

The Star Newsletter November 2014

One Body...Many Parts...One Mission

ONE BODY....MANY PARTS....ONE MISSION is the theme of our Ad Hoc Stewardship Committee's program to try to improve our percentage of weekly church attendance. As a growing congregation, our percentage of weekly church attendance has fallen to around 40% of our church membership in church each week. We need to work on improving this together! As a church family we want to make more frequent use of the Means of Grace, God's Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion, for our own strengthening in faith, and also, as an encouragement to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to do the same.

We are all joined into ONE BODY by the Holy Spirit's power at work through the Word of God and by Holy Baptism. There God took us, unworthy sinners, who did not deserve to be a part of Christ's body. In fact who were like the dirt under our fingernails, the grease on our hands and the stench of our feet, and never had a right to be attached to such a holy, pure and glorious Body as the Body of Christ. He cleansed us from our sins and made important parts of his Body, the Holy Christian Church. *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."* There is One Body, and we are now a part of it.

Jesus Christ is the Head of this body. Just as our brain directs the movements of all of our body's parts, so we take our direction, receive our instructions, are given our mission and are inspired to carry it out from Christ, our Head. Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

"Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." We

receive our instructions from our Head, our Lord Jesus, here in our Worship Services. We are fed the nourishing Word of God and strengthened by his Holy Supper to carry out his saving work in all the world. We are reminded continually by God's Word of our need to stay connected to our Head, our Lord Jesus, and to each use our gifts in service to him as the MANY PARTS of his body. Worship is vitally important for the preservation of our faith. It fuels us to live our lives to God's glory and to be about his saving work. God has a purpose and a plan also for you in his glorious body and here at Star of Bethlehem.

We also are greatly encouraged when we worship our God faithfully each week together with our fellow believers. God caused to be written by inspiration of the Holy

Spirit: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Now our Lord wants to use you to help spread his kingdom further from our backyards to our community and throughout the entire world. We've got a great deal of work still ahead of us as we work together in this ONE MISSION!



GROW - GO - GLOW

Grow - In faith through the Word of God for a lifetime
Go - With the Gospel from backyard to community to the world
Glow - Through weekly worship and in daily lives to God's glory

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS, ONE MISSION

This has been our theme in our Worship Services and Bible Classes for the past 2 weekends. These special Services and Bible Classes will be followed by several group meetings here at church to consider the significance of our regular church attendance. Every confirmed member of our congregation is invited and encouraged to attend one of the 7 presentations. The gatherings will be held:

Saturday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 2nd at 11:45 a.m.
Monday, November 3rd at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 5th at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 9th at 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m.

The main portion of the presentation is a professionally-done video by our members and staff on the significance and benefits from faithful use of the Means of Grace, God's Word and Sacraments. Each meeting will be an hour or less, and babysitting will be made available for those who need it! Refreshments will also be provided.

If you have already signed up for one of the meetings, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please take the time right now to sign up online using the [LINK](#) we have at [starofbethlehem.org](#). It should take less than 30 seconds to complete.

You are important to the Body of Christ! That is why we want to see you not only at weekend worship, but also at one of these special meetings. Please join us.

Generous Offerings

We are very quickly approaching the end of another calendar year of God's grace and a year filled with many blessings, both physical and spiritual, temporal and eternal from our gracious God. As we recall and recount many of these undeserved gifts with Thanksgiving approaching, let us also consider how we may return proportionate amounts of our material blessings to express our gratitude to our all-loving God for them. Most of all, we thank him for the sacrifice of his Son so that we might enjoy the free gift of eternal life. We have a good amount of work to do yet in the coming weeks to achieve the 2014 budget of Mission and Ministry goals that we set out to undertake at the beginning of the year. Two of those goals were striving to get our called workers up to minimum levels of salaries according to the Synod suggested code for all called workers, and to increase our support to our affiliated agencies, primarily our Synod Mission subscription and our support for Wisconsin Lutheran High School, by 12% above the previous year. May the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas encourage and inspire all of us to do what we can to ensure that our Mission and Ministry goals are met, and even exceeded!

Choirs Coming to Star!

The Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir will be here to enhance our Services on November 2. The Luther Prep Choir will be here on November 16. The Wisconsin Lutheran High School A *Capella* Choir will be here on December 7. Please join us on these special weekends. Also, please invite others to join us as these choirs glorify God and uplift us in Word and Song.



We will be serving refreshments for these choirs and their families between Services.

Spiritual Growth

Pastor Joel Gerlach will be here to begin our next topic in our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class on Nov. 2, at 9:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. "**Facing Life's Issues with a Biblical Perspective**" is his timely topic. Pastor Gerlach, now retired, has served on the Seminary Faculty, as California District Mission Counselor, and in numerous parishes throughout his ministry. Please join us in our ABC for his timely presentations throughout the month of November. Come early for good coffee and great fellowship prior to each presentation.

Thanksgiving Services

Two Thanksgiving Services will be conducted. One is on Wednesday night, November 26, at 6:30 p.m. The other one is on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at 9:30 a.m. Join us as we contemplate the Lord's abundant blessings for our bodies and our souls throughout another year. Join us as we united our hearts and voices in singing: "O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, and his love endures forever!"



Seniors' Meeting

Our next Senior meeting will be on Tuesday, November 25, at 6:00 p.m. Representatives from the Heritage Funeral Home here in New Berlin, represented by Tim Johnson, one of our WELS members, will speak on the importance of Pre-planning for ourselves and our loved ones. Soup and sandwiches will be our menu. Bring some or your favorite sandwiches or a dessert to share. Join us for this or any of our senior activities. All members, 55 and over, drivers, spouses, guests are welcome to join us.

Food Barrels

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, we are again collecting non-perishable food items, for our own Food Pantry, and also, for any needy families who utilize the food pantry at Southside Lutheran Ministries. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



Food Committee

If you want to assist our Food Committee with planning, preparing or serving for any of our functions, please sign the sheet on the credenza next to the bulletin board. Thanks to our Food Committee for doing a great job year-round for all of our congregation's food service needs.



Parsonage to be Sold

At the congregational meeting (10/26) the voters approved selling the Kingsway Drive parsonage. The

parsonage will become excess in mid-November when the Nitz family moves to their own home. If you know of a family that maybe interested in purchasing a 3 bedroom, bath and a half colonial in the Regal Manor subdivision of New Berlin please have them contact Cal Patterson 262-549-5603 for further details. The property will be listed in mid-November.

Banners

Are you creative, enjoy working with your hands, and like seeing the fruits of your efforts for years to come? Then we have an opportunity for you to not only do these things, but add to the Star worship experience as well as a member of the Banner Committee. If interested or if you would like more information please contact Brad Abel at (262)785-1567.

FLOWERS

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity with a well-defined time commitment? We are looking for someone to help coordinate the altar flowers each week. Time required is less than half an hour most weeks, with slightly more required the weeks of Christmas and Easter. If interested or if you would like more information please contact Brad Abel at (262)785-1567..



Worship Suggestions

If you have suggestions for improving the worship experience at Star of Bethlehem please fill out a Worship Suggestion form and place it in the Worship Suggestion box. Both the forms and the box are located just outside of the sanctuary near the usher's credenza.

Readying Parsonage For Sale

Some work needs to be done in preparation for the sale of the parsonage. The main task is to freshen up the interior painting. The plan is to repaint the parsonage during the 18th, 19th and 20th of November with carpet cleaning on the 21st. Other tasks that need to be done include: dry wall repairs, glass repair, shrub trimming and yard cleaning. Contact Cal Patterson 262-549-5603 indicating what you would like to do and when you are available to help!

TOMORROW'S CHOICE

Our WELS Lutherans for Life Branch in Waukesha, called "Tomorrow's Choice," is always looking for items to distribute to needy children and families. We will be collecting baby diapers and wipes throughout the month of November. Place your donations in the "Pack and Play" near the Mother's Room in the Gathering Area. Diapers sized 3, 4 and 5 are most needed. Your donations will be taken to the "Tomorrow's Choice" Center in Waukesha at the end of November. Please contact Vicky Alf if you have any questions.



We welcome Nathan Lenz to our Star of Bethlehem family this month. May the Lord bless your growth in faith and walk with our Savior among us!

Congratulations!

The following were baptized during the month: Henry William Gagnon, son of Matthew and Heather Gagnon, was baptized at Star of Bethlehem on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Logan Ryan Schwartz, son of Michael and Brooke Schwartz, was baptized at Star of Bethlehem on Sunday, September 28, 2014. Jenna Elaine Urban, daughter of Christopher and Tricia Urban, was baptized at Star of Bethlehem on Sunday, September 28, 2014. Aliana Rose Lindenstruth, daughter of Cassandra Lindenstruth and Zachary Miller, was baptized on Sunday, October 5, 2014. Levi Jordan Belter, son of Jeremy and Melissa Belter, was baptized at Star of Bethlehem on Sunday, October 19. Hunter Steven Smokovich, son of Stephanie and Steven Smokovich, was baptized at Star of Bethlehem on Sunday, October 26. May the Lord keep all of these precious lambs in his loving arms throughout life to life everlasting!



Plant a Healing Garden -- In Your House!

These 3 good-for-you plants are surprisingly easy to grow.

Submitted by Susan Abel, BSN, RN, Parish Nurse

Aloe Vera

Healing property: *Treats cuts.* Snip into the fleshy leaf of this plant and you'll discover a gel that speeds healing of minor cuts, soothes sunburned skin, and might lessen scarring. Care

tip: cut the small inner leaves off at the base, allowing the large outer ones to grow.

Lavender

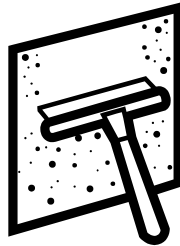
Healing property: *Brings the zzz's.* This herb's fragrance can calm your frazzled nerves and encourage deep, restorative sleep, studies show. Try the Goodwin Creek Grey variety -- it maintains a dense, compact form, perfect for a small pot. Care tip: snipping the blooms will encourage more to grow. Lavender likes dry soil, too.

Gerbera Daisy

Healing property: *Cleans the air.* This colorful plant helps purge your air of toxic pollutants like formaldehyde and benzene, which are found in many household items and can aggravate asthma and cause dizziness and headaches. Plus, a potted gerbera will brighten any room with splashes of color (they come in vibrant hues like yellow, pink, and orange. Care tip: Fertilize monthly for more flowers.

Church Cleaning

There is a signup sheet posted on the church bulletin board for people to assist with the weekly cleaning of the church. You can also sign up [ONLINE](https://www.starofbethlehem.org) at [starofbethlehem.org](https://www.starofbethlehem.org), on the Our Church page, under Calendars. Please check the schedule. Any volunteer assistance is greatly appreciated! It also keeps our facilities looking good for a favorable first impression for any visitors or guests. Thanks so much for your assistance!



TEACH ENGLISH IN JAPAN!

Would you like to get involved in long-term international mission work in a place where there is a desperate need to share the gospel? We have an opportunity for you! Kingdom Workers, in partnership with Grace Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church in Japan, is looking for qualified teachers to teach English in Japan for one to two years. Kingdom Workers: Japan will spread the gospel message by working in member-ministry with Grace Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church through Bible-focused activities for kids and English classes for all ages. Kingdom Workers volunteers will also work full-time as English teaching assistants in a local elementary or junior high public school or a university while helping with outreach activities at the church. Grace Lutheran is part of the Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (LECC) - In fellowship with the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference of which the WELS and ELS are members. If you are interested in teaching in Japan, [\[APPLY HERE\]](#), or contact Laura Harstad at 262-955-4643, or email her at lharstad@kingdomworkers.com.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A new Bible Study for women will be held on Thursdays, at 1:00 p.m., beginning on Nov. 6. The study will run for 7 weeks. "The Best Yes," a book by Lysa TerKeurst, will be the first topic.

Christian Funeral Services

It pleased Almighty God to call out of this life to himself in heaven the soul of Michael Salentine. A Christian Funeral Service was conducted at the Hartson Funeral Home in Muskego on September 24, 2014.

God also took to himself in heaven the soul of Marilyn Reiske. A Christian Funeral Service was conducted at Krause Funeral Home in New Berlin on October 25, 2014.

May the Lord comfort those who mourn with the blessed hope of a joyous reunion in heaven.

WLHS 21st Anniversary Veterans Day Observance

Wisconsin Lutheran High School and its students invite you to attend the 21st annual Veterans Day celebration on Tuesday, November 11. Servicemen and women are invited to a complimentary breakfast buffet that will be served in the WLHS cafeteria at 7:00 a.m. To RSVP for the breakfast, please complete the form enclosed in the bulletin or contact Cindy Kucera at cindy.kucera@wlhs.org or 414-453-4567 ext 2004.

Everyone is invited to the special Veterans Day presentation in the main gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. with guest speakers Pastor Mark Jeske and WLHS alumnus Col Johnny Davis, 80th Commander of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. The presentation will also be streamed live online the day of the event. For more information go to www.wlhs.org.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is closed during Christmas break and the international students living in the student housing on campus need a home for the holidays from **Tuesday, December 23 until Saturday, January 4**. Consider opening your home to share Christ's love to our students from different countries. Compensation is given to help cover the cost of food for the student(s) staying in your home during this time. For more information, please contact April Goldschmidt (april.goldschmidt@wlhs.org) or Micah Ricke (micah.ricke@wlhs.org).

CHORAL CONCERT

The Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee will hold its annual **Prelude to Christmas** concert on **Sunday, November 30 at 2:00 & 4:30 p.m.** at Abiding Word Lutheran Church (formerly Gloria Dei-Bethesda) located at 9420 W. Capitol Dr. in Milwaukee. 15 minutes of organ music will precede the concert which will also have instrumental accompaniments and congregational singing. The Lutheran Chorale is a choir of 60 voices directed by Mary Prange and accompanied by Lynn Kozlowski.

WLHS Open House

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is holding its Open House on Sunday, November 2, beginning with an opening presentation at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 8:00 p.m. Grade school parents and students, please join us to meet teachers, tour the school, and enjoy student presentations. See what a difference academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment can make in your child's life. All grades are welcome!