



thegoodnews

David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Contrasting Reactions to the Birth of Jesus”

by Pastor Michael Woldt

December 2016

Volume XIX, Number 4

Contrasting reactions are nothing new. At the end of every athletic contest, one side is jubilant, the other side disappointed. When the latest presidential election results were announced, some were elated, others sought counseling for election related depression and anxiety. When the death of Fidel Castro was announced, there were tears in Havana, while ninety miles away, people danced in the streets of Miami.

The birth of Jesus certainly evoked contrasting emotions. Consider the shepherds who hurried with joy to Bethlehem so they could see with their own eyes the newborn Messiah who was lying in a manger. News of Jesus' birth was hardly received with enthusiasm and great joy in the halls of Herod's palace. Herod reacted to Jesus' birth with jealousy and murderous rage. Herod viewed this newborn king as a threat to his personal power and authority. Jesus needed to be eliminated, and Herod was willing to sacrifice the lives of countless Bethlehem infants in pursuit of his evil mission.

We still witness contrasting reactions to the celebration of Jesus' birth every December 25th. Some work actively to erase all mention of Christmas from the public square claiming that any public acknowledgement of the birth of Jesus is a threat to their individual freedom and rights. Others look forward to the Christmas season, simply for the lights, decorations, parties and "feelings of good cheer." The birth of Jesus is ignored, buried in a pile of garland and gift-wrapping paper.

What is our reaction to the birth of Jesus? If we would see no need for a Savior from sin, we would be among those who yawn our way through the spiritual messages of the season. We would debate whether or not worship at church will be part of our busy holiday schedule. If we were controlled by our sinful natures,

we would see Jesus as a threat and try to fight him for his throne, taking offense at any claim he may have on our time, activities and wealth. (By the way, fighting Jesus is always a losing battle in the end. Just ask Herod. Oh wait! He and his kingdom are long gone. Jesus is still reigning!)

What is our reaction to the birth of Jesus? Pure joy! Unending praise and thanks! A desire to run with the shepherds, sing with the angels and ponder with Mary. Why? Because we know who Jesus is. He is true God who entered our world on a rescue mission to free us from sin, and make us fit for eternal life with God in heaven.

The birth of Jesus gives us far more reason to celebrate than any athletic contest or election outcome. Christmas brings us joy, because we know the end of the story. Christmas leads to the cross. As we consider the manger that was full, we also remember the tomb that was empty.

The rest of the world may ignore the birth of Jesus, or even become worked up with anger and rage. Christmas draws a different reaction from all who believe in Jesus. We sing with reckless abandon: "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!"





HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS

- Lil Boeker (12/2)
Elmer Kowalske (12/6)
Arlene Rusch (12/10)
Syd Smith (12/22)
Martha Liesener (12/23)
LaVerne "Puddy" Bublitz (12/27)

DECEMBER 2016 GREETERS

- December 4, 2016 7:45: Dave & Jeanie Martin
10:15: John & Ruthanne Geldon
December 11, 2016 7:45: LaVern Oehler & Christine Dahl
10:15: Mark & Teresa Ahrens
December 18, 2016 7:45:
10:15: Mike & Becca Kempfert
December 25, 2016 7:45:
9:30:

BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY There will be NO Adult Bible Study on December 18, 25, January 1, and January 8th. Please watch the bulletin for the next series of Bible study topics starting on January 15th.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (WNW) We will be meeting the first and third Thursday mornings of each month at 9:30 in the multi-purpose room. Please bring your bible and a notebook.

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 meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the multi-purpose room.

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY- When you drop-off your children on Friday Mornings, stay a few minutes longer to discuss the truths of the Holy Scriptures. While this devotional study is scheduled to be convenient for our school parents, it is for anyone who would like to come, and meets in the Multipurpose Room every Friday that school is in session from 8:30 to 8:50. Even if you have a toddler at your side, no problem—bring him or her along. Coffee and tea are provided, and treats are welcomed!

TEEN AND CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY meet each Sunday from 9:10 to 10:00am. Join us as we study God's Word together. 3K will have an overview of the Bible. 4K to 8th grade will study Our Response to the Gospel: Worship and Service. Teens will look at the Heroes of Faith in Scripture.

DS AIR (ANCHORED IN THE ROCK) IS OUR DAVID'S STAR YOUTH GROUP January's Teen Sunday will be January 29, 2017. If snow, there will be a quick lunch followed by a sledding party. We were able to change the Kentucky trip to the Creation Museum to February 3-5th. This will come quick! If teens would like to go, we will have a permission slip for parents to fill out, along with information about the costs. We will use our teen funds for the lodging (house rental). If any questions, please call Stacey Davison at 414.491.2140 or Ginger Oestreich at 262.305.2864.

THE "LITTLE ONES" will meet on January 7th at 9:30 am in the church gathering space. We meet on the first Saturday of the month throughout the school year. 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. Please contact Jessica Schumacher at 262.339.0976 or jc.schumacher@gmail.com.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS December 18, 2016 9:00-10:00am in David's Star gym. You are invited to join us for fellowship, Christmas carols. A presentation by 3K at 9:30. Come and listen as K3 tells the joyous Christmas story through the eyes of the shepherds in The Shepherds' Christmas. What marvelous news the shepherds had to share! What marvelous news we all have to share! Cakes and beverages will be provided. Note: Please bring cookies, fruit, pretzels, cheese, crackers, etc. to share. Please remember NO NUTS. On that Sunday there will be NO Bible Study between services.

***** SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED We are in need of a dependable 18 or older adult to shovel snow and use a snow blower (early mornings) so our teachers and students can have access to the school when it snows. The sidewalk and surrounding area on the west side of school, the west side of church and the south entrance of school need to be cleared by shoveling and/or snowblowing by 7:00 am on those days. Please contact the church/school office at 262.677.2412. Starting pay is \$10.60.

**COUNCIL CAPSULE
HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE NOVEMBER 2016 COUNCIL MEETING**

**David's Star Church Council Highlights
November 15, 2016**

Members in attendance: Pastor Woldt, Pastor Loescher, Josh Boeldt, , Glen Miller, David Zarling, Dennis Bell, Tim Gustafson, Mike Willis, Brian Lee
Absent: Nelson Erdman, Kurt Henning, Jon Kruse.

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 11, 2016.

Committee Reports

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming:

Outgoing: Henning, Heather

*Transfer to Crown of Life, Hubertus, WI
Sprader, Tracy
Released from membership*

Pastors' Report

Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 262.677.0919

kurt.loescher@gmail.com &

Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 262.377.1019

woldtma@hotmail.com

The committee and board reports reflect the work of the congregation. Thank you for the continued support of the ministry at David's Star. Reading the names of 11 former members on Saints Triumphant Sunday who passed from this life to the next served as an important reminder of the importance of our God-given mission to proclaim the Gospel.

President's Report

Brian Lee

brianandpam1@att.net

175th Anniversary – Work has begun on creating the 175th Anniversary Committee and Sib-Committee's

- Committee – will be led by Pastor Woldt and Brian Lee and will be made up of the chairs of the sub-committees
 - History Sub-Committee – Pastor Pless Chair
 - Worship Sub-Committee – Mel Heckendorf Chair
 - Fellowship Sub-Committee – Randy Matter - Chair
 - School Involvement Sub-Committee – Jeff McCoy Chair
 - Publicity Sub-Committee – Bob Campbell Chair
 - Mission Advancement Sub-Committee – Gary Heckendorf Chair

Budget – All Chairs need to start working on the Budget. The plan is to discuss first pass at the budget in Nov and have a draft to present to the congregation after the December Council Meeting.

Elections – Need to form a Nomination Committee, get the intentions from members up for re-election and identify nominees.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

Kurt Henning

klhrconst@gmail.com

Pews were cleaned this week with some minor repairs being done. Wax on the pews from services was difficult to clean. It is suggested looking for alternative to candles in the future

The HVAC system was checked out for the winter. Waiting on a report if any repairs are needed.

Paster Woldt reported that during the driving rains there is a leak on the east wall of the parsonage. Roger Tews and Jeff Wenzel are investigating.

Board for Elementary Education

Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com

Principal Tim Gustafson

tgustafson@davidstar.org

Technology-A new server was installed last week which should help improve our firewall protection.

Mission Statement- At our last Faculty meeting we discussed the possible change of our Mission Statement as suggested by the Accreditation Visiting team. Our current Mission Statement is: "David's Star Lutheran School uses God's Word to nurture, educate, and equip children for a life of Christian service and ultimately life in heaven."

The faculty is suggesting we would change it to: "David's Star Lutheran School uses God's Word to reach out and nurture, educate, and equip children for a life of Christian service and ultimately life in heaven." Follow up in Nov.

Accreditation Update- we were notified by the Synod that we were re-accredited for another year.

Childcare Fund- Currently the Childcare is fund is at \$18,386.60 which up about \$1,000 for the year. It was recommend that a contribution to the Church Operating Fund from the Childcare fund be made sometime before the end of the year. This type of contribution has not been made for a few years which would help cover costs of using the facilities. A motion was made to contribute \$5000 to the Church Operating Fund. Seconded. Motion carried.

Morning Childcare Teacher- As of November 1, Mrs. Weyker will not be serving as our Morning Childcare teacher, but she will continue to do the afternoons from 11:30-3:30. Currently she plans on finishing out the school year, but she will not be back next year.

Board of Elders

Dennis Bell

dandmbell55@yahoo.com

Pastor Woldt reported that his wife Betsy has accepted the offer to go to Southeast Asia on a missionary trip for two weeks in January. She is going to assist The Kingdom Workers with their eye care program.

Clif Koeller reported that the Harvest Home Meal had 81 attendees. As far as the confirmation class anniversaries, there were 6 total classmates from all three classes.

Paul Schreck informed us that the church pew cushions would be cleaned on November 14th. The OWLS group planned to have Deacon Tom Hall, Director of Northside Lutheran Ministries address the group on November 2nd following the Wednesday morning bible class.

The elders have given permission to the Ladies Aid to work on developing a new version of the David's Star cookbook and to use the funds available in the Cookbook Fund for the start-up costs

Evangelism Committee

Nelson Erdman

theerdmans@hotmail.com

A postcard is being printed for the Living Nativity will be held on December 9-10th at Cedarburg Creek Farm, planning internally and also with the 3 other area with area congregations participating- Our Savior, Grafton, Redeemer, and Trinity Pleasant Valley Road. WLC is also helping on Living Nativity December 10th. We are looking for help with all facets of planning and will be looking for volunteers to help make this event happen, look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex and online <http://tinyurl.com/nativityvolunteer>. Our next postcard is being printed and should be in-home before thanksgiving.

Stewardship Committee

David Zarling

david.zarling@gmail.com

The preliminary budget spreadsheet was provided committee chairs. Work needs to begin on next year's budget. The plan is to have a preliminary printed budget available for congregational review in December as was done last year. Then a congregational meeting will be held between services in January prior to the voters meeting.

Spiritual Growth Committee

Jon Kruse

krusejon@hotmail.com

No report.

Treasurer's Report

Josh Boeldt

joshua.boeldt@gmail.com

The printed report for October was presented.

2016 October Operating Budget Financial Update

Thanks be to God as we had another good month! The total offerings for October were \$76,350, which is about 30% higher than the budgeted offerings for the month—this is because October had an extra Sunday. For the year, the offerings and total income figures are about 3.4% and 2.7% more than the budgeted amounts respectively. The actual expenses for October were about 2.5% lower than the budgeted amount and the total expenses for the year are 1.4% lower than the budgeted expenses. Looking at the chart below, the actual net loss for the month was \$19,775 smaller than the anticipated budgeted net loss for the month. The overall fund balance at the end of October shows a deficit of \$64,047.

2016 October Ministries Beyond our Congregation Financial Update

The remittances in October for the WELS mission were 54% higher than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were about 44% higher than budgeted for (again, the extra Sunday in October contributes to higher mission figures). The KML Joyful Noise remittances were nearly 70% more than the anticipated amount for the month. The total amount remitted for all missions was just over 6.5% more than the budgeted remissions for the year to date.

2016 October Building Fund Update

The mortgage loan balance as of October 31, 2016 is \$1,287,916. The council's objective is to maintain a \$100,000 cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 10/31/16 was \$67,673, which is down over 3% from September.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

Old Business

Exploration of Endowment Fund at David's Star – The General Frame work has been discussed and Brian Lee will be reaching out to the donor to see if this frame work meets the intent of the donation.

New Business

Nomination Committee – Brian Lee will chair the Nomination Committee

January 8th was selected for the Congregational meeting to be held between services for the purpose of discussing the budget

Voters meeting will be scheduled for January 19th at 7:00 PM

Next month's meeting is Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 P.M.

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

Respectively submitted, Brian Lee - President



Parish Nurse News

Thoughts from your Parish Nurse

Help for Those Who Grieve

- Plan ahead. Consider the traditions you wish to continue and those you prefer to avoid.
- Take care of yourself spiritually, physically, and emotionally – proper nourishment and rest are essential.
- It's OK to feel sad. Give yourself permission to feel blue!
- It's OK to feel good. Laughing and having fun in no way shows disrespect to the memory of your loved one.
- Keep in mind that the anticipation of the holidays is often worse than the reality.

Holiday Eating Survival Tips

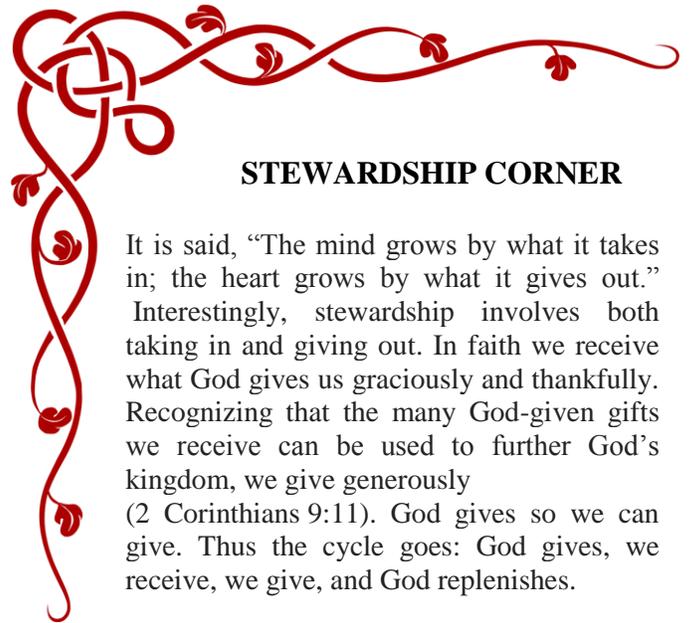
I like a common sense approach to avoiding the usual winter weight gain. Staying active is a key factor, and that can be as simple as a walk with the dog after dinner each night! A few of the ideas may catch you by surprise!

- Focus on weight maintenance, not weight loss.
- Make a plan and avoid recreational eating.
- Plan on NOT dieting after the New Year! Stand away from the food displays while visiting.
- Be physically active every day and enjoy good friends and family.
- Eat a light snack before going to holiday parties. Choose your beverages wisely.
- Reduce the fat in holiday recipes. Control portion sizes!
- Slow down! Maintain perspective!

One last thought...remember to take the emphasis off of food and focus on the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world” (John 1:9)

Together in Christ Jesus,
Sue Bolha
262-677-3485
parishnurse@davidsstar.org



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

It is said, “The mind grows by what it takes in; the heart grows by what it gives out.” Interestingly, stewardship involves both taking in and giving out. In faith we receive what God gives us graciously and thankfully. Recognizing that the many God-given gifts we receive can be used to further God’s kingdom, we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:11). God gives so we can give. Thus the cycle goes: God gives, we receive, we give, and God replenishes.



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday; December 7, 2016
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

Supper serving in the school gym
from 4:45PM – 6:30 PM each week

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S WORSHIP

December 24, 2016
4:30 PM

Children’s Christmas Eve Service at
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School

December 24, 2016
10:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at David’s Star

December 25, 2016
7:45 AM & 9:30 AM
Christmas Day Festival Services

December 31, 2016
New Year’s Worship w/Holy Communion
5:00PM

January 1, 2017
New Year’s Day Worship Services
7:45 AM & 10:15 AM

**2016 October Operating Budget
Financial Update
November 15, 2016**

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	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenue	\$91,542	\$74,101	\$17,441
Expenses	\$94,422	\$96,756	(\$2,334)
Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$2,880)	(\$22,655)	\$19,775

**2016 October Ministries Beyond our
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	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
WELS	\$8,779	\$5,707	\$3,072
KMLHS Operating Fund	\$5,017	\$3,488	\$1,529
KMLHS Joyful Noise	\$630	\$372	\$258

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Josh Boeldt, Treasurer

**CHURCH FLOWER
DONATIONS NEEDED
FOR 2017**



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 gathering space starting the weekend of November 20th. If you have any questions, please call Lynet Steele at 414.510.8623 or email at lynetsteele@gmail.com if you are interested.



**KML CHRISTMAS
CONCERTS**

KML's Winter Band Concert, featuring KML's Elementary School bands and the high school's Concert Band and Wind Symphony is Saturday, December 3, at 7:00 pm. The Christmas Choral Concert is Saturday, December 10th, at 7:00 pm. Please join us for these special concerts in our Performing Arts Center. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be gathered.

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join the Seminary Chorus on December 11 at 3:00 or 7:00 pm for Christmas at the Seminary. The 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.



LIVING NATIVITY will be held on December 9th and 10th from 6 pm-8:30 pm at the Cedarburg Creek Farm. Lots of help is needed to make this year's Nativity a success! Please see the Sign-up sheets in the New Gathering Space and prayerfully consider helping to spread the Good News! Thank you!