

From Your Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A blessed New Year to each and every one of you and I hope the coming year is filled with lots of joys and great activities for you and your loved ones. What a blessing to know that our God is with us, loves us, and leads us through each new day!

The year of our Lord, 2019, is starting off with all kinds of activities to participate in here at St. Paul's!! Let me give you some highlights for January:

- Picture taking for our new pictorial directory will take place January 8-12 and January 15-19. If you haven't, please sign up now! We want the happy faces of all God's children gathered at St. Paul's to be in our directory!
- An Adult Instruction Class begins on Saturday, January 12, in the Library. This is for those interested in membership or just wanting to review the central teachings of God's Word. Come and invite a friend!
- Divine Connections is hosting a movie night at St. Paul's Bistro Dinner Theater (in the Fellowship Hall). The movie is called "The Same Kind of Different as Me." It is an excellent movie. A meal will be provided. And there is no cost to attend. This event takes place on Saturday evening, January 12; doors open at 6pm and the movie will start at 6:30pm.
- Saturday and Sunday, January 26-27, will kick off "National Lutheran Schools Week." We will have special music, a special message, and our school staff will be involved in the service. This is a national celebration with all our Lutheran Schools celebrating God's goodness and the blessings He pours out upon our schools.



There are all kinds of other things going on in January: A Cleopas Walk fellowship event for our 8th



grade students, a Bowl-a-thon for the youth attending the National Youth Gathering this coming summer, and all kinds of Bible studies in which we learn and grow in Christ. Oh, and we'll need some more people to sign up to volunteer to shovel snow in February and March!

Don't be found standing on the outside!! Get involved, be engaged, and walk together with your Church family and your Lord as we work together for His kingdom!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Bender

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Bible Classes

Men's Bible Breakfast - The Exodus

We will meet on Saturdays January 12 & 26, at 7am in the Fellowship Hall. We eat a great breakfast, have some great conversation, and we pray and study the Word. We will be getting into the institution of the Passover and the crossing of the Red Sea this month. Gather with your brothers-in-Christ; it's a great way to start your Saturday morning!

Sunday Morning Bible Class - The History of Advent, Christmas and other Hymns 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

During the month of January we will finish our study of the history of a few hymns. We will look at perhaps the most popular Christmas hymn of all time and learn that there are actually six stanzas for that hymn! We may look at an Epiphany hymn and perhaps one other hymn, time permitting. Come and join us and be built up in the faith.

For the month of February we will begin a study called: "Go and Be Reconciled: What does this Mean?" Reconciliation is at the very *heart* of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to *reconcile us to God* and the desire of the heart of Christ is that we, His people, be reconciled to others. This class will begin on February 3 and will run through winter into spring. Plan on attending!!

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Thursdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall

We continue our study of "The Hopeful Disciple." We have just begun to study Peter's second epistle, so this is a great time to jump in and join the class. Come, enjoy some great fellowship, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus and His Word of Truth. All are welcome.

Adult Instruction Class

Pastors Bender and Kegley are going to be holding an Adult Instruction Class regarding the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. This class is for those wanting to become new members, as well as a great refresher for lifelong Christians. If you know someone who doesn't have a church home, why not invite them to attend this class with you. That is great evangelism practice! The class will be held in the Library.

**Saturday mornings at 9:00
beginning January 12th**

Sign up sheets are in the narthex or call the church office 414-541-6250.

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

A Special "Initial Offering"

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; we have accomplished that two years in a row. 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 once again to use the "Initial Offering" envelope in your 2019 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 use a different envelope, please identify it as "Memorial/Dedicated Repayment" on one of the blank lines. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Renewed in Christ

Please prayerfully consider continuing in your financial commitments through our "Renewed in Christ" program. More information will be forthcoming in the month of January. We will share totals received to date, the use of the funds, and an appeal to continue supporting our church through Renewed in Christ.



Caring Connections: Support for Families with Addiction

A support group for families with a loved one struggling with drug addiction or who have lost a family member due to a drug-related death. This group provides a supportive environment that fosters hope and healing. Members have an opportunity to provide support, share experiences and learn from each other during this difficult time. For mature adolescents and adults only. Registration is not required for the FREE program. For more information call 414-328-7524.

1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month

6:00 - 7:30pm

Aurora West Allis Medical Center

8901 W. Lincoln Ave. West Allis, WI

Check in at information desk to be directed to the meeting room.



Widows Lunch ~ The next Widows Lunch will be on Wednesday January 9th at 11:00am at “That’s Amore” 5080 S. 108th St.

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.



Quilter's Patch

We open the door to a new year and a closet void of completed quilts. After a two month break the team is ready to get back to quilting. Our first get together will be on Monday, January 7th at 9am until 11:30am. If you are available, please come join us...No sewing experience is needed.

If Mondays don’t work for you, give me a call because there are other ways to be involved.

1. Donations of sheets and fabric
 - a. Cotton or cotton/polyester bed sheets that are no longer being used but are still in good condition.
 - b. Clearing a sewing room...We can use cotton or cotton/polyester blend fabric and thread.
2. If you do sew...Maybe you could sew a quilt at home. I have been known to offer delivery and pick-up service to auxiliary sewing rooms.
3. Money can always be useful...Scissors, rotary cutters and mats, needles and quilt pins all get dull and need to be replaced. Also, we buy batting from a special website for a very good discount price (about \$2/yard vs \$7/yard).

Quilting dates in January and February are January 7th, February 4th and 18th at 9:00 am.

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com

Ladies Book Club

Next book - “The Things We Keep” by Sally Hepworth. Meeting date: January 14 at 6:30pm in the Early Childhood Center Lobby.

Ladies Guild ~ The mitten collection basket is in the narthex to accept your donations of mittens, hats, scarves and socks.

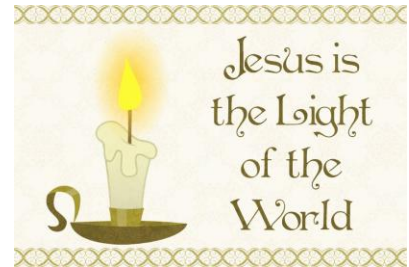
LWML Mite Box Collection ~ January 5 & 6, 2019
LWML Mite Boxes are located in the narthex. All members are welcome to use one and support our mission grants!

Music Notes

Music News

January's Hymn of the Month is "The Lord is My Light" #723. This is a Spanish hymn translated for us into English. It has a repeating chorus that reminds us "The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all. Whom then shall I fear?"

During the season of Epiphany we are reminded that Christ is our light. He brings ALL things to light for us.



Remember we will be learning Divine Service III during the month of January. We will celebrate learning together the traditional worship settings used by our many ancestors in the Christian faith. The flow of the service encourages and uplifts us now as it has since the time of Christ. What a blessing!

Remember YOU are welcome to join us in praising the Lord through sharing your musical gifts and talents. Come and join: Praise Team - Wednesdays prior to the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 7 PM in the church balcony

Handbell Choir - Thursdays - 6:10-7:10 PM - church balcony

Evening Choir - Thursdays - 7:15-8:15 PM - classroom 104

Instrumentalists - contact Michelle at michelle@splcwa.org & share your instrument during a worship service!

High School Youth News



Sunday, January 6th 12:00 pm: National Youth Gathering Meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served!



Sunday, January 27th: BOWLATHON Fundraiser! Details to follow from Pastor Bender at January 6th meeting.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund \$1000 Scholarships
for LCMS high school seniors & college students.

For details and to apply please visit
lcefcentral.org/scholarships

How Are Your Finances?

I know, that's kind of a personal question. Perhaps it got your attention. Do you often find that you have more bills at the end of the month than money left in the checking account? Do you feel at times that your finances are a bit out-of-control and you would like to have better control of them? Are you doing pretty well, but would like to be a stronger Christian steward of the financial resources entrusted to you?

If you answered any of those questions, "Yes," then Financial Peace University is for you! **Financial Peace University is a nine lesson course on all things related to money.** In the class you will learn to budget, save, and learn the best way to pay off debt. If married, this course will help both husband and wife get on the same page. It will teach you the importance of saving up for major expenses and will even cover issues related to insurance, investing, and how to become a generous giver.

Financial Peace University is coming to St. Paul's. It will be offered on Thursday evenings beginning on **January 24 at 6:30pm - *Please note date change.*** The course will be team taught by Pastor Bender and Diana Raasch from the SWD office. The normal cost of the course is \$109 per individual/couple, however the South Wisconsin District has purchased some of the materials at a discount and so the first to sign up will be able to attend the course at a cost of \$80. If that is cost prohibitive for you, please speak to Pastor Bender.

New Christmas Trees for 2019

*Thanks to a generous
donor, we have received all
the funds needed to
purchase new trees for our
Sanctuary!*

Thanks be to God!



Sharing God's Bounty

Being a Faithful Steward

As stewards, we demonstrate our faithfulness by how we manage the resources and gifts God entrusts to us. *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to *"always give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause.

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). Through faith, we serve others by showing our love (3 John 5-6), by witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8), by sharing with those in need (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and by doing good to all people (Galatians 6:10). God is pleased when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that give Him honor and glory through our service for others.

As devoted and committed stewards who seek to do God's will, we receive his special blessings. The Lord will *"bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God"* (1 Corinthians 4:5). In 1 Samuel 26:23 we read, *"The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness."* We look forward to the Lord telling us, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* (Matthew 25:23).

Until the Lord takes us to our eternal home, we are to be active and involved stewards faithfully seeking to please him. We can be faithful because he abounds *"in love and faithfulness"* (Psalm 86:15) to us. We press on as faithful stewards knowing that *"He will not forget [our] work and the love [we] have shown him . . ."* (Hebrews 6:10).

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success."

Helen Hayes

Renewed in Christ Hope • Strength • Soar



Gone Astray

We all know of baptized family and friends who like the sheep, have gone astray.
Pray without ceasing, for their return to the fold.
Where they may again grow in their relation with God.
Hearing His Holy Word, that guides us along the way.
Receiving the Lord's Supper for forgiveness.
And washing us clean with His precious blood.

Keep Praying!

Elaine Lemke



Divine Connections

A Christmas Blessing and thank you note from Brother Rob at House of Peace:
We are very grateful for your generous collection of food for our needy families. At House of Peace and St. Ben's. ~ Blessings to all of you and your families.



Remember to save the date for our annual Clothing drive May 18, 2019. This event will run from 9-2.

Clothing drop off at the ECC will begin at the first of the year on the following Saturday dates: January 19, February 16 and March 16. We will also need help with sorting on these dates from 9-11:00 am.

Your help with weekend sorting and event set up is what makes this event a success. More details and opportunities to sign up to follow.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support of this event.

Help distribute the 'WE CARE' bags which can be found in the Narthex. Carry one or two with you in your vehicles and give to those in need as you drive past them on streets and corners.



We continue to look for events to "divinely connect with others outside St. Paul's walls and into the community." Please feel free to share any ideas you may have with any of our team members. Look for future events that are currently in the planning stage.

St. Paul's Divine Connections
Invites you to a free dinner and a movie,
Saturday Jan 12, 2019.
"Same Kind of Different As Me"
St. Paul's Bistro Theater (St. Paul's Fellowship Hall)
7821 W. Lincoln Ave. West Allis, WI
Doors Open - 6:00pm Movie Starts – 6:30pm
Please call 414-541-6250 if you should have any questions.

Journey With Jesus

Have you been upset about the news lately? Turn on any form of media, and you will be bombarded with the evil that is occurring in our world today. Do you realize that we, our family and friends, our nation and world, are involved in a spiritual battle?



God is our refuge and strength, an everlasting help in trouble (Psalm 46:1). Through His son Jesus, we have already won the victory over the grave, but the battle here on earth still goes on. The enemy delights whenever we stumble in our Faith Walk, and our only way to combat his evil is to be strong in the Lord.

We need to invite God back into our homes, our schools, our families, our workplaces, our friendships—the entirety of our daily lives. And, we need to share the love of Christ with those who do not know the reason for the hope that we have.

Beginning in February, we will begin a **Journey with Jesus**, a series of reflections to strengthen and enliven our faith and witness.

Join us!

Groundwork Guatemala News



One of the things we love the most when we visit Groundwork Guatemala is working with the local Guatemalan missionaries. Over the next several months, we will share their stories, beginning with Nancy Gottschalk telling you “All About Oscar.”

Oscar is a 35 year-old native Guatemalan missionary. He leads the Children’s Faith Lessons in the various villages we visit.

Oscar was born in a rural Guatemalan village, one of nine children. He has seven sisters and one brother. When he was 6 years old, his mother moved the family to Guatemala City to escape an abusive father. They settled in an area called La Libertad, a poor neighborhood built on an older foundation of the city dump. His mother cleaned houses to support the family, but food and money was always in short supply. By the time he was seven, Oscar would go down into the dump alone to search the garbage for food for his family. He would also go with his mom and sister to search for wood that they could use or sell. To this day, Oscar supports his mother and sisters.

While in the dump, he was attracted to guitar music being played by a Christian group that also presented a faith lesson. This led to him becoming a committed Christian by the time he was thirteen. He began working at a Christian organization called Servant’s Heart (mostly because he would get oranges there), and eventually he began planning faith lessons for the teachers. He met Kevin and Ginny Holmes there, and when Servant’s Heart closed, he went with them when they founded Groundwork Guatemala. Oscar thought about other jobs, but says that he loves working with the children too much to leave them.

Each morning, Oscar walks or takes a “Chicken Bus” to the mission house. He helps the American teams by translating, leading the praise worship, and making sure our lessons run smoothly. On alternate weeks, when there is no American team at Groundwork, Oscar single-handedly plans the Faith Lesson and an associated craft for over 550 kids.

One of Oscar’s favorite Bible verses is Proverbs 3:5: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

Another favorite comes from Psalm 37, when it talks about trusting the Lord, committing his way to the Lord, and waiting for the Lord to act.

Outside of work, Oscar likes to swim. He enjoys history and action movies and mentions “I Can Only Imagine” as a favorite. He likes the band Mercy Me, as well as classical music. He enjoys shopping local markets for items to resell. Time with family and friends is very important to him. Favorite foods are shrimp and pizza.

Oscar is a dedicated servant of God, and a natural leader of the children. We call him the Pied Piper of Kids. It is a blessing to know and work with Oscar.

School News



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Exciting times are happening at St. Paul's Lutheran School. We are so blessed to participate in so many enriching experiences that allow our students to grow and mature spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically.

One incredible opportunity in December was the Children's Christmas Services. Under the guidance of Mrs. Prince, the students shared the wonderful Christmas story of our Savior in word and song. I have received many positive comments from people about the services. The students used their God given talents and abilities to their fullest to praise our Lord.

At St. Paul's we talk alot about service. One service event happens weekly in our chapel collection. In our chapels, we take an offering and give 100% of it to those that are less fortunate than we are. It is great to see our students step up and give their pennies, dimes, and dollars to help others. In December our offerings were given to the church to purchase gift cards for our communities needy.



Our middle school students recently competed in an essay contest involving other local schools. The event was sponsored by the local VFW post (Veteran's of Foreign Wars) . How did our students do? They swept the podium! St. Paul's students took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places! I think that speaks to the job that all of our teachers are doing in preparing our children. A special thank you goes out to Miss Jackson for guiding our kids through this process.

Other activities involve athletics. Our winter athletic program is in full swing. We have four basketball teams that practice twice a week; play in league games, and tournaments. In January, our Short Shots basketball program begins. It is a joy to see our younger students learn and grow in the area of teamwork.

Now, the "Thank You's". I want to thank you for participating in the annual Cookie Walk our PTL holds in December. We raised \$2500.00 to help address some building security issues at St. Paul's. Thank you for purchasing, baking, and eating our cookies. It was a great success, and we look forward to putting it on again next year. Thank you for your donations.



We have the joy to know that we will one day be reunited with our departed loved ones again in heaven because of what Jesus did for all of us. I thank God for this, and I thank you for donating to our school assistance program in memory and honor of those loved ones who died. All of the money donated is given to needy families so they are able to afford a Christian education. With the way the economy is, more and more families need financial assistance. Because of your thoughtfulness and generosity, we are able to provide that help to those families. Thank you for thinking of this program at St. Paul's Lutheran School, and I pray that you continue to keep this program in mind as a memorial in the future.

Thank you for your support. St. Paul's Lutheran Church has supported its school for a very long time. I want to thank you for the many ways that this was, is and will be done. It is a joy to share the Gospel message with our students and their families at the school. I pray God continues to bless our efforts and continues to move you to support our school even more.


The last week of January is National Lutheran Schools Week. Lutheran churches and schools all around the world celebrate the incredible work being done by Lutheran schools as they train children in a Christian environment. Please join us in this celebration as we praise God for allowing St. Paul's to be able to engage in sharing the Gospel.

God's richest blessings to you in the New Year!

Jack Burkee, Principal

January 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation	3 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM Finance 7:15 PM Choir	4	5 10:00 AM Cleopas Walk Gathering 5:00 PM Worship
6 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM NYG Meeting	7 9:00 AM Quilters 11:30 AM Bible Class	8 10:00 AM Tai Chi 6:00 PM Board of Christian Education Lifetouch Photographers	9 11:00 AM Widows Lunch 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation Lifetouch Photographers	10 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bells 7:15 PM Choir Lifetouch Photographers	11 6:30 PM Rangerettes Lifetouch Photographers	12 7:00 AM Mens Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Instruction 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Divine Connections Dinner & Movie Night Lifetouch
13 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	14 11:30 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Ladies Book Club	15 10:00 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Divine Connections 6:00 PM Council 6:00 PM School Board 7:00 PM Planning Committee Lifetouch Photographers	16 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation Lifetouch Photographers	17 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bells 7:15 PM Choir Lifetouch Photographers	18 Lifetouch Photographers	19 9:00 AM Adult Instruction 5:00 PM Worship Lifetouch Photographers
20 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	21 11:30 AM Bible Class <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i>	22 10:00 AM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Elders	23 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation	24 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bells 6:30 PM Financial Peace 7:15 PM Choir	25 6:30 PM Rangerettes	26 7:00 AM Mens Breakfast 9:00 AM Adult Instruction 9:00 AM Clothing Drop Off 5:00 PM Worship
27 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Youth Bowl-A-Thon	28 11:30 AM Bible Class 6:30 PM Ladies Guild <i>School Book Fair</i>	29 10:00 AM Tai Chi <i>School Book Fair</i>	30 6:30 PM Public School Confirmation <i>School Book Fair</i>	31 9:00 AM Tai Chi 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Bells 6:30 PM Financial Peace 7:15 PM Choir <i>School Book Fair</i>		

Printed by Calendar Creator for Windows on 12/27/2018

Happy New Year - 2019

Please join us at the
2019 Passionate Believers
CONFERENCE

"Joy:fully Lutheran - Rejoice/Pray/Give Thanks"

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church & School
N48 W31385 Hill St., Hartland, WI

Keynote Presenter: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Why Am I Joy:fully Lutheran?

The Bible is brimming with joy! Despite the myriad challenges of life, the Word of God gives an extensive and fulsome cause for joy, and by grace actually renders the Christian joyous. As a faithful confession of God's Word, Luther's Small Catechism is also full of consolation and a tremendous cause for joy. The simple and sure clarity of the Bible, and especially the catechism's clear confession of the Bible's basic teachings, is the remedy for hurting and joyless souls.

Conference Fee

Fee includes presenters, materials,
food and beverages.

\$25 per person
\$75 per church

Conference Resources

Click on the tabs below to download
the conference documents.
For additional information, please contact Barb Slak at the
District Office,
414-292-0745 * slak@swd.lcms.org

Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church & School
N48 W31385 Hill St., Hartland, WI. [Directions](#)

Hotel Accommodations

The South Wisconsin District is not liable for room charges. When making your reservation, mention "SWD Conference" to receive the discounted rate. **Hotel reservation deadline is January 11, 2019.**

- **Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West**, Wauwatosa (across from Mayfair Mall)
- **Holiday Inn Express**, Delafield
- **LaQuinta**, Delafield



lcms.org/ferry and ferrys.asia

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION



Caitlin places garland on the church stairs with the wife of the pastor.

We have to be intentional about remembering it's Christmas. Where we are in Asia, and in most places "over here," Christmas is almost a non-event. There's no snow (except on the mountains). Our streets are not decorated. We don't see Christmas commercials. In fact, in our home of Taiwan, Christmas isn't even a day off: people still have to work, and students still go to school. They only know it as a commercial event.

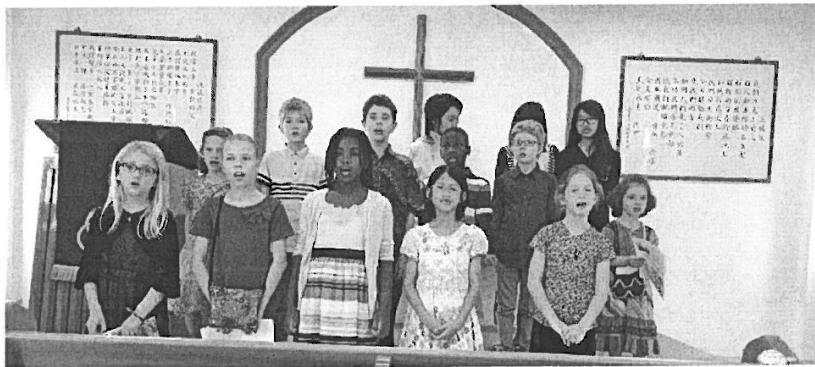
That's part of the reason we are living and working out here, and a great reminder of why YOU and WE are working together "All Over Asia." How is it that one of the highest, holiest days in all of Christendom is lost on these wonderful people? Because they don't know Jesus, and that's unacceptable.



Carissa decorates the church Christmas tree with the help of a teacher from the middle school.

Thank you for allowing us to be out here to serve people with the Word, and to help teach others to proclaim Him faithfully. Thank you for remembering us in your prayers, for sending us Christmas greetings, and for your sacrificial sharing so we can stay out here and work. Please throw a snowball for us. Have another cup of hot chocolate or eggnog. Sing another Christmas carol. And pray that the Lord would continue revealing Himself to those still living in darkness so they can live in the light of Christ.

Merry Christmas to all of you, our dear friends and partners in the work we've been given to do.



Missionary kids and local Chinese gathering together to sing at church: Silent Night in English, German, and Chinese.



FERRY FAMILY UPDATE



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- All those around us (in Asia and in the US) who do not yet know Christmas or Christ
- The new LCMS missionaries who are still support raising, but are badly needed out here in the field
- Those who find this time of year difficult as they miss family and loved ones

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The partnership we have together to share the Word here and All Over Asia
- Wonderful community we have been given, as we are supported and give support

To subscribe to this newsletter, visit our newsletter web page: ferrys.asia/newsletter

Cheryl and the kids have been involved in full-time language study the entire time we have resided in Taiwan. It started when we first arrived, and then has continued since we have returned with our resident visas.

Over time they have built up quite a good relationship with their teachers, who are native Taiwan ladies. The two we have with us regularly are patient, helpful, and work hard to ensure the kids learn well how to speak with those around us.

The kids have been talking with their teachers about Christmas lately, to no one's surprise. The teachers have been asking good questions, all in Chinese, and the kids have been answering... all in Chinese.

Just the other day, the kids invited their teacher over to the house to show her the stockings Cheryl made for each of them. They explained about the purpose of Christmas, what the different symbols mean on the stockings (star, angel, church, etc.). And they did it all in Chinese.

What a joy to see the kids reaching out to their teachers to share "the hope that is within us." Everyone in their vocations, working where the Lord has placed us to share the life-giving, sin-forgiving Word of God.



The Ferry kids, explaining Christmas in Chinese to their teacher

God bless all of you for your continued friendship, support, and love.

*- Your Servants and partners in Asia, **the Ferry Family**
Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, Cassandra, Chloe, and Charlotte*



To support the LCMS through the work of The Ferry Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

or

Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Ferry Family." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on our online giving page at lcms.org/ferry.

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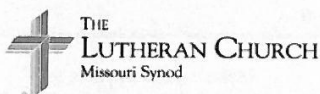
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END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The school year at Hope Lutheran School in Bufuula concluded on November 29. Our celebrations that day began with a marching band leading us on a walk through the community, welcoming people to our school and the day's activities. Afterwards, we celebrated the nursery school graduation, and then all of the students had an opportunity to share the gifts and talents God has given them through performances of singing and dancing.



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And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Sharing the Good News



Students rehearsing a Christmas drama, which they performed on the last day of school. Here you can see the shepherds kneeling at the manger with Mary and Joseph.

Merry Christmas!

In Lusoga, we say,
Nkuendeza sekukulu eyeisanu!

Christmas is referred to as the father of all holidays in Uganda. Most people return to their home villages to celebrate the holiday with their families. Christians may gather for worship at church on Christmas Day morning. Then they celebrate at home with a special Christmas meal, which may be one of the few times of the year that they eat meat.

As Christians, we know that the true reason for these celebrations is because of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. I am very thankful that the students at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Bufuula had opportunities to hear this message during church, chapel, and Sunday School lessons. In addition, during the last month of school, the students frequently requested that I share the

Christmas narrative during break times, as well. For some students, it was the first time they had heard the message of how Jesus was born in the humble stable, heralded by glorious angels, and visited by lowly shepherds.

Like the shepherds, these students had the opportunity to tell others the good news of Jesus' birth. On the last day of school, amidst all of the other celebrations, one group of students performed a drama of the Christmas narrative. From the singing angels to the crawling sheep, these students shared the Christmas message of God's love with the parents, community members, and other students gathered for the celebrations on the last day of school.

I pray that as these students gather with their families for Christmas, they will continue to share the good news of Jesus, our Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Youth Sharing Christmas Joy

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

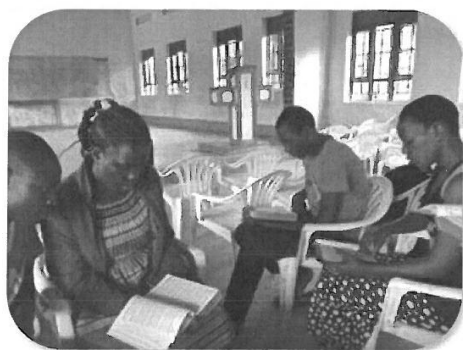
- *The Lord to bring more people in Uganda and around the world to saving faith in Christ*
- *Families to know the love, joy, and peace of Christ this Christmas season*
- *Health and safety*
- *Continued progress in Lusoga language study and use*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *The gift of Jesus, born to save us*
- *The successful completion of our school year*
- *The ways God is growing his children in His Word*
- *The many congregations, schools, and individuals who pray for me, encourage me, and support me*

YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS.

- *I regularly pray for the individuals and congregations who support me by name. Please share any specific prayers I can bring before the Lord for you.*



Some of the youth practicing newly learned Christmas hymns in both English and Luganda before church on Sunday.

It has been a joy preparing for Christmas with the youth of Hope Lutheran Church in Bufuula this past month. Many of the youth are alumni of Hope Lutheran School, and show a great love for the church and school. Each weekend, they help to set up for the worship service, and they are working on building a playground for the students at the school. They have also come back to help decorate for various school events.

I am thankful to see these young Christians growing in the Word. Several of them had the opportunity to attend a youth conference at the seminary with more than a hundred other youth from the Eastern Deanery in December.

Recently, the youth have started sitting as a choir at church, and they help to lead the congregation in singing. This past month, they asked me to help them learn some Christmas music for their choir to sing during the Christmas services at church. They were also very excited to go Christmas caroling for the first time, taking the joy of Christmas to the homes of members of the church and community who are sick or elderly.

Please keep these future leaders of the church in your prayers. May God continue to help them grow in faith and loving service to their neighbor.



*May the joy of Immanuel, God with us, be yours, in this season and always.
-Rachel Meyer*



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