Our Mission
As a family of believers united in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the members of Star of Bethlehem Congregation are committed, with the help of the Holy Spirit and directed by God's Word, to glorify God by

SERVING
The Triune God through regular worship and faithful use of the Sacraments.

TEACHING
God's Word to people of all ages so they can continually grow in faith.

ACKNOWLEDGING
That God's grace is the only means of saving sinners and God's Word is the only source of Truth.

REACHING
Out with our diverse gifts to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

SUPPORTING
One another in daily living – empowered by the freedom God’s forgiveness brings.

Come, Lord Jesus!

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

Are you ready for Jesus’ second coming? We are reminded often of our Savior’s promise to return. And his words bring us comfort when life his hard and times are troubling. Jesus gave this assurance to his disciples, “I am going there to prepare a place for you…I will come back and take you to be with me” (John 14:2,3).

From the early days of the Christian church until now, Jesus’ disciples have patiently waited his return in glory, keeping one eye on the work at hand, with the other eye looking heavenward for the long-expected One. And with trembling voice, those same believers have prayed the prayer of the saints found in John’s Revelation (22:20), “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

But, it may seem as though we have lost that burning desire to see Jesus return. Have we become too comfortable in the life we live here on earth? Why has the urgency of Jesus’ imminent return been replaced with complacency? Instead of asking that Jesus come soon, why are we inclined to pray, “Wait, Lord Jesus, just a little bit longer”?

It is because of God’s grace that we are blessed abundantly in this life. Family and friends, food and clothing, everything we need for life, God provides. Yet the Giver of those gifts also reminds us not to set our hearts on them or to treasure them too much. Perhaps this is partially why we are so slow to pray, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Because our eyes are not looking heavenward, and we are not anticipating the Lord’s return, we also become complacent toward the mission that Jesus gave his Church to carry out. We fail to act with urgency, thinking instead, “Why should we do today what we can put off until tomorrow?” But what if tomorrow is the day when Jesus finally comes back, and that co-worker or friend, or loved-one has not yet heard the Gospel?

In November we move into a part of the Christian Church Year that reminds us again and again that Jesus is coming back. In this “End Times” portion of the year the focus is clearly on the fact that Jesus will return to earth on the Last Day, accompanied by the heavenly hosts. For some, the thought of it strikes fear into the heart. But for us, it created joyful anticipation.

Let us join with God’s people in church during this “End Times” portion of the year so that we might be reminded of Jesus’ second coming, be readied to greet him, and realize the importance of sharing the Gospel now, while it is still day.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
Come soon, Redeemer, make us free
From ev’ry evil. Amen

(Christian Worship #207 v.6)
FAITH-FOCUSED FINANCES

A new subject will begin in our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class on November 8, at 9:20 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Allen Zahn will be here to lead us in the topic: Faith-Focused Finances. This topic was designed by our Synod’s Commission on Adult Discipleship. Each participant will receive a Bible study workbook with materials for this course. Subjects to be covered during the next 6 Sundays include:

- Fixing Your Eyes on Lasting Treasure
- Overcoming Worry
- Conquering Obstacles
- Using His Money Wisely
- Shifting Your Priorities, and
- Keeping Your Focus

Pastor Zahn has previously served congregations in Indianapolis, IN and Burlington, WI, as well as serving a portion of his ministry as a professor at Northwestern Prep in Watertown, WI. We hope you will join us for this timely topic in our economically-challenging world. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board, so that we may be sure to have enough study manuals available. Portions of the course materials also include some interesting video segments. This course will take us through the middle of December and will conclude our first semester of Adult Bible Class prior to our Christmas break. The new semester will begin on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 9:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving Services

We will be having two Thanksgiving Services; one, on Wednesday, November 25, at 6:30 p.m.; and another on Thursday, November 26, at 9:30 a.m. Both Services will be the same. Please invite family members, co-workers, neighbors and friends to join us at Star of Bethlehem for our Thanksgiving Services.

Annual Veterans’ Day Observance

Wisconsin Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Veterans Day observance on Wed., Nov. 11. “Serving that Others Might Live” is the theme. A buffet breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. The Chapel Service will be at 8:30 a.m. Please RSVP to the high school by Tuesday, November 3. To reserve a spot, please contact Nancy at the high school by calling 414-453-4567, ext. 2013.

Door Collection for Camp Phillip

Congregations that are members of the Camp Phillip Association of Congregations are asked to have a door collection for Camp Phillip sometime throughout the year. We will be having our door collection on Sunday, November 1. As a result, members of Star of Bethlehem will receive a 10% discount on all camp fees throughout the year. Thank you for your support of Camp Phillip!

Area Reformation Service

Christ Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, Hwy. 164 and Capitol Drive, will be the site for our Area Reformation Service. The Service will be held on November 1 at 3:30 p.m. Synod President Mark Schroeder will be the Guest Speaker. A children's choir and an adult choir from area congregations will enhance the Service. The Service is sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Chapter of the WELS Kingdom Workers. A free will offering will be taken to help support WELS Kingdom Worker mission projects. Light refreshments will be served following the Service. You are cordially invited to attend.

Advent Season

The season of Advent (coming) begins on Sunday, November 29 and Monday, Nov. 30. We will again have Midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays during Advent; Dec. 2, 9 and 16, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate again our Savior’s birth and eagerly anticipate the day of His return.
Congratulations to the Chief!

Russell Jack, our member, was recently sworn in as the new Chief of Police in the City of Waukesha. Congratulations, Russ, on achieving this honorable position, and may the Lord bless your service to the citizens of Waukesha.

WELCOME!

We welcome to Star of Bethlehem this month the following: Tara Bourgeois and her daughter, Lydia; Zach and Sara Lamp and their son Collin; Charlie and Qun Xing and their sons, Benny and Theodore; Corrinne Wagner and Crystal Helsinki. We also welcome through Holy Baptism, Faith Larabee. May the Lord keep each one of you connected to our Savior and enable you to grow in faith through your participation in our Star of Bethlehem family.

Early Field Experience

Patrick Freese, a 2nd year student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and a member of our congregation, and Adam Winkelmann, a 1st year student, have been assigned to do their early field experience here at Star of Bethlehem. Both will be getting various tastes of ministry by observing our pastoral staff, participating in meetings, making some hospital and shut-in visits, conducting liturgy and preaching a few times throughout the year. May the Lord bless this portion of their training for the pastoral ministry among us!

BUDGETARY UPDATE

As our economy continues to struggle, our offerings have also dipped behind last year’s budget at this time. Our budget for 2009 called for a 2.5% increase. We have experienced about a 2% decrease. Please look at the blessing of God’s continuing grace in Christ Jesus. There is no decline in his promises, his continued forgiveness, his sure hope of heaven. Many are experiencing financial hardships due to the economy; however, most are not. May we continue to work together to carry out our Mission and Ministry plan for 2009 100% by year’s end. Thank you for your on-going and faithful use of God’s resources to carry out his work in New Berlin and throughout the world!

YOUTH AND MEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUES

Our youth team and men’s team are planning to participate again in WELS basketball leagues this season. Our youth play at various WELS churches throughout the area. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board. This league is for high-school-aged youth who do not participate on their respective high school team. The team will be coached this season by Jim Garbe and Pastor Nitz.

The men compete in a league hosted by our church called the Star Men’s Basketball League. 12-14 teams from various WELS churches compete each Sunday against one another. The season concludes with participation in the State Lutheran Men’s Basketball Tournament in March. Our Star men are the two-time defending champions of the State Lutheran Tournament. If anyone would like to participate on our Star Men’s team, please speak with Pastor Gawrisch or Marc Meyer.

WLHS Spaghetti Dinner

The WLHS Choir Associates will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner at the high school on Friday, Nov. 6, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door.

FOOD BARREL

Between now and Thanksgiving, food barrels will be placed throughout our church and school. Non-perishable food items will be collected and distributed to our Inner-City Food Pantries. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

DART BALL

We now have our first Dart Ball Team. Andy Smith and Larry Schaefer have organized our men to participate in a league on Thursday nights with other WELS churches. Some games are home, others away. The team is enjoying its first season in this longtime sport but new activity for our men. Come down and watch an interesting sport on the lower level, whenever home games are held here at Star.

STAR TIP-OFF CLASSIC

Our Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Elementary School’s first basketball tournament of the season is coming up on Nov. 20-22. If you would like to help out with various tasks, please sign up on the athletic bulletin board by the school’s main entrance. Any assistance over the tournament would be greatly appreciated. Meanwhile, good luck to our Star teams on another exciting basketball season!
**Cookie Bakers Needed**

WELS Lutherans for Life – Waukesha Chapter will have a booth at the World’s Greatest Cookie Sale at Country Springs Hotel on Friday, November 27. If you would like to bake and donate some homemade Christmas cookies, your help would be greatly appreciated. Information sheets are available on the back counter in the gathering area, or call Shelly Garbe at 262-679-6813.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is holding its Open House on Sunday, Nov. 8th, with an opening presentation beginning at 6pm. You can meet teachers, tour the school, enjoy student presentations, and learn how academic excellence and Christian values can make a difference in your child’s life. All are welcome.

This comedy will be put on by the students of Wisconsin Lutheran High School on November 6-7 at 7:30 p.m., and on November 8 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are $6.00/adults and $3.00/children. You are cordially invited to attend.

**ANDY & RACHEL PERFORM NOVEMBER 5 AT GRACE DOWNTOWN**

Local musicians Andy and Rachel Braun will perform Thursday, November 5 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Grace Place Coffee, 250 E. Juneau Avenue. Andy and Rachel, graduates of WLC, specialize in playing all the songs you know and love from the 1950’s through today! In addition to their wide and appealing variety of cover music, listen for Andy’s insightful and diverse original compositions.

**WLHS FRUIT SALE**

WLHS is again taking orders for various fruit packages (including red grapefruit, Hamlin oranges, navel oranges, and tangolos) to be shipped directly from Florida. All proceeds will benefit our Veteran’s Day celebration. Use the insert included for details, prices and an order form, or go to www.wlhs.org to find a form. You will be notified when the shipment from Florida has arrived and your order is ready to be picked up!

**Mothers and grandmothers needed!**

Are you an experienced mother? Are you a great auntie and nurturer? Would you like to help young single moms learn to love and care for their babies? This is your opportunity to pass on the basics of Spirit-led mothering to the next generation. WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee needs leaders (women of any age) for the Loving Moms program. We provide all training and materials necessary for you to work with the expecting and new moms 2 hours (or more) each month. Please call 414-727-8176 for more information. You can make a difference in one life and the next generation!

**Tour to Spain, March 2010**

Pastor Richard Krause (Christ, Pewaukee) and Professor (Mrs.) Sibylle Krause (Wisconsin Lutheran College), will host a tour of Spain Mar 5-14, 2010. Tour includes Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, Torremolinos, Gibraltar and Seville. Fully escorted with group departure from Milwaukee. See www.tempostravelservice.com for details, or contact Pastor by email at: pastorkrause@christpewaukee.org.

**Star Bowling: Season II**

Bowl to have an enjoyable time with another every other Sunday night at the New Berlin Bowl. Singles, couples, etc. are divided into teams and compete in a bowling league. Occasionally, there will be an opening on a team. If you would like to bowl as a regular substitute, please speak with Pastor Nitz, League Coordinator.

**WELS News: Church damaged by fire**

On Wed., Oct. 14, a fire damaged St. John, Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada. No one was in the building when the fire started. However, this was the second church in Wetaskiwin to catch fire within 24 hours, so area police are labeling the fire “suspicious” and investigating the cause of the blaze.

The fire appears to have started in St. John’s cryroom. That room is completely destroyed. The heat of the fire then melted the light fixtures within the sanctuary, causing more fires to begin. These secondary fires damaged the church organ and lectern. Three support beams in the entryway of the church are charred and as a result the building may be destroyed rather than repaired.

Rev. Daniel Habben, who serves part time at St. John, says, “Even though we are unsure what the future of the building may be, members are committed to continuing to gather together.”

The congregation met for a Sunday worship service at a local senior citizens’ center on Oct. 18. Habben encouraged members to share their reactions to the fire and then led members in singing their favorite hymns and in a short devotion.

**Grace Place Coffee**

is a full service coffee shop, open daily to serve downtown Milwaukee. Staffed by volunteers of Grace Lutheran Church, Grace Place seeks to reach out in the community through events and programs, and provide fellowship for the Grace congregation. Grace Place brews Stone Creek Coffee.