



**Martin Luther  
Church & School**  
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Oshkosh WI  
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*Martin Luther School exists to assist families in preparing their children for eternal life by providing a Christ-centered education that equips them to be life-long disciples of Jesus Christ.*

WELSSA & NCPSA Accredited



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# EAGLES' WINGS

January 2012

## What Does 2012 Look Like?

When considering a question about the future it makes sense to first consider what the immediate past has been like for you. In sizing up 2011 you have a number of ways to look at it.

You can evaluate the past year financially seeing if you have prospered or not. If you have investments, have they gained in value and do they give you optimism for the future?

Or you can look at 2011 from the perspective of events and news. Time magazine calls 2011 the year of the protestor. If the past year is full of memorable protests then we identify the world we live in as full of unrest and uncertainty. Generally people do not protest the goodness of their lives. Rather they feel the need to protest the unfairness they live under. Whether the protests were valid or not, we try to evaluate if they have impacted our lives and if such impact will carry over from one year to the next and bring changes to us.

We also can review the year from political angles of local, state and national importance. What new laws impact our lives in greater or lesser ways? Do we need to adjust to greater complexi-

ties in our lives or has life become simpler for us?

Were their changes to our families in 2011 adding or subtracting from those around us? Did we deal with loss of loved ones or did births, marriages, adoptions and the like bring new people into our lives? Do we expect to experience more family changes in 2012?

Just how do we take the life of 2011 and anticipate life in 2012?

Dear Christian, you and I have an extra special view point of life because we are Christians. We know from the Lord that He is in control (Matthew 28:18) and that He never stops watching over us (Psalm 121:3-4) and bringing everything to a good conclusion for us (Romans 8:28). We take comfort in the steady strength of our Lord. We have every reason to believe that 2012 will be another year of God's grace and mercy for us (Hebrews 13:7).

Undoubtedly the excitement that drives people because of the unpredictable actions of mankind and world events captures our attention. But the mercies of the Lord that are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23) provide the unanticipated joy to

life that we look forward to one day to the next and year after year. In fact, because the Lord is predictably a good and gracious Lord full of love, forgiveness and blessing, this allows you and me to expect that His will is always done above the schemes and plans of the wisest, craftiest people.

The best way to enter 2012 is to pray to the Lord that His good and gracious will continue to be done for us this year as last year. We pray our Lord bless us with faith to trust in Him and follow faithfully what He teaches us in His Holy Word. This pleases our Lord and fills us with a readiness to be God's son or daughter. In turn the Lord will use us as witnesses of His truth as we worship Him and carry out our plans of Church ministry to the glory of God's name.

If anything we pray that 2012 is filled with continual proof that each of us individually and collectively as His Church are growing in faith and practice of the life we have through Jesus.

Pastor Jeffrey Berg

## Spend the New Year in Your Father's House!

### *Law and Gospel in the Ten Commandments — Part 3*

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). These are the words Jesus spoke to Joseph and Mary when he was twelve years old. Joseph and Mary had left Jerusalem after the feast of the Passover, thinking that Jesus was in the company of their traveling companions. At the end of a day of travel, they discovered Jesus was not with them, so they went back to Jerusalem to search for him. They finally found him after three days of searching — "in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions" (Luke 2:46).

Isn't that where Jesus had to be? He had to be at the temple because it was his Father's house. He had to be there also to keep the Third Commandment for us, which we consider this month:

**The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. What does this mean? We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.**

Jesus has also fulfilled the Third

Commandment so that Saturday worship and rest is not required of us as it was of Israel. However, the principle still remains that God expects us to regard his Word as holy and gladly take the time to hear and learn his Word.

What form do the temptations for us to break this commandment take? Do we find ourselves distracted by the many things that vie for our time?

We have available to us an endless supply of entertainment — television, books, movies, internet browsing, computer games, smart phone apps. Our lives are filled with recreational opportunities — weekend trips, sports leagues, community events. All these things are neither good nor bad in themselves. In fact, they are blessings from God. Instead, it's our *use of these blessings that may honor God or may dishonor him. We despise preaching and God's Word when we value entertainment and recreation more highly than worship and the Word, or when we think that worship and God's Word should not require our work or effort.*

Thanks be to God that in Jesus we find forgiveness for our sins against this commandment. He kept the Sabbath for us, and now he *is the Sab-*

*bath for us as we find eternal rest from our labors in the payment he made for sins on the cross. As Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). "Sabbath" means "rest," and in Jesus alone we find the rest for our souls that we need.*

Now we can see worship and our use of God's Word as service to him. Yes, studying God's Word takes our time and effort; we give it gladly — and we even are blessed to benefit from it as the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to strengthen our faith. Yes, worship is not only our receiving, but also our giving — so we take every opportunity to worship our saving God and proclaim our faith in front of our fellow believers. And then we enjoy the rest that Jesus gives as he works through Word and worship to comfort our souls with the peace of forgiveness. Spend this new year in your Father's house, too. It's where we need to be; it's where we want to be.

*Pastor Nathan Ericson*

### Ladies Guild January Serving Schedule

Altar Clothes Linda Elmer

Candelabra Ralph & Rose Watkins

Communion Ware Jan 8—Phyllis Moss

Jan. 29—Muriel Sagmeister,

Joanne Selenka

Funeral Coordinator Rita Neumann

Funeral Servers Nancy Berger, Jeanette Hando,

Becky Korthals, Muriel Sagmeister

Phone Marilyn Zuege

Flowers Christina Evers, Ellen Hennig

Dates to No January meeting

Remember Jan. 9th-9:00 Volunteers clean church

## From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year!

For the second year in a row our student body partnered up with the Oshkosh Police Department to support the "Gifts From the Heart" program. Each classroom at Martin Luther sponsored a child from our community and provided some basic needs for them as well as some items desired for Christmas. A number of our classes were also able to get a more "hands on experience" by using their time and talents. Our sixth grade helped assemble some promotional stockings for the program in late November and our seventh and

eighth grade went downtown to help unload and sort donated materials for the nearly 400 children in our community.

Our school will be hosting two Korean boys on our campus after the Christmas break. One boy is in seventh grade and the other is in eighth grade. We have partnered with S.E.E.C. (Soul English Education Center) an organization that places Korean middle school children in American schools to provide an English immersion program during their winter break. This will be a great opportunity for our staff and students to let

their Light Shine about their Savior.

In January, we have Pre-K-8 Pre-Registration due on or before January 29. Please take the time and plan for the upcoming year. This pre-registration helps our school and staff, plan and prepare for the 2012-2013 school year. On January 26, at 6:00 p.m. we have our annual PK and Kindergarten Round-Up. Please share with us anyone that may be interested in the Round-Up so we can send them an invitation.

May the Lord continue to shower his blessings upon you in 2012!

Principal Hennig

## Mrs. Frederickson, Kindergarten

December has been a busy month as usual. We spent many hours practicing for our Christmas Service. We were so excited to spread the good news of our Savior to so many people. We had fun decorating our Christmas tree with many ornaments. We spent time learning about different traditions we have for our celebrations. We also learned about some different traditions throughout the world.

## Mrs. Evers, Grade 3

We rejoice in the birth of our Savior and pray that this Christmas joy lasts in our hearts each day! January means multiplication month in third grade! We are working very hard on all the facts we have to memorize. We are looking forward to starting our next novel, *Ribsy* in reading in just a few

We look forward to coming back to school in January and continuing to perfect our reading skills. We will even get to start reading with the reading buddies on Fridays. We will practice telling time to the hour also. We will enjoy our Christmas break, but we are looking forward to a great 2012. God bless your holiday season with your families and we wish you a very blessed New Year.

weeks. In social studies we are studying the history of different cultures and seeing the influences that still affect these communities today. In science we move from our study of global ecosystems to our study of rocks and minerals in and under the Earth's surface. Glory to God as we work, study and live *In Christ Alone*.

## Mr. Hennig, Grades 5 & 6

The class has been jumping around during the past few weeks in P.E. We are learning many different techniques of jumping rope using our new P.E. curriculum. We recently wrapped up our study of the ancient civilizations of India. We had opportunity to learn about the Hindu and Buddhist religions of this area. We were saddened by the countless millions that follow these false teachings and pray that some day they hear the truth about their Savior. When we get back from Christmas break we will continue our study of the human body. May the Lord continue to bless you in 2012!

### Special Gifts

In memory of  
Neil & Susan Sagmeister and  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Altmann,  
\$100 for church & school.

## Mrs. Strusz, Grade 1

We are getting back into our regular routine. We are studying the Israelites in Christ Light. We are learning how to count by 5s and write tally marks in math. We are learning about long vowel sounds and possessive nouns in reading. We are writing our first paragraphs in English about our favorite things. We are studying early Americans in social studies. Have a blessed month in the Lord!

## Reading Buddies

We hope you all had a relaxing restful break and are ready to read with us again. Reading Buddies resumes Friday, January 13. We will meet in the Commons at 8:45a.m. (There is always room for more Buddies so if you are interested in joining we would love to see you there too!)

## Mr. Evers, Grade 4

This month we will be getting back into our regular schedule. In social studies we will be beginning to learn about the Midwest region. In science we will learn about motion and force. In reading class we will be reading The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary. In Christ Light we will continue to see how the Lord is with his people and keeps them safe from harm. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe this month!

## Mrs. Busse, Grade 2

As the New Year begins we are looking forward to returning to our normal schedule and starting some new units of study. We will begin a Unit on Earth Science in which we will learn about God's creation of land, water, weather, fossils and dinosaurs. In Social Studies we will be learning about work, income, how we spend our income, distinguishing between needs and wants and how to be good stewards of our earthly blessings. In Reading class we will learn about the challenges and accomplishments of Helen Keller as we read Helen Keller: Crusader for the Blind and Deaf. We look forward to sharing our learning experiences with you as we continue through the second half of the school year. May God bless your month.

## Mrs. McAuly, 3- and 4- Year-Old Pre-K

I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas. I am so proud of the PreK students. They worked so hard on their Christmas program, *Christmas – Color it Joyful*, and did a wonderful job. We are starting a brand new year and learning lots of new things in preschool. We will talk about patterns, polar bears and penguins this month. Have a wonderful 2012. *Christ Alone – My Light*

## WLA

Another Christmas concert is in the record books and semester tests are looming for students. The halls will be full again on January 3rd and second semester schedules will begin the following week.

Let's Celebrate is right around the corner! You're invited to WLA on Sunday, January 29th to celebrate 86 years of blessings! Lunch will be available along with pie and ice cream. There will be silent and live auctions, the WLA and WLA Schools choirs and bands will provide entertainment all day and there will be activities for the kids! All proceeds go to WLA Forward in Trust.

The WLA Bus Riders and their parents thank you for your continued support of the OCM Card sale. We thank you for your support and shared commitment of Christian education at Winnebago Lutheran Academy.

Please keep WLA in your prayers as we begin another new year in His service.

*Winnebago Lutheran Academy  
Loving it for four years  
Living it forever.*



## *Pre-K and Kindergarten Round Up*

*Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.*

*To let us know you're coming or if you have questions:*

*235-1612*

*office@martinlutheroshkosb.co*

**Bring a friend!**

## 2012 Yearbook

During the month of January the Church Office gathers reports from all the Servant Leadership Board Committees and from all organizations of Church and School. If you are the person from your Committee or organization who needs to provide an Annual Report for our 2012 Yearbook, please do so as soon as you can.

The Yearbook also contains the most update address and publishable phone numbers for all the members of our congregation. If you have had an address or phone number change in 2011, please submit these changes to Gail Bates, Church secretary 235-1612. If you think you submitted this change earlier in 2011, but are unsure, simply resubmit just to be sure. It is our hopes that the Yearbook gives the fullest information possible so we can communicate with one another as members of our congregation and school. If you have questions, please contact the church office using the phone number listed previously.

## Tuesday Ladies Bible Class

Ladies, you're invited to join the 20 ladies who meet on Tuesday at 6:00 PM to study "**Bible Moms.**" So far we've studied Eve and Sarah and have just begun Rebekah. We're learning that the moms and wives of the Bible faced the same struggles and challenges as women of the 21st century. Join us for fellowship and the study of God's Word. Come for any or all of the classes—you'll be glad you did. If you would like more information, contact Paula Nimmer or one of the Pastors.

## Tuesday & Sunday Bible Classes

The 10 AM Tuesday Class and the Sunday between services class have completed their study of the Gospel of John. Both classes will be on vacation from Christmas through New Year's Day. The Tuesday class resumes on January 10. The Sunday class resumes on January 8. Both classes will choose their next direction of study from a ballot that was handed out before Christmas. They are choosing one of the following three possible courses: 1) Caring for Souls: People Matter—a 10 week

## Pathways to Christ Retreat

Ladies, the early deadline for signing up for the 2012 Pathways to Christ Retreat is Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sign up now to take advantage of the reduced cost. The retreat is scheduled for, March 9th -11th at LaSure's Hall in Oshkosh.

We have a special key note speaker this year. Prof. Daniel Deutschlander, author of the book "The Theology of the Cross" has agreed to share with us the insights of his book. "The theology of the cross is that teaching of the Bible that deals not only with Christ's cross for our salvation but also with the cross that each Christian must carry. Our cross is difficult and painful. It changes form frequently... we will examine more closely what the Bible has to say about the cross and from his Word grow in our appreciation of it and gratitude for it."

Rounding out the weekend retreat is Marc Scherschel of WLCFS, who will

course, 2) Christ's love demonstrated in the power of the Means of Grace—a five part study or 3) The Mission and Purpose of the Synod—a ten page, 50 question Bible study. They could also choose a fourth option from the suggestions of the class.

You are invited to come to Tuesday and/or Sunday Bible class in the New Year. Check the church calendar for times and check the bulletin for course selection or talk to a Pastor.

go into greater depth on the crosses we must bear as Christians. Mike Westendorf is excited to share with us his gift of music and will entertain us on Saturday night. The retreat would not be complete if Pastor Leon Ehlert did not lead us in Bible Study and Worship on Sunday morning.

Registration forms for the retreat are located in the extended narthex or on our website:

[www.martinlutheroshkosh.com](http://www.martinlutheroshkosh.com).

Our website also has a video of last year's retreat. If you have any questions, call Paula Nimmer (233-1069.)

This retreat is spiritually uplifting to all those who attend. Having an entire weekend, focusing on God's Word, offers a special opportunity to "recharge our batteries" so that we can face all that life has to offer. Plan to share in this inspiring and informative weekend retreat.

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH SEMINAR – A Very Special Opportunity for You!

Martin Luther Church will host a spiritual growth seminar on Saturday, February 4, 2012. This one-day Bible study/discussion opportunity is intended for all members and friends of our church and school including singles and couples from all adult age groups. The program begins at 9 AM and ends at 1:30 PM.

The overall theme of the seminar is "I Am a New Creation." Following the keynote address by Pastor Kenneth Frey of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Appleton, all attendees will be able to attend 3 different Bible study/discussion group sessions, choosing from among the following topics listed along with presenters:

- Guilt vs Forgiveness (Teacher Brad Evers)
- Worry vs Confidence (Pastor Ericson)
- Selfishness vs Selflessness (Pastor Berg)
- Greed vs Generosity (Pastor Aderman)
- Doubt vs Faith (Mr. Nathan Smith)
- Fighting vs Peace (Instructor Mike Strusz)

Each session will focus on what the Bible says about the topic, and how to apply what the Scriptures say to our own lives in very practical terms. The sessions will be informal and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and to express your thoughts.

The cost per participant is \$7, which includes lunch (build your own mini-sub) and all study materials. At no additional cost, babysitting will be provided in the homes of those who request it. A registration form is included in this newsletter. Please fill it out and put it in the Spiritual Seminar Registration box located in the extended narthex. The deadline for registration is Sunday, January 22. If you would like further information or have a question, please contact Spiritual Growth Committee chairman Mark Grubbs at 231-5176.

### **"I Am A New Creation"**

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old one has gone, the new has come!  
2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Registration Information for our **Spiritual Growth Seminar**

Date: Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Key Note Speaker: **Pastor Frey, St. Paul's, Appleton**

Cost: \$7.00 per attendee (includes lunch)

In home babysitting service will be arranged, if needed. (Cost included in the seminar fee.)

Yes, please arrange for babysitting service.

Choose 3 of the following topics.

Number you preferences 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

Guilt vs. Forgiveness

Worry vs. Confidence

Selfishness vs. Selflessness

Greed vs. Generosity

Doubt vs. Faith

Fighting vs. Peace

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Include payment with registration form and put in the box provided in the extended narthex by **January 22.**