



The Tidings

Saron United Church of Christ W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085 920-467-6202

December 2016

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THE CRADLE MOON

On the edge of town in the Judea hills, a family of two shared space barely adequate for one. The town was Bethany and the space could be called a hovel. It was occupied by Malachi and his wife of promise named Sarah. He was a shepherd, one of the many who were employed by flock owners who lived in town. Sarah worked as a laundress for a Roman family and gathered sticks and brambles as fuel for cooking and heating. To say they lived in poverty understates their existence. As for social standing, they had none. They had each other. That was their life and until a fateful night, that was to be their destiny.

It came to pass that Sarah along with other serfs in the Roman household, listened to the murmurs of an old woman assigned to them as their superior.

It was the time of a strange moon called by the elite, a horned moon. It was said to pierce the sky and was deemed a sign of ominous nights and fierce days. So it was said. It was said by the men of power who station in life was not be questioned.

But the old woman, the one in charge of those who swept the floors and washed the clothes, who tended the children and toted the garbage, she mumbled to her charges something different. She declared to them that the moon was a cradle moon and it had nothing to do with fierceness or the compelling reason men sometimes used to justify cruelty, of the time when wages could be withheld and employment terminated.

The old women declared to her charges that the cradle moon was a sign of promise, a time of hope. So, it was that Sarah passed the word to Malachi.

"A cradle moon" he repeated. "I can't wait to tell my friends on the hill."

"Don't mock me, Malachi. It's a hope, and hope should never be diminished. It sometimes is all we have."

So, it was that the horned moon, as Malachi called it, climbed into a cloven sky, a heavenly scene brought a sound to earth – "and this shall be a sign... you'll find a child... in Bethlehem.... cradled...."

And, as time moves on to time, and way leads onto way, it came to pass that one called Mary along with her sister Martha, told the story of their mother named Sarah and father named Malachi (who became residents in the town of Bethany) related the word told to many, "You see, there was a time when a cradle moon sailed the skies and a child was born. A child, the hope of the world; the Word of God."

Warmly,

Rev. Huntzinger



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

As we enter the Advent Season, we do so with a feeling that returns year after year. The theme of the entire Advent Season this year is "The Hope of the World". Each week a different theme will be portrayed:

November 27th The First Sunday of Advent—"Christmas is Coming"

<u>December 4th</u> The Second Sunday of Advent – "Hanging of the Greens" – Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Following the service – Time of Fellowship with Lunch following the late service followed by the decorating of the Narthex Christmas Tree and ending the day by Caroling to Saron's homebound.

<u>December 7th</u> Christmas Trimmed in Blue – Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m. (See details of service in separate writeup)

<u>December 11th</u> The Third Sunday of Advent – "The Light of the World"

December 18th The Fourth Sunday of Advent - "Songs of Christmas" at the 8:00 a.m. Service

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at the 10:15 a.m. service

Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 & 9:00 p.m. with the singing of "O Holy Night" by Rev. Huntzinger. Holy Communion will be served at both services.

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day Service with one service only at 9:30 a.m.

<u>Sunday, January 1st</u> First Sunday of the New Year – 2017. One service only at <u>9:30 a.m.</u>
Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Hanging of the Greens & Caroling to our Homebound

On Sunday, December 4th, ALL members and friends of Saron are invited to stay after the 2nd service to prepare the church and narthex for the Christmas season and to share lunch. Following lunch and decorating, ALL are



invited to go Christmas caroling to Saron's homebound to bring them some holiday cheer. Join in the fun; share your spirit! All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray costs of the lunch.

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"CHRISTMAS TRIMMED IN BLUE" is scheduled for Wednesday Evening, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. Special Music by Rebecca Charbonneau

It is a certainty that some of us will find this Christmas Season to be more difficult in experiencing the joy we'd like to feel. The loss of someone we love leaves a lingering pain in our hearts, and we seek to have the caring we need to acknowledge our loss during this time. It is also true that others experience the "cast of blue" at Christmas, because they have lost their job, or can't seem to climb out of debt. Others have experienced divorce, and still others find themselves with deep concerns about their health or the health of someone very dear to them. Whatever the reason, Christmas for some is tinged with blue this year. For those people, for all of us who for one reason or another, sense a need to reflect, to honor, to link arms in regard for one another, we have this opportunity to share in experiencing the respite that comes from our oneness in Christ. All are invited to share the strength of our togetherness at this special service of worship.

It is my hope that the spirit of the season will enter the hearts and minds of all of you, and that you and yours will enjoy the happiness of this Holy Day. As a birth makes all things take on the glow of promise and hope and love, may this Christmas set your hearts aglow with the wonder of a child who touched heaven while cradled on earth. Merry Christmas!

E. Huntzinger

Bring an ornament to share for the memory tree (can be taken home after the service).

A remembrance item will be given out to take home.



2016 CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CORSS & EMERGENCY FUND

Beginning Sunday, November 27th 2016, and continuing throughout Advent, offering envelopes will be available to support the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund. This offering is used to support retired clergy in the UCC with pension and healthcare premium supplementation, where needed, and provides emergency assistance to clergy whose homes or families experience a financial crisis whether due to illness, natural disaster, etc. To receive credit on your yearly statement for your contribution please make your checks payable to Saron UCC.







Spread some Christmas Joy!





Christmas is a time of caring, a time of sharing, and a time of love.

Open up your heart this Christmas season and help make someone else's Christmas a joyful time too.

The Women's Guild will be sponsoring families whose children are in the Sheboygan County Head Start program. On the Advent Tree you will find angel ornaments. These angels will list everyday items that these families are in need of. Also there will be clothing items and some toys.

Again this year we want to bring joy at Christmas time to some senior citizens in the area who otherwise would not receive a gift. You will find that all the heart ornaments will be gifts for the Seniors. It is surprising how a small gift will fill their hearts with happiness.

The Advent Tree will be decorated with angels and hearts to pick from on Sundays, November 27th, December 4th and 11th. We invite you to take an ornament, purchase the item, wrap it, attach the ornament to the gift and bring it back to church **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th.** The gifts will be delivered on Monday December 19th.

No time to shop or don't just care to, but would like to help? You can make a cash donation and the Women's Guild will do the shopping for you.

Let's be God's angels and warm the hearts of others.

Thank you, The Women's Guild

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee has been meeting to develop the Local Church Profile for the selection process. Beginning the 1st of the year we will be reaching out to the various groups at Saron for question and answer sessions to help with the Local Church Profile. We will also be providing general sessions for anyone that has not had an opportunity to provide input from the Saron group sessions. Keep your eyes open for session times in 2017.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members listed below with any questions or feedback.

Amanda Boedecker Nate Dassow Jay Grosshuesch Marilyn Heiden Gayle Holzmann Kelly Rabe Eugene Rautmann





THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on *Sunday, December 18th at the 10:15 a.m. worship service.* (We will meet during the Sunday School hour, 9:05 a.m. that morning to get ready/rehearse).



Practices will be held as follows:

8:00—10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10th

Time To Be Announced for Wednesday, December 14th

8:00-10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 17th

Parents:

We will be looking for volunteers to help us make the program successful! Please look for a sing-up in the narthex in November. Thanks you!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING INFORMATION

- The deadline for all financial contributions to Saron must be at the Church office NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM December 28th, to be counted for the 2016 year.
- The Annual Meeting of Saron United Church of Christ will take place SUNDAY, JANUARY 22th, 2017, following the 10:15 a.m. service.
- ALL GROUPS/COMMITTEES with financial accounts must submit a year-end report to Kari Mooney, Financial Secretary, by January 8th, 2017.



Christmas Shopping with Scrip

Many of you are familiar with our Scrip program where you purchase a gift card from the scrip table and from each purchase a percentage goes back to the church. Many cards are available from grocery stores, gas stations, shops, restaurants and many more. Many Scrip cards are on hand and you can purchase them at the Scrip table. If you don't see a card you would like, just ask the person at the Scrip table about it. You can order cards one Sunday and we will have them for you the next Sunday. Some of the cards and the percentages they are currently paying are listed on the board next to the Scrip table. Check it out as and save yourself some time and energy doing your Christmas shopping this year.

Saron members can also go online to <u>www.shopwithscrip.com</u> to see all the cards that are available and if you choose to order and pay online please call or e-mail the church office for Saron's Enrollment Code. You can sign up for "Presto Pay" where you can pay for your cards when you order and the cards will be delivered to church.



WHAT TO DO IF WE ARE HAVING BAD WEATHER

Winter is here! We hate to cancel worship, but if we need to, Tune in to WHBL 1330 AM (Sheboygan), Milwaukee TV Stations 4 (WTMJ), FOX 6, 12 (WISN), 58 (CBS 58) or Green Bay TV Stations 2 (WBAY), 5 (WFRV), or 11 (WLUK); call the church office to listen for a cancellation message (467-6202) or check the church website for a cancellation notice (www.saronucc.org).



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped in any way with the Fall Clean-up in and around our church. Your willingness to volunteer your time to help with the projects to get Saron ready for the winter season showed the true caring nature of our church family. Once again "thanks" for the great response it was heartwarming to see!



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ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE:

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Our purpose is to enhance the mission and outreach of Saron UCC. The funds are retained and preserved and only income earned on original gifts are expended. The gifts will be accumulated until the principal amount is \$100,000.00.



The minimum amount for giving has been changed from \$1000.00 to \$250.00.

Once the Endowment Fund reaches \$100,000.00 the income is distributed in accordance to the following guidelines:

Christian Education, Community Services and Wider Mission or Saron UCC Programs

There are several ways to consider giving to the Endowment Fund: gifts of cash or marketable securities, bequest in your will, charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trust, charitable gift annuity or beneficiary designation. Please consult with a tax or financial advisor to see which option may be of benefit to you.

If you have questions please feel free to contact any one of the committee members: Carla Ross, Jerry Quilling, Kathy Roehl, Judy Glander or Joan Laack.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

"THE LORD'S PRAYER" is the title of the children's book recently purchased thanks to the Saron Consistory's decision to make the book available for Saron's children and their families.

Marion Jarvis, our church librarian, will be placing it on the children's shelf in the narthex. Parents of our Sunday School children will be able to check it out and read it with their child or their family.

THOMAS KINKADE, a famous artist, is the author and illustrator of this beautiful book.





In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Those who are homebound or in care centers: Janice Hartmann (Pine Haven, Haven Drive Campus), Norb Meyer (Pine Haven, Haven Drive Campus) llene Struve (Rocky Knoll), Marilyn Perronne (at home), Mae Schmidt (at home), Beverly Kleinhans (at home) Harold (Pinky) and Dorothy Grunewald (Terrace Estates) Shirley Jacoby (at home)...

Saron members as well as friends and family of Saron who have been hospitalized or receiving ongoing medical care for challenging health problems or are battling cancer.....

Those in military service: Jordan Rick (U.S. Marine Corps); Christopher Kletzien (U.S. Army); Jake Meinnert (U.S. Army)....

Elaine, the student we sponsor in Haiti....

We Celebrate the Birth of: Alexis Irene Abston who was born on October 30th, 2016 to Kim (Mauk) & Ryan Abston and big brother Evritt.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the: family of Eugene Kohlmann (brother-in-law of Jim Fritz) who died on October 18th; and to the family of Brian Behr (Grandson of Joyce Riviers) who died on November 10th.....

Lucas Williams is a Member of Discernment for the UCC, attending seminary at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Lucas is in his 3rd (and last) year of seminary. His address at school is: 47 North Bompart #32, St. Louis MO 53119.

To My Saron Family:

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards and messages after my recent surgery. I am also grateful for Pastor Ernie's multiple visits to the hospital during my stay. All of this support helped make a scary situation easier. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring faith family.

Blessings, Lori Albsmieier

Special Thanks From John & Kathy Zittel

On behalf of the Committee that organizes shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child program, John & Kathy Zittel would like to thank the members and friends of Saron for their donations. Thanks to the generosity of many people John & Kathy helped the committee pack up over 2,700 boxes in one day so they could be shipped out to needy children overseas in time to arrive to make their Christmas brighter. Thanks again!



<u>Happy Anniversary</u> We hope you keep the following couples in your prayers as they celebrate their Anniversary this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (467-6202 or e-mail <u>barb@saronucc.org</u>).

December 2 Kevin & Melissa Fleck

December 7 Kyle & Sarah Mauk Richard & Kathy Specht

December 19 DuWayne & Tammy Grunewald

Cassiee Roth



December 20 Keith & Betty Steiger

December 27 Mike & Kari Mooney

December 30 Brian & Linda Barthels

Happy Birthday We hope you keep the following people in your prayers as they celebrate their Birthday this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (467-6202 or e-mail barb@saronucc.org).

		THE RESERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER.			
December 2	Melanie Oostdyk	December 14	Nathanael Wagner	December 23	Brody Schmidt Mike Walsh
December 3	Danielle Zimmermann	December 15			
December 5	Jola Erdey		Brittany Coppersmith Joy Grunewald	December 24	Don Albright Julie Chisholm
December 7	Randy Peichl		Courtney Milz	December 25	Dan Grunewald
December 8	DuWayne Wieck Jon Anhalt	December 16	Kelly Kaat Lynn Rettig	December 26	Elaina Rick
December	Kathy Novak		Jordan Theobald	December 27	William DeHart
	Chantelle Roth	December 17	Harold Grunewald		Emily Grunewald Janet Lammers
December 9	Gracianne Nohl Kassidy Taylor	December 18	Larry Boedecker Jerry Henning	December 28	Tristan Giraldo Jill Grosshuesch
December 10	Jenny Albright	December 19	Jason Bitter		Caitlin Trumm
December 11	Ashley Guell		Ethan Schuette	December 30	Nancy Decker
	Tracy Kwekkeboom Rick Margenau	December 21	Amanda Bell		Nikki Kapellen Lindsay Rick
December 12	Tracy Anderson	December 22			Lindody Prior
December 12	? Tracy Anderson Steve Bender Jayden Van Helden		Jim Fritz Raechel Grunewald	Flapry	December Buikday
December 13	Ralph Knuth		Dave Morse Kathy Specht	a i	大学