



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pierre, SD

## “Out Of The Boat”



### *Epiphany House Blessing*

When Jesus, son of Mary, son of God, was born in a Bethlehem stable, he was at once Good News to the Jewish people. Proclaimed by angels to shepherds in a field, he was the long-awaited Messiah. Those humble shepherds were not expecting anything out of the ordinary that night, but they were the first to hear that God’s promise to the Chosen People had been fulfilled. The story could have ended right there.

But God had another more glorious plan. The Magi were seekers, not fully knowing what they were looking for. A sign in the heavens, a bright star, pointed the way, they believed, to the birth of a new king. Certainly, the births of kings were major events. But in their seeking, the Magi were to find even more than they expected: the Savior, not only of the Jews, but of the Gentiles as well.

Jesus today, early in the freshness of a new year, is just as much the Savior of the world as he was when the travelers from the east reached their destination. We pay homage as they did, remembering that he came to free us from sin and death and give us a share of his very life.

One way to acknowledge our Savior is to make a simple mark on our doorways to bless our homes for the new year. With numerals of the new year and the initials CMB, we mark the entrance to our homes with a piece of chalk. The

letters C, M and B stand for the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. CMB also stands for the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, or “Christ bless this house.” With this simple blessing we open our homes to the salvation Jesus offers and proclaim him once again as the Savior of the world.

Our Fulfillment Committee has provided this simple house prayer. We hope sometime early in January, Tuesday, January 6, The Day of Epiphany would be a great day, you will chalk the following by your house number—

**20 + C + M + B + 09**

Need a piece of chalk? You will find a bucket of chalk by the Lego Church.

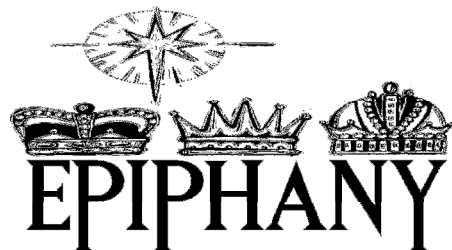
### ***Official Acts***

#### **Baptisms**

Nastassja Marie Jennings 11-28  
Desquari W.D.Jennings 11-28  
Kristen Diane Landon 11-28  
Kaylee Marie Blauert 12-7  
Evelynn Marie Houck 12-14

#### **Funerals**

Joyce Pulfrey 12-3



### *Mi Casa, Su Casa!*



A blessed New Year! How is your Spanish? Even if not very good, the above expression is one we know, “My house, your house.” Simply said when you have house guests you want them to feel at home in the same manner they would feel in their own homes. That means what’s in the frig is theirs as well and they don’t need to ask to use the washer and dryer.

### *Mi Casa, Su Casa!*

It truly appears in our joyful worship response to the God we adore in two ways.

1. Our beautiful Sanctuary which we built is really God’s. “God, our house of worship is Your house of worship. Please dwell here in all Your glory.”
2. Since it is really God’s house, he provides us a place, a home, in which He invites us to celebrate Word, Sacrament and Praise.

Hence, “*Mi casa, Su casa*” works both ways as we view the Sanctuary God has provided for us at 714 N. Grand Ave, the third formal Sanctuary in our 77 year history.

### *Mi Casa, Su Casa!*



In 2009, in a partnership between Oahe Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent Financial Service for Lutherans, Faith Lutheran, Resurrection Lutheran and Lutheran Memorial a new Habitat for Humanity house is being built for a worthy family. Thrivent is providing 70% of the funds through a grant, the local Chapter 20% and our three local congregations 10%. We have set aside our share as approved in our Voter’s Assembly. More importantly than money will be all the hands needed to build this new home. Our three parishes will be very important to this. We are grateful to Lee Axdahl who will lead our effort. Lee has given an enormous amount of time to previous Habitat builds.

### *Mi Casa, Su Casa!*

Our homes! How often is this prayer said? “Come Lord Jesus be our Guest...” That’s quite an invitation. We invite Christ to our homes. We say, “my home is Your home”. It runs even deeper than that for we are also praying for Christ to hasten His Second

Coming. Sometimes when I view this world, I think it would be a good time for Christ to return.

So in 2009 we are asking all of our families on the Day of Epiphany, January 6, or around that day, to dedicate their homes to be a dwelling place for God.

- Enclosed is a “house prayer” to use. After you have used this prayer, why not put it on your frig using your “Building Together in Faith” magnet as a constant reminder that your home is God’s home.
- Need a piece of chalk, well you will find one in the Narthex beginning December 28. It will be great sidewalk chalk once you have written this above your house number dedicating your home as God’s home!

20 + C + M + B + 09



We thank our Fulfillment Committee for sharing this idea with us. Would it not be a great idea to renew this practice every year?

### *Mi Casa, Su Casa!*

As this letter is written, over 1.3 million dollars has been placed in our Building Fund from Congregation gifts, Estate gifts from Vic and Dorothy Young and good investment interest.

Because we have contracted with Architecture Inc. for precise plans and have engaged Sioux Falls Construction on the front side as our contractor, we are now beginning to deal with real numbers.

These numbers exceed the 2.5 million we were hopeful for. So, in January as we seek to firm up the numbers, review our congregational commitment and the limits of our ability to borrow, we will have some large decisions as a congregation to make. It’s all do-able but it will take congregational resolve. It too will take what we have said from the beginning—

**“Every family doing all it can”** as we make and then strive to meet and exceed our commitments.

From the beginning we have also said—

**“Different gifts, Equal Sacrifice”**

That has not changed.

Thanks to all of you, who are working so hard on it.

Thanks to all who have served on our—

- New Millennium Committee
- The entire “Building Together in Faith” team
- All those home hosts
- Our Fulfillment Committee
- Our Building Committee

We do this together as God blesses our homes and as God blesses Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, His home.

Finally, we your called Pastors who take such great delight in our church families, wish to thank you again for your greetings and many gracious gifts during Christmas.



The Lord be with you!

*Mi Casa, Su Casa! A blessed 2009!*

Pastor Brad Urbach

Pastor Levi Willms



*Christmas Thanks*

We wish to thank all who served on our Christmas Committee this year. They beautifully decorated the church, decorated the Fellowship Hall tree, put out the Narthex Nativity set and filled all the sacks for the Children’s and Midweek Christmas programs.

Our Christmas Committee members this year were: Phil & Marylinn Baker, Craig & Melissa Bump, Jodi & Randy Hartmann, Pat & Marsha Karst, Tony & Kandee Leif, Vern & Veronica Lenz, Rebekah & Andy Lindbloom, Bob & Bonita Overturf, Larry &

Mona Smith, Brett & Carrie Tschetter, Ron & Lynda Wagner and Rick & Laura Weber. Thanks again!

Speaking of trees—we are grateful to Creighton and Judith Miller for the beautiful tree that adorns the Sanctuary this year. It is a beautiful tree—deep and wide!

We are grateful to Dale Hartmann for cutting the tree, the Board of Elders, it took nearly everyone for putting the tree up and getting the lights on it and our Altar Guild for decorating it so nicely.

We are grateful to our Board of Missions and Evangelism for getting the Outdoor lighted Nativity set up.

Finally for all the families who have, over the years, given an Angel Ornament for the Christmas tree— Thanks!



In January we will begin to meet on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 for Dartball.

During the winter John Barber has invited the men of our Men’s Fellowship to John and Carlene’s home for an evening of Dartball and Pool. Thanks John.





### ONE MORE TIME!

#### “The Festival of the Crèche”

So many thanks –

To all of you who brought Holiday breads and cookies.  
What a sight the table was.

To our Board of Missions and Evangelism for getting  
the tables and serving table so beautifully arranged.

To Rebekah Circle for serving. The gift of hospitality  
was gracious.

To all who brought crèches. There were 162 creches.

To our choir, Helen Kiepke, Rachel Hartmann, and  
Karen Lindbloom for wonderful music.

For our Live Nativity portrayers: The Holy family,  
Rachel & Eddie Aamold and son Brandon Thomas;  
our Wise men, Matt King, Jay Fredrich and Curt  
Everson; our shepherds, Dennis & Samuel  
Ryckman, Tom & Christopher Schultz, Jeff Tron-  
vold & Gerrit; our angels, Alex Voeltz, Hayley  
Adams, Megan Arneson, and Mallory Hull.

To Leah Kirley for once again painting a unique Nativ-  
ity rock to use as our door prize. The winner this  
year was Dale Heidelberg.

Finally, to Shirley English who suggested this wonder-  
ful idea!

The Festival of the Crèche gives us the opportunity to –

Bear witness to our faith.

Bear witness to our community of the heart of Christ-  
mas.

Share the gift of welcome and hospitality to our com-  
munity.

Share a unique experience that sets Christmas aside as  
an historical event that is the heart of our Christian  
hope.

## Young Adults

### Lutheranpalooza for Young Adults

The South Dakota District is having a Lutheranpa-  
looza (don't know what that is, it's not in the diction-  
ary). What I do know, it is a fun day for young adults  
(18-30) and will be at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux  
Falls on January 24th starting at 9:00 AM and goes to  
8:00 PM. There will be a Pancake feed served up by  
pastors, a volleyball tournament, faith discussions,  
trivia tournament, taste of cultures supper, and lots of  
opportunities to interact with and meet other Young  
Adults from around the district. Contact Pastor  
Willms [levi@faithluth.com](mailto:levi@faithluth.com) if you would like to go.

### Family Aquatics Night



**Circle your calendars now!**

**Sunday, January 4, 2009**

**Family Aquatic Night**

**Pierre Aquatic Center**

**5-7 p.m.**

**Pizza and Drinks provided**

**Bring the whole family, but yet,**

**Bring the whole neighborhood!**



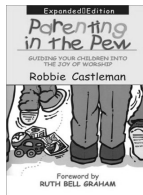
**ADULT BIBLE STUDIES - Fill out and return to the church office**

**Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Study 7:00 am. Starting Jan. 15. Hebrews**--The Men’s class will be looking at the book of Hebrews. This book looks at how Christ brings fulfillment to the Old Testament hope and the fulfillment of our lives as well. This class is multi-generational and is beneficial for the lives and discipleship of men in our church.

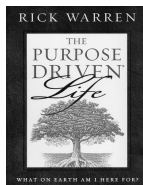
**Sunday evenings (at Church) Bible Study 6:30 p.m. -Starting Jan.11. Overview of the Bible--Lifelight Class**--Lifelight Bible studies seek to give in-depth study of the scriptures. This class is great because it also provides a big picture overview at the same time. If this one works for you it would be a great opportunity to get some real understanding of the threads that weave through the whole Bible. The contact for this class is Marv Schweigert 224-5133

**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (meets in homes) Starting Jan. 14. Judges--Lifelight Class**--Judges is a wonderful book of God’s faithfulness to his people, even when they often turn away from Him. This class will meet on Wednesday evenings in people’s homes. The contact for this class is Bob Miller 224-9955.

**Wednesday, Parenting Class—Meets at Nick and Annette Hill’s house 6:30 p.m. Starting Jan. 7. Parenting Class**--This study will meet in the home of Nick and Annette Hill (224-0884) and provides time for encouragement and growth as parents. They are looking at a book entitled Parenting in the Pew, which provides good incite on teaching our kids the faith and specifically how to worship.



**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (at church) Starting Jan. 7. Purpose Driven Life Study**--This class is taught by Bill Markley (224-5322) and meets Wednesdays in the Preschool Room at Church. Bill is an excellent teacher and this class will look at Rick Warren’s book the Purpose Driven life and provide a chance for discussion and application to your life.



**Sunday Morning Class 9:45-10:45 in Fellowship Hall Starting Jan. 18. Faith Under Fire**--Our Sunday Morning Class will be using a resource put out by Lee Strobel that uses DVD segments to prompt discussion and a search of the scriptures relating to hot-button issues, and current events and how they relate to the Faith. It should be fun to have some lively debate on how God’s Word and Christ speaks to our current environment.



**Wednesday mornings Ladies Bible Study: 6:30 am (At Church) Starting March 18. Lessons of the Church Year**-- This class studies the appointed lessons for the week and helps to gain a fuller understanding of the text in preparation for what will be taught on Sunday. This class begins March 18th and goes throughout the year, contact Ruth Leidholt (945-1211).

**Monday Afternoon Ladies Bible Study: 1:30 pm (At church) Starting Feb.23. Psalms of the Messiah**-- This study is in the *A New Song: A Women’s Bible Study Devotional* series and is a nice study to apply the songs of the Psalms to the daily lives of women. If you would like to be in this class talk to Karen Lindbloom (224-5292).



**Financial Peace University 6:30-8:30 p.m. Starts Jan. 22.** A revolutionary class taught by Dave Ramsey. This class can help your family to gain peace in its finances. It would be great to have most of our families in this class to learn God’s teachings and other practical advice in the world from debt, to insurance, to investing. There are free previews on Jan. 4th at 9:45 and also Jan. 8th at 7:00 PM. The class will begin on Jan. 22nd at 6:30 PM. We are working towards having child care for the class. More info can be gained from Pastor Willms or [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com)

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



## Acolyte Schedule



### January 4

Early: Jacob Larson and Josh Larson  
Late: Rebekah Miller and Alex Voeltz

### January 11

Early: Alex Neyhart and Marlee Dahl  
Late: Jared Neilan and Caitlin Forman

### January 18

Early: Joshua Thompson and Hayley Adams  
Late: Kyle Olson and Travis Jordan

### January 25

Early: Alyssa Williams and Travis Adney  
Late: Megan Arneson and Roberta Forman

### LYF Meeting

Our next LYF meeting will be on January 11th from 4:00 to 5:30 for some games, food, and fellowship.

**LYF Bowling** The LYF will go bowling on January 25th from 2:00-4:00. Pastor Willms has been practicing hard and his average is up to 75. Come and see if you can beat him and win a prize! (Remember though, that is just his average) Please bring \$2.

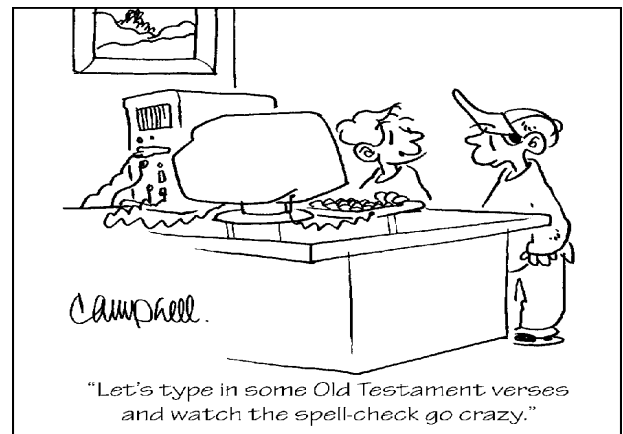
**JYM Bowling** The JYM group of 6th-8th graders are going bowling on January 25th from 4:00-6:00. There is no chance of you beating Pastor Willms, but you can compete against one another for top prize. Please bring \$2.

**Cans for LYF** We have a new shed over next to the staff garage. Drop off your holiday supply of empty cans and support our Youth Group. The cans raise several hundred dollars every year to support our LYF. Pooling our cans together can really make a difference. There are large Garbage bags on the inside of the door for you to put your smaller bags into and to keep loose cans from getting all over. Any crushing you can do of the cans can also help greatly, even just a squeeze on the sides.



GoodSearch  
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

Our LYF has raised more than \$150 by just a few families searching the internet. If you could use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and select Faith Lutheran LYF as your charity you can raise a penny a search. There is also ways to raise money through online shopping. If you go to goodsearch and select your store through their site, you can raise a percentage of your purchase for our youth. Just getting a few more families to faithfully use goodsearch and our profits will grow. With a few small steps there is a link on their site to set up goodsearch in your toolbar on the browser as well.



"Let's type in some Old Testament verses and watch the spell-check go crazy."