



Santa pays an early visit to the kids in Mac



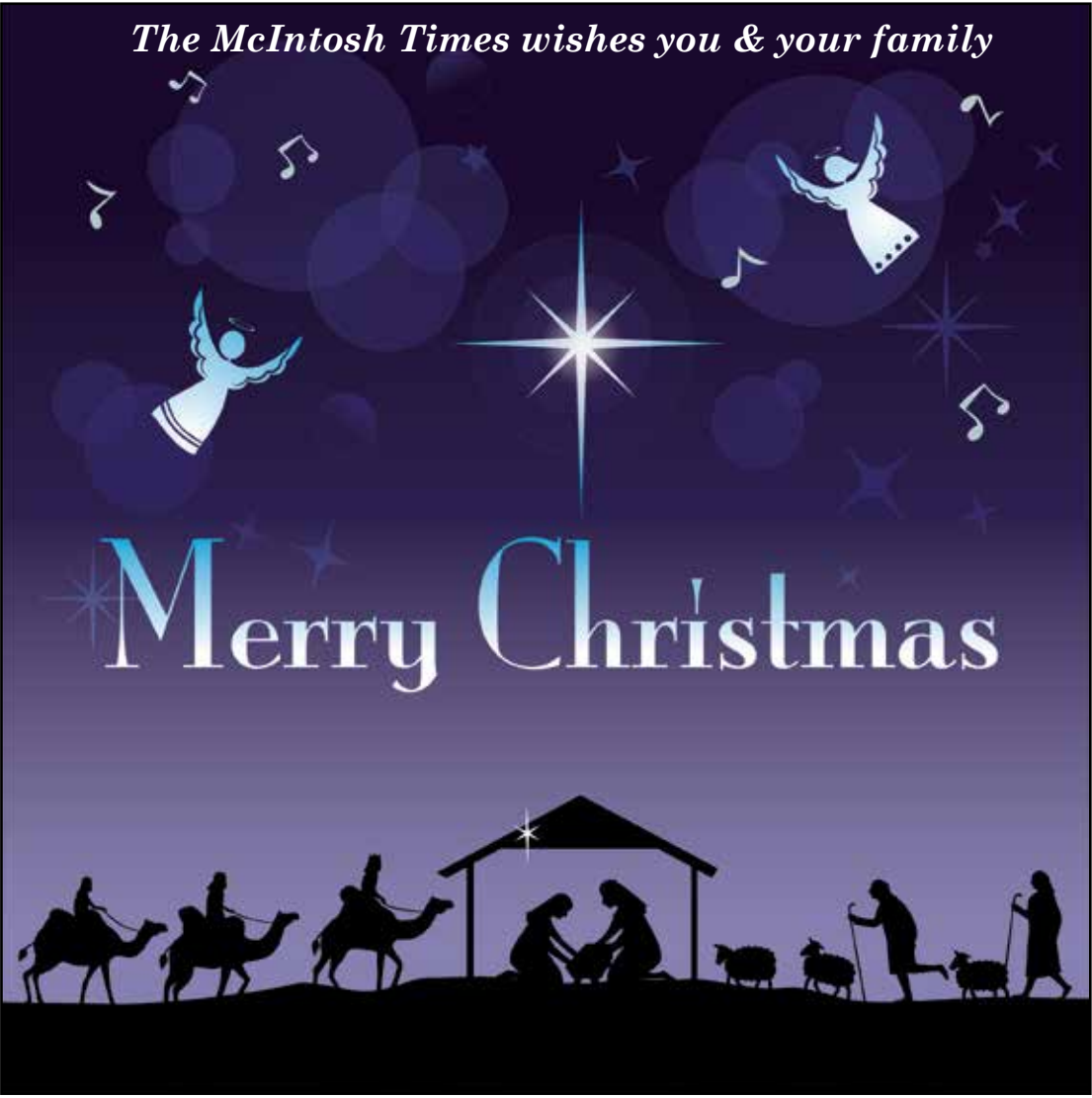
Santa Claus took some time out of his busy pre-Christmas schedule to stop into the McIntosh Community Center last Saturday morning. He brought treats for the kids that attended the Santa Day event and took some time to have his picture taken and listen to the wishes for Christmas from local kids. Pictured here with Santa is Aubrey and Dalton Gunufson.



Finding their way to Santa's lap were Cannon and Payton Schow during Santa Claus Day held in McIntosh last Saturday.



Celebrating the 50th Christmas of Neil's Quality Meats & More in McIntosh was Laurie and Bobby Bursheim along with Tara Burthwick. The trio hosted an Open House last Friday during the Very Merry McIntosh celebration. There were food specials, holiday decorating discounts and samples of new and popular items from the delicious fare you can find at Neil's.



The 12 days of Christmas

"On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree."

The familiar lyrics of this tune are sung as part of Christmas caroling and holiday celebrations, reaching a crescendo each time singers belt out "five golden rings." The song is an English Christmas carol that was written in 1720. While it references plenty of gift-giving, it's easy to assume the song is about giving Christmas gifts. However, the 12 days in the song actually refer to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The 12 days of Christmas, also known as the Twelvetide, refers to the festive Christian season that celebrates the Nativity of Jesus. In fact, the start of these days occurs on December 25 and extends until the evening of January 5th, the day before the Epiphany, known as Twelfth Night. Each day corresponds to a remembrance of different religious events or people.

Christmas celebrants can celebrate well into the new year. Commemorating the 12 days of Christmas can include small festivities from December 25 to January 5. On Twelfth Night, historically known for parties, modern-day fanfare can mark the culmination of the Christmas season - with the last of gift-giving occurring on the Epiphany.

Gift-giving, hosting friends and family, attending religious services, participating in charitable events, or opening one's home to neighbors and those who can use some companionship are all ways to make the 12 days of Christmas more special.

In the United States, Christmas Day is a federal holiday which holds additional religious significance for Christians.



The traditions of the Twelve Days of Christmas have been nearly forgotten in the United States. Contributing factors include the popularity of the stories of Charles Dickens in nineteenth-century America, with their emphasis on generous giving; introduction of secular traditions in the 19th and 20th centuries, e. g., the American Santa Claus; and increase in the popularity of secular New Year's Eve parties. Presently, the commercial practice treats the Solemnity of Christmas, the 25th of December, the first day of Christmas, as the last day of the "Christmas" marketing season, as the numerous "after-Christmas sales" that commence on the 26th of December demonstrate. The commercial calendar has encouraged an erroneous assumption that the Twelve Days end on Christmas Day and must therefore begin on the 14th of December.

Many American Christians still celebrate the traditional liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas, especially Amish, Anglo-Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Mennonites, Methodists, Moravians, Nazarenes, Orthodox Christians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

In Anglicanism, the designation of the "Twelve Days of

Christmas" is used liturgically in the Episcopal Church in the US, having its own innovative antiphon in the Book of Common Prayer for Matins.

Christians who celebrate the Twelve Days may give gifts on each of them, with each of the Twelve Days representing a wish for a corresponding month of the new year.

They may feast on traditional foods and otherwise celebrate the entire time through the morning of the Solemnity of Epiphany. Contemporary traditions include lighting a candle for each day, singing the verse of the corresponding day from the famous

The Twelve Days of Christmas, and lighting a yule log on Christmas Eve and letting it burn some more on each of the twelve nights. For some, the Twelfth Night remains the night of the most festive parties and exchanges of gifts. Some households exchange gifts on the first December 25th and last January 5th days of the Twelve Days. As in former times, the Twelfth Night to the morning of Epiphany is the traditional time during which Christmas trees and decorations are removed.



WEM Winter break

Win-E-Mac School will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22nd. Winter break will be from Thursday, December 23rd to Friday, December 30, 2021.

School will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.



The Winger Lions were honored to host Governor night on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. District Governor, Allen Bertilrud along with Past Governor, Kevin Reich, both from Red Lake Falls were in attendance. District Governor Allen installed new member Marshall McKeever. His Lion sponsor is Darrell Olson. Welcome Marshall to the Winger Lions Club. Pictured (l-r) Marshall McKeever, Darrell Olson and Allen Bertilrud.

Rejoice!

It came upon a midnight clear, while shepherds watched their flocks by night. The angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth, angels from the realms of glory rang out the angel chorus.

Gloria in excelsis deo! Born is the King of Israel! Noel! Join the triumph of the skies, glory to the newborn King! Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the incarnate Deity. Christ is born in Bethlehem, rise up shepherds and follow!

What child is this? For His bed a cattle stall, the only Son from Heaven, by God the Father given, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. Mild He lays His glory by, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, born that man no more may die. Christ the child is born today!

O come, all ye faithful. O come one an all. Come and behold Him, the baby Jesus born this night. Come and worship, kneel in awe and wonder. Worship Christ the newborn King. O come, let us adore Him. Jesus, our Immanuel.

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie; above they deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Then like the sun the star shone forth, a star there was seen of such glorious delight, and so it continued both day and night. O'er Bethlehem it took its rest and the sky was bright with a holy light. This star drew near to the northwest. Three wise men came from country far and offered there in His presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Down to the world in need, the morning star ascended. Star of wonder, star of might, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light. O tidings of comfort and joy, the Lord is come, and ye, beneath life's crushing load, the silent word is pleading. No more let sin and sorrow grow. He knows our need. True man yet very God, from sin and death He saves us. Life and light to all He brings. O lay aside each earthly thing, Christ was born to save! Joy to the World!

Saints, before the altar bending, fall on your knees! Hail, hail the Word made flesh, let loving hearts enthrone Him. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! Let all together praise our God. Christ is the Lord! Let no tongue on earth be silent. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. His power and glory evermore proclaim! The Savior reigns! O, praise His name for-



ever!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, Emmanuel. We need thee blessed Jesus, Israel's strength and consolation. O draw us wholly to Thee, Lord, from sin and evil save us. Enter each believing heart, for Thee our hearts are yearning.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve! All my heart this night rejoices. O come to my heart Lord Jesus, be near me Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee. Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart and let it be a quiet chamber, kept for Thee.

On a cold winters' night that was so deep, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight. My soul, extol and sing redemption's story. Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast. And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when Thou comest to call for me. Let Thy voice call me home for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

He has opened Heaven's door and our eyes at last shall see Him; Who gave the world

His only Son, may we praise Him there! O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

As I complied this message, passed down to us by songwriters, and poets over hundreds of years, I was struck by a simple message they all shared. Several of them repeat it many times, some only once. It is a timeless call, one the Holy Spirit utters to us over and over, each day of our lives. Come. There are no prerequisites, no demands, only a gentle reminder of the One Who broke His Father's heart, to become flesh and dwell among us.

Jesus Christ gave us the opportunity to become whole and holy Do we celebrate it or take it for granted? If we lost every thing in our lives—which represented security to us: our homes, families, jobs and hopes of the future—would our relationship with Jesus Christ be enough? Believer, let us lay aside each earthly thing, and with our hearts as offering...

-a.(mellgren) opdahl
Excerpt from Seek His Face ©2009

7 facts about the winter solstice

Nocturnal animals and human night owls may rejoice during the winter solstice. On the winter solstice, people can witness the Earth's longest night and shortest day of the year for their respective hemispheres. For individuals living in the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice generally occurs between December 20 and 23 each year. Those in the southern hemisphere experience the winter solstice between June 20 to June 23.

In 2021, the northern hemisphere's winter solstice occurred on Tuesday, December 21st. The solstice may come and go unnoticed, but it's an interesting day on the calendar.

1. Not only will the winter solstice occur on a specific date, it also occurs at a specific time when the Earth's semi-axis tilts furthest from the sun. This corresponds to when the North Pole is aimed away from the sun on the 23.5 degree tilt of the Earth's axis. At this point, the sun also shines directly

over the Tropic of Capricorn. The information and trivia site Mental Floss says the solstice happens at the same moment for everyone on the plane. However, the hour it occurs depends on your time zone.

2. Areas of the Northern Hemisphere can have varying lengths of day and night on the solstice. For example, New York City may have nine hours and 15 minutes of sunlight on the winter solstice. If that upsets New Yorkers, they may be happy to be outside parts of Finland, some of which get less than six hours of sunlight on the solstice.

3. The word "solstice" is derived from Latin and means "sun stands still." It was chosen to describe this cosmic phenomenon because the solstice sun seemingly appears in the same position at noon-time for several days before and after the winter solstice - at its lowest point in the sky.

4. It is easy to mistake the solstices for the equinoxes, which also occur twice a year. However, the equinoxes occur in fall and spring and mark when the sun is directly above the equator and night and day are of equal length.



Santa made his annual appearance at the Community Center last Saturday, for the Santa Day celebration hosted by the McIntosh Community Club. Each year Santa comes to the City to visit with old and young alike and hear the wishes of kids who will be trying their best to be extra well behaved and helpful during the next week in hopes of Santa Claus bringing them a special gift.

Join us for
Our Savior's
Candlelight
Christmas Eve
Worship Service
on
Friday,
December 24th
at 4:00 pm!

**AFFIDAVITS
OF
CANDIDACY**

Filing for open Lessor Township positions begins December 28, 2021 and closes on January 11, 2022.

Open positions up for election include:

- Treasurer (2 year term) and
- Supervisor (3 year term)

Contact Lessor Township Clerk for more information.
Albert Plante
Lessor Township Clerk

Community
Birthday
and
Anniversary
Calendar

Wed. Dec. 22:
Andy Smith, Cody Drewry, Jerry Shimp, Camille Smeby, *Robert & Sharon Hegland, *Allen & Shirley Carver

Fri. Dec. 24: Candace Haaven, Anthony Grande, Jered Agnes, Philip Lee, Cheryl Jore

Sat. Dec. 25: Nicole Vetteson, Jordyn Zahn

Sun. Dec. 26:
*Bill & Valerie Fritz

Mon. Dec. 27:
Heather Hegre, Erin Jore, Haley Smeby, Dustin Carlson

Tues. Dec. 28:
Anita Roy

McINTOSH Times

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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New Years Eve at
Ness Cafe
Friday, Dec. 31
Serving will start at 4:00 pm

YOUR CHOICE OF:

- Prime Rib
- BBQ Ribs
- Walleye
- Butterfly Shrimp

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LSS
Senior Meals update

Because of a lack of interest, Wednesday, December 29th will be our last Tuesday/Wednesday delivery to McIntosh for LSS Meals.

We will still post the Erskine weekly menu in the McIntosh Times and all members of the community are welcome to either come and dine in Erskine or utilize our drive up service for take out at 11:00 am daily. Please call 687-2262 if you would like to reserve a meal for either dine-in or drive-up. Thank you.

**LSS
Meals Menu
687-2262**

Tues, Dec. 28th -Baked Chicken - Baked Potato - Broccoli - Wheat Bread - Zucchini Brownies - Milk
Wed, Dec. 29th -Lasagna - Green Beans - Peaches - Garlic Bread - Dessert - Milk



Gosen Luther League

The Gosen Luther League meets on Thursday evening, December 30th, at 7 p.m. The Sunday School along with other area talent will present a program of Christmas music. Jennie Shaver will be one of our musical guests. More information will be added to this article next week.

Join us for an inspirational evening in honor of Jesus' Birthday.

For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Fosston
Fr. John Suvakeen,
Pastor

Wed. Dec. 22: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Fri. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve 5:00pm Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; 8:00pm Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Sat. Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Sun. Dec. 26: 8:00am Confession, St. Mary's, Fosston; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

**OURS SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**
McIntosh
Interim Pastor Keith Zeh
Synodical Authorized
Minister Katie DeMarais

Fri. Dec. 24: 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship with Pastor Keith Zeh

Sat. Dec. 25: No worship at Our Savior's

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Pastor Karl Anderson

Sunday Services
9:30 Mt Carmel
1100 Trinity
Video Sermon -
GVTel Channel 30
9:00am Sunday
Repeated 6pm Wednesday
Also available on the McIntosh Free Lutheran YouTube Channel

**GOSEN LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Independent
Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com
Face Book: Gosen Church

Sun., Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook: gosenchurch and gosenchurch.com); 7:00pm Luther League (see article elsewhere in the paper)

Tues. Dec. 28: 10:00am Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed. Dec. 29: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home

Thur. Dec. 30: 7:00pm Sunday School/Luther League Christmas Program

Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.



Visiting Santa last Saturday during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh was Adeline and Aubry Wang.



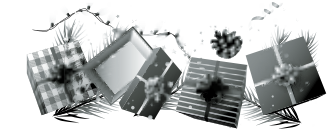
Kylee and Lily Close were able to visit with Santa Claus, have a treat and make some fun crafts, at the McIntosh Community Center last Saturday.



Santa was happy to see that Jonas and Ruven Shear were able to visit him during his stop in McIntosh last Saturday during Santa Claus Day

The most popular gift 25 years ago

It's easy for adults to experience a little nostalgia when holiday shopping for their children. The holiday season has long been considered a special time of year, and much of that magic can be traced to the joy kids feel when unwrapping gifts from mom, dad and, of course, Santa Claus. Many parents who now have youngsters at home grew up in the 1990s. When such moms and dads are shopping for holiday gifts this season, they might wonder what was the must-have item for them back when they anxiously awaited the arrival of Christmas morning? Accord-



ing to Insider.com, who worked in conjunction with the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, New York, 1996 was the year of "Tickle Me Elmo." This ticklish toy was the most sought-after item of the 1996 holiday season, and it was so popular that retailers experienced shortages. Those shortages led to some surprising sales on the secondary market, with figures that will undoubtedly drop some jaws even now, a quarter century

after the Tickle Me Elmo craze erupted. Though the Tickle Me Elmo doll retailed for around \$30 in 1996, some parents intent on getting their youngsters the most in-demand gift that year reportedly spent more than \$1,000 on a single doll. To put that latter figure into perspective, data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicates that the average price of a new car in 1996 was \$18,525. And according to Yahoo! Finance, drivers in the market for a used car in 1996 could have purchased a 1986 four-door Oldsmobile for just over \$2,600.

Superintendents Notes

By Randy Bruer

Inclement Weather
Snowy weather is upon us and we will be faced with decisions to close school because of unsafe weather conditions. The district has a School Reach system to notify parents and students when unsafe weather conditions are upon us. We send out a notification to your home phone, cell phone, email or other means of programmed communication if such weather exists. If we have a day which weather causes no school, our staff will still be teaching our students in a program teachers created call E-Learning. We have done this in the past and will continue this teaching technique into the future. If the parent contact information is not current the notification will not be completed to your device until the information is updated.

Understanding 'Critical Race Theory' in Relation to our PreK-12 Education System

A current topic across the country is Critical Race Theory. It is garnering attention at the local, State, and National level and there is a desire for a deeper level of understanding about Critical Race Theory. It is important to note that Critical Race Theory is just that, a theory - in the academic sense. Scholars develop and use theories in an effort to interpret and understand the world and systems around them. Win-E-Mac does not teach Critical Race Theory to our students. It's a theory that was developed over 40 years ago by lawyers, activists and legal scholars and may be taught in some colleges' Master's or Doctoral programs. We examine our curriculum and materials via our curriculum review cycle to ensure that students are exposed to people and their ideas and lived experiences from all backgrounds. We review curriculum important to our com-



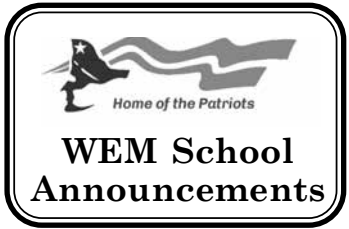
munity and culture to give students opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential. We do not teach Critical Race Theory to our staff. However, one may find some of the tenets of CRT in the professional development we do with our staff. We also ensure our staff have training in Cultural Competency as part of the mandatory requirements for relicensure in the state of Minnesota. MN Rule 8710.7200.

School Bus Dress
We have had some trouble with proper student dress when riding the bus to and from school. Our policy states that each student should dress accordingly for the weather. We cannot predict bus emergencies such as breaking down or a bus getting stuck somewhere. We ask parents to make sure your child is dressed appropriately, coats, shoes, boots and warm clothes. We have seen a variety of shoes and clothing which is unsafe for cold weather. Bus drivers are concerned about the lack of winter clothing and do not want to be held responsible. If there are concerns about a child's dress for the weather, parents will be notified.

Fall Sports Season
I would like to congratulate our young athletes on a great season of sports. I hope everyone had a chance to come out

and support one of the games. Our winter sports season has begun, and I invite patrons to call or visit our web site for a calendar of events for all the arts, concerts and athletic games the school provides for the public. Win-E-Mac provides a wealth of entertaining opportunities for the public to attend.

COVID in our Schools
Our school has been very fortunate to this date with low numbers of the Covid Virus. We were high during the first week of October and through November with positive cases and quarantines. With the strain of Omicron Variant circulating now in Minnesota we are seeing an uptick with the Delta in surrounding school districts. We need to be vigilant of our surroundings while staying away from potential areas of high cases. This virus does not care who it attacks or when, so it is very unexpected. Please be safe during our holidays coming up. Have a Happy Holiday Season.



Win-E-Mac Lunchroom will be having Ala Cart again. There are very limited items we can get from the food company, but we will have some items available and more as we can get them. To be able to use Ala Cart, you need to have money in your lunch account. **Win-E-Mac Student Council Announces: Snowfest** will be January 31st - February 4th and the Snowfest dance will be February 4th. This dance will be Semi-Formal.

Ice Safety: Check the ice thickness yourself

Weather, currents, snow cover and springs can cause ice conditions to change rapidly and vary widely, even on the same body of water and even in a short period of time. In many parts of Minnesota, it's easy to see where other people have accessed the ice — whether it's footprints, snowmobile tracks or a post on social media. But never assume you're good to go just because someone headed out before you.

When is ice safe?
There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

The DNR does not measure ice thickness on Minnesota lakes. Your safety is your responsibility. Check ice thickness at least every 150 feet.

Ways to check ice thickness
Ice chisel: An ice chisel is a metal rod with a sharp, flat blade welded onto one end. Drive the chisel into the ice, using a stabbing motion, to create a hole. Next, measure ice thickness with a tape measure.

Ice auger: There are 3 different kinds of augers: hand, electric and gas. Hand augers are low cost, light weight and quiet. Electric augers are also quiet, but use less manual labor than a hand auger. Gas augers drill through ice the fastest, but are heavier, noisier and generally more costly than hand or electric models. After drilling a hole with the ice auger, measure ice thickness with a tape measure. **Cordless drill:** Using a cordless drill and a long, five-eighths inch wood auger bit, you can drill through eight inches of ice in less than 30 seconds. Most cordless drills that are at least 7.2 volts will work, but the type of bit is critical. You need a wood auger bit since they have a spiral called



a "flute" around the shaft that metal drilling bits don't. The flutes pull the ice chips out of the hole and help keep it from getting stuck, much in the way a full-sized ice auger works. After drilling a hole, measure ice thickness with a measure tape. Dry the bit and give it a quick spray of silicone lubricant after each use to prevent rust.

Tape measure: Use a tape measure to find ice's true thickness. Put the tape measure into the hole and hook the bottom edge of ice before taking measurement. You can also use an ice fisherman's ice skimmer with inch markings on the handle in place of the tape measure.

Don't judge ice thickness by how easily a chisel or drill breaks the surface. It happens so quickly that it's easy to overestimate the thickness.

Additional recommendations
Cars, pickups or SUVs should be parked at least 50 feet apart and moved every two hours to prevent sinking.

Tip: Make a hole next to the car. If water starts to overflow the top of the hole - the ice is sinking and it's time to move the vehicle.

Step-by-step instructions for self-rescue
What should you do if you fall through the ice? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

1. Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.

2. Turn toward the direc-

tion you came. That's probably the strongest ice.

3. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.

4. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.

5. Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.

6. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death.

What if someone else falls in? What if someone else falls through and you are the only one around to help? First, call 911 for help.

Resist the urge to run up to the edge of the hole. This would most likely result in two victims in the water. Also, do not risk your life to attempt to save a pet or other animal.

A non-professional shouldn't go out on the ice to perform a rescue unless all other basic rescue techniques have been ruled out.



Brady Strom brought along Sydnee, Ryker, and Hensley (She is just a little shy this year) to see Santa in McIntosh last Saturday morning.



Paisley, Riley and Alex Kildahl were happy to see Santa last Saturday during Santa Claus Day held at the McIntosh Community Center.



Dakota Hedlund



Bailey Bauer



Breelyn Hegre and Autumn Plante



Logan Kringle



Grayson Simonson and Avery Ness



Macey Lee



Sue Lee, who also read stories and sang songs with the kids during Santa Claus Day.



Wyatt Lee



Jackson Hagen