

# HARVEST *times*

NEWSLETTER OF CHURCH FOR THE HARVEST  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

## Christmas Happenings!

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6-7*

We are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas season celebrating Jesus' birth! Mark your calendars to join us for many fun activities and traditions. To start, our Christmas Program featuring Harvest kids and youth will be on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. This is a great time to invite relatives and friends. If you want to help with the Christmas Program contact Katy ([katy@harvestalexandria.com](mailto:katy@harvestalexandria.com)).

The women will be "competing" in our annual teacup exchange on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eye out for more details on this event in the announcements and on the church calendar. The Youth will have their Christmas Party on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Lastly, we invite you to join us for our Christmas Eve service at noon and our Christmas Day service at 10:30 a.m.

## MINNESOTA TEEN CHALLENGE

We recently had the privilege of hosting the men from Minnesota Teen Challenge. They were able to come to Harvest to hang out, eat, play games, and have a place to be before their annual banquet.

## Church Events

- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time
- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – USMC Banquet
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Empowering Girls... 7 p.m. (Ages 14-18)
- Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> – No Youth
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – Tea Cup Exchange
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service at noon
- Dec 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Church Office Closed

# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BANQUET

Church for the Harvest has been selected to host the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual USMC Runestone Detachment #1409 Birthday Banquet. The banquet will be on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Harvest. The USMC's 241<sup>st</sup> birthday is on November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to have your business represented and help support the USMC Runestone Local Detachment, you can do so by purchasing individual tickets for \$25 per person or you can sponsor a marine to attend by purchasing a ticket for \$25. Individuals or businesses can also sponsor a table of 6 for \$150 (6-dinner banquet tickets).

Sponsors will be personally recognized and listed at each of the tables that night. They will also be thanked in the Echo Press the following week for their support for the marines.



Let's BELIEVE  
God for our new  
building!

Coming soon to our foyer will be a 3D rendition of the design for the new building. Give to the building fund today to be a part of this next step!

## SECURITY AND SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP

Rich Ohm and his wife recently joined us for a fun and interactive Saturday workshop! The workshop focused on church security and best practices for self-defense. He gave relevant information and even had those attending practice some self-defense techniques. He also spoke on Sunday morning about Human Trafficking. If you missed the message, you can check it out on our iTunes podcast or on the media section in the church app.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



*Our youth have been busy with the start of a new school year! They have had the opportunity to experience a youth conference with Pastor Mitch from Sri Lanka, attend Minnesota Youth Conference, go to Fields of Faith, pray before school at See You at the Pole, and attend awesome weekly gatherings where they get to play games and hear encouraging (and challenging!) words from Kim Boutain and other youth leaders. Our Youth (middle school and high school age students) meet on Wednesday nights.*

## Fields of Faith

I did something that a year ago I would never imagine I would ever do. I shared part of my testimony at Fields of Faith to approximately 300 other kids. Now let me say, speaking in front of them was no problem. I loved it. But the sharing about a personal issue, that's a whole other thing! It might not have been the perfected version of my journey with God, and I skipped and missed literally all of it with my 5 minute time limit, but what I shared tonight was me obeying God's wish for me to share. What I shared tonight somebody listened to, somebody took it to heart, and in some way, I affected some kid of the approximately three hundred, and now it is in God's hands to show that somebody His love and grace. God is ever-present in my life and my life has been flipped upside down because of Him. He is patient and kind, and He is SO good. Believe in Him because He believes in you.

## Empower Minds for God's Vision

Empowering Minds for God's Vision is meant for young girls (ages 14-18) to dig deeper and hear from God about what He has planned for their lives and what their goals are. Sara and I have a heart to show girls that they are valuable, beautiful, and daughters of the King. On Friday, November, 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00pm, we will be at the church with snacks, project supplies, and some awesome encouraging words ready to give the girls some tools to empower their minds for God's vision in this crazy world and ever changing society. Please RSVP to myself, Kelsey Brown, at 320-491-0244 or Sara Godfrey at 612-220-9032.

# Roving Reporter

Fall has definitely come to Minnesota! The preparations we do to get ready...lawn mowers put away to make room for the snow blower...gardens cleaned and put to rest with the hopes of them coming back in the Spring. I love this seasons and all of its beauty—the colors that adorn our trees and even the leaves that pile up in our yard only to be raked up one day and to return the next.

I would like to share with you another sweet Church for the Harvest family and that would be the Grims.

Luke and Tia began coming to our church before they were even married. Tia was going to school and working at Caribou...Luke was working in Alexandria as a recruiter for the Army. Needless to say, coffee brought them together.

In February of 2007, they were married at Church for the Harvest and it was a good thing. Even back then Luke was a “little outspoken” but Tia would just smile and say, “That’s just Luke.”

Nine years later, five sweet girls have joined this family and they are so blessed to have the parents they do. Tia is beyond organized, a great mom—

she homeschools and is so very capable of raising and training these girls in the way they should go. Luke is the fun and hands on dad who loves them like crazy.

Luke made the army his career and has been deployed two times, which can make that very hard on family life, but because of the saying, “Army Strong” they are! Things that could separate other families have made them closer than ever. Their faith in God, their love for each other, and a church family also plays a big part in it.

Through all of their moves, they have always managed to come back to Alexandria to live for a period of time. I know I am not alone in my feelings, but am so very glad they do.

We have been able to watch their little girls grow which makes them even more a part of us. Eve, 7, Naomi 6, Julia 5, Ruth 3, and Sarah 1. Every one as cute as can be!

They will soon be leaving us again. Luke will be back in a little under two months and then they will be off to Alaska. We will truly miss them, but will await anxiously for their return.

See you next newsletter!

