

Apostles Epistle

February 2012

*“I am going to bring flood-waters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark - you and your sons and your wife and **your sons’ wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.”***
(Genesis 6:17-19)



Prominent People in the Bible: Noah

The rainbow was God's symbol of his promise to Noah and all people that he would never destroy the Earth again by a flood. The Rainbow is an abiding symbol of God's faithfulness.

More information is located online at WhatAboutJesus.com. Look for the *What About ... Prominent People* link.

Noah

In the 1980's a rock group by the name of R.E.M. sang a catchy song called, "It's the End of the World As We Know It."

Could you imagine Noah singing a song like this? I don't think so. God told him that he was going to send a huge flood to cover the earth, but God also told him to build an ark. The future of humanity and the animal kingdom was going to be placed in that one box. The ark meant the hope of rescue to Noah but also the reminder of death to come.

Harold Camping predicted that the end of the world was going to come in 2011. Many others are now misreading the Mayan calendar to predict that the end of the world will be in 2012.

This has caused many to have "end of the world" parties in their neighborhoods. It has become a running joke. Nobody takes it seriously any more.

God's Word describes that there will be an end to this world. Jesus predicted that he will come again in the clouds with his holy angels, but Jesus didn't say when he will come.

Noah built a boat out of wood to save his family. God sent Jesus to die on a piece of wood to save us from our sins. This wood of the cross has room for much more than eight people. **The cross is an ark of God's grace and forgiveness that has enough room for all the people of the world.** God wants us all to come aboard through faith in what Jesus did for us.

When Christians just focus on the cross and resurrection of Jesus, **they don't worry themselves about when the end is coming** or try to decipher everything that happens in the world. **They don't panic. They don't try to build an ark, because the "ark" has been built by Jesus' death for the sins of the world. They just believe in God's promise in Christ, and they want the world to take him seriously and believe.** It is a message of hope and salvation for all to hear.

It is like the R.E.M. song goes, "It's the end of the world as we know it" and trusting in Jesus, that's just fine.

Evangelism in 2012

The Lord has blessed Apostles with many forms of outreach ministries into the community: The Billings Holiday Parade, Soccer Camp, Christmas for Kids, Easter for Kids and VBS just to name a few. There are hundreds of names on our prospect list that have been gathered from these events. Praise God! But now what do we do with those names? This is the question that we are exploring for 2012.

This year, you may not see as many activities as in the past. The Outreach Committee has proposed to not have a soccer camp or Easter for kids. It is recognized that Christ is proclaimed at those events. They are valuable!



But it is also recognized that we need to organize our congregation and our members to do timely follow-up in order to nurture the prospects that we have. In 2012 we hope to organize teams to reach out to our prospects and visitors. Look for more information and prayerfully consider being on a team that would drop off welcome packets and make calls to invite prospects to worship.

Our goals for 2012:

- Prospect nurturing
- Development of prospect follow-up and organized callers
- Training members for outreach work through law and gospel presentations
- Ensure that our outreach plans complement our building expansion

Rocky Mountain Conference

Your two pastors were invited to attend the Rocky Mountain Pastor's Conference, which was held in Fernie, British Columbia. After much blowing snow and following snow plows, we made the 500 mile trip safely, by God's grace. During the conference, 44 inches of snow fell at the higher elevations and almost as much covered our car. It reminded us that as the rain and snow falls from heaven and waters the earth, so it is with God's Word that fell from his believer's mouths into our hearts. Professor Cortright from Wisconsin Lutheran College led us through the books of Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes. It was refreshing to study God's wisdom literature with other faithful men and fellow believers. Much of the information that your pastors gained at the conference will be shared through upcoming Bible Studies with the congregation.



It was also very beneficial to be among other pastors who have similar struggles and questions concerning ministry. Many ideas were shared and many prayers were said. May God bless the work of the 16 pastors who make up our conference in Montana and Canada.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, we filled the rental car with gas and headed home. The 12 hour trip was long but once again a testimony to the fact God was watching over us. How blessed we are to have made it back to Billings! How blessed we are to be pastors who are able to share God's wisdom and Word!

To receive a monthly email of the newsletter and calendar to your in-box, just send an email to apostleschurch@msn.com with the subject line "email newsletter."



From the Elders

Brothers and sisters in Christ, take heed, the time is now to be filled up with God's Word - our only protection from the devil roaming around **waiting to devour us.** "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11)

Please prayerfully consider taking some time out of your busy schedule for the most important thing in your life. **To study God's Word** in one of our Bible classes with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

~Kirk Cooper, Elder of Evangelism

Outreach Food for Thought

"No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Over the next 6 months, the following thought provoking statement concerning evangelism will be shared with you:

One Reason not to Reach the Lost : You don't want to experience miracles.

As we spread the Gospel, the Spirit of God will perform miracles. It is not your responsibility to create faith but to simply share the Word. God will create faith where the Gospel is proclaimed. What a miracle indeed!



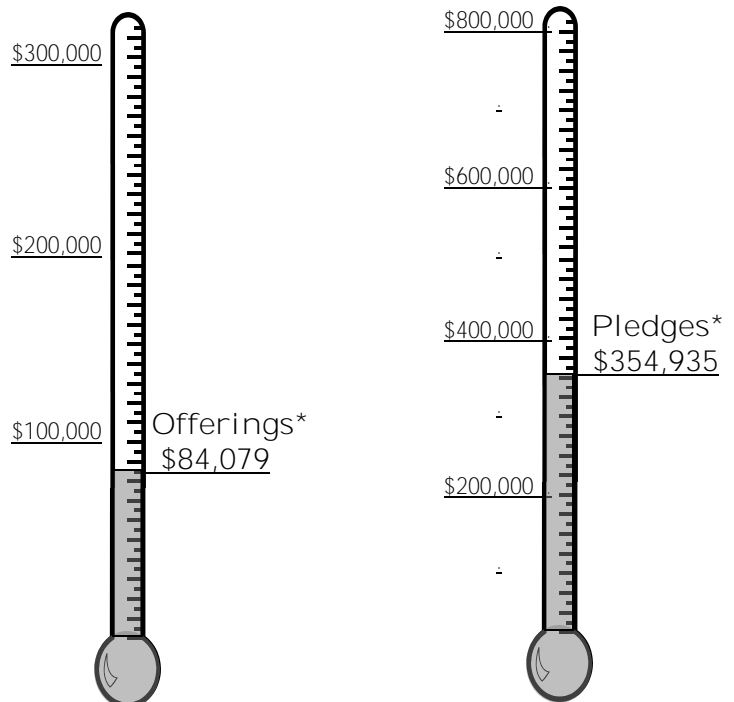
Share God's Word

Our Gifts to God

| Dec. | Offerings | PS Tuition | Misc | TOTAL | Budget |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| 1st Sun | \$3,028.00 | 0 | 0 | 3,028.00 | 4,468.00 |
| 2nd Sun | 4,310.51 | 0 | 0 | 4,310.51 | 4,468.00 |
| 3rd Sun | 3,179.00 | 1,943.00 | 0 | 5,122.00 | 4,468.00 |
| 4th Sun | 4,655.10 | 0 | 0 | 4,655.10 | 4,468.00 |
| Christmas | 758.00 | 0 | 0 | 758.00 | --- |
| TOTAL | \$15,930.61 | 1,943.00 | 0 | 17,873.61 | 17,872.00 |

| | December | YTD | Balance |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Building Exp. | \$22,240.00 | 52,057.00 | 84,078.72 |
| Building Imp. | 0 | 1600.00 | 6,935.18 |
| Preschool | 9,074.00 | 20,531.00 | 69,251.92 |
| Interest/Misc. | 0 | 3717.44 | 2,495.63 |
| Missions | 695.00 | 13,516.50 | |
| General Account Income | \$17,873.61 | 104,424.41 | |
| General Account Expenses | \$17,248.25 | 115,847.12 | |

Laboring for the Lord! Building Project



*End of December 2011

Evangelism

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:12-14*

Show Me You Love Me!

Valentine's Day is this month! Are you ready for it or are you like many who just don't care? Do you chalk it up to another commercial holiday that was invented to sell chocolate and flowers? Or are you the hopeless romantic who counts down to February 14 dreaming of roses and cupids flying around in a heart shaped formation. Some will celebrate Valentine's Day with gusto and others will loath the day or at least ignore it. But somewhere there is a man who will not be able to ignore February 14 because he will have his wife or girlfriend reminding him that that he better show her some love...or else, mister!

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." You and I are also commanded to love. **But your love isn't forced. Your love isn't a result of severe threats of eternal hell and punishment.** The love that you produce in your life and the love that you have for your Savior is a product of the faith that the Holy Spirit created in your heart. Your love is evidence of this Spirit working faith and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ that is at work in your heart. You love because Christ first loved you!

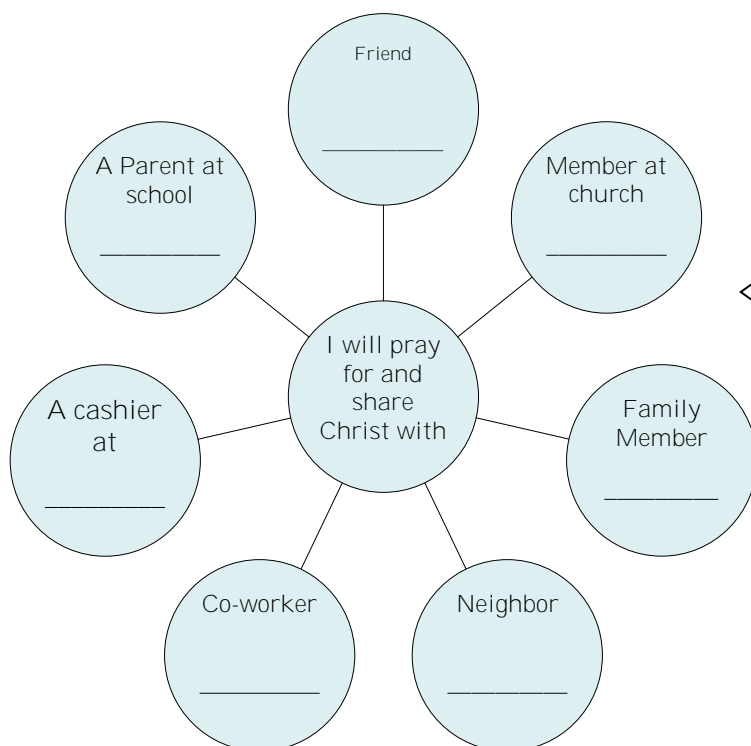
No, your love isn't forced at all. Your love is simply a reflection of the greatest love that truly exists. The love of God has been shown to you when he gave to you his one and only Son, born of a woman and placed in a manger. Christ gave his love to you when he freely gave you his life on the cross so that you may experience his love for an eternity through the blessing of forgiveness!

Valentine's Day will come and go. You may celebrate or you may not. But today is the day, and tomorrow is another, that you can celebrate the fact that the greatest love that was ever shown is love that you possess and experience.

Christ's love is what you are able to show to others and share with others through his Holy Word. God's blessings be with you as you put your faith in action and love!

Fill in the chart at the left with names of those who need to hear the Gospel. Pray for them, invite them to church and share with them the reason you are certain your name is written in the book of heaven.

Dearest Savior you have loved with an eternal love that will never grow cold. Forgive me for not reflecting your love perfectly to those in my life. I know, I believe that you did love me perfectly and forgiven me all sins and wrongs. Now, with that truth living in my heart empower me to love others by sharing with them your love through my actions and your love through your Word. Use me to capture hearts with the truth! Amen.



PRESCHOOL

Page

The children came back from Christmas vacation anxious to see each other and to get back to their school routine. We began the month with lessons on Day and Night and opposites. We learned how God made the sun, the moon and stars and the whole earth to work together perfectly. We also played games with **“opposite” words.** We all enjoyed the last day of the week when we had Pajama Day! We all **wore our pj’s and shared our favorite bedtime toy or story.** Then for snack we made pancakes.

We moved right into a unit on transportation, or **“how we get people and things from one place to another.”** We enjoyed different transportation math games, did tire track paintings, made rocket ships and played with different forms of transportation. School district #2 visited us for our annual hearing screening this week, also.

We followed all that with a unit on fire safety. We learned how to crawl low in smoke and what to do if we actually catch on fire (stop, drop and roll). Since that week was also too cold to venture outside, we practiced these skills while doing different obstacle courses that worked on other gross motor skills such as hopping and balance. We also discussed the importance of having a plan on how to get out of our classroom or house if there is a fire. We need to have two ways to get out and then, when we get out, we need a safe place to meet the rest of our family. We do fire drills throughout the year at school and we encourage them at home, too.

We finished the month with lessons on manners. The children do a great job with please, thank you, **excuse me and you’re welcome.** We

all need on-going lessons to remind us of those and to use our kind words when we have a problem. We worked on understanding why one should be sorry and that we need to forgive those who truly are sorry, just as Jesus forgives us for our mistakes.

During Bible time we heard about how the wise men visited Jesus and presented gifts to him. We also heard how God protected Jesus by telling the wise men not to go back to King Herod to tell him about Jesus. We then heard how Jesus, even though he had never sinned, was baptized by John. Then the Holy Spirit appeared in the shape of a dove and a voice **from heaven said “This is my Son.”** As Jesus began his earthly ministry, we begin to hear of the wonderful miracles that he did as he preached. We learned of the first miracle of turning water into wine and then how Jesus calmed a storm with his words.



As you can see, the classroom continues to be an active place of learning and fun. We are already preparing for next year as we begin registration for the fall. If you have anyone you would like to refer to us, please have them call so we can introduce them to our room. Thank you for your prayers and support.
-Lynette Scott



What's going on in Worship?

"I've been attending worship my entire life now, but do I really know why we do what we do there?" or "I'm a new member and I love hearing God's Word in worship on Sunday, but what about all those other traditions?" Which of these is coming from you? Lutheran worship is uniquely different from all other Christian denominations...but do you recognize and appreciate it? These will be the questions that we want to answer in this series of newsletter articles called, "What's Going on in Worship?" Each article will take a look at just one aspect of the worship service you and I attend and answer four questions: what does God's Word say about it, how did it develop, where did it come from, and why do we do it.

Doing Worship Well

Who determines when something is "good"? Often it comes down to person's own taste and preference, right? *"A good whiskey is one that tastes good to me"* *"The best car out there is the one I like to drive."* When it comes to God's commands, we stand confidently on His Word knowing the scriptures aren't opinion – they are solid ground. But when it comes to things neither commanded nor forbidden by God (adiaphora) we are careful not to make broad and sweeping judgments - like in worship, for instance. When it comes to types of music, styles of liturgy, church décor and even church attire, we can all throw in our two cents worth and at the end of the day, still be left without a definitive answer to what is best. So, again, we must maintain our Christian freedom in these areas lest we wrongfully burden or bind someone's conscience.

But, at the same time, can't we all continue to grow in our knowledge of what is good and what could be better? Maybe I grew up eating

only Burger King burgers and therefore think that Burger King has the finest burger west of the Missouri and stamp it as fact...until one day, someone introduces me to a burger from Montana's Rib and Chop House. I am entitled to my own opinion, but could it be that my idea of excellence can always be improved?

The same can be said of our worship. Perhaps we grew up singing from TLH (the Lutheran Hymnal) and loved pages 5 and 15 and nothing else mattered. But then, after CW (Christian Worship) came out 20 years ago, our eyes were opened to new and different orders of worship, along with songs we'd never sung; perhaps songs that are now near and dear to our hearts.

Therefore, being careful not to set up laws about what is good, we can ask ourselves, when it comes to the way we worship, are we doing what feels comfortable to us, what we've always done, or could we improve? Are we offering God our very best?

First of all, we need to clearly and definitively say that excellence in worship starts with God's

Word. A church can have a beautiful new building, the very best music, and a smart and witty message – and to the untrained eye of the world, this can touch, taste and smell like excellence.

But if God's Word is lacking the beautiful truth of the Gospel – that we are declared not guilty through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ – then it is anything but excellent. Worship without the pure gospel is

worthless and empty.

But the ditch on the other side needs to be avoided as well: **"It doesn't matter if our church looks messy and cluttered, has dirty and dingy bathrooms, distracted or lazy ushers, unprepared musicians and rambling pastors... be-**

(please turn to page 12)



Pray, Praise and Give Thanks!



Lord, teach us how to pray aright, with rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight, we may, we must draw near.

We suffer if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
And when to meet you we prepare, Lord, meet us on the way.

Give deep humility; the sense of godly sorrow give;
A strong desire, with confidence, To hear your voice and live;

Faith in the only sacrifice That can for sin atone,
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ alone.

Give these, and then your will be done; thus strengthened with your might
We, through your Spirit and your Son, shall pray, and pray aright. Amen. (CW 412)

BUILDING PROJECT

Dear Lord, the Building Committee continues to meet and make plans for your glory. I ask that you would be with them, giving them wisdom and direction. Allow the building project to be supported by the congregation as they give of their talents, time and treasures. Let us as a congregation not only think of the current ministry but also think about the future generations who will worship and serve you in the years to come. Let the building project and the process that we are going through be a blessing and not a hindrance. Bring the congregation together as we work for your glory. Amen.

PRESCHOOL

Dearest Savior, you gathered the children around you in order to bless them when you were here on this earth. As our Prophet, you continue to bless the children through your Word as you gather them into our preschool, youth programs, in our worship services and in Sunday School. For that we praise your name! Thank you for giving us a quality program in which others find value. Please move us as a congregation to think of ways that we can expand our program so that more children can hear the message of your forgiveness and be trained to be evangelists in their homes. Continue to open your hand to us so that your name may be glorified by many hearts. May your will be done through us. Amen.

Woman's Bible Study

Join about a dozen women for fun, fellowship and the study of God's Word on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. During the month of February we will be studying the gift of prayer. Prayer is the heartbeat of a Christian. We will be exploring why we can pray, how we can pray and the blessings of prayer. The Lord's Prayer will also be discussed and explained throughout our discussions. Bring a friend and yourself.

Events Team News

Thanks to everyone who saved aluminum cans! There's a good collection in the storage shed, which our team will take to the recycling center. All money raised goes toward various projects at church.

Our team is gearing up for some great projects, including helping with the **Dakota/Montana District Pastors' Convention** which will be held at Apostles in April. More details on that will be coming next month. If you're interested in finding out more about our team, feel free to attend a meeting; they're actually quite fun! The Events Team generally meets on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the church. *-Lisa Sorensen*

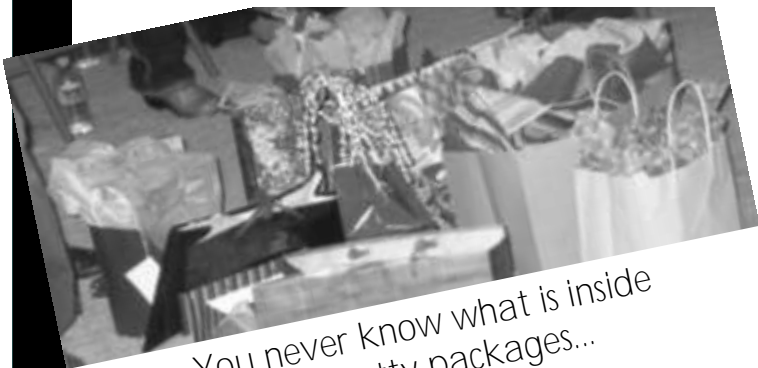


Fellowship Team News

At the last Fellowship Team meeting on January 4, we gave feedback on the preschool parents coffee hour and the Christmas event of decorating the church with dinner afterwards. All were in agreement that everything worked well and to go for it again next December. We discussed and planned the ladies "Love for Jesus" gathering held on January 29. (see photos below!) Sherry will ask the Heritage team to put something on the bulletin board in the entryway. We made some plans to be discussed at a later meeting such as: bowling, couples night out, women's run, etc. If you have any ideas for these or new ideas, just contact Stephanie Syverson or Sherry Mansheim or put a not in our church box. We are always looking for new ideas and help. God's blessings on your days and your time with your families and your Lord. *-Sherry Mansheim*



Lori, Melissa and Christine share the love!



You never know what is inside the pretty packages...



...at a white elephant gift exchange!

WELS Women's Ministry

(The message below is from a previous member of Apostles who is now serving her Savior in Salem, Oregon. She is working with the WELS Women's Ministry Committee and will be sending us updates on their latest activities. The ministry website is www.welswomen.net if you would like more in-depth details.)

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1)

Greetings Dear Sisters! Did you know that Apostles' Sisters in Faith ladies group is just one of many women's ministry models* actively serving our Savior across the WELS?

Currently, under the Synod's leadership of the Adult Discipleship Coordinators and pastors across the districts, a group of women called the WELS Women's Ministry Committee is working to build connections with their fellow sisters at congregations across the miles!

The WELS Women's Ministry Committee (WMC) is a resource for all women who are interested in ideas of service opportunities, Bible studies, mom's groups, and so much more! It is also a place to share ideas with others as we begin to recognize our greater connection to our Sisters in Christ outside our own congregation! Check us out at www.welswomen.net

I have been working on the WMC for over a year, serving on the Congregational Ministries Team. This past October I was blessed to serve the Arizona-California and the Dakota-Montana Districts. Now begins the journey of getting a network of congregational contacts at each church. These ladies will serve as point people for sharing information and gathering names of women that would like to be placed on our email list.

At Apostles, Lisa Sorensen will be *your* congregational contact. She, as well as any of you is free to contact me at my WMC email address: amanning32@gmail.com for any WMC ideas, questions, or comments.

Each month, look for a WMC highlight in this newsletter. How exciting to be a part of this large family of believers. May we daily humble ourselves and recognize as we serve God that it is He who works through us!

In His Service,

Ali Manning
WELS Women's Ministry Committee
Congregational Ministries Team

* **Women's ministry model** is a term used to refer to any type of **women's ministry plan or program** that could be implemented in a congregation, under the congregation's leadership and mission statement, providing a place for **women's gifts to be used.**



Women's Ministry

Motivated solely by the **gospel**, **WELS Women's Ministry** exists to assist our congregations in nurturing, encouraging and equipping women to faithfully and fully use their God-given gifts to glorify God. It serves under the WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship.

Bible in 3 Years



This Bible reading series is designed to take only a few minutes each day. To help you through your Bible study, consider this anecdote: Peter the Barber once asked Martin Luther how he, an ordinary kind of guy, could read the Bible with profit. Luther answered: Ask yourself: 1. What does God tell me here? 2. What makes me glad? 3. What makes me sad? 4. What do I want to pray for?

February

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Leviticus 8 | 15. Lev. 26 |
| 2. Lev. 9, 10 | 16. Lev. 27 |
| 3. Lev. 11 | 17. Hebrews 1 |
| 4. Lev. 12:1-13:46 | 18. Heb. 2 |
| 5. Lev. 13:47-14:32 | 19. Heb. 3:1-6 |
| 6. Lev. 14:33-15:33 | 20. Heb. 3:7-4:13 |
| 7. Lev. 16 | 21. Heb. 4:14-5:10 |
| 8. Lev. 17 | 22. Heb. 5:11-6:8 |
| 9. Lev. 18 | 23. Heb. 6:9-20 |
| 10. Lev. 19, 20 | 24. Heb. 7:1-14 |
| 11. Lev. 21, 22 | 25. Heb. 7:15-28 |
| 12. Lev. 23 | 26. Heb. 8 |
| 13. Lev. 24 | 27. Heb. 9:1-15 |
| 14. Lev. 25 | 28. Heb. 9:16-28 |

Your Church Family

Welcome to our newest members who have joined us during the months of September through January:



- Eric Berge
- Brendan Cooper
- Garrick DeClay
- Kaitlin Hickman
- Katherine Jore (Lola)
- Sandy Kingsbury
- Dorothy Osborne
- Stacy Rieb

We rejoice in these recent baptisms:

- Ethan Oak
- Hayden Fenton
- Adilee Cooper
- Noah Shoemaker
- Kaitlin Hickman



Please take a minute to update your photo directory with the following information:

- Agnes Saylor is now residing at 106 Erickson Court 59105
- Michelle Chavez has returned to her maiden name of Anderson.
- Christine Obenauer and Zephania have moved to 1427 Lynn Ave. 59102
- Jean Sellers has moved to Great Falls.
- Lucinda Loran can be reached on her cell phone 671-3795. They no longer have a land line.

Watch your church box for new and updated pages to add to your directory. These pages will only be distributed to those who have picked up their directory. If you do not have one and would like one, please contact the church office.

Please be sure to let one of the pastors or the office know if you have any information updates for your family. Thank you!



TAKE NOTE



Would you or a family member like to receive a copy of the newsletter in a larger print? They are available upon request from the church office.

Large print copies of weekly services are also available in the entryway each Sunday. Ask an usher if you have trouble locating them.



Solution to puzzle on page 11. No peeking!

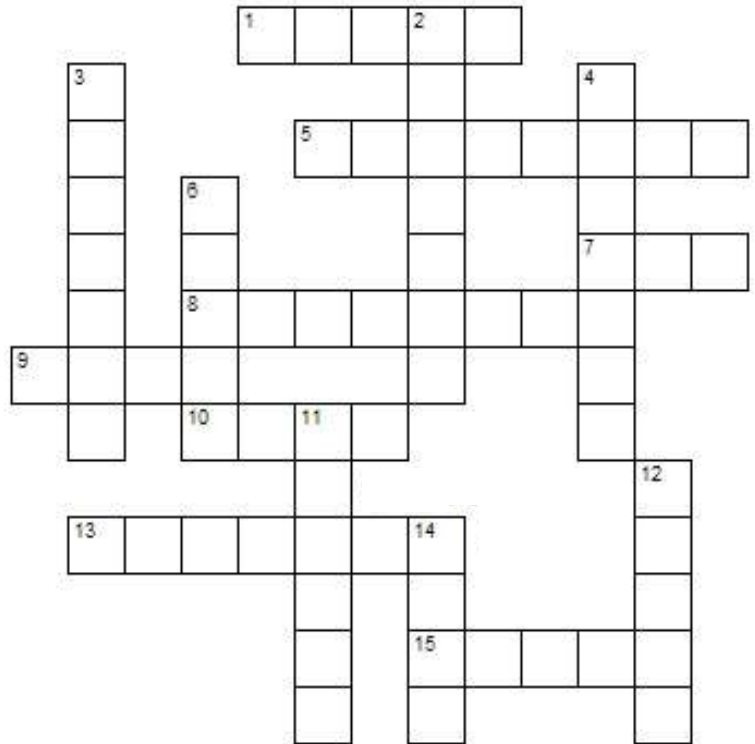
Family Fun

ACROSS

1. Noah found ___ in the eyes of the LORD. (Gen 6:8) KJV
5. God made a ___ with Noah after the flood. (Gen.9:9)
7. Second son of Noah. (Gen.7:13)
8. God caused the flood because the earth was filled with _____. (Gen.6:13)
9. The last bird Noah sent out to search for dry land. (Gen.8:10)
10. God asked ___ to build an ark.(Gen.6:14)
13. Noah brought all the ___ into the ark two by two. (Gen.6:20)
15. How many people were on board the ark? (Gen.7:13)

DOWN

2. The waters ___ all the mountains in the world. (Gen.7:20)
3. God put a ___ in the clouds as a sign of no more floods. (Gen.9:13)
4. Third son of Noah. (Gen.7:13)
6. The first bird Noah sent out to search for dry land. (Gen 8:7)
11. The ark came to rest on the mountains of _____. (Gen.8:4)
12. How many days did it rain during the flood? (Gen.7:17)
14. First son of Noah. (Gen.7:13)



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1. Who were the two brothers among Christ's first disciples? (John 1:40)
 ___ Peter and Andrew ___ Paul and Peter ___ Andrew and Mark ___ Simon and Thomas
2. What was the second miracle that Jesus did in Galilee? (John 4:50)
 ___ healed a blind man ___ cast out two demons ___ raised Lazarus ___ healed a nobleman's son
3. What was the pool called in Jerusalem that people came to for healing? (John 5:2)
 ___ Bethesda ___ Solomon's ___ Beautiful ___ Bethesda
4. Who was the Pharisee who came to see Jesus at night? (John 3:1)
 ___ Gamaliel ___ Hilkiyah ___ Nathan ___ Nicodemus
5. Where was Jesus heading after feeding the multitude? (John 6:17)
 ___ Nazareth ___ Cana ___ Bethany ___ Capernaum ___ Jerusalem
6. What did Jesus use to feed the multitude of five thousand? (John 6:9)
 ___ 5 loaves, 2 fish ___ 3 loaves, 2 fish ___ 2 loaves, some fish ___ 6 loaves, 3 fish ___ 4 loaves, 3 fish
7. The law was given by Moses but what came by Jesus Christ? (John 1:17)
 ___ grace and truth ___ peace and truth ___ faith and hope ___ grace and mercy

Bible Trivia

Look up the Bible verses to check your answers!

(continued from page 6)

cause the only thing that matters is the Pure Word.” We have to ask ourselves, “Does just plain ordinary please the Extraordinary Savior?” If that is the best we can offer, then yes The widow’s mite pleased the Savior because it came from faith. But laziness is not faith.

Again, we don’t give our best to add power to the Word of God. God’s Word contains all the power in and of itself. As one pastor put it, “Excellence has nothing to say when it comes to the *working of* the Word. It has plenty to say when it comes to *working with* the Word.” We want to give God our very best not only because good Christian stewardship compels us too, but also so that we put up no hindrances to the hearing of the Gospel.

? Can the noise we make before worship and during the offering distract a soul from her precious time in the gospel? Let me think twice about the reasons I have for making noise.

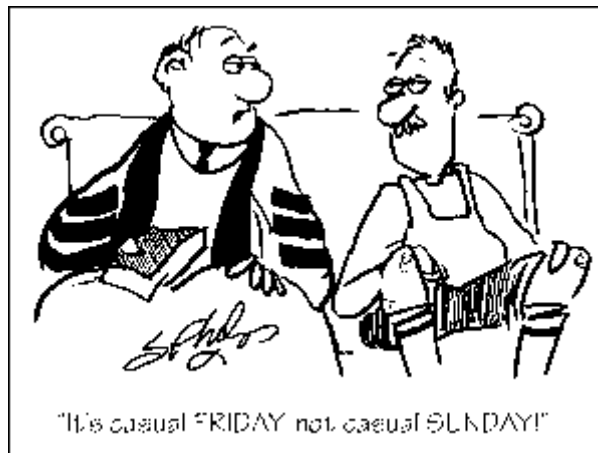
? Can the music we play and sing enhance or distract from the Gospel? Let us carefully choose our songs and hymns.

? Can my demeanor and even my clothes as a member or an usher cause offense to my brother or sister in the faith? Let me think of my Savior and others as I pick out my Sunday attire.

? As we design and plan to build an addition

to our church, we are careful to be good and wise stewards, but should we not also consider giving to God our very best? When our members have houses with wood floors and granite countertops, and two or **three car garages, shouldn’t the Savior’s** house reflect the very best we have?

All of these thoughts and questions fall into the realm of personal opinion. And yet, we have a Savior who spared no expense when it came to our salvation. He denied no pain and suffering if it meant having you in heaven one day. What love and devotion God has for you! And oh, how he showed it through Jesus! Let our thankful hearts respond to this message of the Gospel in the way we worship, bringing to God our offerings like Abel, not like Cain – coming from a heart of thanks and joy, not out of obligation and frustration. And let us continue to consider how we can give God our very best.



APOSTLES EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND
PRESCHOOL

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Billings, Montana 59102
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www.apostlesmt.net
apostleschurch@msn.co

APOSTLES

Mission Statement:

As God’s disciples, we the men, women and children of Apostles are united in the preaching, teaching and sharing of God’s Word in its truth and purity.

By God’s grace, we will nurture believers and joyfully spread the Word of God in our community and throughout the world, all to His glory.

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