



Footsteps to Faith



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DECEMBER 2018

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAM

Blessed Christmas

Even non-believers are generally accepting of the Christmas season. After all, our Savior brought us the most lucrative and productive shopping season of the year. And there's also Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Omisoka, and other days that celebrate a spirit of giving. Perhaps people are stuck in the commercial and financial aspect of holidays because they don't see the real meaning of the season beyond a blitz of lighted Santas and sappy Hallmark channel movies.

Christians know the greatest love and greatest gift ever given. Christmas gives us the ideal time to share this story. Go ahead and say "Merry Christmas" – or even "Blessed Christmas". Greet with the sincerity and love of the Lord. Extend an invitation to worship on Sunday or to attend Christmas Eve services at 4 p.m. at New Hope or 7 p.m. at Westby. Invite someone to share the children's program on December 16.

If you want to give a Christmas gift to someone, let it be the experience of renewal in Christ.

Christmas gives us an opportunity to share God's love uniquely. Pray for our church. Pray that we will see and follow God's direction for us. Pray for the renewal of Christian love among all people. Christ the Savior is born. Joy to the world!



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAM (Continued)



PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER

Monday: Make me a channel of your peace, Christ. Let me listen with an open heart of acceptance. Let me consider with an open mind of understanding. Let me respond with an open spirit of charity.

Tuesday: Christ, I am your servant. You always remember me and provide for me. I am a student of your word. You actively create examples and ways for me to learn. I am your child. You shelter me and protect me. I am only complete in You, my God.

Wednesday: What do I mean when I say I am a Christian? What does it mean to believe in Christ as my Savior? Lord, make my words, my actions, and my life, be a humble reflection of your immense love. When I make a mistake, help me to realistically see my own flaws, to make amends and to take action to change myself.

Thursday: I'm so busy. I busy myself with things that don't matter. Instead, let me fill my days with worship and praise for You. Let me nurture your people and work for your kingdom. Holy One, teach me that glorifying God is what is truly important. Show me today how I can glorify You and uplift others.

Friday: Forgive me when I miss the opportunity You give me to forgive someone. I want to be accepted and yet sometimes I shut my heart to accepting another. In this holy season of love, help me show the love I want to receive. Lord, send those who need You to our church and help me receive them with an open heart of hospitality.

Saturday: I pray a lot for myself God. Today, I pray for the people I know who are sick, disheartened, lonely, broken, and empty. Lord, in your mercy, bring them healing, hope, sharing, fulfillment. Use me if it is your will, to help those who have any need, large or small. Always for Your glory, holy Lord.

Sunday: Each week of this holy month, we step closer to the day when celebrate again the coming of the Christ. Hearts are lighter. Smiles come more easily. Reminders are all around as we decorate for the season. Lord, let me live with this sense of hope always and let me share the light of Christ everywhere.

Anytime throughout the day:

The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.

The greatest of these is Love.

Love came down at Christmas.

Pastor Pam's Weekly Office times:

Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30

Friday Sabbath

Saturday by appointment.

Pastor is often away from the office for visitation or meetings. Please call the parsonage 608-648-2528 and leave a message or contact by cell phone (text or call) 989-666-1277.

Pastor Pam's Calendar for December

To be scheduled: wrapping presents for Prairie View December 2-12

December 1 Craft Show LaFarge (Faith)

9-12 a.m. Cookie Walk (Westby)

December 2 Deliver cookies to shut-ins (Retreat)

4 p.m. Confirmation Class (New Hope/Retreat)

December 4 1 p.m. Women of Faith luncheon at Borgens

December 5 6:30 p.m. Faith Board Meeting

December 9 3 p.m. Confirmation Class (New Hope/Retreat)

4 p.m. Dischords concert (New Hope)

December 12 6 p.m. Westby Board

December 13 5 p.m. Dinner/party at Prairie View Elementary School (New Hope/Retreat)

December 14 Shop, pack, deliver Christmas baskets (Faith)

December 16 Sunday School Kids present message at all churches (Check bulletin, Faith may be on Dec. 23rd)

3 p.m. New Hope Board

4 p.m. Confirmation Class (New Hope/Retreat)

December 19 6:30 p.m. Retreat Board

December 23 4 p.m. Confirmation Class (New Hope/Retreat)

December 24 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service at New Hope

7 p.m. Christmas Eve service at Westby



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAM (CONTINUED)

GENEROSITY

In November, we looked at various aspects of the human spirit and our response to God. Interestingly, the message that got the most feedback was our spirit of generosity and the six ways we can be generous every day.

Be generous with **prayer**: When we Pray, we lay down our innermost vulnerabilities and petitions with the Lord. Our spiritual discipline of praying mends our hearts and leads us to patiently wait for the Lord's response.

Be generous in **worship**: Find ways to celebrate God every day and join others in the community of faith. Sunday worship centers us in a life of praise, and also worship when we see God in the sunrise, hear God in the laughter of a child, feel God holding the hand of someone in pain.

Be generous in **scripture**: Study scripture and create the practice, the habit, of at least a few minutes with scripture every day. Less time with TV and social media and technology and more time in the Word.

Be generous in **service**: Stepping outside of ourselves and our own interests to give something of ourselves to someone else. Serving God's creation and all of God's people.

Be generous in **witness**: Through the ways we boldly live Christian values we share our testimony and witness to teach others about Jesus' love with our actions. What better time of year than Christmas to live the spirit of Christ.

Be generous in **giving**: Giving with a pure heart sows seeds of growth for the future of the church. Which ways are easiest for you to be generous?

CHURCH MESSAGES

If you receive your newsletter by snail mail, please contact Jean at 608-606-4582 or hassjean@hotmail.com. Beginning January 2019 we are hoping to "go green" and email as many of our newsletters as possible. If you have email and are not currently receiving your newsletter by email, please send Jean your email address. If you do not have email and wish to continue to receive our newsletter, let Jean know. If she does not hear from you, she will assume you no longer wish to receive our publication. P.S. If you are on our email list and wish to be removed, also let Jean know. THANKS!

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Christmas is just around the corner. Women of faith will be providing food baskets to area families in need. We ask you to help as much as you can. There will be a donation jar from November 4 to December 9th at church. Marla Lavold will be taking names of families that you feel need a basket. She will need the name of the family, address, phone number and how many adults and children are in the home. We will be shopping, packing, and delivering baskets on December 14.



CHURCH MESSAGES (Continued)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December 3	Jerald & Vivanna Widner
December 4	Marla Lavold
December 5	Jean Hass Taylor Willis
December 10	Matt Manke
December 23	Kody Willis
December 31	Robin Manke Dwayne Lavold



Craft Show in LaFarge December 1

Women of faith will have tables at the Crafty Cookers Craft Show at LaFarge High School on December from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. We will have crafts and baked goods, featuring hand decorated sugar cookies. The proceeds will be used to help pay for our Christmas food baskets.

Women of faith Christmas Celebration

WOF will hold their annual Christmas celebration at Borgen's in Westby on Tuesday, December 4 at 1:00 p.m. All Driftless Ministries women (and men) are invited to attend. We order from the menu and everyone pays for their own meal. We do not exchange gifts, but instead suggest that everyone donate \$10 toward the Christmas baskets we distribute before Christmas. Please call Sheri Ballard at 608-632-9007 or Marla Lavold at 608-689-2590 to let us know you are coming. It is a fun fellowship time and we hope you will join us.



LOOKING FORWARD....

Wednesday, November 28	10:00 AM	WOF bake & decorate cookies to sell at the LaFarge craft show on Dec. 1st
Saturday, December 1	9:00-3:00	WOF at LaFarge craft show
Saturday, December 1	9:00-12:00 noon	Cookie Walk at Westby UMC
Tuesday, December 4	1:00 PM	WOF Christmas lunch/party at Borgen's Everyone welcome
Wednesday, December 5 (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)	6:30 PM	Faith Board Meeting
Friday, December 14	1:00 @ church	Shop, pack and deliver Christmas food baskets to families in need
Sunday, December 16 or 23??	9:30 AM	Children's Christmas Program
Monday, December 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service at Westby UMC

SISTER CHURCH MESSAGES



Westby UMC will hold their annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. Cookies will sell for \$6 per pound. Other baked goods will be available. Proceeds benefit the Youth and Outreach Ministries.

Community Christmas Program at New Hope

Everyone is welcome to join us for a wonderful evening of music, fellowship, and food! Coming up on Sunday, December 9th starting at 4 p.m., the New Hope UMC will host a community Christmas program featuring music by The DisChords. Fellowship and a delicious meal provided by the church will then follow the program. Again, this event is FREE and open to *everyone*, so invite your friends

and neighbors to come on out for a night of Christmas festivity and help us celebrate the true reason for the season!