



# The Tidings

Saron United Church of Christ  
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920-467-6202

December 2018

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***“Silent Night, Holy Night,  
all is calm, all is bright.”***

This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Silent Night – one of the most beloved Christmas songs of all time. It connects people no matter their origin, age, or religious tradition. It has been performed in over 300 languages and dialects and many major singing stars have sung it on their Christmas albums. Did you know that it was Bing Crosby in 1948 who brought it to the global stage? I can almost hear him singing it as I write this article.

Many of us grew up hearing the story that it was first sung on Christmas Eve 1818 with a guitar because the organ broke and there was no other musical instrument available. The reality is that the poem was written by a young priest, Joseph Mohr in 1816 in Mariapfarr, Austria. When he moved to Salzburg, he became friends with Franz Gruber, a teacher and musician. In 1818 Joseph asked Franz to put his poem to music and the two friends sang it after the Christmas Eve mass in front of the nativity at St. Nikola Church in Oberndorf. No matter its origins, it is a beautiful song and one I look forward to singing each Christmas Eve.

My fondest memories of Silent Night are from being a pastor, standing in the front of the church as individual candles are lit and the congregation sings Silent Night. I don't think I can put into words my feelings as the sanctuary lights are turned off and all that is visible is the candle light and the voices joined together in song. I am sure that there are tears in my eyes. A holy night indeed.

The Christmas truce of 1914 during World War 1 has also been linked to Silent Night. British, Belgian and French soldiers putting down their rifles and stepping out of the trenches to join with German soldiers singing carols. One soldier shared that a German officer Walter Kirchhoff who was a tenor with the Berlin Opera sang Silent Night first in German and then in English. The British troops joined in. A holy night.

There is something about this song that brings us all together. I can't wait to share the experience with all of you this Christmas Eve, our first together.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



## *Advent & Christmas Schedule*

As we enter the Advent Season, we do so with a feeling that returns year after year. Here is the Worship Schedule for Saron's Advent and Christmas Season.

**Sunday, December 2<sup>ND</sup>** The First Sunday of Advent – **HOPE**  
Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. service.

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** The Second Sunday of Advent – **PEACE**  
*The Saron Chimers play at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. services.*

**Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** “A Not So Very Merry Christmas” Service on Monday Evening at 7:00 p.m. (See details of service in separate writeup)

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** The Third Sunday of Advent – **JOY**  
**Traditional worship service at 8:00 a.m.**  
**The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at the 10:15 a.m. service**

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** The Fourth Sunday of Advent – **LOVE**  
**ONE worship service only at 9:30 a.m.**  
Special music will be provided by a special vocal ensemble.  
**(No 10:15 a.m. Service and NO Sunday School or Confirmation Breakfast Club)**

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. – Senior Choir sings – Candles will be lit during the singing of “Silent Night”. Holy Communion will be served.

**Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day Service at **9:30 a.m.** Senior Choir sings.

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** **ONE** worship service only at **9:30 a.m.**

### **“A Not So Very Merry Christmas” Monday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.**

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.





## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 16th 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:

8:30—10:00 A.M. on Saturday December 8th

8:30—10:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 15th



## PAVE THE WAY- Black Top Project

The project cost was \$52,110.00. At the special meeting we stated that if needed we would borrow any additional funding from a Saron member at a low interest. After further review, the consistory elected to borrow from the General Fund with the intent this money would be re-paid. This would be accomplished with another fund raiser or as the Improvement fund was replenished. This is how we were able fully fund the project.

Improvement Fund	\$23,477.88
2017 Pave the Way Fund Raiser	\$ 9,527.50
Memorial Fund	\$ 5,119.07
General Fund	\$13,985.55



The Pave the Way committee organized another great fund raising event and fellowship. The 2018 event was a success and we were able to repay the General Fund \$9,277.10. That leaves us with an outstanding balance of \$4,708.45 to repay the general fund. We feel this can be accomplished in the near future.

Thanks for another successful fund raiser.



## Christmas Is Coming!



Help brighten the Holidays for Head Start families and area Nursing Home Residents.

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

Again this year we want to bring joy at Christmas time to some senior citizens from Sunny Ridge and Pine Haven who otherwise would not receive a gift. You will find that all the tree ornaments will be gifts for the Seniors. It is surprising how these gifts will fill their hearts with happiness.

The Advent Tree will be decorated with angels and trees to pick from on Sundays December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to take one or more ornaments, purchase the item, wrap it, attach the ornament to the gift and bring it back to church.

**ALL GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>.**  
**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RETURN YOUR GIFT OTHERWISE**  
**A CHILD OR AN ADULT MAY NOT GET THAT PRESENT.**

The gifts will be delivered on Monday December 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Cookie Sale

**Saron's Women's Guild will be having our annual cookie sale on Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> in the Narthex. Cookies will be available after the 8:00 service and before and after the Christmas Program.**

**A free will offering will be collected.**

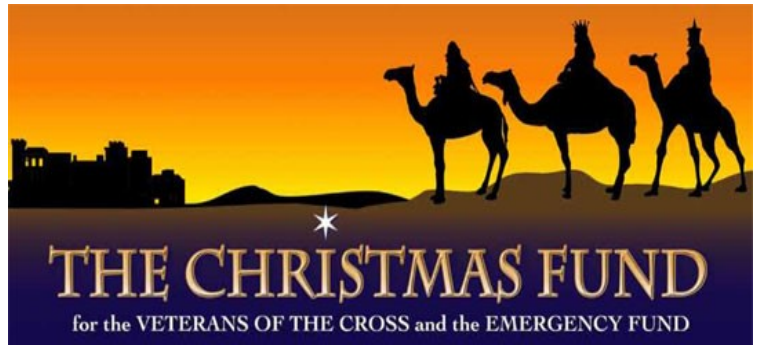




## 2018 CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS & EMERGENCY FUND

Beginning Sunday, December 2nd 2018, 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.



### IMPORTANT UPCOMING INFORMATION

- **The deadline for all financial contributions to Saron must be at the Church office NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM December 26<sup>th</sup>, to be counted for the 2018 year.**
- The Annual Meeting of Saron United Church of Christ will take place SUNDAY, JANUARY 27th, 2019, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



**Update on the Saron Benevolent Fund:** Saron's Consistory wishes to thank our members for your generous giving and support of the church throughout 2018.

However, as we approach the end of the year, please be mindful of Saron's Benevolent Fund, which INCLUDES our \$19,200 pledge to Our Church's Wider Mission is running a bit behind for 2018. As of Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, the balance in the Fund is \$17,038.64. We would like to meet our goal for 2018 – please consider a gift to the Benevolent Fund during the last month of 2018.







## ITS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

### 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) or 5 (WFRV); call the church office to listen for a cancellation message (467-6202) or check the church website for a cancellation notice ([www.saronucc.org](http://www.saronucc.org)).



### CHRISTMAS GIFTS and STOCKING STUFFERS

Gift Cards for a stocking stuffer, Christmas gifts, or maybe just to say Thanks. These Gift Cards can be purchased right here at Saron. Here are the cards we currently have in stock, but you can always ask for assistance if you are seeking something else. Check out the website: [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com).

#### Currently In Stock

Bath & Body Works \$10 or \$25	Starbucks \$10
Bed, Bath, & Beyond \$25	Subway \$10
Dunkin Donuts \$10	Target \$25
Family Video \$10	Walmart \$10, \$25 or \$50
Festival Foods \$25, \$50 or \$100	
Fleet Farm \$25 or \$100	
Kwik Trip \$25, \$50 or \$100	
Kohl's \$25	
Menards \$25	
Meijer \$25 and \$50	
Papa Murphy's \$10	
Piggly Wiggly \$25 or \$50	
Roundy's \$25 or \$50	



#### Possible Options

Buffalo Wild Wings \$25  
 Amazon \$10, \$25 or \$100  
 Cabelas/Bass Pro Shop \$25 or \$100  
 Home Depot \$25 or \$100  
 TJ Max, Marshall, Home Goods  
 (One Card 3 Locations) \$25 or \$100  
 Lowes \$20, \$25 or \$100  
 Walgreens \$25 or \$100

There are many more options to choose.  
 Please do not hesitate to call for assistance.

Deb Meinnert 920-912-3069

Kari Mooney 920-207-5258

Or Church Office—Barb Post 920-467-6202



**Those who are homebound or in care centers:** Janice Hartmann (Pine Haven, Haven Drive Campus), Janet Klemme (Pine Haven Assisted Living, Giddings Ave. Campus), Ilene Struve (Rocky Knoll), Marilyn Perronne (at home), Mae Schmidt (at home), Beverly Kleinhans (at Prairie Crossing)



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Jeffery Lenz (Brittney Mauk's stepfather) who passed away on November 9, 2018.



Jordon Rick (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Christopher Kletzien (U.S. Army)



We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism of Noah Robert Meyer, son of Jacob & Amber (Boll) Meyer on November 11, 2018. Noah was born on June 16, 2018 and his sponsors Tori Meyer, Taylor Meyer, & Miranda Boll.



*The Ulrich Center of Lakeland University cordially invites members of the congregation to a*

## ***Holiday Reception***

*Friday, December 7 from 6-7 p.m.*

*In the Younger Campus Center, second floor*

*Desserts and beverages*



*Followed by the University's*

*Symphonic Band and Choir performing the annual*

## ***Christmas at Lakeland Concert***

*7:30 p.m. in Bradley Theatre.*



***Reception and concert are FREE; reservations requested.***

***SIGN UP ON THE KIOSK if you'd like to attend – we'll take care of RSVPing.***



**Happy Anniversary** 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 [barb@saronucc.org](mailto:barb@saronucc.org)).

December 2 Kevin & Melissa Fleck

December 7 Kyle & Sarah Mauk  
Rich & Kathy Specht

December 19 Du Wayne & Tammy Grunewald



December 20 Keith & Betty Steiger

December 27 Mike & Kari Mooney

December 30 Brian & Linda Barthels—30 yrs.

**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](mailto:barb@saronucc.org)).

December 1 Erin Gumm

December 2 August Haas  
Hailey Haas  
Melanie Oostdyk

December 3 RaeAnn Beebe  
Danielle Zimmermann

December 5 Jola Erdey

December 7 Randy Peichl  
Du Wayne Wieck

December 8 Jon Anhalt  
Kathy Novak  
Chantelle Roth  
Eugene Schaap

December 9 Gracianne Nohl  
Kassidy Taylor

December 10 Jennifer Albright

December 11 Ashley Guell  
Tracy Kwekkeboom  
Rick Margenau

December 12 Tracy Anderson  
Parker Beebe  
Steve Bender  
Jayden Van Helden

December 13 Ralph Knuth  
Adley Konz  
Cassiee Roth

December 14 Nathanael Wagner

December 15 Ava Booth  
Brittany Coppersmith  
Joy Grunewald  
Courtney Milz

December 16 Kelly Kaat  
Lynn Rettig  
Jordan Theobald

December 18 Larry Boedecker  
Jerry Henning

December 19 Jason Bitter  
Ethan Schuette

December 21 Amanda Bell

December 22 Joshua Beitler  
Jim Fritz  
Raechel Grunewald  
Dave Morse  
Kathy Specht

December 23 Brody Schmidt  
Mike Walsh

December 24 Don Albright  
Julie Chisholm

December 25 Dan Grunewald

December 26 Elaina Rick

December 27 William DeHart  
Emily Grunewald  
Janet Lammers

December 28 Tristan Giraldo  
Jill Grosshuesch  
Caitlin Trumm

December 30 Nancy Decker  
Lindsay Rick

