Dear Journey families,

This is the message of Christmas: God's son! The Christ! A Savior! Born for you and for me! This is the season. We are starting the first Sunday of Advent this Sunday, and then the second, the third and the fourth and voila: Christmas!

During these times in December, we are preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas where Jesus was born to display to us God's love. My prayers are with you. May Jesus come into our lives again and again on a daily basis.

One way to prepare is to be engaged, and we have made available a daily devotional booklet to follow which is available at the back of the Sanctuary or online called “Joy to the World” by Lutheran Seminary folks. It is part of our preparation during Advent, with a bible verse followed by short reflection and ending with prayers. It is published in the Journ-E as well and you can register to get the daily devotion in your email thru the link below.

I invite you to pick a hard copy or to join many of us through the online service.

May God continue to bless us with God's presence in this time of preparation and upcoming Christmas time!

Peace and joy,
Pr. Mamy Ranaivoson

As our Advent Devotional this year we are using the Luther Seminary 2017 Advent Devotional, “Joy to the World” . To subscribe to the devotional use this link and a daily devotion will be sent to your email during Advent. If you would rather have a paper copy of the devotional, there are copies available on the Welcome Table at the back of the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE
Quiet Christmas — Wednesday, Dec 20th @7pm
Sunday, Dec 24th—9:30am Service
Christmas Eve— 4 & 6pm Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec 31st—9:30am Service
Birthdays & Anniversaries for next week
*If we are missing yours or have wrong information please be sure to let us know

Birthdays
Dec 4  Josh Caylor
Dec 6  Bridget Torud
Dec 9  Katie Pierre
Dec 9  John Richert

Bible Studies & Small Groups

Koinonia -- A monthly Breakfast Bible Study. Everyone is welcome and we meet at 8am...breakfast is included! Will next meet in January.

Theology on Tap Monthly men’s gathering on the second Thursday of the month at Two Beagles Brew Pub at 7:30pm. They will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 11th

The Theology Uncorked Monthly community women’s gathering will meet on Dec 5th for a Christmas Gathering at the home of Lori Schiper.

Caring Blankets group meets the first and third Tuesdays at 1:00pm to make blankets to share. Their next meeting will be Dec 5th

Chair Yoga Class for Adults 55+ each Wednesdays @10am in the Fellowship Hall at Journey.

Women’s Bible Study is reading Martin Marty’s book “Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers”. They meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm. Next meeting Dec 12th

Youth Group—The Middle School and High School youth will meet Sunday evening at 6pm. Dec 10th

Special Music: During our Advent season which begins December 3rd, our worship team would invite you to share your talents. We are looking for prelude music before the services, offertory songs, or special soloists to enhance our Advent Season. We are also looking for special music for the 9:30am Service on Dec 24th. Do you have a special song that you would like to share during our Advent worship? Please contact the church office if you have a certain Sunday and 8:00 or 10:15 service in mind. Come, let us adore Him!

Recycle your aluminum cans at Journey! There is a “can cage” beside the garage. We will recycle them for you and use the proceeds for our ministry here.

Join a Journey tradition and help us “buy the farm”
Each year in December we dedicate our Care Bear funds to the ELCA God's Global Barnyard. Last year we raised $560. This year we would like to raise $1000. God's Global Barnyard is part of the ELCA's World Hunger ministry which seeks to help families in need across the globe by giving them animals that can provide them with food and a source of income. This year there will be several ways that you can give.

- On Sunday, Dec 3rd, Marcy Firl, Renee & Sophia Monti will be hosting a special Bake Sale between services with offerings going toward God's Global Barnyard.
- A generous Journey member has offered to match funds raised by the Care Bear collection during the month of December up to $500.
- We will be handing out barnyard coin boxes to the Sunday school children to collect "loose change."
- In addition, we will be decorating the Christmas tree in the fireplace room with special God's Global Barnyard ornaments. If you are looking for a gift to give that special someone who is hard to shop for, consider taking one of the ornaments and "sponsoring" the animal or project pictured on the ornament. Donation forms will be attached to the ornaments and can be given to the Journey office to send in or mailed directly to the ELCA.

Each Sunday we will be posting our progress on this goal of Buying the Farm!

Poinsettia Order Forms are available on the counter at the back of church. If you'd like to order a Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the order form & return to the Journey office no later than Dec 3. The poinsettias will be displayed at church. You can take your plant home after worship on Christmas Day.

The Caring Tree is set up in Fellowship Hall with “gift tags” on it. Each tag lists the age and gender of a child from the Holmen School District who is in need of a gift at Christmas time. All items are $25 or less (most children have requested items less than $25. We ask that you record your name and phone number on the sheet by the Caring Tree when taking a tag.

Please return all gifts (wrapped with the tag attached) before December.

Grace & Gratitude question of the week:
What are some of the distractions that lead us away from the true meaning of Christmas?

Then Jesus said to them, “Watch out. Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

- Luke 12:15
Volunteers Are Great!

Thank you to our many volunteers that donate time and talents each week. This week our scheduled volunteers are:

**Altar Guild** — Donnie Lee, Kay Schroeder, Agnes Smith, Sandy Silker

**Greeter** — Eric & Beth Davidson, Darren & Carla Amundson

**Fellowship Treats** — Marcy Firl, Sophia Monti, Mamy & Noel Ranaivoson

**Reader** — Donnie Lee, Carla Amundson

**Advent Readers** — Kitty Ruosch, Carla Amundson

**Advent Candlelighters** — Mary Jo Bersagel, Henry Amundson

**Cleaners** — Dennis & Debbie Parsley, Linda Head, Mike Schnitzius

**Offering Counters** — Nancy Haese, Wendy Evert, Karen Latsch

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**Worship Attendance Trends**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>106</td>
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**Journey Offering Report**

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*notes $4000 received as Daycare Rent

Each month $17,435 is needed to meet our budgetary needs from weekly offerings. If you would like a copy of the financial reports each month, please contact the Journey Office.

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**PRAYERS for MINISTRIES of Pastors, Congregations and Synods**

- Living Hope Lutheran & Pr Kary Jonas
- Portland Lutheran & Interim Pr Gary Daines
- Our Savior’s-West Salem & Prs Jon & Jean Schmidt
- Vang Lutheran & Prs Dan & Julie Wollman
- Florida-Bahamas Synod
- Virginia Synod

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**SCRIP FUNDRAISING**

Many of us use gift cards for gifts …. consider buying them through the church and using them for every day purchases also... you get the full face value of the card, but in addition we get a percentage for our youth ministry. It is a win/win. Scrip order forms are available at the back of the Church. Order form due dates and delivery dates are on the form. Thank you for your support of our Youth program!

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**From the Youth Director ~**

Hello everyone!

For those of you who haven’t met me yet, my name is Erin and I am the youth director here at Journey. I am planning a **Christmas Lock-in on December 29**th at 6pm to December 30**th** at 9am and would love for any middle school and high school youth to come!

There will be dinner served at 6:30pm on the 29**th** followed by a lot of fun games, some arts and crafts, some yummy deserts and a Christmas movie. We will be serving breakfast the next morning around 8am and the youth will be ready to get picked up at around 9am! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me at journeyyouthdir@gmail.com

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**GET INVOLVED**

Each year our **Vision Board** appoints 2 new members to the Board to fill the out-going Board members. If you are interested in learning more about what it means to be on the Vision Board please speak with Jim Welander or Meredith Hink. We are also looking for 2 new members for the **Personnel Committee**. Speak with either Jim or Meredith about this Team also. Thank you.

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**YOUTH NEWS**

Drop off your kids so you can shop!

Do you have last minute shopping to do?

Drop your kids off at Journey on Sat, December 16th from 2:00-5:00 and our Journey youth will be there to babysit. While your kids play games, do crafts and have a light snack, you can finish up your last minute holiday shopping! Freewill donations will be accepted to help send our youth to camp and the ELCA youth gathering next summer. Thank you!
Pastor Mamy's Contact Information

Office Hours
Tues-Friday 8:30-4:30

If you have a Pastoral need, please feel free to contact Pastor Mamy at Pastor Mamy’s email & cell # is:
JourneyLutheranPastor@gmail.com
Cell phone: 608-563-8788

The Journey Office Hours are:
Mon-Wed 8:30 to 4:00pm
Thursday 12:00 to 4:00pm
Friday 8:30-12:00

The Journey office email is:
journeylutheran@gmail.com
Journey Youth Director
Email: JourneyYouthDir@gmail.com

WINTER FUN DAYS
at Sugar Creek Bible Camp!
January 14 & 28, 2018
February 11 & 25, 2018
Time: 1–5 P.M.

Come to camp for a Sunday afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, and more! We have the tubes and broom ball equipment. You can bring cross country skis and/or ice skates.

Enjoy a wonderful family outing or bring your church group for the day. We will serve warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch about 2:30 p.m. of hot dogs, chili, cocoa, and more, and we’ll have a toasty fire ready for you.

Please call to register your family or group.
608-734-3113 or email: kati@sgrcreek.org
Cost for the day (includes lunch):
$7.00 per person
$30 immediate family maximum

YESTERDAY’S YOUTH
DECEMBER 4
At Sugar Creek Bible Camp

9 a.m. Coffee and rolls
9:30 a.m. Devotions
Morning Sessions presented by Michael Douglass
Former Curator of the Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien
Former Park Ranger at Effigy Mounds National Monument

Session 1—Mega Fauna to Mystical Mounds
Drawing on his five seasons as a park ranger at Effigy Mounds, Michael will share his knowledge about the prehistoric people of the Upper Mississippi River

10:30 a.m. Break
11 a.m. Session 2—Wet Fishing to Beaver Hats
Walk in the steps of the historic fur traders and see how the origins of fur trade shaped the Wisconsin we know and love.

11:30 a.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Yuletide sing-a-long, Old-time Gospel, and more! Led and performed by the DisChords

COST: $10, includes lunch
RSVP: 608-734-3113

Do you want an easier way of giving your Offering to the Church? Many of our members make use of an automatic giving program called “Simply Giving”. It is an easy and safe program to sign up for and have your contributions automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. If you have any questions or would like to get started on this program, call the Journey Office 783-1892.

Until Next Week

' TIS THE SEASON ' TIS THE REASON

Whoever you are...however you come...you are welcome here!
Join us for worship at 8:00 am and 10:15 am on Sundays