



DIVINE SAVIOR
Lutheran Church
102 Northridge Dr. Shawano, WI 54166

MESSENGER December 2019

Special Dates in December

Ladies Aid
3rd @ 1:00 p.m.

Christmas for Kids
7th @ 12:30 p.m.

Co-or. Council Mtg.
10th @ 6:30 p.m.

Worship at the Cross
12th @ 5:30 p.m.

Bread of Life
Bible Study
Thursdays
12:00 -12:30 p.m.
Closed 12-26-19

Food Pantry
Thursdays
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Closed 12-26-19

Advent Services
Weds. @ 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve.
Service 24th
@ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Service 25th
@ 9:00 a.m.

New Years Eve.
Service 31st
@ 6:30 p.m.

Worship service times.
Sun. 9:00 a.m.
Mon. Not in Dec.
Weds. 4:30 in Dec.

I Need More...Joy

After hastily opening the wrapped package and making the obligatory thank yous, it certainly didn't take long to turn away from the thoughtful gift as something ho hum.

Just then three-year-old Eleanor came along and stopping by the discarded item exclaimed, "Oh, my, what a beautiful gift! Is that yours? You must be so happy?" As she walked away I thought to myself, "Why don't I have the joy of that little girl?"

At times we have those feelings which cause us to cry out, "I need more joy in my life!" That is so often true at this time of year when for one reason or another we find ourselves lacking joy. There are indications everywhere that joy should fill our lives. Decorations are going up inside and outside. Christmas music surrounds us, and cards are arriving daily.

Some days the festive joy fills our hearts as we excitedly go about our holiday shopping and schedule planning. Yet deep down we know that this joy will not last. Planning becomes overwhelming, schedules start falling apart, and decorating gets tiresome. Above all, we know from experience, there will be no joy when we find we don't have enough money to purchase the perfect gift or when credit card payments come due. All of this leads us to shout out, "I need more joy! I need joy that will last!"

Here's some great news. Christmas brings us joy that does last—the true joy found in Jesus.

With a love that we cannot comprehend, our heavenly Father gave his only Son, born to be our Savior. With perfect obedience Jesus lived the life all of us are unable to live. Each and every evil thought, evil word, and evil deed we have done has been picked from us by our heavenly Father and placed on Jesus. On Calvary's cross, Jesus bowed his head in death declaring, "It is finished." These words of Jesus bring us true joy. They mean that all is done and Easter's announcement "He Is Risen!" guarantees that God our Father has accepted Jesus' life and death as payment in full for all our sins. True joy is the forgiveness of sins that is ours through faith in Jesus.

While we are in the midst of the season when it seems hard to keep joy in our lives, focus on the true Joy Giver. Ponder again the words of the angels to the shepherds, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord." Come and worship the Babe born in Bethlehem and may God the Holy Spirit fill you with a joy that never ends.

PARISH NEWS

Congregational Changes last month:

Added: Alissandra Kriewaldt by profession of faith, Alistair Wellhoefer by baptism

Transferred: Gerald & Jerilynn Price transferred to Bethany, Appleton; Ben Hermanson transferred to St. Paul, Muskego

Called Home to Glory: Ruth Koenig on 10/14/19

Current Congregational Stats: communicants: 160 souls: 177

Greetings!

Happy (belated) Thanksgiving to you! With this season upon us we reminisce about all the things we are thankful for in our lives and throughout this past year: our families; our accomplishments; the new job we've been waiting for;

Psalm 100
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, the sheep of his
pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his
courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his
name.
For the LORD is good, and his love
endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all
generations.

our friends; our health, and of course, our faith. We have been so richly blessed by the LORD, so let us not forget to give thanks to God.

Psalm 100 shows us *how* we can give thanks. Be joyful in praising the LORD and in coming together to worship him.

Remember the great things he has done for us. Yes, he provides daily blessings, everything we need to preserve us in this life. And not only does he shower blessings on us throughout the year to preserve us in life and in health, but he does so much more to preserve us in spirit.

To provide all that we need, God sent his Son to defeat sin and the devil so that we are no longer separated from our LORD and Creator. We are brought to trust in this promise through his Word and strengthened in that faith more and more.

Through faith, the LORD brings us together to worship and praise him. Praise God and give him thanks in all things. **For the LORD is good, and his love endures forever.** Amen

Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Wolf B. Parsons

Announcements

No Monday night worship in December:

Reminder: Whenever there is a special midweek service, there is no Monday night worship. We are blessed with 6 special opportunities to worship this month! (**Midweek Advent services at 4:30pm, Christmas Eve at 6:30pm, Christmas Day at 9:00am, and New Year's Eve at 6:30pm**). We encourage you to take advantage of all these special services, above and beyond Sunday morning worship when you are able. They are different services and provide opportunities to focus on different parts of God's Word.

Midweek Advent Services and Meals:

Services will be the first three Wednesdays of December (4th, 11th, and 18th) at 4:30pm. The Ladies' Aid will provide the main course for meals following each of those services. If you would like to provide a side or dessert, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Can't make it to our early 4:30pm Midweek Advent Services?

Here are some other options!

St. Martin Lutheran Church, Belle Plaine – 7:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clintonville – 6:30pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Green Bay – 6:30pm

Winter Weather – Is there church today?

Reminder: Whenever the Shawano School District cancels school (or has a delay or early release) **due to weather**, all events and activities at Divine Savior are cancelled or postponed during the hours of cancellation. This includes worship, meetings, Bible studies, Food Pantry, etc. **Please note:** For the sake of consistency and clarity, if Shawano Schools are closed and the weather turns nice, events are still cancelled at Divine Savior. This is to prevent confusion. There will be no need to wonder if events are back on. They are not.

Closure notices will go out on Channel 2 News (WBAY), WTCH frequencies on the radio, as well as our Facebook page. We are also developing a "calling tree" to notify members directly if worship should be cancelled.

ENDOWMENT FUND INVITATION TO APPLY FOR GRANTS

The Divine Savior Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that we have over \$10,000.00 to distribute in 2020 from earnings on our investments from our Fiscal Year 2019.

Grant requests will be available beginning November 3rd and can be found on the hallway table or can be obtained from any member of the committee. The deadline for submitting requests is Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Grants can be awarded to individuals, groups or organizations within the congregation to assist with Christian education, post secondary secular education or non-budgeted projects which support the work of our congregation both at home and abroad.

Completed application forms should be put in Gale Blum's mailbox in the hallway no later than January 5, 2020. Applications will be reviewed in January and funds will be available for distribution beginning in February 2020.

Please give prayerful consideration over the next few months as to how an Endowment Fund Grant could further God's Kingdom through our lives and actions.

Members of the Endowment Fund Committee are Gale Blum, Don Frisque, Paul Hahn, Lynnea Reissing and Randy Kagerbauer.



2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m. Refit 4:00	2 No Monday Night Service Choir 6:30	3 Ladies Aid @ 1:00 p.m.	4 Advent Serv. 4:30 p.m. Supper 5:30	5 Bread of Life 12:00—12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m.	6	7 Christmas for Kids 12:30-2:45
8 Worship w/ communion @ 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.	9 No Monday Night Service Choir 6:30	10 Co-ord. Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	11 Advent Serv. 4:30 p.m. Supper 5:30	12 Bread of Life 12:00—12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m. WATC 5:30	13	14 Toddler Time with Jesus 10:00-11:00 Carols by Candlelight 2 p.m.
15 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. Voter Mtg. @ 10:30 a.m. No Bible Study Refit 4:00	16 No Monday Night Service Choir 6:30	17	18 Advent Serv. 4:30 p.m. Supper 5:30	19 Bread of Life 12:00—12:30 p.m. Food Pantry 1:00-3:00 p.m. JCM Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Worship w/communion @ 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Refit 4:00	23 No Monday Night Service Choir 6:30	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Service 9:00 a.m.	26 No Bread of Life No Food Pantry No JCM	27	28
29 Worship @ 9:00 a.m. No Bible Study No Refit	30 No Monday Night Service No Choir	31 New Years Eve Service w/Comm. 6:30 p.m.				