

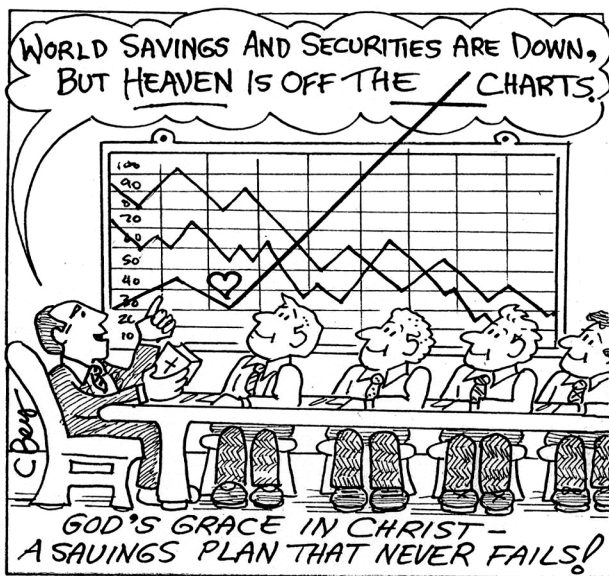
NEWSLETTER

January
2010

How can I be happy when the future is so uncertain?

“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”

Matthew 13:16



Every generation talks about the “good ole days.” As we embark on a new year, many people would be more than happy to go back to the “good ole days” of years ago.

Today, stock market swoons, foreclosures, and unemployment are all too common. Grumbling and complaining occur as many people find it difficult to provide for their personal needs. These things, along with other personal struggles, may make us long for the “good ole days.”

Amidst all the turmoil, even when nest eggs crack and portfolios decline, we can still move forward with certainty that all of our needs will be met. Why? Because Jesus has met all of our true needs and promises to provide for our future!

Jesus came into the world so that we can be happy every day with the kind of joy that only

he can provide. He blesses us—makes us happy—by the powerful things he accomplished in our place: he lived a perfect life as our substitute; he died on the cross to win forgiveness of sins for each of us; and he won the victory over sin, death, and the devil by his triumphant resurrection from the grave.

God tells us about all these blessings in the Bible. In his written Word, God's plan for our future is laid out, and we are informed how Jesus fulfilled God's saving will for us. Jesus said, *“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”* Our Savior teaches us that we can be happy as we give attention to God's love as it is described and explained for us on the pages of Scripture.

Jesus' work is not limited to the spans of generations; it is a gift to all people for all time. God's faithfulness to his world of people has remained the one constant since he created all things. Trusting in his love, we can overcome concerns we have due to personal circumstances. We can be truly happy because we see in the Bible how our Savior gave his life for us and how he is now preparing for us an eternal home in heaven, the place of unbridled joy.

God invites everyone to hear the good news of Jesus and celebrate the wonderful message of salvation. With that confidence, we do not have to look back to the “good ole days” for a sense of happiness but rather look forward to the eternal happiness that awaits us in heaven—all because of God's great love for us in Jesus!

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 7th and 28th at 6:30PM. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

Sunday School Mission Offering: Our Sunday School offerings for the 2nd quarter (through Feb. 21) will be sent to support mission work in Pakistan. The mission work being done in Pakistan is different from traditional world missions because we do not have a missionary on site. Instead, we are carrying out this mission work through a Bible Correspondence Program that is run by our contact person in Pakistan.

Currently, six full time and eight part time workers are providing Sunday School lessons and Bible studies in the Urdu language. This program is reaching about 17,000 people – more than 1,000 children. Your gifts will help many Christian and Muslim children learn about Jesus.

Glencoe Expo: Once again it is that time of year to start thinking about the Glencoe Expo. It is February 13th and 14th. 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 Sunday, January 10th. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Annual Meeting Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17th 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 The Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19th in the newly renovated chapel at The Lutheran Home Campus in Belle Plaine. Lunch begins at noon, followed by a worship service, rededication, and business meeting. Come and learn about the technology at Kingsway Retirement Living with our educational segment entitled "Leading with Technology".

Directory Updates: If your address or phone number has changed over the past year, please contact Ruth Lange or Pastor Reichow before the printing of the 2010 directory.

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

Our next meeting will be held here at church on Sunday, January 10th beginning at noon. We will leave for bowling at Lano Lanes in Norwood after our meeting has concluded. Additional information will be in the Sunday bulletins or e-mailed to you.

The Youth will be having a lock-in here at church on Friday, February 12th 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! ***We are looking for an adult or two to chaperone the lock-in. If you are interested please speak with Gene Roush as soon as possible.

Parents of the Youth members: We need volunteers to help take the lead on some of the different events (such as Lenten Supper, Easter breakfast, etc). Your help and involvement is very important.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 st	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 Schmiegl