



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 12, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, December 16

The sermon title is *Advent: Always Needed* and the Scripture is Philippians 4:2-9; Luke 3:7-18. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The Philippians text offers an example of a community already knowing Jesus, and yet their need for a deeper knowledge still exists."

Hymns This Sunday

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee - HWB 71
Angels We Have Heard on High - HWB 197
Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem - STS 32
Joy to the World - HWB 318

Prayers

Please pray for

- *John and Erma Stutzman as they relocate to Waterloo, Ontario this week
- *Marut P. as he returns home this week
- *The family and friends of Egerton Dover, who was fatally shot December 5
- *Those impacted by the Normal West bus accident December 5, and for the family and friends of Charlie Crabtree and Ryan Hute who passed away
- *Holly Zehr who will have surgery tomorrow, Thursday, December 13

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Dec 13

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Pastor Peer Meeting 9:00 am
Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
Process Design Team 5:30 pm

Sun Dec 16 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
Orchestra Rehearsal 12:00 pm
MYF & JMYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thur Dec 20 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
The Longest Night 6:30 pm

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	The King Family
Welcome Table	West: Terry Wiebenga
Ushers	Julie Musselman
Sermon	Jeremy, Chris, & Caeli Haab, & Steve Stenger
Worship Leader	Pastor Tim Schrag
Song Leader	Amy Reiman
Accompanist	Barry Weaver
Scripture Reader	Denise Hedberg
Children's Time	Amy Reiman
Technology	Shannon Unzicker
Toddler Nursery	Rick Harnish
Preschool Nursery	The King Family
	Ian Unzicker



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Wilma Dyck 12/17
Chris Haab 12/17
Tim Kauffman 12/17
Cal Hubbard 12/19
Marcia Rossi 12/19
Grant Reeser 12/20
Doug Valverde 12/22



Directory Update

Melika Hershberger's new email is mfkhersh@gmail.com. Her cell phone number is their old house phone number (309) 888-6241 and Ross' cell is now (309) 660-0710.



God, the Giver

We are reminded this Advent that as we seek God's righteousness, that God is the Giver of all that we need. Scripture reminds us that, "God will make a righteousness branch sprout from David's line" (Jer33:15). Taking a cue from that scripture, Lee Hertzler created for us a 'righteousness branch' that holds our Advent candles for worship. It is through the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that God gives us in Jesus that we are given what we need to follow God's way in righteousness.



MCN Sunday School goes on the road!

Join us this Sunday during the Sunday School hour as we bless others in our community. We will be heading to two locations: One group will be passing out hot cocoa and treats at Jewel across the street; a second group will be caroling and passing out ornaments at the McLean County Nursing Home (on Main Street by Fairview Pool.) This is where Jo Ropp is currently staying. You are welcome to join us at either location!



Nativity Scenes or Creches

While you are pulling out Christmas decorations, please bring your Nativity sets/creches to the church for a display on Sunday, Dec.16. We will have tables set up with table cloths in the fellowship space, starting Saturday afternoon. Please set up your pieces, and we will all enjoy them Sunday morning. You can take them home after Christian Ed that Sunday. We are especially interested in those that have cross-cultural significance. You might even get to tell the stories of how you have acquired your sets, or what significance they have had for you and your family.



Calling all Musicians: Christmas Orchestra

Whether you've been playing for a year or haven't played for years, we want you in our Christmas Orchestra! All ages playing woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion are welcome. Rehearsals: Sunday, Dec 16 after church, Saturday, Dec 22, 10:30-12:00. Performance in worship on Sunday, Dec 23. If you can participate CONTACT Marianne Israel or Wesley Hershberger.



Candlelight Vigil

In this season of peace, we are reminded that senseless gun violence has taken the lives of so many people in the Bloomington/Normal community and across our country. You are invited to join McLean County Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, as we gather with people of all backgrounds to shine a light on this national tragedy through a Candlelight Vigil for the community on Sunday December 16, 3:00-4:00 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1617 East Emerson Street, Bloomington.

At this vigil, we will be remembering those we mourn in our local city and town, while commemorating that it has been six years since the Sandy Hook shootings.



The Longest Night

We hope you can join us for the Longest Night Service on Thursday, December 20th, at 6:30 pm.



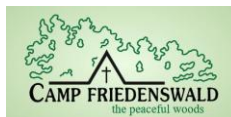
Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service is Monday evening, December 24 at 6:30 pm. The Fellowship Committee invites you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share after the service. Please bring your own plate and take any leftovers home at the end of the evening. We can enjoy cookies during the time of visiting that follows the service.



Process Design Team

To add to the congregation's ongoing discussion, the Design Team is gathering policies or statements from other churches who have gone through a similar discernment process regarding LGBTQIA+ topics. If you are aware of such policies or statements regarding welcoming LGBTQIA+ individuals, membership, marriage, or pastoral care team that you would like to see discussed please share these statements with the team by e-mailing them to Shelly King (snking2002@yahoo.com) by December 28.



All Church Winter Retreat

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at Camp Friedenswald, January 25-27! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with comfortable, warm lodges to accommodate us. Whether you're

looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone! More details and sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>



Partners in Healing

MCN has been asked to pray for the Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit at Advocate BroMenn in 2018. Located on 5 West, Advocate BroMenn's 39-bed Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit serves patients with conditions such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, gastrointestinal problems, cancer, open wounds and sickle cell anemia.

The staff, patients and families who serve or need the services very much appreciate your prayers.



Conference Newsletter

[Central District Conference \(CDC\) Focus](#) The CDC Focus is now available in this online format. Just click the picture of the newsletter or the title. A copy is available on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Also available is the [CDC Reporter](#).

Voice of the Day

"It is this belief in a power larger than myself and other than myself which allows me to venture into the unknown and even the unknowable." **Maya Angelou**



Building Use

Crosswinds Church
December 12, 5:00 pm
Overeaters Anonymous
December 15, 5:00 pm
Crosswinds Church
December 19, 5:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous
December 12, 5:00 pm
Al-Anon
December 17, 7:00 pm
Overeaters Anonymous
December 19, 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



It was the night of the children's Christmas play and little Johnny was upset because he didn't get the part of Joseph. He was assigned the inn keeper.

Because he was still bitter, when Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn to ask if there was room, little Johnny threw the play by saying, "Sure, come on in!"

Joseph was at first taken aback, but with quick wit, stepped in, looked around and said, "This place is a dump. I'd rather stay in the barn."