



# thegoodnews

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## RECEIVE! THEN GIVE!

*By Pastor Woldt*

You are undoubtedly familiar with the expression, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The apostle Paul attributes those words to Jesus himself in Acts 20:35. As Paul spoke to the leaders of the Ephesian church, he reminded them: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

The words of Jesus are certainly true. Christian charity is good and noble. Giving is an essential component of Christian living. However, when it comes to Christmas, we might invert that familiar saying a bit and still come up with an important spiritual truth. When it comes to Christmas, it's better to receive. Then give!

Christmas has no lasting impact on our lives if we remain unwilling to receive God's Christmas gift to us. The story of Christmas is a story of God's gracious giving, not ours. Christmas focuses our attention of God's gift of love lying in the manger. God's gift of love comes to us in the person of the Word made flesh. Jesus entered our world to give his all for us. He gave up his throne in heaven, and humbly lived on earth. He gave his perfect life as a sacrifice for our sins. He gave his all that we through his poverty might become rich. All that remains is for us to receive this priceless gift from Jesus.

Yet, we can't even hold out our hand to accept what Jesus gives. We are by nature dead in sin. Christmas brings us God's unconditional love wrapped up in a big, bright package, and we don't even want to open it. Our natural inclination is to walk away from Jesus and from God's love. Oh, how important it is for us to receive at Christmas. It's better to receive. Then give.

We can only receive God's Christmas gift by the power of the Holy Spirit. Using the power of the gospel in Word and Sacrament, the Spirit changes our sinful, stubborn hearts into hearts that cry out with the Advent hymn writer:

*Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
Oh, enter with your saving grace;  
Show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to your name. (CW 4:v5)*

Once we have received God's love in Jesus, then it is time for us to give! We remember the words Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Giving becomes a natural part of living for those who have received God's gift of love. We want to give God all glory and praise. We want to be instruments of God's love in the world today. We want to be a blessing to our family, to our neighbors. We want to share God's love with people we know, and with people we don't know. Christ's love compels us!

This Christmas, spend some time receiving. Marvel at God's love for you. Drink in the message of the gospel as you contemplate the mystery of the Word made flesh. Find personal peace and refreshment in the Lord Jesus. Receive. Then give!

**December 2009**

**Volume XVI,  
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!**

Lillian Boeker..12/2/1922..87 yrs. old  
Martha Liesener...12/23/1925...84 yrs. old

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**DECEMBER 2009 GREETERS**

Sat. Dec. 5th  
5:00 Gene & Marlene Hagenow

Sun. Dec. 6th  
7:45 Tony & Lynn Gromacki  
10:15 Jeff & Bridgett Munn

Sat. Dec. 12th  
5:00 Mark & Laurie Bublitz

Sun. Dec. 13th  
7:45 Dave & Von Martin  
10:15 To be assigned

Sat. Dec. 19th  
5:00 Al & Ruth Laverenz

Sun. Dec. 20th  
7:45 Pastor & Marie Janke  
10:15 Roger & Lynne Tews

Sat. Dec. 26th  
5:00 Mark & Valerie Wellman

Sun. Dec. 27th  
7:45 John & Nelda Clemens  
10:15 Dave & Emily Zarlring

Sat. January 2nd  
5:00 Betty Gumm

Sun. Jan. 3rd  
7:45 Laverne Groth  
10:15 Bob & Rachel Fuller

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**WOMEN'S ADVENT  
PRAYER BREAKFAST**



This is the eighth year that the Women in God's Word Bible Study Group will be sponsoring an Advent Prayer Breakfast. I know we all have gotten wonderful gifts and some not-so-wonderful gifts at Christmas time. For our devotion this year we will be Unwrapping the Greatest Gift of All. This year the very delicious breakfast will again be held at Heidel's Restaurant on Saturday, December 5. Plan to arrive at 8:30 with breakfast to be served at 9:00. The cost this year will still be \$13.00. Tickets will go on sale after the church services the weekends of November 15, 22, and 29. This is a great way to get ready for the busy Christmas Season. Why not buy an extra ticket and bring a friend? For more information, contact Char Kison (677-2389).



**Parish Nurse News**

**HOLIDAY STRESS**

As preparations for the Thanksgiving Holiday are in full swing, boxes of Christmas decorations surround me, and deadlines loom I sit down at the computer to write an article about **STRESS!** "Slow down Sue, and take a deep breathe", I tell myself.

Actually, concentrating on deep breathing is a good idea! When stressed, we breathe in short, shallow breaths. Deep breathing provides maximum oxygen, and forces a person to relax. **OK!** I took some deep breaths! Ate some lunch and feel a bit better!

**We essentially have two choices:**

- 1. We can grumble about how things could or should be better
- 2. We can rejoice that things aren't worse!

My suggestion is that we choose #2 – Consider how things could be worse, count our blessings and tackle our now much easier problem!

Want another thought that might make you smile? "Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue." ☺

Thank you Lord, for family gatherings and busy days. Thank you for sending your Son who takes away the sin of the world.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

A Blessed Christmas to you,

*Sue Bolha*

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

Members in attendance: Pastor Woldt, Pastor Loescher, David Nunez, Kevin Behm, Mark Otte, Tim Gustafson, Brian Lee, Kurt Henning, David Zarling, Jeff Morgan, Todd Backus, Dan Bolha, Dennis Bell.

Absent: none

The meeting was called to order by David Nunez. The meeting was opened with a prayer. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2009.

### Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)

**Incoming:** Anderson, Jay & Tanya; Tyler, Meghan, Jacob  
*Transfer from Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL*  
 Schmeling, Todd  
*Transfer from Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel, Madison, WI*  
 Kinzel, Richard & Janice  
*Profession of faith*

**Outgoing:** None

### Pastors' report

(Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 677-0919

[kloescher@davidstar.org](mailto:kloescher@davidstar.org) &

Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 377-1019

[woldt@nconnect.net](mailto:woldt@nconnect.net) )

No written report. Our work is reflected in the reports of the various committees and boards.

### President's Report

(David Nunez, Telephone 677-2467,

[David.Nunez@ipaper.com](mailto:David.Nunez@ipaper.com).)

Building Project Communication – At the last meeting, it was discussed as to when the message will be made, who will deliver it and the content. The dates will be finalized in the next week. In the meantime, continuing bulletin inserts will help with the updates.

Building Project Financial Update – The “Built on the Rock” committee has met with The James Company and is working on the next steps for our continuing program. Communications will be coming out soon from them.

Building Project – Again, overall the project is coming along very well. I was at the last Building Committee meeting and was able to hear first hand all of

the members working together in the different areas and keeping things moving along. Volunteers are continuing to help in many areas that Kurt Henning will address in his report. Overall, there isn't enough thank you's that can go out to all of the caring people who have volunteered gifts from the heart. As I was able to walk through some of the areas that are under construction, it gave my heart a very warm feeling and excitement that once we get this done, everyone in the congregation will be very proud of what we built.

2010 Ministry Budget – This is one subject that is getting stronger attention as we plan for the upcoming year. There has been a letter that will be sent to all members during the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>. I will be giving a short explanation as what this letter entails and some background information associated with it, the weekend before this letter will be sent out. Any comments that anyone has, please feel free to discuss them with me and any other member of the budget committee.

### Board for Buildings and Grounds

(Kurt Henning, Telephone # 677-2797

[klh@nconnect.net](mailto:klh@nconnect.net) )

As the building project nears the end and there were items that were not budgeted in the initial project, many volunteers with special talents stepped forward. This last month, many projects have been completed or near completion.

Thanks to the following:

The Liesener family (Wanda Beeler & Kurt and Kevin Liesener) donating all the excavation of the soccer fields (initial cost estimates were over \$11,000).

Jeff Wenzel for all the painting in the new area with help from Laurie Bublitz and many more.

The Technology Committee – wiring of our phones, security and computer needs – spearheading this was Mark & Todd Oestreich, Barry Washburn, and Roger Tews.

Curt & Wanda Beeler for donating all of the cabinets and countertops in the concession area.

Randy Vogel for donating all our grass seed needs for the building project.

Lynne Tews & Phyllis Dencker for coordinating various projects, solving problems with school start-up and receiving all the calls on all aspects of the building project.

The Hartwig family for doing additional cleaning of our school with no additional costs to our budget.

The Golf Committee for donating the additional costs to finish off the concession area.

Matt Enevold for donation of the light poles in the south and west parking lots.

CD Smith from buildings & grounds on taking special care of our existing school during construction, fixing and solving any problems arising during construction.

Carl from CD Smith.

I am sure that I have forgotten to thank someone, but Buildings & Grounds thanks you for all of your work on the new project and our existing campus.

As our project reaches the end, we have added additional square footage to our campus and also have increased our outdoor square footages in roads, sidewalks, etc., we will need additional help in 2010 to maintain our campus without adding to our operating budget.

#### **Board for Elementary Education**

(Brian Lee, Telephone #377-9419 [brian.lee@jci.com](mailto:brian.lee@jci.com) )

(Principal Tim Gustafson

Telephone # 338-3992 [tgustafson@davidstar.org](mailto:tgustafson@davidstar.org) )

The gym floor was refinished over school break in October.

Things are running smoothly overall, and there has been extensive discussions regarding the budget

#### **Board of Elders**

(Dennis Bell, Telephone # 677-2248

[dandmbell@sbc.global](mailto:dandmbell@sbc.global) )

The Board of Elders has approved to eliminate the German service on Good Friday. The service attendance has been reduced to the point that it does not pay to continue it.

The Care Committee for Called Workers are wrapping up the meetings with the called workers, and will have the interviews completed shortly.

The board discussed the issue of the fire hazard that is caused from having a real tree in the sanctuary. We felt that with the new narthex, it would be the time to move to an artificial tree for the sanctuary. A committee has been formed to decide the size based upon the area. We will be looking for donations to purchase the tree.

#### **Evangelism Committee**

(David Zarling, Telephone # (414) 839-0094

[david.zarling@gmail.com](mailto:david.zarling@gmail.com) )

We were under the impression that our contract with A T & T for advertising had been cancelled. However, because we were on automatic renewal, it had not been terminated, and it was not immediately noticed. The contract has now been cancelled.

Our Living Nativity will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a strong group on individuals who have been organizing this event, spearheaded by Dennis Sprenger and Pastor Loescher.

#### **Stewardship Committee**

(Todd Backus, Telephone # 677-4016

[todd.backus@prodigy.net](mailto:todd.backus@prodigy.net) )

The committee is presently working on the 2010 budget. The committee is also obtaining details about the "Christ's Love, Our Calling" program.

The Thrivent Giving Plus program (Matching Funds) is ending at the end of this year.

#### **Spiritual Growth Committee**

(Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521 [motte@kmlhs.org](mailto:motte@kmlhs.org) )

The next round of Bible classes have begun. Mr. Martin is leading a group in school on the study of Zechariah, and Professor Korthals is leading a group in church on Old Testament types of Christ.

As the Holidays get closer, give yourself a gift and start attending one of our Sunday or weekly Bible classes and be lifted up by the Word.

#### **Building Committee Update (Randy Vogel)**

The project remains on schedule, completion is expected by December 17 or sooner.

The project remains on budget to the best of our knowledge.

Volunteer efforts and generosity of donors continues to be amazing. From cleaning and painting to help whenever needed, our church is blessed!

Thank you to Liesener's for donating the excavating and sod that replaced the planned retaining walls east of our church.

Thank you to Matt Hartwig and Arborscape for donating a significant portion of their invoice.

Additions to the project include the facade wall on the west side of the school which is completed, and the facade wall on the north is nearing completion.

The facade walls, the covered drive through at the school entrance, the completion of the concession stand and additional flooring that was not included in the original bid were able to be added by donations, volunteer efforts or absorbed into the construction budget.

The existing Sergeant locks will like not be replaced until the locks fail. Current access to existing interior rooms should not be compromised. When construction is completed, a card reader, similar to that found in a hotel, will be the method to gain access to the building. Beyond the card key, keys will only be needed to access interior rooms that would normally be locked. Fire doors and hallways will normally be open unless there is a fire or a fire drill. Access to the computer server room and church office are assumed to be very secure areas and extremely limited in access. Until the construction is completed, as few keys as possible will be distributed. Security may be loosened up in the future by the B & G, but it is very difficult and costly to tighten security back up after many keys are distributed. When construction is

completed, the keys will be turned over to the B & G Chairman.

**Fundraising Committee Update (Gary Heckendorf)**

Dave Nunez discussed this committee’s work in his president’s report.

**Treasurer’s report**

**(Dan Bolha, Telephone # 677-3485**

[dbolha@charter.net](mailto:dbolha@charter.net) )

The October 31, 2009 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$216,958 compared to a deficit of \$241,005 September 30, 2009 and a deficit of \$185,944 on October 31, 2008. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$665,693 compared to \$662,808 last year and this year’s budget of \$727,080. Our Foundation Build on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date revenues of \$286,560.

**Vice President Report**

**(Jeff Morgan, Telephone # 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**

Proposed changes to cemetery regulations – This item remains open.

Internet Service to Campus – Bertram has agreed to place a tower on our property at no charge in the mission festival overflow lot. No written contract has been received yet. We need to resolve by end of this year

Future of “Parish Center” – The Buildings & Grounds Committee will determine the cost to repair and update, and we will proceed from there.

Bylaw change for quarterly meeting date – The Council will look at revising the dates for our quarterly meeting when these dates conflict with scheduled Council meetings. This is necessary due to the fact that, in some circumstances, the quarterly meeting falls before a scheduled Council meeting. Council will look at making a recommendation at the January voters meeting, and discuss in December.

**New Business**

Key distribution and management – Kurt and Dave will look into establishing a subcommittee to iron out the details.

Dedication/ Date Stone Placing – We need to determine when to open the capsule from 1943, and what to place in the new one. It was discussed having each classroom place something in PVC pipe. We also are considering

tying the capsule opening with the new fund drive. We will also discuss with Joel Pless who presently holds the 1943 capsule.

2010 David’s Star Ministry Budget – The Council discussed various options including pay cuts, staff reductions, and increasing member giving through increased church attendance leading to stronger faith.

**Items for Voters**

Next months meeting is **Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.** The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 8:00 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](mailto:kevinbehm@att.net).

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2009</b>				
	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 10/31/09	Offerings Budgeted thru 10/31/09
Operating	\$58,683	\$14,671	\$596,470	\$663,746
Missions	\$ 5,750	\$ 1,438	\$ 75,397	\$ 68,975
KML Operating	\$ 3,171	\$ 793	\$ 39,389	\$ 44,695
KML Building	\$ 1,421	\$ 355	\$ 8,324	\$ 11,667

<p>The deficit in our Operating Fund is:  <b>\$220,155</b>  The deficit at the end of October 2008  was: \$185,944  The deficit at the end of October 2007  was: \$168,252</p>
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**MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16, 2009**  
**3:45 & 7:00 PM**

**THE LORD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

- December 2    Isaiah 11: 1-10  
                  He sends Immanuel to the  
                  Chronically Disappointed  
                  Pastor Woldt
- December 9    Isaiah 7: 10-17  
                  He sends Immanuel to the Hard-  
                  Hearted  
                  Pastor Loescher
- December 16    Isaiah 9: 1-7  
                  He sends Immanuel to the  
                  Downtrodden  
                  Pastor Raasch
- Light supper serving in the school gym between  
services (4:45 – 6:30 pm)

**GERMAN / ENGLISH SERVICE**  
**Sunday, December 20**  
**1:00 pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**Thursday, December 24**  
**Children's Service 4:30 pm**  
**Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School**  
**Candlelight Song Service 10:00 pm**  
**David's Star Church**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**  
**Friday, December 25**  
**7:45 & 9:30 am**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES**  
**W/HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Thursday, December 31**  
**3:45 & 7:00 pm**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE**  
**Friday, January 1, 2010**  
**9:30 am**



**WELS UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr. Greg Schmill and Mr. Jeff Inniger have accepted their calls to the Commission on Lutheran Schools, one of six areas in the recently renamed and reconfigured Congregation and Ministry Support Group. Schmill will serve as interim director, and Inniger as associate director, a position he held under the former Commission for Parish Schools. The Synodical Conference met in November to begin the task of crafting a long-range, comprehensive plan that will guide the synod in its work during the next eight to ten years. The synod's bylaws assign this responsibility to the SC, and last summer's convention directed that the SC begin the work, present a progress report to the districts next summer, and bring a final plan to the 2011 convention for adoption. Declining retail sales and a difficult financial environment for denominational publishers are forcing Northwestern Publishing House to eliminate nine full- and part-time staff positions effective December 30. One of the positions is a called full-time editor, reducing the number of called workers at NPH to five.



## Jesus, the Light

Are you waiting for something that seems to be too long in coming? Maybe it's a job promotion or a raise. Maybe it's just employment of any kind! Perhaps you've been praying for someone's salvation, and you don't see any sign of God's working in that person. It's difficult to wait. People in Jesus' day were waiting for a Messiah. It seemed to many that His coming was long overdue, but Paul writes in Galatians 4:4-5, "*When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*" Our waiting is over! The Light has come into the world!

Simeon was one who knew that "*the time had fully come,*" and "*moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts*" (Luke 2:27). There he saw the Child Whose parents brought him there to fulfill what the Law required of them. Simeon knew Jesus was the light. He proclaimed, "*For my eyes have seen Your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel*" (Luke 2:30, 32).

Unfortunately, not all who were waiting for the Messiah recognized Him when He came. In John 1:4-5 we read, "*In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*" Still today the darkness misunderstands the Light. Yet He continues to shine, and, as He shines, He dispels darkness.

And He calls upon us to shine also. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described a lamp that is put on a stand so that it lights up the whole house. Then He said, "*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

The only way to dispel darkness is to fill it with light. As stewards, it is our joyous task to be reflections of Christ's light. So we are "*prepared in season and out of season: [we] correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction*" (2 Timothy 4:2). We are always prepared "*to give an answer to everyone who ask [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have. And we do so "with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against [our] good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander*" (1 Peter 3:15-15). In this way we proclaim that the waiting is over! Jesus, the Light, has come into the world!

Stewardship Committee

