



# thegoodnews

David's Star  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ***“Old Year Lessons, New Year Hope”***

*by Pastor Kurt Loescher*

How difficult and frustrating to watch a child practicing the same destructive behavior over and over again. We wonder why that child hasn't learned his lesson yet. Of course we have to admit that he's not the only one. And we may have learned our lesson well enough, but we just aren't very good at living that lesson.

As I look at the top three internet searches of 2012, that truth comes to mind. 2012 has ended in the same condition as every other year before it. The number one search was Whitney Houston, an exquisitely lovely and powerful talent, whose life was cut short by drug abuse. Number two, the YouTube sensation music video, *Gangnam Style*, just another of many music videos that demonstrates a hideously over-sexed, perverted society. Number three is Hurricane Sandy. St. Paul depicts nature as groaning as in the pains of child-birth. Sometimes creation groans with destructive and even deadly force. Ask the people of New Jersey if they can really count on anything. I was rather shocked to see that nothing about the war in Afghanistan and the Middle East made a top news story. Perhaps the only way to cope with war now is to ignore it. But people keep leading self-absorbed, destructive life-styles, becoming more and more cold. Natural disasters plague the globe every year. Wars and rumors of war threaten the safety of people around the world.

A look back at the year 2012 brings to mind the question often asked over this past year, “What is this world coming to?” Of course, the simple answer to the question, which usually isn't looking for an answer, is that the world is coming to its end. No, we do not follow the Mayan calendar. If we did, 2012 would have brought even more confusion and distress on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December because the world did not come to an end on the day the Mayan calendar ended. We follow the Holy Scriptures in which Jesus says in Matthew 24, “Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” Every year brings more of the same—

teachings that attack the essence of God's love in Jesus Christ and tempt us to follow; cold, hardened hatred toward God and his people; and death and destruction which plays no favorites. Such things must happen.

With this year after year pattern, what hope can there be for 2013? The end is still to come. Maybe not this year. Maybe not for another thousand years, but therein is our hope. We have the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. That hope overrides all concerns for this life on earth. While sin has affected all people and even all creation right down to its core, Jesus has eliminated sin's affect. Every day we can have hope of forgiveness and life with our holy and merciful God. As we confess the sins of our own hearts and turn to Jesus who has redeemed us from our sins by his own sacrifice we experience new life all over again. We have a living hope for 2013 and forever.

The truth that the world will not last forever and the end is coming makes the Christian faith the most relevant message of history. Our faith and our preaching often suffer abuse for being impractical and of no value to a person's daily life. That has caused many Christians to shift to a gospel that focuses on how God helps us live our daily lives and fight to improve society. But society is not going to improve unless Jesus wasn't telling us the truth in Matthew 24. The improvement comes when this world ends. It isn't that the joys of this life are of no value. They are all blessings from God to serve us in our lives on earth. Each blessing of life is just another stepping stone on our journey to heaven. View them as such and 2013 is filled with nothing but hope. Let that hope shine in this dark world, not to improve the world but to save people from themselves and this sinful world.

***If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men (1 Corinthians 15:19).***

***January  
2013***

***Volume XV,  
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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Helen Kannenberg...1/1/1921...92 yrs. old  
Delores Heimerl...1/8/1925...88 yrs. old

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### JANUARY 2013 GREETERS

January 5, 2013 5:00;  
January 6, 2013 7:45; Joel and Linda Pless  
10:15; Tony and Lynn Gromacki

January 12, 2013 5:00;  
January 13, 2013 7:45; Ross and Colleen Lemke  
10:15; Dan and Elaine Schubert

January 19, 2013 5:00;  
January 20, 2013 7:45; LaVerne Groth  
10:15; Dave and Dawn Doering

January 26, 2013 5:00;  
January 27, 2013 7:45;  
10:15; Michelle Brandt and family

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### THANK YOU

The pastors, teachers and staff at David's Star wish to thank you for your prayers and support throughout the year. It is truly a blessing to work with people of God who are committed to supporting the gospel ministry. We pray that God blesses you and your family this Christmas season. May the message of Jesus' birth renew and strengthen us as we continue to work together in the New Year.

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### ADULT BIBLE INSTRUCTION CLASS

is scheduled to begin on January 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be held every Monday for approximately fifteen weeks, meeting for an hour and a half from 6:30-8:00pm. This is our *New Life In Christ* Class that covers the basic teachings of the Bible as presented in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. It is intended for members to brush up on the teachings of Scripture and our Lutheran Church. It is also intended for those who are interested in joining the church. Upon completion of this course, if the attendee agrees with the teachings that were presented, he or she may choose to join our congregation and fellowship. Members who know of someone who may be interested may pick up an invitation to offer, and might consider joining that person in the class. You may RSVP by calling the church office 677.2412 or Pastor Loescher 677.0919.

## BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS

**NEW BIBLE CLASSES STARTING** January 6th. Dave Martin will begin a series of "Pselected Psalms".

The Psalms get a lot of exposure in our circles: We sing them almost every Sunday. Their words weave in and out of our liturgies. Jesus referenced the Psalms in prayers to his Father. Martin Luther noted that "the entire Bible is contained in the Psalms." But sometimes we get so familiar with the Psalms that we repeat the words without stopping to appreciate their value and beauty. Join us for a Bible Study entitled "Pselected Psalms," as we seek to grow in our knowledge and understanding of both the familiar--and not-so-familiar Psalms. Discover anew how relevant and valuable this portion of God's Word can be to help us in our Christian walk.

Pastor Loescher will lead a study in church on Genesis 1-11 starting January 7<sup>th</sup>. The first eleven chapters of Genesis contain five familiar Bible History lessons taught to our children. We will study these Biblical accounts in all their detail and with an eye on their broader biblical context and contemporary application. Creation, the Fall into Sin, Cain and Abel, The Flood, and The Tower of Babel. This Class will be taught in the Church.

**CHILDREN AND TEEN BIBLE STUDIES** Join us from 9:10 to 10:00AM, as we look at God's Word together. K3 will have an overview of the Bible. K4/K5 to 8<sup>th</sup> grade will study the Ten Commandments. Teens will discuss various topics.

**ALL WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION** are invited to Women's Thursday Bible Study. Please bring your Bibles and we will discuss our topic for the coming year. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month at 9:30 in the multi-purpose room. We hope to see you there.

**WEBS-WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY** All women of the congregation are invited to join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the atrium (upstairs). Please call Colleen Loeffler, 677-2319 with any questions.

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

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** at Jimmy's in Jackson meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 am.

**BARNABAS** is the name of our small group bible studies. We took that name from an early disciple who was given that nick name because he was such an encourager. Our small group home bible studies are also intended for the encouragement of one another. The groups are getting a restart in November, and it is never too late 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](mailto:kurt.loescher@gmail.com).

### David's Star Church Council Meeting Minutes / Capsule

Members in attendance: Pastor Woldt Tim Gustafson, Brian Lee, Randy Matter, Kevin Behm, Bill Truebenbach, Andy Loeffler, Jim Korthals, Bob Heider, Dan Bolha, Brian Heckendorf.

Absent: Pastor Loescher, David Zarling

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 November 13, 2012.

### Committee Reports Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

**Incoming:** Esenberg, Linda  
*Adult confirmation*  
Jacklin, Paul & Jessica  
*Adult confirmation*  
Lehman, Brandon & Jennifer; Payton  
*Transfer from Christ, Pewaukee, WI*

**Outgoing:** Johnson, Phil  
*Transfer to Trinity, Waukesha, WI*

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

While we have a number of election ballot slots to fill yet, we are thankful for the members who have prayerfully considered the opportunity to serve the Lord and his Church through an elected council or board position. We also continue to be grateful for those who give their precious time and resources for the proclamation of the gospel through the ministry of David's Star. Let's continue to encourage each other as we walk together here, and in our broader WELS fellowship.

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

Constitution and Bylaws – Work is progressing. Please work within your committees and provide Patrick Steele and Rod Kison with your feedback.

Vacancies and Nominating Committee – Bill Bublitz and the nominating committee are in the process of making contacts.

### Buildings and Grounds

**Brian Heckendorf, brian.heckendorf@gmail.com**  
Brian reported that there has been a gap in the east end of the gym. He met with the foundation company who did work in 2003. They felt this was not a foundation problem and recommended that we contact a construction engineer. Work is being done on some parking lot lights.

**Board for Elementary Education**  
**Bob Heider, Telephone #262.644.1726**  
**bhheider@charter.net**  
**Principal Tim Gustafson Telephone # 262.338.3992**  
**tgustafson@davidstar.org**

Bob discussed a handout present to council pertaining to a recommendation from the Board for Elementary Education for our early childhood education programs. This will be covered under new business.

**Board of Elders**  
**Bill Truebenbach, Telephone #262.677.3052**  
**bmtrueben@att.net**

Bill provided a written report from the Board's recent meeting summarizing their activities. Bill suggested that we open our thoughts to upgrading our audio visual equipment for church soon. Brian requested that council members send technology budget requests to the technology committee via email.

**Evangelism Committee**  
**David Zarling, Telephone # 414.839.0094**  
**david.zarling@gmail.com**

No report.

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

Professor Korthals presented to council the 2013 Preliminary Budget as it stands today. Although many of the components of the budget are included, there are still blanks to be filled in. In the "still to be figured out" category are the budgets for WELS, KML, etc. This information will be discussed under new business. Concerning the misprinted offering envelope - after contacting American Church, Inc., we received a 20% credit on misprinted envelopes. We have received a credit memo for \$143.03.

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

Paul Snamiska will conclude his Bible study on Christian ethics on 12/16/2012. Bill Truebenbach will present a summary of his recent trip to Africa on 12/30/2012. Dave Martin will begin a Bible study on selected Psalms on 1/6/2013. A Birthday Party for Jesus will be held between services on 12/23/2012.

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Randy Matter, Telephone # 262.376.1585**  
[matters@nconnect.net](mailto:matters@nconnect.net)

The November 30, 2012 report was presented indicating an ending operating fund balance at 11/30/12 in the amount of (\$78,065). Operating fund receipts for the month were \$81,008 which is a 6% improvement over last year. YTD operating fund receipts were \$963,762 which is 111.6% of budget. In addition to our increase in operating fund receipts for the month of November, several expense items placed in the operating fund previously were reclassified out of this fund in November. These expenses were relative to church office equipment and work on the parsonage roof.

**Vice Presidents Report**  
**Dan Bolha, Telephone #262.677.3485**  
[dbolha@ymail.com](mailto:dbolha@ymail.com)

Item to be covered under old business.

A motion was made and carried to accept all reports except those items that needed separate action under old or new business.

**Old Business**

Future of "Parish Center" – Brian's contact relative to this project is taking college final exams. He has accepted a permanent position with the same company so it is anticipated that we will still have an opportunity to use him.

Hearing system – The hearing loop system has been installed and was operational this past week. Some electrical connections for recharging the devices will need to be set up. There has been some feedback regarding the possibility that the dimmer switches in church are interfering with the system and causing static. This will be addressed.

Artwork for narthex – Sandy Siebers is moving forward with creating some artwork. It will be a 4 X 8 framed piece of artwork.

**New Business**

Early Childhood Program – The Board of Education recommends to Council the following relative to our Early Childhood Program at David's Star. This will be a separate recommendation independent of our budget recommendation:

Transition our current ½ day 5K program to a full-day 5K program. This will require that we extend/reissue a call to hire a full-time kindergarten teacher.

Maintain our current 4K program as a 3 day/week offering. Because of the size of the current year's 4K class, Mrs. Bintz is currently working 5 days/week (see item below)

Provide a 3K program which would meet 2 days/week. This would not only allow us to maximize the use of the space in the preschool room, but more importantly, it will allow David's Star to offer a new program to our members

and the surrounding communities. Attracting new families/children to our congregation at an earlier age will give us a better opportunity to share the Gospel with them prior to them leaving us (for nonmembers), and it will provide us a better opportunity to retain more of those non-member families.

We envision that the 4K program would meet Mon/Wed/Fri and the 3K program would meet Tue/Thur. Our preference would be to have the same teacher from a continuity standpoint, and this would not require any additional salary expense as compared to the current year.

Enclose the IMC space funded from the accumulated childcare funds. With the expansion of programs outlined above, we will need alternative and appropriate space to offer childcare to families and students that need it. By enclosing the IMC area, it will be used throughout the day for early childhood students needing childcare when their classes are not meeting.

Budgetary implications for the above proposal would be in 2013, \$15,000 for the additional salary and benefits for a full-time kindergarten teacher, and \$4,800 in expanded childcare. In 2014, the budget implications would be \$37,600 in additional salary and benefits for a full-time kindergarten teacher, and \$11,000 in expanded childcare. Some of the salary and much of the childcare costs will be recovered through tuition and fees.

After discussion by Council, a motion was made and approved to recommend to the voters that we move forward with the outlined plans relative to our early childhood program.

**LOOKING FOR LOST MEMBERS**

In our effort to encourage members of David's Star to an active and vibrant worshipful relationship with our Lord and his people, the elders are going over the list of inactives once again. Please look over the following list of names of people we have not been able to find. If you know the contact information for any of these people, please contact the church office so that it can be updated. And if any of them are people you know well, pray for an opportunity to encourage them to worship.

1. Colleen Eilers
2. Eric Eilers
3. Andrew Marzinske
4. Lauren Marzinske
5. Robert Marzinske



## Parish Nurse News

### “Accessibility at David’s Star”

The purpose of David’s Star, as a group of Christians, and its ultimate objective, is to serve all people in God’s world with his

gospel. We have a message that is more important than any other: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the salvation of all.

To our guests and members alike we want to make sure your time with us is conducive to hearing God’s Word in its truth and purity. For instance:

- For those with mobility issues, the South entrance to the school is under a roof with automatic doors and an elevator to get you up to the church level. Wheelchairs are available at each entrance for you to use. There is also a row of chairs in the middle of the chancel for those who find the pews uncomfortable. The pastors are more than willing to bring communion to our members in the pew if unable to come forward. Just let the pastor or an usher know of your situation.
- For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, we are currently in the process of installing a new Auditory Loop System for those with or without a hearing aid. More information will be made available as the ushers learn about the new system. Curious? Ask Dan Bolha (677-3485)! Printed sermons are available in the gathering space to use to follow the sermon or to take home to a loved one.
- For the visually impaired or those needing a simpler format, there are several burgundy folders with the entire printed service in the old narthex (again, ask an usher to help you find them!)
- For those with small children there are children’s book bags in the cry room to help settle a restless child.

If we can serve you in any way, let us know how we may help! To our friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to the first time visitor, we extend our sincere greeting; to those who seek a church home, we offer fellowship with the living Savior.

Together in Christ,  
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse  
David’s Star Lutheran Church  
262.677.3485

[parishnurse@davidstar.org](mailto:parishnurse@davidstar.org)

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Students attending WELS Ministerial education schools (Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)- each received a distribution of \$230 from our David’s Star Synodical Student Aid Fund. Here are some acknowledgements;

Dear Members of David’s Star,

My most sincere thanks for your generous gift of money to encourage me to pursue the Gospel ministry. I'm a senior studying the pastoral ministry at MLC now, and I'm excited to be able to enter the seminary soon. Thank you for years of prayers and encouragement while I finish my last semester at MLC.

Benjamin Rusch

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Dear members of David's Star,

Christmas is here! Rejoice that God has sent us Jesus! He is our Savior and King! Out of thanks for all of the blessings you have received from God, you have given from your treasures to support the training of ministers. Thank you. May God be praised for this fruit of faith worked in you by grace. I have the privilege of joining with you in worship and fellowship regularly as well as learning some practical skills for ministry. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

I am from Watertown, Wisconsin. I have been involved with music for a good portion of my life. I play piano and organ. After graduating from Martin Luther College, I went to China to spread the Gospel as a member of Friends of China for a year. That opportunity allowed me to gain experience and motivation to spread the Gospel boldly here in the United States. Rejoice with me that the Gospel is being spread all over the world and especially to our brothers and sisters in China. May God be praised for the spread of his Gospel into all nations.

After finishing my first semester at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, I am encouraged by the support that the body of Christ gives to their future pastors. May God continue to bless you with an outpouring of his grace in the future. May you continue to support the body of Christ with your words, works, and prayers. Your gifts “are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:18-19

Yours in Christ , Darin Warnecke