



# thegoodnews

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

## Building Our Spiritual House

by Pastor Loescher

*From [Christ, the Head] the whole body... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Much excitement lingers as we gather in our new building, encourage, support and just enjoy each other. What a tremendous blessing this new building has been to us already! But what if that's all it is, excitement over a beautiful new space? In time the excitement and newness will wear off. Will we still see it as valuable space to gather in order to build each other up?

Now that the first phase of our master building plan is complete, we can turn to the Master's plan for his church—to build each other up. Let's talk about what we do well, and look at ways we can do better. Let's understand the integral part every person in our congregation has in the strength of our spiritual house.

As we look at what the Scripture says about strong spiritual houses, a number of things stand out. I'd like to focus on two for now. The first is that our crucified, risen and ascended Lord actively supplies the building materials. He gives each one of us to the church as a part of the building. He gives gifts to all to be used for the common good. That doesn't mean that everyone does the same thing. Nor does it mean that everyone does something that stands out for all to see. It does mean that the Lord has given every one of us a gift by which we may participate in the building process. Many of the gifts may seem insignificant as if they accomplish little or nothing. We may not even recognize it as a gift from the Lord for the building up of his Church, but never call insignificant what the Lord has given us to do. You may not think much of the visit you made to an elderly person, but if that person looks forward to your visit because you share

God's love, you are participating in the construction of the building. You may not think there is a whole lot of building going on while just chatting in our new gathering space, but if one person seeks your advise because you have shown yourself to be godly, construction is moving forward.

Certainly the more public gifts of ministry, that of pastor and teacher, are critical to the building process because these gifts proclaim the message that prepare others to use their gifts well. That truth brings us to a second thought from the Scriptures about strong spiritual houses. The building process will only be as vigorous as the faith life of those involved.

As the parts of the building grow in faith the building actually builds itself. It's critical that God's people never get complacent about growing spiritually. As soon as we do, we begin to decline spiritually. It's time now as we look at the beautiful, well built addition to our powerful stone church building, that we consider the strength of our spiritual house. Consider the spiritual strength of our members. We want to have discussion about how to encourage spiritual growth. We want to actively encourage, one on one, brother to brother, mother to daughter, father to son, friend to friend. As faith grows, so does the courage and wisdom to share a constructive word to a failing father or a disgruntled wife, a wandering teen or floundering adult. Pastors and teachers may be well equipped to speak such words, but family members and friends are in a much better position to do so. We all have gifts to encourage in our own ways. We must grow in faith so that we actually do it, and do it well.

January 2010

Volume XVI,  
Number 5





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Helen Kannenberg...1/1/1921...89 yrs. old

Delores Heimerl...1/8/1925...85 yrs. old



## Parish Nurse News

### Avoiding the Lurking Cold

Trying to avoid catching a cold from your family, friends, or co-workers can be challenging for two reasons:

1. A cold has the element of surprise. In most cases, adults with a cold have the ability to infect others one day before symptoms even appear.
2. A cold may outlast your efforts to avoid it. An adult can infect someone up to five days or more after becoming sick. Children are able to transmit the virus for up to seven days or longer.

Your main line of defense is something you've heard a million times before: wash your hands and avoid touching your eyes and mouth. Cold viruses reside in nasal secretions and are mainly transmitted by hand.

Here's an example of how the cold virus can spread: When your wife blows her nose, the virus transfers through the tissue to her hands and then consequently to the handle she grabs to open the medicine cabinet. When you grab the handle to get your razor, and then as a part of your morning routine habitually rub your eyes, you've now exposed yourself to the virus.

*SOURCE: University of California at Berkeley Wellness Letter*

Health Office Open House! On Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> the Parish Nurses will host the first Blood Pressure Screening in the new Health Office! We are located just beyond the elevator off the new narthex by the water fountains!

Come and check us out! It is our desire to serve the Lord and his people in anyway we can.

Together in Christ,

*Sue Bolha*

Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

## GOD'S ABUNDANCE

We have before us a whole new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to His kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the year 2010!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave His only Son Who declared to us, "I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Through Him and because of the abundance of His love for us, we "are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9). While He is slow to anger, the Lord is "abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion" (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of His creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on His people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read,

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

God has equipped and enabled us with His abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach His Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift. Ask God to show you where He wants to use you. Go to your pastor, elder, and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for His service.

The Stewardship Committee

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.

Absent: Dennis Bell.

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 November 10, 2009.

**Membership Report (Pastor Woldt)**

**Incoming:** none  
**Outgoing:** Kuber, Katie  
*Transfer to St. Marcus,  
 Milwaukee, WI*

**Pastors' report**

**(Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 677-0919  
kloescher@davidstar.org &  
 Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 377-1019  
woldt@nconnect.net )**

Our work is reflected in the reports of the various committees and boards.

Pastor reminded us that proper procedure and order to secure congregational property is always a good method to follow for the protection of the pastors and congregational members.

**President's Report**

**(David Nunez, Telephone 677-2467,  
David.Nunez@ipaper.com. )**

Building Project Communication – Bulletin inserts have been a very good communication tool throughout the entire building project, and I want to thank Nelson Erdman for keeping this very important piece of communication going.

Building Project – Randy Vogel will be updating us on the progress and next steps for the project. This past Saturday, I walked through the entire campus with Randy looking through all the new construction and improvements that have been done. It is truly amazing that this time last year, we were still in the planning stages and readying ourselves for the annual meeting to get voter approval. The Lord has truly blessed us in so many ways. As I walked through the school and church, I could not help but think about all the many volunteer hours and donations that we have been blessed with. It would be an injustice to think I could name all the people who have helped or donated monetarily, their time and talents or whatever they could without missing someone.

Technology Committee – This committee has been working very hard over the past couple of months on all the computer servers, telephone systems, and new audio

systems for school and church and many other projects that have kept many of the members here long hours. Dave distributed a written report from Barry Washburn highlighting the committee and its activities. This report was reviewed and discussed by Council.

2010 Ministry Budget – The final budget will be presented tonight by Todd Backus and based on the feedback we have received from a few members, we will not be cutting staff but freezing wages for another year and working very hard to keep a very close eye on our expenses. Most of all, we all need to communicate to the members with useful information on stewardship and first fruit giving.

**Board for Buildings and Grounds  
 (Kurt Henning, Telephone # 677-2797  
klh@nconnect.net )**

With the amount of snow and the amount of sidewalk, Buildings and Grounds Committee feels that we need to purchase a snow blower with a cab to fit on our grasshopper mower. We have contacted the Cemetery Committee for the funding. This will be a dual use and the cost of cab and blower will be around \$3,300. They have agreed to fund this.

A special thanks to Dan Kaschner for removing and replacing the parts on Pastor Woldt's toilet. After the toilet was removed a new floor was installed and the toilet was put back in.

Some trees have been removed and trimmed to facilitate snowplowing.

**Board for Elementary Education  
 (Brian Lee, Telephone #377-9419 brian.lee@jci.com )  
 (Principal Tim Gustafson  
 Telephone # 338-3992 tgustafson@davidstar.org )**

Preschool will be moving to a new lower level classroom. The old space will be made ready for extended learning.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade will remain in place for the remainder of this school year.

In order not to disrupt the school year, the kindergarten class will not be moving into the newly-constructed wing until after the end of the school year.

**Board of Elders  
 (Dennis Bell, Telephone # 677-2248  
dandmbell@sbc.global )**

No report.

### **Evangelism Committee**

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

**david.zarling@gmail.com )**

The Living Nativity will be held this Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Stewardship Committee**

**(Todd Backus, Telephone # 677-4016**

**todd.backus@prodigy.net )**

The Committee is considering developing a skit whereby members are educated regarding how a family might plan in giving to the Lord. We are coordinating this with the Evangelism Committee.

Future operating budget communication has been discussed, and the Committee will be concentrating on providing more visual methods including charts and graphs.

### **Spiritual Growth Committee**

**(Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521 motte@kmlhs.org )**

A series of Bible classes called "Building Our Spiritual House" will begin in January. You can attend classes on 3 consecutive Sunday mornings between services, or on 3 consecutive Wednesday nights, or during a Saturday morning single session. The Bible classes will correspond to a set of 3 sermons that will be preached during those three weeks.

We are encouraging all members of David's Star to attend these special sermons and Bible classes.

We have now realized our goal of building our physical house, but that is meaningless unless we pair it with spiritual growth.

The dates of the sermons are January 10, 17, and 24. These are also the dates for the Sunday Bible classes.

The dates of the Wednesday classes are January 13, 20, and 27.

The date of the Saturday Bible class is January 30.

The women's retreat was successful and about 70 women attended this year.

Sunday School continues to go well. We are looking for some more students particularly in the 3 year old class. Invites to those students will be going out soon.

Library is fully up and running. It is located in the IMC. Please check it out for many great books and videos.

"Little Ones" will be starting up again in the new year. This program for young (before school) children and their parent(s) was shelved because of lack of space several years ago. With new space available it will start up in January. Jen Otte will head up this program.

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

The major construction for the building project should be completed by Friday December 18, 2009. (The doors at the west entrance of the new narthex will be installed on Tuesday December 22) All invoices have not been collected as of this date, but it appears that we remain under the budgeted dollar amount allotted. Remaining under budget has only been made possible by the volunteers and donors of our congregation, both great and small, and the

bounty provided by our Lord and Savior. Everyone has done or given what they are able to do for the good of the project, and it is particularly heartwarming as we near completion of this project!

Items that will need to be finished between now and spring include the final landscape grading, landscaping, signage for the campus (both inside and outside), and the interior decorating of the new structure. A date and plans for the dedication of the new and remodeled buildings should be considered.

Next year, we will also need to rectify the roof over the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

Not included in the scope of the building project, but important to follow up on would include the opening ceremony of the time capsule that was found, and the placement of a new time capsule. Suggestions for improvements to our campus, but not included in the scope of the building project, to be made in the coming year(s) would include the asphaltting of David's Star Drive and other suggestions that the Church Building Committee will identify. A "to do list" will be created by the committee for potential donors to give to, if desired.

### **Fundraising Committee Update (Gary Heckendorf)**

The Council discussed a handout regarding percentage of pledges collected to date. 41 percent of pledges have been collected.

### **Treasurer's report**

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

**dbolha@charter.net )**

The November 30, 2009 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$211,462 compared to a deficit of \$218,622 October 31, 2009 and a deficit of \$164,115 on November 30, 2008. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$756,492 compared to \$757,690 last year and this year's budget of \$809,370. Our Foundation Build on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date revenues of \$323,814.

### **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 – This matter is being resolved. It appears that Bertram is willing to pay for the construction of the tower and related expenses, except for a fence and landscaping.

Future of "Parish Center" – This item remains open.

**New Business**

2010 David’s Star Ministry Plan – The final revised budget was discussed and approved by Council.

Dedication Date – February 14<sup>th</sup> is being considered as a date for this. More information is to follow.

Nomination committee – Dan Bolha, Kurt Henning, Mark Otte, and Todd Backus, outgoing Church Council members, are on this committee.

Sec 107 Housing allowances – The Council approved the following allowance for 2010 for our male called workers;

- Michael Woldt \$7,200
- Kurt Loescher \$8,500
- Martin Janke \$13,610
- Tim Gustafson \$20,000
- Randy Watts \$25,000
- Thomas Neuman \$20,000
- John Giddings \$25,000

New cab and blower – The Council approved the purchase of a new cab and blower in the amount of approximately \$3,300, with funds designated from the Cemetery fund.

Organ blower – The Council discussed an emergency situation with the organ blower. We need this fixed now. Council needs voters approval for expenditures over \$5,000. The cost of the new blower is \$6,000. Council approved paying \$5,000 at this time, with the balance of \$1,000 to be paid after approval by voters at the January 21<sup>st</sup> voters meeting.

There was additional discussion by Council regarding whether a constitutional change is in order seeing that the spirit of this constitutional item granting Council authority to make these emergency expenditures may be outdated, as far as limiting this authority to \$5,000 or below.

**Items for Voters (for the January 21<sup>st</sup> voters meeting)**

- 2010 Budget
- Organ blower funds
- Elections

Next months meeting is **Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.** The next Voters meeting will be **Thursday, January 21, 2010 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](mailto:kevinbehm@att.net).

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2009</b>				
	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 11/30/09	Offerings Budgeted thru 11/30/09
Operating	\$87,708	\$17,542	\$684,178	\$754,756
Missions	\$ 6,998	\$ 1,400	\$ 82,394	\$ 76,449
KML Operating	\$ 4,117	\$ 823	\$ 43,506	\$ 49,829
KML Building	\$ 517	\$ 103	\$ 8,840	\$ 12,833

<p>The deficit in our Operating Fund is:  \$221,462  The deficit at the end of November 2008 was: \$164,115  The deficit at the end of November 2007 was: \$150,834</p>
---



## WELS UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Martin Luther College held its mid-year graduation ceremony December 17<sup>th</sup>. Twelve students received degrees – one in early childhood education, 10 in elementary education, and one in both elementary and secondary education. Four of these graduates were assigned to their first calls in December. A May, 2009 graduate also was assigned. The other December graduates are either awaiting assignment, are restricted by location due to marriage, or have deferred assignment. The college does its work for the synod year-round, and one reminder of that is the annual graduation in December of a few students who can immediately fill emergency needs that have developed in our schools.

## SOMETHING GOOD

Good can be a deceptive term. Each of us has our own feel for what a person means when he says that something is good, feels good, sounds good, or looks good. But a search on the word good or reading about the nature of good and how what is truly good can be determined still leaves some puzzled. The Bible is not a philosophy book. Yet the Bible teaches us the basic ideas we need to understand when we are looking for good in our own lives.

In the beginning, in Genesis, God created and it was good. We are told that many times in the first chapter of the Bible. The things God created were beautiful, attractive, useful, profitable, desirable, and morally right. But then sin entered into the world and man had to determine the good, evaluate and compare things. There came a need to determine what was beneficial and right with other things, qualities, and actions and determine things that are not beneficial and are wrong. Thankfully God has shared his evaluation of the word good in his Word. We can rely on God's Word to affirm with confidence that a certain thing, quality, or course of action is beneficial.

Having your estate plan in place is a course of action that is beneficial and something that you can be certain God says is good. *Eph 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, Eph 6:8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever **good** he does, whether he is slave or free.* Preparing for the future of those you love and the ministry you love is part of a good Christian lifestyle. Not preparing your estate plan overlooks all that God has given us, the good he has blessed us with and expects us to do something with.

Last month we remembered God sending us something really good. We celebrated just how good God was to us in not just promising us a Savior but in sending the baby Jesus to us to be our Savior. Be thankful of all that is good in God's Word which let's us know what is beneficial for us. Don't put your gift wrap away. Consider wrapping a gift of something good within an estate plan. Today is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to do as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind. Let it be something good.

Bill Truebenbach  
David's Star Planned Giving Chairman  
677.2066 or [btruebenbach@tlha.org](mailto:btruebenbach@tlha.org)