



*Singles Together Across Rockford (STAR)  
is a program of  
Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries*

# STARGAZING

*Sharing the news of our area singles group*

*November / December 2011*

**Welcome to this final edition of the STARGazing newsletter!**

This edition includes all November and December STAR activities, so be sure to save it! Starting in January, the new singles group will be establishing its own communication tools. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for more information.

## **Volleyball & Game Nights - Saturdays, 7 -10 pm:**

**November 12** Hosts: Jack R. and Tim B. *Kitchen clean-up crew: Card/game group*

**November 26** Hosts: Mike O. and Brenda S. *Kitchen clean-up crew: Volleyball players*

**December 10** Hosts: Sandy S. and ? *Kitchen clean-up crew: Card/game group*

Cost: First time visitors to any of our game nights - please be our guest!

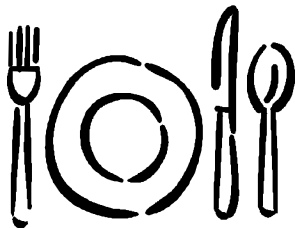
All others, \$2.00 at the door w/ snacks or \$3.00 at the door, without snacks.

### **Game Nights are held at Grace Lutheran Church 343 Grand Avenue, Loves Park**

Grace Lutheran Church is located 2 blocks west of N. Second Street in Loves Park, 4 blocks southwest of Riverside Blvd.

Game Nights include friendly games of volleyball, board & card games, food & conversation.

*Our volleyball games are just for fun - all are welcome!*



### **STAR Dinner Out Sunday, November 20, 5 pm Cracker Barrel 730 N. Lyford Road, Rockford**

Reservations requested: Sign up at Game Nights or call the evening's host, Dian U. at 815.397.1376.  
(As a courtesy, if you've made a reservation and are then unable to attend, please let Dian know. Thank you!)

## **Celebrate New Year's Eve at a Volleyball/Game Night and Potluck! Saturday, December 31, 7 pm - midnight \$5, 5-hour, and 5 chances to win great prizes!**

We'll start with a **potluck** at **7 pm** and then gear up for hours of volleyball, card and board game fun! A prize will be awarded each hour, leading up to ringing in the new year together! Please bring a dish (or two) to pass and some snacks to share later in the evening. Table service and drinks will be provided by SOAR. (Funds remaining from the evening will serve as seed money for the new group.)



**THANKS so much** to everyone who volunteered at the Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries' Trivia Night on November 4! You were *wonderful*, and the event was a great success!

**Another place you can find STAR folks on the *First and Third Saturdays of each month:***



**7-10 pm**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 N. Rockton Avenue, Rockford (directly across from West Middle School)

Card/board games - free, bring snacks/drinks to share

(Game nights at Katie's Cup coffeebar have been discontinued).

**Message from Mariel Heinke, Director, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries:**

As we come to the end of 2011, it is with excitement, and more than a little sadness, that we announce that STAR will now SOAR into the new year! In March of 1990, this group was enthusiastically formed by single people from our area Lutheran churches, and since that time - over the past 21+ years - it has been Lutheran Ministries' privilege to provide safe, comfortable fellowship activities for literally thousands of single and re-singled adults. Many friendships were forged during that time. We have rejoiced with those who found marriage partners, reached out to those ill or injured, and mourned friends who passed on to eternal life.

It is my personal prayer that this singles group - under a new name and new leadership - will continue to flourish, always striving to be welcoming, thoughtful and motivated, careful of each other in thoughts, words, and actions.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with many blessings, may the celebration of Christmas bring you hope and joy, and may you welcome the new year with anticipation and excitement.

**Thanks to Merry Avery and Sami Workinger** who have agreed to take on the leadership role of the new S.O.A.R. (Singles Organization Across Rockford) group (with special thanks to Marilyn S. for thinking of the new name!).

Merry: 815.636.9880, [MerryAvery@aol.com](mailto:MerryAvery@aol.com)

Sami: 815.563.4309 or 815.275.7179, [pinklady028@hotmail.com](mailto:pinklady028@hotmail.com).

Please contact them with any questions, ideas, etc.

Note: On the second Saturday of EACH month (starting in January), there will be an open meeting at 6 pm for thoughts, ideas, input on how to run the SOAR group more effectively. You are invited!

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