



# MARANATHA MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2014



## Upcoming Events

### Sunday Worship Times:

**8:45 and 10:30 AM in the sanctuary**

- **December 6—Saturday,** Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 9-11 AM, and Women's Christmas Tea in the Fellowship Hall 11AM-1 PM,
- **December 7—Sunday,** Pastor Cody Kargus installation service during worship services. Soup & Pie Social will follow in the Gathering Place with a free will donation for the meal.
- **December 14—Sunday,** Children's Christmas Program "Miracle on Main Street" presented during morning worship services at 8:45 & 10:30 AM.
- **December 14—Sunday,** Crafternoon Family Cookie Decorating in the Fellowship Hall 3-5 PM. Must RSVP by December 7th by contacting Kristin Zueger at 715-418-3540.
- **December 20—Saturday,** Adult Sunday School Class and Young @ Heart (Age 55+) Potluck, Hymn Sing and fellowship at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Buns, meat, and beverages provided. Bring a small gift for fun gift exchange. Contact Wohlks at 715-458-2925.
- **December 24—Wednesday,** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, 'THE GIFT OF CHRIST' at 3:30 and 5:00 PM at Maranatha.



## Maranatha Ministry Minute

### Truly Thankful?

When I was a kid, my dad had this tradition where prior to each Thanksgiving meal, we would all go around the table proclaiming what we were thankful for. To me it was pure torture as all I could think about was turkey, mash potatoes and cranberry fluff. As we went around the table in my mind it sounded like "Yadda, yadda, yadda", and "Can't we just say amen and eat???"



As we look back on this last year at Maranatha and prepare for the arrival of Cody and Amber, we would be remiss not to think back on the last year. It would be real easy to get on with church as usual now that we have a new senior pastor and forget all that God has done in protecting our body during this time. I am grateful that God saw us through the trials rather than providing an easy way out. I am grateful that our staff has endured and continues to provide evidence of fruitful ministry. I am grateful for Christmas teas, Christmas plays, Pastor Pete, as of last count 996 Christmas shoe boxes, 118 children's ministry volunteers, the hospitality ministry, Helping Hands ministry, Ray and Val Caldwell for their visitation care, the building and facilities team for keeping our grounds clean and operating well, our worship team who has helped us heal, the benevolence fund which has helped numerous families in times of need, our youth doing community projects, Fall Festival reaching over 400 kids at the Cedar Mall, and the many lives touched by your witness and testimonies to Jesus Christ's work in your lives.



Make no doubt, God is at work at Maranatha. He works through us, with us and sometimes even in spite of us. Take the time this holiday season and before you say, "pass the potatoes", thank Him for all that He has, is and will do in your life and the life of this church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darren Cox

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**3:30 PM AND 5:00 PM**

**At Maranatha**

# THE GIFT OF CHRIST

**Nursery available for both services**





## A Quick Look at the Busy Maranatha Children's Ministries



The Fall Festival at Red Cedar Mall reached out to over 400 children on October 31st. Thanks goes out to the many volunteers who made this a memorable success! Pictures courtesy of Heather Cox.



(Below) Who's the man in the bee suit? Jim Holmes, of course! He shared about bees and honey at AWANA's Harvest Night.



Volunteer Cliff Culver listens to Ethan Peterson recite his memory verses at AWANA.



AWANA had a wonderful collection of shoeboxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child. The other pictures are of others who also contributed—Rice Lake High School, Poskin Jets 4-H Club and individuals who read about it in the local papers. Pictures courtesy of Stacey Wenzel, Ruth Erickson, and Heather Cox.





# Our Youth at Work and Play

## Raking it Up, Fall Retreat, Silver Ring Thing, and Youth Rally



## Congregational Care - Prayer Concerns

*"But God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!"*

*Psalm 66:19-20*

### Please include these people in your prayers:

Patty Spear, Marv Oftedahl, Joyce Mohr, Lenore Steffan, Jim Delany, Violet Fossum, Marilyn Longseth, Clarence & Nancy Peters, Bud Barta, Stan Oftedahl, Lynne Clark, Darlene Strohmeier, Howard Stone, Lois Clement, Ray Caldwell, Rocco Raymond, Scott Franson, Jeannine Zook, Don & Nadine Murley, Pat Swanson, Wohlk's grandson Jesse, Nona Schreiber's husband Bill and sister, Bob Lindner's sister Linda Schatz, Jeannine Zook's dad Bill, Mike Green's in-laws Tom and Joanne, Glen Wegner's brother Greg, Kathy Johnson's mother Irene Vaughn, Fran Reich's children, Lillian Bjugstad's son Mark & nephew Evan & brother-in-law David Bailey, Yvonne Rand's father-in-law Knute, Elfriede Harwart's children, Jane Gudim's mother Dorothy, Leslie Jaastad's family member Cheryl and niece Sammi, JoAnne Swanson's brother Carl Gustafson, Sandy Hodge's sister Jo, Ralph Metheny's sister, Leah Margan's niece Leanna, Mary Benson's sister Darlene, Mary Potter's friend Jackie, Mary Graese's sister Corinne, Rick & Laura Hill's brother-in-law Rick and dad Jim.

**Residents of Nursing Care:** Rice Lake Convalescent

Center: Ruth Fredrickson-Olson. Heritage Manor: Nancy Peters, VA Hospital: Clarence Peters.

**Serving in the military:** Rocco & Diann Raymond's Daughter Shelley is serving in Turkey. Debbie Stoeberl's nephew Jacob Polzin is serving in the Navy in the Persian Gulf. Mike & Lori Green's son Kyle is serving overseas in the Navy. Dave & Darlene Strohmeier's daughter Dawn is serving in the Middle East. Jim & Laurie Caple's son Stephen is serving as lieutenant in the Air Force in the Middle East. Dawn Cornelissen's son is being deployed to Afghanistan.

**Praises:** Pastor Cody, Amber and daughters are beginning their ministry at Maranatha in December.

Pastor Pete and Sue Vander Hook for their ministry time with us at Maranatha since October. May God bless their time ahead as He prepares them for the next assignment. Dawn Strohmeier is safely home from her military service in the Middle East.





# The Funeral Lunch: the view from the kitchen

## 11/14/14



Empty and dark except for Sunday morning coffee, the kitchen seems to be underused most of the time. But when a loved one dies, part of funeral planning is the lunch for those who come to mourn.

Someone (usually Ken Carlson) sets up tables and chairs for the 100 expected guests.

Karen Fetting, Kitchen Sister for Funerals, has already planned, shopped, and prepared some of the food.



**9:00 AM** – Pastor Paul greets the funeral directors as they arrive with the casket and flowers.

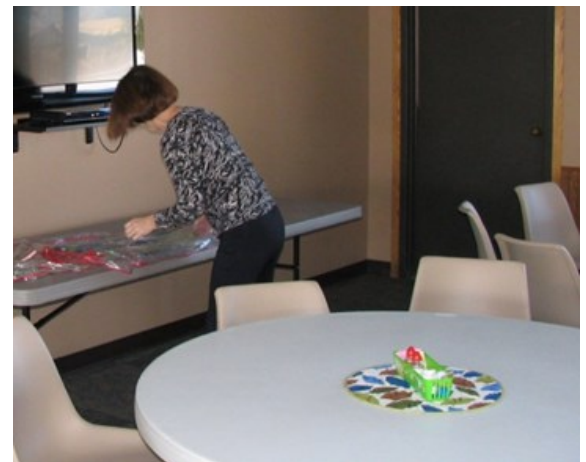
The lunch ladies arrive, ready to start cooking. Today we're using pork and ham for meat, since they're on sale. Olive Bjugstad has been offering the opportunity to bring salads and cookies, providing variety and a tangible expression of sympathy to the family. Bob and Brenda Lindner bring cookies to add to those already left on the counter.



**10:30 AM** –Karen Fowler sets out the table center mats and baskets of salt, pepper, sugar and creamers.

Thanks to Quilting Sisters for providing seasonal décor-Diann Raymond, Angie Allen, Marilyn Edwards, Rose Wenger, Judy Gonske, Karen Lerch, Mary Holmes, Kimberly Robbins, Robin Robbins, and Karen Fetting cut, stitched and hemmed two reversible sets.

Today's crew is hard at work: Yvonne Hansen chops celery for the Chow Mein, Joyce Triplett arranges cookies, Mary Holmes stirs a hot dish, while Karen Fetting starts the ham and scalloped potatoes, and a roaster of buttered carrots. Yvonne makes 80 cups of coffee.







**11:30 AM** – lunch is almost ready; time to set out the beverages and salads, then the hot dishes.

These women represent **many** others who faithfully come to make a meal when needed.

**12:00** - Lunch is served

The reason we love this ministry? Family

and friends can sit down to a meal together, enjoying time to visit and reminisce about their loved one. Today's funeral was for Lara Metheny's grandmother, Della Organ. (We also get to cook, and visit as we work.)



**2:00 PM** – Kitchen cleaned up, fellowship hall back to quiet, Karen and crew are ready to go home.

**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO MAKE THIS SERVICE POSSIBLE!**

If you'd like to help by providing food, or coming to cook and serve, contact Mary Holmes or Karen Fetting.





Maranatha  
Evangelical Free  
Church

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*Reaching All Generations  
for Christ*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.maranathafree.com](http://www.maranathafree.com)



## DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>:** THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL SINCE IT IS THE WEEK OF THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.

**DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>:** WE WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS "PARTY" FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL, INCLUDING A RETELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND A TREAT. **DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>:** THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

**AWANA, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>** IS NATIVITY NIGHT AND THERE WILL BE NO AWANA FOR DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> OR DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>.

### CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICES:

**DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>:** FULL DRESS REHEARSAL 8 –11 AM IN THE SANCTUARY

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>:** CHILDREN MUST ARRIVE AT CHURCH BY 8 AM, PERFORMANCES FOR BOTH SERVICES, AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN SERVICES

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET"** WILL BE PRESENTED DURING MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES (8:45 AM AND 10:30 AM) ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>.

**CRAFTERNOON—MOM'S RECESS** WILL HOST A COOKIE DECORATING TIME FOR FAMILIES IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 3-5 PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING KRISTIN ZUEGER AT 715-418-3540 OR GOING TO [MOMSRECESS.WORDPRESS.COM](http://MOMSRECESS.WORDPRESS.COM) BY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>. COST IS \$4 IF YOU BRING YOUR OWN COOKIES TO DECORATE, OR \$6 IF MOM'S RECESS SUPPLIES THE COOKIES. **RSVP NECESSARY!**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUNG AT HEART POTLUCK/CHRISTMAS PARTY** IS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. MEAT, BUNS, AND BEVERAGES WILL BE FURNISHED. PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT, AND A SMALL GIFT FOR THE FUN GIFT EXCHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT LEE + SHELBY WOHLK AT 715-458-2925.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:30 + 5:00 PM—"THE GIFT OF CHRIST".** PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE TRUE GIFT WE HAVE IN OUR SAVIOR WITH A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, MESSAGE AND SINGING. NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR BOTH SERVICES.

**SONSHINE LADIES BIBLE STUDY** WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL SPRING AND WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**SERVICE TIMES :** SUNDAY SERVICES ARE 8:45 AM + 10:30 AM. NURSERY IS AVAILABLE FOR INFANTS THROUGH 36 MONTHS IN THE MAIN CHURCH FOR ALL SERVICES.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR **CHURCH WEBSITE AT [WWW.MARANATHAFREE.COM](http://WWW.MARANATHAFREE.COM)** FOR ALL CURRENT EVENTS AND SERVICES AT MARANATHA.