

## Emmanuel—God With Us!

In one of the appointed scripture Gospels for December, we read that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is visited by angels. These heavenly beings share prophetic musings about the baby she will deliver. The scripture passage tells us that Mary “pondered” the things she was told.

Each December, I do my fair share of “pondering”. Some topics I will ponder (not in any particular order) are:

- ~Decorating the house and Christmas tree.
- ~Preparing and mailing our Christmas cards (yes, we still do that).
- ~Picking a date to make my Norwegian Christmas cookies (Krumkake), and my famous holy land stew (Lapskaus), which the grandchildren love.
- ~Choosing Christmas gifts for family members, church, and other charities.
- ~And certainly finding dates to have our family get together with everyone’s busy schedule.

Perhaps you will be pondering similar things as well!

Here at church, Kim Jannusch, our new chairperson of the Worship and Music Committee has also been doing some pondering. Why? Because December is the beginning of a new season in our church year. It’s Advent—a four-week period to help us get ready for the birth of Jesus. Emmanuel - God With Us!

The worship and music committee’s pondering has produced a schedule that they share with you here.

—December 1 and 2 – First Sunday in Advent. We are told to be on watch. A big thing will soon happen. Prepare and get ready.

—December 8 and 9 - Second Sunday in Advent. We are again reintroduced to John the Baptist. He offers us a plan to turn things around in our lives. At the 10:30 Service we view the birth of Jesus through the eyes of our Sunday School children.

—December 15 and 16 - Third Sunday in Advent. We proclaim the birth through our traditional service of Lessons and Carols. This is a great way to feel the “God With Us” theme in scripture and hymns.

—December 22 and 23 - Fourth Sunday in Advent. We hear again the story of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and his ability to trust. Do we trust what Jesus has told us?

—Which of course leads us to Christmas Eve, December 24. We will have services at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 10:00 p.m. And on Christmas Day, December 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Yes, we have much to prepare for and much to ponder! Join with me as we enter this season of our church year giving thanks for Emmanuel - God With Us!

God Bless you and our loved ones,

**Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen**



## What Have the Youth Been Up To?

Our Youth have been doing great things!

—The students participated in a Team Game Day to learn just how important (and fun) working together can be.

—We met in the Youth Room to write letters to deployed members of the Military, in honor of Veterans' Day.

—The students travelled to the Crafty Woodmaker in Appleton to make Christmas Gifts for our Giving Project

## Upcoming Youth Events

### **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Gift Wrap-Up**

The Students will put the final touches on their gifts for our Christmas Giving Project.

### **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Movie Night**

It's hard to believe that our Calendar year is coming to an end! We will close out this semester of Confirmation by boarding a bus after school and heading to the movie theater to see a Christmas film and ring in the season together.

## Sunday School News

There will be a rehearsal for all students involved with the Children's Christmas Program. The rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 8, at 9:00 a.m. The program will be held at the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 9. Please mark your calendars for this joyful annual event.

There will be no Sunday School on either December 23 or December 30. We will see you all again on January 6, 2019. The Sunday School staff wishes everyone a very happy holiday season!

## A Message From the Music Team

Chancel Choir is always accepting new members, and we are especially looking for people to join us for our upcoming 'Lessons and Carols' on December 15-16. This is a short holiday commitment. Please considering joining us – there is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering area or just show up for rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00. We'd love to have you.

Something new this year...we invite all of you talented "closet" singers or instrumentalists to sign up for a time you'd like sing or play once, once a month, or as often as you like. Soloists, duets, families, friends, and youth of all ages are welcome to fill in where we need special music, and the Christmas season is a great time to volunteer. We will work with you to pick music and arrange a practice time.

We are putting together a youth choir for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders for Christmas Eve special music at the 1:00 p.m. service. Look for a display with details and a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Roberta Golden or Ardy Kreuter



**"God's Work. Our Hands" - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God's love in our community.**

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## ***Supporting Our Missions***

### **Let's Ring Those Bells!**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Our Savior's will ring bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign on Saturday, December 1 and Saturday, December 15, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Neenah Shopko store. Sign-up posters are in the Gathering Area at church. If you have questions, please contact Bob Vogt at 725-6993.

### **2019 Guatemala Trip**

Our Savior's is sending a group of 13 people to Guatemala to build two homes for very deserving families. The dates are March 23-31, 2019. Please keep this group in your prayers and we ask you to continue your generous support as they make preparations to go.

### **Last Call For Christmas Cookie Sale**

*Enjoy the holidays without the stress and leave the baking to us!* Pre-order a variety of delicious, homemade Christmas cookies by December 2, then pick up your order on December 15 and 16. Orders must be pre-paid. See the display in the Gathering Area. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the 2019 Guatemala mission trip.

### **Beat the Blahs with BINGO**

Our Guatemala mission group is having a B-I-N-G-O party on Saturday, January 26 at Cedar's Bar & Grill. Mark your calendar and come for food and drinks, bingo, prizes and MORE to support our Guatemala mission work!

### **Chili Supper Yard Signs**

Please return your Chili Supper yard sign to the church ASAP. We re-use them every year and want to make sure we've got enough for next year. Thank you for helping to advertise this community event.

## **An Invitation from Mission Quilters - Please Join Us!**

We welcome anyone who wishes to help our mission of making quilts. We currently have fabric to cut and sew into tops and backs, then we assemble and tie the quilts on our frames. Sewing skills are not required. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt!

In years past, we've sent as many as 150 quilts per year to Lutheran World Services for distribution to those in need. This year, unfortunately, our attendance has dropped off, and only 68 quilts were made and sent. Each one is lovingly made by our very special volunteers who meet twice a month in the church gym. Come and see how much fun we have. It does a heart good! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped our quilting mission in 2018!

We meet in the church gym on the first Thursday of each month from 1pm-4pm; and on the third Thursday from 9am-noon in the church gym. Upcoming dates include:

December 6, 1-4 p.m.

December 20. 9 a.m. to noon

January 3, 2019, 1-4 p.m.

January 17, 9 a.m. to noon

## Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on December 8 and 22. Come and join us. All men welcome.

## OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

December 6, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

December 20, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

## Retirees and Friends

The date for our annual Christmas Dinner is on December 11, 2018, at the church. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area in a few weeks with the details.

## Need a Greeting Card?

Check out the card kiosk in the Gathering Area for Holiday cards. Sponsored by the Women of the church Card Ministry.

## Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Worship Services will be held on  
December 24 at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.  
and  
December 25 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Note: The church office will be closed on December 24 and 25 and also on December 31 and January 1.**

***The staff of Our Savior's would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season!***

## Upcoming Family Events

*Caroling to the Homebound* on Sunday, December 2. Meet at the church at 3:45 p.m.

*Decorating the church and trees* on Friday, December 7 starting at 5:30 p.m. Supper will be provided.

Sign up for either of these events when the clipboards come around during church or in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Ardy Kreuter

## Great Christmas Gift Idea!

If you're looking to buy gift cards as Christmas gifts this year, the OSLC Scrip Program is here for you! We have gift cards for popular stores and restaurants in stock. If we don't have what you want in stock, we can order what you'd like in time for Christmas giving. Stop by the Scrip table in the Gathering Area on December 1 and 2 to get your cards and/or place your order. You may also call us at 751-3725 and we'd be happy to deliver to your home. **100% of the profits from sales go to pay down the OSLC debt.** —Neal & Sue Schultz

## Annual Reports

COUNCIL MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND STAFF – Please submit your annual report to Kasey Konkle at [kkonkle@our-saviors.org](mailto:kkonkle@our-saviors.org) by no later than December 31.

## 2018 Contributions

All contributions must be received in the church office or post-marked by December 31 to be included on your 2018 giving statements. Contributions not meeting these guidelines will be credited to 2019.

## FVLH News

Thanks to all who helped with Fox Valley Lutheran Home's Live Auction and with our Fall Appeal. Both projects are going to raise funds for our much needed new roof what will hopefully be going up this month! Our auction was beautiful with wonderful quilts and great sports and art items. Thanks to all who donated, helped, and supported in any way. Our Fall Appeal is still on-going, so if you haven't replied yet, it isn't too late! Send in your donation and it will be warmly welcomed!

***We once again have two vacancies at Linwood Place Apartments, a 2-bedroom and a 1-bedroom apartment. Call Becky at 734-7225 to make an appointment to see either apartment. They won't last long. Come join our family at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes!***

This next year is our "Silver and Gold" year! FVLH observes its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and our building turns 50 years old! We have lots of special things planned! Thanks to the volunteers from the many congregations who help keep Fox Valley Lutheran Homes and Linwood Place going! We couldn't do it without you!

## Fall Congregational Meeting Election Results

Thank you to all who attended our Fall Congregational Meeting on November 4, 2018. These are the election results from that meeting:

### Church Council:

Graham Bradley, Ben Lochner, Sue Schultz (3-year terms); Joan Terry (1-year term)

### Delegates:

Crossways Camps: Jerry and Kim Jannusch

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes: Ken and Doris Schmidt

Synod Assembly: Sue Schultz (elected) and Ken Schmidt (volunteered after meeting)

Please keep these OSLC representatives in your prayers and let them know that you appreciate their willingness to serve.

## A Message From Your H.O.P.E. Team

***What are the Holiday Blues?*** The Holiday Blues are temporary feelings of anxiety or depression during the holidays that can be associated with extra stress, unrealistic expectations or even memories that accompany the season. You might feel fatigue, tension, frustration, loneliness or isolation, sadness or a sense of loss.

If you experience the Holiday Blues, you're not alone. In a survey, 64% say they are affected and 24% say the holidays affect them a lot. Here are a few tips to help you avoid the Holiday Blues:

- Stick to your normal routine as much as possible, get enough sleep.
- Take time for yourself, but don't isolate yourself. Spend time with supportive, caring people.
- Eat and drink in moderation. Don't drink alcohol if you are feeling down.
- Get exercise – even if it's only taking a short walk.
- Make a to-do list and keep things simple.
- Set reasonable expectations for holiday activities such as shopping, cooking, entertaining, attending parties or sending holiday cards.
- Set a budget for holiday activities. Don't overextend yourself financially in buying presents.
- Listen to music or find other ways to relax.

***REMEMBER: The Holiday Blues are short-term, so be patient and take things day by day.***

*(Article info is from NAMI.org)*

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people."  
~ Luke 2:10

## Generous People...

*So Many Reasons to be Grateful*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU...

... to the numerous volunteers who worked or donated items to make this year's Chili Supper a success.

We also want to thank everyone who supported this event by coming to eat. We served over 250 people and sold 100 quarts of chili-to-go.

## Generous Congregation...

Unified Budget YTD Through October

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$363,333.33	\$308,043.44
Expenses	<u>\$363,214.77</u>	<u>\$362,855.98</u>
	\$ 118.56	(\$ 54,812.54)

## Special Offerings ...

*Noisy Coin*

Hams  
\$ 599.21

## Memorials Received...

**A special thank you to those who remembered**

*Don Prahl*

## Building Fund...

Through October

Remaining on Loan	\$365,036.55
Principal Paid on Loan	\$126,545.83
Total Contributions	\$180,777.18
Billed on Loan	\$ 32,189.80
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 94,356.03

