



"Don't Miss the True Beauty of Christmas!"

by Pastor Michael Woldt

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (1 Peter 3: 3, 4).

St. Peter wasn't thinking about Christmas when he wrote these words. Peter was addressing Christian women, who display their genuine beauty by living lives to the glory of God. However, Peter's message to believing wives did get me thinking about the way many people approach the celebration of Christmas in our world today.

As I strolled through a number of stores recently, I took note of the wide variety of Christmas trees, Christmas lights, Christmas ornaments, Christmas figurines and other assorted Christmas decorations that were available for sale. It wouldn't take too long to spend a thousand dollars or more if you were starting your Christmas decoration plan from scratch.

Like most people, I enjoy Christmas lights and decorations. I especially look forward to the way our church looks with the tree, poinsettias, the candles and garland. But (borrowing the words of St. Peter) all the emphasis on "outward adornment" has me wondering how many people in our world miss the "unfading beauty" of Christmas?

There weren't many external trappings that first Christmas night. There was a man and a woman. There was a feeding trough and strips of cloth. And there was a baby. A baby who needed to be washed and cleaned after birth. A baby who needed to be warmed and fed. A baby who looked like hundreds and thousands of babies before him. It is in that baby that we find the

unfading beauty of Christmas. Isaiah described Jesus was having *"no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him."*

The true beauty of Christmas is not found in what the human eye observes. The true beauty of Christmas can only be seen with the eyes of faith. The Spirit opens our eyes to see that this ordinary looking baby is God himself. The true beauty of Christmas can only be known as we learn how the life of this holy child unfolds. He lived a perfect life for us. He died a death he didn't deserve, carrying our sins to the cross. He conquered death, rising from the grave with his glory no longer hidden, but on full display for all to see. We find the true beauty of Christmas in Jesus.

Do you carefully plan how to decorate your home at Christmas? Don't forget to plan even more thoughtfully how you will enjoy the true beauty of Christmas this year! Join your brothers and sisters in worship ... not as an afterthought if you have time, but as the centerpiece of your Christmas celebration.

As the true beauty of Christmas fills our hearts with the joy and peace of sins forgiven, something amazing happens. We become true "Christmas lights" who share the unfading beauty of Jesus' birth as we live our daily lives to the glory of our Savior God. You can't buy that kind of beauty, but it is "of great worth in God's sight."

Christmas decorations are beautiful, but don't miss the true beauty of Christmas this year. Find it in Jesus. Then share true Christmas beauty with all the people in your lives!

December 2014

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SENIORS

Lillian Boeker...12.2.1922...92 yrs. old
 Elmer Kowalske...12/6/1931...83 yrs. old
 Arlene Rusch...12/10/1933...81 yrs. old
 Sydney Smith...12/22/1932...82 yrs. old
 Martha Liesener...12/23/1925...89 yrs. old
 Reuben Herther...12/26/1934...80 yrs. old



DECEMBER 2014 GREETERS

- December 7, 2014 7:45 Joel & Linda Pless
 10:15 Jeff & Bridget Munn
- December 14, 2014 7:45 John & Nelda Clemens
 10:15 Kurt & Lori Henning
- December 21, 2014 7:45 Ralph & Elaine Gerner
 10:15 Jim & Sandy Siebers
- December 28, 2014 7:45
 10:15 Paul & Beth Steinbrenner

WOMEN NURTURING WOMEN THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We will meet in the multi-purpose room located behind the concession area. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month at 9:30. It is always uplifting and encouraging to be in God's Word together. We hope you can come. God's Word gives us great joy, strength and comfort, for every day. With questions call Beth Steinbrenner at 262.685.7420 or e-mail me at pbandkids@yahoo.com. Our focus will be on Psalm 23, John 10 and a book titled "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23." Bring your bibles and hymnals for our opening study. Hope to see you there!

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

at Jimmy's in Jackson meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 am. This group meets year-round.

BARNABAS

is the name of our small group bible studies. We took that name from an early disciple who was given that nickname because he was such an encourager. Our small group home bible studies are also intended for the encouragement of one another. The groups are on-going, but anytime is a good time to get involved in a group. Call or email Pastor Loescher if you'd like to get involved 677.0919 or kurt.loescher@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets in the multi-purpose room of school at 10:00am.

FRIDAY MORNING DROP-OFF BIBLE CLASS

When you come to David's Star to drop off your children on Friday Mornings, stay a few minutes longer and discuss the truths of the Holy Scriptures and pray with other parents. Come in your work clothes, work-out clothes, even your pj's if you have to. No make-up? Unshaven? Uncombed hair? It's all good. You're dropping off your children, there are no high expectations. There will be the Holy Word of God and good encouragement to start off your day. If you have a toddler at your side, no problem—bring him or her along. We are all parents, we can cope with children in the room. This informal, start off your day Bible study will begin next Friday, September 5 from 8:30 to 8:50. Bring a bible, your own coffee, tea or whatever you drink to start your day.

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join the Seminary Chorus for its Christmas concert on December 14 at 3 & 7 p.m. in Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's Auditorium. Besides anthems for the choir and hymns for the congregation, the program features *The Story of Christmas Night* by Fritz Reuter. The 3 p.m. service will be streamed live at www.wels.net/streams.

COUNCIL CAPSULE SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

**David's Star Church
Council Meeting Capsule
November 11, 2014**

Members in attendance: Pastor Loescher, Dennis Bell, Tim Gustafson, Keith Rusch, Andy Loeffler, Brian Lee, Jim Korthals, Brandon Lehman, Kurt Henning, Mike Willis, Pastor Woldt, Randy Matter

Absent: Dan Bolha

The meeting was called to order by Brian Lee. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Woldt. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on October 14, 2014.

**Committee Reports
Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)**

Incoming: Markgraf, Jason & Kaili; Leo
Transfer from Calvary, Thiensville, WI
Willitz, Noah
*Transfer from King of Kings,
Frankenmuth, MI*

Outgoing: Tackmier, Bill & Dorcas; Sam, Madeline
Transfer to Calvary, Thiensville, WI

Pastors' Report
Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 262.677.0919
kloescher@davidstar.org &
Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 262.377.1019
woldt@nconnect.net

The pastors have been invited to attend a meeting on Friday, Nov 14, to discuss the potential of KML participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice program. Pastor Loescher remains involved with the Cedarburg Outreach Group, attempting to plan another Live Nativity in Cedarburg. The second Youth Hang Out night is schedule for November 12. Pray that our ministry activities focused on the youth will continue to be blessed.

President's Report
Brian Lee, Telephone # 262.377.9419
brianandpam1@att.net

Brian presented a list of committee members whose term is up at the end of the year. He asked that the committee chairmen would approach their committee members who are up for reelection, and verify whether they are planning to run for another term. Brian volunteered to chair the committee and appoint

members to it. The undesignated gift policy was discussed, and was put under old business.

**Board for
Buildings and Grounds**
Kurt Henning 262.677.2797
klhrconst@gmail.com

The electricity is now working in the shed. The light fixture on one of the light poles in the parking lot was fixed. There was some discussion about repairs to the buildings in the woods such as the concession building roof.

Board for Elementary Education
Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com
Principal Tim Gustafson
Telephone #262. 707.2382
tgustafson@davidstar.org

The board is currently working on next year's budget, and is looking at options with respect to balancing needs, wants, and budget constraints.

Board of Elders
Dennis Bell, 262.677.2248
dandmbell55@yahoo.com

Over the past couple of years the board has been discussing whether to continue the German Christmas Service. Last year it was decided to continue the German Christmas Service as long as we had resources for it. With the attendance as low as it was for the service, it does not justify the time and effort to continue it. After a discussion at the last board meeting, the board passed a motion to discontinue the German Christmas Service.

Evangelism Committee
Brandon Lehman, Telephone #262.894.6110
Brandon.m.Lehman@gmail.com

The committee gave a \$1000 donation to Koine for the outdoor concert. The committee is looking at organizing a new member welcome in the January/February time period.

Stewardship Committee
Jim Korthals, Telephone # 262.242.8143
korthalj@wls.wels.net

Each committee should work on their 2015 budget so it can be included for discussion in next month's meeting. There was a discussion about how we can encourage the use of the Simply Giving program.

Spiritual Growth Committee
Andy Loeffler, Telephone #262.677.2319
2046home@gmail.com

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report
Randy Matter, Telephone # 262.376.1585
rmattercpa@gmail.com

The printed report for October was presented. The YTD operating fund balance has a deficit in the amount of \$58,052.47. The YTD offerings to our WELS missions are currently at 89.95% of budget. The YTD offerings to the KMLHS operating fund are at 97.71% of budget.

Vice President Report
(Dan Bolha, Telephone # 677-3485
dbolha@ymail.com)

Nothing new to report.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

Old Business

Undesignated Gift Policy Review – A revised undesignated gift policy was discussed. It was proposed to use a 3 tier policy:

Less than \$5,000

- 100% of the gift would be put in the Church Operating Fund

\$5,000 to \$25,000

- The gift would be distributed among several funds in a predetermined way by various percentages.

More than \$25,000

- A proposal regarding how the gift will be used would be presented to the voters for approval.

Brian volunteered to write up a proposal using a 3 tier policy, and will present it for approval in the next meeting.

New Business

Congregational Meeting – November 9 at 9:10 am – There was a discussion about the congregational meeting and the questions that were asked. Pastor Woldt and Brian will put together a letter to the members outlining some of the information that was presented at the meeting.

Initial Budgeting for 2015 – Committee chairman were asked to submit their proposed committee budgets for 2015 to Jim Korthals so they can be included in the 2015 proposed budget document.

KML Discussion on Wisconsin Parental Choice – KML is considering whether or not they would like to participate in the school choice program. There was some discussion about some of the pros and cons associated with the school choice program.

Concession Area Refrigerator – The large refrigerator has broken down. The compressor needs to be replaced. After some discussion, a motion was made and carried to authorize up to \$1200 for repairing it.

David's Star Lutheran School Ministry Plan – After some discussion, a motion was made and carried to accept the plan, and to present it for approval by the voters at the annual meeting.

Next month's meeting is **Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.**

A motion was made and carried to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a blessing.
Respectively submitted,

Keith Rusch, Recording Secretary
keith_rusch@yahoo.com.



PARISH NURSE NEWS

Something To Celebrate

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."
Luke 2:10

The Christmas holidays are celebrated in a great variety of ways. Beautiful worship services, special music, decorations, delicious food, family gatherings and the exchanging of gifts to those we love to signify the gift of Christ who came to die in our place on the cross so that we may have eternal life in heaven.

As we approach the Christmas season it's important for us to keep in mind that we are approaching the most "treacherous" time of the year for weight gain. My goal for these next weeks isn't to lose weight but to be realistic, enjoy God's wonderful bounty, and yet maintain my current weight. How do I plan to do it?

In the first place, I plan to continue with my current routine of getting some exercise! I've been going to the YMCA to walk and do some weight lifting exercises twice a week. Our cold winter's make outdoor options difficult but not impossible. Find a plan that is good for you.

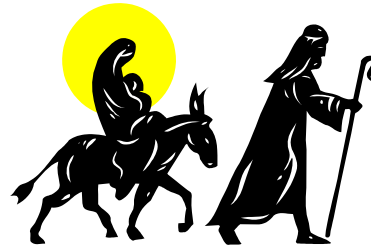
Secondly, I plan to give some thought to offering healthier foods as I plan the menus for our holiday gatherings. Perhaps a vegetable tray and fresh fruit along with the usual appetizers can offer healthier options. Instead of the usual large slice of cheesecake after the meal, I'll make mine a smaller slice with a cup of coffee after the dishes are done. A hearty bowl of soup can be a great choice for a cold weather meal. There are all sorts of ways to lower the fat, salt, cholesterol, and calorie intake in the foods we eat that are delicious and healthy as well. Need more specific help? The internet is full of resources for healthier eating and great recipes!

So... feel free to ask me how I am doing! I may not always be successful but I really want to concentrate on

the “good news of great joy for all the people”. It’s not about the food.

A blessed Christmas to you and your families,
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse
parishnurse@davidstar.org 262.677.3485

PS. “The Board and Staff of the Albrecht Free Clinic would like to extend their appreciation for our generous support donation of over-the-counter medications, hygiene products and medical supplies! In the first half of 2014, they assisted over 500 community residents with about 1,150 clinic visits. Our support will continue to help raise the bar on healthiness in Washington County. Keeping their doors open is achieved by the generosity of congregations like ours.”









ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Please join us on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 4pm, on this very special evening for women, to help us remember the important meaning of Christmas before we prepare for the holidays.

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GIFTS totaling \$1345 were given in memory of Loretta Stauske. \$1010 to Let Our Light Shine Fund, \$50 to the Adult Choir and \$285 to KML.

GIFTS totaling \$5,825 were given in memory of Leonard Rusch. \$5,605 to the Operating Fund. \$120 to the Let Our Light Shine Fund, \$25 to the David’s Star/Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Tuition Assistance Fund and \$75 to David’s Star School Undesignated Wish List Fund.

-  **If you would like to host a table**, registration forms are on the table in the gathering space or go to the David’s Star web site, www.davidstar.org. We encourage you to 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. (Children ages 10 and over are welcome to attend.)
-  **If you want to come by yourself**, complete the form, let us know you are alone and we will place you at another host’s table so you will be able to enjoy the program and meet some new friends.
-  **If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions**, please contact Lynne Tews, 262-377-2051, or at foneman45@prodigy.net.
-  **Thai Village, Inc.** items are available for sale before and after the program. 100% of your purchases help provide opportunities for vocational training and Christian education to these crafters in Thailand.
-  **Thank you** to the South Washington County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for their donation to help make this evening possible.
-  **We are delighted to have Tracy Fedke**, the female back-up vocalist for Koiné, sing some special Christmas songs. She lives in Milwaukee with her husband Micah and children Autumn, Sylvie and Moses. Tracy has had the opportunity to teach high school vocal music, be an educational assistant at St. Marcus, and sing with Koiné. She is now a full time mom and also enjoys singing with Koiné. She has recorded three albums with Deo and has recorded a solo album, [Child at Home](http://www.tracyfedke.com). Hear more of Tracy’s music at www.tracyfedke.com.

NO GERMAN CHRISTMAS SONG SERVICE THIS YEAR

Due to declining attendance and interest, the Board of Elders decided not to offer a German Christmas Song Service this year. Please share this message with anyone who may have attended this German service in the past.

KETTLE MORAINE LUTHERAN ADULT CHORALE CONCERT

The Kettle Moraine Lutheran Adult Chorale will present an Advent and Christmas concert at Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church, W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 PM. A free-will offering will be taken for the benefit of the Chorale. For further information contact the director, Carl S. Nolte 414-975-0672 or the KML High School office at 262-677-4051.

KOINE AT KMLHS

The KML Foundation is bringing Koine back to Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School for Christmas! Mark your calendars to join us as we sing many beloved Christmas songs together on December 18th at 6:30pm in the Performing Arts Center at KMLHS. The event is free, but an offering will be gathered to support Koine's music ministry. For details on this or all of Koine's Christmas events, visit koinemusic.com. (Special Note: Koine has a new CD that was released on Dec. 1st! Get yours at this event or at koinemusic.com!)

COME TO OUR WINTER BAND CONCERT

Please join us for the 2014 Winter Band Concert Saturday, December 6 at 7:00pm in the KML Performing Arts Center. The evening will feature the first performance of our beginner band students and music from students in grades 5 - 12. A freewill offering to support the KML Band programs will be gathered.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT

The choral ensembles of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School will present their Christmas concert Saturday, December 13 at 7:00pm in the KML Performing Arts Center. Come and prepare your hearts for the birth of our Savior with the music of the season by the Men's Choir, Women's Choir, and Concert Choir. A freewill offering will be received to support the KML Choral program.

Simply Giving

After the congregational meeting, Brian and I were driving to a wedding and we were talking about the meeting. Simply Giving had been brought up and I asked Brian how many families were using it. He told me there were only about 20 families using it. I was shocked since we have been using it for more than 2 years. I couldn't understand why more families didn't take advantage of this and I asked if I could write about our experiences with it and that is why you are reading this note.

In my experience, I know that most people want to help the church in its mission. Many of us no longer carry much cash or write many checks but rather use credit or debit cards (this is especially true of my mid 20 year old children). Brian and I use automatic withdrawal for many of our other bills like mortgage, WI Gas, telephone company, etc. If you are one of these people who pay their bills this way, then Simply Giving through Thrivent may be for you. This is an automatic withdrawal from your checking account. We use it as an easy way to give a regular offering to the Lord and this continues every month whether we visit another church or are on vacation. We never have to worry about having cash or writing a check for our offering envelope. It's easy to sign up for and you can decide how often you want to have the withdrawal from your account whether it is weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. You can also designate which funds you want your offering to go to, for example general operating fund, mission, KMLHS, building fund etc. You can cancel or change the amount of the withdrawal at any time by submitting a new form. To sign up there are forms available in the narthex, through the church secretary or on the David's Star website. (I could only find it by doing a search with the word "Simply Giving".) You will still receive envelopes to donate to the special designations not covered in the Simply Giving program. Also if you are uncomfortable not dropping a weekly envelope in the basket just drop in an empty envelope. If you are looking for an easier way to give a regular offering to the Lord this may be for you. Please feel free to talk to Brian or me if you have any questions.

Pam Lee

Where Have All the People Gone?

If you are like me, you read the Sunday bulletin. It's a good source of information on what has happened and what will be happening in our congregation. On the back page of the bulletin there is the calendar for the upcoming week and under the calendar there is usually a report on the attendance and offerings from the previous week. For some time now it seems like the number of people attending our weekly services has been going down.

I thought that when my wife and I joined David's Star in 1997 the average attendance was in the 600s. But since memories can sometimes be faulty, I checked out the statistics in the annual report. In 1997 our congregation's membership stood at 1180 souls and the average Sunday attendance for that year was 628. Last year (2013) 1187 people were officially members, almost the same number as 16 years earlier. The average Sunday attendance, however, had dropped to 499. From the numbers in the Sunday bulletin this year, it would appear that there hasn't been an improvement.

These numbers raise some questions. For example, do we really have almost 1200 active members? In recent years some have moved out of the area and we have no way of keeping in touch with them. Others have decided to join other churches but haven't told us. Still others have drifted away from religion altogether and our efforts to make contact with them have been unsuccessful. Even though this is an age of almost instant communication, it seems there are those who don't want to communicate even when we try to contact them.

In view of these difficulties, it might be said that our membership is actually closer to 1000. During the three-month period of August - October 2014 about 84% of that number did attend at least one service. During that same time period more than 600 individuals attended the Lord's Supper at least one time. It's clear that a sizeable proportion of our membership still has contact with the church. Yet, how regular is that contact?

Just as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, perhaps "regular" is open to a variety of interpretations. For many, regular is every week when they are not out of town. For others, regular might be every other Sunday or maybe even once a month.

God has richly blessed us with a congregation where his Word is preached and taught. We have so many blessings in our church and school. One of those blessings is the ability to encourage each other. It is an uplifting experience to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are a family. As family members, let's continue to encourage each other to be regular in our church and bible class attendance. It's through hearing the Word and receiving the Lord's Supper that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in our faith.

The concern, finally, is not that our attendance statistics look good. Our concern should always be for the spiritual well-being of family, friends, and those who still do not know their Savior Jesus Christ. To go without food would put our physical health in danger. To go without God's Word puts our spiritual health in danger. The writer to the Hebrews encourages us all, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Jim Korthals
Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT DAVID'S STAR DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2014

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
Mid-Week Advent Services
3:45 & 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 6, 2014
Worship Service 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 7, 2014
Worship Service times 7:45 & 10:15 AM

Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Mid-Week Advent Services
3:45 & 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 13, 2014
Worship Service 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 14, 2014
Worship Service times 7:45 & 10:15 AM

Wednesday, December 17, 2014
Mid-Week Advent Services
3:45 & 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 20, 2014
Worship Service 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 21, 2014
Worship Service times 7:45 & 10:15 AM
Birthday Party for Jesus (school gym) 9:00 AM

Wednesday, December 24, 2014
Children's Christmas Service 4:30 PM
At Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
Candlelight Service at David's Star Church 10:00 PM

Thursday, December 25, 2014
Christmas Day Festival Services 7:45 and 9:30 AM

Saturday, December 27, 2014
Worship Service 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 28, 2014
Worship Service times 7:45 & 10:15 AM

Wednesday, December 31, 2014
New Year's Eve Worship Service w/Holy Communion
3:45 and 7:00 PM