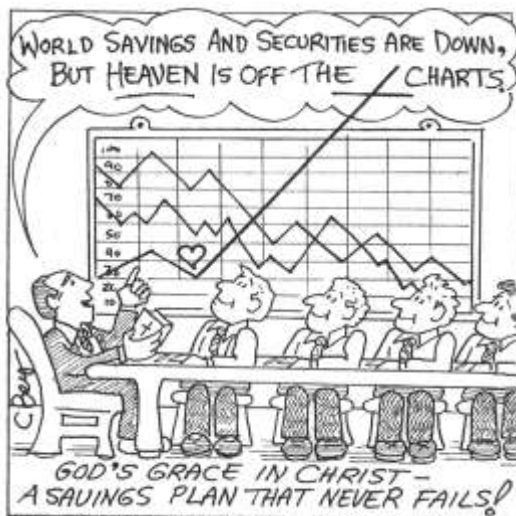




How can I be happy when the future is so uncertain?

“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”

Matthew 13:16



Every generation talks about the “good ole days.” As we embark on a new year, many people would be more than happy to go back to the “good ole days” of years ago.

Today, stock market swoons, foreclosures, and unemployment are all too common. Grumbling and complaining occur as many people find it difficult to provide for their personal needs. These things, along with other personal struggles, may make us long for the “good ole days.”

Amidst all the turmoil, even when nest eggs crack and portfolios decline, we can still move forward with certainty that all of our needs will be met. Why? Because Jesus has met all of our true needs and promises to provide for our future!

Jesus came into the world so that we can be happy every day with the kind of joy that only

he can provide. He blesses us—makes us happy—by the powerful things he accomplished in our place: he lived a perfect life as our substitute; he died on the cross to win forgiveness of sins for each of us; and he won the victory over sin, death, and the devil by his triumphant resurrection from the grave.

God tells us about all these blessings in the Bible. In his written Word, God’s plan for our future is laid out, and we are informed how Jesus fulfilled God’s saving will for us. Jesus said, *“Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”* Our Savior teaches us that we can be happy as we give attention to God’s love as it is described and explained for us on the pages of Scripture.

Jesus’ work is not limited to the spans of generations; it is a gift to all people for all time. God’s faithfulness to his world of people has remained the one constant since he created all things. Trusting in his love, we can overcome concerns we have due to personal circumstances. We can be truly happy because we see in the Bible how our Savior gave his life for us and how he is now preparing for us an eternal home in heaven, the place of unbridled joy.

God invites everyone to hear the good news of Jesus and celebrate the wonderful message of salvation. With that confidence, we do not have to look back to the “good ole days” for a sense of happiness but rather look forward to the eternal happiness that awaits us in heaven—all because of God’s great love for us in Jesus!

**Apostles
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church &
Preschool**

Mission Statement:
As God’s disciples, we the men, women and children of Apostles are united in the preaching, teaching and sharing of God’s Word in its truth and purity. By God’s grace, we will nurture believers and joyfully spread the Word of God in our community and throughout the world, all to His glory.



The Apostles Epistle newsletter is published monthly. Members may submit articles to the church office by the 15th of the month. Items will be considered for publication as space allows and may be edited as needed.


**8:00 A.M. Sunday
Morning Worship**

See page 2 for details!

Church News

Bible Class Fresh Start

You are invited and encouraged to join our Sunday Bible Hour at **9:00 a.m. starting January 10**. Ages 3-teen will study Old Testament history. Adults will be studying the life of Jesus. There will be time for discussion and questions. Come grab a donut and coffee and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Prayerfully consider attending to grow with your church family.

Women's Wednesday Bible Class

Please join us when we meet on **January 6**, and each Wednesday thereafter at **10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The only requirement is that you are female and want to have fun studying God's Word for about an hour! (No class January 13)

New Media Cart

A family generously donated money to purchase a new media cart for computers and the digital projector. It is awesome to have something that is stable and sturdy. If you see Pastor Bickelhaupt riding on it down the aisle, please remind him that it is not a toy but a wonderful tool with which we are blessed. Thanks to all who allowed us to acquire this great piece of equipment.



Sunday School

There have been many questions as to when the children of the congregation are able to start our Sunday School program. The congregation has adopted the same guidelines that the preschool uses. If your child turns 3 by September 10, he/she is invited to attend Sunday School and participate in the various programs. The Sunday School is going to hold firm to this so that all children are treated equal and to provide some guidelines for our program. At this time, Mrs. Scott has around 15 preschool and kindergarten-aged children in the program. She has a helper and they both have their hands full. Allowing our children to reach a certain age of maturity allows for a better learning environment for all students and a better teaching environment for our instructors. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Bickelhaupt.



Elders

There is a new group of Elders who are going to be your spiritual watchdogs for the next couple of years. Karl Wenz and Dave Macioroski will join Jim Cooper in leading God's congregation in the truth of his word. Keep these men in your prayers.

Trustees

Art Hazen and Jim Ronan will be the new trustees who will serve with Curt Bickford in 2010. These men will be overseeing the building and grounds. If you have any questions or concerns about the grounds, please contact one of the above men. There are yellow "Trustee" cards in the tract rack that can be filled out and placed in a Trustee's box.

Flag Pole Light

The flag pole is receiving a new light which will be tied into the existing sign. As soon as a light is installed, the flag will be flying high.



Building Committee: "Laboring in the Lord"

The Building Committee does have preliminary plans in hand as of right now. The group has been wrestling with finance options, the scope of the project, and design. Hopefully in the beginning of the year, the plans will be shown to the congregation for their input. The theme under which the building project is going to operate is "Laboring in the Lord!" Keep this project in your prayers, asking God to use you to accomplish our goals as we labor together.

2010 Church Officers

Chairman:	Paul Manning.....	697-0261
Treasurer:	Sid Syverson.....	652-5817
Secretary:	Trey Adkins.....	248-1577
Elders:	Jim Cooper.....	655-0056
	Dave Macioroski...	698-2183
	Karl Wenz.....	698-0054
Building & Grounds/Trustees:	Curt Bickford.....	962-9096
	Art Hazen.....	248-3537
	Jim Ronan.....	652-9670

Church News

New 8:00 a.m. Sunday Service Starting February 7

The Lord is gathering His people around the Word and winning souls with the Gospel. This means that there has been fewer empty seats in the pews and fewer parking spaces in the lot. The average attendance for 2009 was near 140 and, by God's grace, continues to increase. To alleviate some of the seating and parking congestion the worship committee received approval from the voters to add a second service on Sunday. **Starting February 7, Apostles** will begin having a 8:00 a.m. service with Bible class to follow at 9:15 a.m.. The regular 10:30 a.m. service will remain the same. We will continue with two services each Sunday and evaluate the schedule in May to see if the congregation would like to proceed with two services throughout the year. If you have any questions or comments, please speak with Pastor Bickelhaupt.



Choir Resumes

All members are invited to sing in the choir! Practices are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning January 13. Come check us out!



PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

Our Gifts to God

November 2009	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday	Total
Offering	3173.30	2941.00	2758.00	2356.25	4388.58	15,617.13
Preschool tuition	580.00	1000.00	740.00	60.00		2380.00
Misc.	-	-	-	517.03	2000.00	2517.03
TOTAL for November	3753.30	3941.00	3498.00	2933.28	6388.58	20,514.16
Needed to meet budget	4668.00	4668.00	4668.00	4668.00	4668.00	\$23,340.00

Total General Account Income:	Month of Nov: 20,514.16	Year to date: 98,055.65
Total General Account Expenses:	Month of Nov: 20,216.89	Year to date: 97,662.02

November 2009	Building Expansion	Building Improvements	Missions	Parking Lot	Scholarship	School	Interest and Misc.	TOTAL
Received for month	815.00	-	1668.00	1587.00	-	3360.00	73.46	7803.46
Received YTD	6456.60	-	18,784.00	75,969.27	-	8870.00	501.50	110,581.37
Current Balance	14,446.42	15,425.49		27,096.36	70.00	40,984.61	5772.27	103,795.15

Evangelism

New Year's Message

The LORD Has Been Good To You

"The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The LORD protects the simple-hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you." ---- Psalm 116:5-7

"This year went quicker than ever!" Everyone seems to agree when it comes to this unchanging phenomenon. But what everyone will not agree upon is what kind of year it was. "It was a great year," "It was a terrible year," "It was year full of happiness," "It was a year full of sadness."

What was 2009 like for you? It may be different for each and every one of us but one thing we can agree upon – there were difficulties at times. This is the case for us all because sin is the case for us all. We are sin-corrupted people living in a sin-corrupted world. The things we think, say and do are corrupted by sin. Therefore, there is no escaping difficulties because by nature, there is no escaping sin.

But there is something else that we had in common this past year, dear child of God. We had an unchanging Savior

walk in step with us the entire year. And what a Savior he is! *"The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion."* And this was shown in the most unbelievable way as Jesus dealt with your sin in a gracious and compassionate way. *"When I was in great need, he saved me."* In fact, he saved you by dealing with your sins along time ago. He paid the full price to release you from sin and hell. And he paid the full price to allow you eternal entrance into His heaven. Could God have loved you any greater? That is why we, too can say, *"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you."*

God stayed right with you during your most tiring moments last year and rejoiced in your most exciting moments as well. What blessing to be able to stand at the edge of 2009 and take a look behind you knowing that God used every moment of that entire year to bless you. And what a relief it is to stand at the brink of 2010 and look ahead of you knowing the same thing! The Lord has been good to you and will continue to...forever.

Keep this beautiful thought in mind this coming year...for yourself, and also for those who face this next year without the same hope of a loving God. Think of how frightening it must be for those who don't know Jesus and his promises. Pray hard about sharing your Savior with the people in your life who need to know him. And may God bless you in 2010.

A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

DID YOU KNOW:

- ✝ On December 5, twelve of our members handed out 500 invitations to our Christmas services. Thank you, Lord, for your opportunities to share your Word!
- ✝ Twenty-two people were involved in building and decorating our parade float and walking in the Billings Holiday Parade. What a unique opportunity to touch the lives of over 10,000 people in one night! 1,000 invitations were also handed out!
- ✝ On December 12, God brought 32 little lambs to our Christmas for Kids program to hear about the gift of Jesus. The theme this year was

"Come to Bethlehem and See."

Over 20 of our members helped with this event. "We love you Jesus because you first loved us."

- ✝ Praise God that he brought over 180 people to our Preschool Christmas Program on December 13. Many people heard the Christmas story from the mouths of little children. Please pray for continue blessings with these families.

HEADS UP:



- ✝ We are already preparing for another Bible Information Class at Apostles. Please take a few moments to think of the people in your life who need to come and learn

more about God. Consider attending the class with them as encouragement. We have invitations to send them. Talk to Pastor Z for more info.

- ✝ What is a major barrier in non-church-goers coming to church? We are! So often opportunities quickly come and then pass by when it comes to sharing our faith. We will be offering you classes this year on sharing your faith with friends, family and neighbors. Keep your eyes peeled for more details
- ✝ If you can believe it, we are getting ready for *Easter For Kids*. Consider serving in some way this year. It is fun! Just ask those who help every year. And just ask the kids!

As Sisters in Faith, the women of Apostles motivate, support and encourage the congregation by Christian witnessing, fellowship and works of service, all to the glory of God.



Sisters in Faith

Sisters in Faith Welcomes Vicki Ronan as our 2010-2012 Secretary. Our prayers and support are with you in your new calling to serve the Lord. A big thank you to our outgoing Secretary, Kimberly Leonard.

Events Team -

Happy New Year from the Events Team! We are looking forward to another year of joyful service to our Lord, our congregation and our community.

On **Saturday, January 16 at 10:30 a.m.** all women in the congregation are invited to a special Baby Shower for New Beginnings, which is a WELS home for unwed mothers. Located in the Denver area, this home provides spiritual, educational, emotional and parenting support to single women who are pregnant and need some help. We'll have a



Bible study focusing on the family, learn more about New Beginnings, and take home a baby bottle bank so we can collect "Change for Life". Lunch will be served.

In December, we had planned to collect various items for the Tumbleweed Program which helps homeless teens in the Billings' area. That project was postponed until early 2010, so watch bulletin announcements for information on when you can bring your donations in. The Tumbleweed Runaway Program is a non-profit agency that provides services to runaway, homeless and at-risk youth and their families in the Billings' community. Look for the drop-off area in the entryway to leave your donation. Items that you can donate include:

- Backpacks and sleeping bags (new or gently used)
- Bottled water -Fast food gift certificates
- Personal care products (soap, deodorant, shampoo)
- Pre-paid phone cards -Socks (adult sizes)
- Target or Wal-mart gift certificates
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste

If you have any questions about the Tumbleweed program or making donations, please speak with Denise Berge.

Our next regular meeting will be **Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m.** at church. We'll have a short meeting, then take down the



Christmas decorations in church. Anyone is invited to attend a meeting and see what we're all about! -Lisa Sorensen

Fellowship Team -

Apostles Second Annual Christmas Dinner with singing had a small joyful gathering on December 6. There was lots of good food and enough for the Zimpelmann house moving group, who came a little later.

Upcoming Events: **Sunday, January 24** will be Fellowship Sunday with name tags and conversational treats after the service. Our annual Couples Night will be **Friday, January 29**. Please watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

This holiday season and all seasons, please remember to share your Christian fellowship with family and



friends, old and new! *In Christ, Kimberly Leonard*

Heritage Team -

The Heritage team is ready to ring in the new year! We are going to get organized at our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 5 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider meeting with us and getting to know a little more about serving our Lord. Some projects we are working on include a church pictorial directory, a high school graduate member breakfast, updating the Heritage photo albums, and working with and supporting the other Sisters in Faith teams. *JayDee Lindeen*

Questions about Sisters in Faith?

Care Team:

Donna Rose 652-2738

Events Team:

Lisa Sorensen 669-3842

Fellowship Team:

Angie Kellum 534-3153

Heritage Team:

JayDee Lindeen 967-2010



Prayer & Praise

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD, THAT, IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. 1 JOHN 5:14-15

Lord, teach us how to pray aright, With rev'rence and with fear.
 Though dust and ashes in your sight, We may, we must draw near.
 We suffer if we cease from prayer; Oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
 And when to meet you we prepare, Lord, meet us on the way.
 Give deep humility; the sense Of godly sorrow give;
 A strong desire, with confidence, To hear your voice and live;
 Faith in the only sacrifice That can for sin atone,
 To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes On Christ, on Christ alone.
 Give these, and then your will be done; Thus strengthened with your might
 We, through your Spirit and your Son, Shall pray, and pray aright. Amen. (CW 412)

The New Year

God the Father, you have brought us to another year by providing for our bodies and souls graciously. We ask that you would continue to preserve us, giving to your people all that they need for body and life. Jesus Christ, you have renewed us by washing us free from all sin. We are your new creations and ask that you give to us the spiritual strength to be shining lights in this dark world. Holy Spirit, teach us the way you would have us to walk this year. Guide us with your word and preserve our faith with the Gospel. Work powerfully in the hearts of those at Apostles Lutheran Church so that we see ourselves as your ambassadors who reach out to souls with the message of salvation. Do great and mighty works among us as we move forward in your name on earth, looking forward to praising your name in heaven forever. Amen.

Jesus, be with me and direct me;
 Jesus, my plans and hopes inspire;
 Jesus, from tempting thoughts protect me;
 Jesus, be all my heart's desire;
 Jesus, be in my thoughts all day
 And never let me fall away.

And grant, Lord, when the year is over,
 That it for me in peace may close.
 In all things care for me and cover
 My head in time of fear and woes.
 So may I, when my life is done,
 Appear with joy before your throne. Amen. (CW70)

Building Project

Dear Lord, the building committee continues to meet and make plans for your glory. I ask that you would be with them, giving them wisdom and direction. Allow the building project to be supported by the congregation as they give of their talents, times and treasures. Let us as a congregation not only think of the current ministry but also to think about the future generations who will worship and serve you in the years to come. Let the building project and the process that we are going through be a blessing and not a hindrance. Bring the congregation together as we work for your glory. Amen.

Evangelism and Prospects

Holy Spirit, through the many Christmas services this past year you have allowed many visitors to hear the life giving message of Jesus. We now ask that you give us opportunities to follow up with those who do not have a church home or who do not have a good understanding of your free forgiveness. With the Gospel let us win souls for you. May your kingdom increase first in our hearts so that your love flows from us to others. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Ministry

Lord, bless the ministry at Apostles. Give wisdom to the pastors and teachers as they plan and lead your people forward. Open your hand to us so that we have many individuals who are wanting to go through a Bible Information Class in the near future. Move hearts to fill the Bible classes so that your people can be strengthened, healed and encouraged through your word and through their brothers and sisters. Grant that Apostles Church grow and increase, first in faith and secondly in size. We ask all this knowing that we need not be afraid, for you are with us wherever we go! Amen.

Preschool News

It was December and the preschool room is no exception when it comes to the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. If you were in the church during preschool time, you heard singing of Christmas songs and the chatter of little voices as they excitedly waited to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

We began the month with the theme of "Music". The children played different rhythms and sounds on the different instruments we had. We worked on rhythm with our rhythm sticks and even made our own instruments. We made kazoos that we used when we role played the story of Jericho. The morning class also did art to music on a plate and turned them into tambourines. It was a week filled with beautiful noise.

The rest of the month we prepared for Christmas. We practiced for the program, made special gifts for our parents, made our own Christmas wishes be known and made angels. We were able to paint candy canes, trees or stockings during work time. The children also had the opportunity to make trees and decorate them by cork painting or with sparkles. We also had our own tree to decorate and un-decorate as many times as we wanted.

Mrs. Manning brought more fun and learning into the classroom this month. She brought a learning kit from the zoo that teaches the difference between antlers and horns. The children were able to touch and see the different animal horns/antlers and play a game that helped them learn about them. Thank you, Mrs. Manning, for bringing such enrichment into our classroom.

Our Bible lessons started out with the story of Jericho to go with our music theme. We then began our preparation for Christmas. We heard the wonderful story of Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary with great news. Angel Gabriel (Pastor B) even visited our classroom to remind us of our greatest gift...Jesus. We finished the year with the story of the birth of our Savior. What a great way to finish 2009!

The Preschool Christmas program was a wonderful delight. The children did a wonderful job singing nine songs and reciting 2 verses. It is wonderful to hear the Christmas story of salvation through children. Thank you to Marlene Hedin who gave up a lot of her time to play for the preschool practices and program and as always, she did a beautiful job. Thank you also to Delores Erickson, Sherry Mansheim, Ali Manning, Melissa Bickelhaupt and Lucinda Loran for all their work to make the program a success. And a huge thank you to those who brought goodies and the ladies who served them: Julia Bollman, Sherry Mansheim, Lori Stepper and Rosemary Weinhold. The preschool is very thankful for all who give of their time to make it work. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year! *Lynette Scott*



Through My Bible in Three Years This Bible reading series is designed to take only a few minutes each day. To help you through your Bible study, consider this anecdote: Peter the Barber once asked Martin Luther how he, an ordinary kind of guy, could read the Bible with profit. Luther answered: Ask yourself: 1. What does God tell me here? 2. What makes me glad? 3. What makes me sad? 4. What do I want to pray for?

January

1. 1 John 1:1-2:2

2. 1 Jn. 2:3-27

3. 1 Jn. 2:28-3:10

4. 1 Jn. 3:11-4:6

5. 1 Jn. 4:7-5:3

6. 1 Jn. 5:4-21

7. John 2,3

8. Isaiah 40

9. Is. 41

10. Is. 42:1-43:13

11. Is. 43:14-44:23

12. Is. 44:24-45:25

13. Is. 46, 47

14. Is. 48

15. Is. 49:1-50:3

16. Is. 50:4-51:16

17. Is. 51:17-52:12

18. Is. 52:13-53:12

19. Is. 54

20. Is. 55

21. Is. 56, 57

22. Is. 58

23. Is. 59

24. Is. 60

25. Is. 61:1-63:6

26. Is. 63:7-64:12

27. Is. 65

28. Is. 66

29. Matthew 1

30. Matt. 2

31. Matt. 3



**Apostles Evangelical Lutheran
Church & Preschool**

3140 Broadwater Avenue
Billings, Montana 59102
406-656-7141
apostlesmt.net

JANUARY 2010

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Holy Communion celebrated first and third weeks)

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Monday 6:30 p.m.

BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Family Bible Hour
(ages 3- adult) *(no class 1/3)*

Sunday 12:00 p.m. - Bible Information Class

Sunday 12:00 p.m. - Teen Confirmation Class

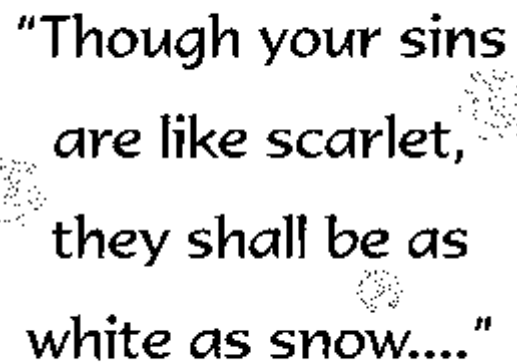
Monday 4:00 p.m. - Teen Confirmation Class

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - **Women's Bible Class**
(no class 1/13)

Wednesday 12:30 p.m. - Faculty Bible Study: Old
Testament (all are welcome)

Thursday 3:00 p.m. - Bible Information Class
7:00 p.m. - Bible Class in the Heights

Saturday 8:00 a.m. (first and third) - **Men's Bible
Class: New Testament**



**"Though your sins
are like scarlet,
they shall be as
white as snow...."**

