

# Beautiful Savior December Newsletter

## How can I be happy when I'm busting my budget for Christmas?

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*

*Psalm 118:26*



"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." Perhaps you recognize these words from a famous song by Don Gardner. The main goal of the young child was to have his two front teeth so that he could wish you a Merry Christmas. It seems so simple, so stress-free, so undemanding.

Do you remember a time like that? Do you remember a time when the world seemed so stress-free? Do you remember a time when life was so simple?

Christmas is right around the corner. Signs of this have been noticeable for quite some time now. Christmas decorations have been in the stores for several months. Since Thanksgiving some radio stations have been playing Christmas music non-stop, reminding us of how many days we have left until Christmas. There's so much for all of us to do!

Decorations! Parties! Presents! And children don't just ask for their two front teeth anymore. They want their X-Box and Smart Phones to keep them happy. But can I be happy when I'm busting my budget for Christmas?

For help this Christmas season, remember this Bible verse from Psalm 118:26: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." There was a time when God showed us something so simple, so stress-free, so undemanding. It happened about 2,000 years ago.

Shepherds went to visit a newborn baby. No kings, no queens, no rulers—just lowly shepherds. And when they got there, this baby did not seem so special. No fancy hospitals, no doctors, no nurses. Just Mary and Joseph and their infant son Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. So simple, so stress-free, so undemanding.

And yet, here is the place where you find your answer when you seem to be busting your budget for Christmas. Do what the shepherds did! Go to Bethlehem this Christmas season. Look in the manger and see your Savior.

No, you won't find some extra cash to restore a healthy balance in your checkbook. But you will find happiness for your soul. You will find a Savior who will never leave you. And you will find a Savior who will fill your spiritual checkbook with many blessings that can never be depleted.

Because there ... you will find Jesus!

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*From the pen of the Pastor.* Wow! Where has the time gone. It is December already and times are getting busy. It is easy to get caught up in so many activities that we start to forget what is important. Make sure your family has some “fun” or “relaxing” time together during this month. It helps to keep the family together and focused on the important things in life. Even though times might be busy, don’t forget to stay spiritually healthy by attending worship services on Sunday morning at 9:00 AM or the midweek Advent services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM. May God richly bless your Christmas preparations and your celebration of Christ’s birthday.

**Recent Membership changes.** None for this month.

**Finances and attendance.** For the month of November we have received \$8670 against a budgeted need of \$8616 (4 weeks) . The average attendance in November was 69 per Sunday compared to 71 per Sunday in 2016. The Thanksgiving service had 72 people in attendance. Let’s renew our commitment to be refreshed by God’s Word on a regular basis and if you run into a member you haven’t seen in church let them know that we miss them.

**Handicap Parking spots** – The signs are in and have been installed. One spot is where Pastor used to park and the other spot is on the center island. We hope this helps those who need to make use of these parking spots.

**MLC Christmas Concert.** This concert will take place on Sunday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>**, at 4:00 PM in the Chapel of the Christ on the MLC campus. Light refreshments will be served in the chapel Fellowship Room after the concert.

**Welke Open House.** Dawn will be displaying her nativities which number close to 175. You are invited to come and check them out at an open house on Saturday, 12/23/2017, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. It’s okay to bring friends that might be interested too. The address is 1102 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Austin, MN. Call Pastor if you need directions (507-481-2086)

**WELS International Youth Rally.** This is for high school age children and will take place at Bowling Green State University located in Bowling Green, Ohio from June 26-29, 2018. The cost is \$345 per person before May 1, 2018 and \$370 after May 1, 2018. The cost is just for registration, room and board but does not include transportation. We will try and partner with the Rochester churches for transportation and chaperones. If you are interested in going and/or interested in being a chaperone, talk to Pastor Welke.

**Christmas Caroling** – we plan to go out caroling on Sunday, 12/10. We will meet at church at 1:00 PM and car pool. If the weather is bad, our backup date is 12/17.

## As You Plan Ahead:

Midweek Advent Services at 7:00 PM on: 12/6/2017, 12/13/2017 and 12/20/2017

Practice for Children’s service: 12/9/2017, 12/16/2017 and 12/23/2017

12/24/2017 – Children’s Christmas Service Sunday morning at 9:00 AM with brunch following

12/24/2017 – Christmas Eve worship service at 6:00 PM

12/25/2017 – Christmas Day worship service at 9:00 AM