

Good News

December

The monthly newsletter of

**First United Lutheran Church • Sheboygan, Wisconsin
2401 Kohler Memorial Drive Sheboygan, WI 53081**

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2021

Vol. 66 • No. 12

Sharing God's Word * Strengthening Faith * Serving Community

As I read and reflect on the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel, a phrase caught my attention. Luke 2:7 reads,

"And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

"There was no place for them..." I wonder how many people at the time of Jesus' birth felt like there wasn't a place for them, either? "There was no place for them" politically, economically, religiously or socially. That, in and of itself, can feel like isolation. They have no place to go.

I am sure we all have moments where we feel we have "no place" to go or where we feel we do not fit in or belong. It can, at times, feel like we are isolated or we exist in a dark and lonely night.

It was a dark and lonely night with people feeling, "there was no place for them," when God revealed God-self in a big way. As soon as the world heard the baby's cry from "Emmanuel", 'God with us', the doors to heaven opened and shined light in all the dark and lonely corners of the world. People realized there was plenty of room for themselves and for their loved ones - room for love, peace, understanding, joy, and hope.

There was even room for hope! It was the miracle of this first Christmas when heaven and earth touched and kissed that the "vacancy sign" was lit for all eternity. Now everyone in the world would know that there is room for all in God's house and family.

This same hope still exists today. Yes, even more than 2,000 years later, the light of heaven still shines brightly in all the dark corners of our lives and reminds us that we belong, we matter, and there is room for us.

Please join us either in person or virtually for worship on Christmas Eve to celebrate the Baby's cry still being heard and the "vacancy sign" being on. There is hope for all of us for all eternity.

May you and your family have a blessed and joy-filled Christmas with the shining hope of the Christ Child!

Pastor Todd W. Smith

FULC Happenings

December Worship Schedule

Thursday, Dec 2 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary	Sunday, December 5 - 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Saturday, December 4 - 6:30 p.m. online	
Thursday, Dec 9 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary	Sunday, December 12 - 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:20 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Saturday, December 11 - 6:30 p.m. online	
Thursday, Dec 16 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Blue Christmas	Sunday, December 19 - 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary 4th Sunday of Advent 9:20 a.m. Sunday School Blue Christmas 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Saturday, December 18 - 6:30 p.m. online	
Thursday, December 23 - No Worship	Sunday, December 26 - 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 am 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm	
Thursday, December 30 - No Worship	Sunday, January 2, 2022 - 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
EVERYONE is welcome at First United Lutheran Church. Please feel free to invite your family, friends and neighbors to worship with us!	

CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24, 2021 AT FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

All are welcome to join us for
Christmas Eve Worship:

10:00 am we will feature Special Music along with communion and message

4:00 pm we will feature our Youth and Children's Choir along with communion and message

6:30 pm we will feature the Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir along with communion and message.

We hope that you are able to join us in person for this special Christmas Eve service.

If you are unable to join us in person at FULC, please feel free to watch the live stream on our Facebook page and / or our YouTube channel.

Merry Christmas Everyone from All of Us
to All of You !!

Annual Congregational Meeting - Part 1 Sunday, December 5 9:30 a.m. FULC Sanctuary

Join us after worship as we vote on the nominations for our elected church officials.

A Zoom link is available for those who are not able to attend in person.

FULC Staff

Senior Pastor • Todd W. Smith	Associate Pastor • Tina Kieckhafer
Children & Family • Mary Gorges	Director of Music • Wayne Wildman
Youth & Technology • Thom Nicla	Discipleship • Debbie Schneider
Church Administrator • Rhonda Holland	Preschool Lead Teacher • Ellen Yedica
Financial Secretary • Cheryl Nicholson	Custodian • Jason Paulson

December Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 8:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 8:30 am—4:00 pm OFFICE CLOSED; 12/27 & 1/3

Great Beginnings Preschool

In November, Great Beginnings students learned nursery rhymes and explored what it means to be grateful for all the things God has given us. We also feel joyful for all the beautiful days we can play outside!



Coffee Hour Sundays at 9:20 a.m.

See you in the back parking lot!



Come hang out by the portable heaters!



First United Lutheran Merchandise

See the website at our Welcome Center today!
Order by Dec. 2 to receive them before Christmas



https://moprostores.com/first_united_lutheran_church/shop/home

First United Lutheran Church Poinsettias 2021

A group of Poinsettias will be placed inside the First United Sanctuary to be used as decor for our Christmas Eve services.

If you would be willing to provide for the cost of the Poinsettias, please mail in a check for \$11 per plant.

You are welcome to take your plant home after the 6:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Thank you!

Link: https://moprostores.com/first_united_lutheran_church/shop/home

Adopt a Family



Just a reminder our Adopt a Family program opened up on Sunday, November 7th and

we now need your gifts to be wrapped, labeled, and dropped off no later than the first Sunday in December, which is December 5th.

Please see Pastor Tina with questions. Thank you !

Christmas Decorating

First United Lutheran Church
Sanctuary & Gathering Area

Sunday, Dec. 19
11:00 a.m.

All are welcome & needed!

Sign up on our website or email:
debbies@firstunitedelca.org



Love, Celebrations & Other News



**Wishing you another
year of love and
happiness.
Happy Anniversary!**

**Therefore what God
has joined together, let no one
separate.
Mark 10:9**



**As you
grieve
the loss
of a
loved one, please know that
prayers are being sent your
way for comfort and peace.**

**Matthew 5:4
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.**

1 Ryan Dicke
Carly Grohall
Gail Schaefer
Pam Stanford
Ellen Yedica
2 Kathryn Dahl

3 Jason Dierkes
4 Michael Dins
Shelly Trescher
Scarlett Thomas
5 Charles Cobb
Brian Wiggin
Zachary Wisniefski
6 Jennifer Diener
Shannon Luckey-Mueller
Judith Reinke
7 Amy Belmore
David Sachse
8 Silvey Anderson
Ellen Danielsen
Ken Kusel
Erin Modjewski
Stacy Schaefer
9 Marianne Comstock
Katie Krebsbach
Amy Krueger
Eric Larson
Elizabeth Marcoux
Ben Steinert
10 Thomas Kuehl
11 Jill Hanes
Claire Judd
Xai Pao Lee

Lian Mang
12 Logan Hamilton
David Kovacic
Cristi Spence
14 James Hartmann
Barb Strauss
Alex Weber
15 Dick Kieckhafer
Mitchell Ryan
Andrew Severance
Meghan Spence
Brooks Walters
Caleigh Wilson
16 Kendall Harmelink
Jane Jensen
Curtis Larson
Christopher Strauss
Kirsten Weinfurter
17 Nancy Eirich
Madison Griess-
meyer
Gerald Kohlbeck
Lynn Schwensow
18 Holli Harms
19 Dale Bogenschuetz
Jane Frick
Megan Gould
Brenna King
Olivia Knowles
John Roenitz, Jr.
Madeline Schultz
David Warden
20 Cheryl Bromley
Alex Eissens
Al Loth
John Roenitz
21 Nicole Dierksheide
Peggy Jones
Andrew Kissinger
Mary Raftery
Patricia Russell
Sandra Strebblow



22 Donna Baumann
Yasmine Brown
Braxton Freund
David McDermott
Hayden Strebblow
23 Derek Billmann
Nadine Crisp
24 Thang Siang Cing
Bill Schaefer
Andrew Schuessler
Maxim Tabello
25 Emmanuel Kamana
Mike Langan
Emily Schaefer
26 Nils Lemke
Jackson Saeger
27 Michelle Kelly
Andrew Pipp
Connie Saeger
Delaney Shaw
Beth Stanley
28 Tom Yedica
29 Ron Harms
Caleb Schultz
Emily Uraynar
30 Jean Coulson
Emma Evraets
Sandi Mendini
McKenzie Wassink
Hadley Weber
31 Rod Eissens
Dawn Gosse
David Richter
Lucas Tock



Christmas Treasures Gift Drop Off Information

We are once again accepting unwrapped Christmas gifts for children between the ages of newborn and 18. Please drop your gifts in the labeled bins outside of the church office doors during daylight hours from December 9 through 12 or drop in the bins located in the Gathering Area.

These toys will be shared with local agencies as well as with Wellington Park Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. If you have questions, please call Tina at (920)980-8691.

New Member Class
Sunday, Dec. 12 9:30 a.m.
Choir Room

Looking for a Church Home?
You are welcome to join us here!

We will gather from 9:30 - 10:20 a.m. and you will be welcomed into our Church Family at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Please call the Church Office to sign up today! 920-452-2401



Great Beginnings Preschool

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:20 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent, Adopt a Family Gifts Due, Annual Meeting Part 1

December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Treasures Due,

Advent Bible Study in Library, New Member Class and Welcome

December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent, Blue Christmas Worship, Advent Bible Study in Library,

Decorating the Sanctuary after Worship

December 26—One Worship Service Today at 9:30 am

Mondays:

1:15 p.m. Staff Meeting - Genszler Room

6:00 p.m. Meeting - Library

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #861 - Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. - December 20, Church Council Meeting—Genszler Room

December 27 and January 3 —Office Closed

****As always, please visit our
website calendar at:**

www.firstunitedelca.org

for the most up-to-date information!!

Tuesdays:

6:30 p.m. Scouts - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. - December 14, New Spirit Circle (offsite)

1:30 p.m. - December 21, Martha Circle - Genszler Room

Wednesdays:

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Guys - Building & Grounds/12:00 p.m. card playing

6:00 p.m. Scouts

7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

6:00 p.m. - December 1 Laundry Love at Midway Laundry

6:00 p.m. - December 1, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

11:30 a.m. - December 8, Morning Glories - Genszler Room

6:00 p.m. - December 8, 9th Grade Confirmation

No Confirmation December 15 through January 5th

- December 15, Live Christmas Trees Arrive

Thursdays:

9:00 a.m. Prayer group in the Genszler Room

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Room 10 & 12

6:30 p.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary & live stream of worship

7:00 p.m. Meeting - Library

December 9 Christmas Treasures

1:00 p.m.-6:00 pm December 9 Versiti Blood Drive—Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. December 16, Blue Christmas

December 23, no worship

December 30, no worship

Fridays:

10:00 am, 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

December 31 — Office open 8:30 am— noon

Saturdays:

6:30 p.m. Online Worship Service premiere on Facebook and YouTube

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER!

This year we will hold our Annual Meeting, Part 1 on December 5, 2021. Both In-Person and Online attendance options will be available. More details will be shared, including the Zoom link, in our upcoming Constant Contact emails and One Call Now phone calls.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 920-452-2401.

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ADVENT SERVICES—

During normal worship service hours:

Thursday, December 2, 9 and 16 & Sunday, December 5, 12 and 19

Christmas Eve Services - Friday, December 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service - Special Music

4:00 p.m. Service - Youth and Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Service - Sanctuary Choir/Handbell Choir

January 2, 2022 — In Person Worship @ 9:30 am

January 5, 2022—Laundry Love

January 17, 2022 — Church Council

January 30, 2022 — Annual Meeting Part 2

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