

SALT

SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR

This is my feeling about Christmas today. As I drive around town, as I shop, and even today as I listened to the radio, Christmas seems so close already! Sights, sales, and the songs of the season are in full gear, and so it seems is that all too familiar 'frenzied feeling' I always get that I am already behind so why even bother!

Fear not! Friends, stay with me as we celebrate the Season liturgically!

We end November celebrating Christ the King Sunday and giving thanks to God for always being present with us.

December unfolds just one week at a time, advancing us toward something wonderful; building anticipation through the peace, hope, love, and joy of welcoming the babe, Jesus, to the manger once again.

Christmas Eve we will gather to sing, to hear the story of Jesus' birth, and to share the tradition of light with one another with Silent Night.

We will end the year by continuing the celebration of Emmanuel "God-With-Us" as we sing the carols, jazzed up a bit, in worship and as we look to the new year, watchful, hopeful, joyful and peaceful, together.

January begins with the Epiphany of Light! We will celebrate Holy Communion as a continuing gift of the season.

I pray the gifts of the holiday season will stay near to our hearts as the days come and go and that each of us will be blessed with the joyous company of one another and the unconditional, all-encompassing love of God that stays with us, close and always, each and every day.

Peace,
Pastor Kelly

Though the days increase in their darkness, the Lord of light and love reigns supreme. May the power of God's love be in your hearts and reflected in your lives now and always. Amen.



Transportation Needs?

If the only thing stopping you from attending Sunday worship, weekday church events, volunteering or donating items at our mission outings is lack of transportation, let's not let that stop you!

If you are willing to provide transportation on Sunday mornings or to weekday events, let us know!

Contact the church office weekdays between 8:30am-12:30pm to arrange transportation needs or sign up to provide transportation.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Blue Christmas Service of Worship

At noon on **Saturday, December 21, 2019**, we will have a special service, termed "Blue Christmas."

Many people struggle during the holiday season to feel truly joyful or happy. Family members have died, traditions have been lost, friends have moved away, the family home has been sold. Work hours are too long or the quest for meaningful employment is still on-going. There's not enough daylight, the roads are sloppy, traffic is terrible and the shopping frenzy is exhausting. The endless to-do lists and unsaid/unmet personal expectations are taking a real toll.

Give yourself the gift of this hour in worship. Be in a space with others who are blue too, with complete acceptance for where you are in your head and heart. Let us join together, on this Winter Solstice day, to pray and be still, to pause in the last minute rush to gather our thoughts, and create space for God's indwelling heart among us.

Walk-in-Choir

On **Sunday December 23, 2019**, at 8:45 a.m. ALL ages are welcome to join in a special walk-in choir. Plan to participate in this special musical gift for Our Lord's!

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE

Plan now to make worship a part of your family day together on Christmas Eve, **Tuesday, December 24, 2019**. A bit of warm holiday cheer will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. The carol sing-along will begin at 6:30 p.m. The one-hour service of worship will begin with the prelude at 6:45 p.m. The Nursery will not be staffed on Christmas Eve so your whole family can come into worship; everyone of every age is welcome! The service will include a time for children (including a gift), plenty of singing, candlelight safely suitable for ALL ages, and a joyous sending forth!

Bring your family, friends and neighbors! We have a large, lighted parking lot - plenty of space for everyone. Our building is completely accessible, and our welcoming volunteers will be sure to greet you warmly!

Our Sanctuary is equipped with hearing assistive devices, and the service is projected and printed on two scales to be sure everyone can participate with comfort and ease. Should you know of a particular need, in advance, please call the church office (414.425.7030) and we'll work with you in preparation for your arrival on Christmas Eve!

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours for the holiday season are as follows:

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1.

GIVING CHECK LIST OF OPPORTUNITIES

@ Our Lord's, there are generous, giving hearts! The day-to-day ministry at Our Lord's is generously supported by pledged and weekly offerings given in worship. This includes our District and Conference apportionment gifts as well. The following list is comprehensive for your awareness, prayer, and selective or inclusive participation as God prompts you.

Your giving is a blessing @ Our Lord's!

Student Sunday

A special UMC offering, one of six taken throughout the year, will be taken on Sunday, December 1. Designated Student Sunday, this offering supports Africa University student scholarships and more. You can learn more about this special offering at: wisconsinumc.org. This gift is sent to the Wisconsin Conference, noted on Our Lord's giving record, and is joined with all gifts then sent to the receiving ministry.

Noisy Bucket Offering

The Noisy Bucket offering, taken on December 29, will be designated for the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha (HAWS) to assist Emma Merschdorf's scout troop in supporting HAWS. Emma and her troop will be with us on January 12, 2020, to personally accept our offering!



FIRST SUNDAY @ OUR LORD'S, A NEW SERIES FOR 2020

Let's start off every month together in worship, celebrating Holy Communion, and then learning together. ALL ages will gather from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, expanded announcements, and a learning opportunity. This may be a guest speaker (introduced in worship), a mission teaching, a denominational or agency talk, or a timely video from any number of resources, with Q&A to follow.

Providing information, teaching on timely topics, and expanding our understanding and opportunities in mission and shared ministry will drive the vision for First Sunday planning. Ideas from your area of ministry, passion, work connection or circle of influence are welcome. Please e-mail Pastor Kelly (pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org) or drop a note in her hallway mailbox. A summary of the first First Sunday follows:

First Sunday Asks: “Do you wanna be a member?”

(To the song tune: “Do You Wanna Build a Snowman” from Frozen)

What a wonderful First Gift of Advent to give yourself and Our Lord’s! Join Pastor Kelly (date to be determined) in Fellowship Hall for a 90-minute overview on United Methodist history, local church structure, and membership understanding. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and then pray about your desire for membership @ Our Lord’s UMC.

Membership is a decision and an action, not a worship event. Those saying “Yes!” to membership will complete a short bio, have their photo taken, complete a ‘next step’ commitment, and be welcomed by church leadership in a short ceremony.

Each new member will be introduced to the congregation during a future worship.

HAPPY SEASON OF THANKFULNESS AND GIVING!

New Berlin Preschool had a very special visitor in October. Miss Leslie came and read to the 3K class. The children loved it and ask when she will be back to visit - hopefully, very soon!



It is so special that we can share these types of activities between the preschool and church. The preschool is so thankful for all that it has been blessed with this year. We have been spending the weeks of November talking about being thankful and how we can extend that feeling beyond our home and school.

New Berlin Preschool is fortunate to be partnering with Our Lord’s United Methodist Church to collect food for area families in need. We have done similar collections in the past and are always so pleased that our families are so generous and caring. Our hope is that we will continue this into the season of Christmas and beyond.

From the Church Office

I wanted to take a little space in this issue of The Salt to introduce myself. My name is Tabitha Manning and I am very happy to have been asked to fill the position of Office Administrator at Our Lord’s. My family and I moved to Wisconsin from Virginia in 2004. I have been married to my husband Gary for thirty-one years and we have one son and two small dogs. Gary is an ordained Episcopal priest and is the rector at Trinity Episcopal

Church in Wauwatosa. Renaissance music has long been a passion of mine and several years ago I decided to learn to play the recorder. I am now a member of a recorder quintet and a member of a larger group of recorder players from the Milwaukee area (the Milwaukee Area Recorder Society) who get together each month to play music and share our love of the instrument. (If you are a recorder player or are interested in becoming one, this is a great group to join - we welcome players from beginners to advanced.) I sing alto in our choir at Trinity and often play recorder during our liturgies.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months and want to thank those of you who I have already met for the warm welcome I have received. You have helped me feel like a part of the Our Lord's family. I wish you all a blessed Advent and a happy Christmas!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children and Youth

Classes for children and youth are held in the classrooms upstairs.

Christian Living Class

The last session of the Christian Living Class, based on the book *Taste and See*, will be Sunday, December 1 and a class titled Liturgy of the Table will be held December 15. At one of the remaining classes, the participants will select a new study book. The first meeting of this class in 2020 will be January. Plan to come and learn what the group will be studying

Bible Study Class

In January, with the help of Pastor Kelly, the Bible Study Class will work from the lectionary. This class is open to everyone since no pre-study work will be involved. This class offers a great opportunity to learn together and be in God's Word.

Tuesday AM Bible Study Class

If you cannot stay for the Sunday morning Bible Study class, you have another opportunity to learn more about God's word. This class meets every week on Tuesday morning in the Wesley Room next to the sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

REMEMBERING THE REASON FOR THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

As we enter the season of Christmas, life seems to get so busy and hectic. No matter how hard we try to not let it happen, it becomes a reality. All too often we set ourselves up for disappointments when things don't go the way we want them to.

When we look deeper into the night Jesus was born, it was anything but peaceful and calm. Mary and Joseph had to make the trip to Bethlehem to pay their taxes, while Mary was nine months pregnant - not the most convenient time to be riding on a donkey. Then, there was no room available for them and they had to rest in a barn, where Mary gave birth to her Son.

Let us pray that, during this season, you will remember and even accept that life gets messy and is not perfect. May you enjoy the message that you are loved, through the gift of Jesus.

We have eternal life because He died for our sins. Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to deliver us and love us forever. Now that is worth celebrating! Happy Birthday Jesus!

MAKING AN IMPACT

The November Noisy Bucket Offering will be used to sponsor families at Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council. The IMPACT of your donation allows the recipients the freedom to allocate funds that would have been used for food or presents to be used instead for rent, bills, or even essential medications. The IMPACT of your offering ensures that each sponsored family will have a Christmas meal on the table and presents under the tree for their children.



In 2018, Waukesha Christmas Clearing Council coordinated giving to more than 1,800 families and nearly 4,200 children in Waukesha County.

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

As is traditional at Our Lord's, the Christmas missions will include the Mitten Tree, Gift Cards for area stores, and the Christmas Offering. The youth have added a new opportunity. Details follow:

Mitten Tree - The Mitten Tree will be in the narthex by December 1. In addition to mittens, you can help to decorate this tree with hats, scarves, and gloves, for children, women and men. These items will be taken to United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee.

Gift Cards - Details of the types of gift cards needed (such as stores and denominations) and the recipients will be given in the weekly What's Happening e-mail and the Sunday bulletin. Watch these communications for the deadlines of when your donations should be made.

Christmas Offering - Opportunities to donate to the Christmas Offering will run from December 22 through January 5. The mission team at Our Lord's designates local, national and international recipients and will offer a giving update in the February SALT.

Ronald McDonald House - The youth at Our Lord's plan to prepare and serve a brunch at the Ronald McDonald House on Saturday, December 28, between 8:45 a.m.-12:45p.m.

REACHING OUT TO THOSE IN NEED IN 2020

If you have never served at the Cathedral Center (a shelter for homeless women and families) and/or the Gathering meal program, you have missed a great opportunity to reach out to those in need. Why not make it your New Year's Resolution for 2020 to volunteer for one of the dates? It may seem early to be thinking about resolutions, but the days and weeks are flying along!

Cathedral Center

The next opportunity to serve at the Cathedral Center located at 845 N. Van Buren, is **Monday, December 2**. The new dates for 2020 will be given in the February Salt.

The group of four or five people from Our Lord's sign up to purchase, prepare, make a meal, and transport it downtown to serve it to the women and families staying at the Center. The number of people we serve is approximately 50, but the number varies. We provide a hot dish, salad or fruit, dessert, and beverages. We meet at the church at 6:00 to carpool to the center. The meal is served at 7:00. After we serve and clean up, we prepare a designated number of sandwiches that the people can take with them for lunch the next day. The food for those sandwiches is at the Center for us to use. We are back at church by 8:30.

This is a wonderful way to serve our community, and we always welcome new people to join us. Please consider this worthwhile mission work. If you can't make part of the meal, you can sign up to go and serve. There is always someone who goes along who has served before and knows the procedures to follow.

A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the Narthex. For any questions you may have, please call Linda Suminski at 414-425-6080 or Wenda Cichucki at 414-702-3612.

The Gathering

To help you plan ahead to serve at the Gathering, here are the 2020 dates, all at the south side Gathering site on Layton Boulevard: **Saturday, April 18, May 30, September 19, and October 24**.

Becas Con Bendiciones

The Christian Living Sunday School class has been contributing to Becas Con Bendiciones of Honduras or "Scholarships With Blessings" program for many years now. Our class members may be fewer than in the past, but the desire to help the children in Honduras remains.

The Scholarships With Blessings program covers the costs of school supplies for the children and provides spiritual enrichment to nurture the children in its care through pastors and laypersons in the local churches. Students in the program receive a commitment promising their education will continue to be provided through high school so long as they maintain a 70% average or greater in their studies.

We can support this program by providing funds for scholarships at \$120.00 per student and/or providing donations to be used for medicines, eye wear, tutoring, and student transportation. Whatever is donated, 100% of it goes directly to supporting the children. Just think - if 12 people donated \$50.00 each, then five children can be provided with a scholarship. It remains true that a gift in **any** amount can be used, and our class would love to have you partner with us. Donations need to be in the office by December 31, 2019. Checks can be made out to Our Lord's with the fund name Becas Scholarships written in the Other section on the giving envelopes. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND MORE!!! SALE

The Christmas Cookies and More!! Sale will be held on **Sunday, December 8, from 9:00 – 12:00. Set-up day is Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 – 12:00**; please bring your baked goods to church during that time period. Be sure to identify your cookies and other baked donations, including any extra-special ingredients, so they can be correctly identified for the sale. Also, please put your name and address on any plates/tins etc. that you want to be returned; they will be on the counter at the kitchen serving hatch after the sale on Sunday.

If you plan to make any other goodies or crafts, they should be at church by Tuesday evening so they can be priced on Wednesday afternoon (December 4) by the Crafters.

New this year is the opportunity for homebound church members to order cookies before the sale; they will be personally delivered the week after the sale. The price of the cookies is \$9:00 per pound.

This year, information regarding the sale is given on the church sign. Please encourage your friends and family to come and SHOP!

A popular feature of the sale is Christmas Revisited. Items for this section of the sale are donated by people who are downsizing or cutting back on the amount of Christmas decorating. Of course, the items have to be Christmas-focused and in very good condition. If you are interested in donating to this aspect of the sale in 2020, please talk to one of the Crafters. They are the ones who make the decisions on what to keep for the sale and the prices.

On Friday, January 3, 2020, starting at 10:00, a gathering will be held in the Garden Room to discuss the sale - good points, problems, changes, whatever. For the refreshments at this gathering, all attendees are invited to bring a brunch-type dish to share. Usually about 10 – 12 women come.

FELLOWSHIP TIMES!

With the start of the New Year, why not plan to take advantage of several opportunities for fellowship - some new and some not so new?

In 2020, UMW will offer a variety of programs that will be open to both men and women. For two months, starting in February 2020, a program will be offered, followed by a brief UMW

business meeting; these programs will be held in the afternoon of the first Thursday of the month. For the third month, a program will be offered in the evening to provide a time for fellowship for those people who cannot come to a daytime program; the day and time of these meetings are still to be determined.

Come and Learn About the New Berlin Senior Citizens Club

At the first program meeting, on February 6, at 1:00 p.m., Frenchi Trottier-Wasielewski, a former president of New Berlin Senior Citizens Club, has agreed to be the speaker. She will provide an overview of the club's programs available to members. In the past few years the membership has been opened to people living outside of New Berlin, to participate in field trips, recreational activities such as dartball, chorus, crafts, or card games, health-related services like blood pressure checks, and more. Frenchi is also coordinating the Trex plastic bag collection in which we are cooperating. Men and women can look forward to her presentation.

Saturday Afternoon at the Movies

Once again, UMW will coordinate Saturday Afternoon at the Movies. More details regarding times and movies to be shown will be given in the February Salt.

Monday-Funday Fellowship Time

In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, it is said that having a friend or partner in life who can assist you and protect you is welcome. Also, it is better to have a third helper, like a cord with three strands is stronger. For us, the third strand is Jesus who helps us to fight the evils in the world around us and to bring us peace.

At this time of year, it is important to remember our friends and family who care about us and to give thanks for all God has given us, through His Son Jesus. If you are feeling alone or want to bring happiness to others, then bring a friend to the Monday-Funday Fellowship group on the third Monday of the month in the Garden Room; upcoming dates are December 16 and January 20 at 10:00 a.m. Come and join in the fun times we have and the way we share support for one another.

Making Fleece Blankets

Starting at 1:00 on January 22, in the Garden Room, the Crafters once again will make fleece blankets, which are donated to several of the missions supported by Our Lord's. If you would like to donate a fleece kit for this project, the preferred size is twin. You are welcome to come to a crafting session to help make a blanket (it just involves tying knots); it is such good therapy!

UMW READING PROGRAM

The books selected for the 2020 UMW Reading Program are *House in the Sky* (Education for Mission), *Feathered* (Leadership Development), *Tilly and the Crazy Eights* (Nurturing for Community), *Midnight Teacher* (Social Action), *Working Class Rage* (Spiritual Growth). These books are displayed on the cabinet in the Library Corner.

For details about the UMW Reading Program, please contact Gwenda Szczygielski at gm53151@wi.rr.com or after the church service on Sunday mornings.

CARING MINISTRIES

Do you come to church to make friends or do you come to church to be a friend? If you feel you want to help others feel welcome here at Our Lords or be helpful to those in need, then come join the Caring Ministries team on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.; the next meeting will be January 14, 2020. Come to share your ideas and become God's hands and feet by showing His Love. If you want more details on this opportunity to serve, contact the church office or Rebecca Radick, Karen Haubert, Chris Gyga, Lynda Mc Dowell.



December Birthdays

Mimi Spence 12/2

Josh Paquette 12/18

Jamie Rybarczyk 12/3

Gavin Rybarczyk 12/19

Debby Slater 12/3

Pat Mehring 12/20

Paul Davis 12/4

Grace Pugh 12/20

Norma Hunsaker 12/4

Larry Piasini 12/23

Hans Tanner 12/5

Loyal Sheedy 12/27

Wendi Haubert 12/6

Hope Sheedy 12/7

Nicholas Heinert 12/7

Dylan Holschbach 12/9



HELP THE PLANET AND CLEAN OUT YOUR CLUTTER.

Have you seen the new container in the narthex vestibule? It is there for you to help New Berlin Senior Citizens Club to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags, wrap, film, and other plastic items that can end up in the oceans and cause untold harm. When 500 pounds are collected, New Berlin Senior Citizens Club will receive a plastic park bench for our community from the TREX Recycling Project.

What items should you save for this project?

RECYCLE Beyond the BAG - All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue FROM THE STORE

Produce bags; store bags; ice bags etc.

FROM YOUR PANTRY

Reclosable bags; cereal box liners; case overwrap; bread bags etc.

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

Newspaper sleeves; dry cleaning bags; bubble wrap; plastic e-commerce mailers etc.



In addition to the Trex container in the narthex vestibule, bags with your recyclable plastics may be taken to: The New Berlin Senior Citizens Center any Monday from 8:30-4:00 or Wednesday from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. at the Community Center, 14750 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin

REGISTER TO VOTE

Have you moved recently, but have not changed your address where necessary so you can vote in the next elections? Remember your vote matters! Review the questions below and see which ones apply to you.

- Are you a new voter?
- Are you still registered if you've missed a few elections?
- Have you changed your address? (A new apartment number in the same building is still a new address!)
- Do you want to vote absentee?
- What do you need for a photo proof of identity or proof of address?

Whatever your question may be, find answers and register to vote at: **myvote.wi.gov**
Your next election might be Tuesday, February 18, 2020 for a local primary. Be prepared!

If you are not comfortable about using the internet, UMW can schedule a time for Pat Garrigues to help you. Or someone from League of Women Voters is available to help a group with your voter registration questions. Please contact Pat Garrigues at 262-298-9097 with any questions on the Trex recycling project and/or voting.