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Dear Friends and Fellow Members of St. John's:

Will 2010 be the year? Do you make New Year's resolutions? Do you have hopes for the year? Is it your intention to...? I'm hoping this will be the year that we, as a congregation, immerse ourselves more deeply in scripture. Many folks talk about "the Bible" or quote selected parts of it. But, do we *really know* the Bible? Do we even know where to begin? Do we think it's worth reading and wrestling with? In the ELCA we're engaged in an on-going "Book of Faith" initiative ([www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org)) to help improve our knowledge of scripture and our love for scripture. We'd love to see several small groups try one of these studies together, at the place and time of your choosing. I'll be leading a study of Genesis on Monday mornings at 9:00. And we can also offer "Bible for Dummies" on Thursday evenings. It's time to lose some of our hesitation to dig deep and make a choice to learn more. It would get the year off to an interesting start, if you'd join in. You never know how God might be speaking to us through that most important of all books! -Pastor Paul

## Annual Meeting

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION JAN. 24!

Between services, join us starting at 8:50 for a review of the past year, a look at the new year, and elections of key leaders. Your participation is valued and needed! We'll have a coffee hour from 9:30-10:00 with 2nd service starting at 10:00am. Christian Ed. will be from 8:30-9:30. We'll take a look at the proposed budget on January 17 at 9:15.

### YES, THERE'S A THIEF, AND WE'RE PRAYING FOR HIM/HER/THEM!

The church safe was stolen early on 12/26, probably by someone looking for Christmas offerings (we don't keep them there!) Our old church record books and many documents are missing. So, pray for this thief. Pray that they seek help for whatever is motivating them to steal. And if it's someone who is part of the church, come and fess up. We'll see what honesty and forgiveness can accomplish! Got any leads? Let us, or the Sheriff, know.



### WHO DO YOU KNOW IS HAVING A BABY? GETTING MARRIED? MOVING IN?

Those are the perfect people to invite to worship! Or, you can invite them to explore baptism, or getting married at St. John's. There are more and more folks without a church-connection, and many would be open to coming if you would invite them! Let Pastor know if there's someone you'd like him to contact.

### NEED SOMETHING TO HELP YOU WARM UP?

Think summer, think **Vacation Bible School!** Now is the time to begin planning for VBS which is usually held during the second week of August. We are in need of a Coordinator or Coordinators. Training and support will be provided. Please talk to Laura Bartelt for more information.



### DIVINE CHOCOLATE IS COMING!

In February, we'll be selling Divine Chocolate bars again! These make great Valentine's Day gifts for office workers and friends. If you would like to reserve a box of 30 bars: milk, dark or toffee crunch: \$39; crunchy milk: \$40 please contact Wendy Heidtke in the church office. The deadline date for ordering is January 17. Individual bars will be for sale on February 7 & 14 for \$1.50 each.

### CROSSWAYS CAMPS MIGHT SOUND EVEN BETTER IN 2010!

For close-by and affordable getaways, Crossways has much to offer! (Even hotel-quality, adult lodging!) There's a Young Adults' Retreat Feb 12-14 for just \$35! A Men's Retreat is set for March 5-6 for \$75. This summer, Family Camp weekends are great faith and family builders. Confirmation students are encouraged to sign up for camp the week of July 11. *College-age young adults interested in working at camp should apply on-line asap. Some other summer jobs may be scarce this summer!*



### CHRISTMAS 2010!

How's that for looking ahead? We had great attendance at Christmas Eve services, and want to invite some of you 5:00 attenders to imagine worshipping at 3:00 or 7:00 in 2010, to help even out the crowds. We'll make room for whoever comes!

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWING IN FAITH & FELLOWSHIP IN 2010...

- +Something new that we haven't offered yet! That might be one place to start! What would you like to do? What could you help lead or organize?
- +Monday Morning Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. meets with Pastor. We've just begun in Genesis.
- +Thursday Evening Study, "The Bible for Dummies" at 7:00 in the Upper Room.
- +Women meet for fellowship/study/service on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm (Ruth Circle) and the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00pm (Naomi Circle).
- +Bell Choir rings out joy on Thursdays at 7:00pm.
- +Adult Choir sings out joy on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.
- +Prayer Team meets on January 7 at 9:00am.
- +Book Club meets the 4th Sunday of each month at 9:10am in the Upper Room
- +Dominos meet Saturday, Jan. 16 at 3:30pm-just for the fun and fellowship! Come and learn the game!

YOUR GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2009 will be ready with the February newsletter on January 24.  
Call Wendy at the church office if you need yours sooner!