



Upcoming  
Services and  
Events

**Hanging of  
the Greens**

Dec. 2 at 6 pm

**December 3**

8:30 Communion

Worship

10:45 Family

Worship

**December 10**

8:30 Communion

Worship

10:45 Family

Worship

**December 17**

Sunday School  
Pancake Breakfast  
Coffee Fellowship

**December 24**

Christmas Eve

9:30 Combined

Worship

Loose Change

Sunday

4:00 Family Service

8:00 Candlelight  
Service

**December 31**

8:30 Communion

Worship

10:45 Family

Worship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you~! We have just come from the Thanksgiving Celebrations and are now called to enter Advent with little preparation. It feels like we are not yet ready. In Latin word, the word *advent* means "Coming," the coming of Jesus Christ.

*In Advent, a four week period until Christmas, we are given a time when we prepare ourselves spiritually not only to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, but also to get ready for the coming of Christ who will return in glory.*

In Mark 17: 32-33 Jesus says, "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." Since no one knows, except God, when Jesus is coming again in the evening, or at midnight, or at dawn, we need to keep awake for the coming our Lord. I think Advent season is the perfect time to talk about how we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

First of all, we need to remember the hope and promise that comes from Jesus. Among the greatest gifts God has given us at Christmas is the hope that "death has been swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)." It means that the Child whose birth we celebrate would one day conquer death. Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). This is the hope we find in Christmas. Since we have lost our beloved members in the past year, the first Christmas without them may be very hard for the families. Also, it would be a very hard time for those who have been struggling with illnesses, financial problems, family issues, and natural disasters. With these reasons, it is important to remember the message that Jesus conquered the grave and gives us hope that we will see our loved ones again and the world we are waiting for is not the same as it is now. Jesus who was born in Bethlehem will someday set all things right. Those who believe Him, have this hope.

Second of all, we have to remember who Jesus called us to be and what He called us to do. Jesus gave His followers the mission in Act 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Jesus instructed His disciples to be the light to the world by teaching others what He had taught them and by being witnesses through loving neighbors and enemies and doing the things Jesus had called all the disciples to do. According to the Word, our mission at Christmas as his followers is not to get stuff for people to open on Christmas morning. Rather, it is giving food to the hungry, giving something to drink to the thirsty, welcoming the strangers, giving clothing to the naked, and visiting the sick, and the imprisoned. As we do it to the one of the least of these, we do it to Jesus.

As we prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of the Savior and to stay alert for the coming of Jesus, let us remember the promise and hope of Christmas and the mission Jesus gave us. I'm looking forward to searching for God's way this Advent and the ways God will make us living examples of God's presence in the world. I wish you - your best Christmas and Happy New Year!

Please come join our Advent services: First Advent: Dec. 3 with communion, Second Advent Dec. 10 with Junior Choir Christmas Program, Third Advent: Dec.17 with Worship Choir Cantata at 10:45 AM, and Fourth Advent: Dec. 24 with combined service at 9:30 AM with Carols & Lessons. Christmas Eve Family Service on Dec. 24 at 4:00 PM and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:00 PM.

With promise and hope of Christmas,

*Pastor Hyo Sun Oh*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 1-Molly Stood  
December 1-Debie Marie Meade  
December 4-Bill Stelter  
December 5-Shirley Stout  
December 8-Carol Walter  
December 8-Robert Nelson  
December 9-Richard Pierce  
December 12-Megan Cheehy  
December 17-Sherrill Weary  
December 20-Tucker Lange  
December 21-Mark Huegelmann  
December 23-Ascher Laemmer  
December 25-Roland Tasker  
December 26-Gabriella Vasquez  
December 31-Willetta Price

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 21-Bill & Willetta Price  
December 27-Nathan & Kexia LaFramboise-Van



## \*\*\*\*Scrip for the Holidays!\*\*\*\*

I don't know about you, but I think the new way of ordering once a month is much better, more productive and less to track keeping "extra's" on hand. I will continue to order the once of month (or more) if the interest is there, and with the help of Amy, will send out e-mail blasts to remind you.



### Fundraising WHILE YOU Shop



Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their non-profit organization (NPO). Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

You purchase gift cards from your organization at face value, and your coordinator orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple!

Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year. It's time to put your shopping dollars to work!

Customize this field with coordinator contact info, enrollment code, and/or sign-up information.

shopwithscrip.com  
© 2013 Great Lakes Scrip Center LLC

When responding to an e-mail blast please respond to only me, [Margefox2366@gmail.com](mailto:Margefox2366@gmail.com) or call [630 207-1151](tel:6302071151). It's much easier for Amy not to have to forward them all to me.

It's probably a good idea to start keeping a list of cards you may need for the upcoming holiday's, as they are right around the corner. And please remember that the Master list is in the binder at the end of each pew, there are so many cards to choose from you may find something different you enjoy giving this year.

**Thank You for your Support.**

## OPEN PANTRY NEWS

Volunteers are needed to help staff the Open Pantry. Hours are on Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00, this is light work and helpful to families that work during the day. The Open Pantry is in need of Kraft macaroni and cheese, pasta, and toiletries. Starting January 1st the pantry will not have evening or weekend hours.



## Sanctuary Volunteers Are Needed!

As you have seen, the video and audio are up and running. What we need now are volunteers! We do not want to have one person stuck in the booth every Sunday. Plus we need to spread the knowledge around so when someone goes on vacation, there will be someone to fill in. Our goal is to have 4-6 people who are comfortable flipping through the computer presentation slides and 4-6 people who are comfortable raising and lower the sound on a mic so we do not have feedback. You do not have to worry. We will walk you through the programs and train you so you feel comfortable with the devices! We just need volunteers!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for both sound volunteers. We need people for both the 8:30 and 10:45 services. The more we have the better. That means that everyone will be able to sit with their family most Sundays. So, please put your name on the sign up sheet or stop by the booth and let Jana Stelter or someone on the Worship committee know. We will get you familiar with the program so you can get in the rotation to volunteer for a service.

## Thank You!

The Deal of The Day Fundraiser was a success!

I still have 2 more First Aid kits to sell, but after all is said and done we made \$90. Yeah To us!!!! and Thank You to those who even paid a little extra.



## Calling All Musicians

We are encouraging all musicians and singers who are interested in joining the Praise Band to contact Leslie, Bob, or Jana.

**Come join us!**



# Advent Bible Study—Adult Sunday School

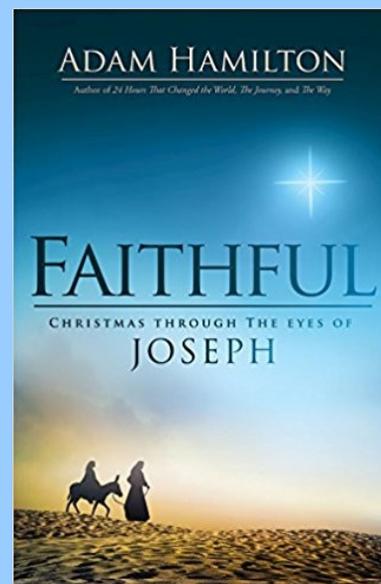
From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Join Adam Hamilton as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

As you read this book, you will understand how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season. The story of Joseph provide us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Chapter topics include:

1. A Carpenter Named Joseph
2. Whose Child Is This?
3. Raising a Child Not Your Own
4. The Journey to Bethlehem
5. The Rest of the Story

Dale Janssen will be leading Adult Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 am. Pastor would like to offer a bible study class at the parsonage every Wednesday Night from 7pm—9pm. If you are interested please contact Pastor Oh. Books are available in the office for \$15.00.



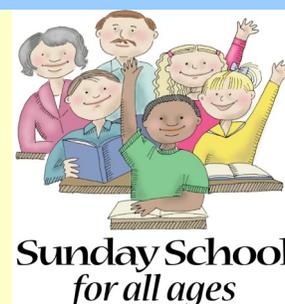
## SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES: Ages pre-k-5/6

JUNIOR HIGH : Grades 6th-8th

BREAKFAST CLUB: High School Freshman-Senior

ADULT CLASSES: In the Conference Room/Pastor's Office



## Sr. High Youth Group

Thank you to “Creative Wings” in Lockport for opening their shop to us on a Sunday evening. The youth created “Name Word Doodle Pieces.” They wrote their interests with paint pens on a canvas that had their name on it.

Please stay tuned for our next event in January!



## CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class Retreat this year was to Reynoldswood Christian Camp in Dixon, Illinois.

Jacob O'Neill, Molly Stood and Daniel Stood were all able to attend and GleeAnn Kehr and Pastor Oh joined them as chaperons.

Special Thanks to GleeAnn Kehr who drove them to the retreat~!!! There were other confirmands from First UMC, Hicnkly, Sycamore UMC, Wesley UMC, Aurora, Durand UMC, and Pecatonica UMC.

The students learned about the team building and communication through games and various activities, and also talked about the Holy Spirit and prayers. Craig Watters, program director of NIC Out Door Ministry, led the retreat. The confirmands had fun and enjoyed the activities though it was raining. ^^



## THE RABBI'S GIFT

### *The Different Drum Version by Dr. M. Scott Peck \**

The story concerns a monastery that had fallen upon hard times. Once a great order, as a result of waves of antimonastic persecution in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the rise of secularism in the nineteenth, all its branch houses were lost and it had become decimated to the extent that there were only five monks left in the decaying mother house: the abbot and four others, all over seventy in age. Clearly it was a dying order.

In the deep woods surrounding the monastery there was a little hut that a rabbi from a nearby town occasionally used for a hermitage. Through their many years of prayer and contemplation the old monks had become a bit psychic, so they could always sense when the rabbi was in his hermitage. "The rabbi is in the woods, the rabbi is in the woods again " they would whisper to each other. As he agonized over the imminent death of his order, it occurred to the abbot at one such time to visit the hermitage and ask the rabbi if by some possible chance he could offer any advice that might save the monastery.

The rabbi welcomed the abbot at his hut. But when the abbot explained the purpose of his visit, the rabbi could only commiserate with him. "I know how it is," he exclaimed. "The spirit has gone out of the people. It is the same in my town. Almost no one comes to the synagogue anymore." So the old abbot and the old rabbi wept together. Then they read parts of the Torah and quietly spoke of deep things. The time came when the abbot had to leave. They embraced each other. "It has been a wonderful thing that we should meet after all these years," the abbot said, "but I have still failed in my purpose for coming here. Is there nothing you can tell me, no piece of advice you can give me that would help me save my dying order?"

"No, I am sorry," the rabbi responded. "I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you."

When the abbot returned to the monastery his fellow monks gathered around him to ask, "Well what did the rabbi say?" "He couldn't help," the abbot answered. "We just wept and read the Torah together. The only thing he did say, just as I was leaving --it was something cryptic-- was that the Messiah is one of us. I don't know what he meant."

In the days and weeks and months that followed, the old monks pondered this and wondered whether there was any possible significance to the rabbi's words.

The Messiah is one of us? Could he possibly have meant one of us monks here at the monastery? If that's the case, which one? Do you suppose he meant the abbot? Yes, if he meant anyone, he probably meant Father Abbot. He has been our leader for more than a generation. On the other hand, he might have meant Brother Thomas. Certainly Brother Thomas is a holy man. Everyone knows that Thomas is a man of light. Certainly he could not have meant Brother Elred! Elred gets crotchety at times. But come to think of it, even though he is a thorn in people's sides, when you look back on it, Elred is virtually always right. Often very right. Maybe the rabbi did mean Brother Elred. But surely not Brother Phillip. Phillip is so passive, a real nobody. But then, almost mysteriously, he has a gift for somehow always being there when you need him. He just magically appears by your side. Maybe Phillip is the Messiah. Of course the rabbi didn't mean me. He couldn't possibly have meant me. I'm just an ordinary person. Yet supposing he did? Suppose I am the Messiah? O God, not me. I couldn't be that much for You, could I?

As they contemplated in this manner, the old monks began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off chance that one among them might be the Messiah. And on the off off chance that each monk himself might be the Messiah, they began to treat themselves with extraordinary respect.

Because the forest in which it was situated was beautiful, it so happened that people still occasionally came to visit the monastery to picnic on its tiny lawn, to wander along some of its paths, even now and then to go into the dilapidated chapel to meditate. As they did so, without even being conscious of it, they sensed the aura of extraordinary respect that now began to surround the five old monks and seemed to radiate out from them and permeate the atmosphere of the place. There was something strangely attractive, even compelling, about it. Hardly knowing why, they began to come back to the monastery more frequently to picnic, to play, to pray. They began to bring their friends to show them this special place. And their friends brought their friends.

Then it happened that some of the younger men who came to visit the monastery started to talk more and more with the old monks. After a while one asked if he could join them. Then another. And another. So within a few years the monastery had once again become a thriving order and, thanks to the rabbi's gift, a vibrant center of light and spirituality in the realm.



## 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO

**Please pray for those whose lives have been impacted by Harvey and the storms that have followed.** Please also pray for Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators, and the many volunteers who are working tirelessly to provide relief.

**Make relief kits.** Download the packing list and shipping label at [umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies](http://umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies).

**Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts:** U.S. Disaster Response, **Advance #901670** at [umcor.org/donate](http://umcor.org/donate).

**Donate only those items requested.** (To keep relief supplies in stock, give to Material Resources **Advance #901440** at [umcor.org/donate](http://umcor.org/donate).)

**Please wait for an invitation to volunteer.**

**The United Methodist Committee On Relief is grateful for your relentless prayers and support.**

### Neighbor to Neighbor Holiday Vendor & Crafter's Market

Saturday December 2, 2017

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Shop at the Lemont Township Community Center

16300 Alba, Lemont (Just NW of 127th St & Timberline Drive)

Visit this unique gathering of independent business persons from your neighborhood offering you the opportunity to browse, connect, and purchase.

**Any Questions contact: [terri-oneill@lemonttownship.org](mailto:terri-oneill@lemonttownship.org)**

### NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

We will be offering a New Membership Class. If you are interested please contact Pastor Oh.

Thank You



# Upcoming Worship Services & Events

Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gifts Due to the Township
Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Daybreak Shelter
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	United Methodist Men
Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	NO Trustees Meeting
Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup>	NO Primetimers
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School Pancake Breakfast Coffee Fellowship
Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ad Council Meeting
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am Worship Service Loose Change Sunday 4:00 Family Service 8:00 Candlelight Service

## College Scholarships- Giving and Gratitude

We are so fortunate to have people in our church who look toward the future. Years ago some families who felt God's calling, invested money for college scholarships. These scholarships were to acknowledge our students involvement in church, to promote their continuing dedication to spiritual growth, and to help them with their educational goals.

On November 26th, we were again able to award scholarships to ten students. They each shared information about their chosen college, what degree they are pursuing, and spoke of their gratitude for receiving this award.

Congratulations to:

Megan Cheehy, Erin Cliff,  
Amanda Huegelmann, Kurt Huegelmann,  
Jake Kirkman, Joshua Miller, Rebecca  
Peraino, Hannah Van, Gabriella Vazquez,  
and Kayla Walter.

Thank you, Cris Kerins & Dawn Ferrazzi,  
Co-chairman of the College  
Acknowledgement Program (CAP)  
and the generous donors~!!!



## FUN OPPORTUNITY

Looking for a fun way to participate and serve our church? Then think about joining our Activities Committee. We will be planning activities that include everyone for the year. Some suggestions have been a talent show, a ladies luncheon, a game night, a campfire and movies. If you are interested, please contact Peg Pecher: (847-204-1747) or the church. Come help us make our church a joy filled church.



## SUGGESTED NEW MINISTRY

In a recent Upper Room devotional, the author talked about visiting a retirement center for fellowship and sharing with the residents. After reading this article, I was so moved. Maybe we could form a group to have this kind of ministry! In the Lemont area, there are many centers. Please call me if you are interested. My number is: [815 838 6318](tel:8158386318). Looking forward to hear from you. Paulette Fries

### Liturgist Schedule

**December 3**  
8:30-Don  
Mueggenborg  
10:45-Mary Jane  
Nelson

**December 10**  
8:30-  
10:45-Tim Peraino

**December 17**  
8:30-  
10:45-Jodi Stood

**December 24**  
9:30-  
4:00-Jason Kehr  
8:00-Marty Knott

**December 31**  
8:30-Jana Stelter  
10:45-Sue Gergescz

### **The Dark Ages**

By Richard H. Lee

The term, “dark ages” usually describes the period from the fall of the Roman empire to the renaissance (1500) and Internet sites may add the “state or struggle of the Church and vast Muslim conquests.” After this time science and reason progressed significantly and may be termed the “age of enlightenment.” One Internet site, <https://www.allabouthistory.org/the-dark-ages.htm> focuses on spiritual issues like the reformation.

I bought a paperback book from Amazon, “The Reformation-A History” but when I began to read it found little about the period preceding the Reformation. A small mention of Augustine of Hippo in the fourth century and the Muslim-Christian wars in the Middle East and Europe were briefly mentioned but nothing about Patrick in Ireland, who was an early reformer and evangelist.

The Bible actually has a theme throughout on darkness and light that contrasts our world without God as dark and lifeless (Genesis 1:2) to God’s presence within us, giving us light as understanding and wisdom. The Gospel of John has this theme of the power of light or divine intervention, starting in chapter 1. I think this is why this is the very best book in the Bible for a new reader and should very familiar to all Christians.



# December 2017

## Children's Message Schedule

**December 3-**  
Erik Anderson

**December 10-**  
Sean Clark

**December 17-**  
Richard Lee

**December 24-**  
(9:30) Ron Walter

**December 31-**  
Marty Knott



## Greeters

**December 3**  
8:30-  
10:45-Anne & Zoe

**December 10**  
8:30- George & Alice  
10:45-Bill & Cris

**December 17**  
8:30-Sue Hinks  
10:45-Kehr Family

**December 24**  
9:30-Tasker Family  
4:00-  
8:00-Cheehy Family

**December 31**  
8:30-Sharon Heslop  
10:45-Kehr Family

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For More information please contact the church office at  
(630)257-5210 or ministry leaders.

### SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study:	TBA
Prayer Meeting:	TBA
ALPHA:	Craig Baxter 815-685-1900
Methodist Essential:	Bill Price 630-754-7667
VBS:	Jodi Stood 630-243-9366
The Last Supper:	Arlene Knott 708-301-2023
Adult Sunday School:	Richard Lee 630-257-7339
Sr. High Youth:	Karin Peraino 630-846-1415
Jr. High Youth:	Jodi Stood 630-243-9366
Breakfast Club:	K. Peraino 630-846-1415
Jr. High Sunday School:	K. Peraino 630-846-1415
Children's Sunday Sch:	K. Peraino 630-846-1415
Prime Timers:	Joyce Koon 630-257-6275 Joanne Goszczycki 630-257-6790
Men's Group:	Tony Ferrazzi 815-886-4177
Couples:	Tim and Karin Peraino 630-846-1415

### MINISTRIES WITHIN OUR CHURCH

Prayer Warrior:	Pastor Oh 847-769-1125
Care Bear:	Alice Lange 815-838-5158
Coffee Social:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Script Fundraising:	Marge Fox 630-243-8166
CAPS:	Cris Kerins 630-257-5660
Audio and Visual:	Jana Stelter 630-243-9122
Handyman:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Landscape Team:	Bill Stelter 630-243-9122
Hospitality Team:	Amy Cheehy 815-834-1097
Widows Group:	Richard Lee 630-257-7339
Usher Team:	Mark Olinger 815-838-0660
Welcoming Team:	Sue Hinks 630-257-6743
Worship Choir	Sue Gergescz 815-483-7282
Praise Band	Phil & Leslie Ramos
Junior Choir	Cris Kerins 630-257-5660

**\*\*Any Other Ministry You Would Like to Start**

### OUT-REACH MINISTRIES

Pantry Workday:	Church Office 630-257-5210
Panera Bread:	Church Office 630-257-5210
Daybreak Shelter:	Vickie Olinger 815-838-0660
Worthy Treasures:	Paulette Fries 815-838-6318
ESL:	Kay Norfleet 630-257-6699
Red Bird:	Steve Walter 630-783-1621

**\*\*Any Other Ministry You Would Like To Start**

# Stewardship Minute

Marty Knott  
Chairperson, Stewardship and Finance Committee

This is the next in a series of articles about stewardship. In these articles I will try to inform you about the many ways you can contribute to your church's programs.

## “Matthew 25”

At the last November Sunday service we heard the gospel reading from Matthew 25 about what it means to be a Christian. When Jesus is in his glory and we all come to see Him after we die, He will say:

- For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
- I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
- I was a stranger and you invited me in,
- I needed clothes and you clothed me,
- I was sick and you looked after me, and
- I was in prison and you came to visit me.

And then He adds “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Now, when you think about it, these are the things we must do as Christians. Through your stewardship and its support of our church, you are able to accomplish these tasks. The Open Pantry and Daybreak Shelter meals feed the hungry and thirsty. Our semi-annual trip to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky helps families in need. Our payment of monthly Conference Apportionments enables the Methodist Church to carry out all of these missions throughout the world.

Now many of you do stewardship in a personal way. You prepare and serve food at the Daybreak Shelter, you contribute food and help to operate the Open Pantry, you mow the church grass, you travel to the Red Bird Mission and work on a house, and you mow the church grass. I can't possibly list all that our members do but you know who you are and what you do.

But for most of us, our stewardship is our financial way of carrying out these tasks and missions. Your pledge cards are the way we tell the Finance Committee how our church will do these tasks next year. Please submit your pledge card on any coming Sunday.

If this is the first time you will be making a pledge, a box of offering envelopes will be provided before Christmas. Offering envelopes are very handy and, at least for me, they serve to remind me if I have missed an offering when I am away on a trip.

General Fund beginning balance: \$15,257

Receipts: 12,654

Disbursements: 13,385

General Fund ending balance: 14,526

Maintenance Fund balance: \$74,597

# Books Available in the Library By Kay Norfleet

## December 2017 Book Reviews

The birth of Jesus is described in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. The two accounts agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the time of Herod the Great to a betrothed virgin whose name was Mary. There are, however, major differences.

**Similarity #1 Both say Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

**Similarity #2 Both Gospels say Jesus was born in Bethlehem.**

**Similarity #3 Jesus was visited by people when he was born. In Luke he was visited by shepherds, and in Matthew he was visited by magi.**

**Similarity #4 Both Gospels say Joseph accompanied and stayed with Mary.**

**Difference #1 Matthew doesn't write about the Angel appearing to Mary whereas Luke does.**

**Difference #2 Matthew mentions an angel appearing to Joseph in a dream but Luke doesn't mention this.**

**Difference #3 In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is born in a barn.**

**Difference #4 Unlike the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Luke talks about Elizabeth and the birth of John the Baptist.**

But why do these differences matter? They were transcribed by two very different (fallen) men, who agreed somewhat, yet focused on several different points. The Main Idea, I believe, is that Christ was born. That's the idea God wants to get across. On that, they do agree. Then later mentions in the New Testament are just that a reminder of Christ's existence. Through His teachings in the Bible, which we need to study, we learn of God's moral compass and how He would wish us to live. God our Creator and Sustainer. God orchestrated His Son's death which He allowed to Save Us (forgive us). God gave us His Son to Save US. In the Bible, God allowed two authors to tell us how Jesus was born. -so what if differences in their stories exist. They are not important, I believe. Pick any two people and their views on a certain situation. They are different. It's only when they are the same that you wonder about the reliability.

So please read Matthew starting about 1:18 and Luke starting at 2: 1, the story of the Great Gift. Charlotte and Anthony Havemann (and Storm the Cat too) all to remind you of how fortunate we are. For instance, for the younger set "Alabaster's Song", which is a recount of Christmas through the Eyes of an Angel. A child reminds us that angels exist, for him, it was one named Alabaster. Maybe Max Lucado, the author, wanted us to try to clear our minds, and be like a child, and believe. The little ones and some bigger ones should enjoy this story. Another offering for the children (of all ages) is "Listen to the Silent Night" which in text and lovely illustrations recounts the birth of our Savior.

Several books are available in the library! These are also

A book, not especially for Christmas, but full of short stories about dogs: "Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul." Our canine friends often remind us of inner feelings. Isn't it at Christmas you are more open to inner feelings? This is a large print, especially for dog lovers. The stories might bring a tear or a smile. Didn't God create dogs to help us through this life?

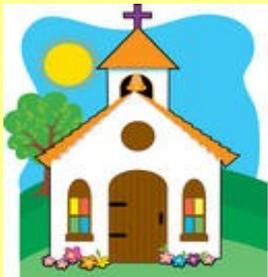
And lastly is "Where was God when that Happened?" This is a thought-provoking small paperback which addresses the questions we all have asked sometime or another. Basically, the writer reminds us that God the Creator and Sustainer of life has ways that we probably, just on the surface, don't understand But His reasoning could be our reasoning and hope IF we took the time to perceive them. I want to take a moment to remind us, of a recent Methodist email: "In many ways our church is not about us—our tastes, preferences, desires, comforts, and conveniences. We're in a spiritual battle, and our churches need members who do not seek their own way. We must keep Christ as our Commander and we must honor one another in gentleness and kindness. Disgruntled church members can damage a congregation's ministry rather than being harsh or opinionated, try being humble, gentle, and encouraging. The Church of God is a mighty army with one Commander, marching to the rhythm of His grace. We are not divided, all one body we; one in hope, and doctrine, one in charity. / Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, / with the cross of Jesus going on before."

**MERRY CHRISTMAS to all and a blessed new year!**



## Handyman wanted

We have widows in our church who may occasionally need help with household repairs: basic maintenance and grass cutting or snow shoveling. Ideally it could be a retired man with experience in building. Please contact the church office at: 630-257-5210 if you are interested.



## ESL Tutoring

Kay Norfleet has graciously offered to teach English as a second language to anyone in need. If you are interested, you can contact her at 630-257-6699.

## On the horizon for Hope and Friendship:

**Dec 14** @ CORE Gyms- Duck, Dive, Dodge Dodgeball Tournament

**Dec 20** @ Lemont Police Dept- Mission Stay Caroling

**Dec 23** @ Old Quarry- Christmas Care Box Sorting/Creating

**Dec 25** @ Old Quarry- Christmas Dinner Food Drop Off, Sorting & Deliver

**Any Questions contact: [terri-oneill@lemonttownship.org](mailto:terri-oneill@lemonttownship.org)**



### Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Angie Neitzel on Friday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We offer our condolences and may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength.

### Lemont Township Giving Tree – Wish Ornament

On the front window are individual wish ornaments for a child in our town. When you fill this “wish” of a child you will be providing a gift for a child living in a financially strained household. Suggested gift range is \$25-\$30. Please take an ornament tag. All gifts are to be dropped off by Dec. 4th to the Township Office. Thank you for your generosity.



## December 2017 Rainbow Covenant

In addition to our annual apportionment, LUMC makes monetary donations through the Rainbow Covenant in order to support specific causes. All loose change collected on the fourth Sunday of each month goes to support the Rainbow Covenant. Each month we highlight a charity from one of the bands of the Rainbow Covenant. For December, we are reviewing the Rainbow Covenant bands from this year.

January – Green Band: ChildServ

February – Blue Band: “Easy” Care Youth Program

March – Orange Band: Global Refugee/Migration Response

April – Green Band: RefugeeOne

May – Yellow Band: Tree of Life Ministry, Pierre South Dakota

June – Purple Band: missionary, Betty Tshala in Zambia

September – Red Band: Solar Ovens Partners UMC

October – Green Band: Disaster Preparedness & Response Fund

November – Blue Band: Morning Star Mission

Your gifts help all of these different charities. So please bring in plenty of change on December 24<sup>th</sup> (Loose Change Sunday) to contribute to the Rainbow Covenant. If you would like to make a larger offering to any specific charity, write the name of the charity on a pew envelope. Thank you for your support throughout the year for these special ministries in the Rainbow Covenant.

December 2017

## CHURCH NEWS



Thank you for purchasing Potica!

38 were sold and our profits  
were \$152.00!

Thank You!



### **AURORA DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST MEN ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE AND BREAKFAST**

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM  
UMC of New Lenox 339 New Lenox, IL 60451  
Hosted by the New Lenox UMMen

**We will celebrate a Worship Service and Communion with our brothers from across the District.**

**Breakfast will be served at 8:30 followed by the District UMMen meeting and Worship Service.**

Please RSVP to Bob Bruozas at (708) 429-9151 or e-mail [rjb9151@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjb9151@sbcglobal.net) or New Lenox UMC church office at (815) 485-8271 or e-mail [office@umcnl.com](mailto:office@umcnl.com) by 11/30/17 to let them know how many men from your church will be there for breakfast. Directions and Website: [http:// umcnl.com/](http://umcnl.com/)

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Christmas Church Decorating Event

This year the Activity Committee is changing things up a bit!



We will decorate starting at 4:00 PM on Saturday Dec 2 at the church. At 6:00 PM we will have a soup, chili, and salad dinner with fellowship.

We have some new members and attendees and this would be a great time to get to know them and have some fun! (and some work). There is always something for all ages. We will string popcorn, fluff the greens, decorate the tree and hang the wreaths and greens.

If you want or need to bring your children, we will have "children watchers" and ornament making and coloring for them to do. And of course they can help decorate the tree!

**Please plan on attending and sharing a meal and fun time with our church members.  
Many hands make light of the work!**

## LUMC Women's Book Club

Dec. 11 "The 13th Gift"

Joanne Haist Smith

Christmas Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Jan.-Apr. No Meetings

This group meets at Margaret Flynn's house.



## Friendly Reminder:

**December 24th**

**Christmas Eve Services**

9:30 am Combined Service

4:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Candle Light Service

## Red Bird Mission Trip 2018

Please join us the week of June 18th. We will travel to Kentucky and volunteer in mission service to help with the refurbishment of homes. There is also a wide variety of ministries to families, older adults, women and children, and youth to make their lives fuller and help them receive the assistance they need to make their lives a bit more livable.

If you are able to help there is a sign up sheet in the sanctuary.

## Lanterns

LUMC sent 100 lanterns to 5 different addresses in Puerto Rico.

Thank you all for supporting this mission!

and  
suddenly  
there was with  
the  
angel  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth,  
peace, goodwill towards  
men  
Luke 2  
13-14



## MEANINGFUL MOMENTS WITH GOD

*"Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."  
1 Thessalonians 2:17-18*

\*Alberta Harden, eye problems  
\*Mary Ende, lung cancer  
Katie, needs kidney transplant  
Randy Kure, stroke  
\*Tom Vegter, back surgery  
\*Antonio Lange, military training  
\*Shelby Fox, ankle pain  
Ron, cancer treatment  
\*Margaret Flynn, therapy  
Sam, copd, heart blockage  
Lori Bartwick, breast cancer  
\*Sheila Farrer, health issues  
Joe Sigety, ALS worsening  
\*Jason Kehr, cystic fibrosis  
Lou Gunder, lymphoma  
Kirsten Zinzer, melanoma  
Maureen Robinson, health issues  
Copus Family, strength  
Brian, life struggles  
Judy Olinger, lymphoma  
Walter, cancer  
Dana Patterson, brain tumor & MS  
Marty Rolin, nerve damage  
Jim Kratochvil, lung cancer  
Jamie, brain aneurysm, surgery  
Jim Krenek, at Burgess Square  
Linda, dementia  
Florian Talos, parkinson's  
Lois, stage 3 cancer  
Esther Gores, home hospice  
\*Juanita Fick, healing at her sons home  
\*Sandra, autoimmune disease

Brian McGuire, recovering  
Eugene G., hit by train  
Colleen Andrew, remission  
Anna, brain surgery  
Jerry McElwee, cancer returned  
Cindy Hudon, cancer/chemo  
\*Bill & Willetta, health issues  
\*Neil Janssen, health issues  
Ron Hamelen, Alzheimer's  
\*Dave Mlady, lingering illness  
Judy Bramill, cancer  
Marie, shoulder replacement  
E.D. McCormick, cancer  
Mason Patterson, surgery  
Gabrielle Blunt, Alzheimer's  
Art Runyan, pancreatic cancer  
Joe Knutson, dialysis  
\*Marge Good, hip replacement  
Ligman Family, medical issues  
Jodi Rigoni, cancer treatments  
Nick Sempowicz, cancer  
Sally, lung cancer  
Jim Durham, cong. heart failure  
\*Dick Arcus, cancer  
Valerie O., ovarian cancer  
\*Carol Kowalski, hip replacement  
\*Dave, heart testing  
Melanie Foster, ovarian cancer  
Bob Murphy, heart issues  
\*Terry O'Neill, throat cancer  
\*Sherrill Weary, health issues

## MONTHLY BLESSINGS AND JOYS

\*All Saints Day Celebration  
\*Confirmation Class Retreat  
\*Mystery Theater Dinner  
\*Veterans Day Celebration  
\*Sending lanterns to Puerto Rico  
\*Potica Sale raised \$152.00!  
\*College Acknowledgement  
Program  
\*Our support to the Lemont  
"Giving Tree"  
\*Happy Hands Grandparents Day  
\*Successful Combined Service

## Coffee Fellowship December 17th

Carol Walter  
Alice Lange  
Barbara Lee  
Linda Lubben  
Priscilla Ludwig  
Gina Walter  
Joyce Koon  
Grace Kirkman



Coffee Fellowship

## Expanding Care Bear ers Ministry

### Help Needed-Occasional Cooks or Meal Providers

The Care Bearers are looking for a few new people to help provide an occasional meal (home cooked or purchased) for members of our congregation who are recovering from a serious illness, birth of a baby, or the loss of a family member. Meals are **only occasionally** needed in our church, and it is a wonderful mission! If you would be willing to provide a meal when someone is in need, please contact Alice Lange or Wendy Myers. We would love to add you to our list of Care Bearers.

Alice Lange: 815-838-5158  
Wendy Myers: 630-257-7689

**Lemont United Methodist Church**

25 West Custer  
Lemont, Illinois 60439  
Phone: 630-257-5210

**Return Service Requested**

**NEW WINE  
December 2017**

**The Hindu Clinic**

**The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago has offered the use of their clinic to anyone in need of medical help. The clinic is open the first Sunday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Their address is 10915 Lemont Road, Lemont and their phone number is 630-972-0300.**

**AA Meetings**

**AA Meetings** are held in our church Fellowship Hall on Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you would like further information.

**Please contact:  
Pat at (815) 274-4244**

**WEBSITE**

Services are being recorded almost every week thanks to Erik and volunteers. If you would like a video of a part of the service, like a baptism or someone playing a song, please contact Paul Froehle. He can copy it to a DVD or flash drive as a computer or phone readable video file.

**United Methodist  
Men**



**December 9th**

Come and join us! The Lemont United Methodist Men (UMM) will meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am. Lemont UMM meets on the second Saturday of each month for breakfast.

This group is made available for the fellowship of all the men of the church and all are welcome to attend. Information about meeting dates and times are posted in the church calendar and bulletins.



For those of you that might not be aware, we DO have a FB page. Please try and visit it regularly. As time goes on we will be posting more and more.

We have reached 1,440 people through Vacation Bible School video clips and pictures! If you have not seen them please go to facebook and click LIKE.

<https://www.facebook.com/Lemont-United-Methodist-Church>

**Primetimers**



**NO MEETING  
IN DECEMBER**

This is a group made up of adults 50 years and older. Primetimers meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month with a potluck lunch at the church fellowship hall. Everyone brings a favorite dish to share for an enjoyable afternoon. If you have any questions, please call:

Juanita Fick  
630-257-7639