



# MILACA UNITED METHODIST



December 2015 Newsletter

## Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



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### Quilt for Cookie Walk 2015



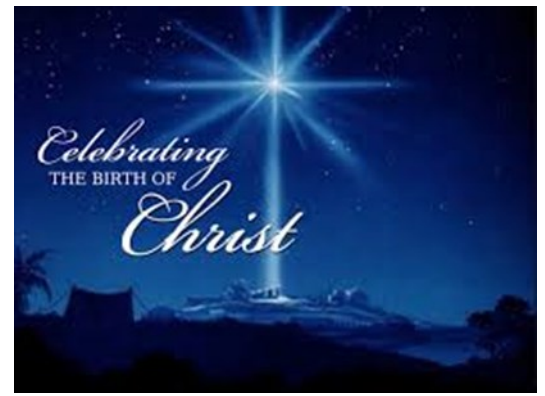
Reverend  
Joyce Slostad



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- Sunday Morning Service  
9:30 am
- Coffee & Fellowship  
Following Service
- Bible Studies





Well, here we are again. Welcome to the mad rush of the Christmas shopping season (only 27 days left until Christmas Day, after all), so let's keep this column short. Because the time is short, isn't it? Christmas Day is less than four weeks away, yes, but how many of you have family events, work parties, children's plays or performances coming up well before then? How are you coming on those decorations? And the Christmas baking? And how's that Christmas letter this year?

Now I know most of the "getting ready for Christmas" newsletters would be telling you try to let go of these responsibilities – to not get so caught up in the "worries of this life" (Lk 21:34), so that you can really enjoy the reason for the season.

These activities – the letters, cookies, shopping, events, parties, and so forth – are a part of how we get ourselves excited for this holiday. It's how we mark Christmas as the special occasion it is and should be – to some degree, right?

But here's the rub: Advent isn't just about Christmas preparation. This is not the church's version of party planning. Advent means "coming," and that's what this season is about. We are here not only to prepare for celebrating what God has done in the past through that baby in Bethlehem. We are also here to call for preparation for Jesus' coming again.

The Jesus we welcome with lights on trees, gifts for family and friends, is the Lord. Absolutely, this lordship is not and is not going to be just like the ones we know – with our systems of politics and power riddled with sin – but it is still his lordship that is coming to be. And that means there are going to be some changes when this lordship is fulfilled. And these changes are going to affect all of us – all of us – because God is going to rid the world of the consequences of our sin. Even if we don't imagine this as brutal, we need to recognize that the depth of our own sin means God's coming reign is going to make our lives very different.

The hard part of saying this to you is that sin is more than just a failure to abide by the Ten Commandments. Sin is our deep, pervasive, and subtle elevation of ourselves and our needs over God and our neighbors. And let's not just assume that God will be changing the things we find nasty about this world. As good as we are, we are poor reflections of God's goodness, and so even those good things about us will be changing too so that they may also become pure reflections of God's love.

Jesus' lordship takes away ours. This is and should be unsettling. But Jesus' lordship takes away our lordship so that a better world can be – a world that is the creation it is meant to be: where you and I are the creatures we are meant to be; where there is no hurt or pain; where there is no want or need; where all things are at rest because we are no longer trying to claim our lordship or running from those claiming theirs; where we are no longer trying to fill the holes in our lives with consumption, drugs, alcohol, work, and so on and so on; where we are no longer being hurt by others filling the holes in their lives with the same fickle, unfaithful stuff. We will no longer be disappointed in one another. We will no longer envy one another. We will no longer be alone.

And on that final Advent, the world will truly be at peace.

Blessings and See You In Church,

Pastor Joyce <><

### December Worship Schedule

6<sup>th</sup> – Communion, Luke 1:68-79

“Unlikely Places, Unlikely People”

13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Hymns, Luke 3:7-18

“The Force Awakens”

20<sup>th</sup> – Children, Youth & Choir Program

“The Christmas Story”

4 pm Blue Christmas Service at

Zion Lutheran

27<sup>th</sup> – Jere Day leading a service of readings and carols.



### CHRISTMAS EVE

**December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**

Luke 2:1-20, Isaiah 9:2-7

“Preparing Room”

Invite your friends and neighbors to attend this service with you.





## Decorating for the Christmas Season Sunday November 29 - after church

All who can stay and help are greatly appreciated; there are tasks for all heights and skill levels from putting up the tree, to wrapping the communion rail, to carefully arranging the manger scene. Please help beautify the church.

## MAKE PLANS FOR THE COOKIE WALK SATURDAY DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

Start searching your cookbooks for those yummy recipes of cookies, candies, breads and other goodies. Set aside some jars of jelly, jam, preserves, salsa, and pickles to share. Check your closets, attics & basements for new or gently used items for our treasures room. Also, if you are a crafter we will gladly accept any of your projects. Reminder there is an absolutely beautiful quilt that will be raffled – it is on display in the Gathering Space. Be sure to invite your friends to meet you at the Milaca United Methodist Church for a day of Christmas cheer and shopping. Coffee & cinnamon rolls are available in the morning and a soup luncheon will also be served.



## JAVA AND JESUS – Casual worship experience & free meal Sunday December 13

6:00 meal – Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings

6:30 worship time – lots of Christmas music

This service is open to all people members and those in our neighborhood. This service is designed for those who don't have a church home and have a need for spiritual and physical nourishment, but is open to any and all who want to attend. The service is led by Dayna Hillcrest, Jere Day and Pastor Joyce. Meals are provided by the Outreach Committee and members of the congregation.



budget for the coming year.

### REMEMBER TO PLEDGE

The Finance Committee reminds you to turn in your pledge cards. It is an estimate of your giving which can be changed (up or down) as one's circumstances change. This enables the church to make a responsible ministry

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A JAVA & JESUS MEAL?

A donation of \$50 will help provide a nourishing meal for those that come to us for a helping of food and faith. You can place your donation of any amount in the offering plate with "Java & Jesus meal" the memo. Your donation can remain anonymous or be acknowledged whichever is your choice.



### December Youth Group Schedule

Dec. 2 – supper @ 5:30 Classes @ 6 pm  
Dec. 9 – supper @ 5:30 Mission @ 6 pm  
Dec. 16 – supper @ 5:30 Classes @ 6 pm  
Dec. 19 – Christmas Play Rehearsal @ 10:30 am  
Ring Bells for Salvation Army @ 1 pm

### Volunteers Needed to Ring

Saturday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at Teals

Our church will ring bells for 1 hour shifts beginning at Noon until 4 pm. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the Gathering Space. Bells and Santa hats provided – carol singing optional!



### Blue Christmas Service

**Dec. 20, 4 pm at Zion Lutheran Church**

Pastor Joyce will again be working with Pastor Tim Bauer from Trinity & Pastor Stephen Blenkush from Zion Lutheran churches to provide this special worship service for our community. Designed for those who are grieving, or find Christmas a less

than happy time for them – this service allows space for those feelings to be acknowledged and felt.

Holiday to do list.

1. <sup>BE</sup> ~~Buy~~ Presents~~x~~
2. Wrap ~~Gifts~~ Someone in a Hug
3. Send ~~Gifts~~ Peace
4. <sup>Donate</sup> ~~Shop~~ for Food
5. Make ~~Cookies~~ LOVE
6. <sup>BE</sup> ~~See~~ the lights~~x~~



I hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving with your families. Ours was really nice with everyone at our granddaughter's for Thanksgiving. It feels like winter has arrived!

Christian Women was a large group again this month. Next month we serve them a Christmas lunch and they have their meeting first.

Our November meeting was on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> with 14 ladies attending. Sheryll Kjos from Circle of Hope was the speaker. She explained the programs that they provide for their people. It is several different areas they help out with ways of teaching them basic skills with health, finances, etc. It is strictly non-profit and your friendship, blessings and assistance are always needed. We serve them a meal the first Thursday in February and for some that is the only home cooked meal they receive. Anyone is welcome to come and share a meal with them and stay to enjoy fellowship.

We will be sponsoring a family through Holiday Helping Hands with a tree with family names on for anyone to purchase gifts. Also, we will be giving poinsettias to the elderly and shut ins this year again. Betty will be ordering and delivering them with some help.

It was voted to give \$2000 from Teal's receipts and UPC fund our special gift fund for the apportionments, \$1,000 from each fund. We'll see where it is at end of year if church needs more.

Election of officers was taken and it was voted unanimously that the same slate of officers be reelected for 2016. They are as follows: President Audrey Bowe, Vice President Betty Anderson, Secretary Joyce Stobb and Treasurer Jeanette Hanenburg. The rest of the committees are the same also. They are all listed in our UMW board in the kitchen hallway.

We set up the 2016 calendar through May and will finish filling in the dates then. I will be giving them to Marie to put on the office calendar.

Our December Christmas meeting will be Thursday, December 10th at noon at Jeanette's house for lunch. She is furnishing the food. Come and have lunch and fellowship with us.

Have a blessed holiday season and see you in church.

Audrey Bowe,  
UMW President



To my friends and family at the Methodist United church...

Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> was my last official Sunday playing for church,, (I remember one day running into Lynne Olson and she asked me if I would be interested in playing and singing in choir and maybe playing for church once in awhile !! Well, we all know how long once in awhile turned I first started when Kevin and Barb were here. Barb and I played piano/organ duets for quite awhile and I filled in for Barb when she was gone. Then along came Woojae and Kyeong Mee. I was fortunate to be in on the interview process and was terribly excited to find out that they both were singers and that Kyeong Me could also sing and play the piano. Then came more piano/keyboard duets over their many years here and Silver Bell Sisters!!, along with our Spirit 5 group. Then came pastor Joyce and her talented family. Josh was able to fit right in with our Spirit 5 group and choir. Then there were those times when Bob and Marilyn Anderson played their wonderful music for church and Dayna, Jere and I were allowed to join in background music.

I watched the choir grow from 6-8 people to sometimes 20+ at certain times of the year. We were putting on two choir programs yearly at Christmas and Spring. Christmas was our more traditional concert and the spring program was just for fun with saxophones, clarinets, trumpets, shakers, piano/keyboards, flute, drums sometimes two rhythm guitars and bass guitar..... good old country religious songs. I think sometimes we just about blasted the congregation out of the building!! I remember handing the music out to the choir members and hearing them say "Oh we can't learn that. It's too hard". Well, guess what, they did learn it and learned it well too. Over the years I have been extremely proud of the choir and all the work they have done to provide music to the congregation representing the glory of God. Our motto over the years has been

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."  
-- Johann Sebastian Bach"

There are always little stories about the choir so I have added a couple picture jokes so everyone knows how much fun we have at all those practices!!

I also had the privilege to attend two VBS Missionary programs in Seoul, SK. With two different groups. Our first group was Shannon, Nancy, Linda, Sharon and I and the second group was Bobbi Jo, Kimmie, Judy Clark, Shannon, Sandy Jere, Leon Hixon and I. We met some wonderful people and came back refreshed and ready to teach the children about god through our VBS program. We changed the times of our VBS during the last couple years, advertised and our first year had about 20 kids, the next year had over 50 kids and this last year had 35 kids. And we have had some great volunteers in the past few years who have made a lasting impression on the youth and now those young people are beginning to teach as well. I thank each and everyone of them who have volunteered over the years and hope they will continue and help our VBS program to continue growing along with our SS program.

I have also had the privilege of having my mam and dad's funerals at our church in Milaca. I think you all for all of your support during those times. Thank you also for all your love, support and concern for Emma and our family as she underwent her brain tumor surgery, radiation, chemo and physical therapies and for showing your support on her caring bridge website at [www.caringbridge.org/emmawilson](http://www.caringbridge.org/emmawilson).



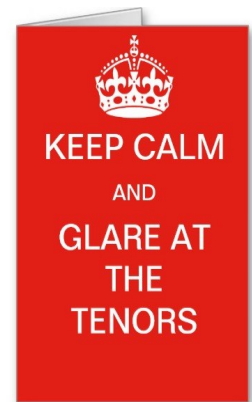
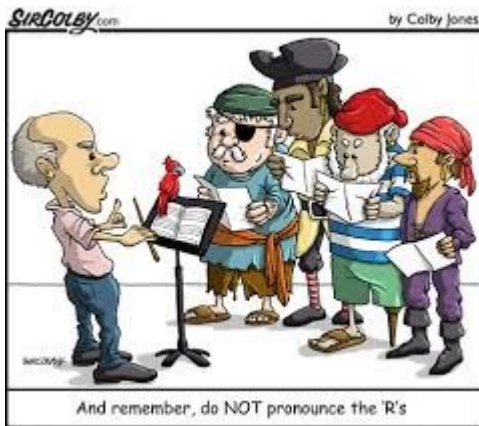
*I have enjoyed working with the worship Committee but it is time to pass that torch also. Just remember ladies - the white table clothes with the red cross and flame need to be washed, and ironed with spray starch!!! You will do a wonderful job.*

*And working with the men's group fish fry.....that was always fun and the smells were delicious as was the fish. I hope we will be back in time to enjoy it next year.*

*It is time to say my farewells. Dayna and Jere have asked me if I could come and sing and play with them sometime and I am hoping to do that if I am in state. Thank you each and every one of you as you have all meant so much to me over the years and I will never forget you.*

*Blessings and Go with God*

*Myla*



## December Calendar Items:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Class 6-7:00pm  
Disciple Bible Study II 7:00pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ministerial meeting 8:30am
- 5<sup>th</sup> – **Cookie Walk & Craft Fair 8:00am-1:00pm**
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Communion
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Mission 6-7:00pm  
Disciple Bible Study II 7:00pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas UMW 12 noon at Jeanette's  
Church Council 6:30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Hymns  
Java & Jesus 6:00pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Christian Women
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Class 6-7:00pm  
Disciple Bible Study II 7:00pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> – High Rise Meal 11:30am, be there at 11:15am
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Bell Ringing
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Children, Youth & Choir Program  
Blue Christmas @ Zion Lutheran 4:00pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Jere Day Leading Service



Cost \$4.00, time 11:30am, Be there by 11:15am.

**Honey glazed ham, cranberry garnish, sweet potato casserole, country trio vegetables, dinner roll, red velvet cake.**



- 3- Frank Crooms  
4- Levi Anderson  
4- Ryan Gilbert  
9- John Hillcrest  
16- Tilly Bergstrom  
17- Christie Barnes  
20- Dave Johnson  
21- Lance Gubrud  
28- Cyndee Green



"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."

28- Judy Schwieger

## *Anniversaries:*

27—Larry & Dorothy Moe