

- Did you know that Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota now offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BSN)?! In 2016 the nursing department was approved by the Minnesota Board of Nursing. In the fall of 2017, eight students were admitted into the major. Congratulations to Sara Traylor, the Director of Nursing and her staff for a job well done! Now we have two opportunities for our students to earn a BSN in a Christian academic setting! Both Wisconsin Lutheran College and Bethany are worth taking a close look at if your student is considering serving in health care as a nurse!

Together as we serve the Lord and his people,
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

parishnurse@davidstar.org 677-3485

THE “LITTLE ONES” GATHERING meets the first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 10:30am. Please enter through the gathering space (west side) doors of church. This program is designed to be a Christ-centered, nurturing and encouragement group for young children and their mothers, fathers, grandparents, or caregivers. Children from infancy to preschool are welcome to attend with a parent/grandparent or caregiver. “Little Ones” is not designed to be a drop off program. “Little Ones” activities will include circle time, simple Bible lessons, Christian songs, dancing, art/craft time, and snacks. Please feel free to contact Jessica at jc.schumacher@gmail.com with any questions you may have about the program.

LADIES AID meets on Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the multi-purpose room of school.

DAVID’S STAR WOMEN’S RETREAT
Saturday, November 11th - To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation our Keynote Speaker, Rebecca DeGarmeaux, will introduce us to Martin Luther's amazing wife, Katie Luther. There will be afternoon breakout sessions and NPH will have a portable store open during the day. It will be a very uplifting day, so plan to attend and invite a friend. Registration forms are on the kiosk in the

New Gathering Space.
Contact dswomensretreat@gmail.com to be added to our email list.

NEW BEGINNINGS JOB OPENING

Established in 1993, New Beginnings - A Home for Mothers has given single mothers and their babies a new start in a safe and nurturing Christian environment. We have an opening for a part-time paid case manager. For More Information email Brianne Hansen at: briannah@homeformothers.com

DAVID'S STAR ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOKS Are available to purchase in the gathering space. There is an envelope in each book to be placed in the offering plate with your money. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Tews, [262-377-2051](tel:262-377-2051). The cost is \$15. Please make checks payable to: David's Star Lutheran Church.



TREE OF LOVE

Once again this year we will be having the Tree of Love in the new narthex starting the weekend of November 5th. If you would like to participate, please take a tag or tags from the tree and bring your gifts to church **NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 26th**. The gifts will be organized and then delivered to the Northside and Southside Ministries on Friday, December 1st. Both Northside and Southside Ministries would like the gifts not to be wrapped. Please attach the tag firmly to the outside of the gift. If you have any questions, please call Judy Gauger at [262-677-4361](tel:262-677-4361). Thank you for your kindness.



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 3, 2017 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

This is a special time for women to come together to remember the important meaning of Christmas before they prepare for the Holidays. Please take this opportunity to invite your neighbors, relatives, fellow workers and friends to hear this special

Christmas message of Bible readings, singing, and enjoy some Christmas fellowship. We will be trying something new this year by having our Advent by Candlelight in the church and finger food and fellowship in the Gathering Space after the program.

What can I do to help?

Volunteer to help with the readings, greet people when they arrive, serve coffee & punch, help setup or cleanup.

Signup sheets for food and volunteers will be in the Gathering Space in November.

4 p.m. - Program consists of Bible Readings & Singing

5 p.m. - Appetizers, veg's and dip, fruit, bars, Christmas cookies, chips or snacks & fellowship will begin after the program.

Any questions, please contact: Lynne Tews at [262-377-2051](tel:262-377-2051) or foneman45@prodigy.net

THE LUTHERAN CHORALE OF MILWAUKEE under the direction of Mary Prange will present its annual *Prelude to Christmas* concert on **Sunday, November 26, at 2:00 & 4:30 p.m. at Abiding Word Lutheran Church** (9420 W. Capitol Dr. – Milwaukee) The organ prelude presented by Lynn Kozlowski will begin twenty minutes prior to the concert. The concert will include music for choir, brass, organ, and congregational singing. Freewill offering.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP SNACKS
Thank you to the following for their generosity in supplying snacks for our November Sunday morning fellowship between services: Elaine Gerner, Ann Thompson, Loretto Klug and the 7th/8th grade Sunday school class and Krista Voelzke.

FOOD DRIVE for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Food Bank runs from November 1st - December 8th. Collection buckets will be located in the New Gathering Space. Please check labels, as the seminary is not able to accept expired products.