

# Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

January 4, 2015

## Give Me a Sign

The star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

**(Matthew 2:9-10)**

“I wish God would give me a sign.” Any time there is a difficult decision, or challenging situation, a sign would be desirable. From experience I know I probably won’t see one. Before I become disappointed with God, I need to remember the wise men. Although they were given the sign of the star, they did not rely on it solely. Yes, it guided them. It certainly brought them joy. It even reassured them on their arduous journey. Still, they relied on the Scriptures. It was God’s Word that revealed the birth of the king of the Jews. It was God’s Word that made them embark on

their journey. It was God’s Word that brought them to Bethlehem to worship the Christ.

The wise men teach me a valuable lesson. Often I want a sign, and God could offer me one. However, he has chosen a better method to help me. Signs could be misinterpreted. Signs could be used by Satan to deceive me. Signs could even be ignored. So God has given me his Word, and that is more reliable.

The wise men came know how important the Scriptures were. I need to draw the same conclusion. In God’s Word I learn of my need for a Savior. In God’s Word I am led to Bethlehem, and beyond to Calvary. In God’s Word I find Jesus, my Savior who has rescued me from the curse of sin through his death on the cross.

God gives me more than a sign. He gives me his



Word, his unchanging truth. I need to begin my search there. I need to follow where it leads. I need to trust the truth it proclaims. In the end, it will never disappoint me, allow me to be discouraged, or let me be deceived.

That Word guides me in the truth. That Word leads me on the way to eternal life. That Word reveals the greatest sign of God’s love – Jesus my Savior. What other sign could I want!

*Prayer: O gracious Lord, I know my faith is weak. I know doubt and despair trouble me. I also know you have given me your Word. Bless me through your Word. Lead me with its truth. Bring me to my Savior and to the life of confident joy he has secured for me. Amen.*

Devotion from  
[www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)

## Contact Information

- **Church Office—**  
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## This Week at Lamb of God (January 5-11)

### Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Burrows Family
- Bulletins: Elisabeth Wagner
- Accompanist: Elisabeth Wagner
- Greeter: Diane Jensen
- Ushers: David Chen and Bryan Fiecko
- Refreshments: Priscilla Ehrick (Bible Study) and Szczublewski Family (Worship)

### Events

- **Wednesday, January 7**  
6:15 pm—Choir Rehearsal  
7:15 pm—Bible Study
- **Thursday, January 8**  
11:30 am—Elders Meeting
- **Saturday, January 10**  
10:00 am—Ladies’ Bible & Brunch
- **Sunday, January 11**  
9:15 am—Lutheran Bible Translators Presentation  
9:15 am—Sunday School  
10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, please contact Katie Chen (katiesl@hotmail.com).

## Mission Prayer: WELS

Gracious God, for 150 years you have blessed our church body through the ministerial education of future pastors and teachers



on the Watertown, Wis., campus of Luther Preparatory School. For 50 years you have blessed our mission work in Malawi, Africa. And in 2014

you blessed our synod with a new early childhood center at Martin Luther College, growth in home missions, and the release of the outreach movie "Come Follow Me." Thank you for your infinite grace to us through your Son Jesus. Amen.

## Interactive Faith Bible Study

In our lives, we go through cycles of ups and downs—we think God is pleased one moment and that he is not the next. Break the cycle of uncertainty with grace with a study of Judges—a book full of God's love and patience! This online bible study,

led by Pastor David Scharf of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenville, WI, will be held Wednesdays, January 7 – February 11, at 7:00 and 9:00 pm. To join the study, visit [www.wels.net/interactivefaith](http://www.wels.net/interactivefaith).

## Birthdays, Anniversary, & Contact Info

We distribute a calendar every month that includes the birthdays and wedding anniversaries you have asked us to share. If you haven't seen yours listed (or aren't sure if it is) and would like it shared, please email [LambofGodColumbus@gmail.com](mailto:LambofGodColumbus@gmail.com).

If any of your contact information (mailing or email address, phone numbers) has changed in the past year, please give the updated information to Pastor Wagner by **January 7**, so that we can publish an updated membership directory. Thank you.

## Lutheran Bible Translators Presentation

Chris Pluger, member of Resurrection Lutheran Church (WELS) in Centerville, has been working in Zambia to coordinate the translation of the Bible into the Nsenga language. In the past, our Sunday School offerings

have supported his work. Mr. Pluger will be at Lamb of God on Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 am, to share an update on the work he is doing. Join us to hear more about how the gospel is going out into all the world!

## Note of Thanks

*Dear Members of Lamb of God,*

*Thank you so much for your generous gifts to our family this Christmas. We are so blessed to be serving and worshiping our Lord with you here in Columbus. May God bless each and every one of you in 2015, as we continue to serve him and make him known together.*

*In Christ, Pastor Tim and Elisabeth Wagner, Micaiah, Sarah, Anna, and Silas*

## Communion Setup

We are in need of volunteers to prepare the bread and wine for communion Sundays. Sign up in the fellowship hall, or contact Pastor Wagner with any questions.

## Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Our shut-ins (Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Dick, Mike)
- Vicar Daniel Slaughter, whose mother continues to battle cancer
- Dick Ritter, whose health continues to decline

*Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at [LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers](http://LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers)*

## Give Thanks to the Lord!

### Attendance:

Worship (Christmas Eve):	65
Worship (Christmas Day):	21
Worship (December 28):	46
2014 Sunday Worship Average:	49
Bible Study (12/28):	7
2014 Sunday School/ Bible Study Average:	27

### Offerings:

Christmas Eve:	\$928.50
Christmas Day:	\$517.50
Sunday, December 28:	\$930.20
Sunday School Offering:	\$5.00
2014 Weekly Offerings Averages:	
General Fund Gifts:	\$1938.99
All Offerings*:	\$2103.91
*includes general fund, building fund, Sunday School, and other gifts	