

Network



Volume 2, Issue 26

December 22, 2011

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS — *Pastor Craig & Pastor John*



Seeing is believing. At least that's what many people think. Thomas, one of the twelve, doubted the news when he was not present to see the resurrected Jesus. "Unless I **see**, I will not believe."

In John's gospel, Philip invited Nathaniel to believe that the Messiah had come and was calling disciples to follow him. "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Can anything good come out of Nazareth?, Nathaniel asked. "Come and **see**."

In response to the angelic visit in the fields, shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and **see** this thing that the Lord has made known to us." Joseph, a descendant of David had come to Bethlehem from Nazareth where the virgin to whom he was engaged gave birth to a son, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

The prophet Isaiah declares the promise of God with words that are assuring and comforting, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." These words are preface to the gospel story from Luke on Christmas Eve. The connection between the prophets who announce God's plan of good news and the words of the angel to the shepherds echo in our hearts as we learn of good news of great joy for all people. "To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." These are not only hope-filled words, they are words that speak of fulfillment of a promise, God's promise, an everlasting promise that God will provide a Savior who will bring peace for the sake of the world. The message of these words are just as encouraging in our time as they were to those who heard the news for the first time. Once again, you are invited to open your heart to the news of the birth of a Savior who brings good news for us to **see**. Will the news of Jesus born for you cause you to believe and cause you to praise God for all you have heard and **seen** as told to you? To you is born, a Savior! Rejoice! Christ is born, for you! We share this exciting news with the prophets, the shepherds, the disciples and all whose lives are touched by the love of Jesus. May the good news of Jesus be renewed in your hearts and lives and may your response cause others to **see** what God in Christ is doing among us.

Together, we wish each of you a very blessed Christmas and a new year filled with opportunities of telling and sharing God's love through the Savior, Christ the Lord!

The life and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church shall be open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by *worship, learning, witness and service.*

— From Mission Statement



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www.salc-wausau.org



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Thursdays
Sundays

12:15 and 6:15 pm
8:00 and 10:30 am

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY

John's gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

NAME OF JESUS—JAN. 1

From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were "Christ-ened" at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

ACTIVITIES



Christmas Worship Services

December 24, Christmas Eve

- 4 pm - Children's Worship
- 6 pm - Candlelight Worship *
- 8 pm - Candlelight Worship*
- 10 pm - Candlelight Worship

December 25, Christmas Day

- 10 am - Worship
- *Nursery will be staffed

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar to attend the SALC annual meeting scheduled for **Sunday, January 29 at 9:10 am.**

Celebration Patio Pavers

Remember a loved one this Christmas with a Celebration Patio Paver in honor or memory of them. Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or in the church office.

"Christ In Our Home" Devotionals

The 2012 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are now available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

Altar Flowers for 2012

Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Sign up on the 2012 Flower Chart on the kiosk in the Narthex.

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, January 17, 2-7 p.m.

Mark your calendar to assist the American Red Cross Blood Drive at SALC. Appointments can now be made by calling the church office or visiting the American Red Cross website, redcrossblood.org. Not interested in donating? Perhaps you are willing to volunteer time to help with registration, refreshments or other support. Please call the church office at (715)842-3333 to express your willingness to help.



THANK YOU...

A heartfelt thank you to all those who have helped make SALC especially beautiful during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season:

- to all who have donated their time and materials to decorate the church building both inside and outside;
- to all who have donated their time and gifts for the Community RECONNECT Sunday;
- to all who have donated food, monetary contributions or time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

Thank you!!

ASSISTING with WORSHIP

December 24

<p>Ushers 4 pm - A Team 6 pm - B Team 8 pm - Brekke Team 10 pm - Weidman Team</p> <p>Layreaders 6 pm - Dan Malm 8 pm - Jonnie Malm 10 pm - Ray Skare</p> <p>Altar Guild Team 3: Cindy Brenner Carmen Siegel Vicki Porter</p>	<p>Lectionary Readings Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</p>
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December 25

Ushers
 Johnson Team

Layreader
 Lucy Harvey

Altar Guild
 Team 3: Cindy Brenner
 Carmen Siegel
 Vicki Porter

Lectionary Readings
 Isaiah 62:6-12
 Psalm 97
 Titus 3:4-7
 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

January 1

Ushers
 Shepherd Team

Layreader

Altar Guild
 Team 4: Joyce Schoepke
 Sue McFaul
 Jodi Gargulak

Fellowship

Lectionary Readings
 Numbers 6:22-27
 Psalm 8
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:15-21

GOOD STEWARDS—Learn from the Geese *(from the book entitled Generous Givers by Eugene Grimm)*

Fact: As a goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71 percent more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: Christian people share a common direction and sense of community. Churches can get where they are going more quickly and easily if they travel upon the thrust of one another.

Fact: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure that our “honking from behind” is encouraging rather than critical.

Application: The gifts of God’s people are best reflected when shared in common with the blessings of others. Thank you to the many who have been generous in responding to requests for food items, and willingness to share time, talent and financial support to the work of Christ’s church. Your witness is encouraging and valued!

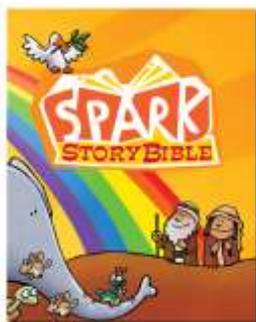
CHRISTMAS AND SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Since Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year please remember to give your offerings for both Christmas Eve/Day and Sunday at the service that you attend. Thank you.

YEAR-END OFFERINGS

With the year-end approaching, the church looks to close the books and anticipate another year of ministry. Along with that comes the question whether promised pledges will be fulfilled or not for the sake of current and future ministry needs. It may also be time to look for tax-advantaged opportunities to save money on your 2010 tax returns. One often over-looked method is your financial support through your offerings and contributions. Contributions to Saint Andrew not only help the church meet its needs, but may actually save you tax dollars. If you are not current with your pledges, please give consideration to fulfilling in full or in part your pledged commitment.

SPARKS STORY BIBLES



If you're still looking for that perfect gift for a special child, the SPARKS Story Bible may just be the answer. They are available for

\$15-just call or stop by the church office to get your copy.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULES

Church School

*No church school - Thursdays, December 22 and 29
Sundays, December 25 and January 1
Church school resumes - Thursday, January 5
Sunday, January 8*

Sunday Evening Bible Study

*No bible study - Sundays, December 25 or January 1
Bible study resumes - Sunday, January 8*

Confirmation Classes Resume

6-8 Grade Confirmation - Wednesday, January 4



Time and Talent Opportunities to SUPPORT the Mission

- Support the American Red Cross Blood Drive at SALC-see pg. 2 for more information.
- A great way to *recycle your paper*-drop your recyclable paper in the *Magic Paper Box* in the West Parking Lot.
- Prayer requests are welcome through the *Prayer Center* in the sanctuary and will be acknowledged weekly in worship.

Parish Staff

Rev. John Roseth, *Pastor*
Rev. Craig Swenson, *Pastor*
Everett Schmidt, *Coordinator of Youth*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Ron Sandquist, *Sexton*

NETWORK Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the *January 5* Network is: **Wednesday, December 28.**

Open to All



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Dated material -
Please deliver
by Saturday

At Saint Andrew—December 25 - January 7

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 am **WORSHIP**

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

7:00 pm AA & Alanon

Tuesday, December 27

9:00 am *Mtg:* Reading Reflections

Thursday, December 29

12:15 pm **WORSHIP**

No Church School

6:15 pm **WORSHIP**

Friday, December 30

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 1

10:00 am **WORSHIP**

Monday, January 2

7:00 pm AA & Alanon

7:00 pm Dartball at Good Shepherd

Tuesday, January 3

9:00 am *Mtg:* Reading Reflections

Wednesday, January 4

6:15 pm *Reh:* Chancel Choir

7:45 pm *Reh:* Bell Choir

Thursday, January 5

12:15 pm **WORSHIP**

5:30 pm Church School

6:15 pm **WORSHIP**