

# SOJOURNS

Vol. XIX, Issue 24

The Newsletter of the Sonnenberg Mennonite Church

December 20, 2009

## A Christmas Letter from Jesus



Merry Christmas Dear Ones:

*It's been an eventful year to remember. I've been busy loving all of you January through December. I loved you all year long, every single minute. My world has been a better place because you have been in it.*

*I loved you doing homework, playing games and making friends. Like your mother's list of things to do, my love never ends. I loved you at your workplace, at your home, and at the store. When you were too busy to love me back, I loved you all the more.*

*I loved you when you came to me in quiet thoughtful prayer, and when you shared the gifts God gave you, showing others how you cared. When your faith was strong and steadfast and you glorified my name, even when you doubted me, my love always stayed the same.*

*When you were anxious and afraid and your faith was challenged by fear. You thought I wasn't listening, but I was ever near. When you were hurting and wondering if I would ever ease your pain, I was right there hurting with you and there my love remains.*

*I loved you all day long and when you couldn't sleep at night. In your darkest hour, it was my love that gave you light. I gave you peace and patience when you couldn't find it on your own. I was your companion in times of change, so you wouldn't feel alone. I loved you everywhere you went, in every situation, when you sinned so carelessly and when you resisted that temptation.*

*Sometimes you blessed my heart with songs and praise and joyful laughter. I loved you long before those times and I will love you ever after.*

*As you celebrate my birthday now and a bright new year begins, please remember that I came that night to save you from your sins.*

*My love, it stretches far and wide. There's no place it wouldn't go. From the manger to the cross and beyond, I've always loved you so. It is my deepest desire to be a part of all you say and do, and for you to know how much I treasure my relationship with you.*

*So let's keep in touch throughout the year and let us not drift apart. I'll keep you wrapped safely in my loving arms. Please keep me in your heart.*

*All my love, Jesus*

(by Lori Huntley of Bellevue, NE; reprinted with permission from *The Joyful Noiseletter*)

## LIFE AT SONNENBERG

4F NIGHTS, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2010

~ "Welcome to the Table!" ~

Food-Faith-Family-Fellowship 2010 will meet on Wednesday evenings, January 13, 20, 27 and February 3, 10, 17 (snow date February 24). Come and warm up the cold winter season with a hot meal and warm fellowship, and join your class of choice, served up with wholesome opportunities for building relationships through conversation, interaction, fun, learning and working together.

A simple meal with a hot main dish (soup, sandwich or casserole) will be served starting at 5:45 p.m., and classes are from 7-8:00 p.m. Donations will be accepted to cover food costs. Adult Sunday School classes will be contacted to choose one evening to provide salads and desserts and to help with set-up, serving and clean-up.

Six classes are being offered this year:

### How to....Developing Better Computer Skills

c/o Michael Amstutz

A basic course which will teach participants overall ways to use a computer. Starting programs, navigating Microsoft Windows, getting started with the internet, email, and Facebook. This option is for persons just starting out or with minimal computer skills. If interest, possibly an introduction to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, and/or OpenOffice, (the free alternative to Microsoft Office).

### "Jewels of Friendship" Piecing and Quilting

c/o Ellen Nussbaum

Limit: 12 piecing

Limit: 10-12 quilting

Join this group of women who will work together to piece a quilt for Sonnenberg Mennonite Women to quilt for the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, or to quilt on a quilt for the Central Christian School auction in February. Women interested in the quilt-piecing project will share tasks of cutting, laying out fabric, sewing, ironing, etc., to produce a queen-size quilt called "Jewels of Friendship". The Friendship piecing and quilting group will share space in the Fellowship Hall, so we look forward to this time of building relationships as we work together.

4F Classes, continued

**Mind, Heart and Hands**

c/o Outreach & Service Ministry

Contact Person: Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

Our time together will include listening/education and two nights of hands-on work at MCC Connections (January 20 and February 10). On January 13 Marlin Yoder will make a presentation on Hispanic outreach in our area and how we can plug in. We will also look at our role relating to peace and justice. Come to be challenged and blessed, and to be a blessing.

**Organic Singing Sessions**

c/o Ellis Miller

All natural ~ singing harmonious songs you enjoy. No experience required.

**Proverbs: Wisdom for Today**

c/o Pastor Mel Hathaway

Since the beginning of time, people have been interested in discovering wisdom, particularly the "wisdom of the gods." Solomon, one of Israel's greatest kings, is famous for his request when God told him he could have anything he desired. Solomon's answer: "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." The Book of Proverbs is a collection of sayings reflecting the wisdom that made Solomon one of Israel's most renowned kings. Our topical study from the book will include subjects such as: Clues into God's Character, Wise versus Foolish, Managing our Emotions, and Wisdom for the Home. Advance preparation for these class sessions will not be a requirement.

**Ready, Set...PLAY!**

c/o MYF and Venture Club

Contact Person: Matt Eshleman

Bunco anyone? Giant Dutch Blitz? Get a front seat at the race track for the Venture Club annual Pinewood Derby race! Come and join the MYF and Venture Club in games for ALL ages. If the planned activity is not suitable for the youngest ages, card and board games will be provided for them as well. (Note: This is the main inter-generational class being offered this year.)

On February 3, following the meal, everyone is invited to the Annual Venture Club Pinewood Derby. (Classes will not meet on February 3, so we will have six meals and five evenings of one-hour classes.)

You are also welcome to join in walking-exercise with a group in the foyer at 5:00 p.m., each 4F evening before the meal, c/o Marleen Reinhardt and Shirley Hochstetler.

Sign-up sheets for classes will be on a table in the foyer on December 27, January 3 and 10. If classes are limited in size, sign-up will be on a "first-come, first-served" basis. When signing up for classes, please put ages of children who will be attending so that we can determine if nursery care is needed.

4F fliers will be in each church mailbox next Sunday, and you are encouraged to invite unchurched friends. 4F 2010 will also be advertised in the community along with our church telephone number and e-mail address, to give community persons opportunity to sign up. Let's extend God's welcome and hospitality and "Go out to the roads and country lanes and invite them to come in so that our house will be full." (Luke 14:23).

We look forward to an enriching, nourishing, refreshing and satisfying time together, tasting the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34:8b). Questions? Contact an Adult Ministry member: Veryl Kratzer, Mark Miller, Julie Beun, Jane Miller.

**NEWS & NOTES**

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 330/857-7311**

**SPAGHETTI DINNER:** Central Christian School's softball team is holding a spaghetti dinner on Tuesday, December 22, 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. This will be by donation and is on the same evening as Central's basketball game against Lake Center.

**OHIO MENNONITE MEN'S CHORALE:** Attention men and boys. The 10th season of the Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale (OMMC) will begin rehearsals at Kidron Mennonite on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30, beginning January 6 and will continue each Wednesday through the first week of February, with the performance on Sunday afternoon, February 7. For this season, Tim Shue has passed the baton to William Mateer, who will be the director.

Singers of all denominations are welcome and encouraged to join with other men from throughout the area in this unique opportunity to unite our voices in praise of God. We look forward to seeing both past participants and newcomers. If there are questions, please call Lois Nussbaum at Kidron Mennonite Church (330-857-3461).

The next issue of *Sojourns* will be printed for Sunday, January 3, 2010. Please submit any items for this issue by Wednesday, December 30, 9:00 a.m. Thanks!

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



"He said, 'Listen up, you shepherds! THIS you GOTTA see!'"

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*  
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