



Sunday School

We praise the Lord for another year. I would like to start something new this year with the Sunday School kids. In each Announcer I will list the birthdays for the month and those children may see me for a "birthday gift."

Thanks to EVERYONE who was involved in our Christmas program this December. The children, the teachers, the scene decorators and the youth, you all did a terrific job and it was enjoyed by all. Now, let's go out and continue to spread the story of Jesus to all around us.

Don't forget to come and play Bunco (a dice game that can be played by all ages) this month. Please watch the bulletin for the date and time.

Our next family night will be Friday, January 22nd. We will be going sledding at Running Park on 12th Avenue. We will be sledding from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and then return to the church for refreshments and hot chocolate. Please invite friends and plan on joining us!

Happy Birthday in January to:
Matthew Anderson (1/26)

May you all find His Peace in this New Year,
Natalie Mylander

Youth Ministry

I want to say how proud Jesus and myself are of all of you who participated in the Christmas program. No matter what age you are, we are still called to spread the good news of our Savior.

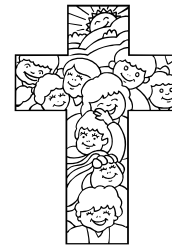
Our holiday party is scheduled for Sunday, January 3rd, at

Noon after church. Details will follow at a later time.

Please don't forget to invite a friend to Bible study and church on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15 a.m.

May you all have a great new year in all you do at school, with friends, and your walk with Jesus Christ.

In His Name,
Natalie Mylander



Open Arms News

Happy 2010 in our Savior's Name!

Thanks to all who came to our Birthday Party for Jesus and our Christmas program. The evenings were enjoyed by all!

Some of the topics we will be learning this month are: Winter weather and animals, different stories and famous people including our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please feel free to stop down and visit us sometime. The children always love seeing new faces.

We thank God for the past year for Open Arms and we pray that He will guide us through another year of peace, safety, and love.

In His Peace,
Natalie Mylander

Thank You!

Thanks to all who gave of their talent and time to glorify the Lord through music and song during the Advent and Christmas season!

Rick Marko

Dear Fellow Redeemed:

What a joy and delight to extend to you my fervent desire for a most blessed New Year! As I do this, I borrow some words and sentiments from the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

He reminds his hearers that they are a people of God who are called to be saints together. They were to know that they were a very special people not because of what they did, but because of who God had called them to be. I ask you to do the same. As you begin this New Year, I ask you to remember who you are: You are called of God to be saints together in Jesus!

Secondly, Paul offered thanks to God for them. I do the same for you. I am thankful that I can go into this New Year with you as we are linked with one another through our mutual faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lastly, Paul prayed that they might not be lacking in any spiritual gift. These are the gifts he catalogued elsewhere as those skills and abilities needed to minister to God's people. This is a prayer for power--- God's power dwelling among the people of the congregation.

I invite you to join in this prayer for us as, united in our Lord, we step into this New Year, 2010!

Joyfully linked with you and HIM in ministry,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenbug
Intentional Interim Pastor

JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.

Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;

_____ .

Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

A Teaching Moment from the Board of Christian Education

How strong is your faith? Strong enough to let God lead you and follow His will? Strong enough to give your life controls over to God? Strong enough to enter into the new calendar year of 2010 in faith, confidence and courage? Strong enough to let God lead Holy Emmanuel and accomplish the mission He's offering to us? Read on and consider where you stack up and what the scriptures say about our conduct and our faith.

The Cannons of Fear and the Courage of Faith by Ron Hutchcraft

We were with our precious two-year-old granddaughter at a theme park, and we took her to a part of the park that's usually a child's favorite; they call it "Happy Harbor." It's got water cannons that shoot out into this pond and water squirting up randomly from these holes in the sidewalk. One whole section has these cannons that propel styrofoam balls all over the place. It's usually raining styrofoam in there. Our granddaughter's three- and six-year-old cousins were already in there having a good time. But our little princess, well, she didn't like loud noises very much. She'd been frightened even by the loud train whistle in the park all day long.

I watched a very interesting little drama play out as she battled with two conflicting impulses. She was frightened by the sounds of those air cannons going off. She covered her ears and she refused to uncover them. But she was very intrigued with all those styrofoam balls and she wanted to go in and play with her

cousins. It was obviously a hard decision. Finally, she looked up at me as if to say, "Go with me." And together we ventured into that loud but exciting place. She still covered her ears, but she went in. Within minutes, ears uncovered, playing with her cousins, throwing little balls everywhere, oblivious to the noise that had almost kept her out.

I saw myself that day, in my little granddaughter. Afraid to go where I know I ought to be - letting the cannons of fear decide what I do. That's the very kind of thinking that cost an entire generation of God's people the Promised Land. They saw all those scary people and walled cities in Canaan, and they let that make them decide not to go in and take the land that God said He would give them. Fear trumped faith, and they got 40 years of wilderness instead of 40 years of wonderful Promised Land.

Have you ever made any decisions like that? Most of us have. We need to hear the words God spoke to Israel's new leader in Joshua 1:9. It's our word for today from the Word of God. It's 40 years later, and they're facing all the same "cannons" that scared them away before. But God says to Joshua: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." And this time, they went.

Like our granddaughter that day, their fear was still strong, but they didn't let it be decisive. Why? For the same reasons our granddaughter ventured into that scary place. First, she went with someone she trusted who was bigger than she is. That's what God was saying to Joshua and what He's trying to say to

you. Whatever is bigger than you are, God is bigger than it is! As an old hymn says, "Anywhere He leads me I can safely go."

The second reason you go into the unknown and the unnerving is that there's something very good there! Seldom will you find the will of God in your comfort zone. All our "Promised Lands" require us to cross a flooded Jordan River and face daunting obstacles, but we do it because our eyes are on the Lord who is also our God!

Fear often keeps us from God's best - parenting out of fear, leading (or failing to lead) because of fear, resisting God's call or God's assignment because of fear, missing God's best because of fear of failure, leaving someone we know spiritually lost because of fear of sharing Jesus with them. Faith, on the other hand, focuses on the greatness of our Lord and reaches for His hand, and says, "I'll go if You're going with me."

I saw what happened when a little girl disregarded the cannons of fear and let the courage of faith decide. She experienced a joy and excitement in a way that she had not experienced before, and so will you.

Weekly Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

- **Class with Pastor** (Led by Pastor Dan in the Chapel).
- **Book of Acts** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room).

1st & 3rd Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. (Meet at Church) Couples in Christ

- “John 3:16, Stories of Hope”

3rd Monday Evenings at 5:30 p.m. – Supper, 6:00 p.m. – Bible Study

- **Parenting Class** –
“Discipline” (Led by Randy Marko)

Tuesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

- **Book of Judges** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

Men’s Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

- **The Authenticity of the Bible** (Led by Nick Marko in the Accounting Room)

Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.

- **Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible** (Led by Candy Frein in the Accounting Room)

Thursday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

- **Crash Course on Jesus** (Led by Chuck Squires in the Accounting Room)

Through the Bible In a Year

Are you ready to take the challenge to read the Bible through it’s entirety in 2010? Are you willing to commit yourself? We hope so! It should be a very interesting and fulfilling Christ-centered journey together.

This is how it will work. We’ll have a daily reading assignment that will include both Old and New Testament readings. They’ll be published in the Announcer and weekly bulletins. We’ll start with Genesis and Matthew. You can read ahead if you wish, but the important thing is that we’ll be doing this project together. Please include your children in this challenge as well. Who knows, Pastor Dan may even have a weekly quiz during his sermon or Lambs Lesson. You’ll want to be prepared!

What a rewarding feeling we will all have a year from now when we all can say “I read the Bible all the way through this year and what a great read it was!”

From the Board of Christian Education

January Morning Readings

- 3rd – Genesis 1 – 8
- 4th – Genesis 9 – 10
- 5th – Genesis 12 – 13
- 6th – Genesis 15 – 17
- 7th – Genesis 18 & 19
- 8th – Genesis 20 – 22
- 9th – Genesis 23 & 24
- 10th – Genesis 25 & 26
- 11th – Genesis 27 & 28
- 12th – Genesis 29 & 30
- 13th – Genesis 31 & 32
- 14th – Genesis 33 – 35
- 15th – Genesis 36 & 37
- 16th – Genesis 38 – 40
- 17th – Genesis 41
- 18th – Genesis 42 & 43
- 19th – Genesis 44 & 45
- 20th – Genesis 46 – 48

- 21st – Genesis 49 & 50
- 22nd – Exodus 1 – 3
- 23rd – Exodus 4 – 6
- 24th – Exodus 7 & 8
- 25th – Exodus 9 & 10
- 26th – Exodus 11 & 12
- 27th – Exodus 13 – 15
- 28th – Exodus 16 – 18
- 29th – Exodus 19 – 21
- 30th – Exodus 22 – 24
- 31st – Exodus 25 & 26

January Evening Readings

- 3rd – Matthew 1 - 3
- 4th – Matthew 4
- 5th – Matthew 5:1-26
- 6th – Matthew 5:27-48
- 7th – Matthew 6
- 8th – Matthew 7
- 9th – Matthew 8
- 10th – Matthew 9:1-17
- 11th – Matthew 9:18-38
- 12th – Matthew 10:1-23
- 13th – Matthew 10:24-42
- 14th – Matthew 11
- 15th – Matthew 12:1-21
- 16th – Matthew 12:22-50
- 17th – Matthew 13:1-31
- 18th – Matthew 13:33-58
- 19th – Matthew 14:1-21
- 20th – Matthew 14:22-36
- 21st – Matthew 15:1-20
- 22nd – Matthew 15:21-39
- 23rd – Matthew 16
- 24th – Matthew 17
- 25th – Matthew 18:1-20
- 26th – Matthew 18:21-35
- 27th – Matthew 19:1-15
- 28th – Matthew 19:16-30
- 29th – Matthew 20:1-16
- 30th – Matthew 20:17-34
- 31st – Matthew 21:1-22

Stewardship Corner

New Year Resolutions

In chapter 4, beginning with verse 13, James talks about our planning. He reminds us that our lives and plans and futures are in God's hands, and that we should pray, *"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that"* (verse 15). With that preface, then, we can begin to do some self evaluation of how we can best spend our time, abilities, and resources. A new year can provide a new resolve and commitment to do many things in a new and better way. We may find that our priorities are a little skewed. Our lifestyles could possibly use some redirection, and a New Year's resolution based on God's plan for us could be what we need.

How can we make our resolutions a reality? One way is to talk with one of the members of the church staff or the chairperson of one of our boards and volunteer our time, energy, and abilities. Another commitment may be to spend more time reading God's Word and join a Bible Study group to stimulate spiritual growth. We may find that God is leading us to increase our knowledge and commitment in the area of our financial stewardship as well. God has blessed us so we may be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul tells us, *"work out your salvation with fear and trembling, because, he adds, "it is God Who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."* (Philippians 2:12-13). To the faithful, God has made known his will and purpose which is *"to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ* (Ephesians 1:10). God wants us to have a relationship with Jesus as the

head. The personal relationship Jesus develops with us compels us to serve and honor Him through our faithful stewardship. Faith enables us to understand that we *"are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do* (Ephesians 2:10). May it be our resolve and commitment to do what we were *"created to do"* as God's workmanship.

A New Year's Resolution

Economically speaking, 2009 was a dreadful year for many families around the world. Some lost homes, cars and jobs. Many are unable to fund college educations for their children, and bank accounts have dwindled. What will 2010 bring: movement toward less of everything or toward a more hopeful future?

Here's a good resolution to make: "Our family will pay close attention to our income, our savings and our necessary purchases. We will keep a record of every dollar spent and every dollar saved."

Money accumulated, invested and given wisely will bring peace of mind and the ability to contribute more to the church and people in need. Families must develop a healthy attitude toward money. Scripture doesn't condemn money; it simply warns against loving it or making it an idol (1 Timothy 6:10).

With God as our mentor, nearly every family can avoid having crushing debt. Wise stewardship brings relief and unbridled joy to those who practice it. As economist George Humphrey said, "I don't think you can spend yourself rich."

Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in 2010, please sign up on the new flower chart and indicate the occasion for the flowers. The cost per bouquet is \$18.00

Bulletin Sponsor Sign up Sheet

The 2010 bulletin sponsor sheet is posted in the narthex. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin on a particular Sunday, sign up on the sheet and indicate the occasion. The suggested donation is \$8.00. Thank you!

'Announcer' Distribution

The *'Announcer'* continues to be handed out in church — normally on the 4th Sunday of the month. Extra copies of the *'Announcer'* are available in the narthex. We continue to mail *'Announcers'* to our shut-ins. For those who wish to receive the *'Announcer'* who are not members of Holy Emmanuel, an annual fee of \$10.00 is requested. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Bunco Parties

Friday, January 8th
Friday, February 5th

Be sure to join us on Friday, January 8th, and February 5th, at 7:00 p.m. each night for Bunco. All ages can play this game. Bring your whole family and all of your friends. There will be refreshments and prizes. The cost is a free will donation.

If you could donate prizes and refreshments, it would be greatly appreciated.

Come early and help set up.

If you have any questions, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.