



thegoodnews

David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

2740 David's Star Dr.
Jackson, WI 53037

(262) 677-2412
www.davidstar.org

“Receive! Then Give!”

by Pastor Michael Woldt

You are undoubtedly familiar with the expression, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The apostle Paul attributes those words to Jesus in Acts 20:35. As Paul spoke to the leaders of the Ephesian church, he reminded them: “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'”

The words of Jesus are certainly true. Christian charity is truly noble. Giving is an essential component of Christian living. However, when it comes to Christmas, we might invert that familiar saying, play with the punctuation and a word or two, and proclaim another important spiritual truth. When it comes to Christmas, it's better to receive. Then give!

Christmas has no lasting impact on our lives if we remain unwilling to receive God's Christmas gift to us. Christmas is the story of God's gracious giving, not ours. Christmas focuses our attention of God's gift of love lying in the manger. God's gift of love comes to us in the person of the Word made flesh. Jesus entered our world to give his all for us. He gave up his throne in heaven, and humbly lived on earth. He gave his perfect life as a sacrifice for our sins. He gave his all that we through his poverty might become rich. All that remains is for us to receive this priceless gift from Jesus. Yet, we can't even hold out our hand to accept what Jesus gives. We are by nature dead in sin. Christmas brings us God's unconditional love wrapped up in a big, bright package, and we don't even want to open it. Our natural inclination is to walk away from Jesus and despise God's love.

Oh, how important it is for us to receive at Christmas. It's better to receive. Then give.

We only receive God's Christmas gift by the power of the Holy Spirit. Using the tools of the gospel in Word and Sacrament, the Spirit changes our sinful, stubborn hearts into hearts that cry out with the Advent hymnwriter:

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace;
Show me your kind and friendly
face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to your name. (CW 4:v5)*

Once we have received God's love in Jesus, then it is time for us to give! We remember the words Jesus spoke to his disciples: “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). Giving becomes a natural part of living for those who have received God's gift of love. We want to give God all glory and praise. We want to be instruments of God's love in the world today. We want to be a blessing to our family, to our neighbors. We want to share God's love with people we know, and with people we don't know. Christ's love compels us!

This Christmas, spend some time receiving. Receive the gift of grace anew. Marvel at God's love for you. Drink in the message of the gospel as you contemplate the mystery of the Word made flesh. Find personal peace and satisfying refreshment in Jesus. Receive. Then give!

December 2015

**Volume XVIII,
Number 4**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS

Lillian Boeker...12/2
Elmer Kowalske...12/6
Arlene Rusch...12/10
Sydney Smith...12/22
Martha Liesener...12/23
Reuben Herther...12/26

DECEMBER 2015 GREETERS SCHEDULE

December 6, 2015 7:45 Ross & Colleen Lemke
10:15 Jim & Sandy Siebers

December 13, 2015 7:45 Joel & Linda Pless
10:15 Dan & Elaine Schubert

December 20, 2015 7:45 LaVerne Groth
10:15 Rob & Mary Schneiker

December 27, 2015 7:45 N/A.
10:15 Dale & Barb Pratt



Christmas & New Year's Worship Schedule 2015-2016

Thursday, December 24, 2015
Children's Christmas Service 4:30 PM
At Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
Candlelight Service at David's Star Church 10:00 PM

Friday, December 25, 2015
Christmas Day Festival Services
7:45 and 9:30 AM

New Year's Eve Service
Wednesday December 31st
3:45PM and 7:00 PM

New Year's Day Service
Thursday, January 1st, 2016
9:30 AM

BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY we continue our Bible Study to accompany the new WELS video "My Son, My Savior." This is week three of the bible study which will conclude on December 13. This class is between the Sunday services in the church. Each participant family of the bible class will receive two dvd's of the movie, one to keep and one to give away. If you want to give away more, preferably to people who don't know about Jesus or need to learn more, there will be more copies available in the gathering space. There is no other adult Bible Study being offered on Sunday at this time.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS will hold our Christmas Gathering on December 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Please bring something to pass for breakfast, and a Bible and hymnal. We are also having an optional \$10 gift exchange. We hope you can come! December 10th we will go caroling and are meeting in the multipurpose room at 11:15. (More information on this will be given at the Christmas Gathering).

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.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY has resumed. This group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the multi-purpose room of school. We will study in the book of Exodus.

"DROP OFF" BIBLE STUDY 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 pjs 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.



COUNCIL CAPSULE SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

David's Star Church Council Minutes

November 10, 2015

Members in attendance: Pastor Loescher, Pastor Woldt, Nelson Erdmann, Randy Matter, Dennis Bell, Mike Willis, Glen Miller, Tim Gustafson, Jim Korthals, Keith Rusch, Brian Lee, Andy Loeffler.

Absent: Kurt Henning

The meeting was called to order by Brian Lee. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Loescher. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on October 13, 2015.

Membership Report (Pastor Loescher)

Incoming: Hinch, Katelyn
*Transfer from Bethlehem,
Menomonee Falls, WI*

Outgoing: Pankow, Megan
*Transfer to Christ the Lord,
Brookfield, WI*
Loescher, Philip
*Transfer to Hope Lutheran,
Irmo, South Carolina*
Hermanson, Monica
*Transfer to Grace, (Downtown),
Milwaukee, WI*

Pastors' Report

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

There was nothing new to report this month. The work of the pastors is reflected in the reports of the boards and committee.

President's Report

Brian Lee, Telephone # 262.377.9419
brianandpam1@att.net

Brian appointed Randy Matter and Jim Korthals as co-chairmen of the Nominating Committee. Members of the council with first terms ending need to communicate whether they are running for reelection to the committee. The chairmen of boards and committees need to also find out the intentions of their committee members. After some discussion, the annual voters' meeting was set for Thursday

January 21 at 7 PM. A congregational information forum regarding the 2016 budget was tentatively set for January 10 between the services. The presentation of information about endowment funds was postponed till next meeting.

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

There was nothing new to report.

Board for Elementary Education
Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com
Principal Tim Gustafson
Telephone #262.707.2382

A copy of the minutes from the Board of Elementary Education was presented. The suggested revisions to the staffing policy made by church council were approved by the board. The board also approved a recommendation to the council that Mrs. Korthals' position not be replaced, and that Mrs. Loeffler's ¾ time 10-month call be extended for the 2016-2017 school year. Internal staffing changes will be made with the approval of the school board. The recommendation was added to New Business.

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

Nothing to report.

Evangelism Committee
Nelson Erdman
theerdmans@hotmail.com

The Living Nativity will be held on December 11 at Cedarburg Creek Farm with three other area congregations participating: Our Savior in Grafton, Redeemer in Cedarburg, and Trinity at Pleasant Valley Road. The committee is looking for help with all facets of planning and will be looking for volunteers to help make this event happen. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex and online at <http://tinyurl.com/nativityvolunteer>. The video *My Son, My Savior* is being hosted by Our Savior, Grafton at the Rivoli Theater in Cedarburg on December 13. The committee purchased copies of the video for our members. The next postcard mailing is being printed and should arrive in homes before Thanksgiving Day.

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

A copy of the proposed budget for 2016 was distributed. This was added to New Business.

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

There was nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report
Randy Matter, Telephone # 262.412.6643
rmattercpa@gmail.com

The printed report for October was presented. The YTD operating fund balance was a deficit in the amount of \$96,527.12. The YTD offerings to our WELS missions were \$67,925.60 which was 93.35% of budget. The YTD offerings to the KMLHS operating fund were \$39,311.82 which was 101.61% of budget and KML Joyful Noise was \$6,539.01 which was 87.20% of budget.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Exploration of Endowment Fund at David's Star –
This was tabled until the next meeting.

2016 Ministry Budget – The current revision of the proposed 2016 budget was presented and discussed. The Board of Elementary Education's budget numbers were updated. Updates will be made and the revised proposed budget will again be presented in the next council meeting. Committees that have not yet sent their budget updates to the stewardship committee are reminded to do so.

Called Worker Staffing Policy – The Board of Education approved the minor revisions that church council had proposed. No further action was needed by the council.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Voters' Meeting – This was scheduled for Thursday, January 21 at 7 PM.

\$10,000 Undesignated Gift (Ethel Miller Estate) – A motion was made and carried to handle this as specified in the Undesignated Gifts Policy (35% Operating Fund, 35% Restricted Building Fund, 10% Building and Improvement Fund, 10% KMLHS, 10% Future Called Workers Tuition Assistance Endowment Fund) with the

provision that the amount designated for KMLHS be put in the KML Joyful Noise Fund.

Distribution of Scholarship Funds to David's Start Students at WELS Ministerial Education Schools – Randy presented a handout that described a pilot program where up to \$1000 dollars of tuition assistance for MLC from the congregations would be matched with grant money. This would apply to students entering as freshman at MLC for the 2016-2017 school year. After some discussion, it was decided to table this until the next council meeting.

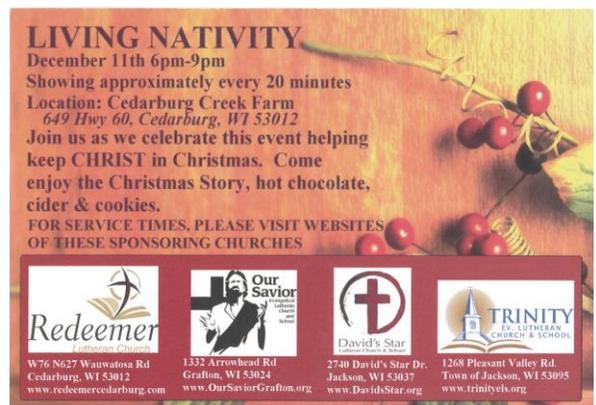
Recommendation from Board of Education regarding School Staffing for 2016-2017 School Year – A motion was made and carried to approve the Board of Education's recommendation that Mrs. Korthal's position not be replaced, and that Mrs. Loeffler's ¾ time 10 month call be extended for the 2016-2017 school year. Internal staffing changes will be made with the approval of the School Board.

Next month's meeting is **Tuesday, December 15, 2015 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

Parish Nurse News: I'll be back!

As some of you may know, Dan's mom moved home with us a few weeks ago. She is in the final stage of Alzheimer's disease and although the Cedar Ridge Apartments and the Jackson Crossings served her well, we decided that we wanted to care for her in these last days with us. And so with the help of hospice folks, family and friends, we are doing just that! In the few moments each day when she is awake, we are always by her side to see her smile and give her tender loving care. That is a blessing to both her and to us. We treasure our time with her!

Because someone always needs to be here at the house with her, I am going to take some time away from my responsibilities as your parish nurse here at David's Star. Anyone is still welcome to call me at home but I will be unable to make any home visits or coordinate our blood pressure screening. I will miss my friends in Christ, and look forward to getting back to our visits together! Your prayers for us are always appreciated!

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:16

Christmas Joy to all,

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse
parishnurse@davidstar.org
677-3485



MID WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

will continue on Wednesday, December 9th & 16th at 3:45 and 7:00 pm. LIGHT SUPPERS will be served between our mid-week Advent services on Wednesdays. The meal will be offered between 4:45 and 6:30 pm in the gym. Three sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering space to list your donations of food and willingness to help in preparing, serving, and cleanup. Thank you for providing this opportunity for fellowship.



My Son My Savior

This movie was created for the purpose of showing that Jesus is the Savior of all people. It is a wonderful opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus this Christmas season.

There will be a free showing at the Rivoli Theater in Cedarburg on Sunday December 13th at 7:00 PM and again at 8:30. The director Steve Boetcher will be in attendance.



KML CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas Choral Concert is Saturday, December 12, at 7:00 pm.

Please join us for this special concert in our Performing Arts Center. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be gathered.

KOINE IS BRINGING THEIR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT TO KML!

The KML Foundation is excited to welcome Koine to KML for "Emmanuel Lux Illuminated" on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm! Please join us for "an experience combining faith, art, media, and music to tell the miracle of the Incarnation, as we see Jesus become true man and yet remain true God." Free admission; a freewill offering will be gathered

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join the Seminary Chorus on December 13 at 3:00 or 7:00 pm for Christmas at the Seminary. The 54-voice men's choir will share in the story of Jesus' birth in songs, carols, and hymns. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is located in Mequon at 11831 N. Seminary Dr. The concert is held in the campus auditorium and seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The 3:00 pm concert is streamed live at <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.

LOOKING FOR SINGERS We are looking for any singers willing and able to sing for David's Star 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will have a practice at 8:35 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15 and 22nd, (after choir in balcony). If interested please contact Tanya Anderson at 262.677.1798.

LADIES AID CHRISTMAS PARTY Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 pm. Please bring 1/2 dozen cookies to share and 1/2 dozen for the care-packages for shut-ins. Please bring hors d'oeuvre to share. Coffee and beverages will be served. We will have our annual white elephant gift exchange. Please bring your "treasure" wrapped or in a gift bag. We will collect monies for WELS Christian Aid & Relief—Malawi Famine/Flood Relief and to replenish kitchen cookware. Any questions, please call Linda Klein 262.388.2926.

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY will be Sunday, December 20th from 9:00 to 10:00AM. All are invited to the gym to join us for food and fellowship, to sing Christmas carols at 9:15, and to see K3 do their pageant at 9:30. Cake and beverages will be provided, and we are looking for donations of crackers, cheese, sausage, grapes, cookies (without nuts), etc. (There will be no Bible study classes between services.)



THE "LITTLE ONES" GATHERING will take place on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 10:30am in the new gathering space of church. Please enter through the west side door 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.



CHURCH FLOWER DONATIONS NEEDED FOR 2016 The beautiful flowers you see on the altar every week are purchased and donated by the members of our congregation. After the services they are taken to the shut-ins, or to anyone who may be hospitalized, to help brighten their day. The flowers are prepared and delivered by Groth's Country Gardens. The cost is \$44.35. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex starting this weekend. If you have any questions, please call Lynet Steele at 414.510.8623 or email at lynetsteele@gmail.com if you are interested.

