



thegoodnews

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The Word of the Lord is Still Good

Pastor Loescher

On a cold Christmas a few years back, an old woman came to visit with a gleam in her eye and a present in hand. She handed the gift to the man of the house with a joyful Christmas spirit. The man was touched by the gift from a woman he hadn't seen in years. As he opened the gift he felt memories of a past time of kindness in difficult harsh conditions. He had emigrated from Germany after WWII shortly after the Russians liberated his home. Having left his family in starving conditions at the age of 17, this woman and her husband sponsored him on their Minnesota farm. The farmer was harsh as he remembered. He worked his German farm hand hard and fed him the fat as the rest of them feasted on the meat. But this woman who brought this memory for him had always been kind to him. "Do you remember?" she said, "Look at the label." "You picked those plums for me." He examined the jar whose label was faded but clearly legible in the hand of the woman who was kind to him in those harsh conditions. "Plum Preserves – 1946".

Needless to say many of the guests that evening didn't trust the preserves. Even though the man who received that gift of memories exclaimed, "There's nothing wrong with them. They're still good. Why do you think they call them preserves?" Yes, some things can be preserved and ought to be remembered.

As a congregation we are going into another year of working in the

Lord's field together. God willing, there will be changes. A building project is scheduled to begin. *Christian Worship Supplement* brings new worship music and liturgies for our use. Efforts to present a balanced budget may change the way we view our ministry funding. But the Word of the Lord will stand without change and the message from our pulpit will remain the clear proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As families we are going into another year with some uncertainties. For some of us family members are experiencing serious health problems. Some of us are already looking for another job. Some of us are hoping to hang on to the one we have. Some of us are trying to come up with ways we don't have to lay off loved and trusted employees. Still others are getting married, having children, and praying for God's protection and providence. God be praised because his Word still stands. His truth has been preserved and he intends that we trust his Word when he says, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

God's Word has been around a lot longer than that jar of preserves, but let those preserves remind us that God meant his Word to be preserved through all time. We can and must trust his holy Word. Those that trusted those preserves had a pretty decent plum on bread that night.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Helen Kannenberg...1/1/1921..88 yrs. old
Delores Heimerl...1/8/1925...84 yrs. old

Greeters for January 2009

Saturday, January 3rd
5:00 Vin, Marilyn and Leah Schneider

Sunday, January 4th
7:45 Steve and Kathy Bintz
10:15 Jim and Sandy Siebers

Saturday, January 10th
5:00 Leonard and Dorothy Rusch

Sunday, January 11th
7:45 Dennis and Marlene Bell
10:15 Charles and Sue Rusch

Saturday, January 17th
5:00 Joel and Carrie Hinz

Sunday, January 18th
7:45 Ray and Linda Liesener
10:15 Todd and Patty Backus

Saturday, January 24th
5:00 Mary Adams

Sunday, January 25th
7:45 Paul and Chris Nader
10:15 Daniel and Elaine Schubert

Saturday, January 31st
5:00 Gary and Holly Heckendorf

Parish Nurse News



**WELS Parish Nurse Gathering
January 31st**

The Parish Nurses at David's Star have an opportunity to serve other parish nurses within the synod by hosting our next gathering here at David's Star. We usually meet several times throughout the year and it provides an opportunity for us to network and to enhance our ability to serve within our congregations.

Our guest speaker for the morning will be Carol Hein MSN, RN from Calvary Thiensville who will talk about "Dementia in our Congregations". Dementia affects many people, but few of us know how to deal with it effectively. Carol will provide practical information on dementia and give some tips as to how family members and friends can handle the unique challenges that confront a person who has dementia.

Because this issue affects many of our families at one time or another we are also inviting people who may be interested from David's Star as well as area congregations. Our meeting begins at 9am in the school gym with Pastor giving an opening devotion. Carol will speak from 9:30 to 10:30 and we'll then have a short break for an opportunity to ask questions and visit a bit. Please feel free to come at 8:45 and join us for a cup of coffee or tea and some kind of sweet! After the break the nurses will get on with their meeting and let our other guests be on their way if they wish. Any questions or volunteers for a coffee cake? Please call Sue Bolha at 677-3485.

HELP WANTED!!! The Washington County Senior Dining program desperately needs drivers. Volunteer drivers would give approximately 1 1/2 hours to take noon meals to homebound persons. You could do this once a week, once a month, or just serve as a substitute when needed. Volunteers can serve in the West Bend, Jackson, Slinger, or Hartford areas. Anyone willing to deliver meals and have your mileage reimbursed should call the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Washington County at 335-4497. Several of our David's Star members are involved in doing this and find it rewarding!

Together in Christ our new born King,
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

December 16, 2008

Members in attendance: Pastor Loescher, Pastor Woldt, Dan Bolha, Randy Matter, Kevin Behm, Tim Gustafson, Mark Otte, Todd Backus, Kurt Henning, Brian Lee, Dennis Bell, David Zarling, Jeff Morgan, Randy Vogel (Building Committee). Absent: none.

The meeting was opened with a prayer. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on November 11, 2008.

Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

Incoming: Moths, Jesse & Jennifer, Mason
Transfer from Our Faith, Sussex, WI
 Thomsen, Duane & Erika; Mackenzie, Jacob, Alex
Transfer from St. Paul, Ixonia, WI
Outgoing:
 Lengling, Gregg & Deborah, Danee Brinkman
Released from membership

Pastors' report

Pastor Loescher, # 677-0919 kloescher@davidstar.org

Pastor Woldt, # 377-1019 woldt@nconnect.net

We thank God that in these challenging financial times, God's people continue to work for and support gospel ministry in many different and generous ways. Please continue to keep our congregation and synod in your prayers. Please encourage your circle of friends to remain active in gospel ministry according to the abilities God has given them. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus this Christmas season! He alone is our peace. In him, we all share a bright future.

President's report

Randy Matter, # 376-1585 matters@nconnect.net

DNR's NR-151 Nutrient Management Plan – This is a pending issue. Randy Vogel is working on this plan. Nominating Committee – The Nominating Committee is making contacts. The tentative slate of candidates for the January 2009 meeting includes:

President

Vice President – Jeff Morgan, Jody Hansen

Board of Elders Chairman – Dennis Bell

Board of Elementary Education Chairman – Brian Lee

Board of Elders member – Rick Ebeling

Board of Elders member – Gene Hagenow

Board of Elementary Education member – Bob Heider

Board of Elementary Education member – Mike Publitz

Board of Building and Grounds member –

Randy Matter, Ryan Breikreutz, Jody Hansen, Patrick Steele, and Jim Siebers are members of the nominating committee.

Internet Antenna – The voters approved our three recommended actions in the special voter's meeting. A three person committee has been formed consisting of Paul Steinbrenner (chair), Roger Tews and Dennis Kohlmeier II. I have asked them to submit a recommendation to the voters in January 2009. The roofer is fine to wait as long as needed to finish the other half of the steeple roof. Shingles are being

stored here so there are no real cost implications to waiting. There would be duplicate costs of locating and relocating the antenna if we proceeded now.

Budget Deficit – I have had little feedback from members of the congregation regarding our letter.

Annual Report – Boards and committees please remember to get annual report information to Phyllis by December 31 at the latest. Also notify any other ministry committees under your purview that they need to submit their reports to Phyllis.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

Kurt Henning, # 677-2797 klh@nconnect.net

All of the lights in the main parking lot area have been replaced.

Board for Elementary Education

Brian Lee, Telephone #377-9419 brian.lee@jci.com

Principal Tim Gustafson # 338-3992

tgustafson@davidstar.org)

The dishwasher situation in school may be resolved without any additional money that would have to be paid out.

Board of Elders

Dennis Bell, Telephone # 677-2248 dandmbell@sbc.global

No report.

Evangelism Committee

David Zarling, Telephone # 674-1094

david.zarling@gmail.com

Evangelism Committee minutes from December 2, 2008:

Opened with Bible reading and prayer

Reviewed pictorial directory labeling and delivery

Discussed new method for New Member Integration process

Reviewed recent new members and need for follow-up

Finalized new template for "The Good News" newsletter

Reviewed event/promotional calendar

Reviewed School Publicity request

Confirmed cancellation of AT&T advertising contract

Committee will begin obtaining updated contact information for members

Publicity request form to be created for use by other committees and school

New Member bio page to be created for future use in newsletter Closed with blessing

In the future, the capacity to e-mail the newsletter to members will be initiated. The committee is also reviewing the congregational logo. Website maintenance will fall under Evangelism budget in the future. The committee will consider the costs associated in having a live nativity here at David's Star in the future.

Stewardship Committee

Todd Backus, # 677-4016 todd.backus@prodigy.net

Stewardship Committee minutes from December 2, 2008:

Heart N Focus Course has been scheduled for Feb 15 – Mar 29th (7 Sundays). Co-teachers have committed to teaching. Booklets are \$10-\$15 each depending on the number of copies ordered. Leader's Powerpoint will be available in a couple of weeks. Todd will start developing promotion piece for newsletter. We will use sign-up sheet to get estimated number

of participants. Todd will get a couple of booklets from NPH for co-teachers.

Stewardship Communication

Todd will continue to include monthly pieces in our newsletter.

Kevin investigated the idea of postcards or refrigerator magnets for inclusion with the year-end statements. Evangelism has already developed a draft of the magnet. After discussion, we decided not to duplicate something already in the works by Evangelism. We decided to put the four giving guidelines article (similar to last year), pledge card – home use only, and proportionate giving chart in with the year-end statements. We will consider a postcard follow-up to the four giving guidelines mid-year 2009.

Stewardship Corner – weekly bulletin topic for stewardship (largely Bible passages with short explanations if needed). We have received several positive comments on the topic.

Budget – work in process

Envelope promotion – Next “special” envelope is 12/14/08 for Christian Life Resources. Kevin has submitted promotion for bulletin.

Next meeting – January 6th at 8:00PM

Spiritual Growth Committee

Mark Otte, # 306-3521 motte@kmlhs.org

You are invited to join us for Bible Classes starting in January. Pastor Woldt will be leading a class in the church on the book of Romans. Patrick Steele will be leading a class in the school on the book of Hebrews. Mark Otte will be leading a study of the book of Mark in the Parish Center with the teens. Sunday School classes are offered from children ages 3 – 8th grade in school.

Also see the many opportunities for weekly Bible classes and Barnabas groups offered here at David’s Star. If you have questions about any of them contact Pastor Woldt or Pastor Loescher.

The Library continues to add to its collection. Check it out here in the school IMC.

Building Committee

Randy Vogel

The most current results from the Built on the Rock fundraising committee indicate that approximately \$1,734,000 in cash from all fund drives and current pledges to date have been received.

Using the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 formula would allow the congregation to build a \$2.6 million project.

We are guiding the project to make sure that all construction being considered fits in with the master plan that was adopted by the congregation. PRA produced two ideas that are being considered and re-quoted for the first phase of the church building project. Both ideas include updated HVAC in the school, two classrooms, renovation of the school entrance, combined office space for the school and church, as well as either a complete or partial narthex addition.

The consensus of the Executive Church Building Subcommittee was to make every attempt to add a complete narthex and remain within the budget parameters of 1/3 cash, 1/3 pledges, and 1/3 long-term borrowing.

The results of the re-quoting will aid in future recommendations to be made for the first phase of our

building project to the Church Council and ultimately to the congregation.

The council will need to review the impact on the annual budget from any borrowing that would be necessary for the building project. Our subcommittee and the Council must also be aware of the impact to our congregation if we do move forward in a timely manner. Our subcommittee will need a direction regarding packaging a financing option to present to the congregation along with the overall building plans. The 1/3 cash and the cash from 1/3 (3) year pledges seem straightforward enough. The amortization length for the final 1/3 and the interest for the pledged amount need to be financed.

From my personal research, I would recommend that all gifts designated for the building fund would go to pay down the principal of the debt. This would require that all interest payments are added to the annual operating fund. Again, this is my personal review and recommendation. Regardless of how the interest is paid, it will have an impact on the annual budget for years to come.

We are grateful to the fundraising committee for their efforts, to the members of the congregation who have entrusted their treasure to us and, most importantly, to our Risen Lord and Savior for the opportunity to provide a tool to spread the Gospel in our area for the future.

We ask for your continued suggestions and prayers to guide us as we move forward.

Fundraising Committee Update

Gary Heckendorf

The announced total will come in January. Thus far, 131 pledges have been received.

Treasurer’s report

Dan Bolha, # 677-3485 bolha@netwurx.net

The November 30, 2008 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$164,115 compared to a deficit of \$185,944 October 31, 2008 and a deficit of \$150,834 on November 30, 2007. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$757,690 compared to \$720,988 last year and this year’s budget of \$815,480. Our Foundation Build on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date revenues of \$379,799.

Vice President Report

Jeff Morgan, # 377-7532

No report.

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

Old Business

The 2009 budget was discussed.

The Council is looking into our health insurance policy, as well as church policy, relative to the budget. The budget was revised to freeze salaries throughout 2009, and not to roll back any salaries.

There will be no 5% of the new building fund receipts being placed into the operating fund as this was not presented to the congregation as part of the new fundraising drive.

Tuition and wage freezes were discussed relative to their potential implementation with the 2009 budget. There was some discussion regarding the publicity of these items to the

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2008

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 11/30/08	Offerings Budgeted thru 11/30/08
Operating	\$88,853	\$17,771	\$700,609	\$748,282
Missions	\$ 6,544	\$ 1,309	\$ 72,681	\$ 80,771
KML Operating	\$ 4,719	\$ 944	\$ 47,296	\$ 52,139
KML Building	\$ 706	\$ 142	\$ 12,450	\$ 13,750

congregation and parents. The School Board will draft a presentation of pros and cons of tuition. There will be a presentation of the entire budget after the second service on January 11th. In addition, the School Board will do a presentation to parents looking for feedback at the beginning of January.

The revised budget, subject to possible health insurance revisions and balanced with a 1 ¾% increase in offerings, was approved by the Council.

New Business

403B Plan Administration – The congregation will start using Shepherd’s Plan Solution by WELS to administer the 403B. Eligible employees will be given the opportunity to participate in this plan in 2009. This program involves employee payroll deductions and is of no cost to the congregation.

Items for Voters (for the January 15 voters meeting)

None

Next months meeting is **Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.** The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM.**

A motion was made and carried to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer.
Respectively submitted,

Kevin A. Behm, Recording Secretary
kevinbehm@att.net

THANK YOU The pastors and teachers at David’s Star 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 gospel ministry. We pray that God blesses you and your families this Christmas season. May the message of Jesus birth renew and strengthen us as we continue to work together in the new year.

FOOD DRIVE Thanks to all the children and parents and grandparents for helping make this year’s food drive a huge success. The students collected 1,904 items of food to be delivered by the Pioneers to the St. Marcus Food Pantry in Milwaukee. We are also helping out a few individuals at David’s Star and a family in the Milwaukee area with food from our food drive. Thank you to Bublitz Produce for the donation of potatoes. The Kindergarten class won the Ice Cream Sundae contest. Great job kids!!!

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” to all of our members from Ladies’ Aid for the gifts that were given to our Northside and Southside Ministries. Approximately 100 gifts were delivered to each ministry on December 6th.

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:
\$164,115
The deficit at the end of November 2007
was: \$150,834
The deficit at the end of November 2006
was: \$113,878

ADDRESS & E-MAIL UPDATE

Included in this month’s newsletter you will find an insert that we are asking you to fill out and return to the church office. We are updating our files and ask that you complete the request (including your e-mail address). Our goal is to e-mail you the monthly newsletter (to help cut costs). We are currently mailing 500+ newsletters every month! If you don’t have an e-mail address we will continue to mail you your newsletter. Please be advised that we will keep your e-mail address confidential. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.



WELS UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Congregations from across the synod have begun submitting Year of Jubilee offerings now that the dates targeted for the main celebration have passed. The Ministry of Christian Giving is marking the first million dollar milestone. To date, congregations and individuals have offered \$1.13 million. The Ministry of Christian Giving scheduled the main thrust of Year of Jubilee to culminate December 14, and offerings are coming in on a daily basis. Some congregations have chosen to wait to observe the celebration until after the new year begins. The Year of Jubilee offering was authorized by the 2007 synod convention to reduce or eliminate the synod's \$22.4 million dollar debt and free up as much as \$2.7 million a year in debt payments for other ministry.

Two men have accepted calls to be giving counselors for WELS Ministry of Christian Giving. Rev. Steven Staude, formerly pastor Christ, West Salem, Wis., began serving Dec. 1 and Mr. Carl Liebner, formerly an agent for Thrivent Financial, will begin serving Jan. 15. These men will take on duties left by one full-time vacancy and four giving counselors who have semi-retired. Counselors work with WELS donors on direct, immediate gifts; estate planning; and expectancy gifts and requests. Learn more about giving counselors or gift planning online at www.wels.net/jump/christiangiving.

The Synodical Council has issued a call for qualified laymen to serve on the WELS VEBA Commission; WELS Pension Commission; WELS Investment Funds, Inc.; and WELS Foundation. The laymen, who serve on a volunteer basis, provide vital expertise and grassroots advice to administrators who manage these entities. All pastors, professors, male teachers, congregations are invited to nominate individuals with expertise in economics, investment management, accounting, risk management, legal, marketing, benefits plans administration/compliance, and financial planning. Complete position descriptions can be viewed at www.wels.net/jump/sc. Nominations must be received by January 16, 2009. Access the nomination form at www.wels.net/jump/nomform or call the President's office at 414-256-3202.

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 (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

Dear Friends,

My most sincere thanks for the money you give every year toward raising up the next generation of called workers. We consider our place in the history of God's kingdom, and see ourselves as but one leg in a grand relay. Each generation carries the Gospel torch for its time, and then passes it on to the next. Though you may not be in a position to directly teach men and women to do God's work, you have supported their training by your gift. By doing this you share in the work of the Gospel. Really, you share the work of training men and women to do God's work. Of course this is not in any way to say that your work is done, since many of you will continue your service for years to come. But I am honored as I take up the torch in my own leg of the race, and all the more so as I prepare to take up this work as a full-time calling. And so I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of my preparation. Your gift is a great encouragement to me as well as a pleasing sacrifice to God.

In Christ, Jonathan Loescher

Thank you members of David's Star for supporting my education at Martin Luther College. I appreciate the tuition assistance, and I am thankful for the prayers that you offer on my behalf. I can hardly believe that half of my sophomore year is already completed, and I look forward to finishing the school year. This spring, I will have the privilege of joining the College Choir on their tour through Michigan and Wisconsin. After singing for the Christmas Concert, I just can't wait to sing at other congregations in the Midwest. I want wish you God's blessings as you celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas season, and I thank you again for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely, Adam Mathiak

Dear Members of David's Star,

Thank you for supporting the synod, and thank you for helping me. It is a blessing for me to be here at MLC. I am excited about serving in the ministry, a desire that the Holy Spirit started in me while I was at David's Star. Thank you for helping me, and thank you for helping prepare this visible church body for its future.

Charlie Schowalter

Dear members of David's Star,

With great thanks in our hearts we write to you. Amber and I have been so very blessed to be fellow members with you here at David's Star. Most importantly, we thank God that you so freely share the Word of God with us. Your concern for the spiritual welfare of those around you means the world to us. In addition, your great concern for our bodily welfare is also greatly appreciated! Thank you for the generous gift of food. Thank you, as well, for the very unexpected gift of

money to help us pay for my schooling here at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Lord's blessings to you and your own this Advent season.

In Christ, Ben & Amber Enstad

If you are interested, below is a short history of our lives together.

Right now we live in the little berg of Freistadt and have been married for about 2.5 years. Amber is a nanny for two different families that live near us. Amber is a graduate of Martin Luther College with a 5 year degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Her parents live in Lebanon, Wisconsin, which is just north of Watertown. Her older brother also lives in the Watertown area. I originally come from Andover, Minnesota where my parents still live. I am the oldest of six children, three boys and three girls. Both Amber and I went to Luther Prep for high school and we began to date freshman year at MLC. My mom has been a stay at home mom for us kids except for a couple years ago when she taught preschool at Brooklyn Lutheran in the Twin Cities. Now, after 25 years at home she is working part time at a Hallmark store. My dad has provided for the family by being an accountant for the last 25+ years. This past year I vicared in Rice Lake, WI. It is hard to put into words how greatly that year has blessed me. Not only has it encouraged me all the more to go into the public ministry but it has greatly built up my confidence in preaching and teaching. I had an excelled supervising pastor who perfectly met my needs. There was no place I would have rather been. We made memories and friendships that will last the rest of our lives and we thank God for that. Our prayer is that the Lord will keep his promises to guard and guide us all our day so that our lives may benefit the people we are called to serve.

Dear Members of David's Star,

Thank you for the recent gift toward my tuition at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary from the student scholarship fund. The gift is a wonderful blessing and encouragement. God bless his continued ministry through the work being done at and through David's Star Lutheran Church and School.

Thank you, David Rosenau

Dear members of Davids Star,

Thank you for your gift of three hundred dollars for my tuition at Martin Luther College. I appreciate this gift as I continue to study to become a future called worker in one of our WELS schools. I have completed student teaching and am now only one semester of classes away from graduation. Thank you again for your gift which helps me continue my education.

Sincerely, Phil Gustafson

To the members of David's Star,
Zikomo! This is the Chichewa word for Thank you. Growing up in Malawi, Africa as a missionary's son I have had the opportunity to see how happy and content people are with very little in the way of material possessions. What is truly valuable to them is the saving truth of God's Word. Through generous gifts from your congregation and others I recognize how blessed I am. These gifts have enabled me to be less concerned about paying for school, and give more attention to my studies. Lord willing in 2 1/2 years I will have the opportunity to serve in a congregation of God's people. I look forward to that day. O give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures forever.

God Bless, Colin Rieke

Dear David's Star Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the gift of money, it was very much appreciated. This is my first year at the Seminary and I have enjoyed it immensely. The schedule of school and work has been keeping me busy, but now that I am getting myself into a schedule, life has been more manageable. As Juniors (first year students) we have the exciting time of writing and delivering our first sermons. Besides growing in God's Word daily through the biblical languages, writing our first sermons seems to be the prominent emphasis so far. I personally do not have to deliver my first sermon in class until January, so I have some time to prepare.

It is a wonderful thing to see God blessing his children here on earth through the kindness of people like you, David's Star Lutheran Church. I give thanks to you and to God as Psalm 106:1 fittingly states, "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.": Thanks again for aiding in my schooling as I prepare for the Lord's work at the Seminary and may God bless your ministry and lives till he calls you to glory everlasting.

God's blessings, Josh Free

I would like to Thank the members of David's Star for their continued support of my education. I am grateful that the members are thinking about the young people of the congregation and the possibility of them entering the public ministry. The money is greatly appreciated! Once again Thank You!

Sincerely, David Porth

December 2, 2008

Hello David's Star;

As a fellow member of David's Star some of you know that I am employed as a Program Coordinator for Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM). It is a true blessing to be able to assist congregations as they look to share the gospel with people who have a developmental disability, their families and communities. We recently moved the JCM special needs Bible class from KMLHS to two communities. A special needs Bible class is now conducted at Shepherd of the Hills in West Bend and Pilgrim in Menomonee Falls. This move allowed the class of seven from KMLHS to grow to include our current students and increase our numbers served to seventeen participants between the two locations. An effort to increase the number of students continues for both programs. In addition to this God has allowed me in the area that I cover to assist in starting five new programs with three more scheduled for 2009.

This does not happen without the support of people like you. You have supported JCM in the past year through your use of the envelopes provided in our packets. Gifts so far have totaled \$784. This is an awesome blessing to us, as we rely on gifts such as this. We are not part of the Synod budget. Simply put: Thank you!

If you ever have questions about what JCM does, please contact me. If you are ever interested in volunteering for either program we can always use more help. You may also consider talking to Kathryn Smith who has faithfully volunteered her time and taught these people with special needs for many years. If you see Kathryn, please thank her for her gift of dedication and time to this ministry.

May God continue you to give you joy in Jesus your Savior!

Bill Truebenbach
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