

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Christmas – 700 years before Christmas

As we turn our attention to the celebration of our Savior’s coming into our world, it is important that we realize that there were those who were celebrating His coming, our Christmas, some 700 years before it happened. In the pen of the prophet Isaiah we have one of the great proclaimers of Christmas.

There are those who tell us that Isaiah should not only be listed in our minds as a prophet, but also we should think of him as an “evangelist” (that is, a gospel writer, a good news proclaimer and chronicler). Listen to what Isaiah, moved along by the Holy Spirit wrote almost 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

Before Christmas took place in time and space, God spoke through the “evangelist” Isaiah about who, not what, Christmas is. He wrote in chapter 53 of his prophecy:

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

*<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone stray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgement he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. (NIV)*

Isaiah spoke here of Christmas because he spoke in the language of substitution. What do I mean by “the language of substitution”? Well look at what Isaiah wrote: he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities or by his wounds we are healed !!! Is it any wonder that years ago one Bible commentator called this section of God’s Work “the

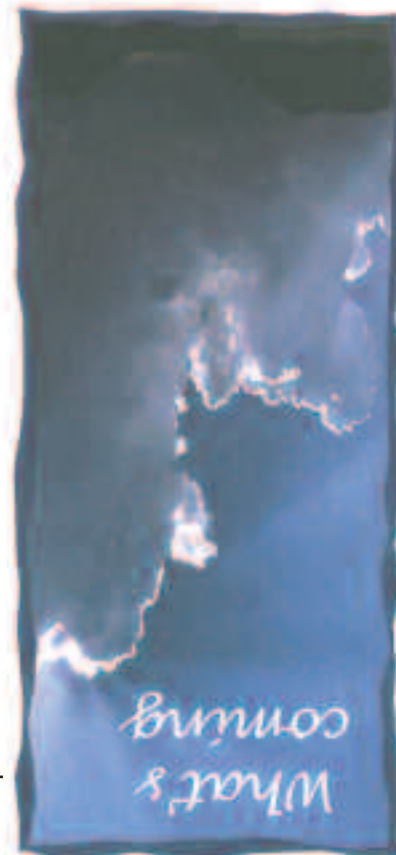
Gospel in pronouns”! Christmas is all about God, the Father sending His Son to be the one who would take our place in keeping perfectly His will for human beings and who would take our place in receiving the punishment – the death – that we deserved because of our disobedience. Paul echoes Isaiah when he wrote: *“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”* (Gal, 4:4)

Christmas is not about family and feasting, giving and receiving, lights and special liturgies. It is about Jesus, our substitute under God’s law and under God’s judgement. When we forget that Christmas is not about us, it is about Jesus, then we have lost the real lasting joy of this celebration.

So some 700 years before Christmas happened, Christmas was

*continued on page 2*

WEDNESDAY, FEB 10, 2016	ASH WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY, JAN 31, 2016	ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JAN 1, 2016	NEW YEARS DAY
THURSDAY, DEC 31, 2015	NEW YEARS EVE
FRIDAY, DEC 25, 2015	CHRISTMAS DAY
THURSDAY, DEC 24, 2015	CHRISTMAS EVE
SUNDAY, NOV 29, 2015	ADVENT BEGINS
THURSDAY, NOV 26, 2015	THANKSGIVING DAY



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# News and Notes

## A Message From Our Director, Tammy Neumann

This year has flown by so quickly and now we're getting ready for the holidays. Thanksgiving is just a few short days away and then begins the hectic Christmas season. Picking out the perfect gift, finding the right tree, baking cookies, wrapping presents, attending Advent services & Christmas programs at church - one scarcely has time to breath! So before getting caught up in the holiday rush, I want to take a moment to remember the true meaning of Christmas. "Keeping Christ in Christmas" is more than just a slogan on a billboard or bumper sticker to me. God so loved the world, so loved us, that He sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to be born that day. For us! What a beautiful gift to celebrate! So when you start to worry if the shopping isn't done, the cookies aren't baked, the cards aren't sent, please remember that Jesus' birth is the real celebration! God's Blessings and Merry Christmas to you all!



Tammy Neumann, Director

written about and rejoiced in by the people of God who looked forward to that event and knew that it would happen Why did they know that? They knew it because it came from the Lord God who cannot lie. They knew it because this promise came from the God whose promises never, never ever fail.

We may be looking back at what God accomplished in the sending of His Son, but like the evangelist, Isaiah, it is our joy that Jesus came to be our substitute and set us free from sin, death and Satan. The next time you read this portion of Isaiah, just remember that for Isaiah and his readers it was Christmas - 700 years before Christmas!!!!

Your servant in Christ,  
Rev. John F. Boehringer



### LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP?

Kwik Trip, Inc., a Wisconsin based company, assists organizations through the Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising Program. Kwik Card holders are able to designate Alpha Life Resource Center to receive a percentage of their Kwik Card purchases. Contact Kwik Trip, Inc. toll free at 888-736-KWIK (5945) and tell them you are interested in participating. Thank you!

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### Current Board Members:

Chairman/ Hispanic Interpreter: Pastor Dale Hella  
1st VP/Treasurer: Tom Pasch  
2nd VP/ Secretary: Pastor John Boehringer  
Property Maintenance: Ken Zastrow  
Member/Baby Bottle Fundraiser Chair: Jerry Brandt  
Members: Rodger Bobholz, Harold Peckham, Brian Krueger and Pastor Mark T. Wendland

### Current Alpha Life Resource Center - WISH LIST -

#### CLIENT SUPPLIES

- disposable baby wipes
- Disposable diapers (size 4 & 5 are always in demand)
- baby wash, shampoo, oil, lotion or diaper rash cream
- new toddler or children socks & underwear
- mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, winter coats, boots, shoes, new or gently used clothing infant to size 10/12

#### OFFICE SUPPLIES

- thank you notecards, postage stamps
- tissues, paper towel, toilet paper, disinfecting wipes
- 9-volt, AA, C or D batteries
- 13 gal. garbage bags
- hot cocoa packets (clients often enjoy a cup of cocoa while they're at the center!)

*Donations (or monetary equivalent with designation indicated) may be brought to: Alpha Life Resource Center  
313 E. Main Street, Watertown, WI 53094  
920-261-9207 or 800-924-6073  
Email: office@alphalifecenter.org*



### DONATIONS

*In Loving Memory*

Margaret Frank-Bauman given by  
Dick Waldschmidt  
And Betty Huebner  
Walter Fenz given by Luanna E. Fenz  
LeRoy Maass given by Jim & Linda Redfield

*In Honor of:*

Those Who Have Survived  
given by Scott & Heidi Voigt

*Special Gifts:*

- St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- Thrivent Choice Dollars & members Dorothy Genz, Jim Winters, James Moore
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Atkinson
- St. John's, Watertown, Ladies Fellowship-client & office supplies
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown- diapers & wipes
- St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Doylestown
- Bonita Dunham- for fall open house at center
- Kwik Trip & Kwik Star customers:  
Jim & Kimara Winters, Elaine Knief,  
Robb & Brenda Borchardt, Sandra Kastens,  
David Melcher, Denise & Gary Priem, Michael Quest,  
Samuel Uttech, Kristine Jaeger  
Oconomowoc Jr Women's League

*Thank you to all who support our mission.*

*God's Blessings This Holiday Season!*



*Thank you to all who support the center with donations of baby food, formula, wipes & diapers, new & gently used baby and children's clothing, footwear, small toys/books, cleaning, health & office products or handmade quilts, sweaters and blankets.*

## IN MEMORY

On September 1, 2015,  
God called home our friend  
and supporter – David Beduze.  
Dave was an active member of the  
Watertown Chamber of Commerce  
and the Main Street Program.  
He was a member of St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church, Ixonia and  
served on several boards and  
committees there.  
Dave regularly provided support  
for our Center as well.  
We will all miss him but  
take comfort in knowing that  
he is with his and our Savior.

## New Board Member

Welcome to our newest Board Member Harold Peckham. He is a member of St Mark's in Watertown. Harold is also on the national board of Christian Life Resources. Thanks for joining our mission!

## Donation

On October 17, the Richwood Rangers 4H group presented the Center with a donation of diapers, wipes and baby toiletries including baby lotion and powder. Representing the group was Ashlyn Rein, Marie Meier and their group leader Pam Rein. Additionally, Cathy Meier donated a large quantity of baby clothes. Our thanks to all for supporting our Mission.



## Planned Parenthood



You may or may not have seen the display windows done by Patrina Boehringer in response to the videos and headlines regarding Planned Parenthood selling body parts from aborted fetuses. Public response has ranged from total agreement to denial. Whether or not you agree with the strong statement made by the display, I think we are all outraged by the callous attitude of Planned Parenthood executives. Moreover, we should be equally outraged that, in Wisconsin, Planned Parenthood, has been the exclusive recipient of the federal Title X grant of \$3.5 million for several years

and will continue to receive it until 2017. These monies, while ear-marked for family planning services and breast and cervical cancer screenings, are a significant source of income for them. The Wisconsin Assembly has passed and sent onto the State Senate Assembly Bill 310 which directs the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services to apply for the grant. As of this writing, the bill is now with the Health and Human Services Committee. I urge you to contact your State Senator and encourage him or her to vote yes for this bill.



## From our Chairman of the Board

Harry Carry broadcast MLB games for the Cardinals, A's, White Sox and Cubs. He was known for his oversized glasses, singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and his overall enthusiasm for the game of baseball. He's especially known for his exciting home run call: It could be! It is! A home run! Perhaps Harry Carry could have brought this same enthusiasm to our celebration of Christmas.

We read, for example, that an angel appeared to Mary and announced the birth of Jesus. Has this become just another Bible story for us? If so, may the Holy Spirit teach us to say: It could be! It might be! It is! A virgin has conceived!

Later on we read that a child was laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Has this become just another birth announcement for us? If so, may the Holy Spirit teach us to say: It could be! It might be! It is! The Son of God is born!

Forty days later, we read about Simeon holding baby Jesus in his arms. Has this become just another gospel reading for us? If so, may the Holy Spirit teach us to say: It could be! It might be! It is! Our Savior is here! Our sins are forgiven! Eternal life is ours!

The extreme length and commercialization of the Christmas season make it so easy to lose our enthusiasm for the real meaning of what actually happened. Jesus was born to be our Savior!

It is my hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will renew our enthusiasm for the miracle of Christmas. In addition, it is my hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will renew our enthusiasm for the wonder of every child's birth. That every child is a miracle from conception ... an awesome and special creation from the Lord.

Therefore, it is my hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will renew our enthusiasm for the work of our Alpha Center... with our prayers, encouragement and financial support.

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich"*  
(2 Cor 8:9).

It could be! It might be! It is! Christmas is real!  
All life is precious!

*Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year!*

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Dale Hella



## Fall Banquet & Silent Auction

Together for Life was the theme of our annual Fall Banquet and Silent Auction. Held October 24 at the Plattdeutscher Hall in Watertown, we had 78 attendees. The auction items were plentiful and varied. The food was tasty (as always). Pastor Reuben Schmitz again acted as Master of Ceremonies. We were blessed as Pastor Fleischmann shared the message of Christian Life Resources mission and focused on changes that are not in line with this ministry. In honor of our 30th anniversary, Pastor Schmitz wrote a booklet which was distributed to all guests. Through God's grace, we raised over \$6,000.



Volunteers included Pastor Reuben Schmitz, Nancy Schmitz, Dennis Vanden Heuvel, Diana Michi, Joy Lenz, Wanda Fredrick and Tammy Neumann. Additionally, assisting in setting up were Pastor Dale Hella, Pastor John Boehringer and Jerry Brandt.

Other assistance was provided by Tom Pasch, Brian Krueger, Kim Winters and Patrina Boehringer. Thanks go out to the Luther Prep young ladies who acted as runners.

Of course, we must thank our many donors for their generosity in providing so many wonderful items. God Bless all for your support!



## Banquet Sponsors:

Thank you to the following individuals & ladies groups for kindly supporting our fundraiser with a monetary donation or silent auction item/baskets:

Darcy Wilson  
 Dorothy & Deanna Schuett  
 Maureen Wendland  
 Beth Lundsten  
 Janice Georgson  
 Carol Egelseer  
 Dennis & Lisa Vanden Heuvel  
 Karen Schadt  
 Nancy Schmitz  
 Matthea Lenz  
 St. John's, Jefferson, Ladies Aid  
 Immanuel, Johnson Creek/Farmington, Ladies Aid

St. Paul's, Fort Atkinson,  
 Ladies Aid & Carol Strassburg  
 Friedens Lutheran, Randolph, Ladies Aid  
 St. Peter's, Helenville, Ladies Aid  
 Immanuel, Hubbleton, Ladies Aid  
 St. John's, Juneau, Ladies Aid  
 St. Paul's, Ixonia, Ladies Aid  
 Bethany Lutheran Church, Hustisford,  
 Ladies Aid  
 St. John's, Newville, Ladies Aid  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam,  
 Ladies of Good Shepherd  
 St. Paul Mission Society, Lake Mills



Thank you to the following business for their generous donation of silent auction items:

Best Sound Service-Jim Huhn • Bruegger's Bagels • Rejuvenation Spa, • Tyranena Brewing Co. Paganicia Golf • Von Stiehl Winery • Hair Designers • Two Sisters Café • Buffalo Wild Wings Kim Valdez Salon • Garden Path Floral • Glenn's Market • Ken's Towne Inn • Bath & Body Works Hometown Pharmacy • Symbol Mattress • 7 Mile Pinecrest Resort • Watertown Piggly Wiggly Rock Lake Activity Center • Lewis Station Winery • Cutting Edge Hair Gallery • James J Chocolate Shop • Domani Salon & Spa • Windwood of Watertown • Sweet Talkin' Treats • Wine & Roses Schauer Arts Center • Rosatti's • Maxims at the Depot • AMC Theatres • Fendt Bros. Meat Market Perkins Restaurant • Vogue Cleaners • Church Street Shell Station • Watertown Country Club Hi-Way Harrys • Rose Garden Restaurant • Tribeca Gallery Café & Books • Capt'n's Steakhouse Walt Disney World Co • Madison Children's Museum • Road America Elkhart Lake • Budget Print Milwaukee World Fest-Summerfest • Milwaukee Repertory • Pier 39 • Shedd Aquarium • Green Bay Packers • Milwaukee Admirals • Milwaukee Bucks • Chula Vista Resort • Wild Wildebeest Lodge Milwaukee Art Museum • Panera Bread • Wisconsin Timber Rattlers • Helium Trampoline Park & Climbing • Adventure Rock Indoor Climbing Gym • Metropolis Resort & Conference Center

*Our apologies for any name omitted or mis-spelled*