

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church

ETCERA



...Our Mission Continues

Epiphany

We celebrate the Wisemen coming to worship the Christ Child in Bethlehem as the Light that comes to shine upon and embrace the world.



INTERIM PASTOR

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00

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WHAT A BLESSING TO BE HERE AT ADORATION!

I have been ordained for twenty-four years. During those years I have been privileged to serve in campus ministry (at UW-Madison), and on the staff of the former Episcopal Bishop of Milwaukee as his Assistant for Pastoral Care, working with troubled clergy and parishes. As a pastor, I have served a church in Wisconsin Dells that shared the church building with a United Methodist congregation. I have served a church in the central city of Milwaukee that served food and provided care to 300 homeless individuals a day. And I have served a church in River Hills, located in the wealthiest zip code of Wisconsin.

This past year I have served three other churches consecutively in the Greater Milwaukee Synod as either a Bridge Pastor or as an Interim Pastor. It has been a joyful and amazing pastoral ride for me. I love being a Pastor.

Beyond pastoring churches I have some other gifts that I will offer you in these next few months we are together. I am certified as a mediator in Wisconsin, and licensed in Wisconsin and Illinois to practice psychotherapy. I listen well and am glad to listen if you have a story to tell. I love to listen to life stories!

You may have heard that I am certified as an Interim Specialist. Interims have very special roles to play in the life of a church. Our specific ministry is to help a church prepare for the coming of the new Pastor; to work with it in the process of determining its new mission and being able to talk about its strengths and weaknesses. All churches change over time. You have, too. Being able to talk clearly about who you are will help you find a new Pastor that will be a good fit for you.

Beyond working with your Mission Exploration Team (the MET) in your call process, I will have the fun of just loving you, pastoring you, and leading you in worship through these months leading up to the call of our new Pastor. And I will be dependent upon all of you to let me know what you might need.

Before ordination I worked as a clinical social worker and an organizational development specialist. I've worked in medical/geriatric social work, Correctional social work, and industrial social work (think: Employee Assistance Programs, as an example.) In state government I worked for the Departments of Corrections, Natural Resources, and Transportation. I did specialized training to become a quality improvement specialist and, in that capacity, worked at the Wisconsin Lottery right up to two days before I went to seminary! I have had a lush professional career and I am just so very glad that I get to spend this next part of my own journey with you folks at Adoration.

As I said, I will depend upon you to help me know what is most helpful to you in these next months. I am working only three fourths time to help out your budget during this time of call so I need to be efficient with my use of time. I am dependent upon you to tell me if I make a mistake (for surely, mistakes I will make!). I will absolutely assume good will from all of you and hope that you will make the same assumption of me. Please tell me what you think I need to know, more than once if I get it wrong. I am here to serve you and serve our Lord. With God's grace, I hope you will help me to do that well.

With love, Pastor Debra

The role of the Interim Pastor

There is often confusion in a church about interim ministry; that time between called Pastors. Sometimes I hear from folks in the churches I serve in transition between called Pastors, "Isn't your job just to keep the river flowing?"

Part of the role of the interim is, indeed, to keep the parish running. But only part. The other part of the role of the interim is to help prepare the community to call, receive, and engage with a new Pastor. This is a particular challenge in a church following a lengthy pastorate, or a pastorate where there has been conflict.

In general, people don't like change. And when a Pastor leaves lots of feelings get stirred up. Some folks are grieving the loss of the former Pastor. Some are relieved. But all of those feelings happen as people are also having to adjust to a new Pastor in their midst who inevitably, and in some cases intentionally, does things differently.

It is so important that you lovely Adoration members understand that the role of an intentional Interim Pastor (that is: someone who was called to intentionally do interim ministry with you and is trained to do so) is not to irritate you all with meaningless change; but to create places for change to happen, to make space for change. So that when the new Pastor comes, the community is able to embrace and welcome that new Pastor in your midst. In a sense, you get to practice being with and welcoming a new Pastor on your Interim Pastor.

There are some specific tasks that those of us who are specially trained as Interim Pastors are going to be working on with you as we look at your congregational system with you. Some of the tasks are managed quickly, and some obviously take more time. Here is some information for you on those tasks:

"Researchers who have studied the time when a congregation is between pastors have identified the following six developmental tasks as important for an interim congregation to accomplish in order to support the new pastor with renewed enthusiasm and fresh hope. Healthy transition and effective ministry during the interim period are the overall goals of interim ministry.

1. Coming to Terms with History. . . .acting on the realization that the former pastor has departed. . .that the parish family will be different now. . .acknowledging that past as shaping who it is today and yet recognizing that history is only prelude to the present and future.

2. Establishing a New Identity. . . .claiming a new awareness of itself as a congregation independent of the past pastor(s) . . .re-defining who it is now as a family of God.

3. Changes in Leadership. . . .adjusting to new patterns of leadership that naturally evolve when a key individual leaves the organization. . .allowing new leadership to come to the fore constructively.

4. Rethinking Denominational Ties. . . .seeing the Greater Milwaukee Synod as a potential resource and support (rather than as an adversary) . . .using this opportunity to work together.

5. Commitment to New Leadership. . . .preparing to move into the future with openness to the new possibilities that new leadership will bring. . .wholeheartedly supporting the newly-called pastor.

6. Commitment to Special Healing. . . .seeking out and touching (educationally, liturgically, spiritually) the particular places in the congregation that need healing. . .being intentional about healing the pain of past hurts. . .looking clearly at issues that have hurt them in the past so that they don't hold them back in the future. (Taken from "Interim Ministries: An Overview for Church Leaders.")

My own entry into the system of Adoration has been very positive. You have good, healthy leadership and lots of fun and engaged members! I am very grateful to be able to care for you and lead you through this time of transition to a new Pastor.

~Pastor Debra

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the items discussed at the DECEMBER Church Council meeting:

- * Tom Nowakowski read a letter that he was passing on to the council. He stated he would like to donate enough money to cover the church's mortgage for one year. He is donating \$10,164.00 dollars.
- * Pastor Debra would like the council person in charge to pick a chime ringer before service on Sundays.
- * A congregational member has a concern about the "Restricted" funds that are being used for operating expenses. According to the Annual Budget meeting on 11-12-17, it was stated that restricted funds used for operating expenses must be replaced from future operating income. The member wants to know when the council plans to go to the congregation for permission to replace or not replace funds. After a lengthy discussion, the council president will speak to the congregational member about the concern.
- * Pastor Debra will always have an open-door policy for open communication. She will post her weekly schedule for everyone to see.
- * January 2nd there will be no Wednesday evening worship. January 13th and 16th, the Gideon's will be at our church service. January 20th we will observe R.I.C. (Reconciling in Christ) Sunday. We are looking for someone to do a temple talk on R.I.C. Sunday.
- * Financial & Treasurer's Report noted that our expenses are still greater than our income.
- * Dave Krueger will see if we can still have the cracks sealed in the parking lot this late in the year.
- * The Rummage Sale for 2019 will be held May 30th, 31st and June 1st. The brat fry will occur June 1st.
- * The Evangelism team received a lot of feedback from the "Talent" survey.
- * Adoration will start a Book Club. The first meeting will be on January 14th, at 6 p.m. This first date will be a greet and meet and decide how to choose books to read.
- * Tentative pizza/game night, Friday February 8, 2019 held from 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.
- * We are encouraged to look at the church's website, many changes and improvements.
- * The youth had a going away party for Nick and Grace Singleton. Present activities the youth are participating in are: Reverse Advent Calendar and Service Scavenger Hunt.
- * We have received 55 pledge cards, ten households participating in "Simply Giving", for a total of 65 pledges. Total pledged 132,652.00.
- * We Love Our Church auction, this year collected \$2,206.00. Ted Lazaris has asked the council for permission to use \$1,000.00 dollars of this money to purchase some more white tables to replace the old remaining brown tables. Sandy Eigner motioned to give Ted the option to purchase new tables for \$1,000.00. Dave Krueger seconded the motion, motion carried.

For more information on any or all of these items, please check the complete minutes of the meeting posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space - or contact one of your Council representatives.



OUR ADORATION FAMILY



BIRTHDAYS

1/04 Richard Voegeli
 1/06 Crystal Willms
 1/07 Robert Young
 1/08 Larry Farkas
 1/09 Judy Goodwin
 1/09 Kerry Lindahl
 1/09 Rodney Mendini
 1/09 Dolores Prasser
 1/11 Owen Schultz
 1/11 Evan Williams
 1/13 Cliff Krebs
 1/14 Patricia Koch
 1/16 Kim Czerwinski
 1/16 Chris Dudzik
 1/16 Joann Voegeli
 1/17 Lindsay Hagfors
 1/18 Cody Hagfors
 1/20 Zackary Kokalj
 1/20 Joshua Pettke
 1/21 Adam Klimers
 1/24 Robert Yersin
 1/26 Owen Williams
 1/29 Sydney Ahlborn
 1/30 Jan Ward
 1/31 Tom Czarapata

ANNIVERSARIES

1/07 Chris & Jessica Dudzik
 1/17 David & Christina Cason

PRAYER CIRCLE

We are looking for dedicated Christian brothers or sisters to add to our member list of those who make phone calls for our Prayer Circle. Please contact Judy Goodwin at 414-281-9368 if you would like to be part of the Prayer Circle.

*Sharing with you the Glory, the Wonder, the Miracle
 of this Holy Season of Light!
 Happy New Year!*

Pastor Debra

Barb Regent

Janet McGinty

Lori Hamilton

WEDDING

Congratulations to
John Jr. & Kathy Imp
 on their marriage held at Adoration
 on December 7, 2018



*"Whoever lives in love lives in God,
 and God in them"
 (Ephesians 4:2)*

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on Thursday,
 January 3, at 6:30 PM.

AAA NEWS

Congratulations to our new officers for 2019!

President—Joyce Weinert

Treasurer—Betty Wing

Secretary—Judy Goodwin

AAA Members will start the new year with a general meeting on January 8 at 1:00 PM. All adults members are welcome to join them in fellowship.

WALL OF CROSSES

While traveling in California, Sandy Ringwall brought back a cross to add to our Cross Wall.

The metal cross is silver colored with two hearts in a copper colored metal across it.



This is meant to be a birthday and Christmas gift to Adoration in honor of her beloved husband, Larry. One heart is in honor of their love for each other and the other heart is for their love of God.

Thank you Sandy for your beautiful addition!



BOOK CLUB!

As a result of the interest survey that congregation members filled out, we are happy to be starting up a Book Club. Our first meeting will be held at church on Monday, January 14 at 6:00 PM. This will be a meet/greet meeting and we will discuss how we want to pick our selections and how often to meet. If you enjoy reading, please join us—we will see you there! See Wendy Haas for questions.

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Auction Committee

Would like to thank everyone who participated in our 14th Annual We Love Our Church Auction. We had wonderful attendance and would like to thank you for your generous donations and bids to make this such a successful and fun event. Bids totaled \$2,206. this year. All the funds will be put to the work God has put before us. God Bless you all, Ted and Mardy Lazaris.

The Evangelism Committee

Expresses thanks to everyone who helped support this year's Cookie Bake Sale. Special thanks to those who made cookies, those that helped box and those that worked the sale. Without all of you, this outreach project would not have been a success. \$1,534.00 was raised this year. This is your time and talent you are using to help support Adoration and Lutheran Social Services. Your cookies were beautiful! They were gone very quickly. Several people commented how fresh they were and they appreciated our use of placing highly scented cookies in snack bags so the whole container does not take on that flavor. When people know we bake and pack a quality product, that sells cookies! They loved the variety of snacks, gluten free items, sugar free items, candy, pies and breads. Your baked goods made many people happy. Thank you again for all of your support!

The Social Ministry Committee

A big thank you to all our members who made toy donations to The Milwaukee Rescue Mission and The Hope House. Your generous gifts will definitely bring joy to less fortunate children.

We also would like to thank those members who contributed to Lutheran Social Services in the collection of hats, caps, scarves, gloves and mittens. Your generosity helped make a brighter and warmer Christmas for many children and families in need.

THANK YOU to Kathy and Kristina for delivering our gifts.



A Special
THANK YOU

*to the following individuals
and families for beautifying
our church this holiday season
with poinsettia plants.*

*George & Gloria Becker
Jim & Judy Goodwin
Marcie Herlache
Linda Kolar-Wood
Tim & Katie Schmidt
Dan & Cheryl Stefanski
Dori Timmerman*

The Partnership Committee

Thanks all who donated items to the Christmas rummage sale. Also to those who helped with set-up and clean-up after the sale. This resale provided a wonderful way for our customers to freshen up their holiday decorating, while raising money for our partnership in Tanzania. Some students from the Mulala Parish will be able to attend school because of this fundraiser and scholarships it provides. Thanks to your generous giving, \$770.00 was raised.



Pictured: Sue, Wendy



Pictured: Gloria, Sandy, Judy, Mardy, Linda, Wendy, Janet

NEWS & NOTES

IS IT I, LORD?

Stewardship is our response to God's abundant love—how we care for and share God's generous gifts to us. As of the end of the year, 64 pledges totaling \$132,552. have been received, an increase over 2017. Thank you for your generous giving.

Commitment cards are still available on the table in the narthex. Place your completed card in the offering plate or turn it in at the church office. Simply Giving forms (electronic giving) are also available there. Please pick up your 2019 envelopes and recycle your envelopes from 2018.



Altar Flowers

The 2019 Flower Chart has been posted in the main entry way of church. If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary with one of the weekly arrangements, just sign up on the chart. Remember to print your name and the reason you are offering the flowers (anniversary, birthday memorial, etc.) The cost is \$30.00 and can be added to your weekly offering envelope, or by using one of the "flower" envelopes located next to the chart on the bulletin board.

Together in Mission Event

This gathering is geared toward congregational leaders, pastors, church staff, and rostered leaders. The event brings together people from across our synod for a day of fellowship, mission conversation, and learning opportunities. We'll open all together, celebrating our common mission in Christ – and then we break into 19 workshops on a variety of topics offered over two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Boxed lunch is provided in the middle of the day as participants meet in their mission clusters, sharing what God is doing in their cluster communities.

The Lamp of God's Presence

A light shines in the darkness...

If you would like to offer the Lamp of God's Presence as a memorial or celebration, simply fill in your name and reason on the appropriate date on the sign-up chart. The chart is located on the bulletin board in the main entryway of church. The cost is \$5.00 per week and can be added in on your weekly envelopes. Or you can use one of the special envelopes located on the bulletin board.

Join us on Saturday, February 16, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Rd., Brookfield (at the corner of Barker Rd & Davidson, about a 1/2 mile south of I-94). We are excited to offer an amazing selection of workshops, many inspired by your input received in the fall survey and from conversations with you over the past year.

Early Registration, December 11-January 25: \$12/person, includes boxed lunch of your choice and snacks
Registration between January 26 to Noon on February 11: \$15/person, includes boxed lunch of your choice and snacks. **Registration closes February 11, 2019.**

Contact Information

Have you moved or are you planning on moving? Do you have a new E-mail address? PLEASE notify the church office with any changes. This will allow for accurate church records and also will save the church returned postage. Thank you!

Etcetera Newsletter

Do you have news, pictures of a church event, or something that you would like to share in our church newsletter? Simply email the church office at Adorationelca@hotmail.com, call or stop in. We would love to include it.

Schedule:

8:15 – 9:00 am Registration Check-in, Coffee
9:00 – 10:00 am Devotion and Time with Bishop Erickson
10:10 – 11:25 am **Morning Workshops**
11:35 am – 12:55 pm Cluster Meetings, Lunch
1:10 – 2:25 pm **Afternoon Workshops**
2:35 – 2:45 pm Closing Gathering, Prayer

Adoration Lutheran Church

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Interim Pastor: Rev. Debra Trakel

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning.....9:00 AM

Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM

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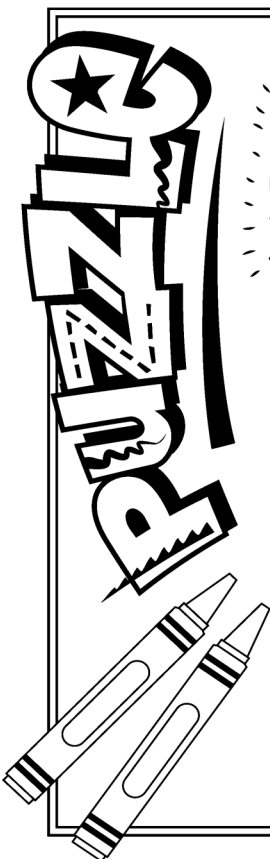
Mission Statement:

Living in God's love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.

Reconciling in Christ:

Adoration Evangelical Lutheran Church identifies itself as a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation and publicly welcomes all persons to full membership and participation in the ministry we share without regard to race, ethnicity, social status, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

KIDS PAGE



LET THERE BE LIGHT

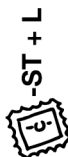
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

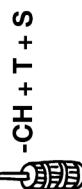
"Y O U , A R E



T H E



M Y



-CH + T + S

-B - A + L



D + - T + S

" N T O



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV