

Family MATTERS



A Christ-centered resource for families and teachers
Vol. 14 No. 2 ■ October 2009



If you are reading this somewhere around early to mid-October, please note there are about 65 shopping days left until Christmas! There are three ways to consider this information:

- It's no big deal—you have a plan for Christmas and know when and where the shopping will take place and are on schedule to accomplish everything well in advance of Dec. 25.
- It's no big deal—you will wait until the last minute to get the shopping done (as you always have) and will be satisfied with the availability and quality of merchandise.
- It is a big deal, and you don't need any calendar reminders of Christmas in October!

As God's chosen people, we are redeemed by grace, living a life committed to our Lord Jesus Christ; and we are also sinful, fallen creatures living within our limited human existence. And as such, we all approach the element of preparation in various ways. Some of us are meticulous and detailed-focused, while others of us are more laid back and low-key. We can get things done in our own way even if it differs from others in terms of style, so in essence, we are all planners.

God is a planner as well. When His people, Adam and Eve, fell into sin, God began the process of how He would send His Son to save them, and all humankind from sin. All through the entire Old Testament, there

were promises made about the coming Savior. Numerous prophecies were given that would help God's people prepare for the arrival of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

One of the final checkpoints of preparation for the coming of Jesus was the arrival of John the Baptist. This was the final messenger who would "prepare the way of the Lord." John was a non-conformist who lived on the outskirts of towns, had a very weird diet of locust and honey, and spoke a message of repentance that would help people prepare for the coming Christ. He did his job well—so well that some people concerned with his message found a way to end his life.

The message didn't end when the life of John ended. The message of a Savior was too strong, too powerful, and too bold to be limited by mere men. God's plan would unfold. Then, on a dark afternoon on a hill called Golgotha just outside Jerusalem, the plan for a Savior appeared lost as Jesus hung on a cross dying. Hope seemed shattered. Yet, just two days later the plan came full-circle in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead—the plan was complete! All the preparation had paid off.

While it may be too early for you to be ready for Christmas, we are always ready for Jesus to come among us this day in all we do, even if it's still October.

Family Links

On the back side of this publication is a simple chart for your family to use, which divides the days of the week into 28 time segments. Prayerfully weigh time commitments in light of Christ's plan for you. Use the chart to plan out the various commitments of family members. Add a cross each time you are able, through that activity, to expand His kingdom in worship, service, stewardship of resources, telling about the love of Jesus, etc. Use a different color for each family member and a common color for the events of the family as a whole.

Prepare the Way of OUR Family!

For the week of _____

| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| MORNING | | | | | | | |
| EARLY AFTERNOON | | | | | | | |
| LATE AFTERNOON | | | | | | | |
| EVENING | | | | | | | |



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Vol. 14 • No. 2
OCTOBER 2009



"Family Matters" is published by LCMS District and Congregational Services—Children's Ministry; The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; (314) 965-9000 • www.lcms.org

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