

DECEMBER, 2017 Newsletter

PASTOR JOSH'S MESSAGE



When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt." When Jesus was born, Herod was King. When he heard about the birth of Jesus, he feared for his kingdom and he was not happy. Herod sent the three wise men to find Jesus so that he could kill him. Instead, after delivering their gifts, the wise men went home by another route and did not participate in Herod's scheming.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him of the danger. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. That night Joseph left for Egypt with Jesus and Mary. They stayed there until Herod died. Then God's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream again. "Get up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All who were out to kill the child are dead."

Have you ever heard the song, "Angels Watching Over Me?" It is a beautiful African-

American Spiritual believed to have originated in the southern part of the United States during the days of slavery. The song's lyrics are:

All night, all day, Angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, Angels watching over me. Sun is a-setting in the west; Angels watching over me, my Lord. Sleep my child, take your rest; Angels watching over me.

In the Bible, angels:

- Watch over God's throne (Psalm 8; Psalm 148).
- Are messengers to humankind as in our Christmas story (Matthew 2).
- Serve as personal guardians (Genesis 24:7).
- Act as agents governing the world (2 Samuel 5:23-24).

The word "angel" comes from the Greek, *aggelos*; from the Hebrew for "one going" or "one sent," a messenger. In Greek and Hebrew the word "angel" denotes a divine or human messenger.

Who are the angels in your life who have watched over you? Who would call you their angel?

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Josh

FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEEDING OUR PRAYERS:

- ✓ **Hailey Baker (Herman & Sharon's granddaughter)**: Has been hospitalized with the flu.
- ✓ **Marge Beals**: Has been recovering from pneumonia.
- ✓ **Jeff Benz (Jen Medina's step father)**: As he awaits a liver transplant.
- ✓ **Alice Marnin**: Is recovering from pneumonia..
- ✓ **Marjean Moyle**: Is recovering from knee surgery.
- ✓ **Barbara Potter**: Is fighting an upper respiratory problem.
- ✓ **Mike Prey (Jen Medina's uncle)**: Is struggling with the anti-rejection medication following a heart transplant.
- ✓ **John Ratcliffe**: Is fighting an infection at the incision site of his back surgery.

Continue to pray for those members and friends that are unable to be with us on Sunday: (Mae Fuller, Pat Hartzler, Phyllis Moore, Marilyn Overton, Evelyn Tolkan, Mildred Philpott and Pearl Van Fleet)

NOTE - If you have knowledge of someone that is hospitalized, may need a visit or phone call, please let Pastor Josh know. Also, if you wish to have a visit from Pastor Josh, please contact him at the church at 266-6404 or on his cell 991-6368

EDUCATION REPORT by Erin Lowe, Christian Education Chairperson:

- **Heifer International project:** The children/youth education department has been sponsoring this project. We will soon have an update for our fundraising – the quarter bank, recyclable cans and bottles, the congregational banks, bake sale and your other generous contributions.
- There are blessing bags available for those interested. We will continue to provide these bags for distribution.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

- Administrative Board will not meet in December.
- At the November AD Board meeting safety concerns were raised, in light of the recent gun violence across our nation, about the downstairs door remaining unlocked during worship. Additional concerns were raised that there is not always someone available to greet downstairs anyway. AD Board decided that the downstairs door should be locked after Sunday School and we will no longer have a greeter downstairs before worship.
- Sharon Baker and Mary Brown have been working on completion of a monthly congregation activity schedule. Following is what they have, so far. If other groups would be willing to fill in some of the questions and empty months, please let Sharon or Mary know – and THANKS!!

2018 Sheridan Park monthly social events

- January 14th: Finance team luncheon after worship
February 11th: UMW meal after worship.
March 14th: Missions fund raiser potato bar after worship
April 1st: Easter breakfast after sunrise service. 3G's group
May: **Possibly Youth group?**
June: **Was a cook out after church in '17?**
July: SPRC will host breakfast before an **outdoor worship – should we have one**
August 7th : Co-host National Night Out with Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood
September: **Sunday School kick off by Education?**
October 30th Trunk or Treat - Evangelism
Halloween party?
November 18: **“Alter of Thankfulness”? Worship Committee?**
December: Hanging of the Greens 1st Sunday of Advent
3rd Sunday – Special/favorite treat Sunday
Tree and church decorating with lunch or snacks after?

The 2017 Administrative Council includes the following: Josh Steward, Sharon Baker, John Ratcliffe, Marjean Moyle, Erin Lowe, Carole Gassaway, Margie Brown, Melissa Myers, Mary Brown, Lois Nolte, Jennifer Medina, Carlos Medina, Phyllis Roe, Doris Sheeder, Dick Smith and Jeff Woodard. Note – Mission team rotates attendance.

Note – Anyone is welcome to attend Ad Board meetings and minutes are posted on the board for your information.



Thanks to Thrashers Service for donating parts and the service call to install a new twin kit for the furnaces in the sanctuary and repairing the stool in the master bath and installing a new stool in the hallway bath at the parsonage.

MISSION REPORT –

- ✓ UMW is collecting non-perishable food items, paper products and warm outerwear for Bidwell Riverside Community Center and Hope Ministry. Items may be placed in a box in the coffee room until Dec. 10.
- ✓ Food Pantry Sunday is Dec. 17 so additional canned items and money would be appreciated as food pantries are stretched to the limit by families desperate for food at this holiday season of the year. Children are out of school where they receive breakfast and lunch that now falls on the family to provide. We can all afford to be generous to those who have less.

- ✓ Our last Noisy Money Sunday is Dec. 31 so save all of that loose change you have in your pocket, under the seat in the car and in the davenport/sofa. These funds allow our congregation the opportunity to share in mission projects in our local community, to support the Mefors, our missionaries serving in Zimbabwe, new church starts and Women at the Well....to mention a few programs we support. We love to hear the jingle in the jar on that Sunday but your quiet money works just as well. Our goal is \$50+ for this offering so save those coins!

May your holiday season be joyous with meaningful festivities for you, your family and friends. Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Eid Milad Majid, Buon Natale!!!

WORSHIP REPORT

- ✓ A big thank you to all who worked to make the **Thankful Altar** and the **Hanging of the Greens** service a success.
- ✓ We had great participation in both events and the holiday spirit is HERE at Sheridan Park!
- ✓ **December 3rd** we will decorate the tree (fully) during the church service. Ornaments will be available, but if you have something special you would like to be placed by the tree, please bring it for Sunday the 3rd of December. A luncheon will follow this service in fellowship hall.
- ✓ To enhance the meaning of the season, **please consider participating** in the following ways: lighting of the advent candles, decorating, suggesting special music to be played, or by joining the choir. The times we gather together to do these acts bring us closer together and give us more opportunities to see God's love.
- ✓ If you want to **place a poinsettia** in the sanctuary in remembrance of a loved one, or simply to decorate, please bring them the first two weeks of December. Include the watering dish (if possible) to place under the plant to keep woodwork free of marks and to assure your plant is watered correctly.
- ✓ **Christmas eve** will be on a Sunday this season. Our services will be at the **regular time in the morning and a 5 PM service** will be held at our church with members of Wesley attending Christmas Eve.

*Christmas isn't showy gifts
Or glittering decoration;
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ
In humble adoration.*

FINANCE REPORT by Margie Brown, Chairperson:

The following shows the "budget" income and expenses paid as of November 19th:

General Budget Income	1st 10 Months 2017	November 19th, 2017	2017 Year to Date
Pledge Envelopes = currently 29 giving units	59,261.53	4,195.00	63,456.53
Non Pledge Envelopes = 19 giving units	8,911.31	566.80	9,478.11
Unknown Giving	55.00	15.00	70.00
Special Budget Giving "Friends"	1,353.00	211.00	1,564.00
Extra Budget Giving "Members"	1,587.81	248.32	1,836.13
Sunday School	537.84	23.00	560.84
Loose Money	131.43	.00	131.43
Special Giving for CAT	150.00	.00	150.00
Mid American Energy Rebate	513.78	.00	513.78
UMW Budget Giving	1,194.64	.00	1,194.64
Church and Parking Lot Usage Donations	580.00	255.00	835.00
May 21 st Luncheon	100.00	.00	100.00
Postage for mailing Newsletter	10.00	.00	10.00
Reimbursement for Tree Trimming at Church	400.00	.00	400.00
Reimbursement for Motion Switch in Stairway	200.00	.00	200.00
Bank Correction for Duplicate Check Order	60.85	.00	60.85
Total Budget Income	75,047.19	5,514.12	80,561.31

Expenses Incurred and Paid			
Apportionments	3,002.00	.00	3,002.00
Direct Health & Pension	16,957.14	1,361.94	18,319.08
Pastor Salary/Support (Based on 71% eff. 7/1/17)	32,745.24	1,226.47	33,971.71
Janitor Salary & SS Paid	4,952.23	.00	4,952.23
Stewardship Programs	.00	35.97	35.97
Church Office Expenses (includes phone beg. Sept.)	1,210.83	105.01	1,315.84
Christian Ed. & Media Resource Center	963.19	.00	963.19
Ministries (Children/Youth/Coffee Time)	261.35	.00	261.35
Worship Material & Programs	291.97	.00	291.97
Evangelism	90.95	.00	90.95
Property Maintenance to the Church	2,184.20	53.00	2,237.20
Insurance (Property & Workman's Comp)	3,500.00	350.00	3,850.00
Utilities			
• Mid American Energy	2,828.50	269.26	3,097.76
• Century Link (Jan. - Aug.)	504.01	.00	504.01
• Des Moines Water Works	2,559.38	242.17	2,801.55
Total Expenses Incurred and Paid	72,050.99	3,643.82	75,694.81

Total Income Less Expenses	2,996.20	1,870.30	4,866.50
Carryover balance from prior year end			2,517.60
Check book balance for Budget Items			7,384.10

Sunday, November 12th was pledge Sunday. To date we have received pledges in the amount of \$54,488. This is approximately 55% of what is needed to cover the 2018 budget of \$99,426.

FINANCE REPORT (continued):

The Administrative Board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee to replace the computer in the pastors' office, that is over 10 years old. I have started pricing them and am finding to replace the computer with a Dell Inspiron 24" All-in-One, purchase the programs, virus protection, keyboard, service to install and set it up, extended warranty it is currently priced at \$1,730. I will continue to watch the ads during the holidays to see if I can't find it on sale.

The 2017 Annual Audit and Statistical Reports will have to be compiled soon after year end. In addition to all the financial information that has to be pulled together they also ask about membership, Sunday school and worship attendance and how many people are served through the volunteer work that are done by those in our congregation. If you volunteer at Hope Ministries, Women at the Well, etc. Margie needs to know how often and how many people are served by you volunteering.

NOTE: I would like to remind anyone that has outstanding expenses for 2017 to get them submitted to Jim **prior to year-end** so we don't carry 2017 expenses into 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the church budget or any of the other funds feel free to either contact myself or Jim Moyle, our church treasurer.

VOLUNTEERS LISTS:

As 2018 quickly approaches there is a need within the church for some additional volunteers.

It is time for our volunteer lists (nursery, greeters, bakers for cookie Sunday, counters, ushers, volunteers during worship (Acolyte, Children's Story, Liturgist, Song Leader and Communion Stewards)) to be updated and distributed. If you have been on the schedules and are still willing to serve you need to do nothing.

If you feel you are unable to continue to serve any longer, or are willing to help with any of the volunteer opportunities, please make a note on the back of your insert sheet so someone can contact you.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT by Jeff Woodard, Trustees Chairperson

- Thanks to those that kept the church lawn looking good all summer long.
- There is a snow removal list posted on the board in the hallway. Thanks, if you can help.

If you know of something at the church that needs to be fixed please let me know.

PRAYER BAND GROUP:

This group meets every other Tuesday morning at 9:30 A.M.

December 12th - Hosted by Lois Nolte @ her home

December 26^h - No meeting

MEN'S BREAKFAST:

No meeting in December

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

While Bidwell no longer works with these box tops, Brubaker still does. If you don't have another school that you donate these to, please trim, bring to church and Marjean will get them to Brubaker.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SITE:

DMARC's mobile pantry is at the Norwoodville Community Center, 3077 NE 46th Avenue, each Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. If this would help you, or someone else, please check it out. For more information and other sites see www.dmarcunited.org/food/mobile.

SUPPORT GROUP: Mary Benz, mother of Jennifer Medina, runs an Alzheimer's support group for caregivers of those who have a loved one diagnosed with any type of dementia. It is the first Tuesday each month at Prince of Peace Lutheran from 1-2pm. Use the fellowship hall door on the church's north side. This is an Alzheimer's Association support group run out of the greater Iowa chapter.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- Martha circle is sponsoring gifts to Hope Ministries and Bidwell for Christmas. You can bring personal items, non-perishable foods, paper products, socks, mittens, gloves, hats etc. A box will be in the coffee room until December 10th .

YOUTH:

The youth group (4th – 12th grade) meet each Wednesday at the church from 6 to 7 P.M.

. If you are able to assist with a light meal please see the sign up sheet in back of sanctuary.

Our youth do enjoy "breaking bread" together as they begin their discussion and activities..

This can be very simple (\$5.00 pizza, cold cut sandwiches, etc.) and they are very appreciative.

SCRAPBOOKING:

This group meets every third Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. They often order food and share in fellowship. They invite anyone with any project or hobby that might benefit from the space to join them on **Sunday, December 17th from 11:30 to 3:30.**

GLEANERS CLASS - Fellowship Opportunity: Saturday, December 16th, Hosts, Lois and Eldon Nolte

December Birthdays

1st Jack Ness
2nd Dale Wilson
6th Joshua Steward
14th Troy Dolphin
18th Larry Love
20th Lisa Karen Hankey
21st Jerry Nelson
21st Pearl Van Fleet
28th Mildred Philpott
29th Jennifer Medina
31st James Thrasher

December Anniversaries

2nd Pat and Erin Lowe
21st Carlos and Jennifer Medina

Worship Volunteers

December 3, 2017:

Greeters: Shirley Wilson & Dean Brown

Nursery: Dave & Susan Strock

Transportation: Lois Nolte

Ushers: Bob Worth (captain), Jim Moyle, Dean Brown, Marve Hollingshead

Bulletin: Lisa Karen Hankey

December 10, 2017:

Greeters: Marvin & Jaylene Barton

Nursery: Sara Woodard

Transportation: Marvin Barton

Ushers: Marcia Isaac (Capt.), Dale Wilson, Frank Foresman, Barbara Potter

Bulletin: Eldon Nolte

December 17, 2017:

Greeters: John & Barb Ratcliffe

Nursery: Doris Sheeder

Transportation: Barbara Ratcliffe

Ushers: Alice Nelson (Capt.), Bonnie Becker, Jerry Nelson

Cookie Sunday: Alice Nelson (Hostess), All Church Christmas Treat Sharing

Bulletin: Sharon Andrews

December 24, 2017:

Greeters: Ray & Barbara Potter

Nursery: Kaylee Brown

Transportation: Dick Smith

Ushers: Marvin Barton (Capt.), Carlos Medina, Barb Ratcliffe, Jack Ness

Bulletin: Mary Brown

December 31, 2017: Coffee: John & Barb Ratcliffe

Greeters: Lois Nolte & Alice Marnin

Nursery: Mary Brown

Transportation: Lois Nolte

Ushers: Bob Worth (Capt.), Dick Smith, Marvin Barton, Shirley Wilson

Cookie Sunday: TBD

Bulletin: Mary Brown

December 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:00 PM pizza and movie @ Wesley UMC	2
3 9:30 A.M. = Advent Study Church Decorating followed by soup lunch	4	5	6 6:00 P.M. = Youth Group 6:00 P.M. = Choir Practice	7	8	9
10 9:30 A.M. = Advent Study 2/5 PM - Open house "Thank You" Charis Potter home 1307 E 26th Ct	11	12 9:30 A.M. = Prayer Band @ Lois Nolte home	13 6:00 P.M. = Youth Group 6:00 P.M. = Choir Practice	14 12:30 PM – Esther Circle 2:00 PM - Martha Circle	15	16 No Men's Breakfast Gleaners meet @ 12:30 PM Lois & Eldon Nolte hosts
17 9:30 A.M. = Advent Study 11:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. - Scrapbooking	18	19 No Adm. Board	20 6:00 PM - Youth Group 6:00 PM - Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 9:30 A.M. = Advent Study 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26 9:30 A.M. = Prayer Band @ January Newsletter Information Due	27 6:00 P.M. = Youth Group 6:00 P.M. = Choir Practice	28	29	30
31	<i>Wishing you a happy and healthy 2018!</i>					