

THE FRIDAY FLYER 12/20

Birthdays This Week

12/20 - Ivy Zonneveld
12/21 - Linda Reenders, Dave Johnson,
Brian Kootstra, Marissa Carpenter
12/22 - Andrew Van Heeringen
12/23 - Jeanne DeHaan

Anniversaries This Week

12/20 - Joshua & Raina Neal

GEMS, Cadets, MSM and Common Ground

Youth Groups will continue meeting at their regular time - Wednesday, December 11th and 18th @ 6 pm. They will not be meeting the following Wednesdays, December 25th, January 1st & 8th. They will resume on January 15th.

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Youth Ministry Leaders Contact
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**Catechism class for grades 3-8 in the council room for the first 15 minutes immediately after the morning service.

Life Groups

Life Group Series:

Winter session – January 5th thru February 16th

Spring session – March 25th thru April 13th

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Office will be closed on Wednesday 12/25.

~The deadline for Church Publications is Thursday at 1 pm.~

Library News

It's December—the month of Christmas! We have books and DVDs for children and books for adults with Christmas themes. I will highlight these in December.

DVDs: Veggie Tales: The Best Christmas Gift; The Little Drummer Boy. Also, from Max Lucado: The Crippled Lamb

Christmas books for children: Christmas is a Happy Time, On Christmas Morning, What Child is This, Who is Coming to Our House?, The Story of Christmas, Baby Jesus ABC Storybook, Christmas at Rumpole Mansion, The Story of Christmas, One Starry Night, No Tree For Christmas, This is the Stable, The ABC's of Christmas, The

Toddlers Bible Christmas Book, Hilary Knight's The Twelve Days of Christmas; Jesus the Very Best Christmas Gift of All

Young Readers: Mary, Did You Know?: The Story of God's Great Plan by Mark Lowry (for children 5-6 years): One of the most popular Christmas songs of our time, "Mary, Did You Know?" has dramatically impacted the lives of countless listeners. Now families will experience the story as never before, as it's brought to life through resplendent illustrations, plus interpretive Scripture verses in easy-to-understand children's text. The hearts of children and parents alike will be stirred by this wistful, insightful, and awe-inspiring narrative of the extraordinary life of Jesus. Mary, Did You Know? will give rich enjoyment to your family's "reading together" times, not just at Christmas, but any day of the year.

Readers 2 -4 grade: The Crazy Christmas Angel Mystery (The Cul-de-Sac Kids #3) by Beverly Lewis: It's almost Christmas, and Eric Hagel is spying on the new neighbor. What's going on next door? Why is the house always flickering with candlelight? And what about the eerie flute music every morning at 6:00? When Mr. Tressler puts up a Christmas tree, Eric's eyes nearly pop out. The angel at the top comes to life! Soon, hundreds of angels are flying in the old man's house. Can Eric and the Cul-de-sac Kids solve the mystery? And who will be brave enough

to take a Christmas gift to the weird house at the end of Blossom Hill Lane? A book to read to your children, for you, or for your children to read: *The Story of the Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke: During the time of the birth of Jesus, a fourth Wise Man, Artaban, sells all his possessions to buy three precious jewels which he hopes to present to the newborn Christ Child. Although he planned to journey with the other three Magi to Bethlehem, he is delayed and fails to rendezvous with them. Artaban spends his whole life searching for the Christ, and in his search, he gives away one, then two, and finally all three of his jewels to help others, but in the end his quest is fulfilled in unexpected ways. Although written more than a century ago, this is still a topical Christmas story for young and old that captures the true spirit of Christmas.

Adult Fiction: *A Basket Brigade Christmas*, by Judith Miller, Nancy Moser, Stephanie Grace Whitson: Not even the Civil War can smother the spirit of Christmas, especially in the town of Decatur, Illinois, in 1862, where the ladies of the Basket Brigade board trains to minister to Union soldiers, offering fried chicken, pickled peaches, pound cake, and other dainties to men who haven't eaten a home-cooked meal since enlisting. Join Sarah, Lucy, and Zona, three compassionate members of the brigade, as they care for wounded heroes--and find love along the way. *A STITCH IN TIME* by Stephanie Grace

Whitson: Wealthy Lucy Maddow isn't as vulnerable as other women whose men are off at war, but that doesn't mean she's immune to heartbreak and loneliness. Opening her grand home to the local sewing society brings not only friendship and a growing self-confidence, but also a life-changing surprise.

A PINCH OF LOVE by Judith Miller: Shy and compassionate Sarah McHenry is eager to assist the other women with the war effort--unless it means stepping onto trains that carry wounded Civil War soldiers. When forced to set aside her fears, Sarah gains unexpected confidence and the possibility of a soldier's love.

ENDLESS MELODY by Nancy Moser: At age thirty-five, Zona Evans is a spinster music teacher. To bring comfort to the soldiers on the train she arranges for carolers to entertain the men. She has no idea that her life is on a path that will intersect with a long-lost love.

A Pioneer Christmas Collection, by Lauraine Snelling, Margaret Brownley, Kathleen Fuller, and Vickie McDonough: Journey along with American settlers who learn that despite where the trail takes them or how primitive their lodgings may be Christmas is all about the heart. Determined to honor Christ's birth, these pioneers find a way to make Christmas happen in places like a cave, a tipi, and a dugout. Modern readers will enjoy a peek into life before commercialism took over the sacred

day, distracting us from the true blessings of faith, hope, and love. Enjoy nine original novellas of Christmas romance as penned from many of today's leading Christian authors, including Lauraine Snelling, Margaret Brownley, Kathleen Fuller, and Vickie McDonough.

Christmas on the Prairie-Four Romance Stories Full of Christmas Nostalgia, by Tracey V Bateman, Pamela Griffin, Mary Langer, Jill Stengl: Beautiful book with four romance stories full of Christmas nostalgia: Christmas is steeped in family traditions, traditions that often had their beginnings with love. Travel back in history and discover how acts of faith, love, and kindness between the young lovers in these four new novellas establish blessings that will be passed along to generations to come.

Prayer Requests Church Family

- **Ginger Hernandez** - Doctors, including a new specialist, continue to experiment with Ginger's dosage of medication. A recent change is yielding good results for her potassium level. Continue to pray for the doctors as they address her situation. Pray that Ginger will be able to have the surgery that she needs.
- **Steven Koelewyn** (Jim & Teri's son) Continue to pray for Steven as he struggles with Valley Fever.

Pray for God's guidance in this process and for healing.

Shut-In's: Martha Chandler, Rose DeRuiter, Janet Henshaw, Ginger Hernandez, Harriet Johnson, Dave & Vera Krumpe, Richard & Marilyn Maccagno, Linda Reenders, Helen Schilder, Grace Schraa, Janette Stout

Each week we highlight two of our shut-ins in the bulletin and remember them by name in the congregational prayer. This week we remember Helen Schilder and Grace Schraa.

Extended Church Family

- **Bob Carvalho** – (Linda Carvalho's husband) – Continue to remember Bob in your prayers. Pray for strength for Linda as she cares for him.
- **Chuck Dyer** - (Michelle's husband, Esther Scheeringa's grandchildren's stepfather) Chuck has been struggling with cancer and recently had 2 heart attacks. Give thanks for some improvement. Continue to pray for healing for him and strength for his family.
- **Carol Jenkins** – We praise the Lord that Carol's recovered from pneumonia and that her son, Isaac, is now here with Carol and Jennifer. We pray the doctors will determine the right treatment for

Carol's AFib and that the treatment be successful.

- **Richard Maccagno** – Richard is back at Kings Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Hanford. Pray that he will get stronger. Pray also for Marilyn.
- **Blair and Louise McLeod** - (Joanna Banta's parents) As they move here on December 30 from Arizona. Neither of them are in good health, so please pray for God's mercy in this stressful time. This is a major change for them and especially challenging as Louise has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.
- **Rick Stryd** - (nephew of Jake Stryd) After a recent CT scan Rick was told that the tumors in his lungs and liver have reduced in size or have disappeared. Thank you for your prayers.
- **Anneka Sybesma**, (daughter of Pete and Lujean Verhoeven) Anneka has begun treatments in Southern California. Pray that the treatments are effective.
- **Cora Vryhof** - (mother of Mike and Dorene Vryhof) – We praise the Lord that Cora is back home and doing well! Please pray for her continued recovery and that she will be able to get back to her regular activities.

Service Projects

List of Service Projects available at the Welcome Center.

Special Events

- Men's Life Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 6:30 am in the Council Room.

Sunday Morning Servants

Sunday, 12/22

Nursery Volunteers – Michelle Lawrence, Kelly Bekedam, Cheryl Zonneveld, Tamara Atsma, Ella Goebel

Children's Volunteers -

(Lambs) Jennifer Lawrence, Candi Koelewyn

(Lions) Liz de Jong, Alexa de Jong

Snacks – Jimmy & Dena Holden, Ben & Julie Dragt, Nancy Hird, Adam & Raine Danielson

Hospitality Host– Theo & Jeanne De Haan

Greeter – Ministering Deacons

Worship Information

Message: Gift of Joy

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Special Offering: Faith Promise