



# The Tidings

Saron United Church of Christ  
W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

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December  
2019

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*“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!  
Above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”*

I thought of these words often as I walked through the streets of Bethlehem. Bethlehem isn't very little, not even in the old part of the city. We picture in our minds a quaint little town with farms and rolling hills. But that isn't Bethlehem. There are very few empty spaces and they have had to build up as there is no space to build out.

The city isn't very still either. Every morning we were woken up by the call to prayer, a signal to those who are followers of Islam that it was time for prayers. The call to prayer is broadcast over loudspeakers from the nearest mosque. The market areas open early and there are always people shopping and walking around. Roads are narrow and cars are always honking to make sure there are no accidents. Bethlehem never seems to be still.

Tourists and pilgrims flock to the city to visit The Church of the Nativity. The Church of the Nativity is one of the oldest surviving Christian churches and is believed to be built over the spot where Jesus was born. The first church was built in 326 by Constantine and his mother St. Helena. This church was destroyed in 530 and the current church was built in its place. It has survived much over the ensuing centuries. The Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Armenian Orthodox churches share the building and attend to different parts of it. Parts of the church are very ornate and others very simple.

Crowds gather early and get in a line that never seems to end to go down into the grotto where the birthplace of Jesus is located. Guides were speaking in all different languages explaining the features of the church to those in their group, while the priests kept trying to maintain quiet and a sense of reverence. It didn't work very well! No stillness here either. But once you got to the stairs going down into the grotto, once the crowd funneled into the small space, the stillness hit me. Not that it was devoid of noise, but a stillness that comes in the midst of noise. There is a star on the floor where it is believed the exact birthplace was. There used to be a silver star there, but it was stolen in 1847. Now there is only the outline of it. Some people knelt down. Some leaned in to touch or kiss the stone. There was crying and praying. To be truthful it was rather overwhelming for me.

I think what struck me in that moment and what I have continued to think about is the last line of the carol - “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” It wasn't just that holy night, but every night since then. Every time someone visits the grotto. Every time we share the Christmas story. We hand over our fears to Jesus and place our hope in him that things can and will be different. That is what keeps us going when our world doesn't seem to be much different than it was at the time of Jesus' birth.

I don't know that I will ever sing O Little Town of Bethlehem in quite the same way as before our trip, but sing it I will!

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



## **Reverse Advent**

Last year many of you participated in a Reverse Advent, where instead of taking something out of a calendar pocket, you put a food item into a basket for the food pantry. There was so much food under the Narthex Tree that it took 3 trips to get it to the food pantries.

Helping Kids (the Sheboygan Falls Lunch program) would like to be able to share some extra food blessings with the families they are helping this holiday season. Below is the list of food items they are looking for. Perhaps this can be our Reverse Advent recipient this year. Look for a donation box in the Narthex.

- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Canned Cranberries
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Box potatoes
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Box Stuffing, Can Gravy
- Jell-O/Instant Pudding

Other items always needed:

- Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta Noodles
- Can Raviolis/Spaghetti O's
- Jelly/Jam
- Pasta & Rice Side Dishes
- Long Grain/Minute Rice
- Mac & Cheese
- Pancake Syrup
- Cereal – (Reg. size boxes only please)
- Instant Hot Cereal
- Soups
- Taco Dinner Kits
- Box Pizza Kits
- Hamburger Helper
- Hot Tamale/Sloppy Joe Mix,
- Canned Meats Turkey, Hamburger, Chicken, Tuna
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Chicken & Dumplings
- Canned Vegetables (Please no corn)
- Bags of Cookie Mix
- Bags of Muffin Mix
- Granola Bars
- Crackers & Cheese/ Crackers & Peanut Butter
- Fruit snacks
- Sm. Bags of Goldfish Crackers



Every  
Donation  
Makes A  
Difference



## Advent & Christmas Worship 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.

### **December 1<sup>st</sup> The First Sunday of Advent - *HOPE***

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. service.

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> The Second Sunday of Advent - *PEACE***

The Saron Chimers play at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. services.

### **December 15<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

### **Wednesday, December 18<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)

### **December 22<sup>nd</sup> The Fourth Sunday of Advent - *LOVE***

The Saron Praise Band F.I.R.E. will play and sing at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. services.

**(No Sunday School or Confirmation Breakfast Club)**

### **Tuesday, 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.

### **Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.**

Senior Choir sings.

### **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. One service only at 9:30 a.m.**

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## **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING - CHRISTMAS GIFTS - STOCKING STUFFERS**

The Saron SCRIP store has gift cards for Christmas shopping, Christmas gifts, stocking stuffers, or maybe just to say Thanks. These gift cards can be purchased right here at Saron – either on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week. We currently have a wide variety of cards on hand, or you can always order cards for other businesses.

**Check out the website: [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) to see what is available.**



Please do not hesitate to call Kari Mooney at 207-5258, Deb Meinnert at 912-3069, or Barb in the church office at 467-6202.



**Wednesday, December 4, 2019  
AT 5:30 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT SARON**

**The Confirmation Students will decorate the  
NARTHEX TREE.**



**The Worship Enhancement Team  
along with any other interested people,  
will decorate the SANCTUARY TREE along with the  
other church Christmas decorating tasks.**

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**Blue Christmas Service: When Christmas Hurts**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019  
7:00 pm**

While we are expected to feel joy during the holidays, the events in our lives can make it difficult. This service will give you a safe place to feel the loss, hurt, and pain, but also offer hope in the midst of your darkness.



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**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

**The Annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on  
Sunday, December 15th 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:**

**Wednesday, December 4th 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 7th 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, December 11th 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 14th, 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.**



## Christmas Is Coming!



Help us brighten the Holidays for Head Start families. The Women's Guild is sponsoring nine families whose children are in the Sheboygan County Head Start program. On the Advent Tree you will find angels and heart ornaments. These ornaments will list items that these families are in need of plus some toys and gift cards.

Also, again this year we want to bring joy at Christmas time to some residents from Sunny Ridge who otherwise would not receive a gift. You will find that all the tree ornaments will be gifts for the Seniors. These gifts will fill their hearts with some Christmas cheer. **Please put these gifts in gift bags only!**

The Advent Tree will be decorated with ornaments to pick from on Sundays December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to take one or more ornaments, purchase the item, wrap it or put it in a gift bag, attach the ornament to the gift and bring it back to church.

**ALL GIFTS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 15<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 16<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

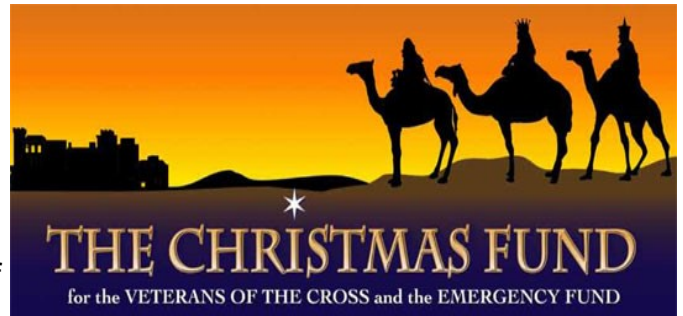


## Cookie Sale

**Saron's Women's Guild will be having our annual cookie sale on Sunday December 15<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.**



## 2019 CHRISTMAS FUND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS & EMERGENCY FUND



Beginning Sunday, December 1st, 2019, 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 can be made through Sunday, December 29th.**
- **The Annual Meeting** of Saron United Church of Christ will take place **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26th, 2020**, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 20120.



### Noisy Offering

Beginning in January, we will periodically be taking a "noisy offering" to support school lunch programs in our area. What is a "noisy offering" you might be wondering? Bring your spare change and throw it into the metal buckets that will be passed along with our regular offering. The clinking of the change in the buckets makes a joyful noise! What you have rattling around in your pocket can help fill the bellies of school age children in our community. Sheboygan Falls has a program called Helping Kids and if Plymouth and/or Howards Grove have similar programs please let the Consistory know so we can support them as well.



**Our first "Noisy Offering" will be on January 19, 2020 so start saving your change!**





**Back Bay Mission Trip Fundraiser**  
**Chili Cook-Off**

January 12, 2020 from Noon to 2 pm at Laack's Hall

Do you think you have the BEST chili ever? Enter it and see for sure.  
Do you like chili? Come and judge all the chili entered.  
Watch for more details in the January Tidings.  
There will also be raffle baskets.



We extend our Christian Sympathy **to the family of Saron member Allen Beeck**, who passed away on October 23, 2019 and whose funeral was held here on October 27, 2019; **to the family of Saron member Dave Boldt**, who passed away on November 7, 2019 and whose funeral was held at Suchon Funeral Home on November 12, 2019; **to the family of Allen Gabsch** (a friend of Saron members) who passed away on October 31, 2019; **to the family of Jory VanEss** (Lydia Albright's boyfriend) who died in a tragic accident on November 13, 2019.



**Those who are homebound or in care centers:** Janet Klemme (Pine Haven Assisted Living, Giddings Ave. Campus), Ilene Struve (Rocky Knoll), Marilyn Perronne (at home), Beverly Kleinhans (at Prairie Crossing Health Service), Mickey Glander (Sheboygan Senior Community, Rm 404)...



Ben Lenz  
(U.S Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien  
(U.S Army)

Anthony Herzog  
(U.S Army)

**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)).





## **The Bookmobile is a service of the Monarch Library System**

One of the Bookmobiles many stops is here at Saron. You can find them parked in the big parking lot twice a month on Wednesday afternoons from 1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. You can come and browse the selections on board their beautiful new bus and visit with the friendly staff, or you can call the Bookmobile at 920-208-4900 ext. 315 and order whatever you are looking for. They will deliver them when they next stop at Saron. If you are not able to pick your books up at their scheduled stop time, they will leave them at church for you to pick up at your convenience. There also is no limit as to the amount of books you would like to check out. This is a wonderful service offered to us, so if you enjoy reading without the cost of buying a book give the Bookmobile a try, you will find it worth your time.

The Bookmobile will be at Saron on December 11th only due to Christmas Day being on their next scheduled Wednesday. Look for them again on January 8th, 2020.

For more information you can go to:

Bookmobile—Monarch Library System

<https://www.monarchlibraries.org/bookmobile>





**Happy Anniversary** We hope you keep the following people 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 15 Randy & Alexis Beebe



December 19 Du Wayne & Tammy Grunewald

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

December 1 Erin Gumm

December 2 Hailey Haas  
August Haas

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  
Steve Bender  
Jayden Van Helden

December 13 Ralph Knuth  
Adley Konz  
Cassiee Roth

December 15 Courtney Amborn  
Ava Booth  
Joy Grunewald

December 16 Kelly Kaat  
Jordan Theobald

December 18 Larry Boedecker  
Jerry Henning

December 19 Jason Bitter  
Ethan Schuette

December 21 Amanda Bell  
Joy Mitchell-Fessler

December 22 Josh Beitler  
Jim Fritz  
Raechel Grunewald  
David Morse  
Kathy Specht

December 23 Brody Schmidt  
Mike Walsh

December 24 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

