



*Youth News ~ December 2016 ~ by Kristi Duensing, Youth Leader*

Oh the sweet sounds of Christmas! Angels We Have Heard on High, (we all remember the words well), ...Sweetly singing o'er the plains; and the mountains in reply, ech-o-ing their joyous strains; Glo - ri-a in excelsis De-o; Glo - ri-a in excelsis De-o. This was one of my children's favorite songs and they loved singing it every night before saying prayers. Other wonderful hymns stick in our minds, such as Hark the Herald Angels Sing, The First Noel; O Little Town of Bethlehem and What Child is This. This list could go on and on! All of these Christmas songs make me want to sing and share with others. We would LOVE for you to come and help us carol to the shut-ins around town, and some in the country. If you feel you are not a singer, come along anyway and mouth out the words, no one will ever know! HA! The look on their faces when we come to the door is overwhelming. I would really encourage you to join us. You know, this time of the year, we all get busy with our own family activities, programs, and to-do lists. That's okay too, but let's make more of an effort this year by giving ourselves, and our time, to someone who is lonely, or going through a rough time. I remember when my Dad passed away, and the girls from our Circle (that is what we called Bible study at that time) made a circle around me, and began to sing. I felt so loved, and I knew they had been praying for me. We CAN be the hands and feet of Christ right here in our own community! Our caroling date is Dec. 11, at 4:00 p.m. It takes us about an hour and a half at most, and you will leave, feeling like you want to do this again next year! We'll have soup, hot chocolate and other goodies back at the church when we return. Parents: You are definitely welcome to come along with us or ride the hayrack of carolers in Deshler. If you know at this time you'll be there, let me know so I can try to have enough drivers lined up.

The youth had a great time shopping for Christmas gifts for the "Angel Tree" children's presents. It is always an enjoyable time, watching our teenagers in the store, thoughtfully picking out the gifts for these children. It's hard for us to think some parents don't have the resources to give their children Christmas gifts, so it is a pleasure for us to find something they would enjoy.

**Youth activities: December 4:** PEPY Meeting in the church basement. There are many options for Youth trips this year. It seems early, but the spaces are filling up fast, so we need to make some choices. Since IMPACT closed their ministries, because there are many more organizations (that we are not familiar with) that encourage kids to spend a week away, it makes it more difficult for us to find the right trip. So, parents of all High School youth please come to the meeting and we'll discuss the options.

**December 7: 6:30 p.m.** Youth night with supper and Christmas Eve service practice. We'll put another practice time in during the week of the 12th -to be decided by the youth's schedules

**Dec. 11-4:00 p.m.** Caroling Party w/supper

No activity night on third week of December (Kristi's gone that weekend).

**Dec. 23: 4:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve program practice, followed w/pizza when practice is finished.

**Dec. 24: 3:30 p.m.** Be at the church to start handing out candles. Yeah it's coming up quick!

*Blessings and Merry Christmas! ~ Kristi Duensing, Youth Leader*