

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NOVEMBER 17, 2013

2014 Building Fund Appeal

Information has been provided in the church mailboxes of all members in regard to the 2014 Building Fund Appeal. Please review the information carefully. We anticipate paying off all outstanding commitments on the building project during the 2014 year. What a great blessing from the Lord! Pledges in support of the project will be received and dedicated during the worship service on December 8th. Additional pledge cards and envelopes will be available on that morning. Thank you for supporting the ministry and work of your congregation!

Hammond Church Bazaar

The 39th Annual Hammond Church Bazaar will be held this coming Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church of Hammond. The event will feature numerous items for sale: crafts, plants, produce, holiday items, white elephants, and loads of baked goods (including holiday cookies, breads, jellies, and jams). Lunch will also be served from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM. Everyone is invited!

Thanksgiving Dinner

A Thanksgiving Dinner is being served at First United Methodist Church on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in their fellowship hall, which is accessible to those with physical challenges. The dinner is for anyone who may not have a family gathering and would like to get out among people. There is no charge but a free-will offering will be taken. Call the church office at 388-3262 to make a reservation.

Catechism Review

The Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Advent Midweek Services and Suppers

Immanuel of Hay Creek will again feature Advent midweek services and suppers during the 2013 holiday season. This year's sermon series is entitled: "Heavenly Advent: Contemplating Revelation 7." Contrary to what many believe, the season of Advent is not really about preparing for Christmas. Advent is about the Lord's Second Coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. And this Advent we will ponder the wonderful, comforting images of heaven in Revelation chapter 7. Dinners will be held on the Wednesdays of Advent at 6:30 PM with the worship service starting at 7:15 PM. Note: This is a change from previous years. The services will begin fifteen minutes earlier than last year. The dates and themes are as follows:

December 4: Saints Before the Throne

December 11: Unending Bliss

December 18: Anthem of Redemption

The December 11th dinner is being covered by choir members, but we are looking for volunteers to bring food and serve on December 4th and 18th. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board.

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Christmas Scrip Order

The Christmas Scrip order will be placed on **Wednesday, December 4th**. The anticipated arrival of that order will be Wednesday, December 11th. You must pre-pay your order as I don't carry enough cash to cover everyone. An updated scrip list is available from Bonnie Kassen.

Please keep in mind that you don't just have to use Scrip as a gift in and of itself. If you love to shop at JC Penney, Kohls, Sears, etc. for deals, BUY scrip and use it at the check-out. The same goes for hundreds of other stores. Are you traveling for Christmas? Use Scrip to pay for your gas and hotel costs. Are you hosting this holiday season? Pick up Scrip to purchase your groceries!

A flyer has been posted to show the potential earnings for our Scrip program. We currently have about 12 families that use this fundraising program on a regular basis. We've made about \$1,000 per year from gift card sales. If we add just 8 additional families, we could almost double our income. This program is NOT about buying certificates you don't need. It is about thinking ahead and purchasing certificates to replace the cash you're ALREADY spending!

Give it a try! Everyone that buys Scrip in the months of November and December will receive a mini-sharpie marker on a keychain to write left-over card balances on Scrip cards. (You may have to wait until they come, but I won't forget you!)