

# THE GOOD NEWS

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*“Have a Meaningful New Year!”*

*by Pastor Loescher*

What did you accomplish this past year? Speaking as a parent of one of the players on the team that was runner up in Division four Wisconsin State High School Football, I can tell you about all the emotion, and crying and cheering and stress that was all wrapped up in that season—that's right, I was a wreck! And for what? Will the 2007 KML football team be remembered by anyone else other than those directly connected to it? How long before many of us struggle to remember what year it was or the names of even a few of the players on the team?

I don't mean to diminish the accomplishments of the team or even take away from the accomplishments of the KML volleyball team, cross country team, soccer team or any other wonderful accomplishments of people at that institution or anywhere else. My point is simply that any human experience is really meaningless, unless it is all part of training God's people for lives of gratitude and service to God who made them.

How frustrating it must be for people to walk through life striving for a better more meaningful life only to get around the corner and find that nothing is really better. When you finally talk yourself into that 52" high definition television set and you get it home, you are elated and as giddy as a teenager. But a month later nothing seems to be any different or really better than before. And the HDTV will one day be obsolete, too. Whether it's a TV, a house, or a pair of shoes, buying it doesn't really make your life more meaningful. You just have more stuff, and in some cases more debt.

Not that having those things is bad. It's just that if we are going to define our lives by them—use accomplishments and things to gain status and find

meaning in life, we will be left empty of meaning. We end up old and gray, with dusty mementoes and DVDs with the recorded memories of all these wonderful moments—with nothing that works to play them on and possibly no one kind enough to take the time to watch them anyway.

What did you accomplish this past year, and what will you do, God willing, in the year ahead? Be sure it is full of meaning. Will you worship your God who made you, redeemed you, and sanctified you? Will you read a bible story to a child and pray with your children and grandchildren? Will you model godliness for a teenager who struggles to find purposeful living? Will you set a tone of service at work in the face of a tone of complaining? Will you pray daily for the humility and wisdom to love your spouse as God has loved you? Will you go to your knees in repentance for all the time wasted doing none of these things? Do all that in the context of great and not so great accomplishments and you give glory to God. Then all of life has meaning.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!**

Helen Kannenberg...87 yrs. old 1/1/1921  
Lucille Prochnow...85 yrs. old 1/3/1923  
Delores Heimerl...83 yrs. old 1/8/1925

**GREETERS FOR JANUARY 2008**

January 5, 2008 5:00 Joel & Carrie Hinz  
January 6, 2008 7:45 Kathy & Bonnie Bublitz  
10:15 Charlette Tearney  
  
January 12, 2008 5:00 Brian & Pam Lee  
January 13, 2008 7:45 Dave & Nicole Miller  
10:15 Steve & Heather Brandt  
  
January 19, 2008 5:00 Neil & Barb Thompson  
January 20, 2008 7:45 Mike & Deb Boeldt  
10:15 Steve & Heather Brandt  
  
January 26, 2008 5:00 Ren & Edie Kremer  
January 27, 2008 7:45 Bill Bublitz  
10:15 Bob & Rachel Fuller

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**THANK YOU** to the many members who have been greeters throughout the past year. You are greatly appreciated. Thank you also for continuing to wear hand written nametags as they greet in the future, and it will help you to get to know them also. This is being in some other large churches and is just a simply way to meet someone every Sunday, especially if you are new. Thank you for making people feel "at home" at David's Star. If you are interested in greeting in the future, and have not already submitted your name, please call Beth Steinbrenner at 675-0832.

**PARISH NURSE NEWS**

**WHEW!!!** We made it through the holidays with all the wonderful opportunities to worship our King, the family gatherings, the parties, and extra errands of shopping, wrapping, cards, and making those delicious cookies! It wears me out just to think about it! With all the extra hours of darkness this time of year and the frightful weather outside I thought it might be a good time to think about our sleep health and how that impacts the rest of our health.

**SLEEPING WELL, LIVING WELL, FOR GOOD HEALTH**

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine tells us that sleeping well is one of the first steps to living well. Sleep isn't just "time out" from daily life. It is an active

state important for renewing our mental and physical health each day. At least 84 disorders of sleeping and waking lead to a lowered quality of life and reduced personal health. There are treatments for most sleep problems, but the first step is recognizing that a problem exists. The second step is determining a cause and the third step is treating the cause.

There are multiple factors that can affect our ability to get a good nights rest. A persons' lifestyle may affect your sleep. Exercising right before bed, alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, spicy foods, and hunger tends to negatively affect your sleep. Did you know that foods containing tryptophan aids in sleep. Tryptophan can be found in dairy products, bananas, turkey, yogurt, whole grain crackers, and peanut butter.

Environmental factors also make a difference. Is your room too warm or is there too much light? Do you have a new pillow or mattress? Is the cat crawling into bed with you and disrupting your sleep? Middle of the night feedings of a new infant? Most can remember that mixed blessing?! Sometimes there are simple remedies for these factors! Sometimes not!

Shift work or jet lag causes problems with our biological rhythm getting "out of sync". I never did well when I had to work rotating shifts in the hospital years ago! Never could sleep during the day!

Medications or common mental health disorders may cause sleep disturbances. Even medical or hormonal problems may interfere with sleep.

When any of these factors disrupts your sleep, the problem can be effectively controlled by correction of the underlying problem. Please talk to your physician if you are having trouble sleeping or feel tired and sleepy much of the time.

Another bit of food for thought.... Prayer can also help a restful and peaceful sleep!

Psalm 4:8 "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

Blessings of a great nights' sleep to you,  
Sue Bolha RN, PN

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped put together the Christmas gifts for our shut ins and nursing home residents! Whether it was the Shining Star "Goodie Can", the Nativity Scenes, the Ladies Aid cookies, or the Candy Cane story, or the Advent devotions; they were all appreciated. It is wonderful to be a part of the body of Christ at David's Star! God Bless!

### **Pastors' Report**

**Pastor Loescher, 677-0919, [kloescher@davidstar.org](mailto:kloescher@davidstar.org)**

**Pastor Woldt, 377-1019, [woldt@nconnect.net](mailto:woldt@nconnect.net)**

Pastor Woldt will be out of town after Christmas through December 31<sup>st</sup> to attend his son's wedding in Mankato, MN. Increases in attendance of various weekly Bible studies is a great trend. A congregation gains true strength staying close to the Word. We pray this trend continues. Please encourage your fellow members to take advantage of the many opportunities to gather for worship during the Christmas season.

### **President's Report**

**Randy Matter, 376-1585, [matters@nconnect.net](mailto:matters@nconnect.net)**

Church cleaning

Annual Reports are due on December 31, 2007

### **Board for Buildings and Grounds**

**Kurt Henning, 677-2797, [klh@nconnect.net](mailto:klh@nconnect.net)**

New light program is offered for our school from WeEnergies to replace the ballasts in the lights.

Gym roof will be replaced in 2008.

Floor machine is breaking down and will need to be replaced. It will be added to the 2008 budget.

Matt Enevold is willing to donate concrete poles to light David's Star drive. We are looking for some electricians to help run the wires and get the lights functional.

### **Board for Elementary Education**

**Tim Gustafson, 338-3992, [tgustafson@davidstar.org](mailto:tgustafson@davidstar.org)**

We have been given provisional accreditation.

We achieved 92% of the criteria. We will have full accreditation status by the next school year, 2008-09.

Need to address two small items.

Praised for Special Ed, School Handbooks, and programs Negative items included lack of community identity.

### **Board of Elders**

**Dennis Bell, 677-2248,**

**[dandmbell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dandmbell@sbcglobal.net)**

No Report.

### **Evangelism Committee**

**Paul Steinbrenner, 675-0832,**

**[pstein@howardcompany.com](mailto:pstein@howardcompany.com)**

Still wrapping up the final visits of the 9 new members given last month. No new members this month.

Update on greeters? Greeters assigned into January Assimilation program discussion. New members invited to Barnabas and sponsors to contact after a few months. Also being asked to participate in

GREETER program. Christmas season advertisements ordered.

Will add the 'LIVE NATIVITY' to the agenda for September next year.

Possible SPONSOR 'get together' this winter.

Pastor to contact Hartford radio station.

Paul to advise Mr. Schmandt about German service.

### **Stewardship Committee**

**Todd Backus, 677-4016, [todd.backus@prodigy.net](mailto:todd.backus@prodigy.net)**

Web site has been updated with Stewardship Committee information

Discussion about what the Stewardship Committee can get more information out

### **Spiritual Growth Committee**

**Mark Otte, 306-3521, [lotte@kmlhs.org](mailto:lotte@kmlhs.org)**

Good Bible classes with good attendance

Will work on next years Bible classes starting in January

### **Building Committee Update**

Building committee is still reviewing building options

Discussion about the existing boiler was also held

### **Treasurer's report**

**Dan Bolha, 677-3485, [bolha@juno.com](mailto:bolha@juno.com)**

We have a very good Thanksgiving and the congregations seems to have responded favorably to the Stewardship Committee's appeal

While the numbers have improved, we need to

Old Business

Church Picnic 2008

2008 Budget (Total 2008 Budget was reduced by 2.56% over the projected 2007 budget)

Serious discussion about the budget

Concerns were raised about the deficit and carrying it over into the next fiscal year

How do we get that message to the congregation? This needs to be done before the Voter's Meeting.

It will be mission and ministry focused.

A motion was made and seconded to sent this budget forward as the "preliminary 2008 budget" This was approved by the Council

A motion was made and seconded to not go above the Synod compensation code for thirty years. This was approved by the Council

This was approved Final budget will be approved by Council at the January meeting.

Funding Appeal

**New Business**

Steeple Cross Replacement. Three members have offered to pay to replace the old steeple. It was noted that the steeple roof also needed to be repaired. Replacing the cross was approved by Council. Audit Committee needs to be put together  
 Next Council Meeting: January 15, 7:00pm  
 Closing Prayer (Pastor Loescher)

(Luke 16:10-11). To that end he gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we’ve been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God’s praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That’s why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God’s glory and the good of his people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One who gave the gifts! Just as he was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but his greatest gift, his Son, so we are motivated by love for him to serve those he calls us to serve.

The Stewardship Committee

**THANK YOU** to those who helped with the success of our Advent suppers. They were "souper!" The efforts of many was appreciated by many. No matter what your part - serving, donating food or decorations, set up or clean up, your efforts are did not go unnoticed. Another opportunity to enjoy fellowship and serve others and the Lord is just around the corner. Meals will be served between Lenten services, 4:45-6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday is February 6th. We will be asking church groups to host the meal each week. For more information, contact Char Kison at (262) 677-2389.

**WOMAN IN THE WORD BIBLE STUDY** group will meet on Thursday, January 3, in the Parish Center. We will complete our lesson on the woman at the well. On January 17, we will begin a lesson on Delilah. **The Women's Retreat committee** will meet on the 3rd at 8:15 pm. We will review materials from our November '07 retreat and begin plans for the 2008 retreat. Please join us if you wish to be a part of this exciting women's ministry. The Parish Center is our meeting place. If you have questions, please contact Char Kison, (262) 677-2389.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR  
NOVEMBER 2007**

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 11/30/07	Offerings Budgeted thru 11/30/07
Operating	\$87,749	\$21,937	\$669,024	\$734,982
Missions	\$6,115	\$1,529	\$74,280	\$80,995
KML Operating	\$4,095	\$1,024	\$44,158	\$50,960
KML Building	\$1,055	\$264	\$11,369	\$15,565
“Together Shining Like the Stars...”	\$1,502	\$376	\$30,693	\$32,219

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:  
 \$150,834  
 The deficit at the end of November 2006 was: \$113,878  
 The deficit at the end of November 2005 was: \$123,030

**A New Year  
New Opportunities**

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there’s something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we’ll accomplish great things.

God doesn’t necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things

**TREE OF LOVE** On Saturday, December 1st, over 200 gifts were delivered to the North Side and South Side Ministries. As in past years both groups are very appreciative of the generosity of David's Star members and they convey their wishes to our church for a blessed Christmas season.

## **WELS NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The latest financial figures show the synod's operating budget continues to be on track for a \$1 million surplus for the fiscal year. Any surplus will be used to re-create a buffer fund to be used for future unanticipated support shortfalls. The key factor is that Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) continue their positive trend. November's CMO was up 2.5 percent over the same month last year – the fifth straight monthly comparative increase. From July through November, CMO was \$1.1 million greater than the prior year and forecast to be \$500,000 greater than the budget.

Rev. Paul Ziemer, national civilian chaplain to the military and Armed Forces liaison, arrived in Kuwait December 13 to begin ministering to troops stationed overseas. From there, he will be traveling to U.S. military installations in the Middle East as he gains clearance from the military.

Rev. Dan Koelpin, administrator for WELS Board for World Missions, returned on November 28 from Hong Kong, where he met with leaders of Asia Lutheran Seminary to discuss the strategy and needs of the institution and to determine how WELS can best support its operation.

The Executive Committee of the Board for Home Missions authorized five new pastor positions and two staff minister positions at its meeting December 13-14. The new pastoral positions are at Trinity, St. Lucia, West Indies; Bethlehem, Lakeville, Minnesota; Beautiful Savior, Clarksville, Tennessee; and new congregations in Reno, Nevada, and Battlemont Mesa- Parachute, Colorado. The new congregations are being established by Board for Home Missions in partnership with existing WELS congregations in those areas. The two staff minister positions are at Abiding Love, Loveland, Colorado; and Saving Grace, Mobile, Alabama.

WELS provided live coverage of a Christmas concert for military troops for the first time on December 8. Video of the service is now available at WELS' Internet media network, Streams. Watch the service online at <http://streams.wels.net/video/koine2>. In addition to traditional hymns and carols, the concert featured music by the Christian contemporary band, Koine.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dear Members of David's Star,

I recently received a check from the congregation in support for those of us who are training to enter the public ministry. Thank you for the support. The money will be going to help me pay for books second semester as I continue my education at MLC. It is encouraging to know that you are willing to support me in my training as you carry out your daily callings in service to God.

Thank You, Joe Woldt (Martin Luther College)

Dear members of David's Star,

I wanted to take a few moments to thank you so much for your prayers and support over these past few years. The chances to study and worship with you and preach and teach God's Word has been wonderful. I also wanted to thank you for the financial support you recently gave. It's a great blessing for Karen and I to alleviate the stress of this year.

I pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas!

In Christ, Tim Shrimpton (Wisconsin Lutheran Sem.)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at David's Star Lutheran Church. "I thank my God every time I remember you." These words of Paul ring true for me when I think of David's Star and how God has so richly blessed me through all of you. Not only have I had the chance to gain priceless experience while training at seminary and made some wonderful friendships here, but I even started dating my wife while she was student teaching here. And now I can humbly praise God for your most generous monetary support of my studies.

Thank you so much for your wonderful gift and support. Ends are often hard to meet for seminary students and your support is a great help and truly appreciated. So I thank you and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for moving his people to praise and serve him so wonderfully. – In Christ,

Michael Johnson (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)

Hello Members of David's Star,

Thank you for the gift of 300 dollars. Thank you for the monetary support that is given us all here at MLC for our educational expenses. But what I am even more thankful for is the encouragement and your prayers for us as we prepare for the WELS public ministry. It can be easy to be caught up in the flow of selfish worldly things, and forget about other Christians and what our motivation is to serve Jesus. I am very thankful for the encouragement all Christians give each other, but the most dear to me is the encouragement that I receive from my home congregation.

Thank you David's Star family, Rebecca Rusch (Martin Luther College)

Dear Members of David's Star,

I want to thank you for supporting my training and education here at Martin Luther College. I appreciate the monetary support, and I am thankful for the encouragement that I receive from the monthly cards sent by Mr. Stickney on behalf of the David's Star members. I also enjoy reading the David's Star Newsletters to hear what is going on back at my home congregation. This support and encouragement helps to keep me focused on the reason I am here; i.e. When I find myself struggling to memorize Greek forms or other such things, I am reminded that all my studying will help me to be better prepared to serve God's people. There is a peace of mind that comes from knowing that my efforts are backed not only by my family and friends, but also by the members of my home congregation. Thank you again for the gift of money and for the encouragement, and I look forward to worshiping with you again soon. I wish you God's blessings and a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely, Adam Mathiak (Martin Luther College)

Dear Members of David's Star,  
Thank you for the three hundred dollars that you gave me for the tuition at Luther Prep. Thank you also for the support all the years I have been at Luther Prep. I am a senior now and will be graduating in the spring, but I have not yet decided where I will be going to college yet. Steve Gustafson (Luther Preparatory School)

Dear Members of David's Star,  
Thank you for the three hundred dollars for my tuition at Martin Luther College. I am a junior at MLC studying to be a teacher. This money will help me continue my education at Martin Luther College so that I can graduate next year and become a WELS called worker.  
Phil Gustafson (Luther Preparatory School)

Dear members of David's Star,  
Thank you for supporting my education this year again. It is a tremendous blessing for me to be studying here at the seminary. There really is no better place for young men to learn to be pastors. Every day God's Word is taught in all its truth and purity. My professors are all very gifted and faithful in their teaching. Every day I am learning more about how amazing our God is. What a blessing it is for us to have a school that is so faithful in training pastors! And it is also a great blessing that God continues to work in the hearts of his people to support this ministry of training pastors. Thank you very much for the personal support you have shown again to me! God bless you all! Jon Loescher (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)