



**“OH HAPPY DAY” 2020  
CHRISTMAS THEME**

*Page 1*



**HOW IS INSPIRE DOING  
DURING COVID?**

*Page 3*



**ENCOURAGEMENT  
FROM PASTOR ERNIE**

*Page 4*



**MOVIE ENCOURAGES  
BELIEF IN GOD**

*Page 2*

# THE INSPIRE FAMILY



## Christmas 2020: “Oh Happy Day”

Christmas at Inspire this year will combat the COVID blues with the theme from the old Negro spiritual “Oh Happy Day”. A church-wide 12 Days of Christmas project (see next page) will lead up Christmas Eve services at 1 PM, 3 PM, and 5PM. With COVID guidelines, up to 100 can attend each service (60 in the sanctuary, 40 in the Worship Cafe) and seats can be reserved on a first come, first served basis at [www.inspirefamily.org](http://www.inspirefamily.org). Don't wait!

*This Fall members completed the North wall with Inspire's Theme verse: Eph.2:10*

## 12 Days of Christmas Project

2020 has been a year like no other. COVID-19 has put an immense dent in the social fabric of our communities, and people especially seem to feel the distance during the holiday season. In response to this, the staff at Inspire will be inviting all Inspire members/families to join us in the 12 Days of Christmas COVID Challenge. The goal is to overcome pandemic depression by celebrating the spirit of Christmas through targeted activities and acts of love. Below is the calendar of challenges, but also look for each challenge to be posted via video on the Inspire Facebook page!

**Day 1 - December 13:** Family Meal (no phones) & discuss how you would prepare if Jesus was coming to your house

**Day 2 - December 14:** Do a surprising act of love for a neighbor or stranger (Example: buy coffee or lunch for someone)

**Day 3 - December 15:** Watch together as a family the Christmas episode of The Chosen (about 25 minutes, on Youtube)

**Day 4 - December 16:** Attend the movie “Against the Tide” at Inspire or, if you have littles, take a Christmas light ride together

**Day 5 - December 17:** As a family purchase a Giving Tree gift (Kirkwood) for a child in need

**Day 6 - December 18:** Read Jeremiah 6:16 and take a family walk, discussing the good and bad paths we can take in life

**Day 7 - December 19:** Invite someone to join you at church OR worship with the Inspire band at Kirkwood Mall (3PM)

**Day 8 - December 20:** Worship together *at church (if possible)* and hang a family decoration on the Inspire Sanctuary Tree

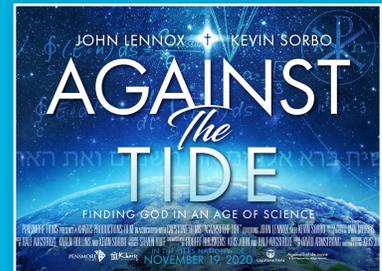
**Day 9 - December 21:** Take a ride together to view Christmas lights; discuss how the birth of Jesus was the light of the world

**Day 10 - December 22:** Join Pastors Randy & Ernie on a Christmas Carol walk OR do the Christmas Scavenger Hunt

**Day 11 - December 23:** Watch your favorite Christmas movie together and share a great pizza

**Day 12 - December 24:** Attend Christmas Eve service at Inspire at 1 PM, 3 PM or 5 PM.

*December 16th,  
7PM Inspire  
Movie Event!*



Have you ever wished you understood the reasons to believe in God, and Jesus better?

“*Against The Tide*” is a fantastic movie that will encourage your heart and mind that the confessions of scripture, of creation, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ can be trusted.

Starring Kevin Sorbo and Oxford Professor John Lennox, this movie is a fascinating answer to all of the critics who seek to put into question the beliefs of Christians worldwide.

Tickets are \$12 per adult, and \$8 per student. In-person attendance only. Reserve your tickets at [www.inspirefamily.org](http://www.inspirefamily.org)

## What Ministries & Organizations Does Inspire Support?

Through its budgeted monthly tithe, Inspire gives to organizations with common ministry values and goals in the community.

- First Choice Women’s Clinic
- Abused Adult Resource Center
- Heaven’s Helpers Soup Kitchen
- Ministry on the Margins
- Providence Ranch Ministries
- Cross Training Ministries
- International Church Ghana church project
- Make A Wish ND
- Young Life
- CRU College Ministries BSC
- The Chosen TV Series About the Life of Jesus
- ND Teen Challenge
- Brave the Shave ND
- Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry
- Tracy’s Sanctuary
- Carrie’s Kids
- InterFaith Bismarck



## Youth Ministry Minute with Miss Carole

Season Greetings,

Inspire kids & youth groups have been going strong but yet also “getting used to different”. I am so proud to say that we have been able to continue meeting together as well as offer online experience for those at home.

Ignite-Wednesday Kids K-5 have recently completed a series on Psalm 136:1, “Shout Out - Let Them Know Your Thankful”. The kids online & in person worked on the habit of thanking others rather than keeping gratitude inside.

Speaking of gratitude - I want to make a shout out & thank all that have taken the extra time & love to be here leading the kids/youth groups: Michelle Nyhus, Jackson Bernhardt, Janice Liudahl, Tim Jacobsen, Marilynne Reiner, Neil Tafelmeyer, Harrison Hruby, Kate Little, Josh Upgren, Jordan Upgren, Laurie Martin & the Naslund crew.

The Sunday Kids have been navigating through the Gospel Project Bible Stories from the book of Acts. They also took a Sunday to make “get well cards” for those in need of healing & cheer in our community. If you know of someone in need - let Carole know, we can send a sweet homemade greeting to them.

All Kids & Youth are now at the start of Advent activity bags - with meaningful & fun activities for the whole family that prepare all for the wonderful Christmas season - the true meaning of Christmas!

Inspire Middle School Youth Group have been enjoying Ignite Wednesday nights together with meaningful object lessons that tie into the sermons. They have truly been building some wonderful relationships together this year too. Most recently, the middle schoolers made Christmas cards for the homeless shelters & Soup Kitchen.

Our Inspire Senior High group has formed a Leadership Counsel that has grown & continues to meet weekly, planning many events for not only themselves but the future of Inspire youth. They also recently made Christmas cards for local nursing homes & are planning a senior high winter retreat.



## What's Coming in Adult Growth Classes at Inspire?

*Krystal Wrolstad*



**It's that time Inspire Family!** The holidays will soon be over and the cold January days will be here before we know it, and with the start of a new year brings new challenging and thought provoking adult classes!

### Strengthening Your Finances God's Way

Starts Thursday January 14th at 6:30pm. Meet every Thursday for 6 weeks

Get your finances in order for 2021. Every family's financial situation is unique and holds its own challenges and questions. Learn how to manage your money using principles from the bible and get on track for financial success while honoring God.

Space for this class is limited to 12

### Exiles: Following Jesus in Turbulent Times

Starts Monday February 8th at 6:30pm.

Woke morality, forgiveness, is God still in America? These and many others are topics we all deal with, but how do we live for God during times like this? How do we guide our children, grandchildren and others to gain and maintain a solid footing in our faith? Join us for a seven week study on how we follow Jesus during turbulent times.

Stay tuned in to hear how to sign up for a small group to fully engage in this class

## Did You Know?

In an effort to be a good community partner, Inspire allows the following organizations to use is facility FREE of charge:

- Brave the Shave
- Just for Kix Dance
- Wee School
- Bismarck Public Schools
- Bismarck Police Department
- Providence Ranch Ministries
- Mother of Preschoolers (MOPS)
- Boy Scouts
- BPS Music Festivals
- Sleepy Hollow Theater



### Pastor's Corner

"How is Inspire Doing During COVID?"

Who could've saw 2020 coming?

I cannot think of a bigger, more unexpected test than the COVID-19 pandemic - especially when it comes to the face-to-face community people value in churches.

The Corona Virus pandemic has been a moving target for virtually every organization in America. Here at Inspire we have been adjusting on the fly at almost a weekly rate. We have sought to balance the spiritual needs of people, the liberties of people, and the greater good of the community as guided by scripture. It is not always easy. I have been grateful and humbled by the faithfulness of our people - both in consistent giving and service.

"How is Inspire actually doing?" is a question I get often, and it is time to address it more publicly.

Financially, we have remained on solid ground. So far in our budget year (July 2020 -June 2021) monthly giving has exceeded last year's giving, but is a bit behind the budget projections. We have missed the misc. giving that comes from in-person visitors, and online attendance also seems to produce some inconsistencies. This is why December giving is so critical. Budget shortfalls are generally made up by end-of-year gifts. Please consider an extra gift to Inspire to keep us on track for out ministry goals and vision. If you know you have fallen behind, please prayerfully consider catching up!

Family, youth, & children's ministries are going great guns! Plans are also under way for the Inspire Arts Academy - a ministry where kids from all walks can learn the arts in a Christ-centered environment!

It is our goal to not just survive the pandemic - but to become a *better* church through it. I believe we are on our way! Let the Light of Christmas also be the light at the end of the tunnel as we persevere and reach more people for Christ beyond COVID!

### Inspire Finances

**Budgeted YTD: \$250,000**

**Offering YTD: \$213,717**

**Deficit to Budget: - \$36,282**

**General Fund: \$234,946**

**Future Expansion: \$39,501**

**Repair Fund: \$41,876**

(Note: Budget deficits at this time of year are not uncommon, but must be offset by end-of-year giving)

Use included envelope for your year-end gift!

**YOUR YEAR-END GIVING**

**MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

### Inspire Board of Directors

Genny Dienstmann	Mike Neigum	Rob Peske
Jason Fritz	Sarah Rooney	Lindsey Tafelmeyer



## **Jesus, Christmas & Rest**

*Pastor Ernie Hockett*

In this time of craziness - masks, isolation, and social distancing, it would be easy for any of us to get discouraged at the hand we have been dealt. It seems everyone we speak with these days has a different perspective on the world we live in and the state of things we all are experiencing. Just to be real, it can be overwhelming at times - leading even the most devout followers of Jesus to join in on the party of negativity. The world Jesus chose to come into had many problems too! The morale of society was sliding fast, due to political, social, and spiritual injustices brought on by a myriad of different sources! The people had to have thrown their hands up in the air often and seriously wondered where God was. Why didn't he love us? Why has he abandoned us? Why does life have to be so hard if He really is in charge?? Sound familiar? Have you ever echoed these sentiments? It was in this chaotic background that Jesus made his appearance and said words like he said in the scripture above! Notice in His kind words to these lost, lonely, marginalized, and harassed people, Jesus breaks through the doom and gloom with some pretty amazing words of hope! To those who were far off the Good Shepherd said, "Come unto me" - to those who were physically, emotionally, and spiritually tired, the Healer beckoned, "Come unto me all who are weary and heavily burdened" - to those who had lost their way, caught in the thickets of life, or could not catch their breath, Emmanuel whispered, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.....I will give you rest for your souls!

In this teaching you and I only have to TRUST and REMEMBER. TRUSTING, comes in when we surrender this whole chaotic mess into the hands of God; knowing that He alone is the greatest power in the universe! REMEMBERING, is simply the practice of recalling, in the midst of adversity, all of the times when we needed Him most - Jesus showed up at just the right time and made our impossible possible! If he did it then, he surely can do it now! Need rest? Try Jesus' timeless formula!

## **Inspire Family Fellowship**

**523 North 21st Street**

**Bismarck ND 58501**