



Volume 27 Issue 11

Date December 2011

A message from Pastor Quinn

Savior of the Nations Come

Okay. I cheated a little this month. This year we have been considering Lutheran hymn writers and Lutheran hymns. Ambrose of Milan was not a Lutheran. In fact, the Lutheran Reformation had not even taken place when Ambrose died (340-397). Martin Luther did translate his hymn, *Savior of the Nations Come* (CW 2), from Latin into German, but that isn't the reason I have included it this month. I chose it because this hymn truly is a Lutheran hymn. It is a Lutheran hymn in that it preserves, teaches, and proclaims the truth of Holy Scripture, even in the face of opposition and persecution. In a time of great conflict, Ambrose stood up for the truth in a most beautiful way. His hymns did in his time what Luther's hymns did at the time of the Reformation. That is why *Savior of the Nations Come*, the Hymn of the Day for the First Sunday in Advent, is truly a Lutheran hymn. Let's take a closer look at Ambrose and his hymn.

The story of Ambrose's life is quite interesting. Born into a Roman aristocratic family, Ambrose was first of all a politician and public figure. As a government official he acquired a reputation for uprightness in administration and for blamelessness in character. Ambrose lived during the early church's struggle against the Arian Heresy. Arius was a bishop who taught that Jesus Christ was not the eternal Son of God the Father. "There was when he was not," Arius said. God's Word clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is true God, not created, but eternally begotten of the Father. It's a truth on which our very salvation depends. If Christ is not true God and true man together in one person he cannot be our Savior. His perfect life and innocent death could not count for everyone. Our faith is futile. The orthodox teachers of the 4th century produced what we know as the Ni-

cene Creed to defend Scripture's true teaching about the divinity of Christ.

Now back to Ambrose. In 374 Auxentius, the Arian bishop of Milan, died. There was an uproar at the basilica between the followers of Arius and the Nicene (orthodox) Christians. Ambrose, in his position as governor, went to the basilica to keep the peace. When he spoke eloquently for moderation a child in the crowd is said to have cried out, "Ambrose, bishop!" Soon the people, so impressed with Ambrose, took up the chant. So, by popular demand, Ambrose was made bishop of Milan at the age of 34, even though he wasn't even baptized yet! Not wanting to be made bishop, Ambrose fled the city, but was eventually persuaded to return. He was baptized, became a deacon, priest, and then bishop in short order. He gave his wealth to the church and to the poor, studied theology, and became one of the most influential bishops of his time.

Ambrose also contributed to the improvement of music in the church. He helped make the singing of hymns and psalms part of worship. He is the father of the medieval Latin hymn. Many of his hymns were written to combat the Arians and to support orthodox believers who stood up for the truth of God's Word. *Savior of the Nations Come* is one such hymn. As you consider it notice how Ambrose beautifully speaks of Christ, God's eternal Son, taking on flesh to serve as our Savior. May the words of Ambrose's Advent hymn edify your faith as you look forward to the celebration of the birth of God's Son, your Savior.

*Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God*

*Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*

*Wondrous birth! O Wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled,
Though by all the world disowned,
Yet to be in heav'n enthroned!*

*From the Father's throne he came
And ascended to the same,
Captive leading death and hell –
High the song of triumph swell!*

*Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.*

December Calendar

December 7	Soup Supper 5:30 PM Midweek Advent Services 6:30 PM
December 10	Christmas For Kids 1 to 3:30 PM
December 11	Christmas Treat Exchange, 2 PM Christmas Eve Rehearsal 4-5 PM
December 14	Soup Supper 5:30 PM Midweek Advent services 6:30 PM
December 17	Christmas Caroling 6 PM
December 18	Christmas Eve Rehearsal 4-5 PM Cong. Meeting 9:15-10:15 AM Cong. Meeting 4—5 PM
December 20	Voters' Assembly 7 PM
December 24	Christmas Festival Serv. 6:30 PM Candlelight Service 9 PM
December 25	Christmas Day 9:30 AM Holy Communion
December 31	New Year's Eve 6:30 PM

A Message from our Congregational President, Mike Krueger

On Tuesday November 8th the Voters extended a divine call to Mr. Nicholas Bush to be our upper grade teacher and principal for next school year. Continue to keep Mr. Bush in your prayers as he considers the call.

On Sunday, December 18th there will be a combined presentation of the financial condition of the congregation, the budget for next year and the assessment and recommended course of action from the Facility

Expansion committee. The presentation will be held at 9:15 AM between the services in place of Bible Class and at 4 PM in the afternoon during the Christmas Eve practice.

As of the end of October we have reduced the general fund deficit from \$75,031 a year ago to \$53,658. We are making progress reducing the deficit that has accumulated over the last several years! At the same time we have also completed and paid for the heating and air conditioning system work!

The tentative budget for 2012 is 5%, \$17,000, more than the 2011 budget. Currently \$9000 has been added to the 2012 budget to cover family medical insurance and higher salary for a more experienced upper grade teacher and principal pending acceptance of the divine call for next year. In addition a one-time relocation expense of \$5000 was added to the budget for next year. Most of the rest of the increase is due to increasing salaries 2% following the synod guidelines. The budget will be discussed and finalized at the Voters' meeting on December 20.

The Facility Expansion committee (Ron Daniel, George Klement, Gale Krueger, Jeff Pitt, Dan Wamhoff and Daren Roehl) recommended a phased course of action.

The first phase includes expanding our ministry through outreach, repairing and expanding the parking lot, gathering offerings to retire debt and pay for the parking lot and developing a detailed plan for the second phase. The second phase is building a Family Ministry Center that would include a larger fellowship hall and gymnasium for Bible studies, Sunday School, VBS, gym classes, basketball and volleyball commitments for a portion of the costs before beginning construction and developing a detailed plan for the third phase. The third phase would be expanding the existing sanctuary to increase the seating capacity from 170 to 230-418 using the same financial approach as the second phase. The fourth phase would be expanding the number of classrooms by building a second story over the existing classrooms. The committee plans to bring to the January Voters' meeting a review of the year-end finances, a detailed cost estimate for parking lot repair and expansion, sketches of phases 2, 3 and 4 and will be looking for approval to proceed with the parking lot.

The nominating committee (Joe Shaffer, Irvin DeLong and John Pifher with Daren Roehl serving as

an alternate) is asking men to consent to be placed on the ballot for congregational officers. Elections will be held for the church officers and open board positions at the Voters' meeting on December 20th. Church officers are elected for one year terms and board members are elected for three year terms. The names of the men who consent to be placed in nomination for these positions will be posted on the bulletin board by December 11th.

Please include the budget, expansion and election of officers in your prayers as we consider our ministry at Good Shepherd for the next year.

In keeping with the congregation's custom to use special offerings to support the Lord's work outside of Good Shepherd, the December special service offerings will be designated as follows:

Advent Midweek Services: ½ Cadillac mission, ½ MLS

Christmas Eve + Christmas Day: Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund

New Year's Eve: WELS World Missions

Midweek Advent Worship

November 30 Holy Communion 6:30 PM

December 7 Worship 6:30 PM

December 14 Worship 6:30 PM

Advent Soup Suppers

November 30 Soup Supper 5:30 PM

December 7 Soup Supper 5:30 PM

December 14 Soup Supper 5:30 PM

Ladies Guild Christmas Party

The annual Ladies Guild Christmas party will be held at the home of Pastor and Barb Seifert's. Each one is to bring a White Elephant gift to exchange. A free will offering will be taken to buy gifts for the three classrooms.

A short Christmas lesson will be given to start the evening followed by a business meeting. The White Elephant gift exchange will follow with the evening ending with dessert served by Barb Seifert and Joyce Tafel.

Christmas for Kids

Christmas for Kids will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 1 to 3:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help make the program a success. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for your convenience.

We did not participate in the Santa Parade this year. Instead Christmas for Kids coordinators Joe and Kayla Shaffer are asking for help on Saturday, December 3rd for delivering flyers door to door. We will meet at church at 10 AM for refreshments and come back afterwards for lunch. If you are interested, Please contact Joe or Kayla Shaffer.

Keeping Christmas Henry Van Dyke, 1905

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time. But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world...stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

Christmas Caroling December 17th

You are invited to go Christmas Caroling this year on December 17th. We will meet at the church at 6 PM and carpool. Scheduled are the following places:
6:15-6:35 PM Washington Woods
6:50-7:15 PM Independence Village
7:30 –7:50 PM Norman and Dorothy Retzloff's

Everyone is invited then to Mike and Pam Krueger's for hot chocolate. Please bring a snack to share and if you do not want hot chocolate, bring the beverage of your choice.

This is a great way to enjoy fellowship with your Christian brothers and sisters during this special time of year. Children are welcome to go caroling with their parents or another adult.

Christmas Baskets

A basket for a free will offering for Christmas baskets will be at the back of the church on December 4, December 11 and December 18. Baskets will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Voters' Special Assembly

December 20th will see the voters of Good Shepherd having their annual meeting during which time new officers are elected to serve in various capacities and the budget for the coming year if approved. If you are a voter please plan to attend this important meeting.

Christmas Day Festival Service

With Christmas coming on Sunday this year there will be just one service on Christmas Day at 9:30 AM with Holy Communion being celebrated. This will also be the schedule for New Year's Day with just one service at 9:30 AM with Holy Communion being celebrated. Holy Communion will also be celebrated on New Year's Eve, December 31st, at 6:30 PM.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in December:

December 2	Hayden Beyersdorf
December 2	Kim Arbury
December 3	Bob Lindesmith
December 6	Joanne Atkinson
December 6	Harrison Beyersdorf
December 7	Patrick Brandt
December 8	Noam Pretzer
December 8	Marilyn Schwab
December 8	Ron Shaffer
December 9	Kathy Brandt
December 13	Diana Johnson
December 26	Deb McGill
December 27	Evan Marquardt
December 29	Melissa Lehman

Anniversaries in December:

December 30	Matt and Angie Beyersdorf
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Let us do good to all people...

Support from individuals and congregations enables WELS Christian Aid and Relief to continue providing assistance for on-going humanitarian aid and relief projects, creating opportunities to share the saving gospel message with those in need.

Current Grants

Domestic Relief—providing disaster relief, medical assistance and humanitarian aid throughout the U.S.—\$231,496

Foreign Relief—providing disaster relief to Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan and St. Lucia—\$335,314

Humanitarian Aid—providing assistance for projects such as borehole drilling, community centers, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and medical clinics—\$259,108

Breakdown by world mission field:

Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, Zambia—\$83,850

Bulgaria, Russia—\$43,600

Mexico—\$26,508

India, Nepal, Pakistan—\$105,150

Christian Aid and Relief Projects Total for this year:
\$825,918

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MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY CONCERT CHOIR

The CONCERT CHOIR of **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**, Saginaw, Michigan, will present a concert of sacred songs at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Midland on Sunday, December 11, at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The twenty-seven voice traveling singers, under the direction of Professor Leonard A. Proeber, have toured annually since 1955, with appearances in more than 30 states, Canada, and Europe. This choir, which will sing over 20 concerts during the 2011-2012 season, regularly visits congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Michigan and adjoining states.

There is no admission to the concert; however, since the group is self-supporting, a freewill offering will be received. The concert is open to the public. For more information about the concert, call (989) 835-4181.

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY is a college-preparatory coeducational high school of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The school is located in Saginaw, Michigan. Its students are training to be pastors and teachers in the church.

For more information about the school please contact: Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 2777 Hardin Street, Saginaw, Michigan, 48602. You may also visit the school's website at www.mlsem.org.

Potluck Lunch for the MLS Choir

Ladies Guild will be setting up and serving lunch for the 27 choir members and their family members who attend the concert on Sunday, December 11th. You are encouraged to enjoy the potluck with the concert choir. Please bring a large dish (casserole, etc) and a side dish so we will have enough food to serve everyone. If you cannot make the potluck personally, please bring a dish or two to feed a hungry bunch. Ladies Guild will be furnishing breakfast for the concert choir. The potluck lunch is open to the congregation and we hope to see you there. It is truly an opportunity to celebrate when we have the students from MLS entertain us with their music.

Our shut-ins

Please see your paper copy of the Newsletter or call the church office for information on our shut-ins.

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, a child of a peasant woman.
He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty,
Then became an itinerant preacher.
He never wrote a book.
He never held an office.
He never did one thing that usually accompanies greatness.
He had no credentials but Himself.
While still a young man, public opinion turned against Him.
His friends ran away.
One denied Him.
He went through the mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.
His executioners gambled for His only piece of property - His coat.
He was laid in a borrowed grave.
Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone.
Today He is the centerpiece of the human race.
All the armies that ever marched,
All the navies that ever sailed,
All the parliaments that ever sat,
And all the kings that ever reigned put together,

Rev. James Allan Francis wrote this. It comes from his sermon, Arise, Sir Knight.

Art Project

Mrs. Joyce Tafel needs used Christmas cards for an art project for her classroom. If you have some you've been wondering what to do with, the children in Kindergarten, first and second grades can make good use of them. You may leave them in the church office or give them directly to Mrs. Tafel.

News from the Pregnancy Counseling Center in Saginaw

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette shut down two late-term abortion facilities beginning November 21, 2011. Schuette filed a lawsuit to permanently dissolve Health Care Clinic of Delta township and the affiliated Women's Choice Clinic of Saginaw.

Pam Krueger, Director of Counselors of the Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center writes: Pray that the women looking for abortions will now come to the Pregnancy Counseling Center instead, where life is celebrated as a gift from God and abortion exposed for the awful sin it is.

Getting to Know You...

Jeff and Mischael Pitt

Mischael Pitt said, "We moved 16 times in 17 years. Russell had moved eight times by the time he was eight years old." The Pitt family moved as Jeff's job location moved. And the last move has brought them to Midland, Michigan where they have stayed the longest of any place since their marriage. Mischael said, "My vehicle is older than any place I have ever lived. My truck is seven years old and we've been in Midland four years.

But let's go back to the beginning of Jeff Pitt and Mischael Winter's lives.

Jeff Pitt was the first born son of Alan and Janice Pitt. A sister and a brother followed Jeff in the family lineup. Alan Pitt was a teacher and Janice was a teacher and a counselor. Jeff and his siblings were raised in Barryton, Michigan and his German Lutheran heritage goes back for generations. He attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw and then one year to MLC when it was still called Dr. Martin Luther College. He decided to attend Central Michigan University in Mt.

Pleasant where he proceeded to get his B.A and Master's degree. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Mischael was the last child and only daughter of Michael and Margaret Winters. She had four older brothers. Born in Flint, Michigan, by the time Mischael was in school the family had moved to Fenton, Michigan, a short drive from Flint. Michael Winters drove a truck delivering new cars to dealers and when their five children were in school, Margaret went to work, driving a truck and delivering new cars to dealers just like her husband. Mischael attended Luke M. Powers, a Catholic high school in Flint. After graduation, she went one year to a community college and then transferred to Central Michigan University where she met Jeff Pitt, her future husband.

When Jeff and Michael decided to marry, Jeff being Lutheran and Mischael being Catholic presented a challenge, but one that was resolved when Mischael became a Lutheran. Mischael said, "Jeff said we could get married in a Lutheran church or by a judge. One or the other." Being Catholic, Mischael wouldn't agree to being married by a judge. She sought the advice of a priest and asked him what the difference was between the Lutheran and the Catholic churches. He told her, "If you don't know the difference by now, you will never know." Mischael began taking Bible Information Classes from the pastor in Grand Blanc and when her teaching position took her to Florida for a year, she continued taking classes and was confirmed before marrying Jeff.

In August of 1991 Mischael Winters became Mrs. Jeff Pitt and they spent their honeymoon on Mackinac Island.

When they returned to begin their married life, they were living in Ann Arbor where Jeff was working on his dissertation for his Ph.D. Mischael got a job at a child care center and then taught at Whittemore-Prescott, a school between West Branch and Tawas. Later she taught at Hastings Public Schools until she was expecting their first son.

J. B. (Japheth Ballard) was born in January of 1997 three days before his father Jeff got his Ph.D. Four weeks later the Pitt family moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina where Jeff was employed for two and a half years. J. B. was named after Jeff's maternal grandfather, J. B. Morningstar. The initials J.B. liter-

ally were his entire name. J. B. Morningstar also had a brother who had only the initials R.D.. Mischael said, "The initials had to stand for something." So the name Japheth Ballard was chosen although J. B. is called by his initials today.

In 1999 Russell, their second son was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. A month later the family moved to Pennsylvania. They lived there for one year and then moved to Medina, Ohio where Jeff worked at WIL Research-Contract Lab. Russell was named after Mischael's paternal grandfather and a middle name was added to the baby, who was now Russell Addason. Mischael explained the spelling as a contraction of "add a son."

When their third son, Silas, was born the family was living in Ashland, Ohio with the growing family living in a condo until they could find a house they liked. Silas was born on January 1st, 2002. Mischael said, "I was sick the whole time I was carrying him." Silas was born three weeks early and was in Akron's Children Center for weeks. Silas' name came from the Bible but his middle name Notherson was a contraction for "another son."

Their last son was born in 2003 in Malvern, Pennsylvania and was named Sepp, a German nickname for Joseph. Sepp's legal name is Sepp Fourthson, with his middle name being a contraction of "fourth son."

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Jeff's job took the family then to Malvern, Pennsylvania and then the family lived in Macungie. Mischael said, "Macungie was my favorite place to live. I could walk the kids to school every day."

Jeff's peripatetic work schedule took the family to Research Triangle Park in North Carolina and then to Pennsylvania where he worked for Chrysalis. He also worked for WIL Research in Ashland, Ohio. His last job was at Sanofi Aventis in Pennsylvania before relocating to Midland where he is now working at The Dow Chemical Company. Working at Dow is not completely new for Jeff as he worked there during his college years and while he was working on his Master's and his Ph.D.

Both Jeff and Mischael have a strong parenting ethic with their four sons. "We want them to grow up to be responsible men," Mischael said. One example she gave was when Sepp kept forgetting his lunch all the time and Mischael would have to drop what she was doing and take a lunch to him at school. The fourth

time she refused to drive to school and take the lunch he had forgotten. Mischael said, "He never forgot his lunch again."

Another time one of her sons called and said he needed something right away and Mischael said no, she couldn't drive to school. When her son asked what she was doing that she couldn't drive to school, she replied, "It's none of your business what I'm doing. I'm not driving to school for you."

Johann Pestalozzi (1746-1827) wrote, Our home joys are the most delightful earth affords and the joy of parents in their children is the most holy joy of humanity.

Jeff and Mischael Pitt and their four sons confirm what Johann Pestalozzi wrote over 200 years ago.