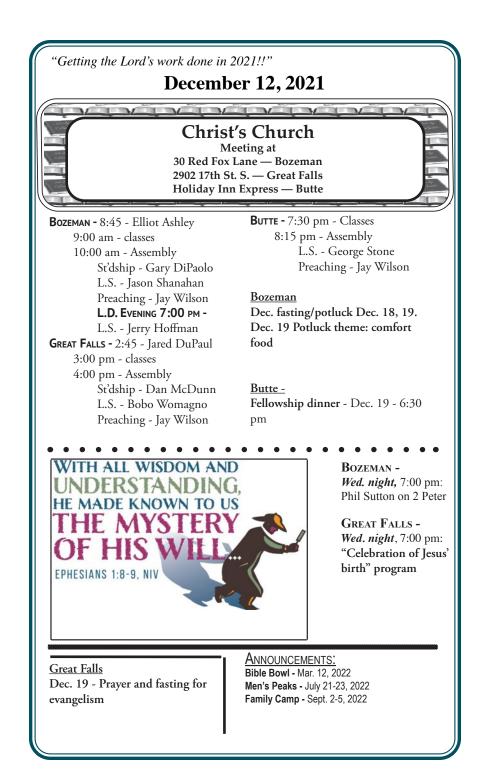
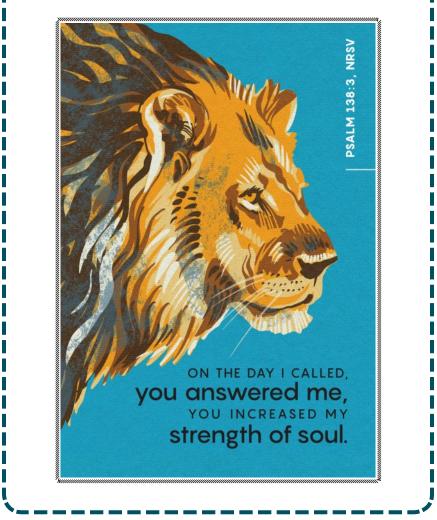
BECAUSE OF MY ENEMY'S STRENGTH I WILL WATCH FOR YOU, FOR GOD IS MY STRONGHOLD



Mequel Baril of Billings, MT, and Jacob Martin of Missoula, MT having to make a "refreshment run" after no sleep the night before Spiritual Warriors' Weekend Christ's Church, Bozeman, MT

"He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, beholds the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them." John 10:12





Question of the week:

Which of the apostle John's three epistles states that God's holy ones are not to imitate what is evil, but what is good?

Last week's question: What prophet's scrolls was Daniel reading that let him know that the 70 years of desolation was about to come to an end? *Answer: Jeremiah (Daniel 9:2).*

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 77Wednesday Night (12/8) – 71Morning Assembly – 95Butte Lord's Day – 9Evening Assembly – 57GF Lord's Day – 76,97, Wed. - 52



Acts Alive ...

The Message Reaches Malta

Agrippa and Festus agree concerning Paul. "This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment" (Acts 26:31). In fact, Agrippa remarked, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar" (Acts 26:32). But Paul had appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar he must go.

When the time came for Paul to sail to Italy, he was placed under the charge of a centurion named Julius. Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus (from Thessalonica) traveled together from Caesarea up the coast to Sidon. Centurion Julius trusted Paul, and allowed him to go and receive care from friends in Sidon. From Sidon they sailed in the lee of Cyprus, then along the southern coast of what

is now Turkey, to the city of Myra where they changed ships. And from Myra they sailed to Crete where they ran into "big time" trouble.

Paul, with some years' experience in sailing the waters of the Mediterranean, tried to warn the centurion. "I perceive that the voyage will certainly be attended with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives" (Acts 27:10). With October's feast of Tabernacles already past, Paul knew that winter's breath would shatter the boat and their lives. But the centurion listened to the captain and pilot of the ship, and loaded on with them. Sure enough, the ship glided into the sea amidst a gentle south wind, but they were soon driven by a big blast from the northeast. After salvaging the long boat, some of the crew swam under the ship and strengthened the hull with supporting cables. Then they cut loose and let themselves be driven by this particularly violent storm. Cargo was jettisoned, and the rigging was tossed overboard.

Then Paul's leadership began to show, even though he was a prisoner. "Men," he said, "you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete, and incurred this damage and loss. And now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there shall be no loss of

life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on a certain island" (Acts 27:21-26).

After fourteen days they approached the "certain island," today called Malta. While they were waiting for

daybreak, the sailors were trying to sneak away in the long boat, but Paul told the soldiers, "Unless these men remain with the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved" (Acts 27:31). The soldiers now respected Paul and cut the ropes of the long boat.

In the morning, in the presence of the 276 men on board, Paul said, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation; for not a hair from the head of any of you shall perish" (Acts 27:33,34). Then this great man of God gave thanks in the presence of all of them, broke bread and began to eat. And the rest followed his example.

Then they let the wind drive them toward the shore, but the ship didn't quite make it. Everyone was going to have to grab a plank or swim in order to get ashore. The soldiers, under penalty of death themselves if one of the prisoners escaped, were going to kill Paul and the other prisoners. But the centurion, who was escorting a Roman citizen and who had developed such respect for the apostle, prevented them from so doing. God wanted the message preached on Malta and he protected His messenger, that the word might march on!

JAY WILSON

