

AWESOME ACTS

JANUARY 2010 ISSUE



Pride and Joy

Danielle Grable, 22 year old daughter of Dave and Robin Grable, was granted an award from COSIDA/ESPN magazine on November 2, 2009. The award was based on athletic performance in combination with GPA (grade point average). She made the second team all region, was the first at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to ever receive this award. Dave and Robin and their entire family as well as Our Savior's family are proud of Danielle. Way to go girl!!!!

“God said, “I’ll be with you.”” Exodus 3:12

“May your father and mother be glad, may she who gave you birth rejoice!” Proverbs 23: 25.



Great Honors

Riley Jones, son of Pastor Kemp and Ann, in December, 2009, received the honor of being named “Artist of The Month” at Winneconne Middle School. Congratulations to Riley, not only is a very intelligent young man as he previously has made honor roll, but he is artistic as well. I also know he is musically talented. Sounds like he is becoming a “chip off the old block”. Congrats also to his proud parents!!!! Our Savior's congregation is also very proud of you Riley!!!!

“He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”- Mark 10:16



December Church Activities

Oshkosh Holiday Parade - On November 24, 2009, Our Savior's Lutheran Church displayed the first every entry in the holiday parade. Trevor and Peggy Kehoe coordinated the effort for the parade entry. After numerous, too many to count hours, from Trevor working at his home, and the help of many volunteers, from our church, complete with miniature Mary and Joseph, a miniature angel and her mom, and a few “fit” volunteers to walk alongside our float, and pass out candy, we advertised our upcoming Journey to Bethlehem to the public.

Journey to Bethlehem – On December 5 and 6, our annual *Journey to Bethlehem* happened, thanks to many volunteers from our church, kitchen helpers, set up and clean up crews, all our actors, our behind the scenes

people, and the three people that worked to help schedule these helpers ahead of time, many people came together to make it happen yet one more year, these people work hard, long hours to make things happen at OSLC. Four hundred patrons came to see Journey to Bethlehem from the surrounding community. What an awesome event for the community in Oshkosh to realize the miracle of Jesus' birth with live animals and a journey in a candlelit church to see with their own eyes life the way it was back then!!!!!! Special thanks to Trevor Kehoe, who master minded this first ever parade float, Peggy and Trevor Kehoe for hosting the "Decorate The Float Party" at their home, and Ann Rumbuc who "took the bull by the horns" and scheduled all the many volunteers and actors! You both are awesome Christians and are an asset to our congregation.

Celebration of Song

What an awesome event again this year, when on December 20, 2009, our talented and awesome choir put on an event at our regular scheduled 9am worship service that heralds ANY performance in song that Fox Valley Performing Arts Center could perform. Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Oshkosh enjoyed the performance of "Mary Did You Know" performed by our choir. Directed by Pam Anderson, our choir performed, what an AWESOME GOD INSPIRED experience it is every year as we enjoyed the GOD GIVEN talents of our congregation!!!! Every year, as our family enjoys this performance, we thank God that he sent us to OSLC many years ago. It is a miracle we have so many talented vocal performers. As we reflect on our past years at OSLC, MUSIC is one reason I know that GOD knows OSLC, is on the map of the world and continues to send miracles to us every year!

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"- Luke 2: 10-12.

Tough Times

If your family experienced tough times at Christmas or any time this past year, from those that had deaths, the unemployed, family members serving in Iraq and the war effort, illness, poverty, loneliness, or just remembering anniversary events from years past of not so good times at Christmas, I have some thoughts for you. Tough times are clouds of our lives, bringing dreary feelings and sadness. If we hang in there, and keep climbing out of our pits, beyond the clouds, we will find the sun shining on us again. LOOK BEYOND THE CLOUDS AND PRAY, God knows our woes and only HE can answer prayers, if only you ask him to. Become one with him and HE will help you get through. God cares for us "sight unseen" and will help you cope. Sometimes, we have to let go and leave things in God's hands, that is what we do with prayer!! What can you let GOD handle for you in this next year? It happens when we pray!!! GOD watches all of us everyday and HE is the one who is in charge!!!!

"The Lord defends those who suffer, he defends them in times of trouble"-Psalm 9:9.

Miracle

As we reflect on the past year, I can't help but reflect on our own family miracle, Eleanor Brielle Hanson. This past year, we celebrated on 12/23/2009 an anniversary date of the first successful reconstructive heart surgery for our precious grandchild.

Ten hours is an eternity when you sit in a waiting room waiting to hear if week old child/grandchild will be blessed with a successful reconstruction of her heart, and recover for months of healing in a newborn intensive care unit at Milwaukee Children's Hospital, one year ago. For Brian and Michelle Hanson, John and Vicki Hanson, this was not they expected when, only weeks earlier, the four of them celebrated in the ultrasound room as we looked at the screen and the technician typed "baby girl parts" on that screen, and we all realized that Michelle was carrying a baby girl in utero to celebrate their love.

As we reflect back on a year ago, when we saw Ellie on that day, after ten hours of waiting, go past that waiting room with tubes coming out of her, laying so lifeless on a post surgical bed on her way to that intensive care room that she spent the next few months, we all sat down and prayed “The Lord’s Prayer”. If it be his will, let her live!!!! As we watched her in the months after that day, and watched her as she fought through the drug induced coma they had put her in, we realized, as a family, we could only take one day at a time and “Ellie” getting to one year old was still an “if” not a “when” proposition. Eleanor taught us that her determination to embrace the next stage of her life, to become stronger, and master new skills, will be a lifetime asset that GOD bestowed upon her. It strengthened our resolve never to give up on a child, no matter how daunting the course appeared. Children are geniuses at raising the bar, clearing it, and then setting it one notch higher. They inspire us to dig deeper for the strength to do what feels hardest, what is scariest. Children depend on adults for protection and guidance, but what we easily forget is that a child’s resilience is a birthright we all once shared. We take nothing for granted now. For us, there is nothing more wonderful than an ordinary day, the simple things in life now seem exquisite, like watching her eat, because we know that most heart condition children have feeding problems and watching her walk now because we, as a family, know that sometimes heart condition children sometimes have developmental delays. For this Christmas season, as our family watched her open presents and watched her smile realizing there was a toy inside that present,and so on as we watch her life unfold! Because we thought we would never be allowed to witness these miracles, they fill us with profound joy as we realize each day, the blessing that GOD has bestowed on our family! And in this joy, comes a more direct relationship with God, we thank him when we can kiss her, hold her, and watch her play and see her breath!!!!

You are the God who performs miracles, you display your power among the peoples.-Psalm 77:14.

Sharing Your Awesome Acts

Vicki Hanson Entries for next month’s AWESOME ACTS can be sent by e-mail at cocomut10@gmail.com. Or call 920-969-3788. or just see me at church and fill out a form. There is a red and white box for your info and forms in the narthex.

“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest”---
Isaiah 32:18. May God bless all of you and thank you again for the opportunity to share in the awesome moments of your lives in this way!!!!!!