



CHAPEL OF
THE CROSS
LUTHERAN

Living in faith, hope, and love

THE CHAPEL

Weekly

December 18, 2022

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Bible classes for:

Sundays at 9:45 am Room #9 Lower level
Senior High Youth at 9:45 am in Room A,
Upper level.
Youth Confirmation at 9:45 am in Room
#8 Lower level

Sunday school for children:

Sundays at 9:45 am in the lower level

Woman's Bible study

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Unshakable Hope
A study by Max Lucado – Room #8

Wednesday Nights 6:30 – Hebrews
study resumes January 7, 2023, in Room
#8. Lesson #4 Chapter 4:14-5:10 is
available at the Commons Display.

Announcements

Advent Family Nights-Midweek Dinners: How great to gather for food and fellowship at Church each Wednesday in Advent before the 6:30 pm worship service! The dinner is free, all donations support missions! Come to fellowship and eat starting at 5:00 pm in the Gym. Helpers are needed. See Bill R. and sign up in the Commons.

Poinsettias: We will decorate the church at Christmastime with poinsettia plants *in honor or in memory of a loved one*. If you would like to order a 5-7 bloom plant (\$10.00), which may be picked up after Jan. 6, you can use one of the pew envelopes or call the church office (741-3737). Make checks payable to "Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran." **Deadline:** Sunday, 12/18. Please let the church office know how you want your memorial to read.

Thank you for all the cards, heartfelt thoughts, and prayers that you have sent our way upon the death of Dave's Dad and then his stroke. It has truly been overwhelming and humbling and is something that we continue to draw strength from as we walk this difficult and challenging journey. Dave was discharged from the hospital on Monday, November 21, and continues to exercise and rehabilitate on his own in addition to a busy schedule of appointments and outpatient therapy. While the therapists at the hospital were quite encouraged by his progress, we know that the process of regaining full use of his leg and arm and hand will be long. Being a runner as many of you know, Karen reminds him that recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. The hand of God and his provision has been clear to us throughout all this. The doctors, nurses, aides, and especially therapists have been tremendous. And just as God has blessed us with a wonderful church family at Chapel of the Cross for so many years, he is working to build a new church family for us at Immanuel in Wisconsin Rapids. In fact four people whom we had never met volunteered to renovate our house where needed when they found out what happened. And if God has taken care of us like this up to this point, why should we ever doubt that he will continue to do so in the way he chooses and in his time. We don't know yet when we will get to return home. A number of factors have to come together first. Again, Chapel family, we are deeply grateful for all you have done to encourage us. May God continue to be with and surround you with his blessings this Advent and Christmas season and beyond. Dave and Karen Funke

Thank You I want to thank my friends and loved ones at Chapel of the Cross for your prayers and your notes and cards of condolences upon the death of my son, Martin. Thank you for showing your love and care. In Christ, Anna Lou Harms

In Our Prayers this week...

Those with Health Concerns:

Jan Arban
Joan Arban
Vivian Berry
Loretta Bolar (*cousin of Alexis Cunningham*)
Tanjila Bolden
Mardell Brown (*friend of Georgia Thomas*)
Kevin Bruce (*friend of Dawn Iborg & Maire Trelz*)
Sharon Casey (*friend of Julie Griffith*)
Elizabeth Cash
Ivy Rose Clark (*relative of Alexis Cunningham*)
Kim Cunningham (*daughter-in-law to Alexis Cunningham*)
Robert Cunningham III
Donna Dansberry (*sister of Alexis Cunningham*)
Linda Edgington
Cheryl Ehmke
Kymm Fehrs
Aulderay Fields
Brene Freeman (*relative of Alexis Cunningham*)
David Funke
Susanna Gregory (*daughter of Gale Damm*)
James Haas (*grandson of Bill & Marilyn Miller*)
Darryal Hughes (*cousin of Aulderay Fields*)
Diane Hurst (*friend of Diane Timm*)
Angela Jones (*friend of Georgia Thomas*)
Jordan Jones (*friend of Ervin Wilson*)
Jimmie Jordan (*brother of John Jordan*)
John Julian (*friend of Manfred and Roberta Loesch*)
Linda Keeney (*friend of Nancy Swoboda*)
Jamie Kirkpatrick (*grandson of Audrey Luedtke*)
Marilyn Koester (*Diane Timm's cousin*)

Joyce Lackey
Bella Matakas (*niece of Ken Gerler*)
Elsie Meyer
Katy Moran (*friend of Jon Rogers*)
Ethel Moreau (*friend of Audrey Luedtke*)
Greg Pellegrino (*friend of Alexis Cunningham*)
Leona Pellegrino (*god-daughter of Alexis Cunningham*)
Darold Pendleton (*nephew of Georgia Thomas*)
Ethel Pierce (*food pantry*)
Karen Rae (*relative of Maire Trelz*)
Bill Rueckert
Kelly Schlautmann (*food pantry*)
Anna Scott
Henry Scott (*friend of Georgia Thomas*)
Stef Sims (*friend of Diane Timm*)
Agnes Soll (*friend of Jerri Bolden*)
Johnnie Spears
Sandy Stephens (*friend of Nancy Swoboda*)
Dale Ternaprovich (*brother of Joyce Lackey*)
Jean Thomas
Jerome Tomlin (*cousin of Alexis Cunningham*)
Ola's Ugobo (*friend of Robert Cunningham*)
Lionel Ward (*friend of Alexis Cunningham*)
Hsea Wells (*friend of Alexis Cunningham*)
Carol Whiteaker (*cousin of Mark Petersen*)

Those Receiving Treatment for Cancer:

Terry Balke (*Cheryl Balkes brother*)
Jay Bentzinger (*friend of Nancy Swoboda*)
Tammy Bushman (*daughter of Mike and Jean Mueller*)
Lisa Capehart (*niece of Art Williams*)
Judy Christian (*Rick and Lynda Christian's sister-in-law*)

Jane Curran (*friend of Karen Schaeffer*)
Mike Datillo (*uncle of Jayme Zvirgzdins*)
Mike Dunn (*uncle of Rick Christian*)
Betty Endsley (*mother of Marcy Oliver*)
Diane Goetz-Jordan (*step-daughter of Keith Wetzel*)
Agnes Gray (*friend of Jerri Bolden*)
Tom Hetrick (*nephew of Audrey Luedtke*)
Justin Hodge (*friend of Jon Rogers*)
Tom Krauter, Jr. (*son of Tom Krauter*)
Cheryl Linton (*sister-in-law of Joseph Miano*)
Gary Mantei
Mary Oberman (*friend of Lisa Hager*)
Marc Openlander (*grandson of Art Williams*)
Martin Rodgers (*cousin of Jerri Bolden*)
Keith Rogers (*cousin of Anne Meyer*)
Ellen Saville (*friend of Keith Neuber*)
Arriion Soll (*friend of Jerri Bolden*)
Candy Summers (*friend of Jayme Zvirgzdins*)
Marilyn-Madison Stinebaugh (*friend of Bill & Marilyn Miller*)
Vicki Williams (*daughter of Bill & Grace Green*)
Bob Woodward (*uncle of Jerry Bowen*)
Norma Young (*friend of Alexis Cunningham*)

Those Who Mourn:

Ryan Meyer and family upon the passing of Ryan's grandmother, Alice Meyer this past Monday.

The family and loved ones of **Donna Miller** who died in the Lord on December 13.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Highlights from the December 4, 2022 Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting:

- 59 persons attended. Three sets of minutes were approved: the regular meeting of December 5, 2021 and two special meetings of March 7, 2021 and May 15, 2022.
- The following were ratified as directors: Marty Albers, Alan Fruend, Jim Koch, Patrice Skellet, and Gary Timm; and as elders: Jim Crosier, Craig Schlichtmann, Stan Schwede. Gene Weidner, and Jay Zvirzgdins. All will serve 3-year terms starting in January.
- The Personnel Committee has recommended adding an Associate Pastor position, with a focus on youth and young adult ministry including Summer Camp, but also shut-in and hospital calls and preaching. We plan to call a graduating student from the St. Louis seminary. A call committee has been formed.
- The General Fund budget of \$713,740 was approved for 2023.
- Membership stands at 897 as of November 30, 2022.
- Reports were presented by all staff members.

Calling of Associate Pastor: The departure of Pastor Marriott this summer has made it clear that additional pastoral assistance is needed. After a comprehensive look at the options, the Personnel Committee believes that a Seminary Call is the best approach. The Seminary's process requires applications be submitted by February 1, 2023, with interviews of potential candidates occurring in January and February. If God leads the Call Committee to a potential candidate, a meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be held to discuss the candidate and vote on whether to extend a Call. This is a short timeline and we trust that you appreciate the need for swift action.

The Call Committee wants to be as inclusive as possible and so we invite the congregation to contribute suggestions, concerns, potential interview questions for the candidates, and possible names of qualified pastoral candidates. This is very time-sensitive so your feedback needs to be submitted by Sunday, December 18. You may respond by email at office@chapelofthecross.org or via a handwritten note to the church office.

Copies of the Job Description developed by the Personnel Committee are available at the Welcome Center with contact information for the Call Committee. We encourage you to reach out to discuss this exciting and important process for our congregation. Most importantly, we ask you to pray for God's direction and guiding hand to the Call Committee and for our congregation as we chart the future. We will be providing regular updates on the process as it unfolds.

LIFE TEAM:

Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking but the Lord explicitly forbid it. Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises. So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter-along with our lives and everyone else's-belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so

We know that God cherishes life at all stages, from embryo to infant to toddler to teenager to adult to old age. Each week during 2022, the Life Team will be recognizing the birthdays of our older members at Chapel of the Cross. If we miss your birthday or if we have the wrong date, please call the church office to get our records corrected. This week, we recognize the birthdays of the following:

Norma Hillemann – December 19
Artie Sullivant – December 20
William Rueckert – December 24

M*A*P*P GOD'S WORD

Memorize * Apply * Pray * Ponder

Romans 3:21 – “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets.

Coming up at Chapel

Wednesday, December 21

5:00 PM Advent midweek dinner
6:30 PM Advent Service

Friday, December 23

Office Closed

Saturday, Christmas Eve

5:00 PM Worship service
10:30 PM Worship Service

Sunday, Christmas

10:00 AM Worship Service

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Matthew 1:21 – “**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins**” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do-truly motivate us to truly good works-Jesus' love has done!

HIS LOVE, OUR RESPONSE

Last week's attendance (12/11/2022):

- Worship: 228 and 7 visitors

Last week's offering (12/11/2022):

- General Fund: \$16,935
- Building / Capital Fund: \$5,681
- 1-1-1 Dollar for Missions: \$73

YTD Offerings:

- General Fund: \$640,604
- Building / Capital Fund: \$54,876

YTD Need:

- General Fund: \$713,700
- Building / Capital Fund: \$87,050

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