

LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk...

It was September 21st. I remember the date because I took a picture of what I saw and sent it to Tomi along with the caption: "And it begins." Walmart had set up a Christmas aisle.

It wasn't a lot, some decorations, Christmas trees, Santa on a bicycle, and a few other miscellaneous "Christmas" items. Of course, there is nothing inherently wrong with stores selling seasonal products whenever they want—but seeing Christmas items reminds us we have so much to do for Christmas. And we usually don't want to start thinking about that... in September!

We wonder how many people see past the tinsel and ornaments, the snowmen and bicycle-riding Santa Claus, and actually see Jesus. By the grace of God Christians continue to see the true glory of Christmas in this incredible event of the birth of the Son of God. It is such an amazing occurrence that we talk about it not only in December, but year-round. Every week we confess this truth about Jesus: that He was born of the virgin Mary. God became man to save us! We rejoice in that Christmas message every day!

Jesus' birth is incomprehensible for us mere mortals. How could the Creator, whom the whole universe cannot contain, dwell within a human womb? How could God become a real baby boy? Why would He do this knowing that it would end with horrific torture and death by crucifixion? To our way of thinking it just doesn't make sense. We can only confess that all of these things happened by the amazing power of God motivated by His amazing grace and love for the world. God's desire to save sinners is accomplished in Jesus' birth, death and resurrection!

Christmas is a time to accent that particular event, among many, which demonstrates the love of God for the world. We celebrate the boundless grace of the Almighty who was born to bring us forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life.

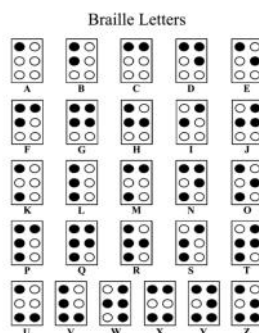
So, the next time you are in the Christmas aisle at the store, say a prayer that more people would see the Nativity, the celebration of God coming to us in the birth of His Son.

In Christ, *Pastor Knuth*

December Select Mission: Lutheran Braille Workers

Lutheran Braille Workers shares the Gospel with those who are blind or visually impaired by producing and distributing Braille, audio and large print Bibles, catechisms, devotionals and many other publications. We will send our December Select Mission donation of \$1,000 to support their important work.

To learn more about this ministry, visit their website at www.LBWloveworks.org.



LWML Mitten Tree

Pella's LWML/Ladies Aid will again have a mitten tree collection downstairs in the fellowship hall. We are most in need of heavy waterproof gloves and mittens — it seems children just do not wear scarves and hats as often. These donations all stay in the Waupun area for food pantries and schools. Thank you in advance for sharing with local children.



AROUND PELLA

From the Vicar's Desk...

On December 21, we remember St. Thomas the Apostle. Who knew, right? We usually miss this remembrance when we're counting down the days to Christmas!

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Son of God who came into our world in human flesh to bear our sins and be our Savior. When we remember St. Thomas, we typically think of when the resurrected Christ appeared to him in human flesh *after* He had borne our sins as our Savior in His death on the cross!

We know the story well: Thomas had not yet seen our resurrected Lord, and he did not yet believe Jesus *had* risen from the dead (John 20). But then Jesus appears to him, face-to-face. And upon hearing the voice of his Savior and seeing His resurrected body--including the nail marks in His hands and the spear mark in His side--Thomas declares, "*My Lord and my God.*"

Then Jesus says to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who

have not seen and yet have believed." ...Jesus is talking about us! Blessed are we who have not yet seen Him as Thomas was blessed to and yet have believed (thanks to God's Word and His Holy Spirit!). Recall also 1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory..."

This Christmas, this St. Thomas Day, and at all times, we can "rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory." We can rejoice that God sent Jesus, true God and true man, into our world to be our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. We can rejoice along with Thomas that Jesus is indeed raised from the dead, giving us the rock-solid hope of eternal life--no matter what we face here in this earthly life! And we can rejoice that, though we do not see Him now, we will see Him in Paradise one day where we will stand before Him face-to-face and there declare, "*My Lord and my God.*"

In Christ, *Vicar Wendorff*

Christmas at Concordia

Concordia University Wisconsin's Music Department will *virtually* present their 33rd annual "Christmas at Concordia" concert. A cherished tradition at CUW, this concert features selections - both sacred and secular - by CUW musical ensembles, which include two of our young adult members, Christal Zills and Luke Hahn. Performing groups include both instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as handbell ensembles and sing-along carols performed by esteemed organist, Dr. James Freese.

Join virtually on December 4th, 2020 at 7:30pm for the Christmas at Concordia premiere!

<https://www.cuw.edu/stream/christmas.html>



Newsletter Prayer List



Our monthly newsletter prayer list includes the names of those who have long-term illnesses or who are in the military. If you know of someone who should be included on this list, please call or email Tomi in the church office.

Long-Term Prayer List:

Pastor Jim Herbolsheimer, Amy VandeZande, Brenda Bergman, Karla Schmidt, Jan Quade, Lyle Hull

Our 'Together in Mission' Missionaries:

Cindy Zirbel Wrucke (Czech Republic)
Rev. Michael & Karen Schempf (Uganda)
Rev. Michael & Irene Paul (Taiwan)

AROUND PELLA



This year, our Advent Services will be held at Noon on Wednesdays and will also be broadcast on Facebook Live. The 7:00 p.m. Wednesday service will continue to coincide with the upcoming Sunday morning service. We will not have Advent dinners this year.

Wednesday, December 2nd

12:00 p.m. Advent Service

Wednesday, December 9th

12:00 p.m. Advent Service

Wednesday, December 16th

12:00 p.m. Advent Service

Sunday, December 20th

9:15-10:15 a.m. Sunday School Children's Christmas Programs

(these programs will be broadcast on FB Live)

Thursday, December 24th

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 25th

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
w/Holy Communion

Thursday, December 31st

5:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Service

Notice to Sunday School Parents:

Christmas program practices will be Saturdays, December 12 and 19; Group 1 will meet in the basement at 9:00 am, and Group 2 will meet in the gym at 9:45 am. A note with details was sent home with your child or mailed to your house. Contact Tomi Knuth if you have any questions about the Christmas programs.

New Flooring Installed

After many meetings and a whole lot of volunteering, the new flooring is just about finished in our sanctuary and narthex. We want to heartily thank all the members of our Flooring Committee, all those who helped with the removal and reinstallation of the pews, and those who helped with clean-up for their many hours in accomplishing this major improvement project.

As was decided by the voters, you will notice that one pew has been removed. This space is for those with wheelchairs or with other medical devices to sit comfortably among the congregation. There is also more room on the South side for putting walkers, crutches, etc.

December Birthdays

2	Alexus Harmsen	18	Gustav Madigan
4	Victoria Belleville	20	Sarah Bunkoske
5	Blakely Mitchell	20	Abraham Wendorff
5	Paulette Smit	20	Luke Hahn
6	Julie Bonack	23	Andrew Pater
7	Dekker Landaal	24	Shirley Peters
7	Owen Shurpit	25	Jaclyn Teachout
8	Alexandra Parsons	27	Lisa Dykstra
12	Julie Derksen	29	Lora Huizenga
12	Jayne Hull	30	Shawn Lang
17	Diana Beder	31	Alice Rahn

December Anniversaries

9	Milford and Patricia Hopp	48
27	Chris and Tierney Cornelius	6
31	Joshua and Katelyn Ernst	2



PELLA

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bible Verse of the Month

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

Visit our Website
www.pellalutheran.org

Find Quick Links for:

Sermons
Church Bulletins
Newsletters
CPH Blog Site (includes many interesting and encouraging articles)
Lutheran Hour Devotions
LCMS
South Wisconsin LCMS

Contact Us

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December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pella Lutheran Church 315 S. Madison Street Waupun, WI 53963 Phone 920-324-3321		1	2 9:00 AM Quilting NOON Advent Service 6:00 PM Sr. & Jr. Youth 7:00 PM Divine Service	3 10:00 AM Bible Study	4 Church Office Closed	5 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
6 8:00 AM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Divine Service 11:00 AM Radio Broadcast 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	7 6:00 PM Youth Board 7:00 PM Elders' Meeting	8 6:30 PM Trustees' Meeting	9 9:00 AM Quilting NOON Advent Service 6:00 PM Sr. & Jr. Youth 7:00 PM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Ladies Aid/LWML	11 Church Office Closed	12 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Christmas Practice
13 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 11:00 AM Radio Broadcast 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Church Council	15	16 9:00 AM Quilting NOON Advent Service 6:00 PM Sr. & Jr. Youth 7:00 PM Divine Service	17 10:00 AM Bible Study NEWSLETTER MAILING	18 Church Office Closed	19 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Christmas Practice
20 8:00 AM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 9:15 AM Children's Christmas Programs 10:30 AM Divine Service 11:00 AM Radio Broadcast 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	21	22	23 No Worship Services	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 6:00 PM 9:00 PM	25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion	26 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
27 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (No Sunday School) 10:30 AM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 11:00 AM Radio Broadcast	28	29	30 No Worship Services 6-8 PM Champions of FDL	31 New Year's Eve 5:30 PM Divine Service w/ Holy Communion	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>O Come</i></p> <p>LET US</p> <p><i>adore</i></p> <p>HIM</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>	

December 2020 Serving Calendar

Date	Time	Organist / Pianist	Elder/Usher	Finance	Video Recording	Audio / Radio Recording	Acolyte
Wednesday December 2	NOON 7:00 PM	Lora Huizenga Candis Breitkruetz	Ben Kuenzi Darwin Wetzel				
Sunday December 6	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Candis Breitkruetz	Ben Kuenzi	Marj Peachey Diana Beder	Harvey Schmitz	G. Baumann or W. Schmitz	Zane Cornelius
Wednesday December 9	NOON 7:00 PM	Lora Huizenga Vanessa Knuth	Ben Kuenzi Darwin Wetzel				Kailie Westphal
Sunday December 13	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Candis Breitkruetz	Warren Schmitz	M. & S. Bowe F. & S. McIver	Val Loehrke	G. Baumann or W. Schmitz	Markiya Uherka
Wednesday December 16	NOON 7:00 PM	Lora Huizenga Vanessa Knuth	Darwin Wetzel Kevin Hahn				
Sunday December 20	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Lora Huizenga	Kevin Hahn	Gail VanLoo Cheryl Pater	Duane Vande Zande	G. Baumann or W. Schmitz	Emma Aellig
Christmas Eve December 24	6:00 PM 9:00 PM	Lora Huizenga Candis Breitkruetz	Warren Schmitz Ben Kuenzi				
Christmas Day December 25	9:00 AM	Christal Zills	Warren Schmitz				
Sunday December 27	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Christal Zills	Ben Kuenzi	Ben & Debbie Kuenzi	Steve Schmitz	G. Baumann or W. Schmitz	
New Year's Eve December 31	5:30 PM	Christal Zills	Darwin Wetzel				

Altar Circle Committee: Ann Keyser & Sandy Flier
Soul Accounting: Marion Birkholz & Darlene Birkholz-Lueck

