

THE GOOD NEWS

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"2007 to the Glory of God"

by Pastor Loescher

David's Star Lutheran Church and School has quite an agenda for the year 2007! We are going to complete the accreditation study and attain full accreditation for our school. That means we are going to study, discuss and determine where we are strong and where we need improvement in our school. The final result will be a status that says to people outside of our school that we are a legitimate school they can trust for a strong education for their children. A second undertaking is a congregation wide series of cottage meetings that will include a Bible study about what is most treasured in our lives. Our cottage meetings will prove to be a wonderful fellowship time to encourage each other in godly living. So, look forward to that tremendous opportunity. The final and perhaps largest agenda item has the building committee, with the services of an architect, guiding our congregation in planning what our new worship facility, administrative space, cafeteria, and classroom space is going to look like. This is a very exciting time in which everyone who wants to give input for our future ministry facilities will have ample opportunity.

Wow! Are we ever going to do a lot in 2007! Well, God willing. All three of those big agenda items mentioned are planned for this coming year, but actually, no one can say that those things will happen. We don't even know what will happen tomorrow. Will the Lord even allow this planet to see a year 2007 A.D.? To speak even of a proper and godly plan for the coming year as if we know it will happen is boasting and pretending to be God, who alone knows what will happen next.

The plans for our congregation are good and godly plans. They are in the open for all to see and

discuss. They are planned with love for our Savior and devotion to the work of the Lord. But even such godly planning can quickly become driven by arrogance and pride. So, prayer is needed from all of us that the Lord's will be done.

And what about each of us individually? What are your plans for the coming year? If God should cut the year short for you, would you be comfortable with how you used your time, talent, and treasure? Was it to God's glory or to your own glory? Would you be comfortable with the attitude you had toward your life's plans? Are you seeking God's will or ignoring God's will for your life?

Wherever we have failed, there Jesus has accomplished our forgiveness. Trust in his forgiving grace again this year, and look to 2007 as an opportunity to do his will and accomplish all things to his glory. With repentant and joyous hearts we will succeed in doing what God would have us do. To God be the glory.

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. --James 4: 13-17



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Helen Kannenberg...1/1/1921...86 yrs. old
Lucille Prochnow...1/3/1923...84 yrs. old
Delores Heimerl...1/8/1925...82 yrs. old
Marietta Fick...1/15/1924...83 yrs. old
Florence Ehlke...1/17/1910...97 yrs. old.

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WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

All women of the congregation are invited join us as we continue to meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. Our new study is The Beauty of a Simple Life-When Less is More. Please contact Colleen Loeffler at 677-2319 to reserve a copy of the book or if you have any questions. The cost is \$6.99 and checks should be made payable to David's Star Church.

THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN IN GOD'S WORD GROUP

We are studying Pastor Mark Paustian's book, "Prepared To Answer." It is a helpful model for sharing one's faith by supplying Scripture-based responses to common objections to Christianity. Each session addresses different topics and it is not necessary to attend every session. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as you wish. We meet in the school IMC at 7:00 pm. We will meet on January 3 and 17, and February 7. If you have any questions, please contact Char Kison at 677-2389.

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PARISH NURSE NEWS

ARE YOU A BIT SHY ABOUT VISITING OUR SHUT INS OR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS???

There are several groups here at David's Star that offer opportunities to make visits to our people who, for one reason or another, cannot worship with us at church. We are very appreciative of those who help to keep these people connected to the body of Christ. The Ladies Aid makes Sunshine visits to members or hands out cookies at Christmas. The Tape Ministry volunteers faithfully deliver sermon tapes. The people on the flower committee deliver the altar flowers each week. The Shining Lights keep in contact with their group of members in a variety of ways. The Parish Nurses make visits and our school children go along with them on occasion.

Do you wonder what to do or what to say? Have you ever sat down on the nursing home residents' bed and had alarms go off? Should you pray with the resident? What do you do if someone has a question that you can't answer? All of these thoughts and more may keep us from enjoying the visit or bringing comfort to our fellow members in Christ.

That is why Pastor Woltdt and I will be offering a **VISITORS WORKSHOP** on Sunday, January 7th between services in the church, for anyone that is interested, whether you make visits or not. Any questions? Call Sue Bolha, RN, PN at 675-2672.



A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who helped to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to our shut – ins and nursing home residents this year. The music, cards, cookies, hot chocolate, and crafts were very much appreciated by our people. Your thoughtfulness often brought a tear of joy!

Blessings of good health and a Happy New Year to all!

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

Pastor's Report**(Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 677-0919)****(Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 377-1019)**

We are grateful for the leadership in our congregation, particularly in new areas such as the "Live Nativity" attempted by the teens, the members willing to work with the pastors, stewardship committee and elders to focus on our "real treasure," the organization of the fellowship time as we marked the 150th anniversary of our church building, the dedicated work of our building committee in keeping our current project moving forward and the on-going work to improve our property (woods, sign, etc). We invite all of you to worship with us regularly during the Christmas season. We would also like to highlight a presentation by Joey Morgan on Dec 31 regarding Milwaukee area WELS campus ministry. It's always interesting and many times inspiring to hear what is happening within our fellowship!

President's Report**(Randy Matter, Telephone # 376-1585)**

Nominating and Audit Committee - Positions that need to be filled in January include Chairman of Stewardship Committee, Chairman of Board of Building and Grounds, Chairman of Spiritual Growth, Treasurer, 2 members of Board of Elders (Clif Koeller, Steve Bintz), 2 members of Board of Education (Gary Heckendorf John Faltersack), 2 members of Board for Bldg & Grounds (David Miller and David Kiug). Terry Brazell and Jim Kranich have agreed to serve on the audit committee. Also a one year term for the chairman of the Evangelism Committee.

150th Church Bldg Anniversary Celebration - The service was truly inspiring and we had many people attend the fellowship hour. It was great to see the many musicians we have that use their talents to glorify God. Nancy Ebeling put together a great PowerPoint presentation on the stages of the church. It was a big hit for those who attended the fellowship.

Technology Committee - After a discussion with Pat Steele, Dennis Bell and the Pastors regarding our long-term secretarial needs, we also agreed that something needs to be done about our phone system. Issues which have been pending for years include limited expandability for the main unit, parts that are difficult to get, and no capability to add additional workstations. I will be approaching the Technology Committee to begin an in-depth review of our needs and get quotes on a new system. We are also going to ask them to reconsider the need to move the servers to the faculty room since building in space for that in the new structure might be a better option.

Annual Report - Council and committee reports are due to Phyllis by December 29. Please refer to last year's reports for the proper formatting. Also, please be prompt with emailing your reports to Phyllis so she can get the final product assembled and duplicated for our annual voter's meeting.

Buildings and Grounds Report**(Kurt Henning, Telephone # 677-2797)**

The cutting down of trees on David's Star Drive and Western Avenue to give more of a vision view for the new Church Sign has been accomplished. We are waiting for the sign face to arrive to complete the sign.

The lighted cross on top of the Church steeple is out. The initial costs to replace the neon light on the cross is about \$2700. We are looking for church council direction if this should be repaired.

The gym chair floor protectors will be put on the chairs with the cost being paid for by the Golf Committee.

Gym wall mats have arrived. They will help prevent injury when children run into the walls. The costs were paid for by Bob and Laurie Howard and the Golf Committee.

With a recent high wind, the doors to our school would not close. Thanks to Carl Schramm for repairing the doors.

Board of Elders**(Dennis Bell, Telephone #677-2248)**

The Parish Nurse Committee has been approached by Synergy Health Services about conducting a health fair on our campus in the near future. Details will be forthcoming.

The Sexton Committee is looking for additional help. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested in performing this much needed task, please contact Jim Volz.

The Pastors have completed the training of the elders so they can make their calls of the in home Bible study, "The Real Treasure of Every Treasured Soul" from Matthew 6. Our calls will be to the members who have not been in church for quite a while. We will be starting sometime next month.

Board for Elementary Education**(Patrick Steele, Telephone # #677-7673)**

Board of Elementary Education Report (December, 2006)
Accreditation strategy

WELSSA Accreditation Timeline (MILESTONE DATES)

November 15 met with subcommittee chairs

November 29 met with subcommittee chairs and Wade Cahoun, WELSSA consultant

December 14 will meet with all subcommittee members to kick-off process

January 16 All committees must start work on self-evaluation process

Mid-February Progress report meeting

March 15th Initial draft of each subcommittee's report is due for review

May 1st Final draft prepared

May 15th Identify areas which need to be rectified for accreditation

Summer/fall 2007 Improve on areas in need in preparation for the visiting team

Fall 2007 Visiting team reviews report and recommends David's Star for accreditation status

Status of Technology Committee looking for more active group

Teacher's request for input from parents- A questionnaire was developed by the teachers and will be sent home with the students. The board reviewed the document and is in support of sending it out.

School/Church Secretary or Executive or full time secretary. This has Board support

The Parents group will be looking for assistance to assemble Christmas Candy Bags again this year

Christmas eve service setup/tear down 6:30 Dec 21

Take down 26th

Kathy' Bintz's salary was adjusted to required levels

School Fees- The following Fee changes were voted on and approved

Increase Preschool tuition from \$650.00 to \$850.00

Child Care Coupon Cards increased from \$27.00 to \$35.00

Technology Fee wording was changed from "\$200.00

1st-8th Grade (Limit per family)" to "\$200.00 K-8th Grade (limit per family)

Line item for Synod Fee's will be added

Hot Lunch- A motion was made and approved to increase Ann

Thompson and Barb Pratt, (kitchen coordinators), from \$21.00

/day to \$28.00/day. This would put all of our workers at about the same pay scale.

The Parents group was authorized to move forward with purchasing uniforms for the Dance Team.

Next meeting December 19, 2006 @ 6:30

Evangelism Committee Report (Bob Traska, Telephone # 375-3877)

No report other than a reminder to look for our Christmas Ads announcing our times and dates for our Christmas Worship Services.

Spiritual Growth Report (Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521)

Bible studies will resume in January with Pastor Loescher leading class in the church, Pastor Woldt leading a class in the school and Seminarian Winkel leading the teens.

Youth group is being extremely active right now serving for the Advent suppers and the Sunday School's Birthday party for Jesus. They are also putting together a living Nativity on December 17 and caroling sometime the week before Christmas.

All of the Barnabas groups have been doing an excellent job of getting their home Bible studies into the bulletin. Give the leaders a call for this excellent opportunity to get together for fellowship and Bible Study.

Stewardship Committee Report (Jody Hansen, Telephone # 387-1154)

We discussed the progress of the 2007 budget that will be presented to Council on December 12th. Shannon Leitzke will be wrapping it up and will attend the Council meeting. We discussed the Undesignated Gift Policy allocations for 2007. It was decided to leave the same percentages as we had for 2006. They are as follows: 50% Building Trust Fund, 20% Church Operating Endowment Fund, 10% Future Called Workers Assistance Trust Fund, 10% Properties Improvement Trust Fund and 10% Martin Luther College as our mission. We have made contact with many members in regards to the every

member visit bible study. We are beginning to formulate the lists for the host families to make their invitations. We are also getting members to learn the bible study in order to present the study.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the Undesignated Gift Policy as presented and send the Undesignated Gift Policy to the voters for approval at the Annual Voter's Meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Chuck Gauger, Telephone #677-4361)

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the section 107 housing allowances for all called workers for 2007.

A stock donation was received from a member of our congregation. It was sold and the proceeds (approximately \$3300) were put in to the operating fund.

The November 30, 2006 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$113,891. This compares to a deficit of \$115,610 as of October 31, 2006 and a deficit of \$123,030 on the same date last year. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$709,658 compared to \$659,608 last year and this year's budget of \$764,521. Our Foundation Built on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date receipts of \$412,425.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the renaming of the Microfilm Memorials fund to the Historical Preservation Fund. Over the next several months the issue of preserving our documents will be explored.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to create the Land Acquisition fund. A special gift was given explicitly for land acquisition purposes. The funds were put in the restricted building fund and now will be redirected to the new fund.

Vice President Report (Jeff Morgan, Telephone #377-7532)

No Report.

Old Business. (Taken out of order at beginning of meeting)

2007 Budget Review - The 2007 Budget was passed out to the council, reviewed and adjusted where necessary. The only major initiative is the addition of \$12,000 for secretarial services. This will allow coverage for phones and help provide security and data entry.

The total revenue budget is \$1,574,598 and the total expense budget is \$1,228,620.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the 2007 budget as amended and to send this budget to the congregation. The budget will be presented to the congregation at an open budget meeting on January 13, 2007 at 9:00 AM and will be acted on by the voters at the annual meeting on January 18, 2007.

New Business.

Building Committee Update - An architect has been chosen. The firm is Plunkett Raysich Architects, LLC from Menomonee Falls. Many churches were inspected by the committee along with the architects. It looks like the initial fee

will be \$50,000 and the total fee structure will be 7% of the total construction costs.

The next scheduled Council meeting will be at **The Church Parish Center on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 7:00 PM.** The Annual Meeting will be January 18th, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made and carried to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Dear David’s Star family –
 Thank you for the financial gift you have given me. It is truly a blessing. Not only will it ease the costs of MLC, it is a great encouragement. Even though I am 800 miles from our fortress of David’s Star, we are still close inside our Almighty Fortress. Thank you for supporting both the ministry and me.
 (signed) Charlie Schowalter

David's Star Congregation,

We would like to thank you for the tuition gift we received this year. It will help us out greatly with meeting the rising costs of tuition. We would also like to thank you for the food that was collected. We are truly blessed to have a caring congregation to help support us during our time at the Seminary.

Thank you again and God's blessings
 In Christ, (signed)
 Nathaniel and Tiffany Winkel

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR November 2006				
	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 11/30/06	Offerings Budgeted thru 11/30/06
Operating	\$66,778	\$16,695	\$655,1591	\$722,917
Missions	\$6,079	\$ 1,517	\$74,147	\$84,363
KML Operating	\$3,853	\$963	\$47,540	\$55,446
KML Building	\$829	\$207	\$14,484	\$18,333
“Together Shining Like the Stars...”	\$1,495	\$374	\$27,952	\$32,219

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:
 \$113,891
 The deficit at the end of November 2005 was:
 \$123,030
 The deficit at the end of November 2004 was: \$88,102