

"A Quiet Little Whisper of Joy"

A long time ago in a place only a few mountain ranges away, I lived. When my daughter Caitlin was in first grade, each school day, I'd clamp on her bright yellow and red bike trailer onto the back of my bike and ride with her three miles to school. After dropping her off, I'd pedal the remaining three and a half miles to a beautiful small hotel in the Napa Valley where I worked in reservations/concierge. Some days the ride would flow like honey. Other mornings when the weather was foggy or my body was tired or I simply didn't want to go to work, I'd often hear myself whining "Am I there yet?" "Whose bright idea was this anyway?" "I'm NEVER going to get there."

When these thoughts popped up, I learned to start saying a simple sentence over and over, usually in cadence to the rhythm of the wheels "You can only be where you are, you can only be where you are." Pretty soon I'd forget what I was whining about and find myself absorbed in the scenery or the simplicity of my own thoughts and before I knew it I would find myself at work.

Sometimes when we are waiting its easy to only want what we are waiting for.

God's people were waiting for the Messiah each with a vision of what the Messiah might look or be like. Some waited for a kingly person to arrive, clad in gold and crimson, dripping with the perfume of myrrh. Others awaited the arrival to be heralded by a huge band and parade and pomp and ceremony. What a surprise! Those who were willing to follow a star through a cold snow night were the ones who found him – a baby swaddled and sleeping in a manger, surrounded by humble parents, enveloped in love.

What are you waiting for this Advent season? Christmas day? Presents under the tree? Party food? The day after to return all the things that don't fit?

I had the privilege of sabbatical time up at Holden Village some eight years ago during Advents season. There, there is nowhere to go shopping, watch TV, or feel pressured to keep up with the season. Each day was a quiet little whisper of joy for me. I painted pictures to give as presents, I walked in the snow, worshipped daily, and shared with friends in little parties that were held most evenings.

I invite you to BE THERE YET! Embrace each day of the holiday season with a gift to yourselves. It could be getting up five minutes earlier to simply rest and prepare for the day. It could be coming to a Wednesday evening service and to be refreshed by God's Word. I often take time during Advent to listen to Handel's Messiah. My goal with this is to really listen to the words and to take in the beauty of the music. Often, I'll find myself singing bits of it out loud for weeks to come. The sky is the limit to how you can slow down, be present and anticipate the birth of a baby born in a manger so many years ago.

God Bless you and keep you this month and special traveling mercies to those of you on the road. It is a joy to be your pastor during this time of Advent and Christmas.

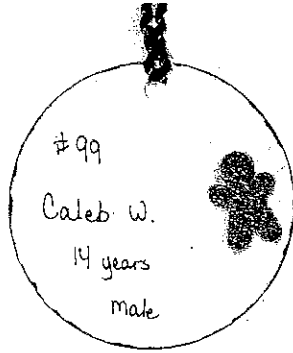
In Christ,

Pastor Jill

***This Advent season,
Pastor Jill invites you to
come join her for a simple
supper before the service,
starting at 6:00 p.m.***

Those of you who have already heard of this invitation have been asking me "How can we help?" "What can we bring?" Please, bring yourselves and enjoy the fellowship. There are only three Advent services this year: Dec. 2nd, 9th and 16th. The services are contemplative and lovely. This year our offering will support ELCA Chaplains (which includes military chaplains). Your help can come through your offerings for our dedicated chaplains...

As a chaplain in the Minnesota National Guard and full-time pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in New London, Minnesota, Corey Bjertness exemplifies the challenge and privilege of serving as a "citizen soldier". During his deployment in Iraq, Pastor Corey provided care for soldiers traveling through the base as well as to those in his battalion with Bible study, worship opportunities and prayer. He was able to reach out to individuals of all faiths – and to those of no faith tradition at all – serving as a refuge in the midst of war. Serving as a military chaplain is a specialized ministry. It demands physical as well as mental and spiritual fitness from those who wish to serve their Lord in this unique environment as an ELCA chaplain. The need for this ministry is growing due to the current situation.



Angel Tree 2009

The 2009 Angel Tree is once again gracing the narthex adorned with 47 tags. Each tag contains the name of a child currently in the Foster Care Program. The tags contain the child's name, their age, sex and a wish list. Most of the children are adolescents ranging in age from 11 to 19. Keep in mind that the wish list is just that – a **WISH** list. If you wouldn't get these things for your own child or grandchild, don't get them for this child. But remember that these are still children that have had hard knocks and have not always been remembered by those that are meant to care for them. Let us show them that there are people of God that care for them. Please have your gifts under the tree by

[+][+][+][+][+]

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

I would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped with the Thanksgiving boxes, donated money and food. It is so gratifying to see that this project is still important to the members of Christ Lutheran Church. There were so many people that came both Friday night and Saturday morning. I was overwhelmed with the numbers of people who came. Thank you also to everyone who helped deliver baskets. I hope this experience was a good one for you. Please share your experiences with other members of the congregation.

Thank you once again for your compassion and support of this project.

Kathy Sebree

Stewardship 2010

THANK YOU... to everyone who participated in the Fall Stewardship Emphasis for 2010. This includes:

The committee chair persons who shared temple talks with the congregation about the volunteer opportunities that exist within their committees. These included: Social Ministry – Kathy Sebree; Fellowship – J.D. Sundseth; Christian Growth – Sheri Bissell; Learning and Youth – Janet Frank and Lori Murphy; Worship & Music – Nalda Bryson; and Support – Al Bryson.

.....AND.....

Everyone who took the time to complete their 2010 Time and Talent Sheets and Pledge Cards; and who brought them back to the church. It was a blessing to see so many of you come forward on Stewardship Sunday, November 22nd.

If you haven't returned your 2010 Time and Talent Sheets or your Pledge Card, it's not too late..... either mail the above to the church or leave on Doris's desk.

By sharing in God's Harvest of Plenty, you are enabling Christ Lutheran to continue in its mission.....*Called by God to worship, learn and nurture, Sent to serve and tell.*

Your Stewardship Committee

December Worship Schedule

December 6, 2009 Worship Team

Worship Assistant: Kathy Sebree
Acolyte: Open
Lector: Scott Whitmer
Greeter: Elisabeth Dunbar
Ushers: Norm & Jan Frank

December 13, 2009 ELW

Worship Assistant: Open
Acolyte: Marlene Libsack
Lector: Kathy Sebree
Greeter: Bettie Roberts, Walt & Ginger Mick
Ushers: JD Sundseth, Elisabeth Dunbar

December 20, 2009 Worship Team

Worship Assistant: Kathy Sebree
Acolyte: Sheila Lehman
Lector: Billie Hilton
Greeters: Rochelle Malanca, Avis Hatheway
Ushers: Al Bryson

7pm Christmas Eve ELW

Worship Assistant: Kathy Sebree
Acolyte: Sheila Lehman
Lector: Elisabeth Dunbar
Greeters: Open
Usher: Zach & Sheri Bissell

11pm Christmas Eve ELW

Worship Assistant: Open
Acolyte: Open
Lector: Open
Greeters: Darold & Laura Larson
Usher: Open

December 27, 2009 ELW

Worship Assistant: Open
Acolyte: Open
Lector: Sally Hansen
Greeter: Jon & Patti Hyink
Ushers: Matt & Andrew Hyink

Altar Guild

6 Inez Bergman,
Rochelle Malanca
13 Bettie Roberts
20 Kathy Sebree
24 Kathy Sebree
Laura Larson
27 Laura Larson

Counters

JD Sundseth
Janet Frank

December Lectionary Texts

6 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
13 Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
20 Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-55
24 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
27 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December Birthdays

1 Joan Miler
6 Steve Partch
9 Maxine Trevino
16 Jill Carroll
18 Michelle McGuire
20 Laura Larson
22 Julie Hanna
23 Patti Hyink
24 Pam Boitano
Jon Hyink
25 Jean Siepman
28 Ty Novobielski
30 Don Fisher

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office 966-1720, we would be happy to add you to our list.

December Wedding Anniversaries

16 Craig & Vicki Dwight
Tom & Mary Robbert
26 Jean & Sue Stewart
Bob & Donna Buse

DECEMBER 2009

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
		1 10:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Support 7pm Scouts	2 9am Text Study noon Exec Board 12:30pm Quilters Confirmation 6pm Advent Dinner 7pm Lessons & Carols	3 9:30am Office helpers December N/L 7pm Christian Growth	4	5 9:30am Worship Team Practice
6 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Learning & Youth meeting WT	7 7pm Choir Practice	8 10:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Scouts	9 9am Text Study 12:30pm Quilters Confirmation 6pm Advent Dinner 7pm Lessons & Carols	10 7pm Council	11 6pm Congregation Christmas Party At Rose Hamilton's	12
13 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School 4 pm Christmas caroling & Chili supper ELW	14 Poinsettia orders due.	15 10:30am Women's Bible Study noon Social Ministry	16 9am Text Study 12:30pm Quilters Confirmation 6pm Advent Dinner 7pm Lessons & Carols	17 7pm Worship & Music Committee	18 Newsletter deadline for January	19
20 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm 9:40am Children's Sunday School WT	21	22 10:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Scouts	23 9am Text Study 12:30pm Quilters	24 Christmas Eve 7pm Candlelight Service 11pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Service at Central Lutheran	26
27 8:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Worship/Comm ELW	28	29	30 9am Text Study	31 New Years Eve 9:30am Office Helpers January N/L		

....Please have your Angel Tree gifts under the tree by
December 16—thank you!

Don't forget to come to the Congregation Christmas party at Rose Hamilton's Clubhouse at 6pm on Friday, December 11th. Please bring a gift (\$10) to exchange and bring your favorite holiday goodie, savory or sweet. It will be a joyous time for all!!

Don't forget to come to Christmas Caroling on the 13th. We will be visiting our shut ins and many more... to warm after, there will be warm goodies at the church.

Remember friends and relatives this Christmas with the wonderful gift of the Christ Lutheran Cookbook. It is a great resource for veteran cooks and the new ones too! We are still charging only \$15. Contact the church office or pick one up at church on Sunday.

We are again offering **Poinsettia's** for remembering our loved ones or honoring someone special in our lives. Please fill out the form below and send it to the church office with your money by December 14th.

Poinsettia's for Christmas

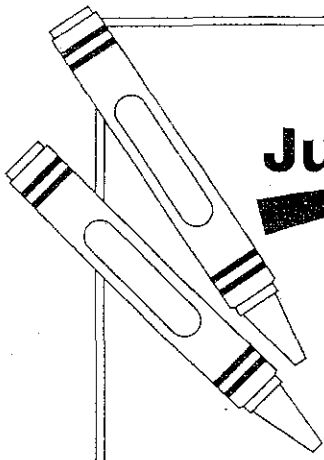
Please fill out the form below and return it with your money to the church office by December 14th. You can also put it in the offering basket. Thank you

I want to purchase _____ plant/s at \$8.50 each.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

The Poinsettia's will be used as decoration on Christmas Eve. Those attending the 11pm service can take them home after the service. If you are attending the early service, you can pick them up on Sunday, December 27th.



Just for KIDS

There were shepherds in the fields nearby watching o'er their sheep at night. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, shining in the sky around them! They were very afraid!

Find what the angel said to the shepherds. Use the code below.

" 2 ☆ 5 2 1 ☆ 3 2 2 ☆ 2 2 ☆
 1 ☆ 4 5 2 ☆ ☆ 1 ☆ ☆ ☆ 3 2 3 ☆ 1 ☆ ☆
 4 2 3 6 ☆ ☆ ☆ 2 2 ☆ 3 5 1 ☆ 2 2 5 ☆
 ☆ 2 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ 1 ☆ 2 2 2 1 ☆ 5
 ☆ ☆ ☆ 1 ☆ 2 2 1 ☆ 2 ☆ 2 ☆
 1 ☆ 2 5 ☆ 1 5 2 3 ☆ 1 ☆ 3 2 5 ☆

Then many more angels joined in, praising God and saying,

☆ 5 2 2 3 ☆ 2 ☆ 2 ☆ 2 1 ☆ 1 ☆
 1 2 ☆ 1 ☆ 2 ☆ ☆ 1 2 ☆ ☆ 2 ☆ 1
 2 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ 2 ☆ 3 5 — Luke 2:10,11,14

Code:	C	☆	F	☆	I	2	L	5	O	2	R	5	U	☆	X	☆	
A	☆	D	☆	G	☆	J	3	M	6	P	2	S	2	V	☆	Y	☆
B	☆	E	5	H	1	K	4	N	1	Q	2	T	☆	W	☆	Z	☆