

Network



Volume 3, Issue 25

December 6, 2012

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS by *Pastor Craig*

A manger! Really? A manger? Jesus was laid in a manger?

Yes, Jesus the Savior of the world was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. That sounds chaotic, crowded, confusing and just impractical. It sounds too bazaar to imagine, let alone believe.

"I'm going to play the part of a donkey! Really? You want me to act out a part in the telling of the Christmas story and you want me to be a donkey?" Yes, a donkey, a camel, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper and an angel. Mixed with that, music from musicians who show up to create a haphazard band with a brief and impromptu rehearsal the Sunday before or some even no rehearsal at all. That sounds chaotic, crowded, confusing and just impractical. It sounds too bazaar to imagine, let alone believe.

But that's what happens on Christmas Eve at Saint Andrew. "Visit the Manger" is a crazy and fun way of telling the Christmas story in a way that resembles a family drawn together to sing and re-enact one of the most beloved stories from the whole Bible. If tradition repeats itself, the sanctuary will be standing room only. Those who gather are fair game to be asked to help act out the story, given a simple costume and a script for their character. Some people travel from great distances to be with family for this event as regulars in the play. I have been asked whether or not we will continue this tradition and my response is, "Absolutely!". The play, the band, even the puppets. Count on an evening filled with opportunities to participate in the retelling of the amazing story of Jesus' birth. Following this first service, many assist in a transition to make way for the next two services which include chancel and handbell choirs, liturgy with Holy Communion and the favorite for many, singing Silent Night by candlelight. It is a night of wonder and beauty centered around the joy of celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise to break into our world with a living presence of love, hope, joy and peace.

It really is a beautiful night that is difficult to describe but can only be appreciated through firsthand experience. So if you are able, plan to attend one of the four Christmas Eve celebrations where we will turn our focus on the child in a manger who now meets us in our assembly through word and sacrament, through singing, praying, laughing and rejoicing. Christ the Savior is born! Come and see, then go and tell what God has done and continues to do among us. Blessed Christmas!

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4 pm **"Visit the Manger"**
6 & 8 pm **Candlelight worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs**
10 pm **Candlelight Worship with Special Music**

Christmas Day, December 25

- 10 am **Christmas Day Worship**



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-



3200 N Moutain Road
Wausau, WI 54401-7275
715.842.3333 (FEED)
www.salc-wausau.org



ACTIVITIES

Ministry Night and Tree Decorating

All are welcome to participate in the ministry of their choice on Ministry Night. Come and see how your time and talent can help serve in the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew.

All are also welcome to participate in decorating the sanctuary Christmas tree and enjoy some Christmas fellowship following ministry meetings, about 8 pm, whether or not you attend the ministry meetings.

Give the Gift of Blood

Thursday, December 13, 1-6 pm

Saint Andrew will be the sight of a blood drive in support of the American Red Cross. Donors can give blood every 56 days. The time for donations will be from 1-6 pm. Not interested in donating? Perhaps you are willing to volunteer time to help with registration, refreshments or other support. Mark your calendar now and call the church office to express your willingness to help.



Christmas Baskets

Can you help those families less fortunate? The following items are now being accepted for holiday food baskets: hams, vegetables, pie crusts and monetary donations. Baskets will be assembled on Saturday, December 15. If you know someone who needs a basket please call the church office by December 12 at 715-842-3333.

Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Sign up on the 2013 Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

"Christ In Our Home" Devotionals

The 2013 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are now available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

2013 SALC PHOTO DIRECTORY ONLINE SIGN-UP

With the assistance of Life Touch Studios, a NEW Saint Andrew photo directory will be published for 2013. **Online sign-up is now available** to conveniently schedule your photo session Tuesday-Fridays from 2-9 pm and Saturdays from 9:30 am-4 pm the weeks of January 22nd, 29th and February 5th, 2013. There is a link on the home page of the Saint Andrew website salc-wausau.org. If you plan to be gone during this time frame, please call to learn how a photo can still be included. There is no sitting fee—in thanks for your participation you will receive a free 8x10 portrait and complimentary photo directory with other discounts available for purchases.

This project is supported by volunteer efforts in various ways. Time commitments are short and can be scheduled at your convenience. If you would be willing to assist with appointment registration or help with the directory layout please contact the church office at 715-842-3333 or shelby@salc-wausau.org.

GIFTS FOR "GIVING"

Looking for something to "give" this Christmas that will also "give back"? Here are a few suggestions:

SPARK Story Bibles-available at SALC

SALC Patio Pavers-order forms available in the Narthex or at SALC office

ELCA Good Gifts-elca.org or 1-800-638-3522

ASSISTING with WORSHIP

December 9

Ushers

Brekke Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Joleen Meier
10:30 am - Linda Vogen

Altar Guild

Team 6: Stephanie Wage
Patty Marceille
Julie Weller

Fellowship

8:00 am - Jim & Diane
VanEyck
10:30 am - Carrie Clemment &
Sandra Fischer

Greeters

8:00 am - Larry & Annette
Bindl

10:30 am - David & Susan
Paisar

Nursery

10:30 am - Nate & Stephanie
Birchler

Lectionary Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Ushers

Weidman Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Mike Spalding
10:30 am - Susan Paisar

Altar Guild

Team 2: Donna Peth
Joleen Meier
Ann McDonald

Fellowship

8:00 am - Shawn & Debby
Geary
10:30 am - Renee Schroeder,
Dennis Klockziem & Lois

Irick

Greeters

8:00 am - Jim & Pixie Tipple
10:30 am - Amy Frolik &
Rosetta Ahles

Nursery

10:30 am - Ken & Jess Bloom

Lectionary Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

GOOD STEWARDS



Thank you to all who have shared responses through Time and Talent and Pledge Commitment for the next calendar year. Your generous intentions will be added into the church software and used to help you participate and support the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew more fully. You should have received a letter recently that highlights this information and encourages you to consider a year-end gift both as a catch-up on your annual pledge and as a tax advantage to your 2012 tax return. Please take a

moment to review the letter and use the information to guide your year-end contributions.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND YOUTH UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Church School

No Church School Classes - Sundays, December 23 & 30; Thursdays, December 20 & 27.

Family Tubing Event - January 13, 2012

Wausau area Lutheran Church Family winter tubing event at Sylvan Hills.

Grades 3-5 Retreat-ALL NEW - January 18 & 19

A retreat only for Saint Andrew youth at Waypost Camp, Hatley. Cost is \$25/person. Registration forms are due January 6, 2013.

Youth

Senior High Youth Monthly Meeting

Note: there will be no December meeting. The monthly meetings will resume on Sunday, January 27 at 6:30 pm.

Youth Broomball - January, 2013

Broomball for Junior and Senior High Youth.

Family Tubing Event - January 13, 2012

Wausau area Lutheran Church Family winter tubing event at Sylvan Hills.

Confirmation Classes take a break-the last confirmation class before Christmas is Wednesday, December 12.

Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2013.

Boundary Waters Trip - July 7-13, 2013

For students in 9-12 grades. Watch for more information coming soon!

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS: COME, HEAR, AND SING THE STORY!

During advent there are several opportunities to hear the Christmas story. We hear the Christmas story on TV or at a Christmas concert. We see nativity sets on lawns and in our homes. We gather for worship on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This year, I'd like to invite you to consider coming and hearing the Christmas story during two special times.

On Thursday, December 13th, 5:15-6 pm, the Thursday church school children, families and teachers will gather together for a special time of remembering the story and singing Christmas carols.

On Sunday, December 16th, 9:30 am (between worship services), the Sunday church school children will share Christmas songs that they've learned and share a brief program called *The ABC Christmas Story*. Come, hear, and sing the story!

— Pastor Jenn

SNOW POLICY

If school is cancelled, Saint Andrew classes & meetings will be also.

Listen to local radio stations, check the SALC website or Facebook page, or News Channels 7 & 9 websites for the list of school closings.





Time and Talent Opportunities to SUPPORT the Mission

- Christmas Hams - more information on page 2.
- Give the gift of blood at the SALC Blood Drive - see page 2 for details.
- Volunteer your time to assist in creating the 2013 SALC Photo Directory - find the details on page 2.
- Sanctuary Tree Decorating - see page 2 for details.
- 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. Craig Swenson, *Pastor*
 Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
 Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Pastor*
 Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*
 Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
 Matt Seegert, *Coordinator of Christian Education*
 Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
 Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
 Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
 Jared Gjertson, *Sexton*

NETWORK Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for the December 20 Network is: Wednesday, December 12.

Open to All



3200 N. Mountain Road
 Wausau, WI 54401-7275

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Dated material -
 Please deliver
 by Saturday

At Saint Andrew—December 9-22

Sunday, December 9

8:00 am **WORSHIP**
 9:15 am Church School
 10:30 am **WORSHIP**
 11:30 am *Reh:* Children's Choir
 11:45 am Gingerbread Village/
 Cookie Exchange
 6:30 pm Bible Study

Monday, December 10

7:00 pm AA, Alanon & Alateen
 7:30 pm Dartball @ St. Paul's

Tuesday, December 11

9:00 am Reading Reflections
 10:00 am Quilting Group
 6:30 pm *Mtg:* Ministry Night
 8:00 pm Sanctuary Tree Decorating

Wednesday, December 12

6:15 pm Confirmation Classes
 6:30 pm *Reh:* Chancel Choir
 8:00 pm *Reh:* Handbell Choir

Thursday, December 13

12:15 pm **WORSHIP**
 1-6 pm Blood Drive
 5:30 pm Church School Program
 6:15 pm **WORSHIP**

Friday, December 14

5:00 pm Lay School of Ministry

Saturday, December 15

8:00 am Lay School of Ministry

Sunday, December 16

8:00 am **WORSHIP**
 9:30 am Church School Program
 10:30 am **WORSHIP**
 11:30 am *Reh:* Children's Choir
 6:30 pm Bible Study

Monday, December 17

6:30 pm *Mtg:* Church Council
 7:00 pm AA, Alanon & Alateen
 7:00 pm Dartball vs St. Mark's

Tuesday, December 18

9:00 am Reading Reflections
 10:00 am Quilting for LWR

Wednesday, December 19

No Confirmation Classes
 6:30 pm *Reh:* Chancel Choir
 8:00 pm *Reh:* Handbell Choir

Thursday, December 20

12:15 pm **WORSHIP**
No Church School
 6:15 pm **WORSHIP**