

Spirit of Hope Update



Saturday:

5 p.m. "the Lift"

Saturday Night Alive following communion

Sunday:

8:45 a.m. Blended Service

10 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Practice (instead of *Jump Start*)

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Sermon Text: Mark 1:1-8

Holy Communion at all services. Nursery available Sundays.

Don't Forget - Spirit of Hope's Family Advent Craft Night is coming next Saturday, December 3rd following the "Lift" service (5 p.m.) and **Monthly Potluck** (6 p.m.) All are invited to bring a dish to share and then spend some quality family time preparing for Advent by making decorations/gifts for family and friends (or even yourselves!)

Happy Birthday, Jesus - Saturday Night Alive play practice will begin this Saturday, December 3rd at 5:20 p.m. and continue December 10th with the performance on Saturday, December 17th at around 5:45 p.m. This will be followed by pizza, our traditional hayride caroling event and hot cocoa and cookies afterwards.

Christmas Spirit? Let's Hear It! Children's Christmas Program will begin practice this Sunday, December 4th at 10 a.m. (It replaces Jump Start during the month of December.) Practice will continue Sunday, December 11th at 10 a.m. and Saturday, December 17th with dress rehearsal at 9 a.m. followed by Jesus' Birthday Party at 11 a.m. The performance will be Sunday, December 18th at 10 a.m. Contact Debbie Zimmerman, debbyzim@cox.net if you have questions.

The downside of being a "people pleaser" will be the focus of our **Adult Forum** discussion as Pastor Glen continues to share some observations by *Dr. Carl Jung* concerning the *dark side* that lives in each of us. Join us at 10 a.m. Sunday, December 4th in the large classroom.

New Member Weekend is this Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th. Joining this time around are: *Don and Sandy Bethke, Shaun, Sarah and Isabella Brown, Phil, Janet and Kayla Davison, Duane and Tina Gilson, Tina, Dominick and Isabella Gray, Darion Hammond, Meredith Hopaczylo, Peggy Nolin, Bill and Kris Schroeder and Victoria Sharp.* Please take some time to welcome these newest members to Spirit of Hope!



Thanks to our “elves” - these dedicated volunteers (left) from our Stitches group, Worship Committee and others helped make our church beautiful for Christmas!

Chili’s Fundraiser - Next Tuesday, December 6th, visit your local Chili’s Restaurant at 1951 S. Signal Butte between noon and 9 p.m. Either pick up a voucher in the narthex or mention to your server that you are with *Spirit of Hope* and want to participate in this project. 10% of your bill will benefit our youth group, TAG (Teen Attack Group).

Wills & Estate Planning – Are you ready if big changes occur with your health? Our **Adult Forum** on December 11th at 10:00 a.m. will deal with issues that most of us prefer to put off, “*Wills, Living Wills, Power*

of Attorney, and Advanced Health Care Directives.” Join us during this forum as we discuss the reasons for planning ahead and as we share resources.

Order your Poinsettias for Christmas! The cost is only \$10 a piece - look for the forms in the Narthex. The deadline is Sunday, December 18th.

SOH Christmas Family Fun Night is coming Saturday, December 17th, 6-9 p.m. Pizza, caroling, cookies and hot chocolate will be part of the fun! Sign up in the narthex.

Take a Star, help a needy family – Your help is needed in providing “gifts” and “food items” to bring Christmas to a needy family. Grab a star ornament off of the tree in the narthex and bring back a wrapped gift with the star attached and place it under the same tree by December 12th. Or take an ornament with a food donation request and return that food item by December 16th. If you have questions: contact Terry Hilgendorf-Pope tlhofaz@msn.com or 480-396-4780. You can be a *star* in a child’s life and help bring the joy of Christmas to a family who would otherwise not have the things most of us take for granted.

Blanket Weekend is scheduled for January 21-22, 2012. Share some warmth and bring a blanket for someone who has no relief from the cold. Needed are your new or gently-used blankets, sleeping bags, quilts and afghans. Each church service that weekend will have a special offering time to place donations at the altar. Talk to Meri Weiler (701) 680-7065, if you have questions.

Special Coffee to help **victims of violence** - An exclusive blend of coffee beans that will benefit LWR's East African producer partners is now available. This smooth, balanced blend of African whole beans will help the mothers, sisters, and daughters who have been affected by the ongoing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ask for **Congo Coffee Project** (whole bean only) which is only \$8.25 per 1 lb. bag. Equal Exchange will donate \$1 per bag, selling it to the Panzi Foundation through our wholesale program. *See the LWR display in the narthex for more information.*

Consider Serving - Have you thought about being a candidate for a *Spirit of Hope* leadership position? Now is the time to throw your name into the ring. Open positions include: Chairpeople for some of our ministry teams, people to serve on Church Council, people to serve on the audit team and people to represent us at Synod Assembly. These positions will be filled by the congregation at our **Annual Congregational Meeting** on January 29, 2012. See our website, newsletter or future updates for more details. Contact Dorothy Hansen, 480-292-9033 or jerrydorothy@cox.net and she will forward your interest to the Nominating Committee.

Make a difference. With so much changing, many are asking themselves what they can *do*. If you are, consider joining the small but faithful group of members and friends who clean our church. Just 2 hours a month devoted to varied tasks from light housekeeping to floor waxing and rug shampooing can enable you to *really make a difference* to all who worship here. Besides the many physical benefits, this ministry can bring you the absolute joy of being part of an extremely important task force. The need is great - *but the rewards are greater*. If you can help, contact Jerry Hansen at 480-292-9033.