



The Monthly Herald

January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.”

They bowed down . . . they worshiped . . . they presented Him with gifts. This is the “Epiphany” as it is known. Gentiles come from afar seeking the One who had been born king of the Jews. It is a simple yet gloriously beautiful picture of reverence: stately emissaries from afar bowing in humility before the very Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords. I believe this picture can serve as a model for us as we enter into the year of our Lord, 2024.

They bowed down before Christ. Every day we ought to bow before the Savior of the World. We ought to bow our heads in prayer at the beginning of the day, asking for His guidance and wisdom to lead us. Every meal we ought to bow our heads in thankfulness for His provision. Every day we ought to bow in humility before the One who humbled Himself to be born into our world to live a humble life of serving others. Bowed in humility, we ought to ask Him who he would have us humbly serve each day.

They worshiped the Christ Child. How important is the worship of Jesus Christ in your heart and soul. The Magi traveled hundreds of miles by animal power to worship. Can you make it a goal to get up each Sunday morn and travel a few miles in your comfy car to worship Him? Make regular worship of Christ part of your plans this year! Worship Him the other days of the week, carrying His love and grace to others around you?

They presented Him with gifts. Jesus had come to give the gift of salvation to a world of lost sinners; the Magi came to bring gifts to the greatest gift giver the world has ever seen. What gift will you bring? You can give the gift of gold . . . that is, your financial treasures . . . giving to support the work of His kingdom. You can give Him the gift of sitting at His feet and learning from His Word by joining in a Bible study or showing up for Adult Bible Class on Sunday morning. You can give Him a gift by supporting our youth who are headed to a houseboat retreat this summer. You can give Him the gift of loving others around you with the gracious love He has first given to you (Jesus really loves the gift of loving others in His name!).

As one of your pastors, I truly hope that the year 2024 is a year where you grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. I hope that this coming year finds you walking ever closer with our Lord day by day. Yes, I hope that in the year of our Lord 2024 you are found seeking Him who came to seek and secure your salvation for all eternity!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bender





Bible Studies

Thursday Morning Bible Class

The prophet Zechariah is one of the most significant prophets in the “Book of the Twelve,” that last twelve books of the Old Testament. The people are rebuilding the temple . . . that will be destroyed once again. A new temple will arise, the very body of Christ, living stones in the temple of the living God! In the month of January we will finish the final vision in chapter 6 and move on to the final chapters of this important prophecy. We spend time in prayer, the study of God’s Word, and there are always wonderful refreshments to be enjoyed. The class runs from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday.

Men’s Bible Breakfast

Ten Men of the Bible: The men depicted in the Bible were not perfect by any means. We find story after story marked by scandal, failure, and intrigue. Yet we also find many stories of men who were able to look beyond their circumstances, completely trust in the Lord, and follow Him wherever He chose to lead them. Like us, these men made both good and bad decisions along the way—and experienced both good and bad consequences—and we find our struggles and hopes in the pages of the Bible that tells their stories.

January 13: Noah: Hope when the Floodwaters Rise

January 27: Job: God’s Presence in the Storm

On these Saturdays, a bunch of dedicated Christian men gather together, spending time in fellowship, eating a good breakfast, and then studying the Word of God. We meet a little before 7am; 79th street doors are unlocked. All men are welcome to join us and we love to see new faces! Come join us as we eat, pray, and then study God’s Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am.

Multi Generational Bible Study & Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the gymnasium for an introduction to the lesson of the day, as well as sing some songs. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the gym for a recap. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God’s word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.



New Class

Adult Instruction Class

A twelve week course will be offered covering the central teachings of the Christian faith. This class is for those interested in membership as well as those who want to review these important teachings. The class will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 to 10:15am, beginning on Saturday, January 13. A signup sheet is found at the welcome center or you may contact the church office (414-541-6250) to register for the class. All materials will be provided.




Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.

 <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions! Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities! Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE – The South Wisconsin District will be hosting a **Family Life Conference** on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at Concordia University Wisconsin. This conference is designed for all adults, and you do not need to be a parent to attend. You only need to be eager to learn more about our theme *"Passing on the Faith"* to the next generation. Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann (Faith Lutheran in Grand Blanc, MI) will serve as our keynote speaker. We look forward to coming together as a district to learn and grow in our faith in fellowship with others on the beautiful campus of Concordia University Wisconsin.

Ladies Groups



Widows Lunch

All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Honey Butter Café (7221 S. 76th Street) on Wednesday January 10th, weather permitting, at 11:00am.

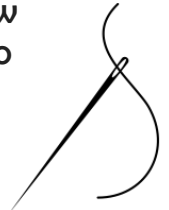
Quilter's Patch

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Praying everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebration. It's now time to get back to work creating warm comfy quilts. We could use your help, no sewing experience required.

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays at 9:00am until 11:30am. Below are the dates during January thru March we will meet in the fellowship hall.

January 15th and 29th
February 5th and 19th
March 4th and 18th



If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com

Ladies Guild

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I pray that all the ladies that attended Advent by Candlelight December 3rd had an enjoyable time. We have it on our calendar to do it again in December 2024.

During January, we have the fill the baby bottle fund raiser for A Place of Refuge. It would be wonderful if we could go beyond last year's total of \$880.

In February there is a district Winter Getaway on February 2-3, 2024, at the Marriott West (W231N1600 Corporate Court. Waukesha). Registration due by January 19th, 2024. Speaker is Darcy Paape. (<https://lwml-swd.org/events/retreat>).

Our January meeting is Monday, January 22nd at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. All ladies 18 yrs old and older are welcome to attend.

For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell, text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com



Board of Missional Community



January 26-28, 2024 ~ Rest & Recharge Christian Women's Retreat is BACK for year three! Faith in Jesus brings peace beyond our own comprehension (Philippians 4:7); peace we can depend on. It is our mission that you feel this peace at the retreat, continue accessing it well beyond our time together, and leave recharged in the purpose and possibility God gives. For more information contact Natalie Romano at natalieromano@bethelightcoaching.org or Heather Sanchez at thisonewildlifeco@gmail.com.

Sharing God's Bounty

Forgetting What Is Behind

“Forget about it.” It’s a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don’t want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who’s complaining about an offense he’s received. According to Paul, it’s a good thing to do. It’s counsel he followed himself: *“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn’t “forget what was behind.” He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can’t forget about our past sins – and maybe that’s good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God’s ways only as we rely on him to lead us, thankful that he forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can “[forget] what’s behind” and “press on toward the goal” that Christ has lain out before us as we serve him with all the gifts he so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God’s grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God’s purposes for our lives.

Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11

Women's Retreat through Grace Lutheran Menomonee Falls. We are currently reaching out to area churches who might have members or friends interested in attending the retreat. Our theme this year is **"Strength In Surrender."** Dates are February 8-9th at the Osthoff Resort at Elkhart Lake. All the information is included in the links below. Feel free to share these links with others. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me back, or call me at 262-527-8004.

Thanks and God's Blessings,
Sue Daniel

You can share these resources: bit.ly/graceretreatpromo
Online registration is at: bit.ly/graceretreat24

Women's Retreat

Youth News

American education is at a crossroads. COVID caused many schools to conduct their instruction remotely. Parents, for the first time, saw what their children were being taught and how they were being taught. This exposed many difficulties in our present methods of educating and made us ask hard questions about what education is, what the goal of education should be, and especially, in a Christian context, what role the delivery of the deposit of faith should play in education. This talk will discuss the history of various pedagogical methods, examining their successes and failures. We will talk about what type of adults our current models bring up what is currently and what should be the relationship between the family and the school. The goal and hope is to have an honest conversation about what it means to educate a child and bring them into a good and faithful adult life and how this can best be achieved in and out of the classroom.

In the bonds of Christ,
Chris Raffa

A BEAUTIFUL EDUCATION

CARE OF THE WHOLE PERSON:
THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN RAISING
CHILDREN TO BE FAITHFUL ADULTS

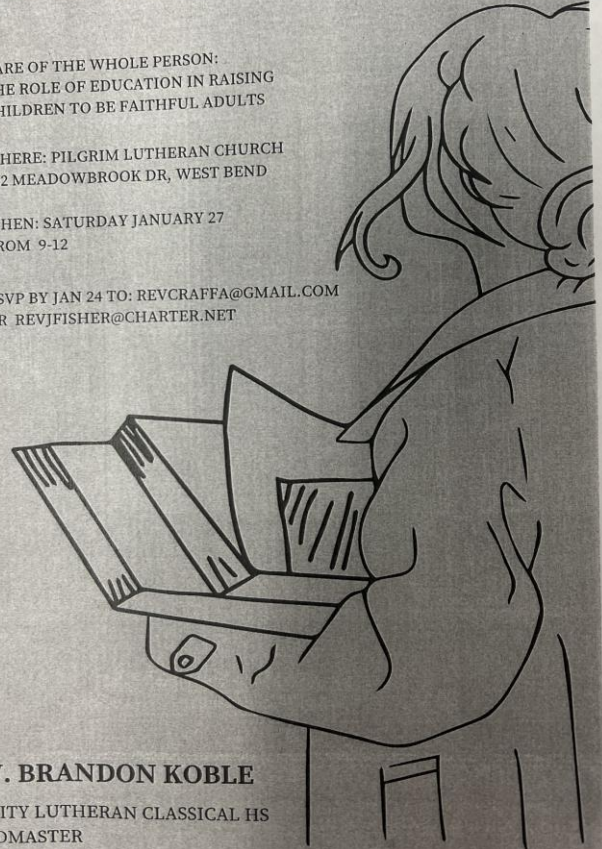
WHERE: PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH
462 MEADOWBROOK DR, WEST BEND

WHEN: SATURDAY JANUARY 27
FROM 9-12

RSVP BY JAN 24 TO: REV CRAFFA@GMAIL.COM
OR REV J FISHER@CHARTER.NET

REV. BRANDON KOBLE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CLASSICAL HS
HEADMASTER



January 7: Youth & Parent Meeting @ Noon

Parents and Youth regroup on this Sunday for a lunch meeting right after late service. Our two big fundraisers for the year will be explained and all attending the Houseboat Retreat this coming summer will be involved. We will have a bowl-a-thon on February 4 and a Dinner/Auction in the spring. Other youth are welcome to support us in this. We will also give out a schedule of activities for the next few months. Please plan to be in attendance. If you simply can't attend, please contact Pastor Bender or Pastor Josh.



February 4: Bowl-a-thon at AMF Lanes 75th and Oklahoma

This is one of our big fundraisers. Pledge sheets should be turned in prior, but if not, make sure you bring them to the event. Bring \$20 and this will cover three games of bowling, shoes, an arcade card, and some snacks. We will bowl, have some friendly but encouraging competition, and hopefully raise a few thousand dollars.

The student members of L.E.A.D. (Lift Equip Affirm Develop young future leaders) are collecting socks for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. The collection goes through January 12th. They will also accept money donations in the school office. Donation boxes can be found near the church doors, and other places throughout the church and school.

