

### An Epiphany Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain...

Go, tell it on the mountain. Over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night.  
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

REFRAIN

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angels chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.

REFRAIN

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

REFRAIN

During this year's Sunday School Christmas Program, our children belted out the favorite Christmas carol, Go Tell it on the Mountain. Though many of the littlest ones did not remember all the words of the verses, they did, certainly, know the refrain. A second version of the song includes these verses:

*When I was a seeker I sought both night and day,  
I asked the Lord to help me, and he showed me the way.*

REFRAIN

*He made me a watchman upon a city wall,  
and if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.*

This beloved Christmas carol is an African American spiritual song and first showed up in a collection of spirituals compiled by John Wesley Work Jr. in 1865. Many believe he was the composer of this hymn. The original lyrics above celebrate the nativity of Jesus.

The refrain itself reminds us that it is never enough to know the story of Jesus' birth. Nor is it enough to know the good news that the one born in the manger is Christ our Savior. No, if this good news is the best news (and it is!) then we "**go tell it on the mountain top**" and spread the word "**over the hills and every where.**" Good news is always worth sharing.

The Epiphany season begins on January 6, when we remember the arrival of the Wiseman from the East who traveled such a great distance to find this baby Jesus.

Their presence at the nativity is a reminder that this birth was not a local curiosity but an event of global significance. Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection changed the world. For this reason, many Christians lift up opportunities for evangelism and global mission during the season of Epiphany.

This year we are going to do just that. During January, we will be giving you a look at our new website and Facebook page, and offer simple ideas about how you can share the good news with your family and friends. Also on the weekend of January 21 and 22, we will have guests from Lutheran Partners in Global Mission here to talk about their work, especially in India, where many of our members are sponsoring school children. (See related article in this month's VOICE.)

So this month, make it a resolution to tell someone about the good news of Jesus Christ, about what we are doing here at Our Savior's or maybe even invite someone to church.

Spread the good news...

### Over the hills and everywhere!

See you in church

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Cath*



**JANUARY YOUTH EVENT**

Christmas break is over...school's back in session... so you know what that means? It's time to head to Cavanaugh's for a Sleigh Ride!

**When:** Wednesday, January 4. Come right after school – bus leaves by 3:45 pm.

**Cost:** \$10 per person (financial assistance available).

Parents, we'll be back to church by 7:00 pm for you to pick them up.

*This event is open to all youth in Grades 6–12. Bring your friends!*

*REMINDER: We must have a completed permission slip on file for all youth attending.*

**UNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

On Wednesday, January 18, we'll be going to the PAC for the Youth Unity Service! This is a requirement for all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students and will be in place of class that evening. High school students are also invited to come. Contact Marcie Kimmes at 725-3956 if you would like to join us or if you have any questions.

**ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A CONFIRMATION STUDENT?**

Interested in doing something really fun and challenging this winter? OSLC is hosting 'Are You Smarter Than a Confirmation Student' event. We would love for you to participate as the students assisting the adult contestant answering the questions.

Here's how it will work: Questions will range from Sunday School (easiest questions) to post-confirmation (harder questions). You will be able to assist the adult contestant as a group or an individual. The categories are: The Ten Commandments, Bible, Martin Luther, Jesus, and Mixed Bag. If you have ever seen 'Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader' then you know that you don't have to know everything about these topics, just enough to make it interesting and confusing for the adult contestants.

The event takes place **Saturday, January 28 at 6:00 pm**. There will be a pizza dinner first then the game starts at 6:30 pm. There will be a suggested donation for the dinner with proceeds going to help confirmation camp expenses.

*For those of you in confirmation, you will receive two points for participating!*

If you are willing to participant, please contact Suzanne Hietala at [shietala@new.rr.com](mailto:shietala@new.rr.com) or by phone at 727-1032.

**Parents:** this event is open to everyone. Anyone over 18 who is in the audience can place their name in the hat and may be picked to be a contestant!

*Please consider being involved in this exciting event!*

**CONFIRMATION NEWS**

**Grade 6:** Class begins again on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15am

**Grade 7 & 8:** Class resumes on Wednesday, January 4. We'll have our lesson during the "Sleigh Ride" Event.

**JR. HIGH YOUTH GATHERING**

All those in grades 6-8 are invited to an overnight filled with Christian fun! Sign-up NOW if you want to attend the Jr. High Youth Gathering on Feb.18-19. Contact Marcie at [mkimmes@our-saviors.org](mailto:mkimmes@our-saviors.org) or call 725-3956 for your registration packet.

*Parents, we need chaperones for our group.* Contact Marcie if you are willing to go.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

Plans are being made for another youth mission trip this summer. We are going to Joplin, MO from June 24-29.

This is open to youth in grades 6–12. Interested in taking a road trip? Come to the informational meeting on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00pm.

**LOOKING AHEAD...**

- February 1 – Youth Event
- February 4 & 5 – Youth Worship Weekend
- February 18 & 19 – Jr. High Youth Gathering
- March 10 – LOCK-IN ☺

This Month's Storyline

# The Last Supper

The Last Supper is a story that includes bread, wine, and washing feet. Join us on Sundays at 9:15 am to find out how this all works together.

### Rotations Cast:

**Art:** Kris Martin  
**Video:** Amy & John Kampe  
**Storytelling:** Connie Freeders  
**Science:** Kelly Keach

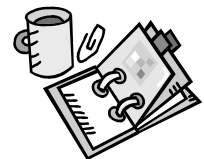
A thank you goes out to Vicki Meinke, Kristin Oyler, Katie Ricketts, & Suzanne Hietala for helping out during December. You have touched the lives of our children. God Bless!

### Next Storyline: Abraham & Sara

Don't miss out on all the fun!  
 Join us on Sundays at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary!

## Youth & Sunday School Calendar

<p><b>Jan. 1</b>                  No Sunday School                  No Grade 6 Confirmation Class</p> <p><b>Jan. 4</b>                  3:45 pm Youth Event                  5:30 pm Grades 7 &amp; 8 Confirmation Class                  7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p> <p><b>Jan. 8</b>                  9:15 am Sunday School                  9:15 am Grade 1 Class, "What Does Baptism Mean to Me?"                  9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class                  9:15 am Youth Group (Grade 7 &amp; Up)                  10:30 am Grade 1 Honored</p> <p><b>Jan. 11</b>                  5:30 pm Grades 7 &amp; 8 Confirmation Class                  7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p>	<p><b>Jan. 15</b>                  9:15 am Sunday School                  9:15 am Grade 3 Class, "What is Worship?"                  9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class                  9:15 am Youth Group (Grade 7 &amp; Up)                  10:30 am Grade 3 Honored</p> <p><b>Jan. 18</b>                  5:30 pm Unity Service at the PAC                  7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p> <p><b>Jan. 22</b>                  9:15 am Sunday School                  9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class                  9:15 am Youth Group (Grade 7 &amp; Up)</p> <p><b>Jan. 25</b>                  5:30 pm Grades 7 &amp; 8 Confirmation Class                  7:45 pm Youth Band Practice</p>	<p><b>Jan. 28</b>                  6:00 pm Are You Smarter Than A Confirmation Student Event</p> <p><b>Jan. 29</b>                  9:15 am Sunday School                  9:15 am Grade 5 Class, "Who is Martin Luther?"                  9:15 am Grade 6 Confirmation Class                  9:15 am Youth Group (Grade 7 &amp; Up)                  10:30 am Grade 5 Honored</p>
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## Mini Classes for Grades 1, 3, & 5

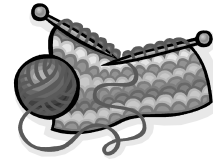
**Grade 1—What Does Baptism Mean to Me?** This class will help remind attendees about their baptism and also help them to discover that Baptism has a deep meaning in everyday life. The class is **Jan. 8 at 9:15 am** and the children will be honored at the 10:30 am service.

**Grade 3—What is Worship**

Join us for a class designed to enrich the worship experience for everyone involved. Class will be held on **Jan. 15 at 9:15 am** and the children will be honored during the 10:30 am worship service.

**Grade 5— Who is Martin Luther?**

This class is designed to prepare students for Confirmation instruction. Class will be held **Jan. 29 at 9:15 am** and students will be honored during the 10:30 am worship service.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, Jan 10 at 9:30 am.

This is a change from the of the first Tuesday of the month.

The group will resume meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in February.



**Annual Meeting & Meal**  
Thursday, February 2.  
Dinner at 5:30 pm with meal following.

### Snowbirds!

Are you getting ready to head south for the winter? Please contact the church office at 725-3956 with your winter address and your departure & return dates so we can send your church mail to you.



## Sound The Bells! The Savior's Born!

The Christmas program was performed beautifully under the direction of Vicki Meinke.

I would like to extend a huge **thank you** to Vicki for her dedication to many years of directing the children's Christmas program. Know that you will be missed next year. Thank you also to the whole Meinke family. You know when one person is involved you are sure to see the rest of the family members filling in where needed, right Matt, Drew, and Rich?

The program was made possible with Vicki, the help of teachers, shepherds, parents and most of all the children. **THANK YOU ALL!** This year there were 61 children in attendance for the program.

I would like to say thank you to Adam Kreuter, Taylor Kreuter, Ardy Kreuter, Stacey Kreuter, Cary Myska, Christine Rondeau, Steve Shelley, Melissa Harrington, Jen Paulson, Rebecca Danke, Berdie Golden, Kerin Harrington, Cheryl Timm, Adam Shea, Gene Gregory, Debbie Burmeister, Dave Johnson, and Chris Swender, and all the others that assisted in the behind the scenes work to help our children's program become a success.

God's Peace,  
*Ruthie Melzer*



## Sinners To Dinner

Saturday,  
Jan. 14  
at Naut's  
Landing

Sinners to Dinner will be going to Naut's Landing in Menasha after the 5:00 pm worship on Sat., Jan. 14. We hope you can come!

Dinner is "Dutch Treat". Please contact Roberta Golden at 722-5476 or [roberta\\_golden@hotmail.com](mailto:roberta_golden@hotmail.com) by Friday evening, January 13, so we can make reservations.



**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**

January  
14 & 28  
8:00 am

We will meet at the Perkins in Neenah.  
All men are welcome!



## Wrapped up in God's Love

### New Year's Weekend

We invite everyone to start the New Year out right by worshipping on Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 pm or January 1 at 8:00 or 10:30 am, but don't worry about getting dressed up.

Come in your favorite comfort-clothes. Flannel, Fleece, Sweat suits, Christmas Sweaters, and even Snuggies are welcome.

Bring your favorite blanket or prayer shawl. We just want you to be comfortable!

Awards will be given at all services for the person with the best (ugliest?) Christmas Sweater and for the person who wears the most comfortable clothes.

## Taize Service Change

The 'From Darkness to Light Taize Service has been changed to Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 pm.

We invite you to come to a quiet, simple half hour service with a taste of the mystery and beauty of God.

This Taize service will use sight, sound, and powerfully simple music to create a time away from hectic schedules and harried lives. Invite your friends. This is a family friendly service.

**Sponsored by the  
Worship Ministry Team.**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

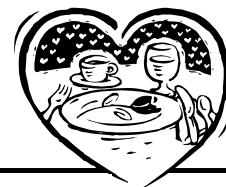
Pick up a copy of the 2011 Annual Report which will be available soon.

Learn what all our ministries accomplished this past year.

Trust us—it's a great read!

## Suggestion Box Update

Thank you to those who have submitted suggestions. We will publish responses in February.



## Valentine's Dinner

**Calling all men of  
Our Savior's!**

Looking to do something wonderful for your wife or significant other on Valentine's Day? How about helping organize a Valentine's Dinner for them? Come on, show her how much you love her! If you are interested, please e-mail Suzanne Hietala at [shietala@new.rr.com](mailto:shietala@new.rr.com)

Building Access Code will change on January 2, 2012. If you need access to the building after office hours, please call the church office at 725-3956.



## Angel Sale!

Thank you for your great response to the sale of the stained glass angels the first weekend in December. The \$750 received from the sale was put into the Help Fund, and will be used to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Keith and Vernice Knudsen**



# Pizza Time!!

## 10th Annual Pizza Build

Saturday, February 4

(Just in Time for the Super Bowl on Feb. 5!)

Your pizza will be made by hand on Saturday morning using the freshest ingredients from Lone Elm Dairy. That means when you pick them up Saturday they are all set to go in the oven or ready to stick in the fridge to eat while you watch the big game the next day! You can stick them in your freezer, so stock up for when the next pizza craving hits.

Tell all your friends and family!

Proceeds from the sale go toward all of the Our Savior's mission trips. You get a yummy pizza and you're helping with this important ministry at the same time. How cool is that!

Order envelopes and posters are in the Gathering Area.

You may also use the enclosed order sheet.

Please take some order forms to your friends and co-workers, too.

Please return your orders by Sunday, January 29.



**Ministry Partners**

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry Mission Weekend:  
January 21 & 22

Did you know that Epiphany is the season of the church where we celebrate global missions?

In order to emphasize our global connections, Our Savior's will have a display of our ministry in India in the Gathering Area.

There will also be a display of children who are waiting for a sponsor to support their education in India. If you would like to make a difference in the life of a child from the poorest of the world's poor, you can choose a child during January.

Also, Our Savior's has asked Gordon and Betty Olson and other representatives from Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (LPGM) to be our guests the weekend of January 21& 22. All services will include representatives from LPGM.

Everyone is welcome to a potluck meal on Saturday evening at 6:15 pm for a wonderful evening of stories and fellowship. On Sunday they attend both services and be available for coffee and fellowship between worship services.

You do not have to sponsor a child or commit to sponsoring a child to come! However, if you currently sponsor a child in India through LPGM, we encourage you to bring photos or letters from your child to share with others.



## Library News

Need a 2012 New Year's resolution?

Browse the daily devotional and prayer books in the OSLC library. These books are currently located next to the check-out binder.

Did you know that Devotional books can be checked out for a full year? They can, but please return by January 2013.

## Varsity Event

Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 11:00 am.

Our Savior's member, Kevin Schmitting, is on the board for the organization called Beaming.

"What is Beaming?", you might ask.

Beaming uses horse therapy to rehabilitate veterans and people with disabilities.

Kevin Schmitting will tell us more about this special nonprofit organization.

Watch for more information in the Gathering Area and bulletins.

## Samantha Update

We would like to thank our church family at Our Saviors and also their friends who have been praying for our granddaughter, Samantha.

She had pre-leukemia (MDS) and had a bone marrow transplant. Later they found that she now has acute myeloid leukemia (AML) which is another type of leukemia. She has been hospitalized for four months at Cook's Children's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas.

Because of all the support and prayers, we still have hope in spite of the fact there is a long, hard road ahead. We know we having a loving God so we put our trust and hope in Him. Please continue to keep Sam and our family in your prayers.

God bless you all!

The Schmidt's  
Doris & Ken  
Peggy & Perry



## Flower Calendar

The 2012 flower chart is posted on a bulletin board in the office wing.

When signing up, please be sure to indicate center arrangement, side arrangements, or both.

Payment and wording for the bulletin must be received by noon on the Wednesday prior to the weekend the flowers will be on the altar.

## Relaxation Class Offered Again!

Miss your chance to attend the first Relaxation class? Well you're in luck! Dr. Klamm will be offering the class again! Classes start **Monday, January 30 at 7:00 pm**. The hour long class will run four weeks with the final class on Monday, February 20.

Learn about the science of the Relaxation Response and how meditation can open doors to a more peaceful co-existence with the rigors of our daily life.

Interested? Please RSVP on the sheet by the Nursery.

## Relaxation Class Alumni

Dr Klamm will be offering a Relaxation Breathing, Yoga and Meditation class follow-up.

These classes start on **Monday, January 2 at 7:00 pm**. Classes will run for four weeks, with the last class being held on Monday, January 23.

## We're On Facebook!

Check out the Our Savior's Facebook page at **Our Savior's Lutheran—Neenah, WI**.

We will post regular updates, Pictures, events, and other fun stuff happening at Our Savior's.

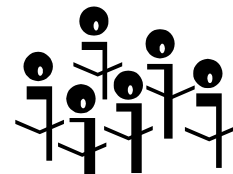
You can also access our Facebook page through our homepage on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).

## REMEMBER US WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

There is always the temptation to forget about our church or our God. This is especially true when our travels take us away from our usual routines.

Remember: Worship with us, bring your relatives and friends if they are visiting, and worship wherever you are when you travel.

Send your offering to the church by mail if you are not in town, or drop it off at the church office.



## Thanks Choirs!

Thank you to all the choirs for such a wonderful weekend of worship during this year's Lessons and Carols weekend.

Everyone did a beautiful job!

A special thank you to the directors: Berdie Golden, Ardy Kreuter, and Tiffany Van Boxtel.

## Offering Envelopes



## Reminder!

Please do not use any 2011 offering envelopes after the first of the year. This will ensure that you receive credit for your contribution.

## Memorials & Honorariums



\$100 to the Gilbertson memorial.

\$500 to the Foundation in memory of Irene Sorenson.

## Financial Snapshot

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	YTD through Nov.	YTD through Nov.
Income	\$323,150.99	\$333,580.83
Expenses	\$357,656.58	\$342,309.35
Over / (Short):	(\$34,505.59)	(\$8,728.52)

## Where There Is A Will There Is a Way

Playing a little with the key word, "will" let me remind you that to leave this earth without a Will is an invitation to chaos and often leads to arguments within the family, while your church and your favorite charities are cut off.

Making a Will is a good move at any age. A Will can always be revised and updated. To have an up-to-date Will is more than a practical precaution: it is a thoughtful statement of our love for our loved ones and a witness to our deepest loyalties to the church of Jesus Christ, and to other institutions or organizations which, in our judgment, express God's compassion in an aching world.

Please consider remembering Our Savior's in your Will. Your "will" to consider an end of life gift may determine whether or not there will be a "way" for our church to maintain and expand its ministry beyond your lifetime.

For more information, contact Pastor Mode or any member of the Finance Committee.

*Pastor Cath*

## Budget Meeting

Have questions about our proposed church budget for 2012? You will have two chances this year to attend Budget Review Meetings before our Annual Meeting. Choose the one that works best for you.

The meetings will take place on:

**Sunday, January 22, at 9:15 am**

**Sunday, January 29, at 9:15 am**

## Men's Caregiver Support Group

If you're a man and are now providing or in the past have provided care for a family member, you will want to be a part of our on-going Men's Caregiver Support Group at the Thompson Community Center.

This group is facilitated by Older Adult Counselor, Kristine Stack, but the group's focus is to provide a place where men who provide support to their loved ones can receive support, understanding and guidance from each other.

The group meets every Tuesday from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Belmore Room at the Thompson Community Center. There is a one-time suggested donation of \$15, but no one will be turned away due to an inability to make a donation.

Contact Kristine at 920-255-1709 for more information.

## Thank You!

Thank you for a wonderful holiday season! I am so thankful for each and every one of you!

People often ask how I can worship and celebrate Christmas while at the same time leading worship. The answer is simple. This is because of the you and all your support.

There have been so many ways you have expressed support for my family and me. It's been amazing all the thoughtful ways you've shared this Christmas spirit.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Cath Mode*



## It's Cold & Flu Season Again!

At Our Savior's we care about you and your health. Here are some tips.

It's okay to not shake hands while passing the peace. Bumping elbows, flashing a "V" peace sign, or the "how ya doin" head bob are all acceptable. Taking Communion in one kind (bread alone) is okay.

Our communion wine and bread is handled with the utmost care to keep it sanitary, and all assistants sanitize their hands before handling them. While we do our best to keep sanitizers available throughout the church, it may be a good practice to bring you own small bottle in your purse or pocket.

If you are feeling ill, please do not come to worship or volunteer task. We will miss you dearly and pray for you, but by staying home you are preventing the germs from spreading to others and helping yourself get better and back to church quicker.

ATTENDANCE		
November	2010	2011
Week 1	395	363
Week 2	263	236
Week 3	290	242
Week 4	361*	396*
Weekly Avg.	327	309

\* Includes Thanksgiving Eve

**S**tars are shining  
As stars do  
As they must

Do you see?  
Sometimes not  
Cloud  
Roof  
Daylight  
Streetlight

So many things  
Obscure  
Obliterate  
Overcome  
Overwhelm

But stars burn on  
As they have  
As they do  
As they will

**G**od is loving us  
As God does  
As God chooses

Do you know?  
Sometimes not  
Death  
Despair  
Distraction  
Detachment

So many things  
Obscure  
Obliterate  
Overcome  
Overwhelm

But God loves on  
As God has  
As God does  
As God will

May this Christmas season shine with the fullness of God's love in Christ Jesus for you and your loved ones. May the New Year be filled with the light of Emmanuel (God with us) for you and yours. May God give you hope, faith and abundant love this year.

### *Vicar Ed.*

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Thanks to Jared Hammonds

12-02-2011

THEY BUSTED ME ON POSSESSION ... WHAT ARE YOU IN FOR?