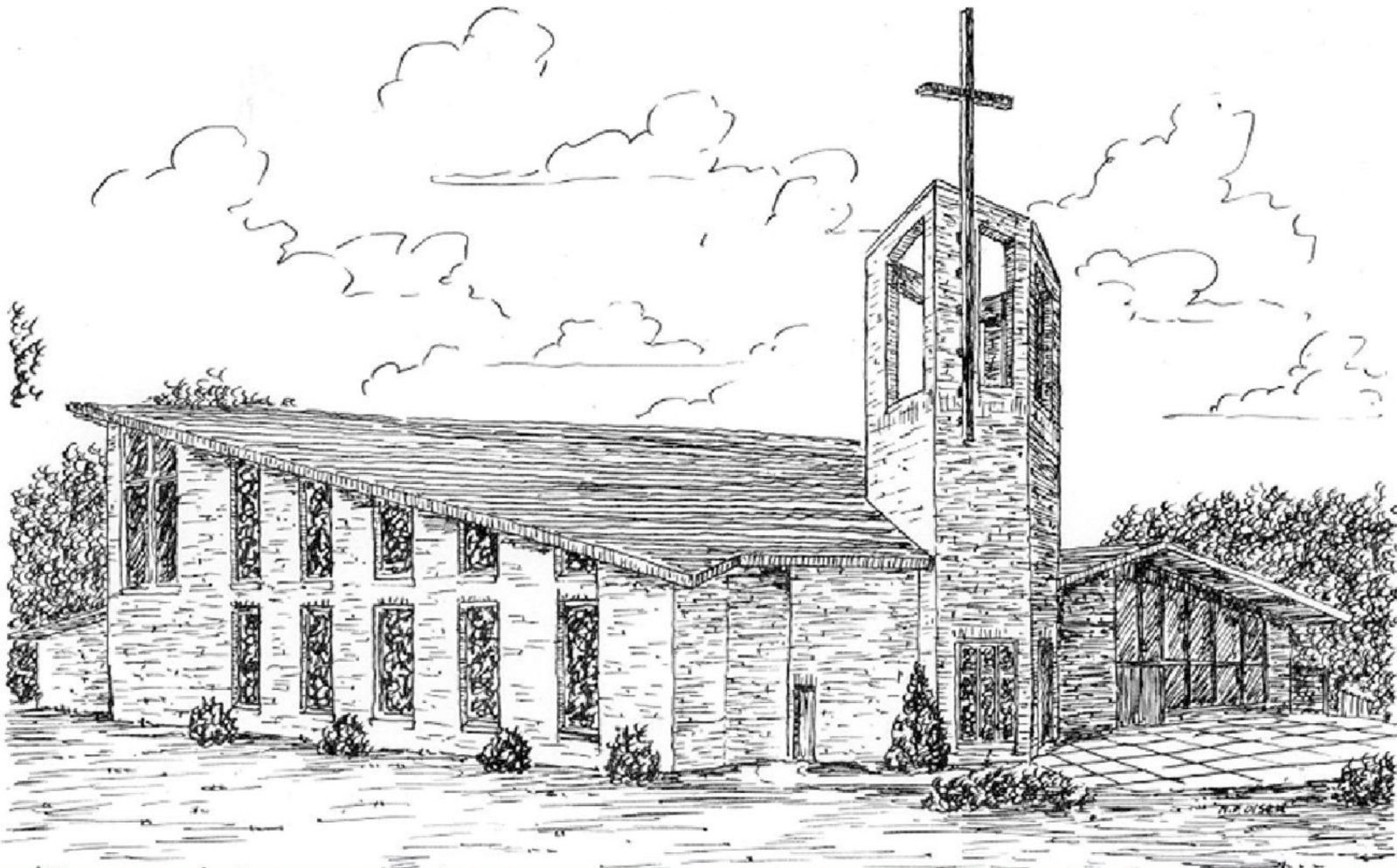


GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL

Memorial Lutheran Church Newsletter
November/December 2023



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PASTOR'S PAGE

In 2022, I decided to put together a devotional resource for use during the Advent season. I called it "I Wonder So I Wander" which was a play on the title of the old Christmas hymn "I Wonder as I Wander." I decided to reflect on some of the tough questions found in scripture and on some of the sacred spaces in my life that helped me to respond to those tough questions. The response to the devotional was wonderful. So, I decided to repeat the process again this year.

I started writing the new devotional in March of this year, and I am very excited to share the second volume with you. As with last year, I reflect on some of the tough questions found in scripture (all of which are different from the questions I considered last year). And I considered some different spaces not mentioned last year as I reflected on those questions. I have titled this second volume "I Still Wonder So I Still Wander." I hope you will join me on the continuation of this journey.

This year, Advent will start on Sunday, December 3, and it will continue through Sunday, December 24. As with last year, I will be making this resource available to everyone in multiples formats in the hopes that you will find it easier to use. A hard copy, with all of the devotions for each day, printed in one place, will be available for you to pick up starting on Sunday, November 19. I will also be emailing everyone a pdf version to be used on your computers on or about that same day. In addition, the plan will be to send out individual emails each day during the season with the devotion for the day available for you in an email format. And, in each of those individual emails, I will be including a link to a YouTube video that you can watch which will feature me reading each individual devotion in my own voice. It is my hope that, by providing a variety of formats, I might make it easier for you to participate in this activity.

As with last year, it is also my hope that you would be willing to share this resource with friends and family if you think might be beneficial for them. You can feel free to pick them up a copy of the devotion at church to give to them, forward your pdf version to them, forward the daily emails that I will send, and/or encourage them to go to our Facebook page during the season to find the daily links where the text will be available for them to read and the link will be available for them click in order to listen to me read the devotion (if that is preferable). Beginning on or around Sunday, November 26, I will be making the introduction to the series and the first one or two devotions available early for your viewing/listening. All of the other recorded devotions will be available starting at about 6:00 p.m. the evening before their date so that they will be ready for you the next morning, just in case you are an early riser and an early reader. There is even a bonus devotion for Christmas Day in the collection.

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PASTOR'S PAGE, CONTINUED

This devotion, like last year, is very autobiographical in nature. So, you will learn even more about me through the reading of these devotions. And, although it is very autobiographical, I hope that you will find yourself somewhere in the pages of these devotions as well.

Thank you for joining me in this journey once again. I look forward to hearing more about your tough questions and the sacred spaces that help you respond to those questions in the weeks ahead.

In Christ,

Pastor Lester Spies

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 2023

To help us mark the celebration of Christmas, we will gather for worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 3:30 p.m. That service will include a sermon, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Please remember that we will also be gathering that day on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. for our traditional Sunday morning service. However, that service will cover the themes of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. You have to wait until the 3:30 p.m. service to enjoy the fullness of the Christmas Eve celebration.



For several reasons that are unique to this year, we have decided that our traditional Christmas Day service will only be available as an online option. I will be recording a special service for your use and posting that service following the Christmas Eve service. It will focus on the "lessons and carols" format that we frequently use on that joyful day. The link will be available on our Facebook page and will be sent via the weekly email prior to Christmas Day.

If you have any questions about these worship opportunities, please contact Pastor Spies.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Memorial Lutheran Church was founded in 1948. That means that we are celebrating 75 years of ministry in 2023. As we have been cleaning and organizing things around the church this past summer and early fall, we have noticed that our "history" files could use a few more items. If you happen to have any historical documents hiding in your home that you are willing to donate to our files, we would greatly appreciate those donations. Items might include any Memorial Lutheran Church directories (or directories from any of our predecessor bodies), bulletins from key celebrations, annual reports, photos, or the like. We would be grateful for anything that you are willing to share. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Spies or Office Manager, Nicolle Grassl. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

This newsletter for November and December covers Thanksgiving and Christmas. Appropriate that we are both thankful and hopeful about the future.

The council meetings always cover 3 time periods. We look back over the prior month (accomplishments and financial statements). We look forward to the near future. And we look further forward to the long term. In our next meeting, we will begin to talk about the 2024 budget. In that discussion, we will talk about where we are financially this year (we will have the financial statements for October), and we will have to look forward through December of 2024. The practical realities will be discussed and will be balanced with our hope for the future.

Again these 2 months present a time we can reflect upon how much we have to be thankful for and how hopeful (maybe anxious) we are about the future.

Cathy Zacher provided this:

"It has become clearer to me that when we spend too much energy focusing on the past, *we become unable to leave it*. We can get caught in the "golden era" as we romanticize years gone by. From our own personal lives to even our experience of church, living in the past robs us of the grace of the present moment. In the end, wisdom, joy, goodness and holiness are available to us when we live in the NOW with the eyes of our hearts and minds fixed firmly on Jesus. Simply put, there is no "perfect church" out there. *The opportunity for us is to grow where God has planted us and make this church family the best that it can be.*"



Enjoy this poem titled No Perfect Church:

"I think that I shall never see a church that's all it's ought to be;
a church whose members never stray beyond the strait and narrow way;
a church that has no empty pews, where all the people pay their dues;
A church whose members always sing and flock to church when bells do ring.
Such perfect churches there may be, but none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan to make our own the best we can."

GOOD NEWS IN ACTION COMMITTEE

Our quarterly mission for the third quarter was the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee with its three facilities which help get youth and others become aware of nature in their own back yards. We contributed \$1574.00 for which they have been most grateful!



Deacon Steve Predbelski and Mary Elizabeth setting up the materials made by victims of human trafficking.

Our fourth quarter mission is the Franciscan Peacemakers in Milwaukee. Deacon Steve Predbelski and his assistant, Mary Elizabeth brought items made by victims of human trafficking, abuse, sexual exploitation, and addiction. Cynthia, a previous victim gave a great story of her abuse and now helped by Franciscan Peacemakers during the temple talk on September 22nd. There is a bulletin board on the east wall of Bruemmer Hall with leaflets on the table in the narthex.

The St. Vincent de Paul meal program, which Memorial has been involved with ever since its inception in 1984 is ending for Memorial on November 5th. We have been involved for 391/2 years and it is now time for an ending. We have enjoyed doing it for this long, but we have not been able to get enough servers. Our casserole makers have been most helpful and faithful. The monthly number of people served on the first Sunday of the month is about 110. We are encouraged that St. Margaret Mary catholic church is somewhat interested in the program and we will give them all the encouragement we can. We will supply the program with \$250 to \$300 a month from people in our congregation who want to help the program continue for one year.

The Christmas Basket program Memorial has been involved in for over 45 years with Hephatha Lutheran Church located on 18th and Locust, one of our sister churches, will change. Instead of spending \$1500.00 for ten families with a variety of food, we will give the recipients a card for \$150 which they can use at their convenience. Buying all the food, putting together boxes for delivery and making the deliveries has been a big job and ended up with too much of the work falling on so few. We definitely want to continue the “basket” program, but it will continue in a different way. We still think this is a wonderful way to have an outreach to our inner-city people at Hephatha and we hope you do, too. Please put in your offering for Christmas Baskets and we will put that toward the program which we will continue to do but in a different manner.



Eddie Jackson who is our recipient of the monthly food in the northeast corner of Bruemmer Hall.

DEACON DENNIS' NEIGHBORHOOD

I will not be adding much to my neighborhood in the next two months. I will certainly continue to provide bulletin inserts. However, when Advent begins, I will likely not be doing a midweek devotion unless something special catches my attention. You will have Pastor Spies' Advent Devotions available through the season.

I do encourage you to please stop by the Spiritual Table to pick up special handouts and items related to the always changing world events. The church has and will speak out and I will pass along churchwide and synodical messages. There will also be a supply of Advent Calendars from Augsburg. Also, there will be the opportunity once more to pick a “Prayer Venture” flyer for guidance on daily devotions. Finally, I do plan to put up the Advent ribbons on the pews that I did two years ago. Sadly, I sort of missed being with all of you during Advent and Christmas last year as I was in the hospital and a rehab center for much of that time.

Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas season. May you all find new comfort and hope as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world. -Deacon Dennis

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Marlene Kapustanczek will also continue the study of **St. Peter's Letters, 1 and 2**. The dates for the next studies are **November 19 and December 10**. Please make a note of next year's dates! We will meet on January 21, February 18 and March 17, 2024. You do not need to have been present for previous studies to join Marlene. There is no required homework either! You are welcome to join whenever you are available. Looking forward to seeing you there!

MITTEN TREE



Again this year, the Mary Martha Circle is sponsoring the Mitten Tree. Hats, scarves, mittens, and slippers are being collected and will be given to those in need. We need your help! Let's decorate the tree to overflowing! Help keep a worthy person warm and dry this winter. The tree will be up beginning on **Sunday, November 5th**.

FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9



Saturday, December 9, 9am-11am. Please join us! Volunteers, we will set up Friday at 2:30pm. Saturday volunteers please arrive by 8:00am. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Congregation members please come to eat and enjoy the community and fellowship.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - James Frank
- 2 - Michael Rudolph
- 3 - Frederick Hoffmann
- 7 - Jana Jones
- 9 - Henry 'Buzz' Althoen
- 9 - Elliott Moeser
- 14 - Megan Seidl
- 19 - Ruth Ann Wood
- 25 - Sue Biondich



ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 - Peter & Ruth Ann Wood ... 36 years
- 29 - Buzz & Barb Althoen ... 65 years



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12 - John Blaha
- 12 - Chuck Carroll
- 12 - Linda Marx
- 12 - Julia Stein
- 20 - Matthew Moeser
- 22 - Michael Seidl
- 27 - Shirley Pedriana
- 30 - Susie Beese
- 30 - Steve Koenig



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Chuck and Barb Carroll ... 33years
- 24 - Bruce and Rose Fraser ... 46 years
- 30 - Kevin and Lorie Ackermann ... 23 years



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Jana Jones for sharing her time & talents. She will be moving soon and stepping away from her many roles in our congregation. She will be missed in her official capacity of Treasurer, Council member, Committee member. I personally have spent countless hours together with her on the Finance Committee over the last 7 years. You will be missed but we wish you well. *Ron Searles, Council President & Finance Committee member*

Thanks to Cathy, Laura, Ron and Sean for their help in mowing the lawn at Memorial. Also the trimming of the lawn by **Buzz**. Hope to see you next year! *Gary Hiller*

TIP

Do you have high prescription drug costs? If you are 65 or older and NOT on Medicaid, give SeniorCare a call at (800) 657-2038. It is a prescription drug assistance program.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR



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DATED MATERIAL

Worship

Sunday: 9:00am

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH · GLENDALE, WI NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL



NOVEMBER

Sun, 11/5	9:00	Worship
	4:00	Meal Program
Sun, 11/12	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun, 11/19	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion St. Peter Bible Study
Sun, 11/26	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion

DECEMBER

Sun, 12/3	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sat, 12/9	9-11am	FREE Community Breakfast
Sun, 12/10	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion St. Peter Bible Study
Sun, 12/17	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun, 12/24	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion
	3:30	Christmas Eve Worship
Mon, 12/25		Merry Christmas!
Sun, 12/31	9:00	Worship with Holy Communion