

2017 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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December 9 & 10

The Living Nativity is a wonderful way to share our hope in Jesus with the community. Dress up as your favorite nativity member and join us for the fun! We work in 15 minute shifts so everyone has the chance to warm up and enjoy snacks in the shelter.

December 16th

The Events committee is hosting the Happy Birthday Jesus Party for children ages 0 – 12. We could use your help with decorating, directing children at craft time, and with monitoring the gym. Your help will make it a big success!

December 20th

The choir invites you to join them caroling to the shut-in members of Mulder, Lakeview Health & Salem Terrace. We start at Mulder's at 6:15PM. The evening ends with a pot-luck dinner in the Multi-purpose Room.

December 25th

Welcome Savior of the World! Wishing you a very blessed Christmas celebration.

The greatest and most precious gift we have already been given is salvation through Jesus Christ.

December 31st

Welcome 2018! We pray that you may remain content and strong in your faith no matter the joys or challenges the upcoming year brings. May your New Year be blessed!

LIVING NATIVITY

December 9-10

This is an amazing opportunity to share our JOY & HOPE found in Jesus, our Savior!

- ❄ Arrive at First Lutheran school – La Crosse to dress for your role. Someone will help you transform into a shepherd, angel, jewish citizen or other character.
- ❄ A bus leaves the school and drops everyone off AT Riverside Park for the evening.
- ❄ Play your character for 15 – 30 minutes and then head into the warming trailer where there is food galore! Rotate back outside after 15 minutes.
- ❄ Board the bus at 10PM on Saturday | 9PM on Sunday to return to the school.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

December 16

Please come and help make it another successful party! Here's what we need:

- ★ Youth group and adult leaders will decorate before the party starts. Come any time from 8:30AM until 10:00AM and help with room and party preparations.
- ★ Party starts at 10:15AM. Gym & craft time happen symultaneously. We'll need help to monitor gym play, and to facilitate crafts.
- ★ Birthday cake and icecream will be served at 11:30AM along with a short devotion about why we're gathered to celebrate.
- ★ The event ends around noon. Thanks for your help!



GOD Can Fix This

She will give birth to a son ... he will save his people from their sins.



Matthew 1:21



Several years ago, after a mass shooting, a bold headline in the New York Daily News stated: "God isn't fixing this!" The paper went on to condemn those who offer prayers as substituting meaningless platitudes for concrete action. We know, of course, that God is almighty and can do anything, but how would you respond to the accusation that God isn't doing anything?

The headline should have read: "God isn't fixing this the way we think He should." Sinful human nature is quick to tell God how He should run the world and our lives. God could simply say the word, and there would be no more violence anywhere.

The "fix" that many want to see is an end to all violence. Who wouldn't want that?

But that would not solve the underlying problem. The real source of everything wrong in the world (gun violence included) is the sinful heart. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander" (Mt15:19). No amount of education or legislation is going to fix the human heart. There is nothing we can do to eradicate sin. **People born dead in sin can't get rid of it.**

BUT GOD CAN GET RID OF SIN - AND DID! That's what Christmas is about. God sent His own Son into our world as our Brother to fix everything we cannot. We can't live up to God's holy standards; Jesus did for us. We can't make things right with God with resolutions and good intentions; Jesus did by taking sin upon Himself and suffering its punishment on the cross. With that message of God's perfect "fix" through Jesus, the Spirit works faith and gives the sinner a new heart, which shows love for God and neighbor.



That new heart moves us to pray! And despite the criticism, **prayer is powerful and effective.** So let's keep on praying!

- ☺ Pray that the Lord will work through the Word to bring many more souls to repentance and faith in Jesus.
- ☺ Let's pray that the Spirit would produce the fruits of faith, such as love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control in ever-increasing amounts.
- ☺ Let's pray that the Lord would, by His power and through His representatives in government and law enforcement, restrain all those who reject Christ and seek to cause harm to others.
- ☺ Finally, let's pray that the Lord will soon come in glory to bring an end to all evil and usher His Church into her new home of uninterrupted peace and incredible joy. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20).

DECEMBER

- 9-10 **Living Nativity** 5:00PM
Volunteers work in shifts so everyone has a chance to warm up and enjoy snacks in the trailer throughout the evening.
- 16 **Happy Birthday Jesus Party** 10:15AM
We are hosting a party for the children of CHRIST church! Come be part of the fun and help with games and crafts.
- 20 **Caroling with the Choir** 6:15PM
Those in nursing homes so appreciate when we come caroling! Join us and show them you are thinking of them and wishing them a Merry Christmas. Adults transport kids to our stops. A feast awaits us afterward at the church!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/7 Helen Black
- 12/10 Corey Deyo
Kyle Deyo
- 12/31 Weston Gerke
Doug Horstman