

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – 11/29/2019

Family Bible Hour This Morning – We are continuing in our study of *Rainbow Savior*. Today we begin a new section on *The Diversity of Love*. We've had great questions and discussion. Come and join the study in the gymnasium!

Thursday Bible Study has finished for the semester. Stay tuned for when we start next year!

An Open Forum for the congregation is planned for December 8th, during the Bible study hour [9:20 am]. The Long Range Planning Committee would like to communicate the research accomplished so far and solicit congregational input. There may also be information to share by the Board of Education. Please join us in the gymnasium.

The Elected Officers Recognize how God's people often humbly in faith give extra gifts this time of year. If you are thinking of doing so, they suggest the following options as ones that greatly benefit our ministry:

General Fund

- Funds both church and school needs, supports faculty and staff
- Added 4K teacher & pastor recently, began evangelism mailers this year
- Supports ongoing ministry
- Maintains facilities

Debt Retirement

- Bank loan stands around \$635,000
- Retiring this debt would free around \$6100 a month for ministry

Faith to the Future

- Helps congregational students at WELS high schools
- Supports congregational Martin Luther College students (training for pastor or teacher)
- Supports congregational Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary students (final training for pastor)

Member Assistance Fund

- Helps our congregational members in challenging financial times
- Was created to keep situations private as possible and avoid asking the congregation each time an occurrence happened

Advent Family Devotions - Have you been wanting to refresh devotional routines with your family? Advent is a great time to start! For families with younger or early grade school children, "Counting to Christmas" by Gail Pawlitz is a great option. For families with middle school age children or above, "Be Near Me, Lord Jesus" by Richard Lauersdorf and "Behold! I Am Coming Soon: Advent Devotions from Revelation" by Bruce McKenney are both great options. Beginning in December, you can light an additional candle on an Advent wreath each week during your family devotions as you prepare to celebrate the birth of this world's Light. Any of these items can be purchased through nph.net, our WELS publishing house. *Another great resource* is "Christ is the World's Light", developed by our Martin Luther College. It can be viewed or ordered at www.mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/

Ladies Aid Christmas Party - All ladies are invited to the Ladies Aid Christmas Party on Thursday, December 12 at 1:30pm. Please sign up in the member room if you plan to attend. Pastor Mueller will lead a devotional program and the school children will provide entertainment, followed by refreshments. Hope you can join us!

Living Nativity Postcards - Living Nativity Postcards are available in the member room. Take postcards to mail to your family and friends. If your place of employment allows you to hang a poster, please do so.

Living Nativity Cookie Sign up sheets - The sheet is in the member room if you would be interested in bringing 3 dozen Christmas cookies. Any kind you like to make is the kind we want. The cookies are not needed until Thursday or Friday (Dec. 5/6) of Living Nativity. Your cookies are a big hit each year for our visitors.

Nativity Sets - Is there a nativity set(s) with a special meaning for you, one that is unique, or perhaps an antique? Would you be willing to display it in the commons area to share with our visitors during Living Nativity? Even if you have displayed one before, please bring it again. There are always new people who have not seen it before and others that love to see favorites from years past. If so, please sign up on sheets provided in the member room and indicate if you will be bringing more than one and what message(s) you want displayed with your set(s). Messages can be emailed to hamannlinda@gmail.com or put in my mailbox (C20) in the Members' Room. Setup is scheduled in the commons area on Thursday afternoon or evening (Dec. 5th) or Friday morning or evening (Dec. 6th). You may set it up yourself or help will be available for you. During the weekend, there will be monitors watching the area. Sets can be taken home Sunday evening after the last Living Nativity enactment on Sunday (Dec. 8th) or Monday morning Dec. 9th.

Living Nativity Child Care Sign up - Child care is offered for families that are partaking in the living nativity. If you are in need of childcare, you can either sign up in the member room at church, or you can contact Melissa Lis at 920-207-7407 or email lis.melissa@yahoo.com. If you could please sign up by Monday, November 25th, that would greatly help for planning. Thank you!

Comfort Givers - Do you often feel the need to talk to someone who is going through the same things you are? When feeling of aloneness and loss become too much to handle alone, wouldn't be comforting to know there are others out there that you can turn to just to talk? A few people have discussed the possibility of forming such an organization. Other people who have gone through the same situations, are willing to share their own experiences and could be of comforting help. We are thinking of something as easy as getting together for coffee or eats, discussion, and prayer sometime during the day (once-a-week, biweekly, or monthly); any other suggestions are welcome. If this seems like something you would be interested in joining, contact either Sheila Edler or Linda Hamann so we can get some idea if this is worth pursuing after the holidays.

