



thegoodnews

David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Lots of Choices. One Reason.

by Pastor Woldt

***December 2018
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On “Black Friday,” “Small Business Saturday” and “Cyber Monday” savvy shoppers flocked to stores and websites promising to give them the most bang for their buck, especially when household budgets are limited. So many stores. So many choices. It’s not always easy to decide where to begin.

As the end of the year approaches, many Christians, reflecting on the blessings of the past year, decide to give special gifts to support a gospel ministry near and dear to their hearts. So many ministries. So many choices. If only we had unlimited resources! We would financially support every worthwhile gospel ministry! The truth is, our personal resources are limited. How do we decide what to give and where to give?

The Lord has given us a remarkable amount of freedom as New Testament Christians. We are not required to give the priests ten percent of our income, in addition to all the other personal offerings and sacrifices required of the Old Testament believer throughout the year. The Lord has simply told us, “Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (1 Corinthians 9:7). Our Lord adds this promise to encourage us in our giving: “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (1 Corinthians 9:11).

Allow me to offer some of my personal thoughts with the prayer that they might help you think through the matter of year-end giving.

Support of the David’s Star operating budget is essential for the continuing ministry of our church and school. Salaries, utilities and other operating expenses are paid from this fund. Christians typically support the operating budget with regular, weekly gifts in keeping with their income. Historically, this essential fund has also benefited from increased offerings at the end of the year.

Special gifts to the David’s Star Building/Debt Retirement fund have a noticeable impact on our local financial picture. Gifts over and above the monthly mortgage payment allow us to pay more toward the principal of the loan and shave months or years off the mortgage. The special gifts during this anniversary year have certainly helped us substantially.

Special gifts to WELS are always appreciated. Through the WELS we extend our gospel outreach and work together with other congregations to prepare called workers for the future. As a congregation, we are currently behind on what we have committed to WELS for 2018.

Other ministries close to your heart may include Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Wisconsin Lutheran College, WELS Christian Aid and relief, or a host of other ministries within our fellowship. They are all worthwhile, but if the Lord has given you a special affection for a particular ministry, consider a special gift to that ministry. Those gifts typically can be made through David’s Star, or given directly to the ministry itself.

When it comes to special gifts, my personal choices are not so much driven by need (every worthwhile gospel ministry needs more support), as they are by interests and relationships I have developed with the ministries over the years. Your choices may be different than mine, but our motivation remains the same. Each of us gives generously because we have been recipients of the Lord’s generosity, both spiritually and materially.

God bless you as you make your year-end giving decisions while reflecting on God’s amazing gift to you lying in the Bethlehem’s manger.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS

Elmer Kowalske (12/2)
Arlene Rusch (12/10)
Syd Smith (12/22)
Martha Liesener (12/23)
LaVerne Bublitz (12/27)



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday, December 19, 2018
3:45 PM & 7:00 PM

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

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday, December 24, 2018
4:30 PM

Children's Christmas Service at
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
PAC doors open at 3:45 PM

Monday, December 24, 2018
10:00 PM

Candlelight Service at David's Star

Tuesday, December 25, 2018
7:45 AM & 9:30 AM

Christmas Day Festival Services

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Monday, December 31, 2018
3:45 PM and a **new time at 6:00 PM**
New Year's Eve Service
With Holy Communion

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
9:30 AM
New Year's Day Worship

LADIES' AID CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ladies' Aid will be having their **Christmas Appetizer Party** on **Thursday, December 13** starting at 6:30 PM in the multi-purpose room. You are asked to bring an appetizer and 2 plates of 6 cookies.

Please bring \$5 for our Christmas Collection for David's Star Choir Music and your own personal gift for David's Star Live Streaming Fund which is available to anyone anywhere.

Please bring a pair of new Christmas, regular or wild colorful socks for a "Sock Game" and a small \$5 gift to fit inside the sock. If you have any questions, please call Marlene Bell, 262-677-2248.

LADIES' AID CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Ladies' Aid will have Christmas cards available for sale near the Christmas tree in the gathering space until December 16. We accept cash or checks. Please make checks payable to: **David's Star Ladies' Aid.**

Living Nativity December 7th and 8th / 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Come and join us at the Cedarburg Creek Farm (649 Hwy 60 – Cedarburg) for the story of the beautiful mystery of the birth of God into humanity to save the human race. We will hold a live story telling from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM with the story being told every half hour. Enjoy the story as well as complimentary hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies. Spread the word! Invite your family friends and neighbors.

2019 CHURCH FLOWER DONATIONS

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 are in the gathering space. If you have any questions, please call Lynet Steele at 414.510.8623 or email at lynetsteele@gmail.com.

HYMNAL DONATIONS

Our goal has been met! Donations are no longer needed. Thank you to all who contributed towards purchasing new hymnals for our church. Our last purchase of hymnals will be made as soon as the hymnals are back in stock at Northwestern Publishing House.

CONGREGATION INFORMATION MEETING

The congregation information meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 16th** between services in the church. We will take a quick look at the proposed ministry plan (budget) for 2019, and other items of interest related to our gospel ministry. All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

Sunday, **December 23rd**, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. All are invited to the gym to join us for food and fellowship, to see 3K do their presentation at 9:15, and to sing Christmas carols. Cake and beverages will be provided, and we are looking for donations of cookies, fruit, pretzels, cheese, crackers, etc. to share. Please **no** nuts. (There will be **no** Bible study classes between services.)

COUNCIL CAPSULE - HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming:

Becker, Kyle
Adult Confirmation
Becker, Michelle
Profession of faith

Outgoing:

Bintz, Joshua & Andrea
Transfer to Trinity, Waukesha, WI
Deming, Briana
Transfer to Trinity (ELS), West Bend, WI

Presidents Report (Paul Steinbrenner)

Continuing to work on directory. Connie Enevold doing a lot of great work as are the others. Trying to determine who gets a free photo directory.

Anniversary Committee

Wrap-up meeting was held. Gary Heckendorf will highlight on December 8th and 9th that we still have some goals to achieve. Received about \$6,000 from cookbook sales and additional money from offerings. When everything settles, we should have about \$2,000 left in fund and the committee wants money to go back into the operating budget.

Buildings and Grounds (Glenn Miller)

Lots of things taken care of around the campus. Working on re-lamping the gym. Discussion about fall cleanup.

Board of Education (Jason Walz)

Wisconsin Safety Grant- David's Star did receive a grant from the state of Wisconsin in the amount of \$9,994.00. Once we receive the money, we will need to complete the work and teachers will need to receive some training. This year there will be boys from Crown of Life added to our A-team and B-team boys' basketball teams.

Evangelism Committee (Andrew Loescher)

Living Nativity December 7th 8th at Cedarburg Creek Farm. Need people to assist. Getting the word out by using banners, postcards and looking to use Facebook to target groups of interest. Notified other churches in the area. Reminder for all members to welcome new people attending. Need to be intentional welcoming new visitors.

Treasurer Report (Joshua Boeldt)

October Operating Budget

Now thank we all our God! The total offerings for October were \$61,073, which is about 6.2% lower than the budgeted offerings. The total income for the month was 6% lower than budgeted and is about 1.1% lower than the budget for the year to date. The actual expenses for October were about 1.5% lower than the budgeted amount and are nearly the same as the budget for the year to date. The overall fund balance at the end of October shows a deficit of \$82,759.

October Ministries Beyond our Congregation

The remittances in October for the WELS mission were 1.8% higher than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were 5.5% higher than budget. The KML Joyful Noise remittances were 37% lower than the amount budgeted for. The Multi Language Publication remittances were more than double the budgeted amount. The total amount remitted for all missions was about 20% higher than the amount budgeted for October, and is 6.4% lower year to date.

October Building Fund

The mortgage loan balance at the end of October is \$964,606. The council's objective is to maintain a \$100,000 cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 10/31/18 was \$100,418. An extra principal payment of \$28,000 was made in October.

Old Business

Congregational Commitment to KMLHS "Blessed Beyond Belief" Capital Campaign: This is one area to potentially recommend our voters to allocate the Trust Fund dollars to cover David's Star portion.

New Business

Bookkeeper position— Bob Heider looking to step down. Have a few names of people interested in the position. Once there are 3-4 we will have interviews. Hoping to have filled by the new year. Elections—Those members on third term should look for replacements. President determines who heads committee.

Next Council Meeting: (7pm; December 11, 2018)



PARISH NURSE NEWS

*“Be still and know
that I am God.”*

I have decided to follow my own encouragement to listen to the words from Scripture that I have heard myself saying recently to my sisters in Christ. This afternoon, Dan, for some unknown reason is in the mood to decorate for the holidays! He likes to participate in getting ready but not usually before Thanksgiving! There are plastic tubs everywhere! I am in the middle of doing the weekly laundry, writing this newsletter article, answering emails, we have a house full of company coming in 4 days and my blood pressure is rising! You get the picture! The Scripture on my mind? *“Be still and know that I am God.”* So I take a deep breath, ask Dan to do the dishes and fold a load of towels for me, I pick out a something from a previous holiday newsletter to share and my blood pressure eases back off! Thank you Lord! For a great husband who is willing to help if I just ask him! For the reassurance that God is in control and things will all work out! And for our Savior, born in a lowly manger to then die on the cross for our sins. Bless this Advent Season as we prepare for His coming!

Holiday 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.

“From Dirty to Dancing: God’s Grace for those struggling with Pornography”

“God’s boundless grace is powerful enough not only to make us clean but also to get us dancing. Yes, dancing! We will dance with joy in the presence of the God who forgives us, delights in us, and longs to help us conquer our sinful struggles through Jesus Christ.” Written by Mike Novotny, pastor of The Core in Appleton, WI. As the chairman of Conquerors Through Christ, a grace-base ministry for sexual sinners, he has used God’s Word to train and equip thousands of people to find greater joy in Jesus than in the short-term pleasures of pornography.

I purchased a copy for our Health Office Library. Feel free borrow it if you or someone you love struggles with porn. *Our* congregation is filled with every type of sinner and Jesus died for *us* all. People who love Jesus can fall in love with porn. Porn is *our* struggle, *our* enemy, *our* concern – because porn (and every other type of sin) is affecting *us*.



2019 SCHEDULE

January 27th; February 24th; March 24th; April 28th;
June 23rd; July 28th; August 25th; September 22nd;
October 27th; November 24th

Screenings take place in the nurses office located off of the gathering space, east of the elevator, between services.

BAND CONCERT

The Wisconsin Lutheran College Concert Band will present its Winter Band Concert on Friday, **December 7** at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Arts and Performance Schwan Concert Hall. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased at wlc.edu/boxoffice or by calling 414.443.8802.

WINTER BAND CONCERT

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School will present its Winter Band Concert on Sunday, **December 9** at 2:00 PM in the PAC Auditorium.

SEMINARY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will present its annual concert, “Christmas at the Seminary,” **December 9** at 3 or 7 p.m. Over 50 voices will share the story of Jesus’ birth in songs, carols, and hymns. This concert will be held in the auditorium and a free-will offering will be gathered. Open seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The 3 p.m. (central) service will be streamed live at <http://livestream.com/WLSLive>.

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION (CAMM)

This month, the letter was written in four parts by the stateside committee members who were able to travel to Malawi and Zambia in July 2018. Cheryl Valus is our Contact Woman Coordinator. Mike Valus, our Webmaster, is an advisory member on the committee. Cindy Fietzer is our Nurse Coordinator. Finally, Shelly Sievert is our current chair.

Cheryl Valus: *“As I focus especially at this time of year on thankfulness, my heart continues to be filled with love, praise and thanks for the opportunity we had on our visit to Africa to worship with our fellow Lutheran believers at Martin Luther Church in Mwembezhi, Zambia. As CAMM supporters, we have had the privilege to serve the people of Zambia (and Malawi) with Christ centered healthcare to, Lord willing, improve their lives through better health.*

*Though our cultures and day to day life may be so vastly different, what binds us as one is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To have shared in a 2-1/2 hour church service in which I understood not many words, I kept repeating in my head and heart, “May the words of **their** mouths and the meditation of all of our hearts, be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14).*

One day we will live in the joys and perfection of paradise together worshipping around the throne of God altogether with one voice. The people there shared with us what our missionaries and mission work brought to them over 50 years ago and that continues to grow thru His power. To Him be the praise and thanks for these memorable moments.”

Mike Valus: *“When asked to put together my thoughts on what touched me most about visiting Africa, my thoughts were - “how do I narrow it down?” The continent is beautiful, the work awe-inspiring, and God’s people in Africa are amazing testimonies to His love. However, one thought kept coming back to me... “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” [Romans 10:15 (Isaiah 52:7)] As I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know our hosts in Africa, I realized it takes VERY special people to live in a foreign land foregoing all the comforts of home. People like Beth and Gary Evans (Malawi expatriate staff) and Dan and Lisa Sargent (Zambian Missionary family), are people with this willingness as they live their love for God’s people. Thanks be to God for people like our American workers, willing to serve His people with the love of Jesus Christ. How beautiful are their feet!”*

Cindy Fietzer: *“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand,*

that those who come in may see the light....” [Luke 11:33] After a difficult stretch that was full of faith challenges for me, I was led to a purposeful group that has shown me what real Christian purpose is, how it can be combined with health care, and then delivered to those in need in Africa. This purpose filled group, this ‘lit lamp’ is CAMM. As a nurse and an educator I am especially thankful for the delivery of Christ-centered health care to people in need. In particular, the care provided to the children served by CAMM has so deeply touched my heart. Like rays of sun shining down and making the world a bright place, the children offer a sense of hope, curiosity, and happiness in a world that can be dark and uncertain at best. No matter where you live or what your life is like, children are the light of hope and a reason to dream for a better tomorrow. And so I look ahead with excitement and enthusiasm to many more years of learning through the Central Africa Medical Mission.

Thank you to all who contribute to CAMM and for the opportunity to serve and participate in Christ-centered health care delivered to those in need in Malawi and Zambia.

Shelly Sievert: *“Africa. Malawi. Zambia. Words that conjure up visions of another world. What was most memorable to me from our trip was that we may be in Africa but no matter where you are people are people. All of us have physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Having the opportunity to see our brothers and sisters offering Christ-centered healthcare was to see the divine in action. Jesus told us ‘whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matt. 25:40). Seeing the compassion, love, caring and support for all of the patients at our clinics and knowing that it came from hearts filled with Christ’s love was humbling. Thank you to all our supporters who allow us to show Christ’s love to the tens of thousands we serve annually.*

Please visit the website (www.camm.us) for pictures associated with each committee member’s thoughts.

To learn more about CAMM, please contact Linda Liesener at cammcontact@charter.net or 262.677.3844