

## *Pastoral Epistle*

### **When Was Jesus Christ Born? --and why it matters**

We don't know when, except we do. He was born at just the right time.

Christmas is (nearly) the darkest day of the year and *that's* why the Nativity is celebrated then, for Luke tells us that Christ was born in the dark, at night. Of course, for that says it all. Despite all the Lord God does to preserve the goodness of creation, blessings without number we experience daily, there is much darkness in human life—in fact, in humans themselves. There are the newspaper stories of crimes, some against one's own household. And there is the colossal evil of unjust wars of greed, racism and domination. There is the oppression of defenseless minority populations. Waste and pollution of creation.

True, not *everyone* is guilty of crimes, wars, oppression or industrial pollution, but only because few people are powerful enough to do them! But humans are all dark enough, with whatever little power they have. A man can use his physical strength and male privilege to hurt his woman, in many ways. Or hurt his children by ignoring them. A boss can harass an employee; an employee can work badly or pollute the workplace atmosphere. We distort and misreport what others do. A woman can abandon her family, physically or emotionally. If we are not mature and strong we will be the puppets of our passions: anger, sexual desire, laziness, vengeance, greed, envy, resentment; they darken our minds and lead us to dark actions.

And the darkness is most obvious regarding God. God is pure goodness; it is that simple. Yet instead of going toward the good, humans are born running away from it! How dark is that! Even we who know better *still find it difficult* to “fear, love and trust God above all things” as the Catechism says. How foolish we are to turn away from Goodness: whether the turn is with one's whole

life, as among the unrepentant, or just momentarily, as among the baptized.

*Jesus Christ was born in the midst of the deepest darkness. By the mercy of God he was. He came into our worst *not to judge but to save!* He came to save us from our own love of darkness in *the only possible way: by drawing people to Himself.* For He IS the Light. By being good, he attracts. By speaking true, he instructs. By living for us and dying for us, he shows the perfection of his goodness, and his love for us.*

And we who “get” it come to him. In repentance and baptism, in worship and obedience. And, in approaching him, we find two things. The closer we get, the better he looks! The more we love him and the more we understand him, the brighter *we* get! and see He is even better than we had known. And the closer we get to him—by humbly listening and believing, and by disciplined obedience—the better *we* get: the more *love* becomes what we want to do, the more we trust Christ without fear or worry, the more honest we are about ourselves, the more we appreciate God, the stronger we are fighting the world's lies and our own passions. The better citizens of the world we become—as He said of us, “you are the light of the world.”

**But today it is ADVENT not Christ-mass. And the ADVENT cry is GET READY! “Prepare” say both the Baptism and the Christ.** And here is how: *Come to the Light. Look at your life in the light of Christ. What are the points where you know Christ says one thing but you do something else. That's the hard part; to be honest and brave enough to do that.* Then comes the easier part, ask yourself “Who is smarter, the Light or me? Who is better? Who know better what is good for me: the God who made me or my own mind darkened by sin?” Then comes the changes we make so that we live in the Light. The changes are neither easy nor immediate; but once we are convinced that Christ is the Light and we need to move toward him to be better off, the changes will happen.

**Oh, and the DATE when Christ was born?** We don't have any idea. The Church was thoroughly Jewish at first and remembered that the

Resurrection occurred on the first day of the week (Sunday) following Passover. So the Church observed that Sunday, or Passover itself, as an annual festival from very early. But there was no annual feast of the Nativity until the 300s when the practice of December 25 was begun in the church in Rome.

## **ELCA Daily Devotional for 2011**

### **A friendly urging from Pastor**

Our ELCA has produced something new this year, *Bread for the Day*. My pastoral judgment is that it would be very, very good for us all to use it.

*Bread for the Day* is a daily devotional, handbook size. Each of the 365 days of 2011 has a page. Each day has a Bible text (about a paragraph long) and a brief prayer. In addition, there are suggestions of a hymn to sing, related verses of Scripture and, if the day is a commemoration of a saint or other Church holiday, that saint is named.

There are table prayers, a page every month for prayer requests, waking and bedtime prayers, prayers for children. And more.

Brothers and sisters, honestly I actually asked your council to decree that all church members would buy (just over \$7, a bargain) and use this book—but they didn't think that would work. **So I urge you voluntarily to buy and use this devotional book.** Julie and I will use it at our table. This would be a fine gift for any person or family who would use it. *Think how much of Scripture would be read in a year of this simple discipline.*

*(Our Book of Faith program is more for learning than for devotions—though the two are not separate. Use of “Our Daily Bread,” available in our narthexes, is not to be discouraged, but Bread for the Day is reading of the Bible itself.)*

In each church narthex is a sample copy for your perusal and a manila envelope. If you are going to take your pastor's good advice—and wouldn't it be fun for us all to read together!—then put your check (\$7.25 for each copy, made out to West Holden Lutheran) in the envelope.

***Dec. 12 is your last chance; the order will be placed on Dec. 13 so that the books are available Dec. 19.***

Who may vote as a congregation member

With congregational meetings coming up, a review of our rules, our constitution, is in order.

Our constitution wisely defines “Voting members” to ensure that those who have the franchise in our congregational decisions and self-governance are those people who are genuinely living parts of the congregation. There are four qualifications:

- + Must be a member of this congregation, and no other, by public intention.
- + Must be confirmed (of course, baptized!). Confirmation is when people publicly confess the Christian faith as their own and vow to live as servants of Jesus Christ.
- + Must have made a recorded contribution (normally, in an offering envelop so that it is credited) during the present or prior calendar year.

Must have received the Lord's Supper (and that fact recorded, normally by a communion registration card) in the present or prior calendar year

## **Visitation**

Time to schedule some more visits! Below is a list of time slots in December. Pick one that suits your schedule, call Lona (787-3187) and reserve that time. *First come, first served!* I will call that day or the day before to confirm and get directions. About 75 minutes is realistic. If you would like to meet over lunch or dinner, that is fine, too.

I so look forward to paying you a visit.

YOUR Pastor

## DECEMBER

Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup>, afternoon

Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>, afternoon

Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>, afternoon

## **Weather cancellation NOT**

Wisconsin winters. Yeah.

Both church councils have agreed with Pastor's request that we never cancel worship services due to winter weather. Holden Lutheran Parish's policy is always to hold scheduled worship services, and to implore its people to not to venture out if it is unsafe for them.

### **What this means:**

- Pastor will almost certainly be there.
- The custodian will have the church open and warm.
- Use good judgment. If you question whether you can get to worship and back home safely, then stay home.
- We may have to worship without piano, if it is too dangerous for the musician to travel.
- The Sunday School superintendent will decide whether or not to cancel Sunday School. If at least one teacher can make it, classes may take place but be combined.
- Even if worshipers are few in number and there is no pianist or even pastor, the sisters and brothers present will find a Spirit-led way to worship the Holy Trinity. "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

## **Recipe Corner**

This pie was made by Bonnie Jarvis for the Mt. Morris WELCA Gen. Meeting recently. It was a big hit and there were many requests for her recipe. She kindly shared it, so we thought why not print it for all to enjoy!

### **Walnut Crunch Pumpkin Pie for a 10 -inch pie plate**

1-16 oz. can pumpkin (I prefer Libby's brand)  
1-12 oz. can evaporated milk  
2 eggs  
3/4 C. packed brown sugar

1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

Prepare one pie crust. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In large bowl, with mixer at med. speed, beat pumpkin with remaining ingredients. Pour into pie shell and bake 35 to 40 minutes until knife inserted one inch from edge comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack.

### **Walnut Crunch Topping**

1 C. walnuts (chopped)  
3/4 C. packed brown sugar  
4 T. (1/2 stick) butter, melted

Combine ingredients and spoon evening over top of pie. Place under preheated broiler about 5 to 7 inches from heat source. Broil pie 3 minutes or until topping is golden and sugar dissolves. Cool pie on wire rack. Garnish with whipped cream.

---

---

## **2011 CAMPING CALENDARS**

LAST CHANCE!!!!

Taking orders until December 9

COST-----\$15.00 each

Caleendars can be picked up on Sunday, December 12, at both church services or at the church office during the following week.

To place an order, call Pat Hassmann at 787-5484 or the church office at 787-3187. Payment is due at the time the order is placed. CASH or CHECKS payable to:

Crossways Camping Ministries.

BUY A CALENDAR!

**Book of Faith for December: Isaiah, 2 Peter, 1 Thessalonians**

*Advent begins with The End-anticipating the parousia (second coming) of the Lord. 2 Peter and 1 Thessalonians have a lot to say about that. The hope-filled OT readings for Advent are mainly from Isaiah 40-55. So, we read some more of that.*

**December 5 assignment. Read by (12/12):  
2 Peter**

**December 12 assignment. Read by (12/19):  
1 Thessalonians**

**December 19 assignment. Read by (12/26):  
Isaiah 42-43**

**December 26 assignment. : Psalms for Christmas!**

*Read over the 12 days of Christmas, 12/25-1/5*

<b>Psalm 132</b>	<b>Psalm 96</b>	<b>Psalm 102</b>
<b>Psalm 2</b>	<b>Psalm 27</b>	<b>Psalm 97</b>
<b>Psalm 98</b>	<b>Psalm 34</b>	<b>Psalm 89</b>
<b>Psalm 116</b>	<b>Psalm 93</b>	<b>Psalm 45</b>

*As always, notes explaining some things in the text, and questions to discuss, are posted on the parish website, and a few hard copies are available in the churches' narthexes.*

**West Holden Lutheran Church  
Council**

Minutes of Meeting, October 7, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: Joanne Nelson, Laura Araiza, John Jenks, Dennis Thompson, Barry Osicka, Terry Johannes, Pastor

Absent: Terry Johannes, Pastor

Meeting began with prayer. Joanne then asked members to tell how Christ was active in their lives recently.

Reports:

September minutes corrected, in reference to the Reformation Faire, in place of "despite many conflicts" which could be misunderstood to read "despite many, many parish members being out of town, "

Correction of the August treasurer's report made by the Treasurer.

Discussion of income, which is, after 75% of the year on 71% of what was predicted and budgeted for the year.

From Pastor's report, discussion of the Parish Picnic (maybe we should take a year off) and the Offering of Skills and Time to be made Nov. 7.

Reports all accepted.

Old Business:

Positive responses to changing early worship time to 8:30. If MM agrees, we will do so in January.

Beetle spray done. No beetles!

New business:

MSC to require two people count the offering at church. When two money-counters are not available, Head Usher Osicka will have an usher stay briefly to help.

Dennis Thompson elected to fill empty council seat until annual meeting, per constitution.

Quote for interior painting of the nave received from Dale Simonson.

Jt. Council Meeting Nov. 9 at Mt. Morris. WH at 6 PM, Joint at 7 PM.

Dennis will contract with Hudziak for snow plowing.

Pastor excused himself for discussion of his compensation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Pastor Todd Murken,  
Secretary pro temp

*Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church*  
*Council*

*October, 2010 Council Meeting*  
*Minutes (Preliminary)*

Date: October 19, 2010

**Call to Order:** President Laurie Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: Pastor, Laurie Jarvis, Dede Bastar, John Hassmann, Craig Starkweather (present for last half of meeting due to choir practice), Val Jarvis

Absent: Curtis Nelson, Dawn Belfeuil  
Pastor led us in devotions and prayer

**Reports:** **Building & Grounds:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, church was power washed. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, we did a road clean-up. The trail, flowers and cemetery cleaning was done by Martin Schultz. Thank you, Martin.

**WELCA:** The topic for our new Bible study is "The People of God—Unity in the midst of Diversity. November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the annual election of officers. An evening circle is being planned for the ladies who work during the day. All are invited. Further details in the Worship Bulletin. September 23<sup>rd</sup>, WELCA officers met and planned next year's Handbook. WELCA's report for Lutheran World Relief was as follows: 110 quilts; 10 blankets (\$150.88 collected for blankets as well); 50 health kits; 20 school kits; 18 sewing kits and 32 layettes – 31 boxes total. 68 boxes were shipped to Orphan Gravy Train. THANK YOU, EVERYONE. We also sent 10 care boxes to our military and college students.

**Secretary's Report:** September Minutes as submitted. Motion made and seconded to approve presented reports. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** **Budget:** Extensive discussion on ways to improve budget following the Treasurer's Report. Decisions have been made except for the shared salaried positions with West

Holden (Pastor, Lona and Music). The Joint Council meeting is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Morris at 7:00 pm.

Other old business tabled until November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

**New Business:** Tabled until November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Next Council Meeting:** November 9, 2010 at 6:00pm

**Adjournment:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

**Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Foster*

Mt. Morris Holden Council Secretary

### **Bishop Hanson in the Washington Post**

The Washington Post published a guest column by our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson about the recent election campaign.

[http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/11/government\\_is\\_gods\\_servant.html](http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/guestvoices/2010/11/government_is_gods_servant.html)

### **MM WELCA**

**Circle Meeting** 1:30 December 2, 2010

**Pray-ers** meet at 1:00 o'clock

Bible Study: Pat Hassmann / Pastor Murken

Devotions: Bonnie Jarvis

Hostess: Evelyn Vatland

This meeting will be our annual "Operation Christmas Ingathering." Bring Christmas items for men and women at Wild Rose Manor. Items such as, handkerchiefs, soap, lotion, socks, Christmas Cards, all occasion cards, jewelry, calendars, toiletries, Kleenex, playing cards, magazines, silk flowers, wrapping paper and other appropriate items.

The next meeting for the evening circle will be posted in the Sunday bulletin. We need people who crochet to help teach crocheting and also make baby sweaters for layettes.

**TO:**

**Congregation of Mt. Morris Holden**

On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. there will be a brief “early” Congregational Meeting. The sole purpose of this meeting will be to accept the proposed budget for 2011 and to elect new members to our Council. Please plan to attend as your thoughts and concerns are very important to us. Thank you. Your Council.

**Progress of: Stained Glass Window Restoration Project at Mt. Morris**

Dear Friends of Mt Morris Holden,

It is with pleasure that I report that thanks to your generosity the stained glass window restoration project is progressing nicely. As most of you know the Good Shepherd window has been beautifully restored and returned, as well as the small round window above it. The new lead has strengthened them and the colors are once again glowing with renewed vibrancy! The Garden of Gethsemane window has been scheduled to be removed for restoration on April 25, 2011, the day after Easter Sunday.

It is my pleasure also to report that thanks to your generosity, we already have much of the funding needed for the last 2/3 of this project! We still have a ways to go, but we have a great start. For those of you who have pledged for 2010 and not yet given, there is still a little time before year’s end and we are ready to receive your gift when it is convenient for you. **Please remember that our church counts on all of us to continue our regular offerings, undiminished by our extra gifts for the restoration of our windows.**

**Most of us give gifts to honor our Savior’s birthday. Sometimes the joy of gift-giving becomes overwhelming, not knowing what to**

**MT. MORRIS NEEDS SWEATERS FOR LWR LAYETTES**

We need people that can knit or crochet infant (up to 6 month size) sweaters. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.

These are needed by October 1, 2011. Can you help?

Also, if you see any sweaters at garage sales, and are priced reasonably, bring them to church. We collect items all year for various kits: layettes, health, sewing and school.

Any questions, call Pat (787-5484). Thank you for helping others!

(continued)

choose for that certain someone. How about a gift that lasts 100 years? Consider a donation to the stained glass window restoration fund in honor of your special someone or you may wish to contribute in memory of someone who was important in your life. If you desire, please fill out the form below with your request along with the donation amount and then mail it or bring it to church in the envelope provided.

May God’s blessings be with you at Christmas and always!

Respectfully,

Cheryll L. Weekly, Chairwoman  
Stained Glass Window Restoration Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Cut Here)

Enclosed please find my gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory Of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle One)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name/Names)

Given By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

# Christmas Giving at Mt. Morris Holden Church 2010



## The Mitten Tree

Beginning SUNDAY, November  
28, 2010

- ≈ Please bring in hats, mittens and gloves for families in need of warm outer clothing for the cold months in Wisconsin.
- ≈ The Mitten Tree will be located in the South narthex.
- ≈ We will collect these items until Dec. 12, 2010

*Warm hands, warm  
hearts - - -*

# The Community Christmas Project

- ≈ The Christmas tree with tags will be in the Narthex starting SUNDAY, November 28, 2010
- ≈ 50 tags with the age and "boy or girl" will be on the tree.
- ≈ Pick a name(s) to purchase a present for a child of need in Waushara County.
- ≈ Purchase the present and return it to church by SUNDAY, December 12, 2010

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." II  
Corinthians 9:7*

## WEST HOLDEN TO-DO LIST

In case you missed it in our September 14 Church Council minutes, West Holden is creating a list of upkeep ideas that need to be done to our church building in the years to come. Right now, a new roof and interior painting are our highest priorities. We will be asking the congregation to help paint the basement, but the upstairs will be bid. Other things to be given care are:

- Fixing the back entry area
- Getting the cross and steeple lit
- Finishing blacktop in parking lot
- Resealing the wood floor upstairs
- Replacing carpet upstairs and down

Talk to a Council member if you are aware of any other upcoming projects! Thank you.

A Blessed Advent Season and a Merry Christmas to All!

## SHUT-IN BOXES FOR MT. MORRIS

- What: Need apples, oranges, homemade cookies & bars, breads, popcorn, & candy Or any items you wish to donate
- When: On Sunday, Dec. 5 or by 9 am, Monday, Dec. 6
- Where: Bring to the church kitchen
- Why: To fill 21 boxes on Dec. 6

Thank you for sharing with others!

## **Events In and Around the Synod**

December 7th - 7:00 p.m.

### ***"Lutheran Spirituality: A Conversation with Bishop Justman"***

at Father Mauthie Center (2420 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay on UWGB Campus)

Light supper served at 6:30 p.m.

Reservations appreciated: 920/465-5133

December 19th - 4:00 p.m.

### ***Combined Choir Musical Event***

at Church of Our Saviour, Fond du Lac (363 S. Main St. Fond du Lac)

Choir / orchestra / pipe organ will present "Messiah"

January 19th - 21st, 2011

### ***"Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes"***

Calvary Lutheran Church, Two Rivers, Wisconsin  
SpEakers: Walter Brueggemann, Teresa Okure, Mary Gordon, Gerald West

**This seminar explores how our situation in life colors our interpretation. Do we read scriptures on our own, deciding what to believe? Do we read them as part of a group, with a similar mindset? Do we read them with a world view? Often in times of change, we find our grounding in reading scripture. But what we read and believe may be different from what someone around the world reads and believes.**

You could attend this conference in New York at Trinity on Wall Street for \$350, plus travel and lodging; **or** in Two Rivers for \$25, plus travel and lodging. This is made possible thanks to our Synod's Book of Faith Initiative and Calvary Lutheran Church, which has become a Partner Site of Trinity Institute and will have a LIVE FEED FROM NEW YORK along with printed materials and DVD's.

Watch for more details and registration.

March 12th, 2011

### ***"Mission & Ministry: Connecting the Pieces"***

Calvary Lutheran, Green Bay - All day event

Mark your Calendars now for an exciting All Day Workshop sponsored by the ECSW. Our keynote presenter will be Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission. More details available in January.

## ***Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church***

### ***Council***

### ***November, 2010 Council Meeting***

### ***Minutes (Preliminary)***

Date: November 9, 2010

**Call to Order:** President Laurie Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: Pastor, Laurie Jarvis, Dede Bastar, John Hassmann, Craig Starkweather, Val Jarvis, Curtis Nelson  
Absent: Dawn Belfeuil

Pastor led us in devotions and prayer

**Reports:** **Building & Grounds:** Martin Schultz and John Hassmann rented a chipper for all the brush. The chips were used on the grounds for mulch.

**WELCA:** November 6<sup>th</sup> was our annual meeting and elections. The new President is Christine Bliesner and Lois Wohlfel is the new Secretary. December 5<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Party at Wild Rose Manor. Please bring gifts to church by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Needed items are hand/body lotion, cards, greeting cards, 25 piece puzzles (large size pieces, please), diabetic candies, cologne and silk flowers

**Secretary's Report:** October Minutes as submitted

**Pastor's Report:** As submitted

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance as of September 1, 2010 was \$6,056.45; income \$11,615.39; expenses \$10,257.72 leaving an ending balance as of September 30, 2010 of \$7,414.12. Beginning balance as of October 1, 2010 was \$7,414.12; income \$10,553.25; expenses \$7,262.47 leaving an ending balance as of October 31, 2010 of \$10,704.90.

November 9, 2010

Motion made and seconded to approve reports as presented. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** *Budget:* Motion made and seconded to increase salary for pianist (lower amount for substitute). Motion carried. Balance of budget tabled until after Joint Council meeting due to shared salaries (Pastor and Lona).

*Constitution Review:* C13.03.01 to the end. Tabled until next meeting.

*Service times:* Motion made and seconded to keep Sunday Morning service times at 9:00am and 10:30am. Motion carried.

*Meeting times and dates:* Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am, Early Congregational Meeting. The only purposes are to adopt the budget and election of Officers.

**New Business:** Perhaps a suggestion box or anonymous survey to include 1) What would you like from your church and 2) Are there things you think your church should be doing.

**Next Council Meeting:** December 7, 2010 at 6:00pm

**Adjournment:** Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

### **Lord's Prayer**

Meeting reconvened following Joint Council Meeting. Motion made and seconded to accept the budget which includes increases for Pastor and Lona for presentation to the Congregation on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

Meeting readjoined.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Foster*

Mt. Morris Holden Council Secretary

After a delicious meal, the meeting was called to order by President Laurie Jarvis at approximately 7:20 PM. All were in attendance except Dawn Belfeuil, John Jenks, and Dennis Thompson. Pastor Todd opened with reading Psalm 96 and prayer. An addition was made under New Business to the June 2010 minutes, adding to *Worship Times* that "Council members were to talk to their church members to get feedback." Barry made a motion, seconded by Laura, to approve minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Parish Picnic—Pastor said that the first two years were fabulous, but only about 30 came this year, so maybe we'd like to take a year off. Maybe an evening service down by the lake would be different. Some people liked having the service on the mountain. Discussion was held, keeping in mind that we need to miss weekends of EAA and the County Fair. MSC to put this on the agenda for the November 2011 meeting with service on the mountain, potluck to follow, for 2012. We'll forgo having a picnic next year.
- B. Meal in the Upper Room—We'll need volunteers for actors/actresses again next year for this stellar event!
- C. Other old business:
  1. Service times—WH Council made a recommendation to go with the change to 8:30 AM first service. We like the idea of Pastor being at our place of worship longer and having safer driving. MM Council wants to keep times as they are. Choir practices a half hour before church. Heat would need to be turned up earlier. Some people thought the time would get used for a longer church service, which is not the case. John asked Pastor how he would like it. Pastor said he'd like more time at earlier church to talk to parishioners and

**Holden Lutheran Parish Joint Council  
Meeting**

lead or get a Bible study started. After discussion, Barry suggested that maybe West Holden would like to try 8:30 church starting in January to see how it goes . . . sort of give it a test run for the first four months of 2011. Pastor would be willing to try it. Dede made a motion that we make a trial run starting 8:30 church at West Holden, seconded by Laura, with Mt. Morris having services at 10:30. MSC.

2. Pastor got the book Bread for the Day, which is a Biblical text. His thought is, would it be a good idea to have everybody in both churches do this together? It costs about \$7.00/book. Should Councils encourage their church members to read this together at home? Terry said this would maybe encourage people who read and spur more people to read the Bible. After discussion, the group decided that Pastor could offer it just to those who would wish to read it. It's in sync with our church calendar and would give many people a good way to prayerfully plan their day.
3. Joint Council Retreat in February?—Pastor suggested that we meet in winter rather than summer when the days weren't so busy. Laura made a motion, seconded by Terry, that we have a Joint Council retreat in February or March. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Wages of shared employees:

1. Lona—Lona now gets \$10.00/hr. for 35 hrs./wk. as of the middle of 2008, at which time it was paid out as a bonus that Christmas. Lona reports vacation days to the parish treasurer, John Jenks. Pastor did her last evaluation in May/June. Paid holidays are Thanksgiving and Christmas. A 2% raise

would be \$10.20/hr. MSC that we give Lona a 2% raise in 2011.

2. Pastor—Pastor has not gotten a raise for two years. Discussion. MSC to give Pastor a 2% raise.
  3. Vicki—Mt. Morris would like to pay Vicki \$55/service, but have any substitutes for her receive \$50. By paying the \$55/service, they will be in sync with West Holden's pay.
- B. Other new business: Our next Joint Council meeting will be June 7 at West Holden: 6:00 for individual council meetings, 7:00 for joint meeting. Barry moved to adjourn, seconded by John. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:58 PM.

Submitted by Kathy Norlin,  
WH Council Secretary

## West Holden Congregational Meeting November 7, 2010

This special Congregational Meeting following morning services was held regarding changes in wording in our Constitution and by-laws. We're changing it to fit what we already do. In Joanne Nelson's absence, we were led by John Jenks.

Those attending were Brenda and Deb Arellano, Connie and Ron Hansen, Barry Osicka, Irene and Harry Krajcik, Pam and Sarah Paugels, Karen Reilly, Jesse and Laura Araiza, Pastor Todd, Kathy Norlin, Bernard and Betty Johannes, Terry Johannes, John and Vicki Jenks, Norma Testin, and Allen and Linda Stea. If you are a voting member and I forgot to include you, please excuse me.

All five changes passed. These changes will be ratified at the next annual meeting. See the *West Holden Lutheran Church Constitution* leaflet for proposed changes, based on review by the church council during 2009-2010 meetings.

Submitted by Kathy Norlin, West Holden  
Council Secretary

## **PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY**

### **DAILY FOR THESE REQUESTS:**

#### **Prayers for Healing or Strength:**

Julie Cook, Audrey Rosin and infant son, Bracken, Wyatt (Bonnie Patti's grandson), Joyce, friend of Curt Nelson, Harv & Bernadyne West, bronchitis, Rick Sawotka back pain, Jeff (Dennis Thompson's friend), Chuck & Judy Slovinski – support, Sharon Hadel,

#### **Prayers of comfort and support for the friends and family of:**

Frank Parks, Sr., Rick Davies, Lorraine Garrett, Edie Paugels & Uncle Bob, Betty Stea, Tom Agne, Jim Schneider, Diane Lehman, Linda Stea's brother Larry

#### **Long term prayer support:**

Evelyn Agne multiple health issues  
Brenda Arellano inoperable malignant skull tumor  
Neil Baxter – cancer – treatment is working  
Gail Bourdo Lymphoma recovery  
Bunny Christie – cancer  
Jonathan Clark surgery in future  
Karen Daniels Multiple sclerosis  
Rose Fink  
Ardell Heuer Alzheimer's  
Ray & Arlene Jarvis  
Lonnie Jelinski Kidney transplant list  
Paula Jenks – broken ankle  
Steve Johannes – continuing health concerns  
Eleanor Kracjik nursing home, severe MS  
Jeff Manske recurring cancer  
Doria Martin breast cancer treatments  
Greg Pfaller cancer  
Amy Pleau – chronic pancreatitis  
Ken & Carol Sawotka multiple health issues  
Myrna Schultz – Kidney (dialysis)  
Jenny Smith – moral support  
Mike Sroka  
John Steinbrecher - kidney transplant list  
Travis Stormoen healing  
Sue Wendlandt battling leukemia  
Lynne Wichmann – multiple sclerosis.  
Bob Williams multiple health issues  
Rick Willie lung cancer returned  
Stacy Wright paralyzed has 2 small children

#### **Prayers for our Missionaries:**

Brian & Kristen Konkol – in South Africa  
Nathanial Murken - Mission work near London

#### **Pray daily for our members and friends in the Military:**

Sgt. Brian Eisch, shot it both legs in Afghanistan on Wed. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> (his brother cares for his Brian's children while he's there and works with Julie Cook)

**Netherlands:** Michael Walker, **USA:** Brandon Allen, Shane Bastar, Devin Barkalow, Josh Benbo, David Bredeesen, Chase Edgren, Tony Kosco, Britny Stott, Mario Tomlin, David Wilson, Kelly Jo Wilson.

#### **Prayers for those seeking employment:**

**Please join us for  
some Christmas Cheer!**

**Saturday, December 18**

**at Mt. Morris Holden**

**Coffee & Morning treats at 9:30 a.m.**

**Lunch served at noon**

**Christmas Carols will be playing  
as we decorate our church  
in Celebration of Jesus' birth!**

**Christmas Card making station for the kids!**

***Hope to see you there!***

## Thanksgiving Greetings from the Clair's

*To All of You at Thanksgiving*

*Dear Pastor Todd & West Holden  
Friends,*

*Have a Wonderful Holiday  
Carol and I hope you have a Happy  
Thanksgiving. We look forward to  
worshiping with you on Sunday Nov.  
28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Fondly,*

*Gary and Carol Clair*

Thinking of all of you  
and wishing you  
the joy of Thanksgiving...  
in your home,  
in your hearts,  
in your lives.

### Christmas Brunch

*December 12<sup>th</sup>*

*After Christmas Program*

*at Mt. Morris*

We are planning a Christmas Brunch  
sponsored by the Mt. Morris Mountain  
Men's Group on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> following the

Sunday School Christmas Program.  
Consider bringing the Family including  
Grandma & Grandpa, Aunts & Uncles –  
this is truly a family event to help  
celebrate Christmas.

Anyone wishing to help bake some  
goodies, contact Craig Starkweather,  
787-3803

## *Happy Anniversary!!!!*

Martin & Myrna Schultz Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – 40 yrs  
Cal & Phyllis Wilson – Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – 42 yrs

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

### DECEMBER

MT. MORRIS	WEST HOLDEN
1 Patricia Paulsen	
2 Misty Wienandt	
3 Deena Krueger	Andrea Osicka
Kay Peterson	
4 Irene Edgren	Shanna Krueger
5 Beulah Dickson	
7	Bernadyne West
	Jacob Brownlow
8 Kathy Anderson	Allen Stea
10	Lee Koepp
12	Kathryn Norlin
14 Jean Wrench	
Travis Erdman	
15 Jennifer Carter	
18 Eugene Fink	
Viola Kjentvet	
19 Julie Hadel	
Britny Stott	
Danielle Jarvis	

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 20 Pat Hassmann       | Katie Heuer      |
| Craig Starkweather    |                  |
| 21 Michael Auck       | Alexandra Julian |
| 22 Johanna Rosby      |                  |
| Carson Armstrong      |                  |
| 23 Sharon Hadel       |                  |
| Jane Koechell         |                  |
| 24 Maxine Schleicher  |                  |
| 25 Dale Koechell      |                  |
| Mary Stepanek         |                  |
| 26 Matthew Kroll      |                  |
| Devon Wienandt        |                  |
| 27                    | Gary Wilson      |
| 28 Thomas Cismoski II |                  |
| 30                    | Paxton Butzin    |
| 31 Robert Bray        | Jeff Hoffman     |
| Travis Wood           | Kailyn Japuntich |

## *Calendar of Events*

### Sunday Worship Services in December

Mt. Morris – 9 a.m.

West Holden - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: MM – 10:15 a.m., WH – 9 a.m.

Confirmation @ West Holden - Wednesdays

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades after school-5:45 on 12/1,8,15

9<sup>th</sup> grade 7 – 8:30 p.m. on 12/1 only

Adult Confirmation on Thursdays

12/2 & 16

A.M. class @ Mt. Morris 10 – 11:30 a.m.

P.M. class @ Carol Bauer's 4 – 5:30 p.m.

### *Calendar of Events by date of month:*

Thur 12/2 – WELCA – MM – 1:30, Prayers @ 1

Sun. 12/5 – MM Congregational Meeting 9:45 a.m

Gifts for WR Manor due @ MM

Mon. 12/6 – MM Fill Shut in Boxes – 9 a.m.

Tues. 12/7 – MM Council Meeting – 6 p.m.

Thur 12/9 – last day to order 2011 Camp calendar

Sun 12/12 – **both churches:**

a) Sunday School Programs during

worship services

b) orders due for 'Bread for the Day'

**Mt. Morris:**

Christmas Brunch following program

**Final Day for:**

a) Gather the Harvest

b) Community Christmas Program

c) Mitten Tree items

Tue 12/14 – West Holden Council Meeting – 6:30

Sat. 12/18 – Mt. Morris Decorate Church

Coffee & treats – 9:30 a.m.

Lunch served @ noon

Sun 12/19 – 'Bread for the Day' available

Fri. 12/24 – **Christmas Eve Services**

a) West Holden – 6 p.m.

b) Mt. Morris – 8 p.m.

### *Worship times Change in January:*

***West Holden @ 8:30 a.m.***

***Mt. Morris @ 10:30 a.m.***

### *Sunday School times:*

***West Holden @ 9:45 a.m.***

***Mt. Morris @ 9 a.m.***

## *Christmas Worship Services*

***West Holden Lutheran Church 6 pm***

Something different. The Nativity story will be told by characters who were there.

The holy Eucharist will be celebrated.

***Mt. Morris Lutheran Church 8 pm***

Something special: "Nine Lessons and Carols." With the leadership of the choir, we will use this beloved form of meditation on the Nativity and worship of Him who was born. The holy Eucharist will be celebrated.