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**Give A Chair This Christmas**

Dear Church Family,  
For those of you who missed the message on Sunday with the same title, I encourage you go to our website and listen. The challenge I am giving you here is also the main message of the sermon for Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure that some of you have already done all the Christmas shopping you want to, others haven't even started yet. But I want to ask you to consider giving one more present this Christmas. Give a chair! I know that sounds crazy but it won't cost you anything. You don't have to buy a chair. You don't have to spend any money at all to give a chair this Christmas. (I hope you spend a little on a blanket for Sudan if you haven't done that but that's another story all together!) What I most often hear from people who visit or come to our congregation is how friendly the church body is. Isn't it a shame that the rest of Riverton does know that? Isn't it sad that we haven't yet totally embraced the fact that the Christian Church of Riverton is the best place to be on Sunday morning? I have preached for several weeks that our church building is the best place in town to be on Sunday morning and when we totally grasp that and believe that we will be bursting at the seams.

We have had the privilege of watching God do some great things in the past few months and add some great people to our church family, but I don't think He is done yet. So I want to challenge you to give a chair this Christmas and I'd like you to do it on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I know that is a little early for Christmas but I think Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> is the perfect time as we are having our holiday dinner at

1:30PM on the same day. Here is what I mean by give a Chair:

Would you be willing to give up your seat at Church to give someone else the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and perhaps come to a saving relationship with Him? Would you be willing to stand on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> so that others may have an opportunity to be saved? (If you are physically unable to do that we don't expect you to stand, but many of us can.)



I can't think of a better gift this Christmas then offering the gift of Eternal Life. So on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are going to have a Friend Day. Invite your friends and neighbors, relatives, co-workers, whoever you can find on the street, to join us for Church and then our holiday dinner.

We have been averaging mid 50's the last couple of months in attendance on Sunday mornings. We have 103 chairs set up in the Church Building. I want to challenge us to reach an attendance of 110 on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. That would double our average right now. That means that some of us are going to have to give a chair for Christmas. Some of us are going to have to stand.

If everyone brings a friend reaching 110 people isn't going to be an issue—but

seating will be. Not all of our attempts at inviting others will be successful so invite more than one person. But if we can introduce even one person to the love of Christ what better gift could we give? Will you give a chair this Christmas? And don't just think of this as a one time thing, let's get in the habit of sharing the greatest place to be on Sunday mornings. Let's make chairs an issue this holiday season.

We serve a big God! Perhaps some of you think 110 people on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> is too large a goal, I think God would love to see more than that. Please pray that God's will be done – that others may come to know Jesus this Christmas!

On The Journey,

Todd

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Isaiah and I pushed to get the Newsletter out early this month because there is a lot going on in December.

We have a holiday dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Live Nativity on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Group sponsored Caroling Party and Chili supper on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve service on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

We also have a couple of invitations from the Church family that you can attend as well. An open house at the Tanks after the Christmas Eve service and New Year's Eve celebration at the Stelzners on the 31<sup>st</sup>. (Details later in the newsletter). We have the blessing each year of celebrating the birth of our Savior. With all the lights and the tinsel, we can lose sight of the preciousness of Christ. And what better time of year to reach out to friends and loved ones.

The church  
has left  
the building.



## Servant Evangelism

We have our Live Nativity on the 14th and 15th, from 6-8pm both nights. We still have openings for some of the parts, and for directing traffic as they pass through. See Todd or Isaiah if you are intersted!

The annual Youth Group Caroling Party will be Thursday, Dec. 20th.

We will gather at the church at 6PM, split into possibility three groups to leave the church by 6:15. (If you come after this we'll be gone). We will go out and sing as in years past but will also walk door to door in the neighborhoods of our members. We will only be out 1 hour then meet back at the church to have chili and hot cocoa by 7:30. We'll be done around 8PM. Great fun for the whole family!

## What is it about?

*Isaiah 9:6*

**6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

What is Christmas about to you? Is it about all the presents you get, or the time we get to spend with-family... or is it a message of hope

and love... It is a message of love, a message of hope to those who are hopeless (see Luke 2), and this story illustrates that well:

There was once a man who didn't believe in incarnation or the spiritual meaning of Christmas, and was skeptical about God. He and his family lived in a farm community. His wife was a devout believer. One snowy Christmas eve she was taking the kids to the Christmas eve service at church. She pleaded with him to come, but he firmly refused. He ridiculed the idea of the incarnation of Christ and after they left, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As he looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Shortly, he heard some noises coming from outside. He went to the window to investigate, and low and behold, there were geese calling frantically outside, somehow braving the blizzard.

He had compassion for them and wanted to help them. He thought to himself, "The barn would be a great place for them to stay! It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. Starting to get frustrated, he went over and tried to shoo them, run after them, and chase them toward the barn. They only got scared and scattered into every direction except toward the barn.

Feeling totally frustrated, he exclaimed, "Why don't they follow me! Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm! How can I possibly get them into the one place that will save them? If only I was a goose, then they could understand me."

He stood silently for a moment as the words that he just said reverberated back to himself in his mind: "If

only I could become like one of them -- then I could save them." He thought about his as the winds and blinding snow abated, his heart became quiet and pondered this thought. He understood what Christmas was all about. He knew why Christ had come.

**So, what is it all about?...**

In Christ,

Isaiah Henni



**CCR DNA:**

Coming in January...

## Annual Meeting Notes:

Bill Looney was elected as Trustee unanimously. The Elders and Deacon: Dean and Val and Retha were retained unanimously.

## Holiday Invitations

We also have a couple of invitations from the Church family that you can attend. An open house at the Tanks following the Christmas Eve service and a New Year's Eve celebration at the Stelzner's on the 31st, starting at 6pm.

## Rejoicings...

We rejoiced with Charlette Merly as she was baptized into Christ on Nov. 4th. We rejoiced with Shawn and Deb Huddleston as they placed membership on Nov. 25th. We have much indeed to be thankful for and to rejoice about.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>                      Dec 1: Dave Joy                      Dec 25: Larry Goodrich                      Dec 8: Melissa Smith                Dec 27: Dillon Hahn                      Dec 10: Retha Reinke                      Dec 18: John Detimore</p> <p>-----                      Dec 8: Dave and Lori Joy                      Dec 18: Ron and Rita Schmidt</p>			28)	29)	30)	1)
<p><b>2)</b> Music: C  <b>Text:</b> Psalm 1-8  <b>9am</b> Sunday School  <b>10am</b> Worship</p> <p><b>Holiday Dinner</b>  <b>1:30pm</b></p>	3)	<p><b>4)</b>  <b>6pm</b> CWF Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>5)</b>  <b>12pm</b> Minister's Prayer Meeting  <b>7pm</b> Men's LTG</p>	<p><b>6)</b>  <b>7pm</b> Youth Group  <b>7pm</b> Home Group @ Smith's</p>	<p><b>7)</b>  <b>7am:</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast  <b>6pm:</b> Movie Night: Evan Almighty</p>	<p><b>8)</b>  <b>10am:</b> Camp Meeting</p>
<p><b>9)</b> Music: A  <b>Text:</b> Psalm 9-11  <b>9am</b> Sunday School  <b>10am</b> Worship  <b>6pm:</b> Community Thanksgiving Service</p>	10)	<p><b>11)</b>  <b>2pm</b> Homestead Services</p>	<p><b>12)</b>  <b>12pm</b> Minister's Prayer Meeting  <b>7pm</b> Men's LTG</p>	<p><b>13)</b>  <b>7pm</b> Youth Group  <b>7pm</b> Home Group</p>	<p><b>14)</b>  <b>7am:</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast  <b>6pm-8pm:</b> Live Nativity</p>	<p><b>15)</b>  <b>6pm-8pm:</b> Live Nativity</p>
<p><b>16)</b> Music: B  <b>Text:</b> Psalm 22-30  <b>9am</b> Sunday School  <b>10am</b> Worship - Annual Meeting and Business Meeting follow</p>	17)	18)	<p><b>19)</b>  <b>12pm</b> Minister's Prayer Meeting  <b>7pm</b> Men's LTG</p>	<p><b>20)</b>  <b>6pm</b> Caroling Party and Outreach</p>	21)	22)
<p><b>23)</b> Music: C  <b>Text:</b> Psalm 31-41  <b>9am</b> Sunday School  <b>10am</b> Worship</p>	<p><b>24)</b>  <b>6pm</b> Christmas Eve Service Open House following the service at Tank's See Archie or Kristina for directions</p>	<p><b>25)</b>  <b>2pm</b> Homestead Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Merry Christmas!</b></p>	<p><b>26)</b>  <b>12pm</b> Minister's Prayer Meeting  <b>7pm</b> Men's LTG</p>	<p><b>27)</b>  <b>7pm</b> Youth Group  <b>7pm</b> Home Group</p>	<p><b>28)</b>  <b>7am:</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast</p>	29)
<p><b>30)</b> Music: A  <b>Text:</b> Psalm 42-57  <b>9am</b> Sunday School  <b>10am</b> Worship</p>	<p><b>31)</b>  <b>6pm</b> New Year's Eve Party at the Stelzner's - Please see Randy or Carol for directions</p>	<p><b>1)</b>  <b>Happy New Year!</b></p>	<p>-----  <b>Coming in January</b>                      Life of David Home Group                      Another Movie Night                      (Movie to be announced)                      CCR DNA</p> <p>-----</p>			5)

Date	Meditations	Prayer	Nursery	Children's Church	Music
12/2	Randy Stelzner	Chris Foley	Chris Foley	Michelle DesEnfants	C
12/9	Daniel Stelzner	Isaiah Henni	Sara Henni	Melissa Smith	A
12/16	Ryan Foley	Retha Reinke	Lori Santee	Chris Foley	B
12/23	Dean VonKrosigk	Marty Mason	Charleen VonKrosigk	Henni's	C
12/30	Archie Tank	Isaiah Henni	Autumn Vick	Melissa Smith	A
1/6	Barney Himes	D. VonKrosigk	Chris Foley	Michelle DesEnfants	B

If you are interested in doing meditations or leading prayer see Todd  
 If you would like to help with the Nursery see Chris Foley, and for Children's Church see Isaiah

**Men's Prayer Breakfast Chefs:**

Date	Chef	Date	Chef	Date	Chef
11/30	Barney	12/7	Isaiah	12/14	Rod
12/21	Dean	12/28	Todd	1/4	Isaiah



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**Minister** - Todd Smith H: 857-7561 M: 840-1630  
**Youth Minister** - Isaiah Henni H: 857-7563 M: 851-9956  
**Elder**, Dean VonKrosigk H: 856-3125  
**Elder**, Val Reinke H: 856-6990