



David's Star  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

thegoodnews

2740 David's Star Dr.  
Jackson, WI 53037

(262) 677-2412  
www.davidstar.org

## *"Having in Mind the Things of God"*

*by Pastor Kurt Loescher*

On the social network called Twitter, over 400,000 people tweeted out what they were planning to give up for Lent. The top ten are in this order: School, chocolate, Twitter, swearing, alcohol, soda, social networking, sweets, fast food, and Lent. This whole thing about giving up things for Lent seems ridiculous to good Lutherans. After all, we Lutherans are all about free grace. We don't do anything to gain God's favor or to give a show of piety as if our salvation depends on us. Yet the idea of fasting, or giving up something can have positive spiritual benefits. The idea of fasting in Scripture isn't to make yourself look more pious because you are being more spiritual. The purpose is to take your mind off earthly things so that you can better concentrate on God's love. Take giving up social networking or Twitter, for instance. If you aren't communicating with hundreds of friends at the same time, you could take time in a bible program like biblegateway. By the way, biblegateway reported a 15% increase of bible searches between Ash Wednesday and Easter last year. Searches for repentance increased by 50% on Ash Wednesday.

Fasting will never be mandatory nor should we burden anyone with requirements like that. The only thing that the Lord Jesus wants from his brothers and sisters is that we have in mind the things of God rather than the things of men. That's what he told the Apostle Peter when Peter rebuked Jesus for all his talk about being executed at the hands of the Chief Priests and leaders of the people. If fasting of any kind helps you keep Jesus in mind and focusing on his sacrifice for your sins, then go for it. But I would hope that we can accomplish the same thing without formal fasting, that is, singling out some worldly pleasure. What it takes is giving up time for everything else so that we have good quiet

time with Jesus. In that quiet time go to the only place we can be released from our guilt, go to Jesus.

The things of men tell fathers that they need time for themselves or that they need to work harder and longer so our families can have more and maintain a comfortable lifestyle even if it squeezes out worship. The things of men tell mothers and fathers that their children need every possible experience to become great athletes, accomplished musicians, top students. They find it impossible to say "no" to opportunities in fear of holding their children back. But when does the schedule get so full that we no longer have in mind the work of raising them as God's children? Worship as a family can become something you do when the schedule permits.

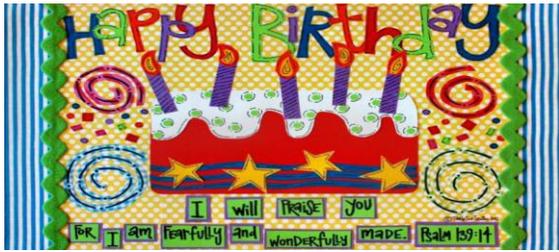
The things of men tell us that we should not have to experience pain, that we should have plenty of time for ourselves to relax and enjoy life. The things of men will not allow you to say no to a late Saturday night of fun for the sake of quality worship the next morning. The things of men assumes the right to relax from a hard day's work instead of going out of the house again to worship and pray with others on a Wednesday night in the season of Lent.

Jesus rebuked Peter severely that night when he called him Satan for suggesting that Jesus take the happy and self-serving way--that he not endure the cross. But Jesus also calms our troubled hearts and burdened consciences with his forgiving love. Contemplating our transgressions leads us directly to a cross of grief and pain that Jesus suffered in our place. It leads us to the joy of his forgiving love.

Don't give up the tenth option on the list above. Don't give up Lent for Lent. Don't give up on Jesus' love and the somber strength of our Lenten meditation.

*March 2015*

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**SENIORS**

*Donna Gutermann...3/18/1935...80 yrs. old*



**March 2015  
GREETERS**

- March 1, 2015; 7:45 Prof. Joel & Linda Pless  
10:15 Michelle Brandt & family
- March 8, 2015; 7:45 Jody & Amy Hansen  
10:15 Bob & Lisa Heider
- March 15, 2015; 7:45 Ross & Colleen Lemke  
10:15 Brian & Pam Lee
- March 22, 2015; 7:45 Steve & Kathy Bintz family  
10:15 Mark & Terry Brazell
- March 29, 2015 7:45: Diane Hafemeister & Susan Daley  
10:15: Paul & Sharon Weis

**WOMEN NURTURING WOMEN  
THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

We will meet in the multi-purpose room located behind the concession area. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month at 9:30. It is always uplifting and encouraging to be in God's Word together. We hope you can come. God's Word gives us great joy, strength and comfort, for every day. With questions call Beth Steinbrenner at 262.685.7420 or e-mail me at pbandkids@yahoo.com. Our focus will be on Psalm 23, John 10 and a book titled "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23." Bring your bibles and hymnals for our opening study. Hope to see you there!

**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.

**BARNABAS**

is the name of our small group bible studies. We took that name from an early disciple who was given that nickname because he was such an encourager. Our small group home bible studies are also intended for the encouragement of one another. The groups are on-going, but anytime is a good time 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).

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

**FRIDAY MORNING DROP-OFF BIBLE CLASS**

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 pj's 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. This informal, start off your day Bible study is from 8:30 to 8:50. Bring a bible, your own coffee, tea or whatever you drink to start your day.

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**CONFIRMATION** Sunday, March 29, 2015 nineteen students will be confirmed in their faith in the 10:15 service. Nicole Brandt, Dylan Brazell, Eliana Campbell, Briana Deming, Isabella Erdman, Amber Heider, Kevin Klug, Johnathon (Jack) Lee, Justin Lee, Grace Loeffler, Rebecca Loescher, Sydney Merkel, Wyatt Miller, Dylan Muhonen, Danielle Nealey, Gage Skrubellos, Jacob Stanossek, Spencer Strupp and Maria Zimmerman.

## COUNCIL CAPSULE SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

### David's Star Church Council Meeting Capsule February 10, 2015

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

Absent: Kurt Henning, Mike Willis, Ryan Shelvik

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 January 13, 2015.

### Committee Reports Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

**Incoming:** Nichol, Clarice  
*Transfer from St. Peter, Savanna, IL*

**Outgoing:** Schowalter, Charlie  
*Transfer to St. Paul's, Clintonville, WI*

### Pastors' Report Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 262.677.0919 [kloescher@davidstar.org](mailto:kloescher@davidstar.org) & Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 262.377.1019 [woldt@nconnect.net](mailto:woldt@nconnect.net)

The visitation work by the pastors has begun, both the visits to hospitalized and shut-ins, as well as the Every Member Visit program. We are enjoying the personal time spent with members of our congregation. The preaching rotation for the Lenten season this year will include pastors from St. Lucas, Kewaskum and Redeemer, Cedarburg. This year Morning Star is doing their own Lenten services with the help of clergy who belong to that congregation.

### President's Report Brian Lee, Telephone # 262.377.9419 [brianandpam1@att.net](mailto:brianandpam1@att.net)

Nothing new to report regarding the subpoena. Thank you to all outgoing chairman and committee members. Thanks to the members of the Audit Committee. New council and committee members are:  
Glen Miller – Vice President  
Ryan Shelvik – Chairman of Evangelism Committee  
Roger Tews – Board of Elders  
Todd Schrap – Buildings and Grounds

### Board for Buildings and Grounds Kurt Henning 262.677.2797 [klhrconst@gmail.com](mailto:klhrconst@gmail.com)

There was nothing new to report.

### Board for Elementary Education Mike Willis, [mike.willis@sial.com](mailto:mike.willis@sial.com) Principal Tim Gustafson Telephone #262. 707.2382 [tgustafson@davidstar.org](mailto:tgustafson@davidstar.org)

The 3K – 5K registration results were 3K – 7 children, 4K – 16 children, 5K – 11 children. The carpeting in the child care room was replaced with a combination of linoleum and carpeting.

### Board of Elders Dennis Bell, 262.677.2248 [dandmbell55@yahoo.com](mailto:dandmbell55@yahoo.com)

The board has one less member, so the duties of the positions have been realigned.

### Evangelism Committee Ryan Shelvik [rshelvik@gmail.com](mailto:rshelvik@gmail.com)

The committee is looking at ways to include the school in evangelism.

### Stewardship Committee Jim Korthals, Telephone # 262.242.8143 [korthalj@wls.wels.net](mailto:korthalj@wls.wels.net)

Nothing new to report.

### Spiritual Growth Committee Andy Loeffler, Telephone #262.677.2319 [2046home@gmail.com](mailto:2046home@gmail.com)

Several members attended the Men of His Word conference. A Barnabas group restart luncheon is scheduled for after second service on March 15. The committee is considering changing the name of the Barnabas groups.

### Treasurer's Report Randy Matter, Telephone # 262.412.6643 [rmattercpa@gmail.com](mailto:rmattercpa@gmail.com)

The printed report for January was presented. The YTD operating fund balance was a deficit in the amount of \$51,740.07. The YTD offerings to our WELS missions was \$5431.39 which was 96.13% of budget. The YTD offerings to the KMLHS operating fund was \$3113.15 which was 87.08% of budget and KML Joyful Noise was \$625 which was 118.60% of budget.

**Vice President's Report**  
**Glen Miller, 262.677.8493**  
**zamwho@yahoo.com**

No report.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Leadership Planning Retreat** – The meeting is scheduled for March 7 beginning with fellowship at 8:00 AM followed by the meeting at 8:30 AM. The objective is to review goals and priorities for the next 3 years.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Extended Learning** – There was some discussion about how to continue the extended learning program. The Board of Education will be discussing this further at the March meeting.

**Bookkeeper Transition** – Bob Heider is now taking care of all of the bookkeeping. A motion was made and carried to give a thank you gift to Lisa Marie Kison for her service as our bookkeeper.

**Recommended Change to David's Star Personnel Handbook** – Because WELS VEBA offers more than one medical plan, a clarification to the statement with respect to the amount of the WELS VEBA medication insurance that is paid by the congregation was proposed. A motion was made and carried to approve this clarification:

The congregation may pay up to 90% of the premium according to the plan's rate schedule for the \$1000 single/\$2000 family deductible plan (aka Plan 2). The worker is responsible to pay the balance of the premium via payroll deduction including any additional premium due to opting for a lower deductible plan under WELS VEBA. It is the responsibility of the employee to apply for insurance as required by the WELS VEBA and to make all necessary changes to coverage with the WELS VEBA.

**Brokerage Account** – A motion was made and carried to approve liquidating the remaining stock in the brokerage account that had been donated to David's Star. It will be applied to the operating fund.

**Advent by Candlelight** – A request for \$500 from Thrivent was referred to the Board of Elders for approval. The \$500 is to be used for the Advent by Candlelight.

Next month's meeting is **Tuesday, March 10, 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.

## **WHAT IS A BARNABAS GROUP ANYWAY?**

It has come to our attention that many may not be joining Barnabas Groups because they don't know what they are. Some think that name is not very helpful in encouraging others to participate. But coming up with a better more descriptive name has proven difficult.

Barnabas is a great name if you know who Barnabas of the New Testament was. Barnabas wasn't his real name it was his nickname given by fellow Christians because he was such a great positive encourager. His name means "one who encourages".

These groups have been meeting for years now, but they have been few. Precious few have enjoyed the mutual encouragement these home held, layman led bible studies offer. We are kicking it off again. We would love for you to join us just to see what these things are and to see if you think it would be for you.

After second service on March 15th we will have a light lunch and meeting to reorganize and jumpstart our home bible study groups. We also are dedicated to renaming it. The front runner for the new name is "Fellowship and Dialogue Groups". But that name is wrinkling a few foreheads, too. Come with your own new name suggestion. Maybe those present can vote on a new name.



### **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

April 2, 2015

3:45 & 7:00 pm

#### **Good Friday Services**

April 3, 2015

1:30 PM – Service of the Cross

7:00 PM – Service of Darkness

#### **Easter Eve Service**

April 4, 2015

7:00 pm

#### **Easter Dawn Service**

April 5, 2015

6:00 am

#### **Easter Festival Services**

April 5, 2015

7:45 and 10:15 am

Easter Breakfast serving from  
7:00 – 10:00 am (School gym)

## PARISH NURSE NEWS



### *What is a Therapy Dog?*

We have a therapy dog here on our campus! Have you met our precious Libby? Amy Hansen is her owner/handler and they consider Libby a family pet. She is a sweet, laid-back English cream golden retriever who has taken some extra training for therapy work. She is not registered as a therapy dog *yet*, as she has to be at least one year old before even being permitted to take the test. With the Elders and Council blessing, Libby has begun visiting a few of our shut-ins, participates monthly in the Reading with Rover program at the WB library, visits David's Star students occasionally and has had the 1st graders read to her, has attended a volleyball and basketball game, and visited KML during dismissal at the end of the day.

Therapy dogs come in all sizes and breeds. They are trained to provide comfort, affection and entertainment to people in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, schools and retirement homes. These working dogs are often used in therapeutic environments such as assisting with teaching children experiencing learning disabilities and as stress-reducers with victims of accidents, crimes and natural disasters or other crisis'. Training required for a therapy dog designation varies, but it is much less rigorous than that of service dogs.

Therapy dogs are *not service dogs* — and are *not* protected by the ADA regulations. Public institutions may limit or prohibit access to a *therapy dog*. A *service or special assistance dog is specially trained to assist humans with disabilities and is allowed access to public institutions*. They may provide important functions such as sight or hearing. Many service dogs also help companions cope with various mental conditions like PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and autism.

If you see Libby on campus and want to greet her, just ask Amy if you might pet her. A *therapy dog and her handler* want to greet people and interact but asking for permission is always a good idea! A *service dog and their human partner* will appreciate being able to continue the important work at hand! Again, asking for permission is a good idea!

Want to learn more? Go to: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/serviceanimals/dog-rights.php#sthash.gymP1cM7.dpuf>. We welcome Libby in our midst and thank Amy for her willingness to bring comfort, affection and entertainment in the context of our Lord's love and care for us!

FYI...our own Diane Lamm RN and Melissa Zambino, WLC senior Student Nurse are offering an educational opportunity to our Parents Group Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Multi -Purpose Room on ***Childhood Immunizations***. A timely offering in view of the measles outbreak! Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend! I am going, that's for sure!

Together in Christ,

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse  
[parishnurse@davidstar.org](mailto:parishnurse@davidstar.org)



## STATISTICS DON'T LIE, BUT THEY MAY NOT TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH

**On February 24, 1632** the English colony of Virginia passed a law which ordered "That the statutes for coming to church every Sunday and holy days be duly executed. That is to say; that the church wardens do levy one shilling for every time of any person's absence from the church having no lawful or reasonable excuse to be absent."

Today a shilling is worth about 24 American cents. It had a much greater purchasing power in 1632. It was expensive to skip church, so people attended services whether they wanted to be there or not. To attend church under such circumstances did not bring glory to God or benefit to the people. Although well-intentioned, such a law motivated people to attend church just to escape punishment.

For the past 70 years Gallup polls and other statisticians have said about 40% of Americans attend church on the average weekend. Another type of research, however, paints a different picture. These studies suggest the actual percentage of church attenders might be nearer to 20%. What is at play here is the so-called "halo effect" — the difference between what people tell pollsters and what people actually do. Americans tend to over-report socially desirable behavior like voting and attending church and under-report socially undesirable behavior like drinking.

In spite of conflicting research, the head of the Gallup polls stands behind the 40% figure: "I've been reviewing [U.S. church attendance] carefully," he says. "No matter how we ask the question to people, we get roughly 40% of Americans who present themselves as regular church attendees." He adds, however, that if you were to freeze the United States on any Sunday morning, you may find fewer than 40% of the country's adults actually in churches.

"Although about 40% of Americans are regular church attendees, it doesn't necessarily mean 40% are in church on any given Sunday," he explains. "The most regular church attendee gets sick or sleeps in. The other reason may be people who tell us they go to church but are

worshipping in non-traditional ways, such as small groups, people meeting in gyms or school libraries.”

Whether the actual number of church attenders is 40% or closer to 20%, there is a concern; the majority are not in church. We worship for two reasons: 1) to give glory and thanks to God for his goodness; and 2) to hear his Word give direction to our lives. We certainly don't want to attend church because there is a law which threatens us with punishment, if we don't attend. Jesus says, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it” (Luke 11:28) Our Lord encourages us to join together in worship and promises his blessing.

Our goal as members of a Christian congregation is not to flaunt attendance numbers in order to impress others. Our membership in a congregation gives us the opportunity to grow in our faith and our understanding of God – both what he has done for us and what his will is for our lives. Whether we want to be one or not, each of us is a statistic – percentage of present or percentage of absent. The question is which statistic will we be? And an even better question is, why do we do what we do? With Samuel may we too answer the Lord's invitation with, “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10).

The Stewardship Committee

### **TUITION ASSISTANCE DEADLINE IS MARCH 15**

The Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Federation recognizes the cost of Christian secondary education can be a challenge for some families. Accordingly, the federation established the Tuition Assistance Program. The program is designed to help families meet the cost of this great blessing. The monies come from many donors and foundations, including the KML Foundation. You may apply online at [kmlhs.org/TuitionAssistance](http://kmlhs.org/TuitionAssistance). The application deadline is March 15. The Finance Committee will determine the allocations by mid-April. Please contact Jody Hansen, KML Business Manager at 262.677.4051, ext. 1109 or [jody.hansen@kmlhs.org](mailto:jody.hansen@kmlhs.org) if you have questions.