

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year!! No, I am not a month off. I am talking about the “Church Year.” December 1 begins a new year in the “seasons of the church.” The season of Advent always begins the church year which can begin either on the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December.

Advent, coming from the Latin word *Adventus*, means the coming arrival of someone. In the season of Advent, we expectantly look forward to the coming of Christ. Just think about it!! The world waited centuries upon centuries, even a few millennia to pass before the Advent of the Christ Child, Jesus, the Savior of the world. During the season of Advent we join with them in spirit, as we anxiously anticipate the “Nativity of our Lord.”

All kinds of special activities take place here at St. Paul’s as we look forward to the coming of Christ and the celebration of Christmas. We have special midweek gatherings on the Wednesdays leading up to Christmas (December 4, 11, & 18). There are wonderful meals prepared and served from 4:45pm to about 5:45pm with special worship services at 6pm on those evenings. Two of those dates will include special presentations by our school students. I strongly encourage your attendance. It is a wonderful time to gather with your community in Christ here at St. Paul’s.

The season of Advent is also a time to prepare and share. It is great to prepare for Christmas by having family devotions that center on Christ. It is also a wonderful time to share with others what Christmas is all about. One way to do that is to wear one of the buttons that our Board of Evangelism has purchased. They will be available at the Welcome Center. Another way to share our faith in a simple way is to wish people to have a blessed Christmas, especially as the day approaches. Of course, there are all the traditional activities of putting up trees and lights; yet as you do this, make sure to discuss with your loved ones that it is all about the coming of Christ our Lord.

Christmas is coming . . . and it is all about the Christ Child whose birth we will celebrate on December 24 and 25. Be sure to join us for one of the candlelight services in Christmas Eve and we will begin Christmas Day with a communion service at 9am with a special guest preacher. Christ is coming . . . and coming again. Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Bender



2	Advent & Christmas Worship
4	Bible Classes
6	Initial Offering 2020
7	Ladies Groups
8	Sr. Fun Seekers
9	Youth Groups
10	Snow Emergencies
11	School News
12	Music Notes
13	Stewardship
14	Guatemala News
15	Poinsettia Order Information
17-18	Missionary Rachel Meyer
19	December Calendar

Advent Worship

December 4 at 10:00am and 6:00pm

"The Hope of the Ages"

December 11 at 10:00am and 6:00pm

"Signs of Salvation"

(Grades 1-8 Christmas Program)

December 18 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

"Happy Birthday Jesus"

(PreK- K Christmas Program)



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight- December 24 at 4:00 & 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Holy Communion - December 24 at 11:00pm

Christmas Day - December 25 at 9:00am



New Years Eve

December 31 at 6:00pm

Advent Dinners

Join us in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday in Advent at 4:45pm as we prepare for Christmas by enjoying wonderful meals and fellowship.

December 4: Hot sliced ham, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad with dressings, dessert, hot dogs, chips, carrots for kids.

December 11: *Mexican Fiesta* (Sr. High Fundraiser) Beef tacos, Mexican rice, corn, refried beans, ice cream sundae bar, hot dogs, chips, carrots for kids.

December 18: Tater tot casserole, green beans, fruit cups, dessert, hot dogs, chips, carrots for kids.



WHO IS BETHESDA?

On **Sunday December 1st** we will have Pastor Johnson leading our Bible Class at 9:15am. Come to the Fellowship Hall and hear all about the Mission of Bethesda.

Bethesda's mission is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ. As a national Christian non-profit organization, we provide support services for adults with disabilities at program locations across the United States.

Bethesda has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people with disabilities across the country since 1904. Your generosity allows us to provide people with loving homes, career and education resources, and opportunities to connect with their faith so they can live full and empowered lives. Ultimately, our goal is to help each person make choices, set goals and become active members of their congregations.

A Bethesda Ambassador will share how resources are available to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn how to make a home for themselves, go to college, create personal independence, grow their faith in Jesus their Savior and connect with others. A video has been prepared to present these options for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am an Ambassador for Bethesda, trained to share this information with various groups. Please contact me for further information and make an appointment.

Yours in the service of Christ the Savior,

Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson ~ Hales Corners Lutheran Church, Hales Corners, WI ~ 414-529-6700

We're doing something **NEW!**

What? Group Discipleship Hour

**Who? Lead by Pastor Noah for all people 5th grade and up!
(students, parents—EVERYONE!)**

Please explain what this is, Pastor Noah...

Each Sunday morning I am beginning a new form of Sunday school/bible class on Sundays in between the 8:00 and 10:30 services. It is a group bible study meant for families, high schoolers, and all people to joining in a group-facilitated educational experience! We will study Scripture, current events, cultural issues, and more using different resources and multiple forms of media to grow as disciples of Jesus spiritually and intellectually. This study will also be an opportunity for friends and family to connect while growing. The goal is to present tangible, biblical truth that will be applied not just on Sundays, but for every day life! This is going to be fun! Please come join!

Questions? Contact Pastor Noah noah@splcwa.org

Bible Classes

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

The month of December will be “Ministry Month” in Adult Bible Class, highlighting several special ministries in our church with special guest speakers. Here is the schedule:

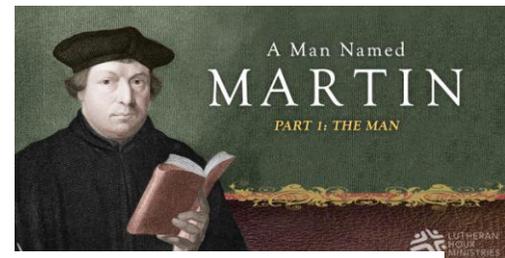


- ❖ December 1 – The Ministry of Bethesda: Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson
- ❖ December 8 – The Ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund: Diana Raasch
- ❖ December 15 – Groundwork Guatemala Mission Work: Team Members of GG
- ❖ December 22 – The Ministry of POBLO: Pastor Wayne Schroeder and Ebou Faye

Bethesda is a wonderful ministry which serves developmentally disabled individuals; come and learn of their loving and compassionate work in the name of Christ. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is a whole lot more than just a church lending institution; come and hear about how their work helps churches and has helped St. Paul’s in the past. For the past eight years we have sent teams of five to twelve people to Guatemala to share the Gospel in word and deed; come and hear from our 2020 team members. POBLO is “People of the Book Lutheran Outreach” which seeks to share the Gospel of Christ with Muslims; come and hear Wayne and Ebou (a former Muslim) share about this important mission work. (There is no Sunday School or Bible Class on December 29)

Thursday Morning Bible Study

“A Man Named Martin” Join us for a video-based study on the life and impact of Martin Luther! We meet each Thursday morning in the fellowship Hall from 10:00 – 11:30am. See how one man influenced the church and the world through his study of the Scriptures and his desire for God’s truth!



Men’s Bible Breakfast –The Book of Zechariah

The Book of Zechariah contains many prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world. During the month of December we will study chapters two and three. We meet on December 14 and 28 in the fellowship hall. All men of the congregation are welcome. Come and learn the truth that God has always had a plan for his people in every day and age.

We gather shortly before 7am in the fellowship hall; 79th street doors are open. We eat breakfast, we pray, we grow together in faith, sharing God’s Word and our own lives. We’d love to see you there!

Monday Morning Bible Study - Psalms

11:30am in the Library

Leader: Laurel Privatt





Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to St. Paul Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0874906

This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
[amazonsmile](https://smile.amazon.com)



Advent By Candlelight

December 8, 2019

3:00pm

A Special "Initial Offering"

1 1

Initial Offering

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
West Allis, Wisconsin

Home and Mission..... _____

Special Offering for..... _____

Special Offering for..... _____

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

For those of you who donated to St. Paul's in 2019, your 2020 offering envelopes will be in your church mailbox near the end of December. If you did not contribute to St. Paul's this past year, and would like to do so, please contact the church office (414-541-6250) and we will get you a set of envelopes to use in 2020.

The Board of Finance continues to work towards a stronger fiscal situation for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. The Board has made a policy to have a balanced budget each year. Yet, in past years because of "deficit" budgets, we have borrowed from our memorials and dedicated funds to "make ends meet." We now need to work on repaying those funds, so they can be used for their intended purposes. Therefore, the Board of Finance is asking you to use the "Initial Offering" envelope in your 2020 envelope box for this purpose. If you have the financial ability, we would ask you to consider an extra month's giving. If that is more than you can afford, an extra two week's offering or even an additional offering of any amount will help accomplish this purpose.

We still have over \$200,000 to repay to our memorial and dedicated accounts. Your support would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to give in December towards this effort, you could simply make the additional offering and identify it as "Memorial/Dedicated Repayment" on one of the blank lines. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

We are still looking for someone to take over the supervision of the Birthday Bags that are delivered to our Homebound members. If you would like information about this worthwhile program, please contact Joyce at 414-688-3604.



Ladies Groups



Widows Lunch

The next Widows Lunch will be after our 10:00 Advent worship service on December 11th at Open Flame Restaurant 5081 S. 108th Street.



Elizabeth Ministry

We have a facebook page for Elizabeth Ministry for our church! It is – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (@elizabethministrysplcwa). Please remember Elizabeth Ministries in your prayers and if you wish to join this group, please contact Julie Avila at elizabethministrysplcwa@gmail.com.

Ladies Book Club

Book Club will Not be meeting in December. Our book for January is: "The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Meet January 13, 2020! (Oh, my, 2020 already.)

Ladies Guild



Our mitten basket is in the narthex. We will accept socks, mittens, scarves, gloves and hats. These will be distributed to families at St. Paul’s and also to the Hope Food Pantry.

Our Mite Box is located in the narthex. Take a small box and place coins and bills in it to thank God for blessings that you have received. DONATE YOUR CHANGE. Most of the money collected will stay in the South Wisconsin District to support our mission goals. The remainder goes to the National LWML to support the goals that were selected at the national convention. This money will be given to 21 different organizations. Please join us in supporting them. The Mite box is out for your donations the first weekend of each month.



Quilter's Patch



See you in January! Blessings to you in this Advent and Christmas Season.



Sr. Fun Seekers

Christmas Lunch December 4th at 11:30am at “That’s Amore” 5080 S. 108th Street
Hales Corners, WI

Did You Know?

Our weekend worship services are broadcast on 2 radio stations each Sunday at 8:00 am.

“JOY” 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

Our sermons, bulletins and monthly Herald are on our website. Check out www.splcwa.org

We offer non-alcoholic wine during Holy Communion for those who desire it. The center cup of the individual cup trays is non-alcoholic wine.



Christmas

As a child, I remember my father stating, that Christmas has lost the real meaning, everything has become commercialized. Even more so today.

Santa Claus, and mountains of gifts under the trees –
What about the special gift from God, -- Baby Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

It is our duty to remind our children, grand children and those all around us, the real meaning of this holiday we share.

Elaine Lemke



Youth News

High School Youth Group News

Pastor Noah's Christmas Party **Sunday, December 8th 5:30-7:30 P.M.**

(Stay tuned for more details!)



Trip Fundraiser: Serve Advent Dinner **Wednesday, December 11th**

(Please arrive at 4:00 P.M in the Fellowship Hall.)



Contact Pastor Noah or Pastor Bender for details!

noah@splcwa.org Harold@splcwa.org

WANT TO ATTEND THE MISSION TRIP NEXT SUMMER?

Summer 2020 Servant Event-July Keweenaw Base Camp



All High Schoolers are welcome!

Want to chaperone? Contact Pastor Noah

noah@splcwa.org



CHURCH CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER

*It's coming to that time of year when snow, sleet, and ice may make travel hazardous to our health. In terms of cancelling worship services, we'll make every effort to act in the interest of safety. However, please note: Members come from many different areas of our county and beyond, and inclement weather may affect one place more than others. We may well still hold services as a result, but the weather in your area may be too severe to drive safely. **If you are being warned to stay home and off the roads, please do so!** We will try to post closings (check WISN channel 12 on TV), but please use your own judgment on whether it's safe to travel or not! Monitor the TV/radio/internet on travel conditions in any severe weather situation.*



Also remember that parking restrictions in West Allis go in effect after we receive 3 inches of snow. So parking restrictions may play a role in your decision to travel. If possible, we will also send out a mass e-mailing regarding any church cancellations. If you would like to receive an e-mail and are not already on our Emergency contact list, contact the church office. (414-541-6250)

Down on Your Knees

God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6

A small cathedral outside Bethlehem marks the supposed birthplace of Jesus. Behind a high altar in the church is a cave, a little cavern lit by silver lamps.

You can enter the main edifice and admire the ancient church. You can also enter the quiet cave where a star embedded in the floor recognizes the birth of the King. There is one stipulation, however. You have to stoop, almost crawl, to enter. The door is so low you can't go in standing up.

The same is true of the Christ. You can see the world and its beauty standing tall, but to witness the Savior, you have to get [down] on your knees.

By: Max Lucado

A Blessed CHRISTmas to You!

From Jack Burkee, Principal

&

The entire St. Paul's School Staff

Upcoming Events

Holiday Classic: November 22-23

Christmas Services: Dec. 11 (Grades 1-8, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm)

Dec. 18 (3K-K, 10:00 am and 6:00 pm)

Cookie Walk: Dec. 14

Christmas Store: Dec. 19

Matching Gifts

If your employer offers the benefit of matching your donation to a charitable organization, please consider making a gift to St. Paul's at year's end. In the past, matching funds have been used to help purchase big ticket non-budgeted items like drinking fountains, Chrome books, tuition assistance, etc. This year they could be used to help offset the costs of security and technology upgrades, and tuition assistance.

Music Notes



As we enter into December maybe you, like Ebenezer Scrooge, just want to say “Bah-humbug” about all the Christmas carols and songs you are hearing. Maybe you feel like every sound is overwhelming and bothersome.

I can understand the challenges, as it seems all the stores begin playing Christmas music and carols earlier each year. What do they all mean?

I pray you can take time during this Advent season to ponder the words of our many hymns leading up to and throughout the Christmas/Epiphany season. The music is not here to “annoy” or bother you, but to edify your heart and mind. Each piece sung during our worship services are meant to help you grow in your walk with God.

Find a special hymn, maybe our hymn of the month for December, Where Shepherds Lately Kneled, and spend time considering the words written. How is our Lord encouraging you? How do these words remind you of the gift of the Christ child given for you? How is our Lord serving you through these Christmas carols and hymns? May you find yourself joyful, instead of discouraged, when hearing the wonderful news, Christ our Savior is born!

Musical Opportunities:

Come be a part of one or more of our musical groups:
Wednesdays *prior to Praise Service* Sundays - 7:00 PM
Balcony - Praise Team

Thursdays - 6:10 PM - Balcony - Handbell Choir
-7:30 PM - Balcony - Choir

Instrumentalists - You are welcome to enhance our worship any weekend or special service.
Contact Michelle at: michelle@splcwa.org ; 414-541-6250 ext 3013; text 414-552-4938

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee presents its annual Christmas Concert,

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers," on Friday, December 6th at 7:30pm & Sunday, December 8th at 3:00pm.

Friday's performance will be at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, W67N622 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, while Sunday's performance will be at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa.

The 40-voice choir, celebrating its 83rd season, will perform anthems celebrating both the Advent and Christmas seasons, including Antonio Vivaldi's "Magnificat," accompanied by strings and organ. Also featured will be works by John Rutter, Dan Forrest, Mack Wilberg and others, including 3 selections with audience participation. For more information about the concert, see

<https://www.lutheranacappella.org/lac-2019-20-season.html>.

Tickets are \$15.00 or \$12.00 for Seniors and Students, and are available at the door.

Michelle L. Prince
St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
Director of Parish Music

The Ladies Guild of Zion Lutheran Church (Brookfield Rd. & Lisbon Rd. Menomonee Falls) invites you to their annual

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday December 7
8:00am - 2:00pm.

Gifts, décor, bakery and lunch are available. Admission is FREE.

Sharing God's Bounty

New Year Resolutions

In chapter 4, beginning with verse 13, James talks about our planning. He reminds us that our lives and plans and futures are in God's hands, and that we should pray, *"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that"* (verse 15). With that preface, then, we can begin to do some self-evaluation of how we can best spend our time, abilities, and resources. A new year can provide a new resolve and commitment to do many things in a new and better way. We may find that our priorities are a little skewed. Our lifestyles could possibly use some redirection, and a New Year's resolution based on God's plan for us could be what we need.

How can we make our resolutions a reality? One way is to talk with one of the members of the church staff or the chairperson of one of our boards and volunteer our time, energy, and abilities. Another commitment may be to spend more time reading God's Word and join a Bible Study group to stimulate spiritual growth. We may find that God is leading us to increase our knowledge and commitment in the area of our financial stewardship as well. God has blessed us so we may be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul tells us, *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling, because, he adds, "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."* (Philippians 2:12-13). To the faithful, God has made known his will and purpose which is *"to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ* (Ephesians 1:10). God wants us to have a relationship with Jesus as the head. The personal relationship Jesus develops with us compels us to serve and honor him through our faithful stewardship. Faith enables us to understand that we *"are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). May it be our resolve and commitment to do what we were *"created to do"* as God's workmanship.

In looking to the coming year, remember that rooted deeply and firmly within scripture and our Christian tradition is the vision that we are expected to be faithful stewards of all we are and all we have. This can be done by making the best use of our talents, the time allotted to each of us, and the monies we possess. Stewardship must be seen as a life-long attitude and ever-deepening commitment.

Renewed in Christ Hope • Strength • Soar



Groundwork Guatemala News



It's December, and the Holiday Season is upon us! Already!! Along with all the rest of you, your Groundwork Guatemala team takes this opportunity to look both forward and back.

First, looking back with Thanksgiving: We are so thankful that, because of your generosity, our recent Door Offering was successful in raising the \$1440 needed to support Cristino and Santos for another year of school. Cristino continues to thrive at school. Santos struggled this past year, but did make passing grades. Both are now in "Basicos" roughly equivalent to our Junior High School. (Sadly, we are no longer sponsoring Yeymi, who was a very bright and successful student. Her father pulled her out of school, with his only explanation being that there is no reason for a girl to go to school. Please pray for her!) The sponsorship money not only includes tuition, but also provides the students with all their school supplies, uniforms, and even SHOES! Most of these kids never wore any shoe more substantial than flip-flops, and come from families too poor to send them even to public school. Still, the government requires them to wear uniforms and shoes, which tells you a lot about how the country values education...

Looking ahead to Christmas: Groundwork Guatemala works to stress the real meaning of Christmas, the coming of a Savior, rather than a time of lavish gift-giving. Each child does receive a gift: a bright new T-shirt, a food bag for their family, and a small toy, such as a beanie baby, jump rope, ball or a little car. While the toys may not seem like the real meaning of Christmas, most of the kids have never had toys and this gives them an opportunity to learn some useful play skills.

Also looking ahead: Your GG team will host **Sunday Bible Class on December 15**, at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Reminder: In-Kind Donations: Thanks to all who have contributed, but please keep those school supplies and health/hygiene products coming. This is especially important as the Guatemalan school year begins in January, and the kids need their supplies. Collection baskets are located in the narthex and near the 1st floor elevator, with lists of items posted on the baskets.

Meanwhile your GG team continues to develop their Faith Lessons, crafts, and songs, based on Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer) that we will use in our daily lessons in Guatemala. We are starting to develop a School Chapel presentation for February, along with presentations for individual classrooms.

As always, we thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers!





Christmas Poinsettia Orders Are Now Being Taken

Cost: \$11.00 per plant

Order envelopes are by the elevator and at the Welcome Desk.

Deadline: December 2

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst

Sunday December 15, 1:30 pm Benediction Lutheran Church 8475 W. Fond du Lac Ave. Milwaukee WI (1 Block North of Silver Spring) Pastors Don Hougard, David Flegel special music by the Milwaukee Damenchor and the Liederkranz Call 414-463-9158 for more information You can hear our German radio devotion Evangelische Andacht 4:30 pm Saturday on WJYI 1340 am, 98.7 fm www.evangelischeandacht.org or on the tune-in radio app

Attention, bakers: We need your help! St. Paul's 4th Annual Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 14th, from 9-11am (or until sold out). Over the last few years, each of our school families has been asked to bake and donate cookies, and this year we would like to extend the same opportunity to any congregation members that also wish to get involved in this event. Please consider baking and donating your favorite Christmas cookies! Disposable tins, with instructions for dropping-off, will be available at the Welcome Table beginning on Saturday, December 7th, and in the office during the following week. Thank you!

Any plans after church on Sunday?

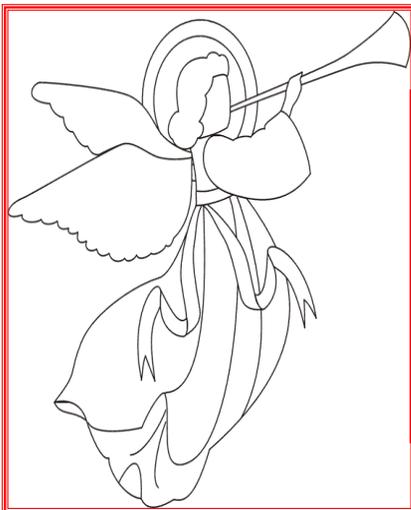
Come into Texas Roadhouse (15425 W. Rock Ridge Road) - New Berlin on Sunday with your church bulletin and get 10% of your bill donated back to St. Paul's.

Thank you to all congregation members who donated to the school's "Christmas Child" fund. We are no longer collecting for this fund for 2019. Please do not make any more donations this year. The school will be collecting again next year in October and November and will welcome your donations at that time. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sarah Zellmer, First Grade Teacher at St. Paul's.

Christmas Doves



We are once again helping families this Christmas with our Dove Tree in the narthex. If you are having great financial difficulties and are struggling with how you are going to provide any gifts for your child(ren) this year, we want to help. Please call Mrs. Evers, 414-541-6251 x3011 and tell her you would like to have a dove put on the tree for your child(ren). All this information is kept anonymous, only Mrs. Evers and Pastor Bender will know your name. The doves will then be put on the tree set up in the narthex, for both church and school members to take and purchase gifts. The gifts are wrapped and brought to the office to be sorted and labeled for pick up the Friday before Christmas vacation (12/20). If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Evers in the school office.



Sponsors Needed for 2020

Radio \$180 each week

Bulletins \$50 each week

Altar Flowers \$30 per bouquet

Please call the church office at 414-541-6250 or email mary@splcwa.org to sign up for *bulletins* or *radio*.

There is a chart in the mailbox room downstairs where you may sign up for altar flowers. Please write down what you would like printed in the bulletin next to your name on the flower chart.

Are you cleaning out your closets or just doing a little clothing purge after the holidays?

Divine Connections will again be accepting gently used clothing for our annual Community Clothing Giveaway. Look for dates, place and times in the January Herald.

Thank you for your continued support.



SERVING THE LORD IN
UGANDA

NEWS FROM RACHEL MEYER



October 2019

Email:
Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org

Facebook Page:
Missionary Meyer in Uganda

HOME SERVICE

In December and January, I will be coming to the States for what is called Home Service. This is a time for the missionary to reconnect with the congregations, schools, and individuals who so faithfully pray for and support the ministry here. I am looking forward to seeing you and sharing updates about the amazing ways God is working in Uganda.

I am working on finalizing the schedule now. If you are interested in having me visit, please let me know!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to Rachel.Meyer@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. -Romans 15:13

Hope in Christ



During the worship service on October 20, P7 students from Hope Lutheran School in Bufenula joined together with students from Christ Community Lutheran School in Kawete for a special time of prayer before their exams.

“Will I pass the PLE?” That has been the immediate hope on the minds of the P7 students for the past several months as they prepare to take their Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) on November 4-5. The results from this exam will determine their qualifications for continuing on to secondary school.

Continuing their education will be important as the students hope to become doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, and soldiers in the future.

As one of their teachers, I have been helping the students to prepare for this academic exam. However, as I share with them God’s Word, I am grateful for the opportunity to help the students come to know the even greater hope we have in Christ.

Recently, I asked these eight students to reflect upon what they had learned about God during our time together this past school year.

They readily shared that God is the one who has given them life and continues to protect and sustain them. They look to Him as the One who provides them with their daily needs, such as food, knowledge, and a good climate. They also know that our hope is found in Christ alone, as God the Father sent His only Son Jesus to save us from sin.

These students come from a variety of religious backgrounds, including some who are from Muslim families. God alone knows the hearts and futures of these students. However, it is my prayer that, even as the students move on from Hope Lutheran Primary School, God will continue to surround them with opportunities to hear His Word and be nurtured in faith.

Please join me in praying for these students, that the God of hope may fill them with His joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may abound in true hope in Christ.



December 2019

Monthly Planner



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class & Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>2:00 PM Youth Swim & Lights</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>11:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Tai Chi</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>11:30 AM Sr Fun Lunch</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 PM Bells</p> <p>6:00 PM Finance</p> <p>6:30 PM Adult Instruction</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Rangerette Christmas Event</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class & Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>3:00 PM Advent By Candlelight </p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>11:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Tai Chi</p> <p>6:00 PM Council</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>11:00 AM Widows Lunch</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 PM Bells</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Mens Breakfast</p> <p>9:00 AM School Cookie Walk</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship </p>
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class & Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>11:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Tai Chi</p> <p>6:30 PM Divine Connections</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>4:45 PM Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Tai Chi</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 PM Bells</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class & Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>11:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>Worship 4:00, 6:00, 11:00pm</p> 	<p><i>25</i></p> <p><i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p>Worship 9:00am</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Mens Breakfast</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>11:30 AM Bible Class</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p><i>New Years Eve</i></p> <p>Worship 6:00pm</p>				