



# MARANATHA MESSENGER

**DECEMBER**

**Christmas Eve Services at Maranatha**

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday Worship Times:**

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

- **December 6**—Friday, MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting at 9:00 AM in the Ministry Center. Moppets care available in the Ministry Center.
- **December 6**—Friday, "Hanging of the Greens" decorating for Christmas at Maranatha begins at 6:00 PM
- **December 7**—Saturday, AWANA Leaders' Christmas Party in the Ministry Center at 5:00 PM
- **December 14**—Saturday, Garage Games for Youth (grades 7-12) in the Soul Garage from 7-10 PM. Friends are welcome.
- **December 15**—Sunday, "Holly & Ivory" Christmas Advent Concert with Kate Copke in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM.
- **December 17**—Tuesday, Young at Heart (age 55+) meets at noon in the Fellowship Hall for Potluck, Christmas Music & Sing Along with Janelle Peterson. Sign up at the bulletin board inside the Fellowship Hall for what you can bring or contact Lee & Shelby Wohlk at 715-458-2925.
- **December 20**—Friday, MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) Play Day in the Gathering Place at 9:00 AM
- **December 22**—Sunday, Pastor Bill brings a Christmas Message: "Good News; Great Joy; All the People" during morning worship services.
- **December 24**—Tuesday, Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 4:30 and 6:00 PM. Join us for "Between the Giants" (all services identical). Child care is available for infants 0-36 months in the Nursery during all service times.
- **December 25**—MERRY CHRISTMAS!! (Church office will be closed)
- **December 31**—Tuesday, New Year's Eve (Church Office will close at 1:00 PM) Have a safe New Year!
- **January 1, 2014**—Wednesday, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Church office will be closed. Maranatha Youth (Grades 7-12) will meet at the Soul Garage in preparation for District Youth Conference in Green Bay, Friday—Sunday, January 3-5, 2014.

# Between the Giants

Join us on Christmas Eve  
December 24th for a  
Christmas Message at

3:00 PM

4:30 PM

or 6:00 PM

(All services identical)

Invite friends and family to  
come and celebrate  
Christmas.

Child care is available for  
infants 0-36 months in the  
Nursery for each service.





# Spending the Fall of 2013 with our Youth...

"See You At the Pole" started off the school year, followed by the youth spending a day raking leaves in the Rice Lake community. They celebrated with a 50's Bash in the Soul Garage in October. Then the guys spent their retreat at Tomahawk Scout Camp while the girls spent their time at Arrowhead Bible Camp for the Fall Retreats on the first weekend of November.





## A Look at AWANA's Operation Christmas Child



Thank you, Maranatha family, for your involvement in Operation Christmas Child this year! To those who packed a shoebox gift, gave a financial contribution toward shipping, provided treats or worked at the drop-off center, we appreciate your part in this great ministry. A total of 777 boxes were collected (up from last year's 523) from throughout Barron County and taken to the collection site in Eau Claire. AWANA children donated over 90 boxes of the total. Please pray for safe transportation of the boxes and for clear and fruitful presentations of the Gospel to accompany their delivery. Thank you, Jonathan Caldwell, for heading up our program this year.

## What's Happening in Children's Sunday School?



*"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*

## Congregational Care - Prayer Concerns

**Please include these people in your prayers:**

Don Parks, Howard Stone, Larry Anderson, Marilyn Longseth, Nancy Peters, Stan Oftedahl, Marv Oftedahl, Darlene Strohmeier, Ray Caldwell, Don Murley, Pat Swanson, Violet Fossum, Connie Blix, Marjie Peterson's husband Lynn, Dana Haas and family, Julie Reid's dad Bert, Bob Lindner's sister Linda Schatz, Jeannine Zook's dad Bill, Dan & Janette Young's daughter Suzette, Steve Neidermire's dad Vern, Paul Murry's brother Benny, Glen Wegner's brother Greg, Esther Swan's brother David and sisters Freida and Barbara, Kathy Johnson's mother Irene Vaughn, Lee & Shelby Wohlk's grandson Jesse, Carol Montgomery's brother Ronnie, Cheri Kromrey's sister, Fran Reich's children, Lillian Bjugstad's son Mark, Elfriede Harwart's children, Don & Bernadette Park's son Bruce, Becky Brunette's cousin's daughter Raegan, Sandra Kane's brother Rollie, Jane Gudim's mother Dorothy, Sandy Hodge's sister Jo and daughter Karen, McClain's daughter-in-law Sandy, Dan & Carol Kubista's brother-in-law Donald, Leah Morgan's niece Leanna, Mary Benson's sister Darlene, Patricia Young's brother Harlan, Mary Graese's sister Corinne, Rick & Laura Hill's brother-in-law Rick and

dad Jim and friend Margo.

**Residents of Nursing Care:** Rice Lake Convalescent Center: Ruth Fredrickson-Olson.

**Serving in the military:** Dave & Darlene Strohmeier's daughter Dawn is serving in the Middle East. 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.

**Praises:** Donald Parks is now home following a stay at Rice Lake Convalescent Center for knee recovery. Brett Hewitt and Marielle Graese were wed here on November 30th. May God bless their marriage.





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



**"HANGING OF THE GREENS"** (DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS) AT MARANATHA WILL BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT 6:00 PM. BRING OUT THE FAMILY AND A SNACK TO SHARE AND ENJOY TIME GETTING THE CHURCH READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. SING-UPS ARE AT THE CONNECTING POINT, BUT NO RSVPS ARE NECESSARY TO COME!

**GARAGE GAMES FOR YOUTH** ARE PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH FROM 7-10 PM. IN THE SOUL GARAGE. YOUTH GRADES 7-12 ARE INVITED TO BRING FRIENDS ENJOY THE GAMES, SNACKS, MOVIES AND FUN. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT PASTOR TONY AT [TONY@MARANATHAFREE.COM](mailto:TONY@MARANATHAFREE.COM)

**"HOLLY + IVORY"** CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH BEGINS AT 6:30 PM. MUSIC AND SONGS ARE LED BY KATE COPKE. THIS TIME WILL BE A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR AT CHRISTMAS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT PASTOR PAUL AT 715-234-8313.

**YOUNG AT HEART (AGE 55+)** WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A POTLUCK ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH AT NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWED BY MUSIC AND A CHRISTMAS SING ALONG WITH JANELLE PETERSON. SIGN UP AT THE BULLETIN BOARD TO THE LEFT AS YOU ENTER THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR WHAT YOU CAN BRING TO THE POTLUCK. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT LEE + SHELBY WOHLK AT 715-458-2925.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**—PASTOR BILL LERCH WILL BRING A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "GOOD NEWS; GREAT JOY; FOR ALL PEOPLE" ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND. BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL TIME DURING OUR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES "BETWEEN THE GIANTS" AT 3:00, 4:30 AND 6:00 PM.** JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE FOR ONE OF THESE SERVICES (ALL SERVICES IDENTICAL). INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY AND LOVED ONES TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS. CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE FOR INFANTS 0-36 MONTHS IN THE NURSERY FOR ALL SERVICE TIMES.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**—MARANATHA PASTORS AND OFFICE STAFF WISH EACH OF YOU A BLESSED AND MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS. MAY YOU BE BLESSED BY THE PROMISES DEMONSTRATED BY THE LORD THROUGH THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IN A MANGER. MAY WE REMEMBER THE EXCITEMENT OF THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS AT HIS COMING TO EARTH! "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE SENT HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 3:16

**REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES...** VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.MARANATHAFREE.COM](http://WWW.MARANATHAFREE.COM) AND CLICK ON THE LINK FOR MINISTRIES WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO WHERE YOU CAN CLICK ON "MISSIONS." **MONTHLY UPDATED PRAYER REQUESTS WILL BE POSTED THERE.** IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, PLEASE PICK UP A COPY OF THE MISSIONARY PRAYER SHEET FROM THE CONNECTING POINT (DESK) IN THE WELCOME CENTER.

**SERVICE TIMES :** SUNDAY SERVICES ARE 8:45 AM + 10:30 AM. HIDE AND SEEK CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AGES 30 MONTHS THROUGH 6TH GRADE IS DURING BOTH SERVICES IN THE MINISTRY CENTER. SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS IS AVAILABLE IN THE 10:30 AM HOUR. THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE IDENTICAL FOR BOTH SERVICES. NURSERY IS AVAILABLE FOR INFANTS THROUGH 36 MONTHS IN THE MAIN CHURCH FOR ALL SERVICES.