

GOOD NEWS

Volume 37, Number 1

January 2011

Special points of interest:

- January Bible Studies
- Couples Study
- Call Team Update
- New Year's Worship
- Women of Faith planning meeting
- Preschool News

2012 at Faith Lutheran Church

As I write this four days before the new year begins, I've thought about the ghosts of "A Christmas Carol": the one who was, is, and is to come. It's a time for me to reflect about what was, is now, and is to be.

We began a praise band, made up of musicians and singers, most of whom are members. With the help of Shari and Kate Schumacher the sound that has come together is amazing.

We laid to rest the four oldest members of the congregation: Edna Schroeder, Lucile Johnson, Florence Western, and Mildred Kleinheinz.

We resumed Vacation Bible School after a year off and were blessed with 34 children present to hear about Jesus.

We saw the addition of some new teachers for Sunday School and attendance has been solid since September.

With the help of Scott, Celeste, and Emmilee Swoboda, TUG and Pre-TUG began. It stands for "Teens Under God". Pre-TUG has been a mentoring opportunity for elementary aged children. The response has been incredible.

Roy Borseth has been a blessing as he has been able to use his gifts of communion visitation and preaching. His preaching has been a huge help in providing me occasional relief with Pastor Mathews' departure.

Roy will be doing five Sundays of preaching and leading worship this coming year.

Our search for another staff person got serious and the Lord has blessed us with Michael and Andrea Kipp as Michael has accepted our call. (You can read his acceptance letter in this newsletter.)

In fact, this last paragraph may have the most profound impact. There are areas of ministry that would benefit from someone whose studies have been in family life and youth. We believed Michael is that individual and God's Spirit has led him to join us here. 2012 is looking amazing from where I'm sitting!

Christian Humor *Light-hearted humor with a spiritual lesson*

True story...

On Lake Isabella near Bakersfield, CA, some folks new to boating were having problems. No matter how much power they applied, the new 22 foot craft was sluggish.

They putted to a nearby marina to find someone who could help them determine what was wrong. A topside check showed everything was

in working order. Then one of the marina guys jumped into the water to check underneath. He popped back up, choking on water because he was laughing. Securely strapped in place was...the trailer!

In Hebrews 12 we read, *Let us throw off everything that hinders... and let us run with perseverance the race.*

The "trailer" that slows us down is sin, but as believers in Jesus we can say no to sin. We have the power to overcome and live the life to which we have been called in our baptisms. In Christ we can lay sin aside and run the race of faith!

The Resolving Christian

"...let us run with patience the race that is set before us..."

Hebrews 12:1

It's time for those New Year's resolutions to roll around again. I've think I've mentioned somewhere before that I've never been too big on New Year's resolutions because sometimes they are hard to stick to, but as a Christian I think we should all evaluate and re-evaluate our lives form time to time.

Here's some of the biggest New Year's resolutions people make and how we can apply them as Christians.

Lose Weight - With obesity a big problem in our culture, losing weight seems to always float to the top of the list of New Year's resolutions. A lot of people have real problems with their weight.

As Christians, we sometimes have weight issues too. The weight of sin holds us back, slows us down, and makes us unhealthy in our spiritual lives.

Get More Exercise - Isn't that something we all have the best of intentions of doing? Exercising spiritually as a Christian is even more important. Not only is our exercise good for us and makes us fit, but it has an impact on those around us. Christ said that we would be known by our love. How will others know about Christ unless we are exercising our Christianity and doing all we can to show that love to the world?

Break Bad Habits - Nobody wants to be around people that have bad habits. Whether it's biting your nails, tapping your foot or fingers, or even drinking and smoking. You become annoying, and sometimes unhealthy to be around when you have bad habits. Christians can develop some bad habits too. What about complaining, gossiping, or just constantly having a bad attitude?

No one will want to hang around us either unless we resolve to change those things.

Volunteer to Help Others - This is one of those things that people tend to care about just after Christmas. The premise is that just being and doing good can change the world. Some people get pulled into that and resolve to be nicer themselves. Unfortunately, the world leaves out the part that only Christ can truly change lives. Sure, there are good moral people that do great charitable things, but they are empty without Christ.

Spend More Time With Family - Sometimes it does take the holidays to roll around for us to realize that we don't spend enough time with our family and loved ones, so I think that's a great New Year's resolution for anyone. I probably don't spend enough time with my Heavenly Father. This makes me realize I should pray more and read God's Word more. You know, spend that quality time with Christ.

Get A Better Education or Learn Something New - I think that's an admirable New Year's resolution. Whether it's going back to college or just taking some classes to better ourselves in whatever area it may be in or even just taking up a new hobby. Bettering our education as a Christian couldn't hurt any of us either. Really digging into God's Word and finding out what God's Word says on various topics helps to equip us for life.

Reduce Stress - Don't you all wish we could just do that automatically? Reducing stress in our lives helps us on an everyday basis just to function properly and be at our healthiest. A great way to reduce stress as a Christian is just to allow God control of our lives. Just allowing Him to be in charge can take all that stress off of us and put things in perspective.

Get Out of Debt - With the economy like it is, I know people are struggling so of course getting bills under control is going to be right up there on the New Year's resolution list. Aren't you glad that as a Christian, our debt was paid in full when Christ died for us on the cross? I'm so glad that we don't have to struggle to pay off our sin debt and I'm so thankful that Christ gave himself freely for us so that we can live forever with Him in for eternity.

Enjoy Life More - In today's society we are so caught up into the busy pace that we do fail to slow down and enjoy life. We fail to stop and smell those roses. This reminds me that I need to start the year out with a thankful heart. I need to slow down and enjoy those things the Lord has blessed me with and be grateful for family, friends, and the wonderful things that have been placed in my path. Christ has done so much for me and He gives me life worth living.

It kind of sums things up for us as what we need to do. I think it's a great New Year's plan for us as Christians. We need to get rid of the sin that slows us down, and anything that doesn't go in line for us as Christians. Life is a race and we need to have that mindset to run it to win as a Christian. Also, when we are looking to Jesus, and what the kingdom of God is all about, we are going to be doing all we can to show our love as Christians, walk in the Spirit, and show Christ to the world.

So, what are you resolved to do this year?

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Scripture References are from the King James Version. www.juliabettencourt.com

January Bible Studies

Sunday School

Kids ages 3—grade 8 are invited to grow in God's word every Sunday morning at 9am. No class until Jan. 8

Monday Aft Bible Class

Consider joining this group on Monday's at 2:30pm as they "Weave Christ" into your life, through study of His word. Leader: Sue Smith Class resumes on January 9.

Tuesday Morn Study

Class meets Tuesday's at 6:30am at the Chippewa Family Restaurant. Bring your Bible and your appetite (cost of the meal is on your own). Topic: Romans Led by Pastor Plautz.

Junior Instruction (gr.7 & 8)

Class is offered Wednesday's at 7pm (immediately following worship) in the sanctuary. No class on January 25.

High School Bible class

Come Sunday's at 9am to Bible class with leader, Sue Smith. Seek answers to some tough questions on current issues... through the study of His word. Class resumes on Jan. 8.

Thursday Morn Bible Class

Come to class Thursday mornings at 9:30am. Topic: Psalms. Enjoy the fellowship. Class resumes Feb. 2.

Thursday Eve Women's Study

Would you like to get into the "heart of Jesus"? Study women in the gospel of Luke on Thursday's at 6pm and find your way! Leader: Laura Hills Class meets again on January 26.

Couples Bible Study

Do you feel overscheduled and underconnected? Do you wish there was a surefire way to create more meaningful time together each day? Reclaim your time together and all the relational benefits that go with it. Your Time-Starved Marriage (italized) isn't about being more productive - it's about being more connected. Join our couples group on Sunday, January 8th, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Dan & Alice Helgeson as we begin this new study - it will be time well spent - and spent together! For questions, contact Lynn Musser at 726-1148.



Congregational News

Call Team Update – Exciting News!

We are happy and excited to announce the acceptance of Michael Kipp to serve as Director of Christian Education for Youth and Family Ministry here at Faith Lutheran. Michael will begin his work in ministry here on January 29, 2012. We pray for Michael & Andrea, in making a smooth transition to Faith Lutheran and Chippewa Falls, WI and for God's guidance and grace in our ministry for the years to come. (see letter enclosed)

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP

December 31—6pm Worship with com.
January 1—10:15am* Worship with com.

*Please note there will be only one worship service on January 1.

Choir Rehearsal

Now is an excellent time to join Choir. Come January 11 at 7pm and share those talents in the new year!

Youth Activities

Come to youth activities on Wednesday's at 7:15pm in the youth room. Whether you are in grades 3-6 or 7-12 we'd love to have you join us.

Upcoming youth events:

Jan. 27—Game & Sundae Event
Feb. 25—YMCA Lock-In

Women of Faith

It's a new year with new beginnings! Join the women from our church on Tuesday January 17 at 2pm in the choir room. We'll be planning activities for the year ahead...places to tour, maybe breakfast on Saturday morn at a local restaurant, a play at a local theatre, a movie night...come and share your input. A beverage & dessert will be provided.

Preschool News

Students will be back in session on January 3. On January 18 & 19 the classes will be taking a tour of McDonald's restaurant. Students will begin use of our library resource materials. Enrollment for our 2012-13 school year will begin the end of January. Spread the word!

Did you know?

- ◇ Council has decided to allocate offerings submitted on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 to reduce our loan balance.
- ◇ In 2011 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contributed \$7877 to our organization through the allocation of Choice Dollars®! We thank & praise God for this blessing.

2011 O.E. Statements

Your 2011 Offering Envelope statements will be mailed by January 31, 2012.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE!

The weekly Messenger, monthly Newsletter, and church photo directory schedule are available for viewing at www.faithlutheranconf.org.

God's blessings in 2012!

The Staff of Faith Lutheran Church

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

1-Gene Moldenhauer, Dorothy Post
5-Jean Volrath, Craig Webb
7-Alice Helgeson
10-Kevin Clark, Neveah Mosay
11-Jodi Silvermail, Tasha Strand,
Stephanie Tadayon
12-Pam Fisher
14-Kathleen Heidtke
18-Tavin Bowe
21-Marcia Goettl
22-Ann Hauptmann, Pam Johnson,
Ilene Zien, Neil Cassellius
23-Kim Entenmann, Ed Heidtke
24-Terry Jaquish
25-Deb Bowe, Jeannie Dubberke,
Ashlee Streeter
26-Andrew Engel, Barbara Krueger
27-Evan Ericksen, Rod Chittendon
28-Kaylyn O'Connell
29-Hannah Heuer, Lynn Musser
30-Bridget Ericksen

Happy Anniversary!

3-Ed & Betty Solin
10-Ardell & Sharon Braunberger
20-Bill & Sandy Miller
28-Allison & Joseph Ford



**I AM MAKING
EVERYTHING
NEW!**

R e v e l a t i o n 2 1 : 5

New Year's Poem

How can I use the New Year
To better serve my Lord?
I'll read my Bible every day,
And be more in accord.
I'll find new ways to serve others;
I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get"
In everything I do.
I'll forgive the people I'm mad at;
Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies,
Even though it's hard.
In the new year, I'll lift people up,
Instead of putting them down.
I'll fill my heart with love and joy,
And never wear a frown.
I'll let go of my worries;
I'll put it all in His hands;
I'll repent and try to sin less,
And obey all His commands.
These new year's resolutions
Are difficult, at best,
But there's something I can
do each day
That will put my soul at rest:
I'll love my Lord with all my heart,
With all my mind and soul,
And if I do that essential thing,
All the rest will be in control.
By Joanna Fuchs

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