



Saint John Lutheran Church

966 North Highway 14
LINCOLN, KANSAS 67455

NEWSLETTER

January 2013

Greetings, dear friends in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:8-14).

From Luke Chapter 2 we read the words of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us remember the reason for the season and keep Christ in Christmas and in our lives throughout the year. And in regards to keeping Christ in Christmas and in our daily lives I was asked to share an email I received from one our members and one I used in a sermon on December 23rd.

The email goes as follows: Apparently the White House referred to Christmas Trees as "Holiday Trees" for the first time this year which prompted CBS presenter Ben Stein to write this peace, **Stein writes:** I am a Jew and every single one of my ancestors were Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas Trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas Trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. (If people want a crib, it's just fine with me just as if the Menorah is displayed a few hundred yards away).

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christian. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period! I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God? But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we once knew went!

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed several years ago on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her: "How could God let something like Hurricane Katrina happen?" Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, get out of our government, and get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

Stein continues: In light of recent events: terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare (who was later murdered) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools and we said OK. Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem, we said OK! (sadly, Dr. Spock's son committed suicide).

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, kill their classmates and kill themselves! Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell (in a spiritual sense)! Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send jokes through email and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing their faith. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace. **How did we get here?**

I (Pastor Schneider) can give you the answer! Before God was removed from schools, public places, and from the mere mention of Christ in Christmas many confessed Christians removed themselves from the Church. There are too many who hold membership in our churches and many others who claim to be Christian who do not bother to give God an hour of their time. CHRISTIANS REMOVED GOD FROM THE EQUATION THROUGH SILENCE AND INACTIVITY BEFORE PAGANS FOUND THE COURAGE TO DO SO! THINK ABOUT IT!

What I am trying to say is let's make a New Year's Resolution! Let's practice our faith publicly by attending worship and speaking out in defense of our faith. Silence and inactivity has gotten us nowhere! The church is God's gift to us where he gives us the means of grace, His preached and written word and the sacraments, for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith: If we choose not to receive those gifts for our good then the result is predictable: Faith will be lost and has already been lost in homes even within our very community. At the same time I want to thank all those who have remained faithful!

Let's begin a spiritual renewal right here at home and let it spread across the nation even amid and ever growing ungodly world that we might be the light of the world Christ has called us to be. We have been asleep long enough! Too long really! **May God bless you in your walk of faith today and throughout the coming New Year and remember to join us for worship! Yours in Christ: Pastor Schneider**

Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan 4, 8:30am

Mission of Love workday

Sunday, Jan. 6, 9:30/10:30

Sunday School/Worship with Communion

Monday, 2:00pm	Women's Bible Study @ Sheri Jonsson home
Tues. Jan. 8, 6:00am.	Early Risers
Wed. Jan. 9, 3:40/6:00/7:15/8:00	WDS/Confirmation/Choir Practice/Bible Study
Thurs. Jan 10, 1:30	LWML Mt. /Marilyn Bell Egypt Presentation
Friday. Jan 11, 8:30am	Mission of Love Workday
Sunday, Jan 13, 9:30/10:30/11:30/7:00	Sunday School/Worship/Elders/Council
Monday, Jan. 14, 10:00/2:00	Women's Bible Study, St. John/Jonsson Study
Wed. Jan 16, 3:40/6:00/7:15/8:00	WDS/Confirmation/Choir/Bible Study
Friday. Jan. 18, 8:30am.	Mission of Love Workday
Sunday. Jan 20, 9:30/10:30/7:00	Sunday School/Communion Worship/Voters Mt.
Monday, Jan 21, 10:00/2:00	St. John Women's Bible Study/Jonsson Study
Tues. Jan 22, 6:00am	Early Risers
Wed. Jan 23, 3:40/6:00/7:15/8:00	WDS/Confirmation/Choir/Bible Study
Friday, Jan 25, 8:30am	Mission of Love Workday
Sunday, Jan 27, 9:30/10:30	Sunday School/Worship
Monday, Jan 28, 10:00/2:00	St. John Women's Bible Study/Jonsson Study
Wed. Jan 30. 3:40/6:00/7:15/8:00	WDS/Confirmation/Choir/Bible Study