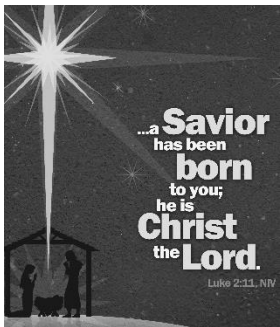


How Can I Get to Know God Better?

Steve and Caroline attended the Christmas party for Steve's company. It was difficult, though. Even though the partygoers were enjoying each other's company, Steve and Caroline were pretty much ignored. In the middle of the holiday cheer, they didn't really fit in.

There's a reason for that. Steve recently joined the company and didn't know many people at work. He knew many of their names but didn't really know the people very well. And when you're the quiet type anyway, it's hard to jump into Christmas party conversations.



If only someone could bridge the gap and help Steve and Caroline get to know those people better! Do you ever feel distant from your Creator—you know there's a God, but you just don't feel close to him? It's a rotten feeling. But God bridged the gap to help us get to know him better.

The Bible tells us, "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (John 1: 18). The "One and Only" is Jesus, who came to our world to help us know God better. The birth of Jesus is a big celebration because it is what God did for us to get closer to him. On the night of his birth an angel told shepherds, "Today a Savior has been born to you" (Luke 2:11).

You see, the selfish things we have done or said create distance between us and our Creator. God knew that and sent Jesus to bridge the gap. He came to us and took the punishment for our selfish words and actions so we could see and understand God's love. His birth was the start; his death was the clincher.

Do you know the feeling Steve and Caroline had? You won't have that with God because of Christmas. Jesus came so we would know God better.

Join us this Christmas to find out how Jesus made God's forgiveness known. That's how we get closer to God—through Jesus, whose birth we celebrate

-WELS Outreach newsletter

Congregational News

Advent = The King Shall Come The word "Advent" means "coming." When someone is coming over, what do you do? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming, doesn't it? If it's a good friend popping in for a quick visit, you don't worry too much about how the house looks or serving a meal. But imagine the governor is coming over for an evening to give you some sort of citizen's award. That's a big deal. There's work to be done: cleaning, planning a menu, getting the yard looking great, etc.



So, is Advent a big deal? It depends on who is coming and why they are coming. In our Advent worship this December, we'll get the answer to those questions. We see that the *King – Jesus himself - shall come*. We see *why* the King came on that first Christmas and *why he shall come again* on judgment day. In this season, we also cherish the way our King comes to us today in Word and sacrament, establishing his reign in our hearts.

Advent Preparation St. Paul wrote about a "mystery," in his letters. That mystery is God's plan of salvation in Jesus. He's saying that we couldn't understand anything about our salvation if the Holy Spirit hadn't taught us to know and believe in Jesus. It is just that mystery of salvation that is the focus of MLC's 2023 Advent devotion booklet: ***The Mysteries of Christmas: Many Millennia, Many Mysteries, One Messiah***. In these daily



devotions from December 1st – 25th, the writers lead us to marvel at the mysteries related to Jesus' first and second advent—some of which have been resolved and realized, and some of which are still shrouded in

mystery. Pick up a copy of the devotional booklet from the cabinets in the entryway, next to the *Forward in Christ* magazines.

Advent by Candlelight Ladies, there's not much time left to sign up for Advent by Candlelight on December 10th at 5 p.m. It may be yet another thing on your already busy calendar, but it will be time well spent as you prepare for Jesus' coming and enjoy the food and fellowship provided. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Membership Changes At the last Council meeting, the membership of Joan German was transferred to Grace Lutheran in Waukesha at her request. We wish her well in her new church home.

2023-2024 School Students If you know (or are even considering) that your child will be attending one of the area WELS elementary schools or KML or LPS next school year (2018-2019), please let the church council president (Keith Bartelt) or Pastor Bode know as soon as possible. The budget is being created for 2024 and we'd like an accurate count of how many children we can expect. It will help us in our budget planning.



Christmas Season Worship Christmas is one of the few times during the year when you have the opportunity to worship on several occasions within a short span of time. It's due to the fact that Christmas is essential to God's plan of salvation. Join us this season for any number of worship opportunities...

- ✓ December 6th 7 p.m. Advent devotion (6 p.m. Soup Supper and New Member welcome)
- ✓ Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24 Sundays in Advent (regular church times)
- ✓ December 24th 5 p.m. Christmas Eve carol - sing
- ✓ December 24th 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve (Sunday School) service
- ✓ December 24th 10 p.m. Christmas Candlelight service
- ✓ December 25th 9 a.m. Christmas Day
- ✓ December 31st New Year's Eve focus with Holy Communion
- ✓ January 1st Please note that we will *not* be having a New Year's Day worship service this year

Any of these services would be a perfect opportunity to invite a family friend or a neighbor to church, especially if they don't have a church home. The children's service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Eve candlelight service lend themselves especially to visitors. Grab some invitation cards from the cabinets in the entryway and invite someone to experience the true joy of Christmas!

Sunday School Christmas Practice On the Saturdays of December 3, 10, 17 & 24 our Sunday School will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service.



Practice each week runs from 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. It's extremely important that the Sunday School children attend these practices so they will be ready to "preach the Gospel" on Christmas Eve. It's especially important this year, as there will be almost a full week between our last practice and the Christmas Eve service. Parents, please make sure they know their parts, help them with the songs, and make every attempt to have them there each Saturday and then on Sunday, December 19th at Sunday School for our final practice.

Long Range Facilities Committee The most recent meeting was held on October 30th. It was reported that the section of the garage floor that was cracked / sinking was cut out and new concrete was poured to make the floor level again. The following list of projects came out of the facilities inspections:

- New roof on parsonage
- Various parsonage remodeling projects
- New roof on fellowship hall entryway
- Ceiling insulation in the church proper
- Drilling a new well
- Audio-visual equipment upgrade
- Fellowship hall flooring

Of that list, the fellowship section of roof and the parsonage roof were felt to be priorities and will be recommended as 2024 projects.

The Annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd. Save the date!

Christmas Concerts

Living in the area that we do, we are blessed with many schools which put on beautiful Christmas concerts each Christmas season. They're beautiful not only in the sense that they prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas, but also beautiful in their quality of presentation. Below is a list of area groups which have Christmas concerts coming up. If you need directions to any of them, call Pastor Bode.



-11-26	2 p.m.	Lutheran Chorale – St. John’s, Tosa
-11-29	6:30 p.m.	<i>Branches Band</i> at Faith Luthera in FdL
-12-1-2	7:30 p.m.	Wisconsin Lutheran College
-12-3	2:30 p.m.	Wisconsin Lutheran College
-12-3	4 p.m.	MLC livestream mlc-wels.edu/streams
-12-8	7 p.m.	Crown of Life Orchestra - Hubertus
-12-9	2 & 7 p.m.	Crown of Life Orchestra – Hubertus
-12-9	6:30 p.m.	Lutheran Ceili Orchestra – Faith, FdL
-12-10	3 & 7 p.m.	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary - Mequon
-12-15	7 p.m.	Joyful Witness – St. Paul – N. Fond du Lac
-12-16	2 p.m.	Joyful Witness – St. Paul – N. Fond du Lac
-12-16	6:30 p.m.	Kettle Moraine Lutheran – Jackson
-12-17	3 p.m.	Luther Prep School – Watertown
-12-17	6:30 p.m.	Lutheran Ceili Orchestra – Morning Star
-12-19	7 p.m.	Winnebago Lutheran Academy – FdL
-12-20	1 p.m.	Winnebago Lutheran Academy – FdL
-12-20	6:30 pm.	German Christmas at Salem, MKE
-12-21	10 a.m.	Luther Prep School - Watertown

KML Korner

Join KML in Helping Families in Need Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School is partnering with Coffeerville Company to raise money for KML’s 12 Days of Christmas fundraiser to support families in need. This year we are raising money for the Gerlach, Hovorka, Lindenberg, and Praefke families.

Learn more about the families, order coffee, or make a donation at kmlhs.org/12days. Deadline to Order Coffee: December 12, 2023. The deadline to Make a Monetary Donation: December 31, 2023.

KML Job Openings Kettle Moraine Lutheran has the following job openings. If you would like more information, contact Mr. Jody Hansen, Director of Operations at 262.677.4051 x4004 or e-mail him at jody.hansen@kmlhs.org).

Full-Time Maintenance 2nd Shift: KML is looking for a responsible, motivated person to handle basic maintenance in the school. Duties include basic electrical, plumbing, and carpentry skills. Shift starts at 1:00 PM (flexible), full-time, 40 hours/week. Benefits include: 403 (b) retirement plan, health and dental insurance, paid vacation, sick days, and paid holidays.

Concessions: Work in KML’s concession stand during home games and tournaments. This entails simple food preparation, customer service, and clean up. The schedule involves nights and weekends.

Christmas Choral Concert Please join us at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School as our choirs glorify the Christ child through song at the Christmas Choral Concert on **Saturday, December 16, at 6:30 PM**. Can’t make it in person? Watch online at kmlhs.org/stream.

Area Events & Invitations

Shrek the Musical Auditions Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School's theatre department is holding auditions for the role of "Young Fiona" in the winter production of *Shrek the Musical*. Auditions are open to girls in grades 5-8 in the KML Federation and will be submitted by video. The **deadline for submissions is December 17, 2023**. For full audition information, please visit kmlhs.org/theatre.

A German Christmas How might our great-great grandparents have celebrated Christmas 175 years ago? The WELS Historical Institute and Salem Lutheran Church invite you to “A Landmark German Christmas

Concert” to find out! This free concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.** at historic Salem Landmark Church on the campus of Salem Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee. It will feature carols sung in German and the Christmas Gospel read *auf Deutsch*. The assembly will sing a few favorite stanzas in English as well! For further information, contact Pastor Paul Meier at 414-353-8141 or visit <https://welshistoricalinstitute.org/>. *Frohe Weihnachten!*

Marriage Enrichment Weekend WELS Discipleship has scheduled a Marriage Enrichment weekend, January 19-21, 2024. It will be hosted at the Stella Hotel and Ballroom in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Jesus has identified “determinants of a healthy marriage,” things that affect the health of your marriage. As it turns out, the same factors that contribute to a healthy life with Jesus contribute to a healthy marriage. Healthy Marriage will help you learn those “determinants of a healthy marriage.” More than that, Healthy Marriage will equip you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage long after this memorable weekend retreat. The weekend includes lodging for two days, breakfast on both days, lunch on Saturday, and all workshop materials. The **deadline to register is Dec. 19, 2023**. Register early; space is limited. To learn more or to register, go to www.wels.net and search for “marriage enrichment.”

Marriage Retreat – Option #2 Christ Alone Lutheran Church invites you and your spouse to an overnight Marriage Retreat **February 9-10, 2024** held at the Inn on Woodlake in Kohler, Wisconsin! Please go to this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4CA9AD2AA0FE3-45598937-marriage#/> for more information and to participate! **Registration deadline is Monday, December 18**. All married couples - newlyweds to seasoned couples - are invited! Call the Christ Alone church office with questions at 262-242-4710.

Fellowship and Basketball A group of men from across the KML Federation play basketball **Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at KML from 5:45 – 7:00 a.m.** and are looking for some additional players. Yes, it’s early, but this is a great opportunity to start the day right, get in shape, and enjoy some fellowship and fun. Competitive, but friendly group, ranging in

age from 18-80. No long-term commitment and no cost – play as frequently as you’d like. For any questions or to get access to the signup sheet and be placed on the email list, please reach out to Mike Willis (mjwillis2021@gmail.com or 414-286-1070). Hope to see you on the court!

Job Opening Christian Family Solutions has an opening for a full-time Intake and Support Specialist to provide services in our Member Assistance Program (MAP). MAP is a customized and comprehensive way for churches and other organizations to assist in meeting the emotional or psychological needs of their members by providing them with convenient, affordable services. This position provides coordination, communication, and support to the clients we serve all within a Christian work environment. The Intake and Support Specialist can work either in the office or remote after a training period at the CFS corporate office in Germantown, WI.

