



thegoodnews

2740 David's Star Dr. | (262) 375-1843
Jackson, WI 53037 | davidstar.org

“Empty Christmas”

by Pastor Loescher

The little boy tripped down the steps on Christmas morning hoping at least for a new pair of pajamas. He was tired of wearing his older brother's still too big hand-me-downs. As he tugged up on the sleeves to keep his bare shoulder from peaking out of the neck hole, he dug into the package, hoping that this might be the year. The wrapping was nice. It even had a bow. His name was on the tag wishing him a Merry Christmas. It all looked so right. This year would be different. He opened the box in anticipation of a joyful time of family love. He couldn't bear to look so he felt around with his hands. But his hands felt nothing but packing peanuts and torn up newspaper. The anticipation in his heart gave way to searing pain accompanied by the cruel cackle of his alcoholic mother, “Merry Christmas...brat!” The empty package became symbolic of his empty home with no love, no nurture, and no hope. Could you think of a more empty Christmas?

What if every gift under the tree were only empty boxes filled with packing peanuts and torn up newspaper—nothing more? That's what we might as well have if the Christ Child is not Savior. If Christmas is only good times and family fun, presents given and received, our spiritual house has no love, no nurture, no hope. If the Christ-child was given only so we can learn how to give, then the gift is only packing peanuts and torn newspaper. Useless! A moral command to be like Jesus would do nothing to calm our guilt troubled souls. In the end such

a moral command would only deepen the pain as we fail to give of ourselves again.

Christmas could still look really nice. A person could even go to church and sing the joyful Christmas carols. But if we come away with no announcement that our sins are forgiven through the Savior that was born to us, Christmas is empty. If our celebration is all about making Johnny happy with the toys he gets and not the divine gift of forgiveness coming down from heaven in the God-man Jesus Christ, we are reaching into a beautifully wrapped package filled with nothing. If our celebrations are only wassail, eggnog, and mistletoe and not all about the cooling balm of the blood of Jesus calming our sin-sick souls, the mirage of Christmas will soon disappear and the cruel joke will be over. The after Christmas specials are only the Satanic cackle of a world drunk with its own materialism. We are left with a world with no love, no nurture and no hope. Could you think of a more empty Christmas?

Pray that David's Star worship this Christmas is more than a package beautifully wrapped. May the holy Spirit fill it with forgiveness and the peace that surpasses understanding. May we be filled to overflowing with the good news of a Savior born for us. And let all of our Christmas joy reflect the surpassing goodness of having the best of all gifts, the forgiveness of sins through Jesus our Savior. Then our homes will be filled with love, nurture and above all eternal hope. Can you think of a more fulfilling Christmas?

**December
2010**

**Volume
XVII, Number 4**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Lillian Boeker...12/2/1922...88 yrs. old
Martha Liesener...12/23/1925...85 yrs. old

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DAVID'S STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2740 David's Star Drive
Jackson, WI 53037
262.677.2412 www.davidstar.org

**NOVEMBER 2010
GREETERS**

December 4th; 5:00 Randy & Karla Matter
December 5th; 7:45 Dave & Nicole Miller
December 5th 10:15 Mel & Eunice Heckendorf

December 11th; 5:00 Regina & Mike Bublitz
December 12th; 7:45 Tony & Lynn Gromacki family
December 12th; 10:15 Rob & Beth Schneiker

December 18th; 5:00 Gene & Marlene Hagenow
December 19th; 7:45 Myron & Delores Philipps
December 19th; 10:15

December 26th; 7:45 Dave & Von Martin
December 26th; 10:15

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
3:45 & 7:00 pm.
Pastor Kurt Loescher

Wednesday, December 8, 2010
3:45 & 7:00 pm
Pastor Charles Raasch, Morning Star

Wednesday, December 15, 2010
3:45 & 7:00 pm
Pastor Michael Woldt

*A light supper will be served between the church
services,
4:45 to 6:30 pm in the school gymnasium.*

Sunday, December 19, 2010 -1:00 pm
German/English Song Service

2010 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24, 2010 - 4:30 pm
David's Star School Children's Service
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School

Friday, December 24, 2010 - 10:00 pm
David's Star Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 25, 2010
Christmas Day Festival Services
7:45 and 9:30 am
(No Saturday Evening Worship)

Sunday, December 26, 2010
7:45 and 10:15 am

Friday, December 31, 2010
New Year's Eve Service w/Holy Communion
3:45 and 7:00 pm.

Saturday, January 1, 2011
New Year's Day Service - 9:30 am

Sunday, January 2, 2011
7:45 and 10:15 am

Have you moved...do we have your current address?
Do you have a new telephone number?
Do we have your e-mail address or has your old one changed?

Please contact the church office (262.677.2412) if any of the above have changed.

Thanks for your help.

LIVING NATIVITY
David's Star Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 18; 6:00-8:45pm
Sunday, December 19; 4-6 pm

Christmas is always filled with excitement as friends, family, decorating, gifts and shopping seem to dominate the weeks before Christmas. But with all the preparation do we take the time to consider what Christmas means?

If you would like to experience Christmas from a fresh perspective please join us.

"The Living Nativity" will impact your life all season long and help you keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas.

We are blessed to offer this experience free to the public. Join us for hot chocolate and snacks as the CHRISTmas story is told. Living Nativity starts every 20 minutes.

Invite a friend or relative for this unique opportunity!

David's Star Church Council Meeting Minutes / Capsule
November 16, 2010

Members in attendance: Pastor Woldt, Pastor Loescher, Kevin Behm, Randy Matter, David Zarling, Dennis Bell, Jim Korthals, Tim Gustafson, Rob Schneiker, Joel Pless.

Absent: David Nunez, Jeff Morgan, Brian Lee.

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Bell, substituting for David Nunez who was absent. The meeting was opened with a prayer. A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting on October 12, 2010.

Committee Reports**Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)**

Incoming: None

Outgoing: Tearney, Tim & Charlotte, Paige, Tearney
Dustin Peterke
Transfer to Peace, Hartford, WI

Pastors' Report

Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 262.677.0919

kloescher@davidstar.org & Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 262.377.1019 woldt@nconnect.net

As we approach Thanksgiving, we have many blessings for which to be grateful, especially the spiritual gifts the Lord has given to David's Star. We will again be working with Morning Star for our Advent services. We are looking forward to a blessed Advent/Christmas season.

President's Report

**David Nunez, Telephone 262.677.2467,
David.Nunez@ipaper.com**

This report was presented by Dennis Bell, on behalf of David Nunez.

Shepherd's Staff Update – Jeff Munn has been discussing the process and how Shepherd's Staff works with Lynne Tews and Phyllis Dencker. I know he wants to proceed with discussing how the rest of the staff is utilizing it or not. I have asked Barry and Jeff to give me a written update so that I can bring it to the next council meeting.

Elections & Nominating Committee – All council members need to check the status of their prospective committees as to which members are up for either re-election or need new candidates for the annual meeting. Based on my notes, the only council member who has expressed to me that he would not be continuing is Joel Pless, Chairman of Spiritual Growth Committee. Kevin Behm, Congregational Secretary, and David Zarling, Evangelism Chairman, are ending their first terms will have the option to run as the incumbent, but will also need to have another member on the ballot. Please

forward to me any positions that need to be filled before the next council meeting.

Technology Committee – I have been working with the Town of Jackson Planning Commission and Bertram Wireless to complete the paperwork on the tower project. I will hopefully have this all submitted for final approval to the town by this time next week.

Council Communication – Thank you to David Zarling for the message he gave the congregation this past weekend. This type of communication may be duplicated so many ways but you can never have enough communication when it comes to our members. Next up the second Sunday in December is Spiritual Growth.

Council Meetings – Due to some conflicts within council members schedules, it was recommended that Council meetings be temporarily rescheduled to the first Monday after the second Sunday of each month. This temporary change would be implemented for the period of December, 2010 through March, 2011. A motion was made and seconded by Council to implement this change, and the motion passed.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

**Robert Schneiker, Telephone # 262.677.2584
schneikerconcrete@gmail.com**

A lockbox has been installed as part of the new key system. Rob also distributed a key fob/card log to the council members to have them complete indicating their committee needs regarding key access to various areas of our facility. Joel Pless asked the committee to install the cornerstone before snow arrives. Rob indicated that this would be possible.

Board for Elementary Education

**Brian Lee, Telephone #262.377.9419
brian.lee@jci.com Principal Tim Gustafson
Telephone # 338-3992 tgustafson@davidstar.org**

A lockbox has been installed as part of the new key system. Rob also distributed a key fob/card log to the council members to have them complete indicating their committee needs regarding key access to various areas of our facility. Joel Pless asked the committee to install the cornerstone before snow arrives. Rob indicated that this would be possible.

Board of Elders

**(Dennis Bell, Telephone # 262.677.2248
dandmbell@yahoo.com)**

Dennis reported that the work of the called workers care committee is virtually complete.

There was discussion regarding our summer fellowship program. Council members agreed to discontinue this program (regarding providing Piggly Wiggly donuts and cookies). The existing format with coffee being provided will continue, and if members want to participate by

bringing their own home-baked or purchased items, this would be acceptable.

Evangelism Committee
David Zarling, Telephone # 414.839.0094
david.zarling@gmail.com

The new-member welcome that was recently held was well-attended with 58 people attending. It was a different atmosphere from what we have normally had, with pizza being provided.

The Living Nativity planning is ongoing, and running smoothly.

We have obtained a photo bucket subscription. This will accommodate high resolution images for publications.

The artwork has been removed from the narthex.

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

We are wrapping up with the final week for “Christ’s Love – Our Calling”, which will be coming up this weekend.

Jim indicated that he has received budget data from two committees (Evangelism and Elders). He asked all remaining committees to have their data turned in by the beginning of December.

Spiritual Growth Committee
Joel Pless, Telephone # 262.677.2109
LJP72761@yahoo.com

Jim Korthals will be finishing his Bible study for “Christ’s Love – Our Calling” on November 21. There will be no Bible study on November 28 as Chris Driesbach will be performing a Christian concert in the gym on that date. Bill Truebenbach will be doing a two week course on the Means of Grace the first two weeks in December. A Birthday Party for Jesus will be held on December 19. There will be no Bible classes on December 26. Dave Martin will be doing a Bible class on Old Testament prophets in January.

Treasurer’s report
Randy Matter, Telephone #262.376.1585
matters@nconnect.net

The October 31, 2010 report was presented indicating an ending operating fund balance at 10/31/10 in the amount of (\$147,791.66), compared to (\$139,071.04) at 9/30/10.

Randy reported that the compensation committee had recently met. They went through Synod code, and analyzed how our congregation compares to it. The committee is considering several options. One option might be to hold salaries for one more year. Another option is a small increase per Synod code with a 2% increase in 2011-12, and a 2.5% increase in 2012-13. Committee members are planning to meet with teachers and staff to get their input. The Committee is also considering meeting more than once a year, with the goal of taking a broader view of compensation.

Vice President Report
Jeff Morgan, Telephone # 262.377-.7532,
jmorgan@heinntrendcorp.com

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

Future of “Parish Center” – This remains open.

Designate an alternate lay delegate for the 2011 WELS convention. This remains open.

Cemetery Regulations revision – This remains open.

New Business

2011 Budget Preparation – This was discussed during the Stewardship Committee report.

Washburn Fundraiser – There has been a request from Lynne Tews to plan and organize a fundraising activity for the Washburn family to provide assistance with medical expenses. This would be held next summer. This was approved by Council.

Communication to the Council – It was recommended that council members receive email notification from the church/school office regarding important congregational news that a council member should be aware of, such as ministry calls or the news of a member passing away, as examples.

Items for Voters (for the January 20th voters meeting)

2011 Budget

Next months meeting is **Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.** The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, January 20, 2011 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.

Giving Thanks at Year End

Economic conditions in recent months have made it more important than ever to make careful choices about how to spend, save, or give our resources. In November we focused on how “Love Takes Time” to see that time is part of our Christian stewardship. As the year comes to an end you may be determining the best ways you can stretch your dollars. By taking time and carefully considering the form and timing of your gifts, you may discover you can make gifts you may not have thought possible.

Take time to decide what to give. Will it be cash? Or can you consider giving securities such as stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares? Do you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed and can use the cash value as a source for a gift? Retirement plans can also be a practical source from which to make gifts.

But you can also give a gift to your loved ones or to your favorite church, school, or ministry by having your will or living trust updated, or having your estate plan done if you do not have one. Changes in estate taxes in recent years now allow you to leave more for loved ones free of tax.

Year end is a time when we express thanks for the blessings we have received. It is also a good time to take time to pause and make plans for the future. Love does take time. God reminds us that he lavished His love on us and made us His children. He sent Jesus to us at just the right time. Decide to take time to plan your estate. Now is the right time to give thanks.

If you need assistance with your estate planning contact Bill Truebenbach, David’s Star Planned Giving Chairman at 677-2066 or our WELS Estate Planning Counselor, Pastor Dennis Kleist at (920) 740-5899.



Parish Nurse News

Something To Celebrate

“I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10

The Christmas holiday’s are celebrated in a great variety of ways. Beautiful worship services, special music, decorations, delicious food, family gatherings and the exchanging of gifts to those we love to signify the gift of Christ who came to die in our place on the cross so that we may have eternal life in heaven.

As we approach the Christmas season it’s important for us to keep in mind that we are approaching the most “treacherous” time of the year for weight gain. My goal for these next weeks isn’t to lose those extra pounds but to be realistic, enjoy God’s wonderful bounty, and yet maintain my current weight. How do I plan to do it?

In the first place, I plan to continue with my current routine of getting daily exercise as I walk the dog every morning, resisting temptation to stay in on the bitter cold mornings! Having a friend or dog to walk with helps me get out there! On the days that are just too cold I have an alternate plan to get the joints moving! Find a plan that is good for you.

Secondly, I plan to give some thought to offering healthier foods as I plan the menus for our holiday gatherings. Perhaps a vegetable tray along with the usual appetizers or some of my home made applesauce as a side dish can offer healthier options. Instead of the usual large slice of cheesecake after the meal, I’ll make mine a smaller slice with a cup of coffee after the dishes are done. A hearty bowl of soup can be a great choice for a cold weather meal. There are all sorts of ways to lower the fat, salt, cholesterol, and calorie intake in the foods we eat that are delicious and healthy as well. Need more specific help? The Internet is full of resources for healthier eating and great recipes!

So... feel free to ask me how I am doing! I may not always be successful but I really want to concentrate on the “good news of great joy for all the people”. It’s not about the food.

A blessed Christmas to you and your families,
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse
parishnurse@davidstar.org
(262) 677-3485