

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENTS — 13 DECEMBER A.D. 2015

✠ CALENDAR ✠

13 December to 20 December A.D. 2015

TODAY		
SUNDAY		
Divine Services	8:30 & 11:00 A.M.	
Sunday School & Bible Study	10:00 A.M.	
THIS WEEK		
MONDAY		
Office of Matins	8:10 A.M.	
TUESDAY		
Advent 3—The Children’s Christmas Service	9:00 A.M.	
Adult Volleyball (Gymnasium)	7:30 P.M.	
WEDNESDAY		
Advent 3—The Children’s Christmas Service	7:00 P.M.	
THURSDAY		
Responsive Prayer	8:10 A.M.	
Women’s LifeLight Bible Study	1:30 P.M.	
Cantate Choir Rehearsal	7:00 P.M.	
Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	8:30 P.M.	
SUNDAY, 20 December		
Divine Services	8:30 & 11:00 A.M.	
Sunday School & Bible Study	10:00 A.M.	

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW with Pastor Thoma leading the discussion. This has proven to be a lively study full of great discussion. You are encouraged to join to see for yourself! The study group meets in the ECC entrance room, and God willing, starts right at 10 a.m.
HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH — Mr. Ted Nichols continues to lead this wonderful study of John T. Pless’ delightful book on Law and Gospel. The group meets in the cafeteria at 10:00 a.m. Check it out!
THANK YOU FROM THE THOMA FAMILY
The Thoma Family wanted to thank everyone who has and is even now making meals for us! What a kindness of Christian love it has been, and for that we thank our Lord, and we thank you, the vessels of His good and gracious work. In Jesus, Pastor and Jennifer, Joshua, Madeline, Harrison, and Evelyn.

LIFELIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
LifeLight Women’s Bible Study began a new session on the book of Acts. We meet at the school on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. spending our time together in small group, prayer and discussion of the previous week’s lesson completed at home. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact LifeLight’s director, Carol Caswell (248-296-1140).
“And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will once again be placed near the altar to draw attention to the place where our Lord first came in the flesh and where he comes for us now in his Body and Blood. The red leaves of this flower also reminds us why our Lord first came and even now comes – to forgive, rescue and renew us by his shed blood. If you wish to donate one or more poinsettias this year, please sign up on the list next to the flower chart by Monday, **21 December AD 2015. Cost is \$18.00.** Thank you.

TOYS FOR KIDS
Social Ministry would like to include toys for the families with children receiving Christmas Baskets. Toy donations may be placed in the box by the food pantry door. All donation should be \$15.00 or less. **The deadline for the donations is December 16th. Thank you!**

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us today for Sunday School. A reminder for families with younger students, please be sure to drop them off and pick them up in their room. The following is your child’s teacher and room numbers:
Preschool—Room 212—Sue Kelly, Alexis Ripke
Grades K & 1—Room 215—Joyce Hicks & Rachel Bronsberg
Grades 2 & 3—Room 219—Mia Chapman
Grades 4 & 5—Room 203—Bill & Ruth Libby & Janel Gryc
Grades 6 & 7— Room 205—Emily Helmreich
Grade 8—Room 206—Donna Hay

OUR SAVIOR'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE is happening on **Dec. 16th at 7:00 p.m.** The children of the church and school, pre-school through 8th grade, will be participating in a service of Evening Prayer and Lessons and Carols!
The service will be a meaningful proclamation of the joy that is ours through the sending of the Word made flesh, Jesus!

COME AND CELEBRATE THE BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!
WE CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOU IN AND WITH THE HOLY AND BLESSED GOSPEL OF CHRIST

The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve Divine Services:
Thursday, 24 December @ 4:30 and 10:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. including special music by Choristers and Middle School Handbells
10:30 p.m. including special music by Cantate, Celebration Ringers, and instrumentalists
Christmas Day Divine Service:
Friday, 25 December @ 10:00 a.m. *Including special music by Cantate and Brass Ensemble*
The First Week of Christmas
Divine Services:
Sunday, 27 December @ 10:00 a.m.
Eve of the Name of Jesus, New Year’s Eve Service:
Thursday, 31 December @ 4:30 p.m.
Circumcision and Name of Jesus, New Year’s Day Divine Service:
Friday, 1 January 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.
The Second Week of Christmas
Divine Services:
Sunday, 3 January 2016 @ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
The Week of The Epiphany
Festival of the Epiphany Divine Service:
Wednesday, 6 January 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

✠ PRAYERS ✠

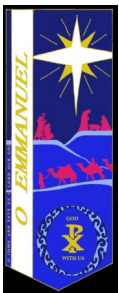
THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY: Bill and Lori Adrain, Adrian Atkinson, Raleigh Bahr, Ingeborg Bailey, Jack & Barbara Bain, Christopher Bolton, Susan Brandt, Wendell Bergren, Sylvia Cole, Sarah Condra, Carole Doll, Jim Faight, Carol Ford, Rourke Haaas, Bill Kirkpatrick, Lori LookerKayla Marcum, Patricia Osborne, John Pffier, Cindy Pushman, Donna Talsma, Randi Talsma, Edwin Thoma, Monica Tkac, Joan Thompson, Scott Waldorf, Ed Willer, Frances Wyckoff, and Randy Zeilinger.
MILITARY: Ramone Baca, Alexander Baloh, Drew Barber, Brandy Bates, Robert Bell, Corry Brennan, Tom Buller, Brian Chapman, Mark Ciero, Jonathan Cross, Kenneth Eyer, Darrel Fenbert Jr., Drew Helmreich, Randy Horst, Chad Libby, Neil Lipon, Richard McManamon, Nick Morley, Jonathan Mrozek, Matthew Niendorf, Jacob Przywara, Chris Robosky, Steve Roeske, Samantha Russell, Jake Simkins, Albie Therrien, and Alex Young.
MISSIONARIES: Rev. Charles Ferry and family.

BIRTHDAYS

James Harrison	12/14	Gregory Haponek	12/18
Grarrett Angus	12/16	Stephanie Rose	12/19
Anna Angus	12/16	Grant Barber	12/20
Matthew Chapman	12/16	Nolan Ives	12/20
Alexandra Forster	12/18		

ANNIVERSARIES

James and Irene Besancon	12/18/1965
Raymond and Cheryl Norton	12/23/1995



What a joy it is to adorn the nave with high praise and thanksgiving during the season of Advent, especially through the silent song being sung by our “O Antiphon” banners!

The exact origin of the “O Antiphons” is not known, but it has been noted that Boethius (A.D. 480-524) made a slight reference to them in his writings, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine Abbey of Fleury in France (founded in A.D. 640), it is fairly well documented that these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in common use in the liturgical celebrations of the Western church. The usage of the “O Antiphons” was so prevalent in the church that the phrases, “Keep your O” and “The Great O Antiphons” were common sayings. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the “O Antiphons” have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early public gatherings of believers.

You will note that there are only seven antiphons, and yet we have an eighth banner. It has been suggested that in their origin, the antiphons were ordered with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each antiphon - Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, which are translated, “Tomorrow, I will come.” Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven glorious antiphons, now reminds us that He will return in glory at the Last Day, of which we know neither the day nor the hour. And so the final banner declares that this is most certainly true!

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE CONGREGATION EMAIL LIST, YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON A LOT OF HELPFUL INFORMATION!!! To get on the list, just send an email to pastorthoma@oursaviorhartland.org.

SCHOOL NEWS

Each year the students of Our Savior partner with the Board of Social Ministry in a benevolence collection to prepare and distribute baskets of food and other basic necessities for families in our parish and community that are in need. The school students help with this project by collecting nonperishable food and personal hygiene items as well as commonly used household products. The first collection and distribution this school year was just before Thanksgiving.

The Board of Social Ministry asked that our collection this fall be a bit different than in the past. The requests for assistance from struggling families often include certain items that are difficult for them to purchase with other forms of assistance that they may receive. A points system was used to encourage the donation of the items of greatest need. Ten points were given to each item that was collected from the list of items of greatest need and one point for all other items. The students and their families responded by collecting items totaling almost 5000 points, most of them from the ten point list.

They will do this again this coming week to help Social Ministry prepare for the baskets they will distribute at Christmas. Thanks be to God for the generosity of our students and their families.

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Pastor
Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor
Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Jonathan Swett, Kantor
Mrs. Andrea Johnson, School Principal