



2014. That is the number by which we will identify the 365 days from January 1 to December 31.

Centuries ago scholars determined that this was the year Jesus was born, i.e. over two millenia ago. More detailed studies indicate a wide range for Jesus' birth. Personally, I find Frederick Larson's theory of Jesus' birth in June of 2 B.C. the strongest (cf. [www.bethlehemstar.net](http://www.bethlehemstar.net)).

**Moving from one year to the next marks the passage of what we often fail to recognize . . . time.**

I ask that you consider two questions:

**What is there from 2013 that is unfinished, incomplete or undone that, if ignored, will**

**continue to impact me in 2014 and sabotage any attempts at new goals or plans?** Perhaps we need to acknowledge a need, confess a sin or speak with someone. God's word, His people and His Holy Spirit are available to help us . . . and it will take all three to deal with the past that continues to get in the way of God's future for us.

**Where is God inviting me to join Him in 2014?** This is the goals or resolutions part, which will not happen if we continue to live with the previous year's garbage. Again, our Lord gives His word, His people and His Spirit to accomplish His work . . . and that includes His work in each of us.

It's all for His glory . . . and our joy.

**January worship emphases:**

♦ Jan. 5 – *What's Next for TBC and Me?*

♦ Jan. 12 – *A Message of*

*Hope from Billy Graham*  
♦ Jan. 19 – *How Can I Share That Hope as a "Matthew"?*

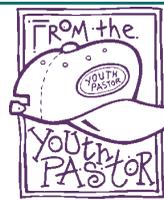
S. S. time in the sanctuary will prepare all interested in being *Matthews*, inviting our friends and neighbors to meet Jesus.

**Watch for details.** My current plan is also to begin a series, perhaps January 26, on *What We Believe*. Watch for announcements regarding our Annual Business Meeting, reviewing 2013.

**Will you pray for yourself, for me, for our TBC family, that we not be afraid to submit to and join God in His good work?**

*For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

Romans 5:10



Happy New Year! It is hard to believe it is 2014. I am amazed at how our young people have grown over the past year. They really have a passion to do God's will.

We all make New Year's resolutions at the beginning of the year. I encourage each of you to make resolutions that are realistic. Make resolutions that will have an impact on eternity—such as deepening your relationship with Christ or sharing your faith more. Take some time over the next few weeks to list some goals for growth in your walk with Christ.

One of my resolutions is to operate more out of the Spirit than the flesh in 2014. I want to be led by the Holy Spirit in all I do and all my interactions.

During the next six weeks, we will be discussing sexual purity in a new series called **"Casual Sex: The Truth About Sex and Dating"**. Sex sells. Sex tempts. Sex lies. Sex glorifies. How can one thing do all this? We will tackle this oh-so-difficult but oh-so-important topic. Students

are bombarded daily with messages about sex and about their own sexuality. Little borders on the truth. This series digs deeply to reframe sex in light of God's design and purpose. There's power to live life to its fullest because of sex, and there's power to destroy lives because of sex. There's power just in this word. If you are skeptical, try this: After church some Sunday go to McDonald's. At the front of the line say, "I would like some food, please." Nobody will do anything: they'll just smile and serve you. Have your buddy come a little later and say, "I'd like to have some sex, please." Watch what happens!

I don't know any other subject that has people more confused. We live in a totally sex-saturated society. We see more sexual images and stories than any previous generation. Just about anything you type into a search engine has some root to a sexual web site.

I realize that when we were growing up, the most watched show was "I Love Lucy". "I Love Lucy" was very cool, but do you know that in the show Ricky and Lucy didn't even sleep in the

same bed? They were so afraid that sex might be shown and communicated that they had 19 layers of pajamas and two single beds separated by about five or six feet. Sex is glorified today. Some harmful, inaccurate ideas are communicated that lead to some stupid decisions. As a result, people carry deep wounds, hurts and painful memories.

I challenge you, parents, to make a commitment to allow your student to come for the next several weeks and to learn. I want our students to understand that God created sex to be good, great, incredible, wonderful, creative, fun—all within the context of marriage. That was his design.

Following our series, we will be having a *True Love Waits Ring Ceremony* to celebrate the covenant our students will be making to remain sexually pure until marriage.

My hope and prayer is that this series will be challenging and thought provoking. Please be open and available to answer questions! Let's partner together. Please feel free to call or email me.

### YOUTH PURPOSE STATEMENT

*Students with a desire to **REACH** out to their community, **HONOR** God, **DEVELOP** friendships, **SERVE** out of their unique **SHAPE** and **GROW** in their relationship with God and man in order to win our world for Christ in their lifetime.*



**February 2**

Football Party



**February 12 - 6:30 pm**

*True Love Waits  
Ring Ceremony*

**February 14 - 6 pm**

Valentine Banquet  
Dinner Theater



## Keaton & Jennifer Heller

**Background:** Jennifer grew up on a farm 10 miles northwest of New Leipzig, ND (small grain/cattle) along with a sister. Jennifer's parents still reside on the farm in New Leipzig. Keaton grew up on the family farm northeast of Gackle, ND. (His parents are Gordon and Kathleen; his brother is Kalen.) They met through a farming website (farmersonly.com), dated for two years and were married on August 11, 2012.

**Family:** Emma Kallis Heller joined the family on October 3, 2013! Emma has been a content baby—even sleeping six/seven hours during the night. She is the first grandchild in both the Kallis and the Heller family.

**Vocation:** Jennifer is a cosmetologist at *Heads Up* in Gackle. Keaton works on the family farm (near Gackle), raising corn and soybeans.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Motherhood claims most of Jennifer's time now. She enjoys drawing and playing the flute. Last Christmas Jennifer directed our Christmas play, *Marty's Dream*. She has also been involved in puppet ministry. Keaton enjoys the outdoors, God's creation and being a good steward of the land. He also enjoys both watching and participating in sports.

**Spiritual Background:** Jennifer, along with her family, grew up attending the NAB church in New Leipzig. She received Jesus Christ as her personal Savior while attending Camp Good News in Washburn, ND. Keaton received Jesus as his Savior during VBS in Gackle at age 11. Keaton's family started attending TBC on Sundays after their home church disbanded. Keaton and Jennifer have really enjoyed sharing life with their small group!

### Did you know?

- ◆ Jennifer can recite the alphabet backwards (as a result of a song she learned)!
- ◆ The mission trip to Mexico (orphanage) last year was her fourth consecutive year—total of seven years!
- ◆ Keaton has a heart for helping the elderly.
- ◆ Emma makes the fifth generation on the family farm!



### JANUARY SCHEDULE

**1 NO AWANA** - Christmas Break

**8 Regular Club Night**

**15 Challenge Night**

Have at least two sections memorized BEFORE Handbook Time; receive a prize!

**22 Decorate Your Leader Night**

**29 Fake Injury Night**

### PLEASE PRAY . . .

- ➔ For our church as we seek willing, qualified men to serve as Elder of Worship and Elder of Children & Youth;
- ➔ For our NAB Conference as our Executive Director, Dr. Rob McClelland, recently resigned to become CEO of *EQUIP*, a leadership training and support organization (Atlanta, GA). His resignation is effective Feb. 15, 2014;
- ➔ For the NAB Executive Committee as they begin the process of searching for a new Executive Director for our Conference;

**Thank God** for four strong vice presidents: Dan Hamil, Norm Poehlke, Cam Roxburgh and Tony Dunaway. For more information, please go to [nabconference.org](http://nabconference.org)

