



# ST. JOHN-ST. PETER NEWS

## December 2011

### Christmas - God's Gift to You

*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.*

*Galatians 4:4-5*



It's the moment for which children wait so excitedly: the time for tearing open Christmas presents. It's thrilling to see their excitement and joy to find out what lies beneath the bow and paper. But often, just as quickly as the excitement erupted, it begins to disappear. When the flying bows and paper settle,

feelings of disappointment and ingratitude so often start to surface. The moment everyone so eagerly looked forward to so soon ends up becoming yet another disappointment.

For so many the Christmas season and celebration ends up like the boxes strewn across the floor—empty. Christmas is about giving and receiving gifts, but its focus is not on the gifts and presents placed under a tree. The focus of Christmas is a baby who is God in human flesh placed in a manger.

Christmas is the celebration of the gift of God's one and only Son, a gift he gave to the world. It's the gift that I need, that you need, that this whole world needs. You see, this world—including you and me—is wrapped and covered in sin. It's this covering of sin that leaves us empty and disappointed and looking for more gifts and other presents that we hope will fill the void. But they can't.

It is only through the gift of God's Son, and his life and death that removes from you the ugly covering and wrapping of your sins. Jesus did not come to be placed under a Christmas tree, but to hang upon a tree, not as an ornament, but as the one who would die upon it to pay for all of your sins. His perfect, innocent life and death are gifts he offers to you to make you his perfect and holy child and heir of heaven.

Christmas is so much more than presents placed beneath a tree. It's the sure and certain fulfillment of God's most treasured gift to you, your Savior from sin, Jesus Christ. It's a gift we want to share with you. It's a gift we want to enjoy with you this season and all year long.

**THANK YOU!** Adam Kracht would like to say *Thank you* to everyone who sent him a care package and for keeping him in their thoughts and prayers.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!** We thank God for the opportunity to celebrate the Savior's birth with you!

**FAMILY BIBLE HOUR** Sundays at 8:30am & Mondays at 6:30pm. Join us Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - The Lord's Supper. This study course for adults, part of the **People's Bible Teachings** series that covers the main teachings of the Bible, includes background on the Old Testament, historical Passover context; discusses what the Lord's Supper is, the blessings it offers, and proper spiritual preparation for receiving Communion; emphasizes that the Lord's Supper is a life-giving meal that Jesus prepared for his followers before he died; and shows how Christians can respond to the gift of the Lord's Supper by serving and loving God and others.

- Old Testament Background, New Testament Fulfillment
- Why Come to the Lord's Supper?
- How Do We Celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- The Lord's Supper Serves the Church

**ADVENT SONG SERVICE** Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Come and join the Choir and Sunday school as we celebrate the coming of our Lord.

**PIONEERS** The Pioneers will meet on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> right after church. We will be making selections from "Gift from the Heart" and then go shopping. Bring a friend! New children are welcome any time.

**LADIES AID CHRISTMAS PARTY** The Ladies Aid would like to invite all the members of our congregation to their Christmas Party to be held Wed., December 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon. There will be a lunch served at noon and then entertainment by some children from St. Paul's Church in Howards Grove. A free will offering will be taken with all money going to the music program at St. Paul's. Please sign up if you plan to attend. The sign-up sheet is on the back table.

**CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE** is as follows:  
Saturday, December 3 9:00am to 11:15am  
Saturday, December 17 9:00am to 11:15am  
Sunday, December 18 - During Sunday school

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS** Please work with your children to help them learn their parts so that they will be prepared for our rehearsals. Please note: there is *no Sunday school December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>*.

**CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS** We have a special day planned for all kids ages four years old to fifth grade on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be Christmas songs, crafts, snacks, and most important of all, the Christmas story! Lunch will be served to the children. This special event will be from 9:15am-12:00 Noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table, or please call Pastor Endorf at 693-8612. Hope to see you there!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** Come join us at 6:00pm on Christmas Eve as we join the Sunday School children in celebrating our Savior's birth.

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** Continue your Christmas celebration on Christmas morning at 10:00am as we worship our Savior Jesus!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE** Come join us at 4:00pm on New Year's Eve as we ring in the new year by thanking the Lord for all his blessings and seeking his guidance for 2012. Holy Communion will be offered.

**SCRIP** We are in the holiday gift giving season. Use our gift cards to fill your shopping cart. We have lots of cards for same day cash and carry. Everyone gives at least one gift card to somebody! Please check it out today and get all of your cards for the holiday season. If you haven't tried the Scrip Program yet, now is the time! Talk to one of the girls at the scrip table today. *Happy Holidays.*

**SNOW SHOVELING VOLUNTEERS** We need several volunteers to shovel snow at church each week this winter. Please sign the sheet on the back table. *If no one signs up, T&L Services will be responsible for snow shoveling for that week.* If you have questions, contact one of the Church Council members.

**GREETING CARDS** The Ladies Aid is offering Christmas cards & greeting cards at cost. Here's your chance to send the ones you love cards filled with words of love from God's Word.

**FORWARD IN CHRIST MAGAZINE** The sign-up sheet is on the back table. Get a subscription for next year for only \$10.50! Please put your money in an envelope and mark it "Forward in Christ Magazine" and put it in the collection plate.

**LIVING NATIVITY** See and hear a live 15 minute outside presentation of the Christmas story with animals. Presentation runs every 20 minutes December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Times for Friday and Saturday are 6:00pm to 9:00pm and the time for Sunday is 4:00pm to 7:00pm. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Howards Grove. Admission is free. All guests are invited to come into the gym, decorated as the town of Bethlehem at night, to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and cookies.

**JESUS CARES MINISTRY** Our congregation collected \$325.00 for Jesus Cares Ministry during our Mission Festival Service on October 23, 2011.

**CHURCH CLOSINGS** Please tune into one of the following radio stations: WHBL (AM1330), WCUB (AM980), or WLKN (FM98.1) to listen for weather related cancellations. We try to have it posted by 7:30am.

## LAKESHORE LUTHERAN CHORALE

**CHRISTMAS CONCERTS** Will be held Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church in Mishicot, and Sunday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Manitowoc.

**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY** The Seminary Chorus of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sun., Dec. 11. Two identical performances begin at 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. and are held in the campus auditorium. The 43 voice choir will present Christmas anthems and hymns in a program entitled OUR LIGHT HAS COME. Advance reservations are not required. For directions to the seminary go to [www.wls.wels.net](http://www.wls.wels.net) <<http://www.wls.wels.net>

You may have missed seeing these members in our services. They are now living in a nursing home or assisted living facility, but they welcome your visits and your prayers.

Helen Hahn  
Sheboygan Retirement Home  
930 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street Rm410  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
451-0844

Edith Lutze  
Lutheran Haven  
8949 North 97<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
1-414-354-5435

Marcella Busse  
Prairie Crossing  
1280 Pine Haven Ln Apt 113  
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085  
467-1632

Wayne Johnson  
Countryside Manor  
4221 Kadlec Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53083  
1-920-254-0673

Dorothy Klessig  
Cedar Grove Gardens  
606 Van Alton Ave Rm 10  
Cedar Grove, WI 53013  
1-920-668-6400

Declining strength or poor health limits the mobility of the following. They are at home but often not able to get out. They, too, cherish their ties with you. Visit them, call them, send them a greeting. It gives them a happy moment.

Willis Voss  
9319 CTH X  
Newton, WI 53063  
693-8419

Selma Vogel  
835 Chaplin Ct  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
893-0958

Marilyn Zill  
1220 South 39<sup>th</sup> Street  
Manitowoc, WI 54220  
901-4252

## MISSION TO THE CHILDREN



To all our wonderful helpers and congregations that help us support Mission to the Children.

Many many thanks to God for all the wonderful help we've gotten from the many north eastern WI WELS churches and the LWMS ladies for collecting dental

supplies (and also some blankets, quilts, afghans, etc.) this year for the Mission to the Children.

We started doing this five years ago with just Appleton WELS churches and its spread to many others around here through word of mouth, family ties, etc. We've now gathered all of this year's materials and have a very very large quantity. We've consolidated the dental supplies into 30 copy paper boxes, put the misc. items into 5 cartons and "shrunk" the fabric items into 16 large vacuum bags. *A larger color picture is on the bulletin board in the entry of church.*

Now we have a great problem! We can't fit it all into our van traveling to Tucson. We're looking for others in the area that would be driving to Tucson that would be willing to take some of the collection. It could be travelers going soon or any time this winter. Please forward this note to any travelers that you think would have a Christian willingness to assist and have them contact us before Thanksgiving. We're heading out right after that.

In the name of our loving Savior Jesus,

*Glenn & Lois Erdmann*

Glenn: 920 213-3204

Lois: 920 731-2317

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

The Lord has Blessed us with many gifts, especially forgiveness through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Here is an update of our offerings in response to his Love.

Expenses for church	\$	141,937.66
Receipts for church:	\$	140,996.15
Short of Need:	\$	941.51
Missions 10-month receipts:	\$	18,026.40
Missions: 10- month Goal	\$	16,666.67
Ahead of Goal:	\$	1,359.73
MLHS 10- month goal	\$	4,583.33
MLHS 10-month receipts:	\$	4,220.00
Short of Goal:	\$	363.33
Loan	\$	4,000.00
Other funds		
Alter Cloth Fund	\$	713.95
Bathroom Fund	\$	12,502.91
Easter & Christmas for Kids Fund	\$	414.79
Education Enhancement Fund	\$	272.13
In Need Fund	\$	501.88
Interior Painting Fund	\$	3,138.26
Library Fund	\$	1,343.84
Church Advancement Fund	\$	480.00
Nativity Scene	\$	25.02
Organ Fund	\$	4,156.62
Proclaiming Christ Today & Tomorrow	\$	18,275.90
Repair and Improvement Fund	\$	2,495.90
Teen Bible Study	\$	755.05
October 31,2011		