



**Beloved In The Lord:**

On the night when the wondrous birth took place in the little hill village in Judea, the things that loomed large in the minds of most people were things that made noise for a short while on earth. There was the decree of Caesar Augustus...there were other matters of more localized interest which was of no consequence to anyone a few years later. But that God, on that night, quietly reached down from heaven and intervened in the fate of mankind...that changed the history of the world and is still the ground of the only hope of the children of Adam and Eve and the only source of peace for their souls.

As we go through life, the noise and the tumult of events in the material world around us beat on our ears and bid for our attention. It is right that we concern ourselves with them and play our part in them. But when all is said and done our highest destiny and our most precious goods are not at stake in any changes of earthly circumstances. It is when God enables us to become children again at the manger bed of His own Child—it is then that we find ourselves in the presence of that which really matters and which is able to give meaning and purpose to our lives and rest to our souls.

May the events of Advent and Christmas direct us to that which is most important.

Confidently believing,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenburg  
Intentional Interim Pastor

**Midweek Advent  
Devotional Services**

On Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 we will gather for **Advent Devotional Worship Services**

in the Holy Emmanuel Chapel at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The theme of this season's worship is

**“FLAMES FOR THE FAITHFUL”**

**Worship Around The Advent Wreath**

December 2, Part 1: The Prophecy Candle

December 9, Part 2: The Bethlehem Candle

December 16, Part 3: The Shepherd's Candle

**Advent Family Workshop  
Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

This is a family event – invite your friends!

There will be supper, crafts and birthday cake in honor of Jesus' Birthday!

The cost is \$5.00 per child.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Mylander at (952) 888-5116.



**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m.**



**Christmas Season  
Schedule**

**Open Arms Christmas  
Program**

**“Shine for Jesus”**

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m.

**Sunday School Christmas  
Program**

**“Hear Ye, Hear Ye”**

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship  
Services**

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.

We will continue the “Flames For The Faithful” Theme with Part 4: The Angel's Candle

**Christmas Day Worship  
Service**

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion

**Christmas Luncheon  
Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00 Noon**

The Men's Club will be holding their annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

All members of Holy Emmanuel are invited to attend.

Members of the Men's Club will set up on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.



### **Sunday School**

What a joy to see all of the children involved in the worship services collecting offering, singing and playing with the band. I know God is smiling from up above.

We are working hard on our Christmas program. Besides working on Sunday mornings, our official rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. SHARP. This will be followed by our annual party at Check-E-Cheese in Burnsville. You should have received information in the mail. If not, please let me know so I can get you all the details.

I hope all of you will be attending our program, "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards, you are all invited to a Christmas Lunch provided by the Men's Club.

December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> there will be no regular Sunday School classes. We will resume again on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

On behalf of all the children and staff, we want to wish you all a very wonderful CHRISTmas season. Our prayer is that you will go out to your neighbors, friends and family and tell them of the Newborn King born in Bethlehem so many Christmas's ago!

In Our Newborn Kings Name,  
Natalie Mylander

### **Youth News**

Thanks to all of you that helped serve for our Fall Dinner in November! God loves a cheerful giver.

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, right after church we will be

setting up the scenery for the Christmas program. Please plan on staying. It is so wonderful to me that so many of our youth will be in the Christmas program this year. It only proves that you are never too old to "SHINE" for Jesus.

Our next social gathering will be a holiday party. The details are not yet finalized.

I pray all of you put Jesus first this Christmas – it's the best present you have ever received.

Merry CHRISTmas,  
Natalie Mylander

### **Open Arms News**

"Unto you this day is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." This is the message we want every child to know at Open Arms this Christmas season and carry it with them for their lifetime.

We want to invite all of our Holy Emmanuel friends to our Christmas Program on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. Our program is, "Shine for Jesus." There will be refreshments served afterwards.

The center will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

We want to say "THANKS" to Jill Marko and everyone who has provided the Parent Nights Out. Our families have greatly appreciated the opportunity to get out and have some time without their children.

May the Lord bless us all throughout this holiday season. "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

In His Newborn Name,  
Natalie Mylander

### **Classes for All Ages**

#### **Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.**

- **Class with Pastor** (Led by Pastor Dan in the Chapel).
- **Book of Acts** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room).

#### **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evenings 6:00 p.m. (Meet at Church)**

##### **Couples in Christ**

- "John 3:16, Stories of Hope"

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Evenings 5:30 p.m. – Supper 6:00 p.m. – Bible Study**

- **Parenting Class – "Discipline"** (Led by Randy Marko)

#### **Tuesday Mornings 10:00 a.m.**

- **Book of Judges** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

#### **Women's Wednesday Mornings - 9:30 a.m. (Recessed until January 6, 2010)**

- **Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible** (Led by Candy Frein in the Accounting Room)

#### **Men's Thursday Mornings 10:00 a.m.**

- **Crash Course on the Old Testament** (Led by Chuck Squires in the Accounting Room)

#### **Men's Thursday Evenings 7:00 p.m.**

- **The Authenticity of the Bible** (Led by Nick Marko in the Accounting Room)

## **A Teaching Moment from the Board of Christian Education**

Are we always content with our situation, or do we complain and mourn to God and others about our terrible lot in life? Read on and see what God has to say to us through the Apostle Paul.

### **Making the Most of It** by Ron Hutchcraft

"The metropolitan New York area may be a nice place to visit, but most people wouldn't want to live there." At least that's how a lot of folks feel. And you can understand that. The area has a very fast pace, an awful lot of people, and there is a high stress quotient. Some call it stressful, some call it exciting, and some call it both. Now, imagine a young man moving to the New York area to start a new job. He grew up in a small town in Mississippi, and he most recently lived in Arkansas. Bam! He's suddenly in this whirlwind we call the New York City area. So, instead of hiding at home watching TV and avoiding the city he started driving into New York every chance he got. He checked out all those places he'd heard so much about. He learned very quickly how nice it was to spend a day down at the Jersey Shore. He started eating a lot of new things he never tried before. Yes, this can be a hard area to adjust to, but he decided not to lament his location, he decided to make the most of it!

The great missionary Paul didn't always end up in choice locations either, like a Roman prison. That's where he wrote the book of Philippians. And that's where we find our word for today from the Word of God. Philippians 4:4 says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." (Excuse me -

in a prison cell locked up for doing something right, not something wrong?) "I will say it again: Rejoice!" No, Paul is not on some banned substance - he's in Christ and he's finding ways to be content in a crummy situation, a spirit maybe you could use right now.

Verse 11 says, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Paul may be in a crummy situation, but he's doing what our young man friend did when he moved to the New York area. He's looking around for ways he can make the most of the place where God has put him. First, Paul is taking the extra time his prison sentence gives him to write this inspired letter to those he loves in Philippi, and it's still touching us today. If it weren't for Paul's prison times, I've got to wonder if a chunk of the New Testament would have been written. Secondly, Paul is celebrating the fact that his being out of action has motivated many other people to get in the game. He has looked for the good God is doing with it. Philippians 1:12 says, "What has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel. Most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly."

And Paul has been uniquely positioned to get the Gospel right into Caesar's inner circle by leading his Roman guards to Christ. He never would have had this opportunity any other

way as a missionary except for this jail time. He says the whole palace guard knows about Christ through this and he sends greeting from the saints in "Caesar's household" (Philippians 1:13, 4:22).

Look, you may not like the situation you're in right now, your location, your singleness, your sickness, your job, your church, your etc. But instead of lamenting your situation, God wants you to experience the wonderful joy and contentment that comes from saying, "Hey, I'm here. I'm going to be here for a while. I'm going to make the most of it!"

This young man who explored New York so enthusiastically realized that he could do things in that area that he could never do anywhere else. That's true of the place that God's placed you in. Don't let your environment capture you. You capture your environment!



### **Stamps for Missions**

Christmas is on its way! What a perfect time to save the stamps on your mail! Just cut around the stamps leaving at least a ¼ inch paper margin and place them in the stamp box in the Reading Center (next to the Chapel) in the church lobby. Thanks!

If you have any questions regarding this mission opportunity, please call the church office.

## Fall Fellowship Luncheon

The Fall Fellowship Luncheon was a big success. Over 140 people enjoyed lunch and fellowship on November 8th. We had many guests from Open Arms, our neighborhood, former members and friends of members. What a joy!

There are many people who made the event possible.

Thank you to:

The Christian Education Board

The Board of Outreach

The set-up crew

The cooking crew

The clean-up crew

Those who donated door prizes

The youth who served

All those who brought bars

We appreciate all your help.

We also want to thank you for your support of Cornerstone. We received \$100 in donations that will be delivered to them.

The event was a hit and we are planning to have another one in February.

The Board of Christian Education

## Priscilla Guild

If you have any questions regarding the Priscilla Guild and their activities, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492. Thank you!

### Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated and bought baked goods and raffles at the Fall Fellowship Dinner in November. The bake sale and raffles raised \$324.50. The money will go to the church to pay for repairs around the building.

The raffles were won by Emily Vestal (CD Player) and Ella Chellew (Christmas Church Village).

Following the Men's Club Christmas Dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a short Priscilla Guild business meeting in the chapel. All are welcome to attend.

We will have a Bunco Party on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will need prizes and treats for each event. Bunco is for all ages 3 – 100 and a lot of fun!

## STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

### What you do:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)

## Stewardship Corner

### **Adoring Him with Our Gifts**

Throughout Scripture, everyone who has come into the presence of the Lord has been in awe of Him and has adored Him. Think of Moses and the burning bush. Quietly watching over his father-in-law's sheep, Moses saw a bush on fire but not being consumed. When God spoke to Moses telling him to remove his shoes, Moses realized who was speaking, and *"Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God"* (Exodus 3:6). But he listened and spent 40 years showing adoration to God by obediently leading God's people according to God's direction.

Isaiah writes about the vision through which God called him to be His prophet: *"I saw the Lord . . . high and exalted . . . [and the angels] were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty.'" His reaction was to confess his sinfulness and, like Moses, to adore God by answering His question, "Whom shall I send?" with "Here am I. Send me!"* (Isaiah 6:1-8).

This is the Christmas season, and we cannot help but think of the Wise Men, too, who came in search of the newborn King, bringing their gifts and bowing before Him in adoration. Matthew 2:11 records, *"On coming to the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him."* And they offered to the Christ Child the gifts they had brought for Him, *"gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."*

The shepherds adored Him, too. They heard about Jesus from the angels as they sat outdoors watching their sheep and ran to Bethlehem to see

the Christ Child. They didn't have gifts to bring as the Magi did, but they, too, responded in adoration. Luke writes, *"When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them"* (Luke 2:17-18).

God gives gifts to each of us and uses us to tell the Good News of the birth of His Son Who came to bring us forgiveness of sins and life eternal. Some of us, like the Wise Men, are blessed with monetary gifts to be used to support mission and ministry. Others of us are more like the shepherds, able to *"spread the word concerning what [we] have been told . . . about this Child."* By God's grace, all of us can respond in faithful obedience to God's Word. In these ways, we adore our Savior.

### **2010 Pledge Cards**

Thank you to everyone who responded by turning in your pledge cards for 2010. It is not too late, if you have not turned yours in yet. Do so as soon as possible. The new calendar year will soon be here even as we begin a new Church year this month. December would be a good time to catch up on your pledge for 2009 if you need to, and/or to give a special gift as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God's blessings be on us this Christmas season as we celebrate Jesus, the Savior of the world, our Light in the darkness. Thanks be to God!"

### **Reasons for Giving**

A well-known poem reads, "We have only one life, and it will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

Among other things, this poem can help shape our perspective regarding money. For example, while it is necessary to spend money on things such as shelter, food, clothing, transportation, and other necessities, these are still temporary things which will all pass away. Knowing that God is more concerned about the eternal than the temporal should help shape our attitudes towards money.

We practice good stewardship when we use our money wisely, planning our expenditures, investments, and savings; yet giving is the only monetary activity that has lasting eternal value. We give not because God needs our gifts, but because our giving expresses our love and gratitude for all that God has given to us. Giving is made possible because God loved us first, and He will never stop loving us. We read Paul's words in Philippians 4:17, *"Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account."* As the giver of gifts we are blessed more than the recipients of the gifts.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:10-11 reminds us that God supplies all our needs and more so than we can abound in our works and in our giving. Paul goes on to say that not only can we help others through God's generosity to us, but our service overflows in thanks to God. We, along with Paul, say, *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* (2 Corinthians 9:15). Our meager offerings are a response to the love God showed us in giving us His Son, that indescribable gift. May God grant us thankful hearts so that we will desire to share His gifts with others, giving Him the honor and glory.