

The Heartbeat



Monthly newsletter of Life Saver Ministries/ December 2020

A Blessed Advent

Here we find ourselves on the cusp of the Christmas season and with advent commencing, it is truly a blessed time to focus on the promise of this sacred season. I think for many of us, the year 2020 has engrained into our hearts a deeper appreciation for the intangibles of life, the beauty of the human experience that transcends anything material-togetherness, community, gathering- even human touch- have been sorely missed by many and it is such a beautiful opportunity for us as the Church to share the greatest gift of all, the hope of Heaven, with every anxious, weary, longing heart we meet along the way. Further, it is such a privilege to have a Savior Who is close to us always and especially close to the brokenhearted, as we all seek that constant Companion, Defender, Provider, Father and Friend that our amazing God is. What an incredible gift and what an incredible realization that the gift of eternity in Heaven is truly ours through the Gift that the star of Bethlehem led those shepherds and wise men to, millennia ago. What an incredible promise that the darkness and brokenness of this life is overcome by the brightness and light of the One Who spoke it all into being, that the vast mysteries of God point to a God so much greater than anything we could ever contrive, so much grander than anything we could ever master, so much vaster than any journey we could charter. This Christmas, the prayer of my heart is that His light will shine brightly through each of us as a watching, waiting, weary and worried world are eager to know the miracle of Christmas in their hearts and souls. May we be reminded by the canopy of stars overhead this winter that Heaven is just a breath away and all we have ever truly wanted, all we have ever truly needed was found by following that star to that manger to that baby to that King, to Whom be honor and glory both now and forevermore.

-Abbey Ballard, Ministry Director

Hear ye ! Hear ye !

In an effort to better connect with our supporters, we will be launching a podcast in the new year called "Life Saver Heartbeat"—find it wherever you find your podcasts and you'll be able to listen to ministry updates, prayer requests and more that go beyond what we can fit in a newsletter!

It's that time of year again!



It's hard to believe the time is upon us for giving toward Life Saver Ministries by way of our Christmas Tree Tags! If your church, workplace or civic group would like to support your community in a very tangible, practical way, please allow us to provide you with tags that have a specific item or item(s) listed on them that you can purchase and donate to the work of Life Saver Ministries and our Soulutions Center; these items range from hygiene and household items to diapers and clothing items all to be used for the many programs we offer that exist to help ensure that families have what they need and can know that they are loved! Kindly contact us at lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com or by call or text to 320.6789 if you would like to be part of this important effort and we will send you the number of tags you would like. This annual effort has grown to be an important part of caring for our community and is a great way to give in a very meaningful way this Christmas Season!

www.lifesaverheartbeat.com

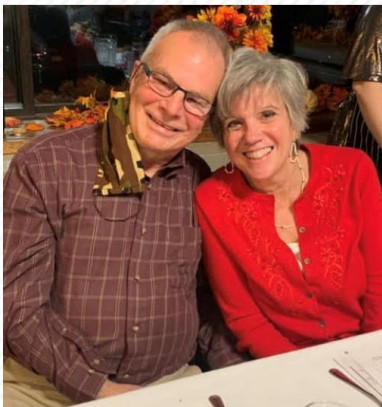
A Season of Giving!

Our annual fundraiser is underway as we seek to reach goals that have been mentioned in previous newsletters! We are seeking donations of any amount to help reach the goal of \$15,000 by the end of December. In addition, we are seeking 5 legacy donors willing to give \$5,000 each in 2021 toward the growing work of Life Saver Ministries. These are ambitious goals and we trust God to provide as He has so faithfully for over 35 years!

If you are on our email list, you likely received an email with a link to our fundraising video; we welcome you to use this video to promote the fundraiser as we know that together, we can reach these goals! If you have not received the video, but would like to, please contact us!

Perhaps you are feeling uninspired in your quest for the perfect Christmas gift or perhaps you are someone for whom material gifts have lost their glimmer and appeal...in any case, here at Life Saver Ministries, we have an awesome opportunity to give a gift of any amount in honor of the recipient(s) on your list. We have gift certificates available that you may give in any amount toward the life-affirming, life building work of Life Saver Ministries; we can then mail you the certificate or send it directly to your recipient. This is a fantastic way to keep the reason for the season present in the presents!

If you are interested in partnering with us in any of the aforementioned ways, please contact us at 518.725.5777 or at lifesaverheartbeat@gmail.com.



The couple pictured above is near and dear to our hearts! Garth & Beth Allen have been at the heart of this ministry for decades and continue to be involved in many ways. They have fought indescribable battles through Beth's cancer journey since 2013 & we are so grateful for the gift of her presence as she would say "I am truly covered in God's grace." This season and always, we are so grateful for them both and we celebrate the God of miracles as He is truly the Author of life and sustains us both now and forevermore.



In Loving remembrance

Life Saver Ministries was very well served by the time and talent of Tom Gardner as he worked for the printing and mailing company, Miller Printing, that makes our monthly Heartbeat publication possible; Tom took great pride in his work and continued to do so even when illness made it incredibly difficult to do so. We were deeply saddened by his passing earlier this year and know that he is sorely missed by many. We are so grateful for Tom as he was a dear friend to us and we lift his family and friends up in prayer as the first of Holidays without him are undoubtedly incredibly difficult. May memories bring comfort and the hope of Heaven shine brighter with the hope of him awaiting us there.

Holiday helpers!



December brings with it our Christmas Boutique for the ladies who attend our classes to shop for needed items for under their trees! This year has operated a bit differently than any others in the past, but we are so grateful to be able to help ensure that the families we serve can be warmed by coats and mittens and, most importantly, by the love of God through the care of others. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously toward these efforts so that God's love can shine brightly in communities who desperately need hope!

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