



December 2016

Published Monthly

Family Life

Family life. It can be the best of times and—let's be honest—it can be the worst of times. Consider these family facts:

- You don't need remote control for your TV. If you have children, the chances of controlling anything are already remote.
- More ominous than the sound of an approaching riot is the sound of children suddenly quiet.
- A survey of marriage counselors has uncovered this bit of data: no marriage can survive white carpeting.

Everyone needs godly wisdom when it comes to family relationships. That's why, as we begin a new church year, we plan to learn from the families connected with our Lord's birth. This includes Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, along with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John. These families faced infertility, frustration, loss, misunderstandings, death, and so much more. Sermon plans are as follows:

November 30 – **Two Families** (Luke 1:5–25)

December 7 – **A List!** (Matthew 1:1–17)

December 14 – **Open the Door** (Matthew 1:18–20)

Christmas Eve – **Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All** (Matthew 1:21–25)

You are encouraged to be a part of these worship services. *Your family is worth time and investment in God's word!*

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES FOR 2016

Pastor Vanderbilt and the Elders of Messiah Lutheran Church have set the schedule for Holiday Services this year. The schedule is as follows:

Advent Midweek services will be on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, and December 14 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for these services will be “Family Life” as we examine some of the families mentioned in the Christmas story and their struggles and celebrations.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

We will celebrate one service on **Christmas Day**, Sunday, December 25. This will be a traditional service at 10:00 a.m.

We will also celebrate one service on **New Year's Day**, Sunday, January 1. This will be a contemporary service at 10:00 a.m.

We pray God’s richest blessings on your journey to manger of Bethlehem this year.

PLANNED GIVING BOARD REPORT

The Board of Planned Giving (PGB) met on November 14, 2016 and was presented with one Grant Request from Trustees, represented by Dave Biergans, for \$9,000.00 to cover a portion of the estimated costs related to the relocation of the dumpster. Some of that amount will be used now to begin site preparation and the remainder held in a restricted account to be used when the work on the project resumes. In 2016, of the \$15,755.85 designated as available for grants, \$15,484.00 has been awarded. Members of the PGB are: Erin House (Chair), Ellen Biergans, Llynn Wagner, Kerry Chubb, Rhett Ried, Sara Vanderbilt and Chris Gilliland. The PGB meets the 2nd Monday of the month. Grant Request Forms are available from Mark Martin in the office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Christmas Poinsettia Orders are currently being taken through Sunday, December 11. Order sheets and payment envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Plants are \$9.00 each, available in either red or white, and each wrapped in gold foil. Plants will be used to decorate the altar area for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Plants can be taken home following the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day or left for use during our service January 1st. Please place your payment envelope in Chris Gilliland’s mailbox. Contact Chris (Altar Guild) at 694-6803 or at mrscmgilliland@att.net if you have questions.

BIBLE STUDY:**The Mission of Jesus, Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos**

I am so excited to be offering the latest Ray VanderLaan Bible study beginning in January. As most of you know, he is one of my personal favorites as a Bible study leader. I think so highly of him I have actually entered a contest through Focus on the Family (who produces his studies now) to go on one of his trips to Israel!!! Talk about geek city if I were to win!!!

We have been going through his many studies over the years and I truly believe he gets better and more passionate the more he produces. This is #14 in his That the World May Know Series.

This study just came out this past summer and is entitled, The Mission of Jesus. The sub-title is: Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos. This is a 5 week study covering the following topics:

Capernaum: Jesus Binds the Evil One

Decapolis: The Other Side-Jesus and the Man From the Tombs

Crucifixion: The Coronation of a King

Ascension: The King Takes His Throne

Pentecost: God Changed His Address.

All these topics lead nicely into our Lent season.

I am going to be leading the class on Wednesday nights beginning January 4th through February 1st at 6:30 p.m. The class will last approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours depending on discussion.

Those of you who are die hard VanderLaan fans (I know who you are!), line up and sign up. For those you have never experienced one of his studies, hang onto your hats! You will not be disappointed and you will definitely not be bored. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex soon to get a head count and order enough materials. The plan is to meet in the Good Shepherd Room. Those of you who have children in Head to Heart, stick around and attend the class. You will have some interesting things to share with them. I am so looking forward to sharing VanderLaan's insights with you next year!!!

Yours in Christ,
Jackie Lack

KINGDOM QUEST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's children's Christmas program will be at the 11:00 a.m. service on December 18th. The kids are practicing really hard and are looking forward to it. Please try to attend and see the children of our congregation as they tell the story of our Lord Jesus' birth.



Messiah Lutheran Servant Schedule
 5740 W Holt Rd, Holt, MI 48842
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December 2016

	12/4/2016	12/11/2016	12/18/2016	12/25/2016
8:30 AM Elder	Mark Reister	Ned Gottleber	Ernie Schuette	0
Acolyte	Irene Nielsen	Andrew Rutter	Tyler Rutter	0
Reader	Ellen Biergans	Diane Bennett	Janet Robson	0
Usher	Dave Biergans	0	0	0
Screens	Craig Cumbow	Craig Cumbow	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	
11:00 AM				10:00 AM
Elder	Jeff Rutter	Gene Wilson	Jerry Smith	Mike Wagner
Acolyte	Laney Waugh	Audrey Harmon	Peyton Ried	0
Reader	Teresa Carl	JoEllen Miskowski	Krista Ried	Janet Robson
Usher	0	0	0	0
Screens	0	0	0	Sherri TerBush
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	Team A2
7:00 PM	12/7/2016	12/14/2016	12/21/2016	5:00 PM
Elder	Mike Wagner	Mike Wagner	Tom Large & Jeff Rutter	12/24/2016
Acolyte	0	0	Tyler Rutter	12/24/2016
Reader	Jessica Bonkoski	Janet Robson	Ellen Biergans	Mark Reister & Jerry Smith
Usher	0	0	Dave Biergans	Blake Showers
Screens	Craig Cumbow	0	0	0
Altar Guild	Team A5	Team A2	Team A3	Team A4 & 5
				8:00 PM

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Trent Stuewe 1

Melissa Winkel 1

Bonnie Root 3

Amber Bitters-Nunn 5

Nathan Dolton 5

Elizabeth Malinowski 5

Perry Schweitzer 6

Leighlend Wurzler 7

Bob McKean 8

Ernie Schuette 8

Kelly Hude 9

Daniel Blodgett 10

Carolyn Flamme 10

Jenna Greenman 11

Amy Kelly 11

Steve Stier 11

Steven Jenkins 14

Patrick Dolton 15

Barb Dickerson 16

Helen Geiger 16

Elaine Volker 16

Laurel Jelenek 17

Kaitlin Jennings 20

Ron Pride 20

Jonah House 23

Tasha Mills 24

Joyce Powers 24

Stan Chubb 29

Marsha Ericks 31

Jack Lucas 31

Alina Powers 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Larry & Sandy Russel

12/1/1962

Tom & Sherri Large

12/13/1991

Aaron & Rachel Krause

12/3/2010

Dennis and Dee Greenman

12/18/1971

Joseph & Jenna Criscuolo

12/7/2005

Jim & Laurel Jelenek

12/27/1997





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DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				7p Elders Meeting <small>GSR</small>	1	2
						3
4	5 6:30p Education AT <small>Paul</small> 7p Trustee AT <small>Paul</small>	6 6:30p Head 2 Heart <small>GSR</small> 7p Midweek Service	7	8	9	10
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship						
11	12 7p Planned Giving Board Meeting <small>Peter</small>	13 11a MCDC Christmas Program 6:30p Head 2 Heart <small>GSR</small> 7p Midweek Service	14 11a MCDC Christmas Program 6:30p Head 2 Heart <small>GSR</small> 7p Midweek Service	15 7p Team Meeting <small>GSR</small>	16	17
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 9:45a Kingdom Quest 11:00a Worship 6:00p HS Youth Movie Night						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30a Worship 9:45a Bible Study and Fellowship 11:00a Worship & KQ Program			7p Governing Board <small>GSR</small>		5p Christmas Eve Service 8p Christmas Eve Service	
10:00a Traditional Worship	25 26	27	28	29	30	31