

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (HELEN TWP.)

# NEWSLETTER

December  
2009

*Jesus is Miraculous*

## The Word Became Flesh

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).



The smell of pine in your living room, the glow of colorful lights from the Christmas tree, gifts wrapped in shiny paper with decorative bows on top, and the sound of Christmas carols in the background. The Christmas season often brings a cheeriness and an excitement that isn't there the rest of the year. As the Christmas carol goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." But why? Why do people get so excited about the Christmas season?

Unfortunately, we often get excited about the small trivial things related to the Christmas holiday like shopping, gifts, and family get-togethers, but lose sight of the real reason to celebrate: "the Word became flesh." Here in this short verse we have the greatest miracle of all time. The Word, that is the Son of God, took on human flesh and was born in a manger that first

Christmas night. The Creator of all things came to live among his creatures here on earth.

How can that be? It is beyond our human ability to understand how God could take on human flesh and be both God and man at the same time. But that is what God tells us in his Word, and we believe it by faith.

Just as hard to understand is the reason why Jesus was born into our world. Jesus came to this earth because he loves us. In spite of all the terrible things we have done and continue to do every day, Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for us. Jesus was born on this earth so that he could die. "The Word became flesh" to suffer and die on the cross in our place, so that all who believe in Jesus as their Savior will be saved from eternal death. Talk about a great Christmas present. We deserved eternal death in hell because of our sin, but Jesus suffered our hell for us so that we can enjoy eternal life in heaven! That is why the Christmas season is filled with so much joy! At Christmas time we celebrate the greatest miracle of all—God becoming a man to save us from the guilt of our sins and freely give us life with God forever!

What better way to celebrate this miracle than in God's house. We invite you to come to church this Christmas season to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Savior. Come and hear about how much God loves you. Come and raise your voice in praise and thanks in response to the greatest miracle of all time, the Word becoming flesh, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Christmas Caroling!!** All members of the congregation are invited to join in Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will meet here at church at 8:30 am and continue throughout the day visiting our shut-ins with holiday songs. (A complete itinerary is posted in the narthex). If you can't join us for the whole day, join in whenever you can! Any questions, speak to Lonnie Rabe or Ruth Lange.

**St. John's Celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** We will be celebrating our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Guthmiller will be here to bring a message from God's Word. Snacks and refreshments will be served afterwards. Please plan to attend this special celebration.

**Jesus Cares Bible Class:** Come and join us here at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All members of the congregation are welcome to join in this ministry!

**Christmas Eve Program Practice** will be held Sundays after church. from 11:15am to 12:30. Parents please take note of this time extension. Thanks for your cooperation in making this program a success.

**Outdoor Nativity:** This past summer a committee was busy working on the construction of an outdoor native scene which has now been completed. The committee members were Leroy & Elvera Brelje, Dennis & Charlotte Dittmer, Leonard & Ruth Lange and Les & Corky Milbrand. The trailer was donated by John Glawe and Vernon VonBerge. The lumber used for the project was a church's old wood flooring, donated by Pete Pinske of Gaylord. The statues are the original pieces which were donated to our church in memory of Art Dammann. Smaller incidental items were donated by Joel Ebert, Althea Mathwig, Triple S Farms & the Committee members. Lastly, a financial donation for the project was given by Sandi Dammann. **THANKS TO ALL FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

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## LADIES AID

St. John's Ladies Aid is sponsoring a Christmas party on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2:00 pm. All church members,

relatives and friends are cordially invited to the chicken and beef dinner served at 4:15pm which follows the entertainment. The cost of the meal is \$8.00 per person to be made payable to St. John's Ladies Aid and given to Carolyn Lange. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for all who wish to come to the party. Please bring an item for the food shelf and also a donation for the Belle Plaine Lutheran Home.

The Ladies Aid has Christmas cards and napkins for sale. Check out the selection on the table in the narthex. Your support to our ladies group is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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## YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group will be having their Christmas party beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Bring a gender neutral wrapped gift for the dice game and an appetizer. Friends and family are always welcome, however, we do ask that each person bring a gift for the dice game. Each family is asked to bring 2 dozen cookies for shut-ins and non-perishable food items for the food shelf collection.

The Youth Group is selling poinsettias from Glencoe Garden Center through Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. An order form is in the narthex for anyone wishing to purchase plants. If you have any questions, you may speak with Gene Roush or Bryan Koepf. Thank you for your continued support of our Youth.

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Leonard Lange
4 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Gorr
6 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Dittmer
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tim and Janet Schuth (18 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Gorr
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tanya Reichow and Cindy Schuth
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jaime Mathwig
14 <sup>th</sup>	Brock Warren
15 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Gorr
21 <sup>st</sup>	Norman and Nora Albers (55 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	James Dammann and Dylan Schuth
24 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Schmidt and Benjamin Goette
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jason Gorr
29 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Rabe
30 <sup>th</sup>	Darlene Mackenthun and Kaitlyn Scherer
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mavis Lange