

LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

-Mariah Schultz and
her scholarship to
the University of
Minnesota, Duluth.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Devotion	1
Boy's Basketball	2
Girl's Basketball	3
Wrestling & Mariah Schultz	4, 5
Veteran's Day & Christmas Defined	6, 7
Christmas History	8

Luther Leader

2012 WINTER ISSUE

EDITOR: SHELBY LAUTZ

Lowliness With a Purpose

Most births in the United States happen in hospitals. That's usually the safest place. The rooms are clean, trained professionals monitor mother and child, and if complications arise, the best tools of modern medicine are close by.

What was Jesus' birthplace like? We know the cleanliness of hospitals and might assume a similar atmosphere. The beautiful nativity scenes painted and constructed to honor the birth of our Savior may also skew our minds' mental images.

For a moment, erase these pictures from your mind, and see the picture the Holy Spirit paints for us: "She wrapped him in cloths and placed

him in a manger," a feeding trough for animals. Jesus was not born in a sanitary hospital or in a clean house. Very likely, he was born in some sort of stable or barn; he was laid where animals were fed. Can you imagine a more lowly birth? In the lowliness of his birth, we see the purpose of his coming. He came to suffer for the sins of the world. He came to ransom sinners. He came to humble himself even to death on a cross.

So we see the seriousness of sin. Our sin led God's Son to enter this world through a very lowly birth. His lowly life ended in a godforsaken death because of our sin. But what unsurpassed love we also

see! We deserved only his anger, hatred, and everlasting punishment in hell. Yet in love for us, God's Son willingly came. He was born in a lowly manger for us. He laid down his life on the cross for us. How true it when Paul writes, "Though [our Lord Jesus Christ] was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). This is what we and every Christian confess: Jesus was born in a lowly manger for me; lowliness with a purpose—to save me.

By Pastor Wendt

First Lutheran in

La Crosse, WI

Mission Possible

The Luther boys' basketball team is looking to start from where they finished last year, with their A-game. The team consists of six dominating seniors, four explosive juniors, and two fiery sophomores. They are coming back for the season bigger, better, faster, and stronger. Christian Kennedy, Zach Matzke, and Austin Schroeder have encouraged the rest of the team to work hard in the off season so that they can perform even better than last year. They will have more knowledge and experience on the court than before. With many boys going into

their third year on the team playing for Mr. Schaper, they will have a key understanding of what needs to be accomplished and when to do it. The season looks promising with so many gifted players on the team. With the help of leading seniors, the team and Mr. Schaper are looking forward to a long season with many rewards. Mr. Schaper recognizes that the boys are feeling pressure to achieve the success they had last year. Many of the pressures will be hard to overcome, but he admires how they have maintained level heads. He knows that whether they win or lose, they will never be satisfied with how they performed. They have a drive

that is shown through their work ethic. Hitting the court bigger, better, and faster is one reason the Knights should be feared this year.

The Luther basketball team knows that they have to keep an even keel throughout the season. The days will start to get long, but they will maintain the drive that has them on the court. Part of the help to stay in the game comes through Knight Knation. Knight Knation will be a large part of the energy that the Knights bring to the court. The boys feed off the liveliness that the Knation has every game.

The Knation brings everyone in the student body together and shows how much passion and support they have for the boys' basketball team. Desire and determination is the motivating force behind the team, and will make every mission possible.

By Charis Zarling



Hustle and Heart Set Us Apart

The gym is silent. A referee hands the ball to one of the players. Coach Babinec shouts out the next play to his team. The excitement is at a peak as the referee blows his whistle. The gym is filled with cheers and the squeaks of shoes. The ball is passed to a teammate and action erupts out of the stillness. Although the girls seem to be scrambling every which way, each movement is executed with a purpose. This is the time of year that many fans have been waiting for. This is the basketball season.

This year's team includes a solid group of returning starters. Having so many returning players with so much experience will help make the team physically and mentally stronger. They have the means to lead the newest players, because they know what to expect from the varsity level. These ladies can help inspire and teach the others the ropes. The girls help motivate each other to reach their full potentials. The team is hungry for greatness and wants to per-

form well together. The Lady Knights are working hard and aiming to be better than last year's team. Last year's team finished strong; however, it is these ladies' goal to play stronger, sounder basketball. To do this, they are making it a priority to hold on to the basics. It is their intention to play fundamentally sound basketball above all else.

Returning to the team are two seniors Mariah Shultz and Katie Feuerbach. They have played basketball for Luther for all four years and have the abilities to lead the team to victory. The Knights welcome a freshman, Erin Svendsen, to the team as well. Coach Babinec does not generally move freshman up to varsity, but he is always looking to see who can play at the varsity level. To him, it is not as much about the age as it is about the ability. The team's motto for the season is: all out, all game, all season. This means that they give all they've got at all times. No matter what, they will always



work as hard as they can. "We want to do all things to the glory of God," stated Mr. Babinec. "Whether at practice or in a game, whether seen or unseen, give 100%."

By Chloe Harbach

“Honest Coach, All I Ate Was an Orange!”

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “wrestling”? Do you think of the fourteen weight classes? Do you think of your memories participating in wrestling, or watching your high school/college boyfriend competing? Do you think of the gruesome hours of practice where you went through pain, sweat, blood, and sometimes tears? Or do you think of those hard-earned victories by beating your toughest opponent?

Well, it’s that time of year again! It’s wrestling season! There is one freshman, four sophomores, four juniors and two seniors. Zach Harter, as a freshman, is learning the ropes of wrestling. Zach is looking up to his teammates on tips and for help and guidance. This is also the first year of wrestling for Alexander Cortez, Zach Rich, and Hayden Neumeister. Tristan Meyer, Max Wetzal, Alexander Cortez, and Sam Schmocker are the four sophomores. Spencer Robson, Zach Rich, Hayden Neumeister, and Matt Berg are the juniors. Josh Rediske and

Marcus Larson are the two seniors. Tristan, Max, Spencer, Matt and Marcus were the letter-winners last year. They all work hard each day in practice, and give it their all in the meets. Even though the competition is rough, they pull through and use their God-given talents as best they can! The toughest school they participate against would be De Soto, considering that the Pirates are a Division 3 school. The expectations of Coach and the rest of the team for this season would be to have individual state place winners. Mr. Benrud says: “My main goal for practice is to have the boys learn and be in the best shape of their lives. We work harder than any other athletic group in the school. The only way they as athletes can be successful, is by self-motivation. You don’t have

the rest of your team to back you up for help, it’s all you.”

Mr. Benrud actually takes care of the injuries himself, since he has already been trained. He actually wrestled on Central High School’s team, and in college, he wrestled intramural. The most memorable moment he can remember from all the past seasons would be: “Watching John Poppie win state, watching my own kids wrestle, and watching the boys every season grow in their mental and physical abilities.” Be sure to stop by and check out some of the matches throughout this season and see how their hard work has paid off.

By Courtney Komay



The Star of Luther High School

Senior Mariah Schultz has made her mark in the Luther High School athletic program for the past three years. She has been involved in Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball for all the years of her high school career. It all began when she was a young girl, playing catch with her dad. Then later, her mom had signed her up for Gymnastics, but after a while, instead of taking her to her gymnastics practices, her dad took her to the softball fields and helped her with pitching. Mariah has been playing in official softball leagues since she was eight years old. At Luther, she has been on Varsity her freshman, sophomore, and junior year, and plans to be on it again this year as well. She says it is hard to balance homework, social life and sport practices. However, she has gotten used to dealing with the hardships of a high school life. As her pregame ritual, before every game, she

avoids stepping on the white lines. "Being around all the people, working together, and the games", is her favorite part of playing softball.

Mariah's greatest accomplishments were achieved during the softball seasons. She holds the record for strikeouts, triples, home runs, runs batted in. Her season records for last year were 213 strikeouts, she has 6 triples. Her career records were 14 home runs, and 82 runs batted in. Also she had a career record slugging percentage of .847. Some additional highlights from Mariah's career are that she lettered in 2010, 2011, and 2012. She received Coulee Conference 1st Team; in 2010 she received Coulee Conference Player of the year. In 2011 she was again awarded Coulee Conference 1st Team.

Because of her academic and athletic excellence, she was offered a scholarship from the University of Minnesota Duluth for softball. She had also obtained scholar-

ship offers from University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Winona State University, and Wichita State in Kansas. She accepted



Duluth's offer in October of this year. On November 20, 2012, Mariah signed a national letter of intent for Duluth. Coach Ross gave a speech about her success at Luther, and Mariah talked about her plans for the future. While attending Duluth next year, she plans on having softball as her main focus. After the speeches were made, she signed the documents. All of her family was there, her St. John's Lewiston coaches, and former teammates to support her. It was an important day in Luther High School history. We wish Mariah the best of luck on her future endeavors at University of Minnesota, Duluth. Go Bulldogs!

By Lydia Wassermann



In Their Honor

Veterans Day honors all of the Veterans who have served our country, although it originally started out only for WWI veterans. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, a temporary secession of hostilities was declared between the Allied forces and the Germans during WWI. This day was celebrated as Armistice Day the following year. It became a legal holiday in 1938. After the Korean War and WWII, this day was changed to Veterans Day, in order to honor all veterans who have served our country.

On November 12th, Luther High School's students, veterans of all ages, along with Mayor Matt Harter of La Crosse, and Mayor Joe Chilsen of Onalaska gathered to celebrate Veterans Day. We celebrate this day because, "It is an opportunity to honor our veterans in the area as a high school, and to show support to our alumni," said Mr. Schiebel.

The service began with the colors being presented by the American Legion Color Guard. The whole assembly then joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the pledge, the Luther High School band performed the national anthem. A special award was presented to veteran Gordan Hoffman by Mike Huebsch, from the office of the secretary of Governor Scott Walker. This award was a commendation for his faithful service after retiring from the military and highlighting his being a POW for three months during World War 2. After the brief award ceremony for Hoffman, a chapel focused on our special

forces of faith and how they are used was given by Pastor Roy Hefti from St. Paul's Bangor. A presentation, given by students on the special forces of our military branches followed.

The presentation started with the presentation of the United States Army Special Forces written by Rachel Riediger and Emily Appold and spoken by Mr. Schiebel. Following the army, Marcus Larson presented research on the United States Navy Special Forces prepared by Nolan Arentz and Nolan. Next, the United States Marines Special Forces was presented by Mitch Wrobel and David Mueller. The last student presentation was given by Josh Robertson and Hunter Lisowski on the United States Air Force Special Forces. Finally, Mr. Schiebel finished the Armed Forces Special Operations Units presentation by presenting the Special Forces of the United States Coast Guard. Veterans who were members of each of these dif-

ferent military branches, Special Forces or not, were asked to stand and be honored after the presentation of their respective branch. After the presentations, a short history of Veterans Day was given by Jim Nelson, who is from the American Legion Post. At eleven o'clock, as is now the custom to do, the assembly took a moment of silence to honor our veterans. Lizzy Niemi and Emma Schibbelhut followed the moment of silence with the playing of taps on their trumpets. The service ended with the American Legion color guard retiring the colors, which included the American flag and the Wisconsin state flag.

Veterans Day is important. It gives us an opportunity to support our former students who are now serving in the military, and an opportunity to thank and honor all of our Veterans who have served our country.

By Emily Appold



The True Meaning of Christmas



It's that time of the year again with December slowly drawing near, thoughts of snow, and stressing over what gifts to buy for the family. But what is the true meaning of Christmas? When asking a child what they believe the meaning of Christmas is, a typical response might be the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, snow on the yard, stockings hanging on the mantle, and shouts of "Merry Christmas." For many families, Christmas is a time of sorrow. Presents are expensive, and in some households they aren't given at all. Military leave is a wonderful thing, and yet some families are left without a parent during the holiday season because he or she is needed at their stations around the world.

However, Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. "God sent his Son, born of a wom-

an, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons," says Galatians 4: 4-5. This is the time to bring Jesus into your heart. Only then will we have a "Merry Christmas."

Several elements are commonly associated with Christmas. Each has a separate meaning that truly defines this holiday season. The pure green color of the fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. The star which is lit upon the top of the Christmas tree is the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star which hovered over the stable was a sign of the fulfillment of His promise.

Ornaments decorate every Christmas tree, the Santa and angel ornaments are one of the most common adornments. Santa Claus symbolizes generosity and good will, we are our own Santa every time we donate a gift whether it's to Toys for Tots or a neighborhood family in need. The angels sang and gave glory to God. We are like angels whenever we tell somebody about what Christ has done for us. Also, the gifts that lay under the tree are no match for the ultimate gift of God. He sent us his Son to die for everyone on

the cross and to take away our sins. Jesus Christ is the gift we all need, whether we know it or not.

The candle, wreath, and candy canes are next. The candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of how He removes the sin that darkens all hearts. The wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love is never ceasing. Love is like one continuous round of affection. All of the candy canes which fill stockings represent the crook of the staff that shepherds used to herd their sheep to safety. Jesus is our shepherd and we are his sheep. He herds us away from the temptations of the devil, to the safety of his home in heaven.

The bell symbolizes Christ's birth. It announces the celebration of our Savior. As it says in Isaiah 53:6, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Literally, Christmas means the annual Christian festival held on the 25th of December. The dictionary doesn't say what it stands for, or who it is that we are celebrating during this time of the year. It's not the gifts we receive that we boast about to all of our friends or the annual competition to see whose house has the most decorations. Christmas is about God's gift of a savior. Jesus is the reason for the season.

By Rachel Horstman

The History of Christmas Decorations

When we think of Christmas, several things come to mind. Red and white striped candy is used to garnish desserts and trees, stockings hang over toasty fireplaces, evergreen trees illuminate the cozy homes with a bright star twinkling on top, and the Nativity scene depicts Christ's birth to all who pass it. Each one of these brilliant decorations has a history of its own.

During Christmas services, little children usually can't keep quiet. To pacify them, a choirmaster made a sweet stick to keep the children silent. The candy cane's shape derives from the crook of a shepherd's staff. When turned upside down, it looks like the letter "J" for Jesus. The red stripes represent the blood shed for us by



Christ. Three of them wrap around the candy to symbolize the Holy Trinity. The white stripes stand for the purity we receive through the sacrifice of our Savior. Candy canes are a hard candy. Legend is that this is because Jesus is the solid foundation of the church. Today we give candy canes out of the goodwill of our hearts to share the holiday spirit with everyone.

Another legend says that there was once a poor father who had three daughters. The father couldn't afford to buy presents for them. The girls' usual habit was to hang their socks over the fire to dry. Saint Nicolas knew this, and he dropped gold coins into their

socks on Christmas Eve. Each girl had enough money to be married! This tradition still continues today. Children hang their stockings over the fireplace, and then parents fill



them with treats and goodies.

Many goodies are placed underneath trees this time of year. Christmas trees are one of the most well known decorations. They originated from ancient Egypt. Egyptians worshipped evergreens during the winter months. They believed the unchanging color of the needles symbolized life's victory over death. In Great Britain, they used holly and mistletoe to represent eternal life. All around the world, evergreens were believed to keep evil spirits away. During the Middle Ages, the people started to put whole trees indoors. Martin Luther set up an indoor evergreen and decorated it with candles to honor Christ's birth. Today, we chop down a pine tree and set it up in our living rooms. Glittering lights and glossy ornaments adorn the boughs of the trees. Below its branches sit boxes and bags in ornate wrappings, just waiting to be opened.

On top of Christmas trees, an illuminated star shines brightly. This sparkling ornament represents the Star of David. The Bible tells us that a star led the Magi to where Jesus was in Matthew 2:9-11. "9

They went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." The star helps us remember this story and of God's great power over everything.

The Nativity scene is the most important Christmas decoration of all. It depicts the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. It shows the magi, the star, Mary and Joseph, and the baby in a manger. It tells of this scene in Luke 2, "16 So they (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger." It is a reminder of Christ and of how he humbled himself to be man for us, and how he suffered, died, and rose in our place.

Striped candy canes, warm stockings, crisp evergreens, twinkling stars, and the Nativity scene are beautiful decorations to adorn homes. They are perfect reminders of the history of Christmas. It all began one night in Bethlehem with our newborn King, Jesus.

By Jennie Adickes



Holiday Fun by Travis Kilmer

Christmas Décor – Word Jumble

Unscramble the words using the word bank below.

1. ETER _____
2. GTOSKICN _____
3. RNNMOESTA _____
4. AWHERT _____
5. AGARDNL _____
6. EEEEVGRN _____
7. BUSBL _____
8. OLYHL _____
9. IOTSTIPNAE _____
10. IONESECNP _____
11. ARST _____
12. GILHTS _____
13. ITSLEN _____
14. MOETETISL _____
15. NAEANDYCC _____
16. EBLSL _____
17. NACDSEL _____

Garland	Ornaments	Mistletoe	Lights	Poinsettia	Stocking
Tree	Bells	Holly	Star	Candy Cane	Pinecones
Tinsel	Candles	Wreath	Bulbs	Evergreen	

Holiday Fun

Word Search

s	t	l	i	t	s	s	e	a	l	i	s	e	s
s	t	i	s	o	k	y	j	u	b	i	l	e	e
i	e	a	n	y	i	c	j	l	d	n	t	i	d
t	g	r	b	s	t	n	e	s	e	r	p	s	i
l	r	a	l	l	e	l	u	i	a	n	a	e	t
s	e	h	d	e	e	l	i	d	i	y	s	i	e
p	e	s	n	e	c	n	i	k	n	a	r	f	l
i	t	a	i	p	y	t	p	n	m	d	a	l	u
r	i	v	s	t	i	m	l	t	u	i	t	t	y
i	n	i	a	o	u	n	s	j	o	l	l	y	l
t	g	o	n	p	n	i	y	t	s	o	r	f	i
t	s	r	s	d	r	e	h	p	e	h	s	p	m
i	t	e	o	h	s	i	n	j	y	i	y	s	a
i	c	i	c	l	e	s	e	v	i	s	s	a	f

Christmas season frosty spirit tradition greetings family yuletide holiday
 pumpkin pie alleluia icicles tinsel frankincense savior shepherds stable toys
 jolly presents

Holiday Fun

Name That Tune!

1. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas Just like the ones I used to know Where the treetops glisten and children listen..." _____
2. "You know Dasher, and Dancer, and Prancer, and Vixen. Comet, and Cupid, and Donner and Blitzen But do you recall the most famous reindeer of all..." _____
3. "I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus Underneath the mistletoe last night She didn't see me creep Down the stairs to have a peek She thought I was tucked Up in my bedroom fast asleep..." _____
4. "Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring Snowin' and blowin' up bushels of fun Now the jingle hop has begun Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock..." _____
5. "Rockin' around the Christmas tree at the Christmas party hop Mistletoe hung where you can see every couple who tries to stop Rockin' around the Christmas tree let the Christmas spirit ring..." _____
6. "You better watch out, you better not cry Better not pout I'm telling you why..." _____
7. "Everybody stops And stares at me These two teeth are gone as you can see I don't know just who to blame for this catastrophe But my one wish on Christmas Eve is as plain as it can be..." _____
8. "Bells will be ringing the glad, glad news Oh, what a Christmas to have the blues My baby's gone, I have no friends To wish me greetings once again Choirs will be singing 'Silent Night'..." _____
9. "Frosty the Snowman Was a jolly happy soul With a corncob pipe and a button nose And two eyes made out of coal Frosty the Snowman Made the children laugh and play..." _____
10. "Oh the weather outside is frightful But the fire is so delightful And since we've no place to go Let it snow let it snow let it snow Man it doesn't show signs of stopping..." _____

