

**OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS — 20 DECEMBER A.D. 2015

✠ **CALENDAR** ✠

**20 December to 27 December A.D. 2015**

**TODAY**

**SUNDAY**

**Divine Services** **8:30 & 11:00 A.M.**  
Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00 A.M.

**THIS WEEK**

**TUESDAY**

Cantate Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.  
Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 8:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**

Celebration Ringers Rehearsal 7:15 P.M.

**THURSDAY**

**Christmas Eve Festival Services** **4:30 & 10:30 P.M.**

**FRIDAY**

**Christmas Day Festival Service** **10:00 A.M.**

**SUNDAY, 27 December**

**Divine Services** **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.

**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.

**Week of 21 December to 27 December**

**BIRTHDAYS**

|                   |       |                  |       |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Jennifer Michaels | 12/21 | Cheryl Hajciar   | 2/24  |
| Brendan Smith     | 12/21 | Rebecca Fabinski | 12/26 |
| Greg Wittke       | 12/21 | Bennett Engel    | 12/27 |
| Frances Wyckoff   | 12/21 | Sharon Zaremba   | 12/27 |
| Kent Nelsen       | 12/22 |                  |       |

**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.

**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

**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

**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 Service:**

**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.**

**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](mailto:pastorthoma@oursaviorhartland.org).

✠ **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, Patricia Osborne, John Pffier, Cindy Pushman, Donna Talsma, Randi Talsma, Edwin Thoma, Monica Tkac, Joan Thompson, Susan Vogt, 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.

## A COUPLE OF USEFUL NOTES FROM PASTOR THOMA'S RECENT EMAIL NEWSLETTER

+ The Lord loves you. And most certainly is the Time of Christmas an opportunity to understand the extent to which our gracious God would go to show His love. I am starting this week's message with this emphasis so that you will consider two things.

First, Christmas is a time when folks are more inclined to attend church somewhere. Personal barriers come down and the general friendliness of the season will often overpower the personal hesitation to be in a context that they would normally avoid. Also, these same people will most likely only attempt such a venture because they have been invited by someone they know. In other words, someone actually said to them, "Hey, it's Christmas Eve, how about going to church with me tonight?" Second, I'm sure you know someone who would consider joining you for worship – if you would only ask them. The Thoma family has their eyes set upon a particular neighbor family...and we are going to hit the "go" button on the effort this weekend.

Believe it or not, in the history of the world, this is how 99% of the church's evangelism really has occurred. Not through gimmicky evangelism programs. Not through entertainment. Not through hipster efforts to seem relevant. The church is as it is because the Holy Spirit at work through the Gospel which simultaneously moves you to reach out to others in the very real grit and grime of everyday life. Christmas just so happens to be a time when, contextually, the hardness of the human shell may be a bit more fragile and the task may be a little easier. Think about it. Pray about. Maybe give it a try. You may be surprised.

+ On Wednesday night this past week we were blessed to receive the gifts of God through the efforts of our church and school children in the Office of Evening Prayer - Children's Christmas Service! What a joy it was to see the little ones serving so intently and to hear them sing what is resident in their humble little hearts! I noticed many folks in the pews being moved to tears. I certainly can understand. It's no small thing to see the Christian faith aglow in the hearts of little ones. On that note, let me add something to this while we're both thinking about it.

When I was a kid growing up in Danville, Illinois, my grandmother Dorothy (who is now with the Lord) lived in a retirement home a few miles from my house. I used to ride my bicycle over to see her pretty regularly. She was always so warm and so welcoming. I just loved going to see her. I loved it so much, I often took my friends from the neighborhood. But anyway...

There is very little to tell about her in worldly terms. While she raised seven children, there is very little trace of her in history. When she died, she didn't leave me or anyone else in the family any money or valuable possessions. This is what she left me: she left me Jesus. That was her legacy, which explains why I love her and miss her, and why she is etched so deeply into my heart. It gladdens me to remember how she loved Jesus and how she was sure to pray for her whole family so regularly and to show the love of Christ to everyone she met, a love that she learned for herself by way of the Word of God. For her, and for her young grandson sitting at her knee over 35 years ago, there could be no doubt: Jesus was her inheritance, and He was the inheritance she desired for me.

If you are a parent or grandparent, consider this when you concern yourself with the little ones in your care. First of all, get them here! Get them to where Jesus gives Himself through the powerful means of Word and Sacrament. By doing this, you are putting them into the context which serves to make them inheritors of the same treasures of Christ that are yours by faith. Second, pray for them. God hears our prayers and will keep a watchful eye just as He has promised.

+ Don't forget... The Christmas Eve service times have changed this year. There will be two services, one at 4:30 p.m. and the other at 10:30 p.m. The 7:00 p.m. service will not occur this year. Also, remember that the Sunday right after Christmas, December 27th, there will only be one Divine Service at 10:00 a.m. And finally, don't forget that during the week following December 27th, Holy Worship will occur on Thursday, December 31, New Year's Eve at 4:30 p.m. and on Friday, January 1, New Year's Day at 10:00 a.m. Consider being with us to usher in the New Year in the name of Jesus!

### OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Jonathan Swett, Kantor

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, School Principal