

# get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



## For God So Loved the World He Gave His Only Son

**Christmas Music Sabbath**  
**December 16, 10:30 a.m.**

Come and join us for some special Christmas Music during our morning worship in the Sanctuary.  
No Sabbath School that day!

**Sabbath Morning Worship**  
**December 23rd, 10:30 a.m.**

No Sabbath School that day!

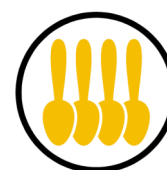
**Candlelight Christmas Eve**  
**Sunday, December 24th, 4:30 p.m.**

What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our King!  
Join us for our traditional candle-light service.  
A special offering will be taken for The Feeding Spoon - Zambia.

## December 2023

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**The feeding  
SPOON  
FOUNDATION**

For more information go to  
[thefeeding Spoon.org](http://thefeeding Spoon.org)

Make checks payable to Milton SDB Church and write "Feeding Spoon" in the memo.

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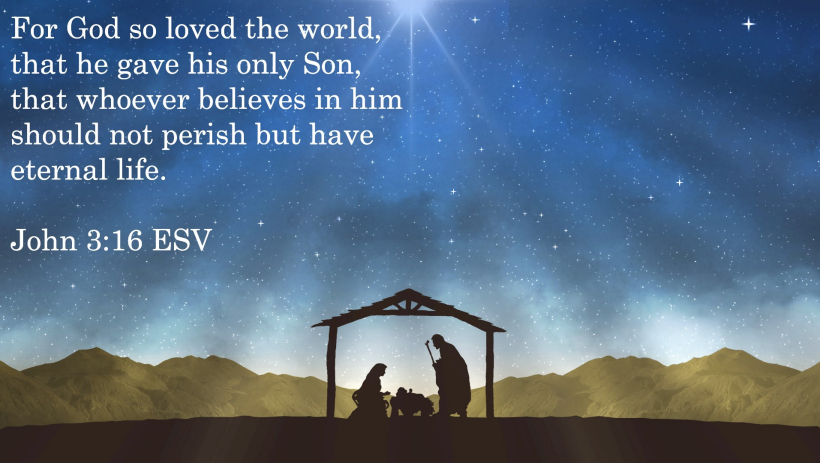
# Let's Celebrate Christmas Together

By Pastor Nate Crandall

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

Before Christ gave himself for us on the cross, God gave Jesus to us as a baby to live among us. In this way God showed that the nature of his love was highly relational. God didn't send a check to buy our redemption. He didn't just show up to hang on the cross. He came to share himself with us. The gift he gave was his personal, relational self. He showed us by the kind of gift he gave the kind of person he is. Doesn't that make you want to know and love him more?

Christmas is a great time to revisit the wonder of God's precious gift and all that Jesus means to us. We have three opportunities to celebrate this Christmas. Our annual Christmas Music celebration will take place on Sabbath, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene set against a starry night sky. The figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus are visible under a simple wooden manger structure, with rolling hills in the background.

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have  
eternal life.

John 3:16 ESV

**Please consider how you may be able to make this day special through the sharing of a song, a reading, or by participating in one of the choirs or music ensembles.** It is always better when we share together!

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will worship at our usual Sabbath morning time of 10:30 am. On Christmas Eve we will gather for worship at our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm. Get ready to sing your favorite Christmas carols because these services will filled with them.

In addition, please consider bringing a friend to one or more of our Christmas worship celebrations. Perhaps this may be the opportunity that someone is waiting for to draw close to Jesus. You could be the one to help them take a life-changing step! The Lord Jesus gave himself to us. He is the best Christmas present anyone could ever receive. May this Christmas season be a time where someone's eyes are opened to the beauty of God's gift!



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## You are all invited to join our Christmas choir!

We'll be singing for our annual Christmas Music celebration on Sabbath, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Tentative rehearsal dates and times are Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, time to be determined; Sabbath, Dec. 9 at 8:00 a.m.; and Friday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.. Attend when you can. Jayne Lubke has links to the two anthems and will record parts for those who request them.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please contact Jayne at [rubatojayne@gmail.com](mailto:rubatojayne@gmail.com), or 608-751-0631.

# Prayer Focus – My Christmas Prayer for You

by Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

I wish you...I wish you...a "Merry Christmas." Merry? No...that's not quite it. I mean yes, merriment, yes, family and feasting, hymns and candlelight worship, presents and excitement, happy children's faces, snowmen and jingle bells, and Linus reading Luke 2. Yes. Yes. Yes. But that's not quite my wish for you – my prayer for you. I wish... I wish... I wish... I pray... for tender hearts and open eyes to see the glorious truth that HE CAME. HE CAME. JESUS CAME.

The creator of the universe, God of Gods, King of Kings. HE CAME. HE CAME to set the prisoners free. HE CAME to heal the broken hearted. HE CAME to turn our ashes into beauty. HE CAME to replace the spirit of heaviness with the garment of praise. HE CAME

to save us all from Satan's power. HE CAME. Word of God now in flesh appearing. HE CAME. Into our darkness. Into our pain. HE CAME. HE KNEW what it would mean. HE KNEW Calvary was coming. HE KNEW. HE KNEW and yet HE CAME. Because we are helpless and needy, blind, naked, imprisoned, estranged. HE CAME.

Oh dear God, YOU CAME. Jesus, Savior, King, Priest, Sacrifice, Friend. YOU CAME. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. YOU CAME. Lamb of God, Light of the World, oh so greatly exalted. Into the world's darkness, YOU CAME.

So, no, merry doesn't begin to capture my prayer wish for

you. I wish you... I wish you... I wish you... I pray for you a PROFOUND Christmas. May you encounter the living God at the deepest level of your heart. May you grow in understanding of who HE is and what HE did. And from that deep well of all-encompassing wonder and joy, may irrepressible merriment burst forth. So, yes, I wish you a Merry Christmas. A PROFOUNDLY Merry Christmas. Because HE CAME. Merry Christmas! God has blessed us, every one.

Let us pray for one another – LORD, give my brothers and sisters in Christ a PROFOUNDLY Merry Christmas. May you open the eyes of those who do not know you so that they, too, may have a PROFOUNDLY Merry Christmas.

## KWIK TRIP

### KWIK TRIP CARDS

#### make Great Christmas Gifts

*Proceeds from the purchase of Kwik Trip cards supports our Outreach Ministry.*

Plan ahead and purchase Kwik Trip cards for Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers by contacting Janet in our church office (608-868-2741 or [churchoffice@miltonsdb.org](mailto:churchoffice@miltonsdb.org)).

If you would like a specific amount or type, please sign up in the Welcome Center by December 9th and they will be available by December 15th.

### Milton Food Pantry Requests



For the holidays baking products would be great donations: white, brown and/or powdered sugars, flour, oil, cake and cookie mixes, frosting, decorations, and chocolate chips.

The numbers continue to grow with more people signing up monthly. Therefore, additional food needs to be purchased. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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# Biblical Stewardship, Part 3

by Pastor John Pethtel

*NOTE: This article is part three in a series of articles focused on biblical stewardship encouraging us to take a closer look into how to become biblical stewards of what God has given to us and our church. Part one can be found in the October newsletter. Part two can be found in the November newsletter.*

## **What Does That Mean for Us?**

So what does the idea of stewardship mean for us in the 21st century? Here are five ideas we need to remember if we want to succeed as good stewards:

### **1. Stewards are responsible for what they have**

The key to reliable stewardship is growing an awareness that everything belongs to God. Therefore, we are called to be thoughtful and intentional about how we use our resources. This includes the things we tend to think of as “mine.”

When you pull out your wallet to swipe your debit card, you are not just spending money you earned. You are managing a resource that God has entrusted to you. That does not mean that you can never splurge or buy something extravagant. But you want to be careful to avoid indulgence. In the end, stewardship requires some intentionality. We need a strategy for monitoring the use of God’s property and for investing it.

### **2. Stewardship is about investing**

You could take every cent you have ever earned and put it under your mattress. When Jesus returns, you write Him a check for the millions of dollars you have saved. He is not going to congratulate you on your superb management. Because stewardship is not about protecting – it is about investing.

When Jesus tells us to “store up treasure in heaven,” He is telling us to find ways to send it ahead. We do that by investing in Kingdom-centered things that God cares about. These include:

- Giving to your church
- Investing in ministries
- Supporting charities
- Serving in Christ-centered ways

### **3. Stewards need to be wise about debt**

There is a lot of Christian advice out there about debt, and some of it is pretty alarmist. When you consider the fact that the average American household carries about \$17,000 in credit card debt, it is easy to see that there is a problem.

The problem with consumer debt is that it cuts into your ability to use God’s resources wisely. How many people neglect to invest in God’s

Kingdom because they struggle to simply make the minimum payments on credit cards? That is why it is critical to borrow wisely and infrequently.

### **4. God cares for others through His stewards**

Every once in a while, someone might pull the money they need out of the mouth of a fish (Matthew 17:24-27). But for the most part, that is not how God takes care of people. God filters His vast resources to people in need through the faithfulness of His stewards. That is why Jesus would say something as outlandish as “give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42).

### **5. Stewards are to invest in the future**

When push comes to shove, stewardship is about faith. A good steward believes that:

- God owns everything
- We are responsible for managing His resources
- He is coming back and we will give an account



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## Biblical Stewardship, Part 3, *continued*

by Pastor John Pethtel

- There are rewards or consequences for our management

If we do not believe these tenets, stewardship becomes nearly impossible. A steward needs to be able to give up what they have with the faith that it will have a long-term effect on the Kingdom – and that God will reward their stewardship.

### The Life of the Faithful Steward

God has blessed each one of us a little differently. The challenge is to use whatever we have – be it money, time, energy, or skills – to serve God and grow His Kingdom. This means that we look at what we have and ask God, “How can I use this to glorify You and reconcile people to

You?” When we consistently ask ourselves that question, we are well on our way to becoming good stewards.



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## Welcoming the LGBT+ Community into our Lives with Grace and Truth



In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to make disciples of *all* people. As followers of Jesus, how do we welcome our LGBT+ family, friends and neighbors in love and truth? This is a front and center issue in our culture. How do we find this balance as ambassadors of Jesus? Join us for this vital two session Sabbath School discussion on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Facilitator: Linda Lyke

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## "Whole Disciples for Broken Times" Sabbath School Class starting on January 20th

To be vital in our changing world, followers and disciples of Jesus Christ need to seek maturity. Spiritual maturity is a whole-life concept which is not relegated to just our beliefs – it also extends to our thoughts, actions, and emotions. Following interest around the book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, by Peter Scazzero, we will explore how to pursue full maturity in our spiritual lives by exploring what it means to be emotionally healthy in them using Scazzero's book as a starting place.

Scazzero suggests that it is impossible to be spiritually mature while being emotionally immature. In this class, facilitated by Nick Kersten, we will strive together to address how to engage our God-given humanity and the emotions we all experience in ways that are healthy for us and the people around us without excusing sin or spiritualizing emotional immaturity. The class will begin on January 20th and end on May 18th, Sabbath mornings during the Grow Group time. We invite you to join us!



- 1 Phil Lawton
- 3 Carol Blomgren
- 6 Cheyane Merz
- 9 Robert & Sondra Muench
- 12 Randy Osborn
- 13 Roper Uhlich
- 14 Brandon Crandall
- 15 Benny & Sarah Uhlich
- 20 Eva Harris
- 22 Denise Green
- 25 William Holbrook
- 25 Seth Greene
- 27 Tacy Camenga
- 28 Neil Aiken
- 30 Donna McCorriston
- 31 Winifred Hoffman
- 31 Joel & Doneta Osborn

## Attention Ladies!

All Collision age and older ladies are invited to Marcy Kersten's home, 4087 Deer Crossing Drive, Janesville on **December 9th from 2-4 p.m.** to **enjoy Christmas Treats and fellowship.**



Instead of exchanging socks as we have previously, this year those that are interested in sharing a Christmas Treat should bring one and **everyone should bring one of their favorite Christmas Treat Recipes.** Anyone that attends will then receive an email with a copy of all the recipes that are brought. RSVP (608) 774-5298 or [marcy.kersten@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.kersten@gmail.com)

*Come join the fun!*

### Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, December 12,  
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's  
Come celebrate Christmas  
with some church friends!

### December Children's Church

**December 2  
Unit 19: Session 2  
Big Truth Session**

Jesus Was Dedicated  
(Matthew 2, Luke 2)

Lead Teacher: Tara Rotzoll

**No Children's Church  
on December 16th**



### Children's Christmas Choir

Singing Dec. 16th at 10:30 a.m.  
Rehearsals are Weds.  
Dec. 6 & 13 at 6:00  
p.m. and Sat. Dec. 2  
and 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Come as often as you can.



### Focus on Funds

as of October 31, 2023

General Fund Balance	\$14,679.73
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$26,472.90
Oct. Undesignated Inc.	\$17,402.00
Oct. Total Income	\$33,470.58
Oct. Expenses	\$30,800.44
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 5,125.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 9,724.38

December – Awana	
6	Club Christmas song rehearsal @ 6:00
13	Club – <b>Birthday Party for Jesus</b> Christmas Song rehearsal @ 6:00
<b>*16 Sat.</b>	<b>*Christmas Music Worship (Awana sings)</b>
20	No Club – Merry Christmas
27	No Club – Happy New Year

December – Collision	
2	Christmas Caroling with Koinonia Youth
4	Roller Skating with Koinonia Youth
6	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @ Camp Wakonda
13	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @ Camp Wakonda
20	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @ Camp Wakonda – <b>WHITE ELEPHANT!</b>
27	No Collision
29-1	Year-End Retreat @ Camp Wakonda
31	<b>New Year's Eve Party @ Camp Wakonda</b>

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sabbath Sunset Times</b></p> <p>Dec 1 4:24 p.m.    Dec 2 4:24 p.m.            Dec 8 4:23 p.m.    Dec 9 4:23 p.m.            Dec 15 4:24 p.m.    Dec 16 4:24 p.m.            Dec 22 4:26 p.m.    Dec 23 4:27 p.m.            Dec 29 4:31 p.m.    Dec 30 4:32 p.m.</p>				1	2
					5-8 Piano Recital	9:00 Sabbath School and Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship and Children's Church	
3 9:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting – Library  TBD Mixed Choir Rehearsal	4 8:00 TOPS	5  7:00 Scouts	6 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person/zoom  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:00 Awana Kids Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	7	8	9 8:00 Mixed Choir Reh. 9:00 Sabbath School and Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship  2:30 Piano Recital 2-4 Ladies Christmas Recipe/Treat Exchange – Marcy Kersten's	
10  2:30 Piano Recital	11 8:00 TOPS	12 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's  7:00 Scouts	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person/zoom  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:00 Awana Kids Choir Rehearsal 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	14	15  6:30 Mixed Choir Rehearsal	16 8:00 Rehearsals No Sabbath School 10:30 Christmas Music Celebration Worship 	
17	18 8:00 TOPS	19  7:00 Scouts	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person/zoom  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:30 Collision	21	22	23 No Sabbath School 10:30 Worship	
24 4:30 Service 	25 	26	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person/zoom  No Youth Bible Study, Awana or Collision	28	29  Collision Year-End Youth Retreat through Monday	30 No Sabbath School 10:30 Worship	
31 NYE Youth Party – Camp Wakonda							



**December  
2023**

**Milton SDB Church**  
**720 E. Madison Ave.**  
**Milton, WI 53563**  
Church Phone: 608-868-2741

**Pastor Nate Crandall**  
Cell Phone: 608-322-8824  
pastornate@miltonsdb.org

**Pastor Liz Green**  
Cell Phone: 608-289-3029  
pastorliz@miltonsdb.org

**Pastor John Pethtel**  
Cell Phone: 608-352-0655  
pastorjohn@miltonsdb.org

**Administrator:** Janet Butler  
churchoffice@miltonsdb.org

**Director of Children's Ministry:**  
Angie Mullen  
asmullen92@gmail.com

**Prayer Coordinator:**  
Renee Sanford  
renee@miltonsdb.org

**Outreach Coordinator:**  
Linda Lyke  
lykelinda@miltonsdb.org

**Communications Coordinator:**  
Joel Osborn  
joel@miltonsdb.org



### **Online Worship**

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel. Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link. We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.