

Advent & Christmas 2011

The First Sunday of Advent—November 27

Worship celebration at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
The Hanging of the Greens, following second service (see page 6).

The Second Sunday of Advent—December 4

Worship celebration at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion at both services.



Christmas Celebration—December 11 at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

A special Christmas Celebration will be presented at both worship services. The celebration will feature music by our church choir and a program created by the Sunday school children and youth called “Christmas Through Our Eyes” (see page 4).

The Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18

Worship celebration at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. with Holy Communion at both services.

December 18th, 2:00—4:00 p.m. Let's Go Caroling!

Children, youth, adults! Let's have a good time!

“Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known . . .” So wrote Isaac Watts about 400 years ago (*UM Hymnal*, #732). Let's give it a try! Let's go caroling –

We'll meet at church and then provide maps to visit the homes of homebound members and friends of our congregation and booklets of carols from which to sing.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact Ken Gelhaus: Kgelh2@charter.net.



Christmas Eve—December 24

4:30 p.m.

Intergenerational Worship & Candlelight Service

9:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion & Candlelight Service

Christmas Morning—December 25

One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday school this Sunday or January 1st.

*The Office will be closed Monday, December 26
and Monday, January 2.*

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Methodist Church**
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Monday-Thursday 9–3 p.m.

Published by Divine Savior United Methodist Church, this newsletter keeps members and friends informed of programs of the church and shares news about the congregation. It is mailed in the middle of each month.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, September 11, 2011.

Church Staff

Rev. Chris Bethke, Pastor
Rev. Amber Wolover, Christian Ed, Servant Ministry
April Day, Karen Weatherwax, Sunday Morning Nursery
Lorraine Pilgrim, Organist
Eileen Porter, Choir Director
Virgil Jurrens, Bookkeeper
Barbara Dick, Newsletter Editor
Terry & Muriel Henderson, Missionaries



Looking Ahead

Newsletter Deadlines

Sun., Dec., 11 2011

Sun., Jan 15, 2012

Mailing Date

Wed., Dec. 14, 2011

Wed., Jan. 18, 2012

We always welcome volunteers willing to help assemble the newsletter on Wednesday mornings (9:00 to 11:30 a.m.) on the mailing date.

Youth Ministry News

Youth Ministry 2011 Fall and Early Winter Schedule

Nov. 20	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Dec. 2-3	6:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Lock-In at church

No Youth Fellowship meeting in December

Youth Ministry 2012 Late Winter and Early Spring Schedule

Jan. 15	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Jan. 22	After church (Sack Lunch)	Sledding, Garner Park
Feb. 5	After church (Sack Lunch)	Souper Bowl/Shopping
Feb. 12	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Feb. 26	After church (Sack Lunch)	Epic Tour
March 11	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
March 25	Sunday Late Aft/Evening only	Grace Shelter
April 15	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
April 22	1:30 p.m.	Kat Trio (All church event)
April 29	After church	Devil's Lake
May 13	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship



Mission & Adult Education News

Focus on Hunger

The Divine Savior Mission Team invites you to fight hunger right here in Madison, Wisconsin, by supporting the following ongoing efforts. Together, we can help many, so consider donating your time, food and money to feed those who are hunger in our community.



Next Food Pantry Focus – Food for the Holidays

Thank you to everyone who donated lunch food items for the Lussier Food Pantry last month, and to the Ford Family for delivering the donations. The cart was overflowing, and your generosity is very much appreciated. In November and December we will be looking forward to the holidays, so consider donating food served for big family dinners such as canned veggies, Jell-o, canned fruit, cranberries, pumpkin, pie filling, stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy mix, etc. Your donations will make this holiday season a lot more “merry” for many families in our community!

Looking Ahead . . . Divine Savior to Serve Meals at the Homeless Shelter December 29–30.

Your help will be needed providing and transporting food, as well as serving supper and breakfast. Watch for the volunteer poster in the Narthex in December. Thank you for your help with this mission outreach!

Adult Education Classes

Advent Study: Expecting the Word Devotional Study

Led by Steve Mayeshiba

4 Tuesdays—November 29, December 6, 13, & 20 at 1:00 pm OR 6:30 pm



This discussion group will consider selections from “Expecting The Word,” a collection of meditations for the Advent season. These selections raise questions about how we use words to frame our relationships with each other, our world, our God. “Expecting The Word” is downloadable from the following web address:

<http://wordsmatter.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/advent-devotions.pdf>.

Take a few moments to read the devotion for each day of Advent and then consider joining one of the Tuesday discussion groups to share observations about what you have read (daytime option at 1:00 and evening class at 6:30). Both groups will meet in the Multipurpose Room.

Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith

Led by Ken Gelhaus

9:40–10:30 Sunday Mornings, January 8, 15, 22, & 29 in the Multipurpose Room

You are invited to participate in four conversations about the issues of immigration as seen through the lens of biblical faith. Using the Bible, a study guide for churches created by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and informational single-paged handouts, we will share our thoughts, dreams, fears and hopes as we speak and listen with one another.

Ken Gelhaus (Kgelh2@Charter.net) invites your suggestions and questions for this exploration.



Sunday School News

Christmas Celebration—December 11

This year's special Christmas Celebration will be presented on **Sunday, December 11 at both worship services.** The celebration will feature music by our church choir and a program created by the Sunday school children and youth, "Christmas Through Our Eyes." This program will feature a slide show of art created by the students to depict various scenes contained in the Christmas story. The original art pieces will be on exhibit in Fellowship Hall to allow you to have a closer look at the talents of our students. Be sure to mark your calendars for this special celebration.



Sunday School Mission Project—A Tree for Me



The Sunday school students have reached almost half of their goal for this semester's mission project: A Tree for Me. In this project, every dollar donated will plant one tree in a National Forest where there has been damage due to fire or natural disasters. Right now we have enough money to purchase and plant 45 trees. Let's see if we can work together to raise enough money by the end of January to reach our goal of 100 trees. Thank you for your support of this project that helps us care for God's Creation.

Adult Sunday School—Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts

Each Sunday morning from 9:40 to 10:30, a group gathers in the Adult Education classroom downstairs to unwrap one spiritual gift and learn how the gifts work together to help build up the body of Christ. If you don't know what a spiritual gift is, come on down and find out!

So far, the nature of spiritual gifts and the gifts of Administration, Apostleship, and Compassion, Discernment, Evangelism, Exhortation, Faith, and Giving have been discussed. In the coming weeks, we will explore Healing, Helping, and Knowledge. We will take a class break on Thanksgiving weekend. You don't have to know your gifts to join the class, and you might just find out what they are as we share!

Once we have worked through the list of twenty spiritual gifts covered by our inventory, we will explore how those gifts cluster and the other discovery tools shared at the launch event in September: Leadership/Interaction Styles and the Web of Spirituality Types. Don't know what those are? Just ask Barbara or Dan or Chris or Amber or anyone who attended the launch event.



Additional Opportunities to Discover Your Gifts

In addition to the Sunday school class, we are exploring a variety of options for offering the gifts discovery process to more people. The possibilities include 2-hrs. after church, 2-hrs. midweek evening, 3-hrs. Saturday morning, 6-hrs. Saturday (includes 2 additional discovery tools). Please let us know which of these options you would attend and if you require childcare. We will develop a schedule based on your responses.

Contact Barbara Dick (barbara.a.dick@gmail.com) or the church office. If you want to unwrap your spiritual gifts, set them free to work for your good and the good of the body of Christ, come and explore with us!



Choir News

A Few Personal Notes from the Choir Director, Eileen Porter

Friends, it is a delight to be among you! I look forward to getting to know you all, and as a “prelude,” I’d like to share a little about myself.

I grew up in the Methodist Church in LaCrosse, Kansas, and I have been active in music ministry all my life as a choir member, soloist, pianist, arranger, and director of a variety of choral groups. I served in those roles at the Algoma Boulevard UMC in Oshkosh (where my son, Spencer, grew up) and later at the New Horizons UMC in Columbia, Missouri. About 10 years ago I was confirmed as an Episcopalian when I married Dale Veerhusen, a “cradle Episcopalian.” I was deeply involved in music ministries at our parish, Calvary Episcopal, in Columbia. When Dale retired, I took the opportunity to search for a new academic position, and I was delighted to find one here at the University of Wisconsin, where I am Professor of Nursing. My main research focus is the health-related experiences of older women who live alone at home. Dale and I belong to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, where I sing in the choir and take part in a variety of worship-related ministries. I have long been active in Church World Service and the CROP Hunger Walk, and I serve on the Planning Team for the Madison-Dane County Walk. In addition to digging in the garden and chasing after three cats, I spend as much time as I can with Spencer, his wife, Emily, and grandchildren (Wellstone, age 3, and Harper, age 1).

I am more excited than I can say about being the Choir Director at DSUMC! I will be with you several Sundays a month, for both services when the Choir sings, and occasionally only for the 8:30 service before departing to sing or serve in other ways at St. Andrew’s. If I haven’t had a chance to meet you, I hope to do so soon! If you enjoy singing or if you play an instrument, please let me know! You can reach me by e-mail at hporter2@wisc.edu. We would love to have YOU involved – singing, playing an instrument, or both!

Choir Notes

In December, you will have two chances to sing with us or listen to us!

Christmas Program, Dec. 11. The Choir will sing two pieces! “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn,” will feature Loraine on piano and Amber on the electronic keyboard, playing a French horn part and an oboe part. “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come,” by Paul Manz is a classic Advent anthem, and we are delighted to offer it, assisted by Lauri Treddinick on violin!



We will rehearse on Wednesday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. We gather at 6:45 p.m. and practice from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.! Enter at the “back door” near the Multipurpose Room. Please join us!

Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m. service. We will sing a lovely anthem by John Rutter called “A Gaelic Blessing.” We are thrilled that Warren Moe will join us to sing the solo embedded within the choral arrangement! The text of this beloved anthem is replete with the imagery of evening intertwined with the offering of blessings, such as, “Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.” Our anthem concludes with the message we would share with the world as we anticipate our Savior’s birth. “Peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.”

We will schedule a special rehearsal to practice this anthem close to Christmas Eve. The rehearsal information will be in the bulletin Sunday, December 18!

Questions? Contact Eileen Porter at hporter2@wisc.edu.



Church News



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Bill and Helen Whitmus to Divine Savior UMC. They live in Madison and are transferring from Madison Asbury United Methodist Church.

They bring spirit, energy and their own unique gifts and skills to our faith community; we look forward to being in mission and ministry with them!

CHURCH CONFERENCE - Monday, November 28, 6:30 p.m.

During our annual Church Conference we elect leaders and make decisions regarding the ministry and mission of the church for the coming year. Remember that while all who relate to this congregation have voice, only those who are present at the conference and are church members are able to vote.

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Sunday, November 27th, after second service

Please join us as we prepare the Narthex and Sanctuary for the season of Advent. We will meet after second service and begin with a lunch of barbeque. Beverages will be provided; please bring a salad or dessert to share. As always, there will be a task for everyone—tall and short, young and young at heart—we would love to see you there. We have two trees to trim, garland to be hung and cranberries and popcorn to string. If you have any questions, please contact the church office (238-7753).

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year during the Christmas season, we decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettia plants. All plants are in 6 1/2" pots and will be wrapped with foil and a decorative bow. Plants may be taken home after the last service on Christmas Eve.

Return form to church office or drop in collection plate on Sunday.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 5, 2011.

NAME _____

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia plants at \$15 each. Please specify color.

_____ red _____ white _____ pink _____ red/white speckled _____ burgundy (deep red)

TOTAL _____

Plant(s) given in honor of _____

In memory of _____

All names will be listed in the Christmas church bulletins. Please make checks payable to Divine Savior UMC and mark "poinsettias."





Cookie Walk and Used Book Sale Saturday, December 3, 9–Noon

Our Christmas cookie and used book sale is coming up very quickly. Something new we've added this year: coffee, tea and conversation. A few tables and chairs will be set up in Fellowship Hall, so you can linger a while before you head out on your Saturday errands. Purchase your cookies, books, and a cup of coffee or tea and stay for conversation.



For those donating cookies, bring 4 dozen -- more if you'd like. Homemade candy is also welcome. Cookies and candy will be sold for \$8 a pound. Bring your books to the church library by 3 p.m. on November 30, sooner if possible. Mark them for the book sale. Bring cookies and candy to the church from 4:30 to 7:30 on Friday evening, Dec. 2 or between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Signup sheets for working and for baking will be posted on the UMW bulletin board in the Narthex during the week of November 14. All proceeds from the sale will go to local food pantries. Thank you for helping the UMW with this mission project. Talk to Mary Weatherwax, Shirley Behm, or any member of the UMW mission team if you have questions.

Morning Circle Christmas Luncheon Wednesday, December 7

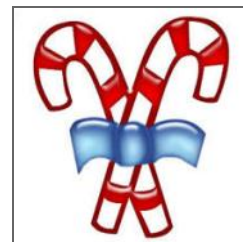
Morning Circle will hold its Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 7, at 11:30 at Babes Restaurant on Schroeder Road (across from Vitense Miniature Golf). Please check the UMW bulletin board in the Narthex for details or call Edith Sylvester.

Reading Group, Sunday, December 11, 7p.m.

The Reading Group will have its regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, December 11, at 7 p.m. in the church Library. Come help select new books from the 2012 Reading Program list. There are now five categories, including books for youth and children. Come learn more about the categories and help set the reading group's direction for 2012. For more information contact Shirley Behm.

Unit Christmas Party, Saturday, December 17, 2 p.m.

Please save the date for our annual unit Christmas Party. This will be a time to share the joys of UMW membership and to reflect upon the year's mission projects. The 2012 mission team will be installed. More details will be posted on the bulletin board at the end of November. Contact Sue Plasterer if you have questions.



Divine Savior United Methodist Church

5702 South Hill Drive
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Church School and
Adult Christian Education**

9:30 a.m.

Child care available all morning

NOVEMBER



**Divine Savior United
Methodist Church**