



The Forward

December 2024

1019 N 7th St Sheboygan, WI 53081

920-458-4343

Www.stmarksheboygan.com



Worship and Bible Study Programs in December

- Sunday morning service w/Holy Communion @ 9am
- Live stream of Sunday's service at Facebook.com/stmarksheboygan.com
- The sermon will be recorded and available after Sunday's service on our website
- Bible study held Wednesdays @ 9am and Sundays @ 10am

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." — Isaiah 9:6

As we enter this season of Advent, we are invited to wait and reflect on the promise of God's salvation, a promise fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet proclaims the coming of a child who will bring hope to a broken world. These powerful words highlight not only the divine nature of this child but also the purpose of His coming.

Wonderful Counselor speaks of Christ's wisdom that surpasses all understanding. As we prepare for His birth, we are reminded that we need the guidance of Jesus in our lives—His teachings lead us to the truth that sets us free.

Mighty God reminds us that this child is not merely human; He is God incarnate. In Him, the fullness of God's power and might is revealed. In this season of Advent, we remember that Jesus came with divine authority to overcome sin and death for all people.

Everlasting Father speaks of Christ's eternal care and love for His people. He is not just a distant figure, but one who personally nurtures and protects His children. As we wait for His return, we trust that He is with us now, guiding and comforting us.

Prince of Peace speaks of the peace that only Christ can bring. His birth was the beginning of God's plan to restore peace between God and humanity. In the chaos and busyness of life, Christ offers us a peace that transcends understanding.

This Advent, as we wait for Christ to come again, let us focus on the fullness of His identity and the hope He brings. He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of the many opportunities this coming month to rejoice in the Savior who comes to be with you. As always, see you in worship and Bible studies!

In Christ,

Pastor Tyler Werner

December Happenings

- Sunday December 1st:** 10am Outside decorations and hang wreaths
3pm Advent by Candlelight
- Monday, December 2nd:** 1pm Outreach Meeting - soup making
6pm Deacons Meeting
- Wednesday December 4th:** 11:30am Daughters Christmas Lunch at Yacht Club
- Saturday December 7th:** 8:00am Pew Polishing
- Sunday December 8th:** 10am Put up Christmas Tree
- Monday, December 9th:** 3pm Lights on tree
5pm Trustees Meeting
6pm Church Council Meeting
6pm Decorate Tree
7pm Board of Directors
- Thursday December 12th:** Trivia Night
- Sunday December 15th:** 10:15am Congregational Fund Meeting
- Monday December 16th:** Poinsetta Orders Due
- Wednesday December 18th:** Stewardship Meeting
- Tuesday December 24th:** Church Office Closed
4pm Christmas Eve Service
- Wednesday December 25th:** Church Office Closed
9am Christmas Day Service

Stewardship

Repenting of "Yours" and "Mine"

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids

have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider "equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself" for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine,"
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is "mine!" But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the "yours" and "mine" and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house

Source: LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/

Parish Nurse News, Carolyn Eiden, RN

Hi From Your Parish Nurse!

I'd like to discuss respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), its symptoms, causes, risk factors and complications. First I'd like to give a short overview of RSV. RSV causes infections of the lungs and respiratory tract. Did you know that RSV is so common that the majority of children have been infected with it by the age of 2? RSV can also infect adults. In adults and older children, RSV symptoms are mild and usually mimic the common cold, and self-care measures are all that are needed. On the other hand, RSV can also cause severe infection in some people such as babies under 12 months, especially premature infants, older adults, people with heart and lung disease or anyone with a weakened immune system.

Signs and symptoms of RSV usually appear around 4-6 days after exposure to the virus. In adults and older children, RSV typically causes mild cold-like symptoms which include: congested or runny nose, dry cough, low-grade sore throat, sneezing and headache. In severe cases of RSV it can spread to the lower respiratory tract, causing pneumonia or bronchiolitis which is an inflammation of the small airway passages entering the lungs. Symptoms include: fever, severe cough, wheezing, rapid or difficulty breathing and bluish color of the skin due to lack of oxygen called cyanosis. Infants are most severely affected by RSV. Symptoms include: short, shallow and rapid breathing, struggling to breathe- chest muscles and skin pull inward with each breath, cough, poor feeding, unusual tiredness and irritability. Most children and adults recover in 1-2 weeks although some may have repeated wheezing. Severe or life threatening infection necessitating a hospital stay can occur in premature infants or anyone who has a chronic heart or lung problem.

When should you see a doctor? Seek prompt medical attention if your child or anyone at risk of severe RSV has difficulty breathing, a high fever, or a blue color to the skin especially on the lips and nailbeds.

What causes RSV? RSV enters the body through the eyes, nose or mouth. It spreads easily through the air via infected respiratory droplets. You can become infected if someone with RSV coughs or sneezes close to you. It can be passed by direct contact as well. Did you know that RSV can live for hours on hard surfaces like countertops, crib rails and toys? An infected person is most contagious during the 1st week or so after infection.

Although in infants or those who are immunocompromised the virus can spread even after symptoms go away, up to 4 weeks.

Risk factors. Children can get infected more than once by RSV. Children who attend daycare centers or have siblings who attend school are at increased risk of exposure and reinfection. RSV season is from fall to the end of spring. People at higher risk of severe or life-threatening RSV infections include: infants especially premature infants or babies 6 months and younger, children who have congenital heart disease or chronic lung disease, children and adults with weakened immune systems from diseases such as cancer or treatment like chemotherapy, children with neuromuscular diseases like muscular dystrophy, adults with heart/lung disease and older adults, especially 65 and over.

Complications: These include hospitalization, pneumonia, middle ear infection, asthma and repeated infections. You can get repeat RSV infections, even during the same RSV season but it won't be as bad as the first infection, more like a cold. These secondary infections can be serious in older adults or in people with chronic heart or lung disease.

Prevention: There are several vaccines available for RSV. There is an FDA approved vaccine for older adults over 60, as they have weaker immune systems, especially those with chronic conditions like heart or lung disease. To protect young infants there are 2 options available. One is an antibody injection given to babies 8 months and younger born during or entering their first RSV season. There is a vaccine for pregnant women to protect the baby for the first 6 months of life. Both are FDA approved. I previously discussed the RSV vaccine for those older than 60 which is also FDA approved. Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of these vaccines.

Finally, remember the day to day habits to prevent the spread of the virus such as: 1) Frequent handwashing, avoiding exposure by covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Limit your baby's contact with people who have fevers or colds. 2) Keep hard surfaces clean like kitchen and bathroom countertops, door knobs and handles. Throw used tissues in the garbage immediately, 3) Don't share drinking glasses with others. 4) Don't smoke. Babies who are exposed to tobacco smoke have an increased risk of RSV and may have more severe symptoms. 5) Wash toys regularly especially when your child or grandchild is sick.

From: mayoclinic.org
Carolyn Eiden, RN
Parish Nurse

Happy Birthday to You!

Cindy Dortman - Dec 2

Carolyn Eiden - Dec 2

Mary Daehn - Dec 6

Lorraine Holzem - Dec 6

Mary Sass - Dec 6

Mary Lau - Dec 9

Tom Sohr - Dec 10

Claudia Krepsky - Dec 11

Nicole Herrmann - Dec 15

James Rank - Dec 22

John Sundee - Dec 24

Lorena Tislau - Dec 27

Michael Holzem - Dec 28

Ann Miech - Dec 28

Gloria Friedel - Dec 31

Happy Anniversary!

Hank and Marilyn Kalkopf - Dec 5 - celebrating 27 years

Christopher Keul and Claudia Krepsky - Dec 30 - celebrating 13 years

In Remembrance Of Baptism

Connie Thimmig - Dec 7

Krystal Delabreau - Dec 19

Sue Meyer - Dec 21

Mary Lau - Dec 23

Joan Schwerin - Dec 26