

**OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS — 27 DECEMBER A.D. 2015

✠ **CALENDAR** ✠

**27 December 2015 to 3 January A.D. 2016**

**TODAY**

**SUNDAY**

**Divine Services** **10:00 A.M.**

**THIS WEEK**

**THURSDAY**

**New Year's Eve, Evening Prayer** **4:30 P.M.**

**FRIDAY**

**New Year's Day Divine Service** **10:00 A.M.**

**SUNDAY, 3 January**

**Divine Services** **8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**

**Sunday School & Bible Study** **10:00 A.M.**

**NEXT 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!

**OUR STUDY OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

Please join us on Mondays at 8:45 a.m. (just after chapel) for a casual study and discussion of the Lutheran Confessions. We meet in Pastor Thoma's office. The study concludes promptly at 9:15 a.m. Join us for chapel and then for study!

**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*

**Week of 28 December to 03 January**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Daniel Bolda	12/28	Madison Paige	1/1
Thomas Dunseth	12/28	Alexandra Conklin	1/2
Branden Zimmerman	12/29	Heather Slater	1/2
Hannah Taylor	12/30	Glen Butterfield	1/3
Alyssa Leonard	12/31	Mia Chapman	1/3
Kristina Biddix	1/1	Barbara Falconer	1/3
Matt Charder	1/1		

**NOTICE:**

**USHERS NEEDED FOR THE 8:30 A.M. SERVICE!** If you are interested in serving, please contact Tom Hay at 810-227-5849 or [elvislives.hay96@gmail.com](mailto:elvislives.hay96@gmail.com). Thank you.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us **NEXT WEEK** 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**

**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**

*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.**

**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***

**IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN TO RENEW LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS.** The subscription rate for 2016 is \$ **9.72**. Please submit your subscription payment to the church office or with your Sunday offering. All payments must be received in the office by **Sunday , January 17th**. Thank You.

✠ **PRAYERS** ✠

**THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY:** Bill and Lori Adrain, Adrian Atkinson, Raleigh Bahr, Ingeborg Bailey, Jack & Barbara Bain, Jack Bartenbaker, Wendell Bergren, Christopher Bolton, Susan Brandt, Wendell Bergren, Sylvia Cole, Sarah Condra, Carole Doll, Jim Faught, Carol Ford, Rourke Haas, Bill Kirkpatrick, Lori Looker, Kayla Marcum, Landon Martens, Leah Nelson, John Pffier, Cindy Pushman, The Shirk family, Donna Talsma, Randi Talsma, Edwin Thoma, Jennifer Thoma, Monica Tkac, Joan Thompson, Susan Vogt, Scott Waldorf, Ed Willer, Rev. John Wurst, 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.

## JR. AND SR. YOUTH GROUPS UPDATE

A lot has happened in a short period of time.

The Youth Board has met together twice this month with Pastor Thoma in order to begin retooling its efforts to serve the youth. A basic philosophy was formulated and discussed, goals were identified, and initial plans were set into motion to start reaching those goals.

Highlights include...

- knowing who our prospective youth actually are,
- having an Adult/youth leadership support structure in place to call and talk with the youth personally about events, activities, life in general,
- understanding that church attendance for our youth is paramount, and yet this typically translates to youth group participation.
- providing more opportunities to connect with the life of the congregation.

Some things to watch for...

Over the course the upcoming year, the Youth Board will spend a good deal of its time providing opportunities for building sturdy relationships among the core youth members. This effort will be mostly activity driven — that is, the efforts will consist of providing activities considered of high interest to the youth (i.e. paintball, overnight Cedar Point trips, overnight Base Camp events, and the like); the events will be provided free of charge to attendees and any invited friends. Also, more of the youth will be brought into service duties — acolytes, crucifers, lectors, ushering, altar guild, etc.

Lastly, an international Youth in Mission trip is being prepared for the summer of 2017. This, of course, depends somewhat on the international climate. Nevertheless, our eyes are once again set upon serving in Lithuania/Latvia by helping the church there to further outreach efforts to area youth and families. Serving American soldiers and their families stationed in England with VBS style camps is also a possibility. Ideas, to be sure. Wonderful opportunities for our youth, most definitively!

***More news to come!***

### 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

### ***The Song of Simeon***

Simeon is old, sees death before him, yea, he feels death in his very bones in every limb, as death approaches day by day, and daily he grows weaker after the manner of old people. But it does not grieve him. He desires only that it be soon, says that he is not affrighted by his departing, yea, that death is welcome unto him, since his eyes have seen his Savior. For were this not so, there could be no joy, nor could there be happiness in dying. Therefore the Godly Simeon wanted to warn every man and to lead us there (because we must all confess that we need a Savior), that we should accept Christ Jesus, whom our fancy has not created but whom God Himself has ordained. For with this help we cannot fail. For this reason alone the child did come. God, His heavenly Father, has prepared Him for us, that He shall help us. And of a truth, if any man possess this Savior, who is God's Savior, that man is still and peaceful in his heart.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther — Sermons from the Year 1544