



David's Star
Evangelical Lutheran Church

thegoodnews

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“Face the New Year In View of the Past”

by Pastor Kurt Loescher

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As we navigate into a new year, what have we learned from the old, or from past years, or even from past millennia? Maybe you don't even want to go down that road. You wouldn't be alone. Not a few people have been known to meet the encouragement to learn from the past with indifference or even disdain.

Maybe just because it is so cliché. Old worn out ideas and phrases just aren't taken seriously. It's interesting though that you can hear this encouragement repeated in one form or another in every culture and language: “Learn from the past”, “Learn from your mistakes”. Such basic, universal wisdom ought to be honored. Disregard one of the oldest encouragements of humanity? Isn't that all the reason to honor and practice it?

On the other hand, you may have experienced a scholar of history touting his or her own philosophies or worldviews which didn't sit well with you. These ideas are of course based on that person's interpretation of history. Are you learning from the past or learning some else's views based on a skewed view of the past. It's hard to know unless you personally go through the scholarly work of reading through all the original documents and eyewitness accounts of what happened. Who can blame people for being jaded to this age old advice if they've run up against such bold abuse of history too many times?

It sure is good to see that time honored advice to learn from the past hasn't only come from the wise men of the world. The Lord has always intended that the failing and the blessings of past events be examples for us. The best part about the Lord's direct encouragement to learn from the past is that the source book for the lessons of the past is his Holy Word. We can all read this historical first hand source book, and we need to read and reread it. St. Paul wrote to the Romans, “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Don't stop reading the Scriptures as you face this next year. Keep finding the encouragement of the past in God's Word. Keep finding your guidance and hope through the various ways God counseled and corrected many

different people throughout the history recorded in his Word.

Martin Luther wrote good counsel while addressing preachers, but it is good counsel for us all, “Truly, you cannot read in Scripture too much, and what you do read you cannot read too well, and what you read well you cannot understand too well, and what you understand well, you cannot teach too well, and what you teach well you cannot live too well.”

Draw deeply from the past this coming year. Drink from the Word of our Holy God that we might not only face this year with confidence, but live it in the Lord.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SENIORS**
*Helen Kannenberg 1/1
Delores Heimerl 1/8
Dietrich Schnappup 1/29*

JANUARY 2017 GREETERS

January 15, 2017 7:45: Dave & Jeanie Martin
10:15: Brian & Pam Lee

January 22, 2017 7:45: Lorraine McCauley
10:15: Joel & Carrie Hinz

January 29, 2017 7:45: No one signed up
10:15: No one signed up

BIBLE CLASS OFFERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Classes will resume on January 15. Pastor Loescher will be conducting a three Sunday review of the Apostle's Creed. It will be a whirlwind Catechism tour of the key teachings about God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This class will be held in the church. Pastor Woldt will be lead a study of 2 John and 3 John, with a special emphasis on the blessings of church fellowship. This class will meet in the multipurpose room.

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.

THE "LITTLE ONES" will meet on February 4th 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](tel:262.339.0976) or jc.schumacher@gmail.com.

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REGISTRATION 2017 FOR 3K & 4K PRESCHOOL AND 5K KINDERGARTEN

Listed below are the registration days for each of our classes. Invitations will be going out in the mail at the end of December. Parents are asked to stay to fill out the registration forms in the concessions area while your child is in the classroom. Please enter through the south doors off of Spring Valley Road.

3K Preschool Friday, January 27 8:30-10:00am Children must be 3 years old by September 1st. Children will be able to attend an abbreviated preschool day. Our 3K Preschool Program is 2 days/week on Tuesday and Thursday. Child care will be available when they are not in class.

4K Kindergarten Thursday, January 26 8:30-10:00am Children must be 4 years old by September 1st. Children will be able to attend an abbreviated kindergarten day. Our 4K Kindergarten Program is 3 days/week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Child care will be available when they are not in class.

5K Kindergarten Friday, January 27 8:30-11:30am Children must be 5 years old by September 1st. Children will be able to attend an abbreviated kindergarten day. Our 5K Kindergarten Program is 5 full days/week.

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

David's Star Church Council Highlights
December 13, 2016

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

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 15, 2016.

Committee Reports

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming: Stannard, Jesse
*Transfer from Atonement Lutheran Church,
Milwaukee*

Stannard, Alexandra
*Transfer from Woodlawn Lutheran Church,
West Allis*

Outgoing: None.

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. Use this season to reach out to a friend or acquaintance with an invitation to worship at church or learn more about the baby born in the manger. Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the gospel ministry of David's Star in the coming year.

President's Report

Brian Lee
brianandpam1@att.net

175th Anniversary – Next committee meeting is scheduled for Jan 16

- 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 – It is expected that we will complete a preliminary budget tonight so copies of it will be available in the narthex later this month.

Elections – I am proceeding with making calls for open positions. I have already received some yes(s) form a few people. President and VP are still difficult to fill.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

Kurt Henning

klhrconst@gmail.com

A discussion was held on how to handling clearing of the snow from the sidewalks to the entrances of the school and church. No one has responded to the note in the bulletin. It was decided to purchase 2 small snow blowers that could be stored near the entrances, but outside. Kurt will handle the purchase.

The heat exchanger was replaced on unit #7. The cost of this will come out of long term maintenance fund. Other repairs will be completed later this month.

A discussion was held on the future of the church woods buildings and gathering area as well as the need to clear out some of the taller trees to allow smaller trees to grow. It was suggested that a committee be formed to provide suggestions for overall plan. This discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Board for Elementary Education

Mike Willis, mike.willis@sial.com

Principal Tim Gustafson

tgustafson@davidstar.org

Lunch- The lunch program continues to run smoothly. Jennifer Miller has managed to recruit a few extra volunteers to help her serve lunch.

Technology- They continue to do work on the new server, but they are close to having everything in place and running smoothly.

Winter Coaches- Listed below are the coaches for the winter sports.

A-Girls- Scott Beyersdorf, John Wagie, Amy Schwalenberg
A-Boys- Randy Wagner, John Wagie
B-Girls- John Wagie, Amy Schwalenberg
B-Boys- Dave Zarling, Randy Wagner
C-Girls- Jessica Jacklin, Heidi Walz (if there is a team)
C-Boys- Randy Wagner (if there is a team)
5th-6th Cheerleading- John Wagie adult supervisor, Ellie Loeffler would actually work with the girls

Board of Elders
Dennis Bell
dandmbell55@yahoo.com

No formal report.

Evangelism Committee
Nelson Erdman
theerdmans@hotmail.com

A Living Nativity attendance was down this year. Otherwise a good time was had by all attending.

Work on school outreach continues.

Stewardship Committee
David Zarling
david.zarling@gmail.com

Dave presented the preliminary budget. The council gave approval to make copies available in the narthex later in December in preparation of the congregational meeting.

Spiritual Growth Committee
Jon Kruse
krusejon@hotmail.com

Church Library: 3 new books have been donated to the Church library.

Children's Bible Study: There is a full teaching staff and things were going smoothly. The children will be singing on December 18th which is also the Birthday Party for Jesus.

Adult Bible Study: The reformation history session has been confirmed for February 2017.

Other Business:

There will be two new home Bible study groups starting early in 2017.

John Wagie is getting a new men's group together.

Jeanie Martin is serving as the Synod contact for ladies events and information.

The youth group is getting more active. Activities include Bible study, service projects and an upcoming trip.

The theme for VBS (June 26-30) will be Build on the Rock

Treasurer's Report
Josh Boeldt

joshua.boeldt@gmail.com

The printed report for November was presented.

2016 November Operating Budget Financial Update

Thanks be to the Lord our God! The total offerings for November were \$86,824, which is 10% lower than the budgeted offerings—the budget allowed for an extra Sunday meaning those figures will typically be a bit higher than the actual results. For the year, the offerings are nearly 1.7% over budget and the total income is just over 1% more than the budgeted amount. The actual expenses for

November were just over 1.1% higher than the budgeted amount but the total expenses for the year are

1.2% lower than the budgeted expenses. Looking at the chart below, the actual net profit for the month was \$12,373 smaller than the anticipated budgeted net profit for the month. The overall fund balance at the end of November shows a deficit of \$46,313

2016 November Ministries Beyond our Congregation
Financial Update

The remittances in November for the WELS mission were 30% lower than budgeted for, while the KMLHS operating mission remittances were about 35% lower than budgeted for (again, the budget called for an extra Sunday, which causes the shortfall). However, the KML Joyful Noise remittances were over 80% more than the anticipated amount for the month. The total amount remitted for all missions was about 2.4% more than the budgeted remissions for the year to date.

2016 November Building Fund Update

The mortgage loan balance as of November 30, 2016 is \$1,278,575. The council's objective is to maintain a \$100,000 cushion in the building fund debt account—our balance at 11/30/16 was \$67,062, which is down 1% from October.

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, January 10th 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

Merry Christmas, 2016

Dear Special Ministries team –

Sometimes as I learn about the barriers faced by our people with special needs, my mind has played back the words of Isaiah, "Surely you are a God who hides Himself." (Isaiah 45:15) When I am stunned or overwhelmed or disheartened, I put it less eloquently, "Where is God in all of this?" It's not a statement of unbelief; it's a confession of ignorance. I don't always know what God's plan is.

That's why this nativity painting by Phillippe de Champagne appeals to me. Bright bold colors, a definite focus, everything that draws your attention except the most important detail: at the



feet of the shepherds is a lamb, but not the lamb you'd expect. Here is a sacrificial lamb. While the world is focused on the baby, the Lord is already working to provide the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. I don't always see God's plan, but He never loses sight of it, even when I do. Matthew Henry said, "*The God of Israel is sometimes a God who hides Himself, but never a God who absents Himself.*"

The Lamb is the plan. The Lamb is why we labor to demolish barriers and build bridges for the gospel. We don't know where God's plan will take us in 2017, but we do know that God's will is to seek and save the lost. He has already found you and me. In Christmas joy and renewal, let us join Him in sharing the Lamb of God with the world whose sins He came to take away!

A blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones, and to all whom our Lord will call!

Jim

Jim Behringer
Director, Commission on Special Ministries

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"God is faithful." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

I thought you might enjoy this letter from Pastor Behringer! He is the WELS Nurses Association Spiritual Advisor and so part of his team! "Let us join Him in sharing the Lamb of God with the world whose sins He came to take away!"

Blessings in the New Year,

Sue Bolha
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