



ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Weekly News

Dec. 22 – Dec. 29

2019

Sunday, December 22nd 	Worship with Holy Communion 8:30 & 11:00 am Teen/Adult Bible Class 10:00 am No Sunday School or Confirmation Class
Tuesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 4:30 & 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25th	Christmas Day Worship 9:30 am
Sunday, December 29th	Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am Teen/Adult Bible Class 10:00 am No Sunday School or Confirmation Class



December Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 29th

Candlelight Service 4:30 & 7:00 PM

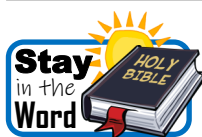
Worship Service 9:30 AM

Worship 8:30 & 11:00AM Bible Study 10:00 AM

Christmas Outreach: We recently mailed 3000 postcards to our community. Let's keep our eyes and hearts open to any unfamiliar faces and greet them with the love of Christ. There are extra postcards on the visitor table in the entryway. Take as many as you'd like to invite everyone to hear how much they are loved by God this Christmas.



The Church and Its Ministry - Who Are the Church's Workers? The Bible pictures the church of God as a busy and active church empowered by his grace and directed by his Word, but it does not portray it as having a beehive mentality where some are workers and others are spectators. Scripture teaches that each member of the church has exactly the same relationship to God and to his Son, Jesus Christ, as every other member. That means that all of us enjoy the same privilege of ministering to our fellow members. This privilege consists of works of sacrificial service and love. In the church of God every member is a performer. Every member is a worker. Join us as we ponder our place in ministry!



NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study for 2020 – Christian Decision

Making: Every day we are forced to make countless decisions. Some of them are seemingly insignificant (e.g. should I order the pepperoni pizza or the supreme?). Others can change the course of our whole lives (e.g. should I go ahead with this business merger or not?). As children of God we exist to glorify him in every area of our life, including our decisions. Sometimes God's will for us is obvious, sometimes it isn't, sometimes he gives us freedom, but true wisdom is found in being able to tell the difference. Join us in the New Year as we go to God's Word for guidance on how to make god-pleasing decisions.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE FAITH, In 2018, God's grace opened the door to an unprecedented mission opportunity for our synod. The communist Vietnamese government invited WELS to build a theological education facility in the capital city of Hanoi. WELS members and congregations quickly responded with their prayers and financial gifts. God blessed this opportunity and moved hearts to contribute more than \$2 million to cover the land purchase, construction expenses, and two years of operational costs. And this is just the beginning. There are more than 120,000 members of the Hmong Fellowship Church and 2 million Hmong people throughout Southeast Asia. Imagine what the Holy Spirit can accomplish through the 2,800+ pastors and leaders who will be equipped to share the truth of God's grace with their Hmong brothers and sisters. Rejoice with us as we watch the Holy Spirit change earthly lives and open the door to eternal life for our Hmong brothers and sisters on the other side of the world! - WELS WORLD MISSIONS



The Annual Ladies' Christmas Gathering: Thanks to all the ladies that came and enjoyed an evening of laughs, songs, and fellowship. Thanks to Jill Siewert for hosting this wonderful evening.



Let's Go Tubing! Group Life Ministry invites you to participate in snow tubing on **Saturday, January 25th at 1:00 PM** at the Elm Creek Park Reserve (12400 James Deane Pkwy, Maple Grove, MN). The cost is \$15 per person for two hours and \$3 for each additional hour. Riders must be at least 4 years old or 36 inches tall to participate. A sign up sheet has been posted if you are interested in participating.



Second Harvest Volunteer Opportunity: We will spend the time packaging food as a service to our community on **Tuesday, February 4th from 6:00-8:00pm**. This is a great way to volunteer as a family, or invite a group of friends to join you. Space is limited to 16 volunteers. A sign up sheet is posted if you are interested. Please plan to meet at Second Harvest Heartland.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHISM: CLASS RESUMES January 5th

PRESCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION OFFERING

Costa Maya Ministries in Mahahual, Mexico. **So far we've raised \$446.11!**



Shepherding Flock Thank You: A special thanks to Flock #1 & 2 for serving our congregation this week. Don't forget to check & sign up when your Flock is serving. **The sign up is in the fellowship hall on the Sign Up board!**



Flowers: Thank you to the following individuals for purchasing flowers to help beautify our altar for Christmas! Charles & Joan Barlow in memory of Harley & Marguerite Johnson, Pam Dumke/Larry Gades, RaNae Kleist, Pastor & Christy Roloff, Beth Svendsen in memory of her parents, and Ron & Mary Swift in memory of Maddie Swift. Those who purchased plants may take them home after the service on Christmas Day.



Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ascensionplymouth/.



WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership: WELS Congregational Services will host the first WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership at the Sheraton Grand in Chicago, Ill., **Jan. 21-23**. Learn more or register at lutheranleadership.com.



WELS Special Ministries: Are here to help equip churches and individuals to serve in love. The Special Ministries umbrella covers eight specialized areas, but the opportunities to put love in action are countless. Learn about the many ways WELS Special Ministries can help you serve those around you at wels.net/special-ministries.



Synod Prayers: *Rising Son Ministry Center* – Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings of a team ministry approach for reaching college students in Oshkosh, Wis. For decades you have used the Rising Son Ministry Center to serve thousands of students. Thank you for giving the members of Martin Luther Church a willingness to specifically designate one of their pastors to devote half of his ministry time each week to reaching even more college students in an area that is densely populated with young adults. Bless the efforts of all Christian college students to continue to let the light of their faith shine in an environment where often they can be persecuted. Amen.



Church Cleaning Schedule: We are so thankful for all of the hands that work together to keep Ascension clean and welcoming!

Dec. 27th: Bill & Penny Petersen, Tim & Gail Peterson

Jan. 3rd: Luke & Jocelyn Pfothenauer, Morris & Amy Rau



A Christmas Message from the President

Dear friends and fellow recipients of God's grace,

When we kneel at the manger this Christmas, the writer to the Hebrews has each of us do a "double take." Look again at that Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. See him as the Word. See him as the Creator. See him as our Redeemer.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Heb. 1:1-3)

Holy Spirit, bless our Advent preparations and our Christmas proclamations so that every heart beats with gratitude and every tongue joins in singing:

"Lord, how shall I thank you rightly? I am saved eternally
By your life and death for me. Let me not regard you lightly
But on you in faith depend, Praising you, my heavenly friend."

From your friends at Martin Luther College,
Rev. Mark Zarling, President - Martin Luther College



Coaches vs. Cancer: The West Lutheran High School and United Christian Academy basketball teams are teaming up with the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches to raise funds towards the fight against cancer. There will be several opportunities to give through T-shirt sales, raffles, games, and more! Come join us in the battle! **Saturday, January 4th 11:00 am—3:45pm.** All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.



Volunteers Needed! Wise Penny Thrift Shoppe Store Restocking and Cleaning Dec. 26-28, 30-31 & Jan. 2-4: The Wise Penny Thrift Shoppe in Buffalo needs YOUR help during our annual store cleaning December 26-28, 30-31, and January 2-4. The store is closed to customers so that we can clean, do painting and maintenance, and restock before reopening in the New Year! Time slots are available from 9 am – 5 pm each day. Evening shifts are available by request. Call the store at 763-682-4178, or email Brittany McFadden, store manager, at wisepennythrift@outlook.com to let us know you are coming! Thanks to all of our volunteers, the Wise Penny has been blessed with a record year of sales and has donated a total of over \$235,000 in 2019 to our partner charities: West Lutheran High School, Christian Life Ministries, and Lutheran Institutional Ministerial Association.