



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY  
2014

## Jesus is . . . the Messiah, the Christ

*“We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).* (John 1:41)



Many expressions of love and affection will be exchanged once again this Valentine's Day. Yet, there is no greater act of love than the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus for our salvation. The whole of Scripture revolves around this one supreme act of unconditional love!

But why is it that Christians associate the title Christ with God's love in Jesus? What does the word Christ mean? A look at God's Word will help explain this. The Gospel of Matthew begins by recording the genealogy of Jesus, *“...and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”* (Matthew 1:16).

As Matthew sets the tone for his Gospel, he is careful to note that Jesus was revered as Christ. This familiar title is actually a form of the Greek word *chrío* meaning “to pour or anoint.” To anoint was to pour sacred oil over someone's head as a visible sign that God had set him aside for a special task. Jesus bore the title Christ because

he was the one God anointed to be the world's Savior.

The Gospel of John in the first chapter reveals Jesus, the Word made flesh, and describes Andrew's excitement at having met Jesus: *“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ)”* (John 1:41). Andrew bursts forth in joyful acclamation, using the title Messiah which is the Hebrew equivalent of Christ, “the Anointed One.”

The Gospel writer John is keen to point out that from the beginning of Jesus' public ministry the hope of the ages was intimately associated with salvation in Jesus. Yes, at the time of his baptism Jesus was consecrated for his messianic ministry in a remarkable way... *“heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased’* (Matthew 3:16-17). Jesus was anointed by the Spirit of God and received the clear approval of his heavenly Father. Talk about divine endorsement!

Because Jesus is The Anointed One, he is the one foretold in ancient prophecy who would bring salvation, redeeming us from the curse of sin! There is no greater act of love—true love! Now that's a magnificent valentine!

## CHURCH NEWS

**Jesus Cares Bible Class** Even though it was cold and windy on Thursday evening, January 9<sup>th</sup>, we had a more-than-expected turnout of 27 people in attendance. It was our first get together of 2014 and the first since Christmas. Everyone was excited to tell each other about their Christmas and anxious to see each other.

Our Bible lesson of the evening was a continuation of the Lord's Prayer. We were on the section entitled "Thy Kingdom Come". We explained what God's Kingdom consists of by using the Bible story of Jesus calling his first disciples to "Come follow me". These were the first people that Jesus directly called into his kingdom. However, according to God's will, they soon told other people and many continued to spread the word about Jesus. The result today is that God's Kingdom consists of millions of Christians everywhere in the world. The point of the lesson is: today it is still the job of people to tell other people about Jesus and spread the good news of salvation to all with whom we make contact.

For our craft Joyce then had each of our guests build their own personal homemade megaphone. This was to emphasize that we need to shout out the good news of Jesus. We are to do it boldly. So during our singing session everybody used their new megaphone as Judy led us in several hymns telling others about Jesus thru song. We got everybody singing with gusto. Arvid then led everyone in our prayers and again it was loud.

The point to all of this, our Bible study, our megaphones and our singing Christian songs is how we are able to tell others about Jesus. Our encouragement was to go home and continue doing that at home, school and our jobs.

The evening concluded with a delicious lunch thanks again to our volunteers. Our next meetings are on January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup> here at St. John's. Thanks to our regular volunteers and especially our two new visitors, Theresa and Ben Siers. If any other young people would like to help at JCM please come, we can utilize your skills in a variety of ways. You will enjoy and love it.

**Glencoe Expo** Plans are being made for our church booth at the Glencoe Expo this year, February 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help construct our display and to man our booth. We will have an initial preparation meeting on Tuesday, January

28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Come and help out. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Watch the bulletin for future prep meetings. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for workers at the booth during the Expo. Thanks for all your help.

**Church Leaders Workshop:** St. John's members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Church Leaders Workshop held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am-2:30pm. The Keynote Speaker will be Pastor Jonathan Hein of Beautiful Savior, Summerville, SC and Director of the Commission on Congregational Counseling for the WELS. Workshops will be presented on the topics of Evangelism, Developing a Caring Congregation, Worship and Children's Ministry. You can register online at [www.welsmn.org](http://www.welsmn.org) (click on "Events & Registration" tab) or you may speak with Pastor Reichow if you have any questions.

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## YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Lock-In** This year's Lock-In was a success. A total of 15 youth, members and their friends, were in attendance. We played board games, card games, watched movies, etc. Everyone enjoyed pizza from Casey's along with lots of snacks and conversation throughout the night.

Thank you to Keith and Pauline Schmidt for helping with the pizza, to Darvin Scherer for chaperoning for the evening and to Tanya Reichow for providing breakfast and cleaning up in the morning.

**Youth Swimming Event:** We are checking into having a family swimming event at Water Park of America in February. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin and in your email.

### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jon Ortloff and Rachel Reichow
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Noah Gansen
8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunok Gansen
14 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Schuth
15 <sup>th</sup>	Paul and Christy Ittel (17 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Ernie and Evelyn Michaelis (55 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Jeremy and Kris Siers (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Vanessa Willmsen
26 <sup>th</sup>	Arleen Schmidt