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Salt and Light

Concordia Lutheran Church ★ Bedford, TX

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The New Has Come...

Dear Friends,

It's a new year! One chapter has come to a close and a new one is beginning. Sometimes this can be scary, but God tells us through Scripture that He can bless us through the "new."

Psalm 33:3– He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:31a, 33– Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:26– And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Luke 22:20– And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

John 13: 34– A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

2 Corinthians 5:17– Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 4:24– and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Hebrews 9:15– Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

2 Peter 3:13– But according to his promise we are waiting for a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Our God makes all things new for us but He never changes! His love, care, forgiveness, and blessings remain the same. We can see them from Genesis to Revelation. May we be comforted in the uncertainty of a new year by the certainty of our unchanging God!

Shalom,
Erin



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January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2  9-10am  Christ's Kids 10am-12:30pm
3 	4	5	6  Confirmation 6pm	7	8	9  9-10am
10	11	12	13  Confirmation 6pm	14 BoY Mtg. 7:15 pm	15	16  9-10am
17 Board of Ed. Mtg. 12pm 	18	19	20  Confirmation 6pm	21	22	23  9-10am
24	25	26	27  Confirmation 6pm	28	29	30  9-10am
31						



Christ's Kids

Christ's Kids is a new program for elementary aged children (K-5). It will be every first Saturday of the month from 10am-12:30pm. The events will usually include play time (free play and organized), a craft, chapel time, lunch, and a short video. Some dates will be set aside for family events and outings. We will let you know when these events are going to happen as we will need help with transportation. If you would like to be involved in this new ministry please speak with Erin Rustan.



There will be a Women's Bible Study every Saturday from 9-10am. Women of all ages are encouraged to come and join us in faith, fellowship, and friendship.





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Youth Christmas Party





New Year's Day

⌘ Begin a family diary on January 1. Keep it (and a pen) in an easy-to-see and easy-to-reach spot so that anyone can write in it anytime throughout the year. Sometime near the end of the year (maybe even during a New Year's Eve family party), look back over the events of the past twelve months. It can prompt gratitude to God for His faithfulness and excitement about what He has for you in the new year!

⌘ Grab the calendar and designate one weekend during the coming twelve months for each child. On that weekend, let the child choose the activities and menus. Will it be a time for bicycling, skating, visiting the zoo, backpacking, eating Grandma's macaroni and cheese, or having desert first? A weekend like this is a gift of family fun and great memories for everyone.

⌘ During the first week of the new year, plan some "Fun Family Nights"! Give every family member a different colored piece of construction paper and a 3"x3" cardboard pattern. Have each person cut out five squares and write on each square a family activity he or she would like to do on a family night. Put the pieces of paper in a basket or decorated jar. Each week draw one square from the can and do the activity listed. (The person whose color was selected one week does not get another turn until all the colors have been chosen.) If you run out of ideas before you run out of weeks, take a "Fun Family Night" to add some more ideas to the basket or jar!

We Three Kings...

Do you know what January 6 is? It's Epiphany, the day we remember the wise men from the east arriving with gifts for the Christ Child. (Despite what we see in nativity scenes, the wise men weren't at the stable with the shepherds. These travelers from afar visited a toddler Jesus, not a newborn baby Jesus!)

To better remember these mysterious travelers, plan an Epiphany Party! Decorate with lots of stars, be sure to sing all five verses of "We Three Kings," and share a special meal. Chicken curry served over rice is one option from the east. (Sauces are available in the international sections of most markets.) Or you could make a meal fit for a king. That may mean prime rib or calling out for your absolute favorite pizza. For dessert enjoy vanilla ice cream topped with crunched up candy canes. And, oh yes, bathrobe attire is strongly encouraged! After you tie the belt around your waist, grab a backpack, put on some sandals, and wrap a towel around your head and pin a fancy pendant on the front. You are ready to journey to...the dining room! Happy Epiphany!

Gaither, Gloria and Shirley Dobson. Creating Family Traditions. Oregon: Multnomah Gifts, 2004. pg. 110-112.



Family Devotion: Wise Men Meet Jesus

Matthew 2:1-2

Some other men came to see Jesus in Bethlehem. They were called Wise Men. These Wise Men knew a lot about the stars. They used to stay up all night sometimes, looking at the stars, trying to learn all about them.

One night when they were looking up at the sky, they saw a new star that was different from all the stars they had ever seen before. God had sent that star for the Wise Men to see, so they would know His Son was born.

As soon as they knew that Jesus was born, they wanted to see Him. But they lived far away from Bethlehem. They did not know where Bethlehem was. How would they find the way? God made the star to lead them to Bethlehem.

They followed the star to Bethlehem and found Jesus. They knelt down on the ground in front of Him and worshiped Him. Then they took out some presents and gave them to Him. Afterward they traveled home.

- ★ Who else can see Jesus in Bethlehem?
- ★ Why did God send the star for the Wise Men to see?
- ★ After they had seen the star, what did they want to do?
- ★ What did they do when they saw Jesus?
- ★ Where did they go afterward?
- ★ How does God lead us to Jesus today?



Graham, Ruth. Step into the Bible. Michigan: Zondervan, 2007. pg. 70-71

Other Resources:

- www.lifekids.tv
- 199 Fun Family Activities. Ohio: Barbour Publishing, Inc., 2009.
- findaid.com
- scholarships.com
- tuitionfundingsources.com

Ways You Can Serve:

Activity: I'll bet most of us have a few winter and fall coats just hanging around. No pun intended. Go around and collect from your closets coats of all sizes, and donate them to a homeless shelter or a woman's shelter. If you want to be really ambitious, call your neighbors, friends and relatives and collect coats from them as well.

To make this project a little bit more fun, turn this into a family contest. The one who collects the most coats gets to choose the next family activity.

Deliver the coats to the shelter(s). Take a look around while you're there, and see where people sleep and eat throughout the week.

Read: Proverbs 12:31

- ▶ As you walked through the shelter, what did you think about?
- ▶ Did you see any children there? How do you think you would feel if you were homeless?
- ▶ Do you suppose the children who are in the shelter feel like you do?
- ▶ Sometimes families are homeless for just a short time, but sometimes they are in and out of shelters all of their lives. Jesus loves everyone. Even people who live in shelters. Many times they are sad and lonely and just need someone to love them. During these times they need to feel the love of Jesus more than anything. God wants us to share His love with them in any way we can.
- ▶ What other kinds of things can you do as a family to share Jesus' love with homeless people?
- ▶ Take time to pray for the people you met or saw at the shelter today.

Duensing, Audrey. SOS: Service Over Self. St. Louis, MO: The Department of Child Ministry, Board for Congregational Services, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1998.

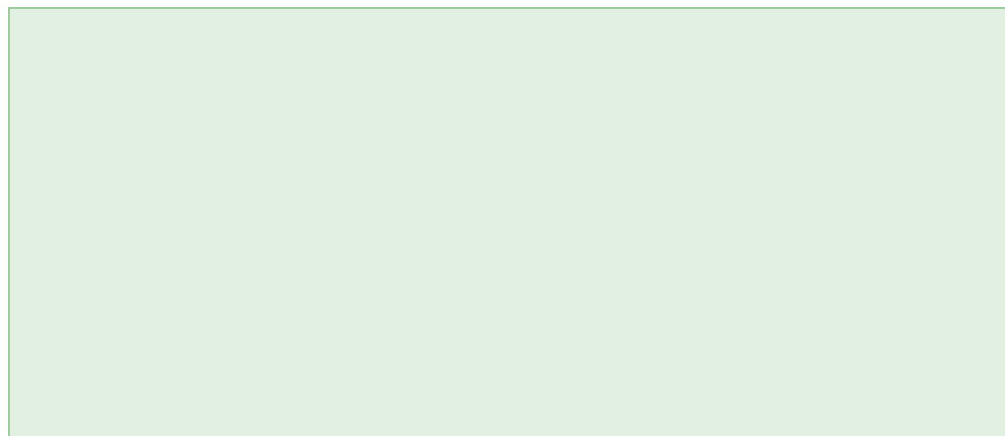
Shelters:

↳ [Union Gospel Mission of Fort Worth](http://www.uniongospelmissionftw.org/): room, food, clothing, etc.
<http://www.uniongospelmissionftw.org/>

Collection Facilities:

↳ [Northeast Emergency Distribution \(N.E.E.D.\)](http://www.need-terrant.com/) (817) 280-0286 424 Bedford Eules Road Hurst, Texas 76053 www.need-terrant.com/

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What's this?



I'm glad you asked!

This is your way of knowing what in the world is going on with the Youth and Children's Ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church.

If you have any of your own announcements or comments that you would like to see in this newsletter please let me know!