

*Advent*

The Advent season is a season in which we prepare for the Lord's coming. The lessons from the Bible on the first of Advent are really a continuation of the previous weeks' lessons, in which Jesus is named Lord and King of all things. Christ is the king of the kingdom that he proclaimed would come at the end of time. This "second coming" is foretold in the Scriptures, from which we draw our lessons in worship.

Now, during Advent, we await and prepare for his birth, the "first coming" of our Lord. We will hear calls from the wilderness in the form of John the Baptist, a man who probably would be considered a candidate for a mental health clinic under today's standards. We will hear from an unwed expectant mother, Mary, who would have been thrown out of good society because her pregnancy outside of marriage. These two people, who are at center stage, at this time in our story would have been a scandal to anyone who heard that story 2,000 years ago.

After the story has been told for over 2,000 years, the stories seem to be less of a scandal today. In fact these stories are not a scandal to us at all. They have become a comfort to us, like old friends. Once again, they point to our human hope that God is coming, and God will bring His justice and peace to the world, and he will do it in a very curious, scandalous, and comforting way.

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Thoughts and Reflections

December is the month, of course, in which we celebrate Advent and Christmas. All the shopping we do and the parties we attend put us in a joyful mood, most of the time. Sometimes we can get overwhelmed with it all as well! It is a time in which we look forward to gathering with family and friends as we have done

December is also a month in which we begin planning for the next year. Budgets are being put together, committees are working through their priorities, and commitments will be expressed.

We can look forward with confidence to Mt. Hope's future. It is a future deeply rooted in our faith in God, and God's continued faith in us. As we know from Scripture, with God, anything is possible.

WITHOUT GOD,

NOTHING IS

POSSIBLE

WITH GOD

EVERYTHING IS

POSSIBLE

### A Special Thank You . . .

I would like to thank Sandy and Jeff Sikich and Kathy Zingsheim for once again creating a beautiful worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

### *90th Anniversary*

2015 has been a year of celebration of 90 years of ministry by the people of Mount Hope Congregation. The symbol of the prism and theme of Blessed to be a Blessing were used to remind us that this congregation began with a few families meeting in homes and has continued to grow and develop since then. We treasure the memories of the saints who had the courage and foresight to build a small wooden church and name the congregation Mount Hope Lutheran Church in 1926. From then until today, this congregation has been a symbol of hope in the community. We treasure the memories of the past but now we look forward. The future is here; God is calling us to serve and be a light in our community and to continue to be blessings to those around us!

*Your Anniversary Committee*



### *Parish Nurse Notes*

Flu season is here. Let's hope it's not as bad as last year. The best defense against influenza is a yearly flu vaccine. It is recommended for anyone ages 6 months or older and you should get it as soon as possible. Pregnant women should also get the flu vaccine.

Other ways to prevent the flu are:

- \*Wash your hands with soap and water often or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- \*Try not to touch

your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands. This is how germs spread.

\*Practice good health habits such as eating right, getting plenty of rest & exercise, and drink plenty of fluids.

\*Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze & toss it out. If a tissue isn't available, use the crook of your elbow.

\*Try to avoid sick people and if you think you have the flu, stay home & rest for

at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

If you are exposed to the flu or think you might have the flu, see your healthcare provider immediately. There are antiviral drugs that help prevent you from getting sick or can lessen your symptoms, complications and length of illness. However, they are most effective if started within 48 hours of the onset of your symptoms.

Stay healthy and wash your hands!  
*Health Cabinet*

### *Third World Mission Store*

Advent is the Season of light for Christians throughout the world. It is a time to pause and reflect on where we've been and where we're going.

Twenty five years ago our church women's group sold small jute angels from Bangladesh for .50¢. Now they cost .95¢. Those hundreds of

angels continue to give hope and dignity to the artisans who made them. Because they produced marketable products, they and their families didn't have to depend on handouts.

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays let's remember that Christ first came to the poor—the peo-

ple who needed his love the most.

The Third World Mission Store now provides markets for artisans from over 30 countries.

Stop in the store for unique gift items, jewelry, baskets and more. It's down the hall...and around the world.

*Pat Morris, Coordinator*

*The Book Group meets once a month at Mt. Hope in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m.*

### **December 16:**

Wonder by R. J. Palacio Considered a Best Kid's Book in 2012, it's being widely read in schools throughout the country. Born with a severe facial deformity, Auggie was home-schooled until age 10, and is now first attending school. A story of kindness and courage, it's told from the viewpoint of Auggie, his sister, and his sister's boyfriend.

*Leader: Jan Heins*

### **January 20:**

Everything I Never Told You: A

Novel by Celeste Ng The story of a Chinese American family living in small town Ohio in the 1970's. It's a story of family, history and the meaning of home, and cultural tension. *Leader: Kathy Schultz*

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580  
7:30 p.m. Milwaukee Chorus

### Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 a.m. Quilter's Group  
9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering  
5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group  
6:00 p.m. Spiritual Meditation  
7:00 p.m. Praise Choir  
7:00 p.m. Hope Choir

### Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:45 p.m. Bell Choir

### Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m. Worship

### Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Worship  
8:45 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Homebound Visitors

### Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

### Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group  
7:00 p.m. Congregation Council  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580  
7:30 p.m. Milwaukee Chorus

### Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Quilter's Group  
9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering  
5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group  
6:00 p.m. Spiritual Meditation  
7:00 p.m. Praise Choir  
7:00 p.m. Hope Choir

### Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

6:45 p.m. Bell Choir

### Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

8:15 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
9:00 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble  
9:30 a.m. All Music Groups: Rehearsal  
5:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Check  
5:30 p.m. Worship  
6:15 p.m. Blood Pressure Check

### Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Check  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Check  
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Concert

### Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m. Financial Management

### Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group  
11:00 a.m. Golden Member: Christmas Worship  
12:00 p.m. Golden Member: Luncheon  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580  
7:30 p.m. Milwaukee Chorus

### Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Quilter's Group  
9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering  
1:00 p.m. Book Group  
5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group  
6:00 p.m. Spiritual Meditation  
7:00 p.m. Hope Choir

### Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

6:45 p.m. Bell Choir

### Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

5:30 p.m. Worship

### Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Serenity Inn Fellowship Dinner

### Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

### Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Winter Begins*

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 580  
7:30 p.m. Milwaukee Chorus

### Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:00 a.m. Quilter's Group  
9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering  
5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group  
6:00 p.m. Spiritual Meditation  
7:00 p.m. Hope Choir

### Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

*Christmas Eve*

*Church office closed at 12:00 p.m.*

5:00 p.m. Family Worship  
7:30 p.m. Christmas Meditation and Prayer  
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

### Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

*Christmas Day*

*Church office closed*

10:00 a.m. Christmas Worship

### Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

*No Worship Service*

### Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols Service

### Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

### Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group  
7:30 p.m. Milwaukee Chorus

### Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Quilter's Group  
9:30 a.m. Prayer Gathering  
5:30 p.m. WISH Support Group  
6:00 p.m. Spiritual Meditation

### Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

*New Year's Eve*

*Church office closed at 12:00 p.m.*

### Friday, January 1, 2016

*New Year's Day*

*Church office closed*



*"The Mighty One*

HAS DONE  
GREAT THINGS  
FOR ME,  
AND HOLY IS  
HIS NAME."

LUKE 1:49, NRSV