



Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
January Newsletter
2012



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 www.mtzionwi.org



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From WELS Evangelism Office

Jesus is Miraculous - He Turns Water into Wine

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (John 2:11).

A wedding is a day of celebration not only for the bride and groom, but also for friends and relatives who are happy for the couple. Preparing to get married can make for some anxious moments. But preparing to just attend a wedding can also cause a little angst as we hunt for the perfect wedding gift, a gift that will be unique, but useful for the newlyweds.

Jesus once attended a wedding with some of his disciples and his mother, Mary. A wedding celebration today will last six or seven hours. In Jesus' day it lasted six or seven days. It's easy to see how this celebration could have run out of wine. That would have been a major embarrassment for the couple. But Mary trusted that her son could provide the perfect gift. At first, Jesus' response might seem startling: "Dear woman, why do you involve me? ... My time has not yet come" (John 2:4). Jesus didn't say he couldn't deliver a miracle. But he wanted Mary to realize that while he was her son, he was also her Savior who had now begun his public ministry. He would not jump the gun on the work predetermined by his heavenly Father. Mary heard the words "not yet" in her son's reply and told the servants to follow his orders.



Jesus told the servants to fill six large stone jars with water. Then he ordered them to take a sample to the wedding's wine taster, who took a sip and tasted wine instead of water! He even mentioned his surprise that the better wine had been saved for the end of the banquet. Jesus saw the need and filled it—abundantly. He provided the perfect gift by his almighty power.

The apostle John calls this the first of many miraculous "signs" that Jesus performed during his ministry. Signs point the way to something, like to the Interstate, the nearest gas station, or a rest area. Jesus' miracles recorded in the Bible point to him as the way to heaven. He's more than a great man. He is God's Son who supplied the perfect life that God demands from us. His death on the cross delivered the perfect gift—forgiveness for our sins and by faith a reserved place at the eternal wedding supper of heaven. His powerful resurrection—the greatest miracle—proves his words and work to be true.

We can depend on Jesus to provide everything that we need for this life and the next. We welcome you to gather with us on Sundays to learn how Jesus uses his power "to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

(Why not share the above with a friend?)

A Message from our Board of Elders

Did You Get What You Wanted?

[Martha] had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." - Luke 10:39-41

Well, Christmas is over ... The presents have all been exchanged and unwrapped, and the decorations may (or may not) be put away for another year. And the outdoor lights...? Well, personally I'm not too fond of the cold, so I think those might have to wait for a warmer day. Maybe by Memorial Day...?

The 'Christmas season' sure was full of things to do: fellowship events at church, children's Christmas programs, baking, decorating, shopping, late hours at work to complete projects, Christmas parties... Well, I'm sure you all experienced some or all of the same items. And although most of them are fun to do in the hustle-and-bustle of the last month or so, it sure is easy to get wrapped up in these (and many other) things.

Martha's distractions (in verse 40) sure sound familiar to those that have just experienced a busy Christmas season, don't they? Here she had her Lord and Savior only a few feet away; and yet she was so busy preparing for that evening's festivities that she wasn't listening to what Jesus had to say. Martha wasn't thinking about what she needed, but rather what she wanted: help from Mary with all of her "hustle-and-bustle"...

It's easy to feel like Martha, isn't it? At Christmas, we may have wanted to have our house well-decorated, or find that perfect gift, or complete some lengthy holiday checklist... The list can go on and on.

But thanks be to God that he didn't give us what we wanted for Christmas, but instead, he gave us the gift that we needed – the most precious gift of all – wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Through that gift, we will someday have the biggest present of all: eternal life in heaven!

So did you get what you wanted for Christmas? Maybe... But did you get what you needed? ABSOLUTELY!!

I hope and pray that you were able to keep your focus on Christ this past holiday season, and as we start another year, let's make sure to continually "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2).

Yours in Christ,
Jeff Larsen
Chairman, Board of Elders

Special Needs Committee

Kathy Krueger, Chairperson (262-605-9019) wayne-kathy@wi.rr.com

Special Needs Ministry held their annual Christmas for Kids event on December 10th. We had 19 kids with special needs in attendance, with 5 of them who attended our event for the first time.

Many thanks to the 7 peers and 22 volunteers who made this event happen for us. Many thanks also goes out to our cookie bakers. The kids truly look forward to cookie decorating part of the morning. Next up will be a movie night for them and their families sometime during the winter months.

Facebook

Do you FaceBook? If so, stay up-to-date with what's going on with our Mt. Zion Preschool and Oasis through FaceBook!!! You can find the Mt. Zion Preschool page by going to www.facebook.com/mtzionpreschool. You can find the Oasis page by going to www.facebook.com/oyckenosha. Check out our pages, and see what's been going on, and where you can help!!

Board of Evangelism

Don Giammarrusco (262-694-5398) rusco37@aol.com

This month I would like to first thank all of you for your support of the Board of Evangelism, and for turning out for all the events through out the year. We look forward to serving the Lord and His church in the New Year.

Next I would like to talk about something I have found a real blessing that we can all take advantage of; and that is the "Mt Zion Moment." The Mt Zion Moment is a digital e-mail sent to anyone who wants to receive it on a weekly basis written by Pastor Neumann. It is full of facts about the previous week's church statistics like worship attendance, giving amounts, Bible study teen and adult attendance; but most important you will receive Bible information questions and answers and other Bible information.

I highly recommend you sign up to receive this e-mail. I personally read this while I am at work during my lunch and share the Bible questions with my co-workers. I pick the e mail up from my cell phone; but if you have any device that receives an e mail, you can have this wonderful information at your fingertips.

If you would like to receive the Mt Zion Moment, just go to the Mt Zion website (www.mtzionwi.org) ; and on the right side near the bottom, you will see Mt Zion Moment – subscribe. Just click on the subscribe button, and you will be all set!

Blessing to you all

Don Giammarrusco - BOEvan

From the Choir Loft . . .

Dena Krueger (262-859-3105)
kkreek4@wi.rr.com

Many thanks to Michelle and Margaret for all their help with music this past fall. Special thanks for the all the hard work the choir members put in during rehearsals and those who joined us for singing on Christmas Day.

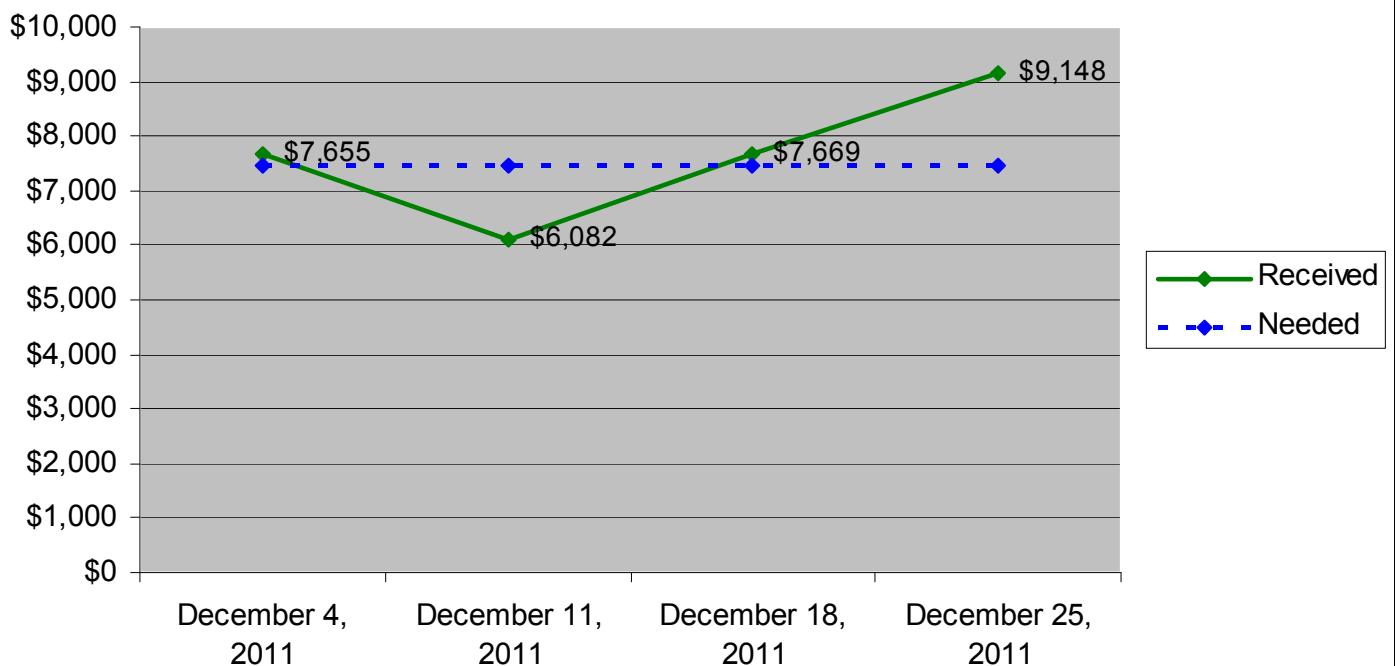
Christmas 4 Kids

God blessed us with 30 children at Christmas 4 Kids, along with 10 teen and 6 adult helpers! Thank You to everyone who helped!! Three Mt.

Zion families brought a neighborhood friend along. There was one family from the neighborhood who came from the fliers we distributed. The

Board of Evangelism thanks you (whether in person or in prayer) for helping to tell others about Jesus' birth!

Weekly Contributions



MLC Ministry Sunday at Friedens

Friedens is having a small choir from our WELS ministerial school, Martin Luther College, in New Ulm, MN on January 22 for a special MLC Ministry Sunday during their normal morning services.

They are also planning a forum of some sort during the 9:15am Bible class hour that day with these choir members; that way, any kids or parents with interests in certain areas (pastor track, elementary teacher or early childhood education track, etc.) could visit with specific folks in those areas. They are also having a lunch/reception at noon for fellowship. It will be a potluck; anyone who wants to come can bring a dish to pass - everything else will be provided. All are welcome to attend this special event. If you or your children are considering full-time gospel ministry, worshipping here at Mt Zion at 8am, and then going to Friedens at 9:15am to hear the presentation and interact with these young people preparing to serve the Church, and then staying for the 10:30am service to hear one of them preach and their beautiful voices praising God would be a wonderful idea!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Attention Thrivent Members: It is the time of year when you should direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars. If you do not have your Choice Dollars set up in a recurring fashion, you need to manually direct your Choice Dollars. This can be done via the telephone or the Web. Locally, Mt. Zion, Oasis Youth Center, and Shoreland Lutheran High School are all eligible recipients of Thrivent Choice Dollars. See your November Mt. Zion Newsletter or <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> for more information on the Thrivent Choice Program.

Board of Church Properties

Andy Peters (262-595-0551)
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Happy New Year to our family of believers here at Mt. Zion. As we focused and prepared for the birth of our Savior, our facility was very, very busy, almost on a daily basis. I'm sure this was God-pleasing.

The snow removal contracts with insurance certificates are in place; but it appears that a salt donation won't be realized this year. We have a good supply left over from last year; and with the slow start to the snow season we should have enough to get us through winter. We will budget for a salt purchase next year, but we will also try again for the donation.

Our window replacement work is ongoing; and when that's completed, of the work that the Voters approved (Oct. meeting), only the Vicarage bathroom floor needs to be replaced. If you weren't aware, Pastor Meissner and his wife Erin have been blessed with a baby girl! And the opportunity to get in the house to make that repair is not readily available right now.

The Properties Board is still trying to secure a WE Energies rebate for the insulation that was added with the roof replacements. The rebate info for the furnace service has been sent in likewise.

As to the roof update, after the diverter was added, the tuck point finished, and the sealer applied, we did a post-work water test, and despite that water plus the couple of rains we had there wasn't any water leaching into the building. Mission accomplished!

Financial Summary

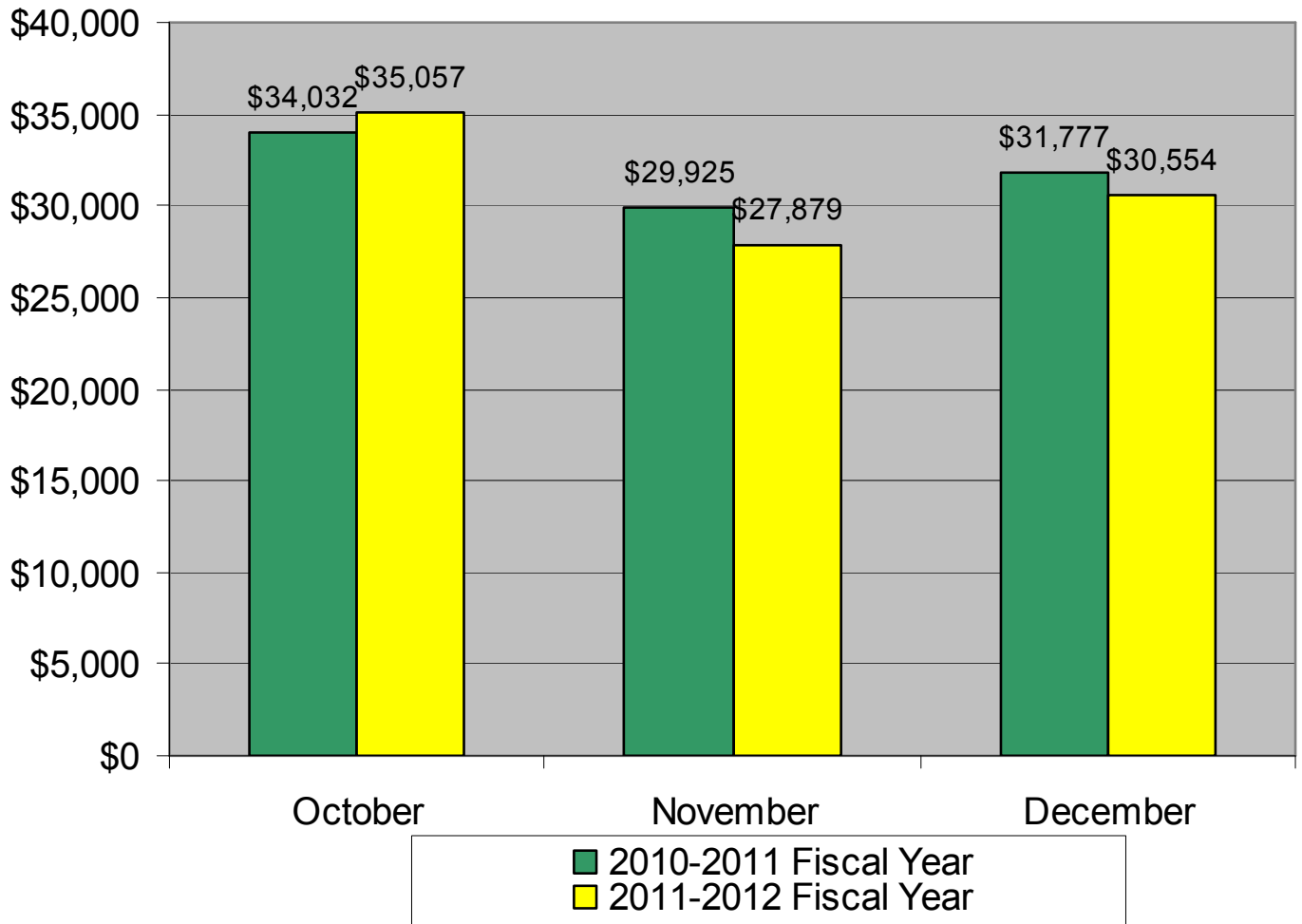
Below is our information for December:

General Contributions Needed:	\$29,762.36
General Contribution Received	\$30,553.84

We exceeded reaching our budgetary ministry needs in December by \$791.48 (\$197.87/wk)

Our current Fiscal Year to Date Budget is: -\$12,617.02 (which is \$485.27 per week)

Monthly Contributions



- January 2nd - Robert & Letitia Trathen - 19th
- January 10th - Les & Debbie Bailey - 36th
- January 11th - Keith & Shirley Mentink - 48th
- January 20th - Kenneth & Marie Kasper - 23rd
- February 2nd - Harry & Pat Nelson - 55th
- February 2nd - Scott & Lisa Therriault - 32nd
- February 5th - Mark & Julia Felsing - 1st
- February 9th - Terry & Nora Keller - 21st
- February 14th - Cliff & Julia Peterson - 22nd
- February 14th - Steve & Karen Popovich - 3rd
- February 15th - Floyd & Carolyn Gollnick - 65th
- February 20th - Fred & Loretta Harmeyer - 47th
- February 23rd - Lew & Cari Knapp - 16th

Board of Education

Jacob Waldschmidt (262-694-1851) jwaldo280@aol.com

The Board of Education wants to thank the Sunday School Staff and children for putting on a wonderful Christmas Program. It was truly a joyous event for all those in attendance. A special thanks to Cindy Willer, Tracy Kopp, and Karen Reed for putting this event together and making it what it is. Also, a special thanks to Jim and Janine Jones for putting together the children's candy bags, and to Bill Fink and the other ushers for handing them out to the children after the program.

The Mt. Zion Preschool had their Christmas Program on December 20th. The Preschool Staff and children put on a wonderful and fun program for the families and friends in attendance. It was a blessing to see and hear the children's excitement to tell about their/our Savior's birth. Thank you to Nikkie Larsen, Kara Kassulke, Joann Styles, and Cindy Willer for their hard work in putting on this special program.

As you look to 2012, if you are like me, you will set personal goals for the upcoming year. These goals can cover everything from weight lose, nutrition, to finances. Hopefully, one of your goals will cover your relationship with your Lord. It could be doing a daily Bible study, attending a weekday Bible class, or enrolling in the CAP class or 1st Place for Health Women's Ministry. Unfortunately, by March, when our daily comings and goings of our lives take over, many of these goals will go by the wayside. Ok, so you stopped going to the gym, you started eating cookies again, and you can't control the urge to spend money. Do yourself a favor though; please do not let the goal you set for your spiritual life go by the wayside. The Lord wants you to seek Him first, and He doesn't want our daily lives to take away from Him. The Board of Education and the Pastors are dedicated to offering you a number of opportunities to get to know your Lord better, and to help you meet your 2012 spiritual goals. Some of these opportunities are listed below.

Tuesday Bible Study: 10am - CAP Class: Wednesdays 7pm - Women's First Place for Health: Thursdays 6:30pm - Sunday Bible Study: 9:15am - Teen Bible Study: 9:15am - Sunday School: 9:15am

Respectfully,
Jacob Waldschmidt - Board of Education Chair

Christmas Caroling

On Saturday, December 17th, 50 Mt Zion members headed out to bring some Christmas cheer to those who often times get depressed during the holidays. We Christmas caroled at the homes of shut-in members, and local nursing homes where members live or where we do monthly worship services. It was a phenomenal time! The residents and members were so appreciative! The smiling faces and familiar Christmas tunes brought them great joy, even though the tears were flowing. And more than once we heard, 'This was so nice of you all – this was my best Christmas present in a long time!' We have so much to be joyful for, thanks to Jesus the best Christmas present the world ever received! And then after singing carols, we gathered back in Mt Zion's beautifully decorated fellowship hall and enjoyed some wonderful goodies together by soft twinkle lights, and shared our stories of how much our little gift was appreciated by so many. If you weren't able to make it this year, please do plan to join the fun next year. Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to Tracy Kopp, Nikkie Larsen, and Pastor B for leading the singing in their respective groups, and to Kathy Knautz and her Sunday school class for making little packets of goodies that we could hand out to the residents as we caroled.

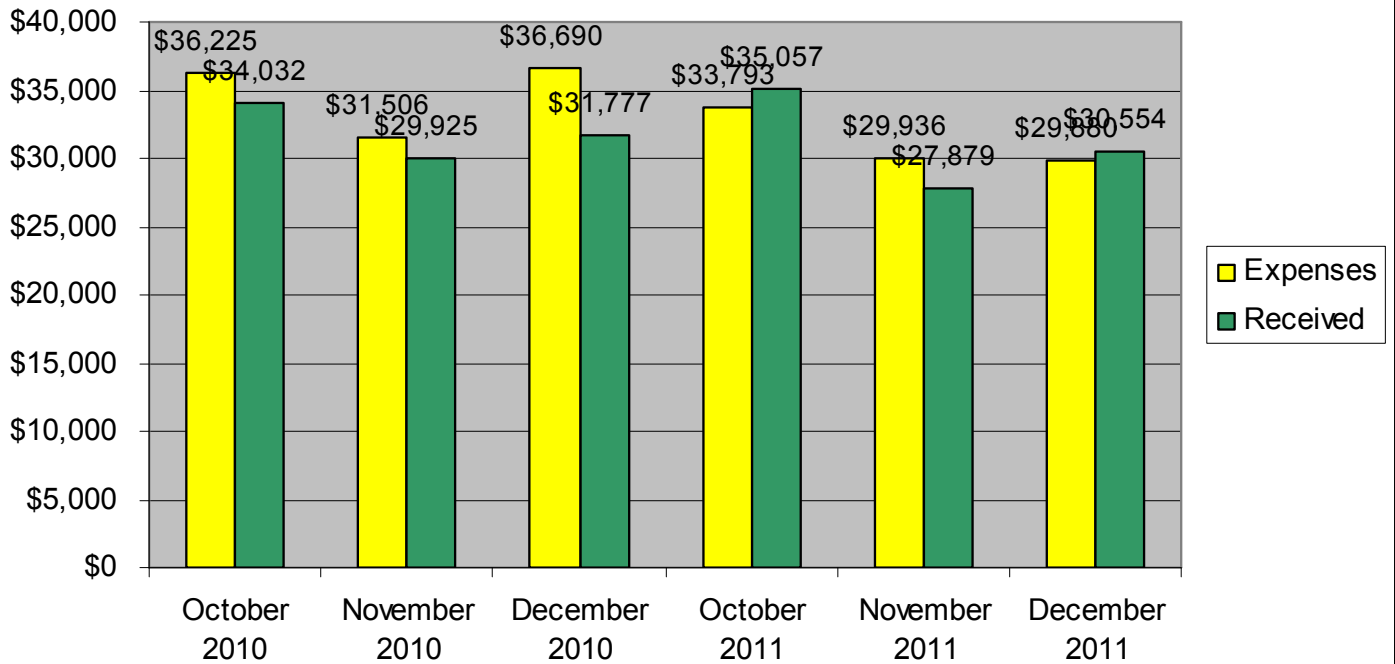
Christmas Decorations

Christmas tree & decorations will come down Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. anyone available to assist please mark you calendar – if you have any questions, please contact Chris Demo

Mt. Zion Web-Site & Calendar

Want to keep up with the latest going on at Mt. Zion? To make sure you never miss out on an event, go to the Mt. Zion web-site at www.mtzionwi.org, and click on Calendar. From there you can navigate from month to month so you never miss out on events going on at Mt. Zion.

Expenses Comparison



The Truth Project (TTP) - Good News!

Even though the first round of The Truth Project is not yet complete at MT Zion, we have already begun to gather a group for round two. While it is true that this is by invitation only (in great part because space is limited and the program is designed to cultivate close Christian fellowship and intimate discussion), we would welcome requests to be considered for an invitation for this or even future "Tours". The current group has clearly expressed the hope that ALL members of MT Zion would experience the special Christian bond of fellowship and learning that TTP offers; we heartily agree - as does Pastor Neumann who has previewed the course, and Pastor Bergemann who has begun using it with the Young Adult group he has formed!

"What is The Truth Project all about, anyway?" We are glad you asked! It is not a traditional Bible class as such. It's a course on a Christian's *world-view* unfolded via an amazing journey with God through His Word where we focus in on God's revealed plan (from Scripture) for different aspect of our lives. You will get a fresh look and perspective on our sin-fallen world, and see how our arch-enemy is busy selling us a world-view rooted in lies which contradict God's revealed plan; and we are buying it in many cases - perhaps unknowingly! We will "gaze upon the face of God" in ways that might surprise you and will certainly change you and your perspective on life - in good ways! (Take a moment to look at the display in the church entryway as well.)

The new set of "Tours" will begin February 9th at our home and continue for twelve more Thursdays. The evenings begin with a meal at 6:30pm followed by a DVD presentation, discussion, and prayer, finishing about 9:15pm.

You have now learned the "what", the "when", and the "where;" but the "why" (which is the most important) is found in Colossians 2:8: "*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*"

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding The Truth Project, either in person, by phone (652-2572), or by e-mail (kjeske@wi.rr.com). - Ken and Yvonne Jeske

Happy Birthday

February

- 1 Adam Knautz
- 1 Anna Walrath
- 2 Nicolas Byars
- 3 Michael Cepass
- 3 Charles Pryse
- 3 Scott Therriault
- 4 Cole Young
- 5 Irene Torkkola
- 8 Les Bailey
- 9 Bryan Byars
- 9 Jillian Zupinski
- 10 Thomas Middlecamp
- 12 Kathy Tegen
- 14 Arnold Zillmer
- 15 Peter Burditt
- 15 Erin Yates
- 16 Natalie Seibel
- 17 Donna Becker
- 17 Mark Matye
- 17 Michelle Whitefoot
- 17 Rebecca Willer
- 18 Kyle Carson
- 19 Lori Books
- 19 Orlo Glaman
- 21 Alexander Kasper
- 22 Michael Sablan
- 23 Beverly Giammarrusco
- 23 Megan Krueger
- 23 Codie Lewandowski
- 24 Paula Carson
- 25 Bill Demo
- 25 Lindsay Freitag
- 26 Ernst Macht
- 27 Marty Dumas
- 27 Kathryn Groth
- 27 Julia Peterson
- 28 Greg Hettrick
- 28 Nikkie Larsen

January

- 1 Donna Lewandowski
- 1 Isabella Waldschmidt
- 4 Richard Lewicke
- 5 Nila Kenyon
- 6 Matthew Menarek
- 7 Collin Gentz
- 7 Margaret Kohlstedt
- 12 Lisa Kuhn
- 13 Michelle Artus
- 17 Natalya Groth
- 20 Kimberly Weber
- 22 Katie Freitag
- 22 Janet Mulligan
- 23 Elena Artus
- 23 Paul Hinrichs
- 23 Hannah Sorensen
- 24 Emily Mohr
- 24 Steve Wendling
- 26 Fern Oldenburg
- 26 John Tegen
- 26 David Zank
- 28 Stacy Smith
- 31 Cameron Artus

If you don't see your Birthday or Anniversary in our newsletter (or if the date or years are incorrect), please contact the church office (office@mtzionwi.org). If you do not see your special date, that means we don't have it. There are **correction forms** available on the church office door. Please give us the information (including year) so we can include you next time!

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to get articles in for the February Newsletter is Wednesday, January 25th. Please send all articles to the church office (office@mtzionwi.org).