

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **December 4, 2011**

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### **NEW THIS WEEK**

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#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by the Voigt family in celebration of Sherry's birthday.

#### **MLHS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

All are invited to the MLHS Band Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 10, at 7:00 pm and the MLHS Choir Concert on Sunday, December 18, at 4 pm. Both concerts are free and will include a variety of musical selections. Milwaukee Lutheran High School, 9700 W. Grantosa Dr.

#### **MLHS LADIES GUILD FRUITCAKE SALE**

MLHS fruitcakes are going like "hotcakes". See Eleanor Beckman or Jane Buck between services to purchase a \$9 fruitcake.

#### **ADVENT SERVICE – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**

The theme for our Advent midweek worship this year is "Songs of the Season." We'll take a look at some songs of the holiday season and draw some lessons for our lives as people of God. Christmas is a happy, joyful time for many, but not for all. For some people, the holidays are a time of sadness and loneliness. How can we find joy even in the midst of sadness. The theme for our midweek Advent service this week is "Blue Christmas." There will be a hymn-sing at 6:20 pm. and the service will begin at 6:30pm.

#### **ADVENT SUPPERS**

A fellowship supper will be served before each of the Advent midweek services. The suppers this year will begin at 5:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for the supper on December 7. A main dish will be provided. Please sign up to bring either a salad or dessert.

#### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Help beautify our Christmas services! Plants may be picked up for your personal use or gift-giving following the Christmas Day service, or they may be left at church for other holiday services. Order forms were left in the your mailbox. Additional forms available in the narthex. (Checks made out to Covenant Lutheran Church.) Deadline to order is this Sunday, December 4.

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### **GENERAL**

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#### **NORTHWEST LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Northwest Lutheran Christmas Program is Wednesday, December 21, at 7:00pm. All are invited. Mark your calendar now!

#### **"CATCH UP" OFFERINGS**

Please consider giving a special "above and beyond" offering this year. "Catch Up" offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Our financial statements show that we still owe the South Wisconsin District \$21,000 for previous years when we could not pay our full commitment. We hope to be able to pay back a portion of this debt this year. Thank you to all for your generous, first-fruits, gifts to the Lord!

#### **DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP**

The Christmas holiday is not always as the old song goes... "the hap, happiest time of the year." Depression, whether clinical or situational, can rob people of some of that joy. This support group meets next on Thursday, Dec. 15, in the youth room at Covenant. If you could use prayer, support, and encouragement- even if you have never come before - you are welcome to join us.

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## ☞ P A R E N T S ☞

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### **BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS**

A Covenant birthday party for Jesus will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 17** at 11:00am. All children are welcome and encouraged to attend! Feel free to invite a friend as well! We'll have lunch, a movie, crafts, candy and more! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex so I know how many to plan for! Thanks! Sherry Voigt

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

It was great to see Oscar, Olivia, Tyler E., Bodie, Emily, Jake, Matthew, Grace, MaryJo, Caeden, Rachael, Dylan, Lauren, and Jadee last week. Thank you, parents, for your commitment to bringing your child each Sunday! It is especially important this month as we work on Christmas program songs! We love working with your kids!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE**

Please mark your calendar now so that your child will be in attendance at Covenant on Saturday mornings, December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-11:00am. We will be practicing for the Christmas program. Jesus' Birthday Party for Sunday School children will follow practice on Dec. 17.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS**

Confirmation class for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be held at 9:00am on December 11. Please bring your book and catechism! Also, please remember to check the acolyte schedule to be sure you know when it is your day to serve.

### **JUNIOR CONFIRMATION FOR 7th GRADERS**

We meet each Wednesday afternoon in the youth room from 3:30-4:45pm. Yes, there will be afterschool snacks! (Youth may stay after to help with the Advent supper, eat, and attend Advent worship.) If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Voigt.

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## ☞ M E N ☞

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### **MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL & BIBLE STUDY**

A men's Bible study, hosted by Brent Weeks, titled "Dare to be Uncommon" meets tomorrow night, Monday, December 5, at 6:30pm. If you are interested, please call Brent at 414-975-2849.

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## ☞ O P P O R T U N I T I E S T O S E R V E ☞

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### **MISSION OF CHRIST SERVANT EVENTS**

For December, Mission of Christ can use sheets and blankets. Please join the volunteers the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month and see how grateful the people respond to your donations.

### **TENDERCARE MINISTRY**

Covenant's TenderCare Ministry serves families with children age 2 and younger by providing childcare during Bible classes and worship services each Sunday morning. If you are willing to serve in TenderCare on a Sunday morning for part or all of the time, please call the church office.

### **MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

We received a request for financial assistance from the Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr and his wife Deborah. Pastor Rockrohr is the former pastor of Oklahoma Avenue Lutheran Church. Two of his children graduated from Northwest Lutheran School. The Rockrohrs have been called to serve at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. Pastor Carl will serve as an instructor at the Seminary and Deb as the residential deaconess. In order to serve in the mission field they must raise 75% of their first year budget (\$147,000). For more information on their mission or to donate, please see their website: [www.rockrohr.net](http://www.rockrohr.net) or [www.lcms.org/rockrohr](http://www.lcms.org/rockrohr)

### **CHRISTMAS CARD OUTREACH**

On Wed., Dec. 7, volunteers are needed to sign & address Christmas cards for Northwest and Covenant Child Care families. It starts at 10:00am in the Neuberger Lounge if you'd like to help.

**DECEMBER 22, 12:30-3:30PM**

This is the date and time of the **Outreach Birthday Party for Jesus** held for Northwest families, Covenant Child Care families, and our community. There are many ways you can support this outreach: 1) Pray for those planning, helping, and attending 2) Sign up to assist with activities/help supervise during the party 3) Invite a neighbor, a co-worker's child, etc. 4) Donate financially using the red Christmas Outreach envelopes in the narthex. If you need more information, please contact Sherry Voigt or Karen Winefeld.

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**☞ PRAYER ☞**

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**PRAYER OPPORTUNITY**

A Monday evening prayer team meets each week to pray for our neighborhood and community, our church and its members, and all who have need. Please join us if you are interested!

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you have a prayer to include in the prayers today, please speak with the pastor before the service. A Prayer Jar is on the wall desk in the narthex for prayers that will be addressed every Monday night. You may also put a prayer on the Prayer Chain by calling Nancy at 414-461-3671.