

December Schedule of Activities

- Please bring non-perishable food for Hope House on Sundays
- God’s Young Voices meets Sundays at 9:30 am
- Sunday School at 10:15 am—meets in church
- Please bring your aluminum cans on the second Sunday, December 11th ONLY!
- Dorcas Circle meets Tuesdays at 9:00 am
- Parish Nurse, Barb Estrada is here on Wednesday mornings
- Senior Choir meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm
- Christian Education meeting on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm
- Property committee meeting on Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 pm
- Worship & Music meets Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm
- Good News Bible Study meets Wednesday, December 14th at 10:00 am
- OWLS meet on Thursday, December 8th at 8:30 am at the Forum Restaurant
- The Divine Drama Bible Study meets Thursdays, December 8th and 15th at 7:00 pm
- Friends meet Tuesday, December 27th at 9:30 am

Please Join Us for an afternoon of Holiday Entertainment

A Christmas Comedy Program

Sponsored by Whitnall Friendship Circle, Inc.

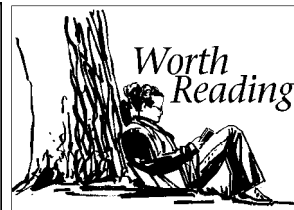
Saturday, December 10, 2011—2:00 p.m.

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church—Hibbard Hall

Dessert & Coffee will be served following the 1-hr. program.

Everyone is Invited! • It is Free!

For planning purposes, please sign up on the kiosk in Hornburg Hall if you plan to attend.

Book Club will meet on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. This month's discussion will be led by Lori Nelson, and the book is "The Christmas Sweater" by Glenn Beck. Robin Nehring Brodie will host the meeting at her home. Her address is 4905 Sutton Lane, Greendale. From the church, go east on Grange. Turn south (right) on 51st St., then left or east on Eastway (two blocks south of Grange). Sutton Lane is the second street on the left.

DECORATE the Church

Greening of the Church

We will be decorating church for Christmas on Friday morning, December 9th, at 8:30 am. If anyone would care to join in this ministry, you are most welcome. Call Sharon Hause with any questions - 262-679-2161.



The annual meeting of Whitnall Park Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 11:15 am following the second service. The agenda will include:

1. Review of the 2011 WPLC annual report
2. Adoption of the 2012 WPLC budget
3. Election of Council Members for 2 year terms
4. Election of an Endowment Board Member
5. A second confirming vote on the Constitution and By-Law changes, passed earlier by the congregation, to officially change our annual meeting date to February

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS: KEEP IT SAFE

The holiday season is a fun, magical time for many people. But most of us deal with increased pressures and stress during this time also. As you might suspect, the holiday season then becomes one of the most dangerous times of the year for alcohol-related accidents and even death.

Some of the contributing reasons are:

- More people drink during the holidays due to numerous parties and other festivities.
- Many holiday drinkers don't drink often, so they have a lower alcohol tolerance. They can underestimate their level of impairment and may drive when they shouldn't. If stopped by authorities, they may even be under the legal limit for intoxication, yet are driving poorly.

The holidays are busy and stressful. People are hurrying more than normal and winter road conditions make driving more dangerous. Add alcohol to this scenario and you have a recipe for disaster.

You can make your holidays happier and safer by following these simple tips for consuming alcohol in moderation throughout the season:

- **Just say no.** Resist the pressure to drink or serve alcohol at every social event. Just because it's there does not require you to drink it and there is no law stating that alcohol is a necessary ingredient for holiday cheer.
- **Offer nonalcoholic beverages.** Make your guests feel as comfortable choosing a nonalcoholic beverage as one would choosing alcohol. Put the nonalcoholic drinks in a prominent accessible place to make the choice easier. Remember it's always a good idea to drink a glass of water or nonalcoholic beverage between every alcoholic beverage you consume.
- **Choose a designated driver before arriving at a party.** Decide that drinking and driving is not an option.
- **Don't let your spouse or friends drive if they've had too much to drink.**

Remember that alcohol is a compliment, not the purpose. The main purpose of a party is to have fun with people you know. Drinking is a choice that comes with responsibility.

Wishing you a blessed, happy and safe holiday season.
Barb Estrada, RN, PN



Automated External Defibrillator (AED) News

WPLC has an AED which is located in the front of the Sanctuary next to the fire extinguisher. An automated external defibrillator is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can stop an irregular heart rhythm that could potentially be fatal in a cardiac arrest. A built-in computer checks a victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes. The computer calculates whether defibrillation is then needed. The AED "talks" you through each step of the process and will not let a person "shock" the heart if the rhythm is not life threatening. A person does not have to be CPR certified to use the AED.

I recently put new adhesive electrodes that can be used for children up to age 8 in with the AED at WPLC. Adult pads are already connected to the AED when it is opened. If you are using the AED on a child, you need to disconnect the adult pads and reattach the pediatric pads.

On Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012, between and after both services, I will demonstrate how to use the AED to all CPR certified members AND anyone else who would like to learn how to use this lifesaving piece of equipment. **REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST** in any medical emergency!



Blue Christmas Worship

A Service of Healing at Christmastime

We are approaching the Christmas Season, the time of year that is happy, joyful, exciting and full of hope. Or is it? Many of us feel stressed during the Christmas season. We may be feeling lonely, full of grief, depressed, suffering with a chronic or terminal illness, have lost a job or relationship, or just trying to deal with some unrealistic expectation of the season.

This year WPLC will again provide a "Blue Christmas" Service on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00pm.

This worship service is designed to help us deal with any of those feelings that can be hurtful during this time of year. Please come and worship together and support others who may benefit from this healing service. Invite family members or friends to attend with you or encourage someone you know to come. Offer a ride to someone who doesn't like to drive at night. A short coffee fellowship will follow the service.

Thank you, Barb Estrada, RN, PN

WPLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM 10/25/11

Members in Attendance: Lou Graef, Pastor Fazio, Kurt Kaempfer, Jennifer Breese, Joe Posick, Betty Hembrook, Van Johnson, Donna Winiarski, Joan Lance, Sandy Sannes, Brian Lynch
 Members Absent: Jennine Sonntag

Joe Posick led Devotions

Secretary's Report – Jennifer Breese

The 9/27/11 minutes were approved with the following addition: WPLC gave \$550 for our annual donation to Southwest Interfaith.

Treasurer's Report – Donna Winiarski

Monies owed as of 10/1/11: Mortgage: \$294,467 and the parking lot loan: \$7,500.

Pastor's Report -

Report submitted and available to view in the church office.

Director of Christian Education - Robin Nehring Brodie:

Report submitted and available to view in the church office.

Sunday School Superintendent Report – Kelly Brown

Report submitted and available to view in the church office.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – Jennine Sonntag- No report

Endowment – Jennifer Breese and Kurt Kaempfer- No report

Finance – Joe Posick

As of the end of September, 2011, we are \$15,000 behind with our budget.

Fellowship – Sandy Sannes- No report

Health and Wellness – Joan Lance

A blood pressure reading is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 13, between services.

Blue Christmas is scheduled for Dec. 14 with a short service at 7:00 pm.

Worship and Music – Betty Hembrook

Plans were reviewed for events from 10/23 through Christmas Day.

Choir Music Sunday will be on 12/11 at both services with no sermon or communion on that day. The Choir will be able to purchase new music in 2012 by using money donated to the Memorial Fund.

Property – Van Johnson

The chimney on the parsonage house will be repaired.

Stewardship- Kurt Kempner and Brian Lynch - no report

Social Ministry—as submitted by Betty Hembrook

The "Fill the Truck" food drive in memory of Marilyn Schoenleber will be held on Sunday, Nov. 20. The CROP Walk was held on October 9 and 17 walkers represented WPLC. The CROP Walk is a fundraiser for Church World Service.

Old Business

The status of the Memorial Fund was discussed and annual staff reviews will be held by the end of 2011. A Constitution update will be presented at the annual congregational meeting in Feb. 2012.

New Business

Gloria and Roger Brinkmeier are our new representatives for Southwest Interfaith, and Lorraine Graef will be the alternate. The Church Council and Endowment Fund elections will be held at the annual congregational meeting on Feb. 5, 2012.

The next Council meeting will be on November 22, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jennifer Breese, Secretary



Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

- 1 Vickie Katschke
- Clayton Olson
- David Valleau
- 2 Bradley Metzger
- Terry Mittelstaedt
- Westley Paremski
- 3 Jerome Thome
- 4 McKenzie Henneberry
- Beth Jaeger
- Jolene Krychowiak
- 5 Shirley Meyer
- Sean Musha
- 8 LaVerne Keske
- Jennine Sonntag
- Maria Sparacino

- 9 Lyndsey Dlouhy
- Elizabeth Skubal
- 10 Karen Adams
- Wayne Duensing
- Connie Honebein
- Jake Ringwall
- Celia Stollenwerk
- Lauren Underberg
- Howard Wiegert
- 11 Katherine Ewaskowitz
- Holly Skubal
- 12 Mark Sorvick
- 13 Oscar Sorvick
- 14 Neil Prescott
- Laura Rakow
- 15 Frank Brugger
- 16 Melissa Hoffmann
- Kathleen Sonntag
- 17 Linda Duensing
- Jessica Mlnarik
- 18 Robert Edmundson
- 19 Heather Hasenstein
- Jessie Kaboskey
- Kelly Prescott
- 20 Cassidy Stein
- 21 Carl Medeiros
- 22 Crystal Ahles
- Sara Kussard
- Laurie Sorvick

- 23 Beth Borstad
- 24 Bernice Puls
- 26 Wendi Brugger
- Matthew Fazio
- 28 Sharon Kaempfer
- Susan Larson
- 29 Sharon Smith
- Athylia Paremski
- Lynn Stanton
- 30 Mary Ann Barrows
- Jessica Heard
- 30 Robert Horcos
- Donna Winiarski
- 31 Betty Mattice

December Anniversaries

- 2 Gregg & Laurie Sorvick
- 6 Don and Shirle Holt
- 15 Elwood & Marybelle Potter **67**
- 17 Fred & Louise Ludwig **56**
- 27 William & Betty Senft **54**
- 28 Jon & Janine King

Parking Lot fund Drive

As of November 6th our parking lot fund drive is almost complete. Only \$900.00 to go!! In only 18 months we've raised \$63,776.00.

This was only possible because of your generosity and the hard work of a lot of people. A huge THANK YOU to all who baked or worked on an event. Thank you to Sharon Hause who took the lead on the Cookbook project and the Antique Appraisal Event. Thank you also, to Friendship Circle, Dorcas and Altar Guild groups for all their support. This goes to show that "where there is a will there is way". Our goal is to complete this project before the end of the year. With the upcoming chili lunch and raffle we hope to accomplish just that.

To show our appreciation to all the congregation for their support we are planning a Thank You celebration in January. More information will be posted in the Sunday Bulletin.

Thank you, and God's Blessing, The Property Committee.

Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↗ ↘ ↙ ↘ ↑ ↓ . There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

joy	hay	men	inn	wise
Lord	star	baby	king	east
Mary	gold	angel	taxes	Jesus
sheep	myrrh	three	manger	Savior
donkey	Caesar	Joseph	birthday	Messiah
shepherds	frankincense	Bethlehem	Augustus	

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	P	S	M	A	R	Y
I	A	N	G	E	L	E	G	O	L	D	E	C	A	E
R	C	B	J	S	M	Y	R	R	H	R	S	A	E	K
T	J	O	Y	E	H	E	T	S	A	E	S	E	M	N
H	T	A	X	E	S	E	N	O	I	H	I	S	A	O
D	A	G	N	I	K	U	E	N	N	P	A	A	N	D
A	E	Y	W	R	A	T	S	P	N	E	H	R	G	R
Y	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	T	H	R	E	E	O
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	A	R	L
R	O	I	V	A	S	R	T	H	J	O	S	E	P	H

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Social Ministry Committee Activities

Coffee Hour

For the month of December, the Social Ministry Committee will support Project RETURN. All contributions for coffee hour on December 4th will go to support this worthwhile program in our Milwaukee community. Additional contributions will be accepted all month. Please make out checks to Whitnall Park Lutheran Church with “Project RETURN” in the memo line.

Project RETURN (Returning Ex-offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods) is an interfaith ministry that exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration to make a positive and permanent return to community, family, and friends. In the first six months of this year, this organization helped 110 clients find employment. Project RETURN’s website indicates that “employers in a wide variety of fields, such as auto part delivery, landscaping, and home construction, are pleased with the positive attitudes, and quality of work provided by our clients.”

Project RETURN was organized in 1981 to help released offenders to become productive members of society and thus prevent their return to the prison system. For 30 years people in the organization have “walked alongside ex-offenders, providing assistance with employment, housing, and encouragement to change lives and the community.”

Further information is available at www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org

Fresh Garden Produce Table

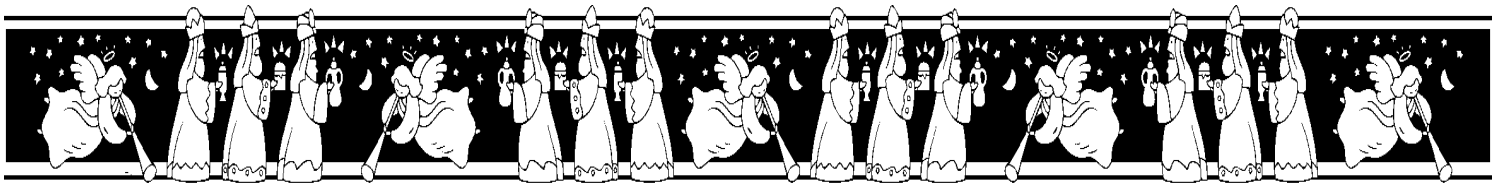
Thanks to everyone who took home produce for a small donation. As of November 6th the Produce Table has raised \$514.85. *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* will add \$350 (matching the first \$350 raised by the Produce Table dollar for dollar). With an anticipated two more weeks of produce before the winter sets in, the Produce Table should be able to send almost \$450 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and almost \$450 to Milwaukee’s Hunger Task Force. Hopefully everyone has enjoyed eating the bounty while at the

Hope House

Continue to bring in non-perishable food items for the Southside Pantry at Hope House. With unemployment high the need for food is greater than ever.

**Remember those
who are less
fortunate**





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>December</h1>				1	2 LEAF ARTICLES DUE! Pastor's day off.	3
4 2 nd Sun. Advent Services w/ Healing 8:30am-10:15am Worship 9:30am God's Young Voices 10:15am Sunday School	5 7:00pm Dartball League	6 9:00am Dorcas Circle 12:30pm Sit 'n Be Fit 1:00pm Knitting & Crocheting 7:00pm Christian Ed meeting	7 9:30am Parish Nurse 7:30pm Senior Choir	8 8:30am OWLS meet at the Forum 7:00pm Divine Drama Bible Study	9 Pastor's day off. 8:30am Greening of the Church	10 2:00 pm— Friendship Circle Christmas Program— Everyone Invited.
11 3 rd Sun. Advent Choir & Music Sunday Reception of New Members 8:30am-10:15am Worship 9:30am God's Young Voices	12 7:00pm Book Club—Meeting at Robin's House 7:00pm Dartball League	13 9:00am Dorcas Circle 1:00pm Knitting & Crocheting. 6:30pm Property Meeting 7:00pm Worship & Music	14 9:30am Parish Nurse 10:00am Good News Bible Study 7:00pm BLUE CHRISTMAS	15 7:00pm Divine Drama Bible Study	16 Pastor's day off.	17 9:00am-12:30pm Sunday School program practice/dress rehearsal
18 4 th Sun Advent 8:30am-10:15am Worship 9:30am God's Young Voices 10:15am Sunday School Christmas Program	19 7:00pm Dartball League	20 9:00am Dorcas Circle 1:00pm Knitting & Crocheting	21 7:00pm Senior Choir	22 9:30am Parish Nurse	23 Pastor's day off.	24 6:00pm & 10:00pm Christmas Eve Services
25 10:15am Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 9:00am Dorcas 9:30am Friends Meeting 10:00am-12:00am Office Hours 1:00pm Knitting & Crocheting 7:00pm Council	28 9:30am Parish Nurse 10:00am-12:00am Office Hours 7:30pm Senior Choir	29 10:00am-12:00am Office Hours	30 Pastor's day off. 10:00am-12:00am Office Hours	31



THE ADVENT SEASON, is perhaps the busiest, most hectic times of the year. In the breathless rush to make the most of the season, it is easy to forget that this sacred season is less about “holiday cheer” and more about a “holy child.” Advent is our opportunity –a gift from God in itself –to re-orient ourselves to receive the gift of Jesus. Here, in descending order, are the Top 10 things not to do during Advent.

10. Do not forget your rituals:

Be careful not to treat Advent as just another busy time of the year. When we enter the Advent season, life is supposed to be different. Rituals in your personal and/or family life can help you slow down and prayerfully ponder the gift of the Incarnation, the Son of God made flesh. Take time daily to relax, meditate or pray.

9. Do not add to the frenzy:

If you are a parent, try not to add to the craziness of this season by being frantic yourself about last minute shopping, entertaining or decorating.

8. Do not forget your Bibles:

What Bible passages point to Advent themes of preparation, promise, hope, expectancy, God’s enduring faithfulness, the time when God’s kingdom will be fulfilled? Advent is an excellent time of the year to familiarize yourself again with the Bible’s stories that lead up to the birth of Jesus.

7. Do not try to be perfect for the Holidays:

Believe it or not, it’s not the end of the world if the Christmas tree has a bare sport on one side, a bulb in one of the window candles is burnt out, or if you cannot find just the perfect gift. The holiday season can be stressful enough without the drive for perfection to overwhelm you.

6. Do not over do your schedule:

Learn to say “no” to some of the demands or events that may beg for your presence, however enjoyable or good they may be. Know your limits.

5. Do not overdo gifts:

It is both fun and important to give gifts to our loved ones at Christmas, however remember, the focus is Jesus, God’s supreme gift to us, not our gifts to others.

4. Do not go into additional debt:

It is important to remember that the gift-giving of Christmas is supposed to spring from our gratitude to God for his gift-giving of Jesus. Rather than large grandiose, expensive gifts, consider giving smaller, more thoughtful items.

3. Do not expect the culture to follow your lead:

A truly Christian approach to the month of December will inevitably be counter-cultural. If you embrace much of this list, have faith in what you are doing. Our spiritual health depends on our resisting the cultural message that we need to get out and “shop till we drop.” Jesus came into the world to die for a different reason.

2. Do not forget the less fortunate:

Remember that the real Christmas story is not set in a warm and cozy house, tastefully decorated and filled with more gifts than can fit under the tree, however wonderful that all may be. The real Christmas story is set amidst those who know enduring poverty and danger. What more loving witness could you offer than to seek out some holiday opportunity to identify with the poor and downtrodden as God does?

1. Do not wait until Christmas Eve to come to Church!

Avoid the holiday rush and join us for worship in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Worship in the church is absolutely beautiful this time of year, with beautiful and powerful Advent hymns. Join us for Advent worship and allow it to bring you back to a sense of expectancy and alertness for the coming of God into our world, into your very life.

God’s Peace and Blessings to you all during this Advent Season,

Pr. Michael