

SALT SHAKER

January 2012

January 1 ~ 10:00a.m. Worship
No Sunday School

January 4 ~ **Wednesday Activities Resume**

January 10 ~ 7:00p.m. Church Council

January 11 ~ 7:00p.m. Grades 8 & 9 Confirmation

January 12 ~ 2:00p.m. Esther Circle

January 18 ~ 7:00p.m. Grades 8 & 9 Confirmation

January 22 ~ **10:00a.m. Worship**
11:00a.m. Annual Meeting

January 25 ~ 7:00p.m. Grades 8 & 9 Confirmation

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30a.m. & 11:00a.m. Worship
9:30a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
9:45a.m. Sunday School

*Holy Communion is celebrated on
the **first** and **third** Sunday of the month*

Wednesday Schedule

4:00p.m. Wednesday School
5:00p.m. Supper
6:00p.m. Worship
Confirmation as scheduled

ALL ARE WELCOME---FRIEND AND STRANGER!!!

The Salt Shaker
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
612 14th Ave. NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301-2808

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Devils Lake, ND
Permit No. 40

Return Service Requested

Rev. Jamie Desai, Pastor
Paula Schmid, Administrative Assistant
Mike Orness, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Phone : 701-662-5112

Pastor: pastor@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Adm. Asst. paula@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Youth Dir. youth@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Website: www.oursaviorsdevilslake.org

The salt shaker

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

612 14th Avenue NE, Devils Lake, North Dakota ~ ~ January, 2012,

We are a caring family of God's children growing in faith, spreading His word, and doing His work in the community and beyond.

“Jubilee”

This is it! We are less than a year away from the fulfillment of the Mayan prophecy that the world will end on December 21st, 2012. Actually the prophecy is only the end of the 5,000 year Mayan calendar in which the Mayans never said it would be the end of the world, but rather the beginning of something new. *“The beginning of something new.”* That is something we celebrate every 365 days when the year turns over. What is something new you would like to change or begin new this year?

The Bible talks about a *“Jubilee”* that the ancient Israelites used to celebrate every fifty years (*Leviticus 25*). On the fiftieth year they would proclaim liberty to the land and all of its inhabitants which meant the land would lay fallow, all residents debts would be erased, prisoners would be set free, and all would be forgiven. Can you imagine? All your debts, mortgage, credit card balances would be forgiven. Now that would be a great start to the year!

What if we were to practice this principle of *“Jubilee”* this next year: maybe not forgiving all of our financial debts, but rather practicing forgiving each other in all sorts of other ways? Is there anyone you would like to forgive this year? How about someone that you have hurt that needs to forgive you but who has been hanging it over your head for the last year or even fifty years?

Peggy was the middle child. Her older sister Jen lived the life that their parents wanted for their daughters. After high school Jen went to college just twenty-five miles up the road. She married her high school boyfriend and then moved back home to start and raise her family. Peggy, on-the-other-hand did not go to the college up the road but one some 250 miles away. Then, after she graduated she went to Japan for a year to teach. Following that, Peggy took a job in Colorado several states away from her family. Because she did not live the life that her parents prescribed for her, Peggy was shunned by her family. Her parents would barely talk to her. They would not mention her name or what she was doing in their Christmas cards and when it came to the time Peggy was to get married, only her youngest brother Bret showed up for her wedding. The years passed...

Then, this year Peggy and her husband had a baby girl. Peggy invited her parents, Jen and her family, and her brother Bret to come out to Colorado to meet their new grandchild, Olivia. After some long thought, much prayer and some tears, Peggy's parents buried the hatchet and went out to Colorado to see their new grandchild and their daughter Peggy whom they hadn't seen in eight years. You can only imagine... Peggy's Christmas card this year has Peggy's, her new daughter Olivia and her entire family in it all with big beaming smiles on their faces.

"Jubilee"- forgiveness ought not have to wait fifty years, or even one year. It can happen today, with God's direction and help. Please keep all those families who are struggling with issues of forgiveness in your prayers this month and pray that they too might one day experience *"Jubilee"*.

Have a great January and start of the new year 2012,

Pastor Jamie

WE SALUTE YOU:

All of the volunteers who help with the newsletters and other bulk mailing:
Don & Rubie Brintnell, Dolores Stenseth
Bev Bonzer, Jackie Froehlich, & Gordy Schmid.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

If there is anyone who would like to provide special music for a worship service, you are encouraged to call Jacque Senger @ 662-2465 or call the church office @662-5112. Thank You.

FINANCIAL GIVING

Date	Attendance		Offering
	8:30a.m.	11:00a.m.	
12/04	53	117	\$ 2,953.00
12/11	53	110	\$ 3,462.00
12/18	52	123	\$ 4,464.03
<u>4:00p.m. 6:00p.m.</u>			
12/24	273	102	\$ 3,903.20
<u>10:00a.m</u>			
12/25	33		\$ 2,703.80
TOTAL			\$ 17,486.03

Benevolence	\$ 1,385.00
Youth	\$ 225.00

Memorials may be designated to the following funds: worship, youth, or the general fund.

Attendance at Wednesday Services

11/30	47
12/07	57
12/14	112
12/21	37
12/28	No service

Attention:

Wednesday School activities and worship will resume on **Wednesday, January 4th**. Please mark your calendars.

Memorials:

Ellen Wilhelmi

By: Sylvia Conlon
Leroy & Diane Rice
Dr. Harold & Susan Bergquist
Newton & Karen Lindseth
Joellen Roller
Ron & Berta Soper

Eugene Keller

By: Paula & Gordy Schmid Family

ACOLYTES

10:00a.m.

01/01 Jeremy Bracken

8:30

11:00

01/08 Ushers Cassidy Shereck

01/15 Ushers KK Swinland

10:00a.m.

01/22 Michael Olson

8:30

11:00

01/29 Jamie Taylor

Ushers for January

8:30

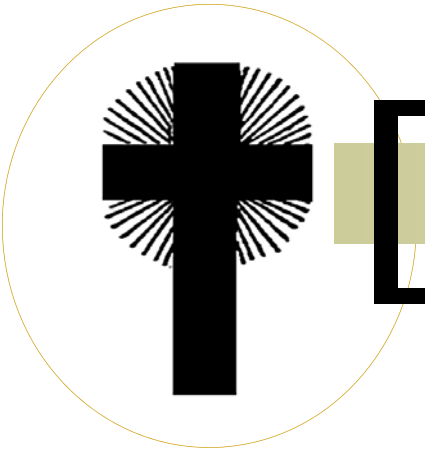
11:00

Lee Christofferson Dale Dinger
Rykk Nicholls Richard Kunkel
Pete Almen

Baptisms:

*Daylan Rae Straus ~
Daughter of Andrea & Brandon Straus*

*Raiden Adams Bradley ~
Son of Greta & Ryan Bradley*



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2012 NEW ORLEANS YOUTH GATHERING NEWS

Meeting on January 22nd @ 9 AM during Fellowship

8th - 9th Grade CONFIRMATION

Starts January 11th at 6:55 **SHARP!** All Confirmation students and parents are asked to attend worship services, Sunday or Wednesday.

FORGET YOUR CELLPHONES AND BRING YOUR BIBLE!!!

Contact: Office 662-5112
Mike Orness cell: 351.3281
youth@oursaviorsdevilslake.org

Sunday Schedule

8:30 AM Worship
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

Wednesday Schedule

3:30 Wednesday School
5:00 Supper
6:00 Worship

Scripture

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE!" JESUS ANSWERED.

"WITHOUT ME, NO ONE CAN GO TO THE FATHER."

John 14:6 (CEV)

THE 2012 SCHOOL YEAR!!

We are looking for some help with some volunteers for Wednesday School from 3:45 to 5:00 PM. We need snack prep and snack servers along with room monitors. If you can help, please contact Mike.



PLAN AHEAD!! Family Ski Trip to Frostfire on February 20th!



elemenT Youth Group will meet @ 6:45 PM on Jan 12th & 26th

(higher ground is Grades 7-9, elemenT is Grades 10-12)



Higher Ground will meet @ 6:45 PM on Jan 19th

*****+++++*****

A BLESSING TO GIVE TO OTHERS

May God bless you and keep you in the year ahead. May God give you the good gift of God's kingdom. Amen.

PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Arrange some time this week to talk about your goals for the next year as individuals and as a household. **Consider these questions:**

- What would you like to achieve or experience in this next year?
- In what ways would you like to grow or change?
- In what ways would you like to contribute this coming year to serve those who are in need?
- In what ways would you like to develop in your Christian life and faith?
- In what ways would you like to help more at church and get involved!?

Make up a poster displaying your goals for your refrigerator or home display area. Pray for God's help in acting upon them and aim to revisit your goals at the end of June.

PARK RIVER BIBLE CAMP

www.parkriverbiblecamp.org

RED WILLOW BIBLE CAMP

www.redwillowbiblecamp.org

METIGOSHE MINISTRIES

www.metigosheministries.com



Our Saviors Lutheran Church Minutes
November 8, 2011

Those in Attendance: Wayne Brandt, Darlene Brown, Carson Byram, Pastor Jamie, Rick Senger, and Barb Wahl

Those Absent: John Martin, Luke Wavra, Jason Fee, and Allan Knutt.

President Darlene Brown called the meeting to order.

Pastor Jamie led the opening prayer.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Pastor Jamie, seconded by Carson Byram; the motion carried.

CONGREGATIONAL INPUT: Pastor Jamie shared several letters that were received requesting financial assistance from Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

- *ND Synod office- sent a letter informing us of the cuts made due to the shortage of contributions. The Carrington congregation has posed a challenge to raise money to raise funds for the cuts that had to be made at the ND Synod level.

- * ND Synod office also sent a summary recap of our benevolence giving; we need to clarify the amounts listed with John Martin.

- * ELCA WORLD HUNGER- Pastor Jamie suggested that next month, if funds allow, we could give a donation to world hunger.

- * Lutheran Social Services- is looking for funds to help with their programs.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion to approve the minutes from the October council meeting was made by Carson Byram; seconded by Rick Senger, the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Martin

John was absent, however provided the financial report for the council to review.

- Depending on how things look at the end of the year, John proposed that we might look into giving some sort of Christmas bonuses. No decisions were made at this time.

- We are currently under budget by about \$17,000.

- A motion to pay the October bills as presented was made by Rick Senger; seconded by Pastor Jamie Desai, the motion carried.

John presented a potential budget for 2012. The council reviewed the proposed budget. The general consensus was that it was accepted.

MINISTRY REPORTS

ADULT EDUCATION: Allan Knutt No report.

CARE AND CONCERN: Carson Byram

- * A card was sent to the Sagen family at the loss of their daughter.

- * There was discussion on sending flowers to shut-ins at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Carson will check with Lisa Sigette as to what has been done in the past.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP: Wayne Brandt

- * December Faith and Fellowship Chairpersons will be Wayne and LeAnn Brandt.

- * The Live Nativity is usually held on the 18th of December. After discussion about scheduling conflicts and availability of people to be in charge of securing the cast and animals needed, the Live Nativity will not be held this year.

*The Sunday school Christmas Program will be performed during the 11:00 church service on December 17th.

*There will be one 10:00 service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

* Wayne Brandt made a motion to dissolve the greeting positions from the monthly Faith and Fellowship duties list. There was discussion that ushers can greet, which would open up the opportunity for families to sign up for ushering duties and incorporate the two tasks into one. Darlene Brown seconded; the motion carried.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Luke Wavra- No report.

PROPERTY: Jason Fee- No report.

STEWARDSHIP: Darlene Brown

*Erica Johnson presented the program, "Simply Giving" at the Wednesday and Sunday services. She informed the congregation on ways those individuals who are Lutheran Thrivent members can have funds donated to Our Saviors Lutheran Church on their behalf.

*Erica Johnson would also like to hold an estate-planning seminar in the upcoming months for those members who are interested in attending.

WORSHIP: Rick Senger

* Due to his work schedule requiring him to be out of town so frequently, Rick has stated he doesn't feel he is able to give the position of worship on the council the time that is needed. Pastor Jamie will contact some potential individuals who could possibly assist Rick with his duties.

* Our Saviors Lutheran Church will host the Annual Thanksgiving Church Service in conjunction with St. Olaf Lutheran Church on Wednesday November 23rd.

* Pastor Jamie will contact Krantz's Floral about possibly donating Christmas trees to decorate the church altar.

EDUCATION/YOUTH: Barb Wahl

* A youth fun night is scheduled for Friday Nov. 11th, from 5:30-8:30 pm.

* We continue to ask for people to help with the Wednesday church school activities, due to a good problem, we have so many participants! We have a higher number of students attending classes on Wednesday. Due to the time schedule, we are finding it nearly impossible to get enough adult teachers and helpers who can be available to work with the large group of students at this time. If we cannot get more adults committed to work with our Wednesday after school program, some changes may need to occur in the future.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Jamie Desai

* In the past month there has been one wedding, two funerals, a prayer service, three burials, and three baptisms.

* Confirmation for 6th and 7th grades will wrap things up with a Great Food Race, with items being donated to the local food bank.

* Our Saviors youth will be working with St. Olaf and Peace Lutheran students to deliver about 30 turkey baskets for Thanksgiving.

* Confirmation for 10th graders and mentors has begun. They will have five one-to-one meetings; then resume meeting during Lent.

- * Pastor Jamie took the weekend of Oct. 30 as vacation time. Thank you Mike Orness and Sandi Christofferson for leading and preaching the Sunday services.
- * Pastor Jamie is planning on taking the week after Christmas off, to include January 1, 2012. Communion will be moved to January 8th.
- * Joel Elvrum contacted Pastor Jamie in regards of purchasing several cement blocks for \$100 each.
- * Dave Oehlke has made a request to meet with the council to discuss our insurance needs.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES: Mike Orness

- * The Sunday school Christmas program will be held at the 11:00 Sunday service on December 18th. Maari Hanson has agreed to direct the Sunday program.
- * The Wednesday program will be held on Wednesday December __?__ at the regular evening service.
- * After discussions with Barb and Darlene, about issues with Wednesday school, parents have been asked to come sit with the 3-4th grade class.
- * A youth and family fun night is planned for Friday, November 11th from 5:30-8:30 pm, to include supper, games, and crafts, with a movie or bowling to conclude the evening.
- * Two Element nights have been scheduled for Thursdays for the month of November. A report will be provided at the next council meeting.
- * National Youth Gathering- July 18-22 in New Orleans. The group continues to have fundraising activities.
- * Pastor Jamie and Mike will be utilizing some Advent devotional books with an Advent bible study to structure worship services through the holidays.
- * Mike will be promoting bell-ringing opportunities with the Salvation Army with the youth groups.
- * Daily Scripture is continually posted on Facebook daily.
- * Any suggestions, ideas, or concerns may be mailed to Mike at: youth@oursaviorsdevilsslake.org

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- * THE PASTOR SUPPORT COMMITTEE- will meet with Pastor Jamie in November.
- * PEWS- Steve Schueller came back, and fixed up some of the pews. Wayne Brandt discussed with him that he would have to warranty his work.
- * ACCOMPANYIST: Cindy Broden is helping out by playing more often since Maren Lysne has gone away to college. Maddi Elvrum is practicing a song or two at a time with the idea of replacing Maren in her rotation playing music on Sundays. Barb Wahl will check with a couple teachers at school to see if they would be interested in this position too.
- * CHURCH DIRECTORY- Carsyn Byram is working with Olan Mills on the final details, and will have the completed directories available as soon as possible.
- * WELCA had a nice crowd for baking lefse. Kathy Martin and Lynn Thompson have agreed to take over the position from Ruby Britnelle and Rita Olson. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 7th.

*NOMINATING COMMITTEE: We need six people ASAP to find candidates for the open positions on the council before the Annual meeting on January 22nd. The council discussed potential members and will get back to Darlene Brown by November 16th with names of those people willing to serve on the committee.

* FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP- the groups have been reviewed, and need to be adjusted to ensure more evenly distributed workers among the months.

NEW BUSINESS

* Berta Soper has contacted the council to be able to have a Nativity Display on December 10th and 11th in the fellowship room. There will be tables available for anyone who would like to bring their nativity scene for people to enjoy.

* Our Saviors has been contacted to participate in the WDAZ Coming Home for Christmas commercial. The cost is \$225. After discussion, it was decided Pastor Jamie will do some free Public Service Announcements on local radio stations instead to encourage and invite people to attend services at Our Saviors.

* Paula needs reports written for the annual meeting by December 31st.

* WE SALUTE YOU- goes out to Ruby Britnelle and Rita Olson for their years of service as co-chairs of WELCA.

* WE SALUTE YOU – also goes to Rachel and Jon Besse family for providing all the potatoes for the lefse bake.

* Next meeting, December 6, 2011. (This meeting is scheduled one week early due to conflicts of other events scheduled for Dec. 13th.)

* Meeting Adjourned.


Respectfully submitted,

Barb Wahl

January Birthdays

Stefany Fee	3	Loydene Wakefield	30
Jesse Elverud	3	Scott Johnson	30
Shane Burthold	5	Ed Shimmin	30
Carlee JoAnne Swinland	5	Stan Orness	30
Peggy Aasen	6	Cody Mertens	30
Scott Sigette	8	Myonne Peters	31
Dennis Lysne	8	Genna Fee	31
Dale Kruckenberg	10	Jason Fee	31
Paula Schmid	10		
Tanner Nicholls	11		
Ron Soper	11		
Paisley Tarang	11		
Daniel Erickson	12		
Jennifer Tollefson	12		
Brian Tarang	13		
Jenae Martinson	14		
Emilee Nelson	14		
Beverly Larson	15		
Tiffany Sebelius	16		
Scott Brown	16		
JoAnn Almen	17		
Scott Senger	17		
Leroy Shereck	17		
Howard Oakland	18		
Cassandra Pike	18		
Dale Bokn	18		
Dean Hovern	19		
Shaun Bracken	19		
Justin Almen	20		
Jennifer White	20		
Torri Fee	20		
Sara Rutten	22		
Zachary Howard	23		
Niki (Weaver) Toso	24		
Brandon Myhre	24		
Jasmine Swinland	24		
Donovan Foughty	26		
Sara Thomas	27		
Rylie Knudson			
Jim Beatty	29		



 **fact:** Every day, as many as 11,000 kids die from hunger and related causes. Some starve. Some get sick and waste away. Either way, this is not okay with us.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is doing World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. We don't think it's right that thousands of kids are dying from hunger every day. So we're doing something about it.

We're going without food for 30 hours to raise money so others can eat. **Here's how you can help:**

- 1. Pray.** Ask God to bless our students as they overcome hunger.
- 2. Volunteer.** Come join us during our Famine Weekend.
- 3. Give.** Just \$30 can help feed and care for a child for a month.

Donate on our group webpage at <http://support.worldvision.org/goto/oslcdevilslake> or give us a check made out to World Vision. Every donation is tax-deductible!

Our Famine dates: **February 24 through March 1st**

Our goal: To raise **\$1500** to help feed and care for children

Contact: Call **662-5112** or email youth@oursaviorsdevilslake.org

Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.

—Romans 12:21 (NIV)





World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

30 Hour Famine. Students loving God and fighting hunger.

www.30hourfamine.org | 1.800.7.FAMINE

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>No Sunday School</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <p>3:30pm Weds. School</p> <p>5pm Supper</p> <p>6pm Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:15pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4pm Girl Scouts</p>	7
<p>8</p> <p>Worship @ 8:30 & 11am</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>7pm Church Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:30pm Weds. School</p> <p>5pm Supper</p> <p>6pm Worship</p> <p>7pm Grades 8 & 9</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2pm Esther Circle</p> <p>6:45 pm </p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Worship @ 8:30 & 11am</p> <p>w/communion</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>3:30pm Weds. School</p> <p>5pm Supper</p> <p>6pm Worship</p> <p>7pm Grades 8 & 9</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:45 pm</p> <p></p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>10am worship</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11am Annual Meeting</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>3:30pm Weds. School</p> <p>5pm Supper</p> <p>6pm Worship</p> <p>7pm Grades 8 & 9</p> <p>Confirmation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:45 pm </p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Worship @ 8:30 & 11am</p> <p>w/communion</p> <p>9:30am Fellowship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p>	30	31			<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>9am Quilting</p> <p>5pm Choir Practice</p>	

2012 Offering Envelopes

Don't forget to check your mailbox at the end of December for the new offering envelopes for 2012. If you do not have a book assigned to you, please stop in the office and Paula will make sure that you get one. Thanks!

Eighth & Ninth Grade Confirmation

It is time for the eighth and ninth grade students to begin their confirmation classes. These classes are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, **January 11th** at 7:00p.m. The classes will run on **January 11th, 18th, 25th and February 1st, 8th & 15th** from 7:00p.m. until 8:30p.m. Please mark these dates on your calendars so that you can attend all of the classes with your classmates.

Our Savior's Financial Picture

2011 Budget	\$ 181,000.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 15,083.00
Given Month of Nov.	\$ 13,042.35
Needed by Nov. 30 th	\$ 165,917.00
Given by Nov. 30 th	\$ 129,552.00
Under Budget	\$ 36,365.00

The Largest Baby Shower

Celebrate *Sanctity of Human Life* during January...be part of 'The Largest Baby Shower'. **NEW** baby items are needed for FirstChoice Clinic's '*Earn While You Learn*' parenting program: diapers (size NB,1, 2, 3,4), wipes, clothes (0-18 months) crib sheets, baby books, toys, bibs, pacifiers, bottles, baby brushes, combs, thermometers, and gift cards. Drop offs are at Leever's County Market and Wally's Supermarket and St. Joseph's, River of Life, Bethel Free Churches in Devils Lake. Sponsored by KFNV Life 97.9 and Faith 1200 and FirstChoice Clinic. Questions? Call FirstChoice Clinic – 701-662-2229 or go to www.teamfirstchoiceclinic.com.

Annual Meeting

Our Savior's Annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 22nd** at **11:00a.m.** There will one worship that Sunday at **10:00a.m.**

2012 Calendars

If you have any extra 2012 calendars that you would like to donate to the nursing home, please place them in the box under the coat rack. Thank-you!

Book of Faith

The *book of faith* is back! Come join Pastor Jamie **Sunday January 15th** through **February 12th at 9:45 am** in the "Fireside Room" for a five week study on the book of I Corinthians. For many of us, our encounter with Scripture is limited to excerpts that are read on Sunday or Wednesdays during worship. Many of us and many of our neighbors don't know the Bible real well and are unsure about how to engage ourselves with Scripture. The *book of faith* approach is from a Lutheran understanding that addresses the experience and power of how Scripture can directly affect our daily lives. Each participant will see the Bible through four various reading lenses; devotional, historical, literary and Lutheran theological. Come join the pastor on this five week adventure into opening up the Scriptures beginning **Sunday January 15th at 9:30a.m.**

Thank-you

Thanks to everyone who took an angel off of our Angel Tree and purchased a Christmas gift for a needy child. Your generosity helps make the holiday season a little brighter for these children.