

# REFLECTIONS

from  
St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
January 2012



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**Luncheon**

St. John's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. Please join us in the Sanctuary as we review 2011 and vote on our 2012 budget. We also have a couple proposals to our Bylaws that will be looked at. The details on that information can be found elsewhere in the newsletter. Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the lobby January 8<sup>th</sup>.

You are invited to join the High School LYO for a soup lunch after the second service, before the annual meeting. The group will be serving soup, sandwiches, dessert and drink. This is a freewill lunch, with all proceeds going to the Youth attending the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Hope you will be able to join us!!!

#### **Staff & Contact Information...**

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Custodian: Brad Ufken

Part-time Custodian: Judy Renken

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

I attended a gathering of football fans not too long ago. There were a number of people present. A whole lot of folks were pulling for one team. There were just a few pulling for the other squad. One of them was sitting with his two younger sons, and they were sitting right next to me. After one team scored, some of the more boisterous clearly let everyone know what they thought of the other team. It was then that I heard these words come out of the little boy's mouth. He looked at his father and said: "why do they hate us so much?" It was then that I saw the father gather his family together; thank the host and hostess and leave. He obviously realized what his child had learned that day.

Sometimes we fail to realize that what we do and say is actually teaching our youth something. The problem is we forget to remember that we are responsible to all the young people in our family of believers. When we welcome them into the Lord's family during that special time of the service of Baptism, we are really telling them that we are taking them in as a member of our family and we will help them in their life among us. We should take this very seriously.

We read of how important this is when our Lord talks about the care of children in Matthew 18:1-6. When he uses words such as being cast into the sea, I know Jesus is serious. We have the responsibility to teach our children to love one another and to grow together as a family. And the amazing thing is that children learn in so many ways. They learn by listening and they learn by participating. But they also learn by watching and seeing. So as I found out the other day, we must all be aware of this because we have made a promise to our children and to God. And one of the big promises is that we will work both as a family and with families.

And to me the most important aspect of this promise is to teach loving relationships. We know that we have a mission to do here at St. John's. We also know that God has empowered us with the Holy Spirit for this mission. We know that the Spirit guides us in ministry to each other and with each other. When we work in this fashion then God can and does work His miracles among us.

There is a legend told concerning one of the great ministers of the reformation. When he had put his young daughter to bed and was stepping out of the door he heard her say, "Daddy do we hate those other people?" When he inquired as to whom those people were, she told him, "those people that you get so mad about." He was shocked because he realized that his child may have heard him say some mean things about the others and in turn, he was teaching her to hate. Then he remembered the words of Jesus and guilt poured over him. I guess my eyes were open the other day. I guess I learned from that small child what he must think of those adults around us. And I also know that we have a responsibility to teach our children the ways of Jesus, to love and care about all people; to show no partiality in our giving of ourselves; to welcome all into the midst of the family. How about you?

See you in church.

*Pastor Gary*

\* \* \*



**as of December 23, 2011**

Current Income Received	\$370,871.40
Benevolence Offerings	\$ 63,422.04
<b>Current Debt</b>	<b>\$ 15,200.00</b>
<b>Renovation Loan Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>



2012 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the lobby. Please begin using these January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not have a set of envelopes, and wish to begin using them, contact Kim at 546-8855 or [kim@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:kim@stjohnslemarsia.org)



Contribution Statements for 2011 will be e-mailed by January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to have a printed copy, please sign up in the church lobby, call the church office at 546-8855 or e-mail [kim@stjohnslemarsia.org](mailto:kim@stjohnslemarsia.org).

*From the  
A.i.M.*



Wait, don't put Christmas away in the closet or in boxes and shove into storage for another year. Not yet. The four weeks prior to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, puts focus on all that makes Christmas special forming a celebration of Jesus' birth.

We are now in the Season of Christmas called Epiphany taking us to the start of Lent. Epiphany Day is January 6. Epiphany means "to make known." The early Christian church first observed Epiphany as a feast commemorating Jesus' baptism as an adult. This was also a time during the early church when it became a celebration of Christ being made known to the Gentiles, beginning with the Wise men who came from the East to worship the Christ child as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12.

Because Jesus is God's gift of Salvation for all nations, Christians are encouraged on Epiphany to share the good news of Jesus with all people. Another theme of Epiphany is God's Light overcoming the darkness of evil and sin. It was that star in the East that guided wise men to Bethlehem that first Christmas.

So, Jesus is the Light of our world! Because we find great comfort, peace, and joy in that declaration of faith, we come to worship each week seeking God's Word in communion with His promise of forgiveness and everlasting love. Jesus lives in that Sanctuary of love.

As Christians we affirm our faith declaring God the Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit in our midst. Yet, the atmosphere outside the Sanctuary can be tarnished by words less than honorable to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

However, we are thankful Jesus never moves nor diverts His attention on each of His children. His attention has no distraction. It is in that affirmation, God is more powerful than the Devil. No matter how often we fail to be Christ-like in our thoughts or deeds, God's gift of Grace shows the fullness of His love.

John 1:14 - "We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only." Yes, Jesus is the One and Only.

It gives me great comfort to know and believe through the power of scripture, God is more powerful than the devil. It is my prayer in daily devotions; the Gospel of Jesus Christ will prevail in its power not just at Christmas or Easter, but in every action of all who serve in humbleness.

Glory be to God,

**Pastor Marcia**

\* \* \*



**Elderberries**

St. John's Elderberries will gather Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM for food, fellowship and games. This is a fun and happy time for friends to celebrate life for those of us 60+ in age. We are "wise owls" who are still

learning. It doesn't get much better than that.

If you would like to host, please contact Pastor Marcia. See you in the Dining Room January 15<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*



**Baptisms**

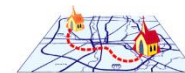
Landon Lee Jay Bohlken  
Heather Charlene Jost



**A Loss in Our  
Church Family**

Eva Varenhorst  
Mathilda Johnson

**IN**



**Membership**

Jon & Nichole Fintel  
Reta Milbrodt



## Music Notes from Cathy

We have been blessed with His Gift and a New Year looms ahead! As you are reading this newsletter, we will have experienced the Miracle and look to the New Year with renewed energy and promise! It becomes a perfect time to share musical talents. I would like to say "thank you" to the many individuals/groups that provide our Congregation with the beauty of music, especially during the Christmas season. It has been a special treat to have the Children's Choir active and to see more young people involved in solo work and also our musical groups. We are truly a blessed Congregation. Please remember to thank these individuals as you encounter them in daily activities or out and about in the community. Please contact the Church Office or Cathy Seaton if you would like to share your musical talent(s) during the New Year!

### January Music Schedule:

**December 31<sup>st</sup> - Saturday evening/New Year's Eve**

**5:30 pm - Ray Seaton**

**January 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day**

**10:00 am - Service of the Word - Open**

**No Sunday evening service**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 am - St. John's Choir**

**10:45 am - People of Praise**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 am - St. John's Choir**

**10:45 am - Children's Choir**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**8:15 am - St. John's Choir**

**10:45 am - People of Praise**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 am - Open**

**10:45 am - People of Praise**

God's Peace - Happy New Year!  
Cathy Seaton



### Adult Sunday School

Grab a cup of coffee and join **Adult Sunday School**. Classes meet in the Dining Room and classroom B-2. All are welcome!!!

### Adult Sunday School Offering

*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Our adult Sunday school has gathered an offering this fall, and sent it to the Center for Agricultural Development in our Companion Synod in Tanzania. The offering came to a total of \$765.

**B-2 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 and is led by Julie Albert and Peg McAllister. The group will study the "Christ in Our Home" daily devotional and the upcoming Sunday's scripture lesson used during our Worship services. Join the group in the basement classroom #B-2 for coffee, scripture, and inspiration to start your week!

\* \* \*



I want to say a special thank you for the carols and basket. It made a day that I really was sad about, a happy day to remember. Your cards were great and St. John's is so fortunate to have people like you. Thanks again and Merry Christmas.

In God's love,  
Estella Herman

\* \* \*



St. John's is responsible for Meals on Wheels in January. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the lobby. We have many spaces to fill. Can you please help with this valuable ministry? Grab a friend and deliver together. Thank you.



### **DIAL-A-DEVOTION - 546-7404**

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A new devotion is available each weekday. *“Thoughts for Daily Living”* is a ministry sponsored by the Women of the ELCA. We thank those who prepared and recorded the messages in December:

Shari Sitzmann, Kay Allen, Kay Michaelson, Glenda Wiener, Marlys Frerichs, Katie Munday, Marge Adler, Dianne Baack, Arlene Wiener, Dorothy Dunn, Robin Grosenheider, Pastor Marcia, Lynne Bogh and Kim Lang

\* \* \*



We need a new director for the Brass Choir! If you are interested in using your God given talents in this capacity, please notify Pastor Gary or Cathy Seaton. This is a paid position of the congregation. We really need your help.

\* \* \*



Thank you to everyone who purchased a Poinsettia this year. The Sanctuary was beautiful! If you want to take your poinsettia home, it may be picked up after January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for help, to take down **Christmas Decorations** Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 9:00 am. Hope you can join us! Thank you.



**January 29<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday “Noisy Offering” has been designated to Marie’s Orphanage in Haiti.**

“NOISY” OFFERINGS



Radio Broadcast

St. John’s is sponsoring **RADIO MESSAGES** Fridays on KLEM, advertising our services and special music for the upcoming weekend. The cost of these ads is \$10 per week. Sponsors will be recognized in the bulletin and newsletter. Please contact and leave your donation in the church office. Thank you.

### **SPONSORS FOR JANUARY:**

1st - Happy New Year

8th -

15th -

22nd -

29th -

Sponsors are needed for February.

**FORTRESS OF FAITH** is a half-hour program broadcast on KLEM/AM, 1410, on Sunday afternoons at 1:00 P.M.

### **SPONSORS FOR JANUARY:**

1st -

8th -

15th -

22nd - In memory of Olga Siege by Lorna & Lorene Siege.

29th -

Sponsors are needed for February 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to sponsor a program, stop by the church office or call 546-8855. Cost is \$25.

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### **SERVERS FOR JANUARY**

Joan Kroepel, Chr., Carol Hallberg, Cindy Kamies, Paula Kommes, Erin Kommes, Shirley Lang, Tammy Lee, and Kay Powell



### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5: Welca Board Meeting**

1:30 PM the WELCA Board will be meeting in the Library Lounge.

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10: Do-Day**

Welca Do-Day at 9:00 a.m. Please join us in the Dining Room as we work on making quilts, roll bandages, cut out stamps and other projects. We will begin work at 9:00 am and work till 3:00 pm. Feel free to bring a sack lunch. Hostess will be Arlene & Glenda Wiener, Bernice Less and Lynne Bogh.

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 16:**

1:30 p.m. Leah, at Park Place

Kathrine Varenhorst &

Marie De Boom, Hostess'

2:00 p.m. Deborah, 429 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Moni Lang, Hostess

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 17:**

9:00 a.m. Hannah, Library Lounge

1:30 p.m. Sarah, Library Lounge

Joan Severson, Hostess

7:00 pm Naomi, Library Lounge

Marlys Frerichs, Hostess

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18:**

1:30 p.m. Dorcas, Youth Room

Lynne Bogh, Hostess

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19:**

1:30 p.m. Ruth, 1335 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Unit 112

Fern Schulz, Hostess

### **WELCA Circles**



### **TUESDAY MORNING**



We will look at the Biblical stories and the myths and legends of the Apostles as we walk their journey. This will be our topic for the next few weeks. Come and hear the great stories of courage and witness the mission and ministry of those who gave so much to get the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Join us every Tuesday morning in the Library at 7:30 AM.

### **GOOD SAMARITAN VILLAGE BIBLE STUDY/COMMUNION**

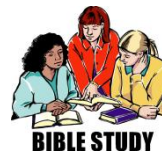


In Epiphany the Christ child is revealed to all of us. We find out who he is. We also see him to begin to gather his apostles around him. We will spend some time this month talking about the call of the apostles, some unique and other rather plain. Join us on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. We meet in the activity room and we hope to see you.

### **PLYMOUTH MANOR BIBLE STUDY/COMMUNION**



How does one get to be an apostle? Do you sign up for it? Do you take an entrance exam? Who does the interview? Our topic this month is to see how Jesus chose and called his apostles. You may be surprised that some were dramatic and others not so much. Join us on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM for our time of worship, Holy Communion and Celebration. We meet at Plymouth Manor.



### **BOOK OF THE MONTH**

We continue our look at the Apostles. This month we look at two of the disciples one of whom we have heard a great deal about and the other many do not even know exists. We will spend some time with St. Matthew and St. Mathias. You may be saying to yourself, who is he. Come and find out. Join us on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.

## USHERS



## FOR JANUARY

**5:30 P.M. SERVICE:** Walt & Russ Martfeld, Matt Beeck, Dave Klave, Bert Stellingwerf, Doug Wiederholt, Mike and Leland Wiener

**8:15 A.M. SERVICE:** Tracy Wingert, Chr., Karter Ewing, Les Hemmingson, Dale Hurt, Mark Kehrberg, Todd Lancaster, Greg McInnis, Doug Schultz, Bob Gibson, and Jonathan Vollmer

**10:45 A.M. SERVICE:** Brad Kuiken, Capt., Ed Utesch, Co-Capt., Dick Kirchoff, Rex Knapp, Dave & Judy Renken, and Dan Albert

\* \* \*

### **For those having trouble hearing...**

As a part of our new sound system, we have individual hearing devices which you can use to listen to the service. Each device is a small box with an earphone. They will amplify what is going out over the speakers. If you should want to use one, contact one of the ushers or the pastor to get you a box which is found in the office.



\* \* \*

**WISH LIST FOR CSADV:** canned goods, adult tooth brushes and toothpaste, wash cloths, Dixie disposable cups, children's fever reducer, cough & cold medicine, laundry baskets, plastic spoons & forks, shampoo, conditioner, women's socks, women's underwear (sizes 5 - 9) diapers (sizes 4, 5 & **URGENT NEED FOR SIZE 6** and pull-ups) baby wipes and hair brushes. Hy-Vee & Walmart gift cards, movie tickets, pool passes, miniature golf passes and bowling passes would also be welcomed. If you would like to donate any of these items to the CSADV, contact Theresa Gehrke-Herwynen (712-277-0131 or [theresa@csadv.org](mailto:theresa@csadv.org)).

All of CSADV services are free and confidential. If you need help or want to help call our 24 hour crisis line at 712-258-7233 or toll-free at 1-800-982-7233.



## BY JOAN SEVERSON

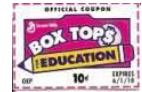
**\*\*\*Jesus Christ is born!\*\*\***

Please call Joan Severson at 546-6429, with "Good News" items.

\* \* \*

### Save Box Tops...help area schools!!!

There is a container in the lobby for your donation.



### GROCERY CART MINISTRY

The Outreach Team emphasis for the Christian Needs Center for January is "Souper Bowl".

Soups of all kinds and crackers are needed. Leave these items in the grocery cart the next time you are in church. Thanks.

CNC Needs: canned vegetables, (preferably corn, tomatoes, peas and beans) canned fruit/fruit cups, canned soups, chicken, tuna or hamburger helper, boxed potatoes, pancake mix, jello, pudding mix/pudding cups, jelly, juice, granola/breakfast bars, crackers and sugar. Please note -- when donating food please be sure to check the expiration dates. The Christian Needs Center is open each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call 546-9428 with questions. The new director of the Christian Needs Center in Le Mars is Barb Waltz.


**WISH LIST FOR MID-SIOUX:** The pantry is about empty. Our most requested items are Pasta, spaghetti sauces, cereal, toiletries, tuna, canned meat, mac & cheese and boxed meals. Any non-perishables are welcome, although we do have a freezer. Thanks for your support!

## Lutheran Mid-East Development Needs our Help:


On October 23 a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the heart of LMD's work in Kurdish eastern Turkey. The epicenter of the quake was not far from Van, the location of the Life Center and home of many Kurdish board members. Though the TV showed many miraculous rescues, the whole truth is found in the numbers who were left homeless and lacking food, shelter and clothing as well as other essentials. With the winter coming upon this part of the world, the call to action is loudly voiced. LMD needs help so they can be a help to those who are living in this region.

A great deal has already been done through the donations of many. LMD has already helped 1200 families with 150 tents, 150 electric and catalytic stoves and heaters, 5 tons of food staples, 2500 blankets, 100 pairs of children's shoes, 100 pairs of women's shoes, and an uncounted amount of clothing. And this is only a start as 8 villages near the city of Van were completely destroyed leaving 2400 to 3200 people homeless. As well LMD has learned that over 200 children are not only homeless but have lost one or more of their parents. The cost to care for these children will run approximately \$100 per month.

If you wish to help, make your checks payable to Kurdish Earthquake Relief and put them in the offering plate or leave them in the church office. We will send them to Lutheran Mideast Development who will see that they are used to help those who are in need. Please keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers.









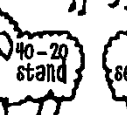

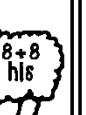







# A PROMISED RULER



Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

 7+6 strength	 9+1 shepherd	 30-5 the	 7+5 ends	 50-26 live	
 21-10 will	 27-24 reach	 10+7 flock	 40-20 stand	 15+4 securely	 8+8 his
 35-31 LORD	 17-3 greatness	 10-3 earth	 10+5 will	 5+1 will	

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_

                  15                   20                                   10                                   17

in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_

                                  13                                   4   11                                   24

\_\_\_\_\_, for then \_\_\_\_\_

                                  19                                   16                                   14                                   6

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

                                  3                                   12                                   25                                   7

M I C A H 5 : 4 , N I V

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

## **Conversations about ELCA Church Policy**

The Church Council would like to share some more information concerning the Opportunity to join the Forum that will be held January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Forum: an assembly for the discussion of questions of public interest.

- 1) Deon Wynia has been hired to facilitate these discussions at the assembly.
  - 2) The Forum will be for conversation and discussion only. **No decisions will be made at this assembly.**
  - 3) As the Facilitator, Deon needs to meet with anyone that wants to have a **Voice** during the assembly.
  - 4) You may attend the assembly as an observer even if you haven't met with Deon.
  - 5) There have been two introductory meetings explaining "The Art of Christian Conversation"
  - 6) There will be one more introductory meeting **January 8<sup>th</sup> between services.**
  - 7) You may schedule a one to one meeting with Deon even if you have not attended the introductory meeting.
  - 8) Deon has offered more time slots **from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** for anyone still desiring a one to one meeting with him.
  - 9) **The purpose of the Forum is to help everyone become informed before the Congregational Annual Meeting and have time to form their own opinion.**
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**Copies of any motions for the upcoming Annual meeting that have been submitted** are attached and also available upon request in the church office.

**If anyone has a motion they would like on the agenda it must be in the Church office no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm. (The office will be closing early for the holiday.)**

EVERYONE has a voice at the Congregational Annual Meeting.

**If you have further questions contact the church office or Kathy Stelzer 540-0656**

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES:

*Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>* – 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – One to One meetings with Deon Wynia

*Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>* – Motions for Annual Meeting due in Office.

*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>*, between services – Introductory meeting - "The Art of Christian Conversation"

*Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>* – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. – One to One Meetings with Deon Wynia

*Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup>*, 7 p.m. – Forum on Motions submitted for Annual Meeting

*Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>*, 1 p.m. – Congregational Annual Meeting

The Church Council passed the following motion at their January meeting:

*The Council respectfully recommends, to not adopt, the motions as presented; because the Vision and Expectations has already clarified the issues of concern, and where as we believe there are other issues that require our attention.*

*Please note: The Council has approved the motions to go before the congregation at the annual meeting, but the Council does not recommend the motions be adopted.*

Part IV: Proposed addition to the Bylaws of St. John's Lutheran Church

Part IV - The Pastoral Call  
(cf. C9:05a of the constitution)

4. St. John's Lutheran Church of Le Mars, IA will issue or maintain a Letter of Call only to ordained ministers who live in a manner consistent with the following statement, wherein "married" is defined as a lawful union between one man and one woman.

"Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships."

\* \* \*

Part VIII: Proposed addition to the Bylaws of St. John's Lutheran Church

Part VIII - Sanctity of Marriage (Or "Statement on Marriage)

(cf. C9:03.b (1))

God created us male and female, and marriage is a covenant of faithfulness between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; and Mark 10:2-9).

Pastors of St. John's Lutheran Church shall only perform marriages between a man and a woman. No other union shall be sanctified on St. John's Lutheran Church property or by a St. John's rostered leader.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



*“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet they shall be white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.  
~Isaiah 1:18*



**Thank you** Carol Hallberg, Jillian Britt, and Dawn Richards for providing us with your talent and leading the Christmas Programs.

**Witness Curriculum:** During the month of January the students will be learning about: “The Small Savior”, “Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple”, “Jesus Learns and Grows”, “We Are Disciples” and how “Small Is Great”.

During the first semester of the year, the students learned Old Testament Bible stories and the birth of Jesus our Savior. The Christmas program allowed the students to actively dress as if they were taken back over 2000 years ago to that miraculous day. The songs they sang will be remembered for several years to come. Now that Jesus is born, we would like to welcome the children back to the second semester. The students will be learning about the life of Jesus, His love for us, and discipleship. As the story continues, the students will learn how Holy Week and Easter are important holidays in the church year. See you at Sunday School January 8, 2012!

Jesus Loves You!  
Lisa Chihak & Carol Hallberg  
Sunday School Co-Superintendents



## **SNOW BIBLE ADVENTURE: JANUARY 15**

What does snow have to do with the Bible? Come to the Bible Adventure on Sunday, January 15 from 2-3:30 p.m. and see! You will want to bring warm clothes for playing outside in the snow (if there is some). We will talk indoors, about snow and the Bible for a while, and then go outdoors.

All Bible Adventures are open to children 4 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It's helpful for a parent or sibling to stay with a younger child. Parents are always welcome to come and help or just watch.

### **Education Team**

Our Education Team would be pleased to have some new members. Might God be coaxing you to serve in this way? If you are interested, let Pastor Gabriel know.

# C A T E C H I S M

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## Catechism Calendar for January

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> - Learning Event  
Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> - Learning Event  
Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - Short Night/Huddle  
Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> - Fun and Games at the  
Middle School  
Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechism Retreat - 3:00

During the month of December, we shopped for Adopt-a-Family and wrapped the gifts we bought. Thank you to **Renee Buss** for serving refreshments, the **Catechism parents** who donated the cookies and cocoa for this event, and our **guides** who supervised our project! For our lesson of the month, we took a look at the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment. Congratulations to Carol & Kathy's Group and Julie & Todd's Group who won trips to the Dairy Queen during small group time!

The **last Wednesday in January** is our annual Fun and Games at the Middle School. Parents, please drop your student(s) off at the Middle School entrance at 7:00 and pick them up there as well at 8:30. There will be no Catechism activity at the church that night - it will all take place at the Middle School.

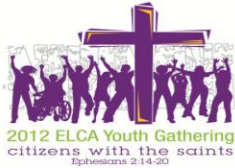
**9<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents:** The 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation planning retreat will be held **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 - 7:15 PM at the Baymont Inn** here in Le Mars. Pastors Gary and Greg, students and guides will be meeting for fellowship, fun, food and an important planning session for the upcoming Rite of Confirmation. Students should bring their swimming suits and a towel if they wish to swim. There will be an outside activity, so students should dress warmly as well. All other supplies will be provided and supper will be served. **This is a very important event and attendance is mandatory.**

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents:** Please take some time this month, if you have not already done so, to work together on choosing a meaningful Bible verse for your student's Confirmation day. Keep in mind that this verse will need to be memorized for recitation during the Rite of Confirmation. If you are wondering where to start with selecting a verse, please refer to the suggestion sheet that was in your Catechism Orientation folder.

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents** are invited to attend our January 4<sup>th</sup> Learning Event at 7:00 in the Auditorium. This is a time for you to observe one important component of our Catechism program so that you can become familiar with the Wednesday night happenings! During the small group session, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the program, have your questions answered and see how you can help volunteer to be a part of this important part of your child's religious instruction! Parents, if your student wishes to attend, they are welcome, but they must be accompanied by you.

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders' Parents:** We will be making stoles for your student's Confirmation Day. Construction dates are Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. **You do not need sewing skills in order to help with this project!!!** We are planning to have the first construction date on Saturday, January 21st at 9:00 in the church dining room. You can come and stay for as long as you can, or come and go as your schedule allows.

**9<sup>th</sup> Graders' Parents:** There is limited time left for your student to get his/her extra points for worship assistance, meeting attendance, service projects, and youth activities. Check with your student about how they are coming with this.



## LYO NEWS JANUARY 2012



December always seems to fly by and with all the busy-ness that surrounds the holidays, our youth have taken a step back to slow down. The Youth Team arranged the annual Congregation Christmas Caroling event, which was a lot of fun. We had 17 people carol around Le Mars, traveling on the Richards' bus. This always works out well and allows for extra singing on the bus. Do you know what a "bob tail" is? The carolers do! Thank you, to the catechism youth who attended one of our planning meetings and reminded us that serving others is a good thing. This led us to put together the fruit baskets for those we sang to. The Catechism students supplied the fruit for the baskets. The recipients were most appreciative! Thanks for the great idea, keep 'em coming.

**ELCA Youth Gathering.** Thank you to those who have taken an envelope from our Mardi Gras Tree and made a donation to the youth going to New Orleans next summer. Our fundraising efforts are going well. We will continue raising funds with the Pizza Ranch Tip Nights. We will be selling sub sandwiches later this month. Just in time for the Super Bowl. Also, our youth will be serving lunch before the Annual Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be serving soup, sandwiches, dessert and drink. A freewill offering will be collected, with the proceeds going to the youth heading to New Orleans.

**Other LYO events in January** will include our annual "NFL Progressive Lunch". Ok, it is official, we have now changed this event's name to "Food and Fun at the Farm". Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, High School students will meet at Dan & Julie Albert's farm for a noon lunch and to watch football or play games. We would like a head count on who will be attending in order to prepare for the food. Also, if you would like to bring part of the meal, please contact Kim Lang at 546-8855.

A 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter will be held on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 pm. This will be held in the Youth Room for High School students and their friends. Join us after the basketball game for food and whatever other games you would like to play, or just come hang out! We hope you can make it!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the date, February 4<sup>th</sup>, for "**Recharge**" 2012. We will again be having guests from Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp come for a weekend and share a camp experience with the youth, ages 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These kids will get to experience Bible camp right here at St. John's for a few hours. There will be songs, games, stories, food and FUN! On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, our guests will promote the many different camps available this summer. Feel free to go to the Ingham Okoboji website and register early. They have a discount for early registration and keep in mind, St. John's offers a \$100.00 campership for members of St. John's.