

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.



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A word from the Pastor...

This fall I am listening my way again through the Harry Potter series. I have read all the books. Indeed, although I was a Debbie-come-lately to the series (thinking that adults reading the Potter books lacked in intelligence), I read the first book finally to be able to keep up with what the young people in my former parish were talking about. And I was immediately hooked. I then became one of those crazy adults who pre-ordered the books as they came out so that I could get my hands on the next one as soon as possible.

I am struck again as I listen this fall and now soon into winter, what gems these books are; what essential truths they impart. They are, of course, replete with violent and painful passages. But it's never gratuitous. And I know what is going to happen in the end: Harry defeats the dark lord, Lord Voldemort. But in the process people and creatures he loves dearly die: Sirius Black, first. Then Albus Dumbledore, followed by Hedwig the owl, and Dobby the elf. I know the stories and the ending and yet I cry once again at each death. Rowling is that good a writer.

These books may be written for young adults but I know few "older" adults who have not read at least one of these books. And, among clergy, virtually all of them.

I do not understand the churches that ban the books because they are about "witches and magic." Well, they are. But they are also replete with the most fundamental of Christian virtues and Christian theology. And it's not by accident on the part of the author.

*Harry learns that in order to defeat evil, he has to be willing to die.

*In the world of Harry Potter no one succeeds against evil alone. It is only in community that evil is held at bay and only in community that Lord Voldemort is finally killed. It is not Harry who deals the final blow, it's his otherwise bumbling friend, Neville Longbottom.

*People are hugely complex in Harry Potter. They have mixed motivations and not always pure intent. The Potter books teach children that life is complicated and human beings are not mono-chromatic. Good people do bad things. Bad people do good things, or spawn good things to happen. And it's all used in the end for good.

*Forgiveness is needed often, and it is love that is Harry's greatest strength and finally what defeats evil. Harry is not a perfect hero. He's frequently a surly teenager. And he does what he has to do often reluctantly, and often imperfectly. But he does it.

I don't want to draw too close of a comparison because there are differences, but these are also the themes of the Bible and of Christianity. I come to the Bible with the same knowledge and expectations that I now come to a Harry Potter book.

I know all the stories in the Bible. I've read them many times, and yet, I still cry at the readings of Holy Week. And my heart still hurts when David's friend, Jonathan, dies. I hold my breath to see if Abraham will kill Isaac, and if Joseph gets out of prison. Will Moses be picked up or will he drown? I am angry when Esau sells his birthright and when Judas denies Jesus.

The Bible is full of complex emotions and intents. Cain kills Abel. Jesus gets frustrated often with the dim-witted disciples. Paul gets surly with Mark. And each time my heart twinges. And yet, I know the end of each of the stories. Evil is trampled by love. Forgiveness is offered and accepted. And no one does what they do without others or without God.

Like Harry Potter, I may know the stories of Holy Scripture but I am still transported with words like: "I know that my Redeemer lives!" (Job), "My soul magnifies the Lord. . . !" (Luke), "Choose life. . ." (Deuteronomy), "It is finished. . ." (John), "I thank my God every time I remember you." (Philippians).

My heart is still startled in Holy Scripture by God's whimsies (who else creates a whale just for sport?) and God's fidelity, and God's willingness to honor God's covenant with us, even though we fail again and again at the most basic of human tasks: kindness, forgiveness, and love.

I know each of the stories well and yet I turn to them repeatedly because they speak to me of how God uses every scrap of us, the good and the bad, and uses it all to God's own ends. I read Holy Scripture to remember that. In the midst of challenging days I read Holy Scripture to be surprised again by God's grace.

This fall I find myself reading Scripture and listening to Harry Potter side by side. God is laced all through both. And I find myself confronted again by the truth that God is equally everywhere. Equally. Everywhere. I find some comfort there.

~Pastor Debra

The continuation of the Call Process — what next?

The MET continues to work hard on the completion of the Ministry Site Profile. It is a challenging document to complete because it asks hard questions about who you are—who you really are—and, therefore, the Pastor that you want and need. To find language that adequately describes who you are, from the mountain of data that you have provided has been a challenge that the MET continues to work on. But they are near the end of that process.

The MET meets with the Council to present to them the draft of the MSP (the profile) on January 16. The MET will then have two weeks to adjust the MSP from the feedback from the Council if it needs adjustment.

On February 2, 2020, immediately following worship, Adoration will hold its Town Hall meeting with Bishop Erickson and Pastor Kristin, from his staff. At that meeting the MET will present the MSP to the full congregation. The Call Committee, which has now been chosen by the Council from so many wonderful applications, will also be present to hear the response of the congregation to the MSP. If there are then final changes that need to be made to the document in the wake of the Town Hall meeting the MET will make them and then transmit the document to the Synod office to solicit names from the Synod for your next Pastor.

The members of the MET who have been working hard on your behalf for many months now are:

Bob Yersin—Chair, Jim Haas—Council liaison, Jeanette Nowakowski, Wendy Haas, Donna Babilus, Dan Stefanski, Judy Goodwin and Bill Wakefield. Your interim Pastor has been at every meeting as the consultant to the MET. They deserve your gratitude for their very hard work.

That work is soon coming to an end, however, with the completion of the MSP (the profile). The Call Committee will be trained by Pastor Kristin and will take over the process from the MET using the data from the MSP (your data!) to discern who might be a good fit for Adoration as your new Pastor. The interim Pastor is not part of the Call Committee meetings

Adoration will get names from the Synod from the Pastors who are available and who appear to be good fits from the information in the MSP. Pastors who might be interested will be able to see our MSP and indicate an interest in Adoration to the Synod.

There is no way to tell how long this next part will take because it depends upon who the candidates are. If there are folks from out of state who need to be interviewed and come here to see the church then that obviously takes more time than if all candidates are geographically near Milwaukee. And, of course, if someone needs to move to this area, then that also takes more time. So, now, you may begin to pray for your Call Committee who will in turn be prayerfully considering and discerning who among those available might be a good fit for Adoration.

It has been and continues to be a time when the Holy Spirit is lavishly pouring love on Adoration to open your minds and hearts to the new Pastor who will come to love you.

The Call Committee to pray for is: Gloria Becker—Council liaison, Jim Haas—MET liaison, Jennifer Anderson, Jessica Hodgson, Sandy Young and Mardy Lazaris. The Chair of the committee has not yet been chosen.

Church Council Highlights

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

- * The Council had a discussion about the Internal Control Questionnaire. The Questionnaire is a way for a church to internally review its own financial record keeping and the processes it uses around the handling of money. Council felt, along with Pastor Debra, that this needed to be accomplished before the new Pastor arrives.
- * One of the furnaces in church needed to be replaced. The new furnace was installed December 9, 2019, by D & M Heating. Since this happened before our December Council meeting, all Council members cast their vote through email regarding the type of furnace they wanted purchased for the church. The majority voted for the 95% efficient furnace. The furnace will be paid using funds from "We Love Our Church".
- * The compressor that controls the fire system stopped functioning and an emergency call was made because the compressor was overheating. During this emergency call they supplied us with a temporary compressor. A new compressor was installed December 10, 2019. A congregation member has graciously covered the cost of this expense.
- * Social Ministry committee had their first meeting in November under the new liaison, Sandy Eigner. Jessica Hodgson will continue to work with Habitat for Humanity, she is presently working directly with the Pastor. Janet McGinty will be taking over Divine Intervention at Tippecanoe. Repairers of the Breach-items collected were delivered December 7, 2019 by Sandy and Charles Eigner. They thank everyone who donated. Collected toys for Elm Dale school, Greenfield, for families in need. Ted and Mardy Lazaris delivered the toys December 12, 2019.

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.

Stewardship Update

As Christians, we offer all of who we are to our church and to all God's people—our hearts, hands, voices, and gifts of thanksgiving. God uses and multiplies our gifts so His work can be done throughout His world. This year commitments totaling \$157,052 were received through our stewardship program "Consecration Sunday". These gifts represent our response to God's abundant love and generosity in our lives. Thank you for your commitment to Adoration and its mission.

If you have not returned your commitment card for 2020, please complete it and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

The Stewardship Committee

Together in Mission Event

Synod Education Opportunity—Saturday, February 15, 2020
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 1615 Wauwatosa Ave, in Wauwatosa

Each year the Greater Milwaukee Synod offers churches the opportunity to share and learn together at Together in Mission. Last year close to 300 folks from around the Synod came together to attend workshops in the morning and the afternoon and to share lunch together between those sessions. Workshop topics range from the pragmatic (New Constitutions, the Care of Pastors, Healthy Boundaries) to social issues (Racism, prisons, opioid addiction issues), to global issues with our partner churches in Tanzania and El Salvador.

The cost is \$12 which includes lunch. Every year members from Adoration have attended and told the story of the wonderful time they had. Talk to Pastor Debra or Jim and Wendy Haas for more information. Please register today on the Synod website www.milwaukee-synod.org for this awesome event. Registration closes February 7, 2020.



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	Joann Voegeli
1/20	Zackary Kokalj
1/24	Robert Yersin
1/26	Owen Williams
1/30	Jan Ward
1/31	Tom Czarapata

Diners Club Save-the-Date!

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Take the night off from cooking and join us for our next Diners Club meal. We will meet at Charcoal Grill in Oak Creek. @ 4:00 PM.

See the sign-up in the gathering room.

Rummage Sale—New Coordinator Needed

For the past years Adoration has had a Rummage Sale each year which has brought in about \$3,000 to the operating budget of the church. The Rummage Sale is a labor intensive activity that combines great fellowship with hard work to solicit items, set it up, and then staff it while it is on. It surely does not need to be only one person's work, and should not be—teams are awesome! But one person, or perhaps co-chairs--does need to take responsibility for the Rummage Sale if it is going to continue at Adoration.

The Council has set the date of February 11, 2020 as the date by which either someone from Adoration will see the coordination of the Rummage Sale as a ministry they wish to take on, or they will be forced to end the Rummage Sale for this season in Adoration's life. It can always be started again.

The Book Sale, the proceeds of which go to support Adoration's partnership with the parish in the Meru Diocese, will continue regardless of whether or not there is a Rummage Sale.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Keitzmann family and friends of Dave Keitzmann. Dave died on December 5. Pastor Debra officiated a Memorial Service at Adoration on Dec 14.

We pray that God will continue to comfort all who mourn.

AAA Update

Mark your calendar for our first meeting in the New Year, Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

12:00 PM – Lunch (Beef sandwiches provided, please bring a side dish to share.)

1:00 PM General Meeting (Ted Lazaris will be Our guest speaker. He will share information about the Optimist Club.

A Note from Social Ministry

What is the purpose of our church? Our founders wanted a place to worship God. Today, we do that well and feel His love among us. When we listen, we hear Jesus tell us to share that love by serving those that need it too. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to act of faithful service.

Also a reminder that Sunday, February 2, is "Souper" Bowl Sunday. We will be collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable food items on February 2, to help replenish the Ascension Food Ministry. Monetary donations are also welcome.



Wall of Crosses

A special thank you to Gloria Becker for her addition of two crosses that she brought back from her travels to New Zealand.

The first cross is a beautiful bright red ceramic cross made and purchased in Hokitika, New Zealand. She found it in a small boutique shop where the manager was a Christian. They engaged in conversation about their mutual faiths. She says that she will always remember this sincere exchange of heart.

The second cross is from Christchurch, New Zealand. She shares that on February 22, 2011, at 12:51 P.M., a 6.2 earthquake occurred in Christchurch, which was at that time the second most populous city in New Zealand. It devastated the city which included this cathedral. The little wooden cross is made from the Native timbers of the former Cathedral. She purchased it in the lobby of the newly constructed church. She says that she is blessed to be able to visit there and observe the passion that the folks have.

Thanks again Gloria for your beautiful additions!

Rides Needed!

From time to time several of our homebound members would love to come to church if only they could get a ride. In addition, they might come to AAA if they could get a ride. If you might be able to stop by on your way to church and bring one of our older members to church on occasion, please let us know. Right now we have a member who lives in the area of 70th and Grange who would love to come to church some Sundays when she is feeling able to come. She no longer drives but longs for church and the fellowship of AAA (that wild and wooly group of folks!). Please let the office know if you feel called to the ministry of bringing folks to church on occasion.

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

The Auction Committee

Would like to thank everyone who participated in our 15th Annual We Love Our Church Auction. Your generous donations and bids made this a fun and successful event. Bids totaled \$2,460.00 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 Social Ministry Committee

A big thank you to all our members who made toy donations to the Holiday Sharing Program. Your generous gifts will definitely bring joy to less fortunate children right here in the community.

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.

A big THANK YOU to Ted & Mardy Lazaris and Charlie & Sandy Eigner for delivering our Christmas gifts!

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. Thanks to your generous giving, \$817.50 was raised.

The Evangelism Committee

Expresses thanks to everyone who helped support this year's Cookie Bake Sale. Many 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 possible. \$1,251.00 was raised this year. Customers expressed that 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!



A special thank you to those who purchased poinsettia plants to beautify our church this holiday season!



Women's Advent by Candlelight



A wonderful night of fellowship, reflection and delicious desserts.



Christmas Caroling



Sharing Christmas cheer to our homebound members.



3840 W. Edgerton Avenue
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Wednesday Evening.....6:15 PM

Published Monthly

january 

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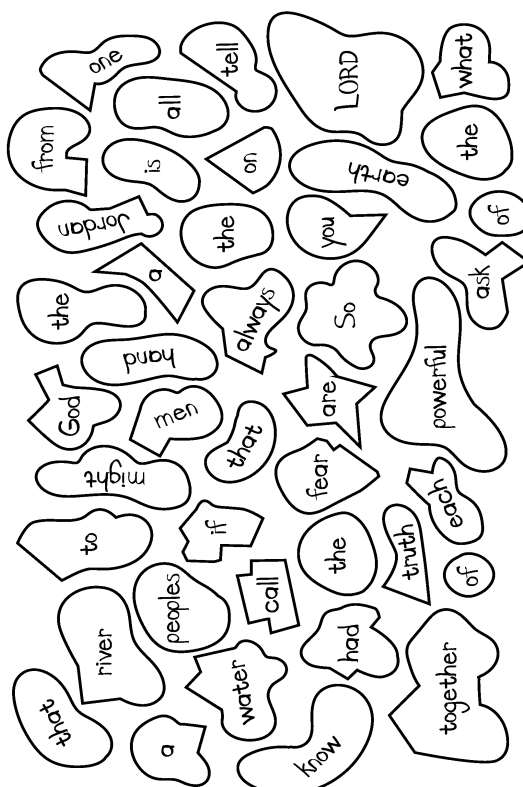
Living in God's love we share the good news of Jesus through spirited worship, serving God in our daily lives, creating a welcoming space to all, providing outreach, educating the young and old, and creating worldwide partnerships.

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.

Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



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JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV