

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

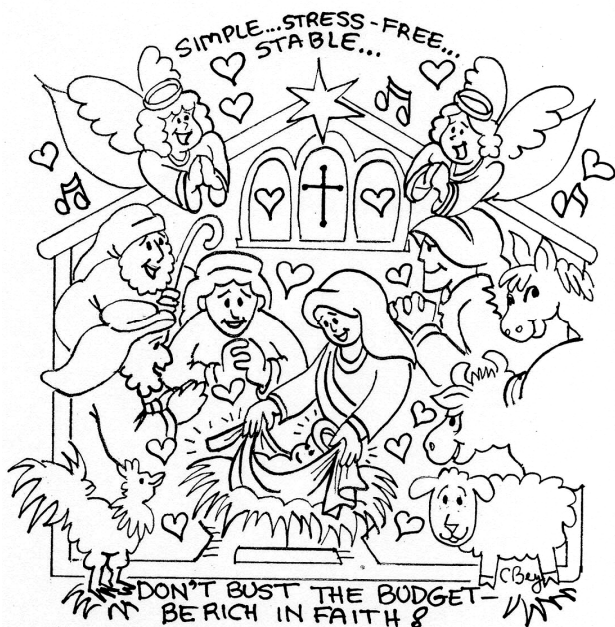
NEWSLETTER

December
2010

How can I be happy when I'm busting my budget for Christmas?

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD."

Psalm 118:26



"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth." Perhaps you recognize these words from a famous song by Don Gardner. The main goal of the young child was to have his two front teeth so that he could wish you a Merry Christmas. It seems so simple, so stress-free, so undemanding.

Do you remember a time like that? Do you remember a time when the world seemed so stress-free? Do you remember a time when life was so simple?

Christmas is right around the corner. Signs of this have been noticeable for quite some time now. Christmas decorations have been in the stores for several months. Since Thanksgiving some radio stations have been playing Christmas music non-stop, reminding us of how many days

we have left until Christmas. There's so much for all of us to do!

Decorations! Parties! Presents! And children don't just ask for their two front teeth anymore. They want their X-Box 360, PS3, and iPods to keep them happy. But can I be happy when I'm busting my budget for Christmas?

For help this Christmas season, remember this Bible verse from Psalm 118:26: "***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***" There was a time when God showed us something so simple, so stress-free, so undemanding. It happened about 2,000 years ago.

Shepherds went to visit a newborn baby. No kings, no queens, no rulers—just lowly shepherds. And when they got there, this baby did not seem so special. No fancy hospitals, no doctors, no nurses. Just Mary and Joseph and their infant son Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. So simple, so stress-free, so undemanding.

And yet, here is the place where you find your answer when you seem to be busting your budget for Christmas. Do what the shepherds did! Go to Bethlehem this Christmas season. Look in the manger and see your Savior.

No, you won't find some extra cash to restore a healthy balance in your checkbook. But you will find happiness for your soul. You will find a Savior who will never leave you. And you will find a Savior who will fill your spiritual checkbook with many blessings that can never be depleted.

Because there ... you will find Jesus!

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Caroling!! All members of the congregation are invited to join in Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 4th. We will meet here at church at 9:00 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.

Christmas Program with Jesus Cares: We will be celebrating Christmas with a special program of singing and a Christmas pageant performed by the Jesus Cares members on Thursday, December 9th here at church. All St. John's members and families are invited to attend this great opportunity and experience the Christmas story in a unique way. The program is tentively scheduled to begin at 6:30pm. Bars and refreshments will be available for those planning to attend. We hope to see you there!

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

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 2011 directory.

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LADIES AID

St. John's Ladies Aid is sponsoring a Christmas party on Sunday, December 5th beginning at 12:30 pm. All church members, relatives and friends are cordially invited to the catered dinner. 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.

We are continuing to collect Campbell soup labels and Top Care / Food Club points for various groups to be used for fund raisers. Used greeting card fronts are also being collected for a group in Arlington who recycles them. Collection containers for these items are in the narthex in the greeting card display area.

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YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who helped sell and / or purchased Pastry Puffins. The delivery date is Monday, December 6th. Speak to Gene Roush if you have any questions.

Youth members are asked to be here at church at 6pm on Thursday, December 9th to help and set up for the Jesus Cares Christmas Program.

The Youth Group will be having their Christmas party at Grand Slam in Burnsville. The date has not been set yet. More information will be posted in the Sunday bulletin. *All Youth members were sent an e-mail with various dates to choose from, please reply to Gene Roush by Sunday, December 5th. We need this information to plan these events!*

The Youth Group will once again be selling poinsettias from Glencoe Garden Center. More information will be available in the Sunday bulletins.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Leonard Lange
4 th	Richard Gorr
6 th	Diane Dittmer
7 th	Tim and Janet Schuth (19 th Anniversary)
8 th	Nathan Gorr
10 th	Tanya Reichow and Cindy Schuth
12 th	Jaime Mathwig
14 th	Brock Warren
15 th	Betty Gorr
21 st	Norman and Nora Albers (56 th Anniversary)
23 rd	James Dammann and Dylan Schuth
24 th	Melanie Schmidt and Benjamin Goette
26 th	Jason Gorr
29 th	Emily Rabe, Mike and Ashley Schultz (3 rd Anniversary)
30 th	Darlene Mackenthun and Kaitlyn Scherer
31 st	Mavis Lange