

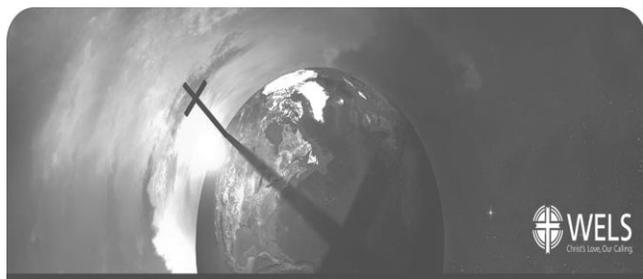


# NEWSLETTER

January  
2014

## Jesus is . . . Savior

*Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name;  
deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. (Psalm 79:9)*



Help! It's a simple word, and yet very difficult to say. It's an admission of vulnerability, isn't it? And nobody wants to be considered vulnerable. Help! It's admitting that you just can't get yourself out of whatever predicament, trouble or situation you're in. You need someone to come and save you. So you have to swallow your pride, display some humility and admit that you can't do it. You need help.

The man who wrote Psalm 79 was named Asaph. He lived almost 3000 years ago. He needed help, and so did everyone around him. Foreign nations had invaded his homeland of Israel and were trashing God's reputation. God's believers in that country needed help. So they went to God.

They knew they hadn't done anything to earn God's help. In fact, part of the reason they needed help was because of their disobedience

against God and his will. But they still turned to God because of his reputation: he is the God of salvation. They knew that God is in the business of helping. In fact, not only does he give help freely but he specializes in it. Only God could help them out of their difficulties in life. Only God could save them from their greatest difficulty—their sin. And they weren't disappointed. God did save them from their enemies, but more importantly, he forgave their sin. That's his reputation. He is the Savior.

God has the same reputation today. He is our Savior. Not too long ago we celebrated Christmas, the day when God sent us his Son, Jesus. We needed God's help desperately. We were separated from God. We had sinned. And we couldn't help ourselves to get rid of our guilt. But God sent us a Savior. He forgives all our sin. What an astounding gift our Savior Jesus Christ is! God is in the business of helping. That's his reputation.

God is your Savior. You can call on him for help and deliverance. He promises his forgiveness and love. He will help you out of trouble. Call on your Savior for strength to carry your burdens. Look to your Lord Jesus for help. He, and he alone, can save you and help you. He, and only he, is your Savior.

## CHURCH NEWS

### Know How You Are Gifted For God's Church

As pastor of St. John's, I am asking all the adult members of our congregation to participate in and invest in an exercise that will help us learn how to better work together as a congregation. There is a tool called "Strengths Finder" that helps identify our personal strengths and how we can pool all our strengths to work more efficiently as an organization. Please make use of this online tool to find your top five strengths. Go to: [www.gallupstrengthscenter.com](http://www.gallupstrengthscenter.com) and click on the 'Get Your Strengths' tab (upper right hand corner). Please invest \$10 for this and complete it by Jan 19. It is well worth it! Once you have your top five strengths, please forward them to me. If you already have taken this assessment, please get your top five strengths to me. Thanks, ~Pastor Reichow.

You can also purchase a new "StrengthsFinder 2.0" book and use the code that comes with the book to take this assessment. Contact me if you have any questions.

**Jesus Cares Bible Class** We continue our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

**Glencoe Expo:** Once again it is that time of year to start thinking about the Glencoe Expo. It is February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin for news of a planning meeting for this event.

**Annual Reports** All groups and organizations of St. John's are reminded to complete their annual reports and turn them in to Pastor or leave them in the back office by Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your prompt attention.

**Annual Meeting** Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> following our morning worship service. All members are encouraged to stay and be involved in the work of our congregation. Items that will be on our agenda include: our support for synod and Minnesota District ministries, sharing information on local ministry programs, salaries, and others.

### **The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA)**

Normally at this time of the year we let you know when the TLHA Annual Meeting is scheduled, usually in January. Due to a change in the by-laws

of TLHA, adopted at last year's annual meeting the schedule is different starting in 2014. There will be an abbreviated annual meeting in conjunction with the Jan. Board meeting. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> TLHA will host a National Summit on Senior and Disability Ministries. It will be held at the Mystic Lake Hotel and Conference Center in Prior Lake. All member congregations will be invited to attend. We will have speakers and presentations on current issues that affect all of us. More details will be forthcoming after the first of the year. The dates are set May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

This change was made for several reasons. A couple of the most important included the fact that January is a very difficult month to plan an event due to weather issues and secondly it was felt TLHA could be the catalyst to sponsor a National Summit on issues related to Senior and Disability Ministries. We will publicize further information as it becomes available.

**Directory Updates:** If your address or phone number has changed over the past year, please contact Ruth Lange or Carol Dammann to get the updates in the 2014 directory.

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## YOUTH NEWS

We are planning a swimming event and a lock-in sometime in the next two months. Watch for updates via email and the Sunday bulletin. Also, information is available for the International Youth Rally scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor Reichow if you are interested.

**NOTE:** Parents of our youth, we meet on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm to discuss improving our youth program.

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kim Lange and Brett Rund
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bryan Budahn
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mitchell Dammann
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Siewert
7 <sup>th</sup>	Althea Mathwig
12 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Willmsen
14 <sup>th</sup>	Caleb Schuth
17 <sup>th</sup>	Shem Goette
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Siers
20 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Reichow
24 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Schmidt
26 <sup>th</sup>	August Sickmann
28 <sup>th</sup>	Miranda Litzau
30 <sup>th</sup>	Owen Schmiegl