








January 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers: 1/5 J. Klamm, B. Mitchell, BJ Mitchell, J. Siegel 1/12 C. Bliske, D. Bliske, D. Nelson, T. Nelson, W. Woodruff 1/19 M. Grunert, R. Nero, L. Wangerin, B. Wedell 1/26 J. Kraus, R. Nelson, B. Chesbrough, H. Stechmesser 2/2 R. Jansen, K. Kerl, E. Schulz, A. Treichel		Finance Team M. McKay B. Baranyk Sound 2/2: K. Bohn	1  Happy New Year!	2 Church office open 1/2-1/3	3	4 Pioneers clean church kitchen 9 am
5 WORSHIP 9 am Sound: K. Bohn Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am SS Teacher's Mtg 11:15 am	6 Circuit Pastors' Mtg, Montello 9 am Mornings With Mommy 10 am Worship Cm.4:30pm Lvl 1 Confirm. 6 pm	7 Bible Class 9 am 	8 PeaceMakers 1 pm Level 2 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	9 Bible Class 9 am WORSHIP w/ Communion 7 pm Sound: R. Vollrath	10 Camp Phillip Teen Retreat 1/10-1/12	11 Ladies Organization Meeting 9 am  Ladies Winter Party 11 am
12 WORSHIP w/ Communion 9 am Lay Altar Asst: N. Klusmeyer Sound: M/Z Kubasta Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Pioneers 1 pm	13 Level 1 Confirmation 6 pm	14 Bible Class 9 am Elder's 10:15 am	15 JAM Session 5:30 pm Level 2 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	16 Bible Class 9 am WORSHIP 7 pm Sound: R. Vollrath 	17	18
19 WORSHIP 9 am Sound: S. Wilcox Sunday School 10:15 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am EDU Meeting 11:15 am	20 Mornings With Mommy 10 am Level 1 Confirmation 6 pm	21 Bible Class 9 am 	22 PeaceMakers 1 pm Level 2 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	23 Bible Class 9 am WORSHIP w/ Communion 7 pm Sound: R. Vollrath	24 Pioneers Lock-In 5 pm– Sat. Jan. 25 8 am	25 Elders: 1/5 P. Reitz 1/12 N. Roebke 1/19 E. Schulz 1/26 J. Schroeder 2/2 J. Lichtenberg
26 WORSHIP w/ Communion 9 am Lay Altar Asst: B. Wedell Sound: L. Anderson Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Class 10:30 am Pioneers 1 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	27 Pastors' Conference, Princeton 9 am Level 1 Confirmation 6 pm	28 Bible Class 9 am Heartland House Chapel 10:30 am	29 Level 2 Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	30 Bible Class 9 am WORSHIP 7 pm Sound: R. Vollrath	31 Greeters: 1/5 J/K Mosier; D/M Nelson 1/12 T/N Quinn; P/T Reitz 1/19 E. Riedel; B/L Sittig; N. Trinrud 1/26 D. Sullivan; H/J Thom; D. Travers 2/2 D. Sullivan; A/M Treichel; J. Wilcox	





What Does Baby Jesus Have to do With Me?

*Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His Word.
And at last to us did send; Christ the sinner's help and friend. (CW 28:1)*



Jesus is born! But where can He be found? He did not come displaying His power, but instead, He came in a very humble way, being born in a barn, surrounded by animals of the Father's creation. The angels announced His arrival. They sang and praised Him as they urged the shepherds to run into town to see Him. At long last, the Savior, the King of the Jews, had arrived. What was the shepherds' response? After they had seen Him, they started telling everyone they met, "Jesus is born!" What tremendous joy and excitement they must have felt. This is the reason they had been waiting and waiting.

Later He was revealed to the Gentiles. God used a star to prompt the Magi in their search for Jesus from the day He was born. He is the Savior for all people. The magi traveled a long way to worship Jesus, to fall at His feet and offer the gifts they bore. And yet, they did not hesitate to find Him. They did not turn back because the traveling was too much or because they felt they would miss out on other activities back home. They found Jesus and His parents at their home in Bethlehem. With joy, they presented their gifts and headed back to their homeland. It may not seem that it was worth the journey only to turn around and leave. However, they were able to take the precious message of His birth back with them. The Savior, Jesus Christ, had finally come!

We don't have to go far to find Jesus. We are so blessed in this country that the message is in our hearts and so readily available for our eyes. All we need to do is see it. It is all around us. So how is it that there are still people here, in the United States, who don't know the amazing message of God's love in the Bible? They have not yet had Christ revealed to them. Do they need angels to come down and blow their trumpets and praise God? It would be amazing to see, but that is not the way the Lord works in our day. Instead, He works through us to spread the Word. God has His messengers, His instruments, who know that Jesus was born and know the rest of what Jesus accomplished for us. Jesus died on the cross and defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil for ALL people! What an amazing gift!

What is our response to this wonderful gift we have been given? Do we bottle it up inside ourselves and not want to share it with anyone? If so, it doesn't seem like that great of a gift then, does it? When people receive an amazing gift, they tend to tell others about it, usually in a loud voice so that other people can hear also.

Are we so moved at the thought of Jesus' birth that we want to give Him gifts? We may not have the ability to buy expensive perfumes or give gold or money. Financial gifts are not the only ways to serve the Lord. Some of our gifts include cleaning the church, teaching Sunday School, assisting with church activities, serving meals or snacks in the kitchen, spending time with the children of the congregation, visiting members who can no longer enjoy fellowship at church, reaching out to that neighbor or friend who may not know the message of Jesus, or coming to enjoy fellowship time with each other. These are only a few of the gifts we can give back to Jesus. We all have received a gift from above. *"Every good and perfect gift is from above."* (James 1:17) What is yours? Have you found it?

Mission assignments for this month:

1. Rejoice and give thanks for the availability of God's Word in our country. Pray that it continues to be spread to others.
2. How is that studying of your Bible coming? Continue to dive into the Word, at home and in Bible class.
3. Think about what gifts you can offer in service to the Lord. Where do your talents lie? How can you use those talents to serve the Lord? If you aren't sure what options might be available, please speak to Pastor Riedel or one of the church council members.

Where ever your gifts may lie, embrace them. Bring them to the Lord in humble service as a gift. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working of the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."* (Colossians 3:23-24) Using our God-given gifts is the best Christmas present we can give to our Lord.