

NEWSLETTER

January
2009

Jesus is Miraculous

He Turns Water into Wine

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (John 2:11).



A wedding is a day of celebration not only for the bride and groom, but also for friends and relatives who are happy for the couple. Preparing to get married can make for some anxious moments. But preparing to just attend a wedding can also cause a little angst as we hunt for the perfect wedding gift, a gift that will be unique, but useful for the newlyweds.

Jesus once attended a wedding with some of his disciples and his mother, Mary. A wedding celebration today will last six or seven hours. In Jesus' day it lasted six or seven days. It's easy to see how this celebration could have run out of wine. That would have been a major embarrassment for the couple. But Mary trusted that her son could provide the perfect gift. At first, Jesus' response might seem startling: "*Dear woman, why do you involve me? ... My time has not yet come*" (John 2:4). Jesus didn't say he

couldn't deliver a miracle. But he wanted Mary to realize that while he was her son, he was also her Savior who had now begun his public ministry. He would not jump the gun on the work predetermined by his heavenly Father. Mary heard the words "not yet" in her son's reply and told the servants to follow his orders.

Jesus told the servants to fill six large stone jars with water. Then he ordered them to take a sample to the wedding's wine taster, who took a sip and tasted wine instead of water! He even mentioned his surprise that the better wine had been saved for the end of the banquet. Jesus saw the need and filled it—abundantly. He provided the perfect gift by his almighty power.

The apostle John calls this the first of many miraculous "signs" that Jesus performed during his ministry. Signs point the way to something, like to the Interstate, the nearest gas station, or a rest area. Jesus' miracles recorded in the Bible point to him as the way to heaven. He's more than a great man. He is God's Son who supplied the perfect life that God demands from us. His death on the cross delivered the perfect gift—forgiveness for our sins and by faith a reserved place at the eternal wedding supper of heaven. His powerful resurrection—the greatest miracle—proves his words and work to be true.

We can depend on Jesus to provide everything that we need for this life and the next. Indeed, it is a great privilege to gather on Sundays and learn more about how Jesus uses his power "*to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*" (Ephesians 3:20).

CHURCH NEWS

Jesus Cares Bible Class We continue our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, January 8th and 29th at 6:30PM. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

Common Cup Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established 6 years ago in Hutchinson. Its mission is to gather and share resources for those in need. The organization makes it possible for area congregations to contribute resources to a Common Cup that would in turn be distributed to needy residents. Common Cup Ministry (CCM) has an established office in Hutchinson and a satellite office in Glencoe where those in need can come to apply for help. Trained volunteers in coordination with other local agencies, assess needs and then help the applicant find the services they need. It could be a gas voucher, a meal voucher, a voucher for a room, or diapers for their child, etc.

The coat drive this last fall netted more than 1500 coats that were given out. Thank You to St. John's members for your great support. CCM also organized a food outreach program this fall to provide food for needy families. See Pastor Reichow for more information on CCM's programs and volunteer opportunities.

Glencoe Expo: Once again it is that time of year to start thinking about the Glencoe Expo. It is February 14th and 15th. Watch the bulletin for news of a planning meeting for this event.

Annual Reports All groups and organizations of St. John's are reminded to complete their annual reports and turn them in to Pastor or leave them in the back office by Friday, January 9th. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Annual Meeting Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18th following our morning worship service. All members are encouraged to stay and be involved in the work of our congregation. Items that will be on our agenda include: our support for synod and Minnesota District ministries, sharing information on local ministry programs, salaries, and others.

The Lutheran Home Association We will have a "Lutheran Home" Sunday on January 11th. Rev.

Curt Seefeldt will be here for our Sunday worship and will share updates and information on The Lutheran Home Association's ministry.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th in Belle Plaine. Lunch begins at noon, followed by a worship service and business meeting. Come, see the new building project and get updates on the remodeling project.

Custodian(s): We are looking for someone to take over all the outside custodial work for the church property. Please contact Bryan Koepp if you are interested.

Church Nativity: We are looking for someone to donate a used trailer for our church's Nativity. The trailer should be about the size of a snowmobile trailer and lower to the ground. If you are interested or have questions, you may speak with Corky Milbrand.

Forward In Christ Magazine Monthly issues are available for congregation members. If you would like to help pay for the cost of this magazine, please contact Jeremy Siers.

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YOUTH NEWS

The Youth will be having a lock-in here at church on Friday, January 23rd beginning at 8:00pm. All youth in grades 5th -12th are invited to attend. We encourage everyone planning to attend to invite a friend to join us for an evening of fun and games. You may bring a game and/or snack to share. Don't forget your pj's and sleeping bags!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Kim Lange and Brett Rund
5 th	Mitchell Dammann
6 th	Jennifer Siewert
7 th	Althea Mathwig
8 th	Bryan Dittmer and Maureen Lowden
9 th	Norman Albers
14 th	Caleb Schuth
17 th	Shem Goette
19 th	Jeremy Siers
20 th	Dennis Reichow
23 rd	John Ross
24 th	Melanie Schmidt
26 th	August Sickmann
28 th	Miranda Litzau
30 th	Owen Schmieg