

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380
402-341-7730

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com
Like us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/gracelutheranomaha

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

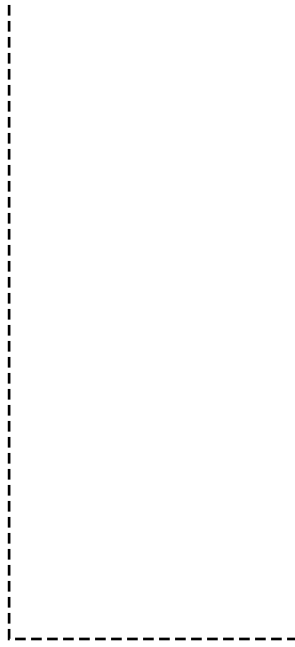
Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Colleen Jeffrey
Sexton - Alma Lopez
Lutheran Volunteer Corp - Tyler Birkhoff

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THE GRACE MESSENGER

1889 - 2018



Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in
care and service to all.



2018 Council Members

Donna Adrian	Vicki Cox	Andrew Edwards
Tom Emery	Arlone Farber	Greg Hula
Marsha Moyer	Terry Nielsen	Brenda Spahr
Pastor Laaker		

Officers Serving the Congregation:

Financial: Janet Hula Treasurer: Ralph Fitle

The regular meeting of the Council was held on November 6th. Council members shared their prayer concerns for individual's medical needs; for the whole Election process; safety for Marsha's hurricane clean up crew; and for a calming peaceful presence at the U.S. southern border.

Devotions: Pastor led devotions from Psalm 92:4 and Luke 5:24-25. The first reminds us of the beauty of God's creation in the fall colors, clear skies and wild animals. The second reminds us of God's healing presence and how we can glorify God.

Visions for Ministry: Council discussed Chapter 7 and whether Grace was an "open" or "closed" family system; we would like to think we are an open and welcoming congregation. Each congregation has their unique journeys. We all long to know what and where our destinations might be in the journey. The image of a Tsunami with the phrase "Holy Gust" was interesting with thoughts surrounding the clusters working together in various areas. This book gave us all many good things to think about.

Committee Reports: Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. **Please continue to give generously.**

Christian Education: Brenda gave a brief report of the "Words on Wednesday" classes in partnership with Bethel, Augustana, St. Matthew's and St. Luke's. Classes will be held this month at Augustana learning about Baby Moses. Classes for elementary age students continue to be small with the hope that they will grow each month. Next month classes will be here at Grace on December 5th. Both Grace and St. Luke's will teach and share lessons regarding Advent/Christmas.

Evangelism/Outreach: The Halloween party started a little slow but ended with more than 60 people in attendance. Donna and Ron took the left over candy and made 60 treat bags to share with folks participating in the Pantry during Pantry hours on Monday morning.

Continued...

The Min Thu Family sent a verbal appreciation for all the items that had been donated to them.

Finance: No response, as yet, to the grant request delivered to Immanuel Vison Foundation.

Property: Council decided to use Memorial Gifts from Joe and Barb Narducci and Larry Foreman to purchase of the Autumn Blaze Maple tree that had recently been planted.

Service/Social Ministry: None.

Support/Stewardship: Fall Stewardship Campaign "Transformed by Faith, Grace and Love." There will be an announcement in the bulletin to remind everyone to bring in their Commitment Card for dedication during services on November 18th.

Worship: Pianos are scheduled to be tuned tomorrow morning.

Thanksgiving Eve Services will be at St. Luke's on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. There will be a combined choir from the cluster congregations performing during services. We are encouraged to bring treats to share during fellowship following services.

Unfinished Business: Healthy Shared Ministry Event in Kearney on November 30th through December 1st. If anyone is interested in attending this event, please speak with Pastor.

New Business: Pastor extended a sincere thank you for the gift given on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 21st.

Announcements: Pastor reminded Council that he will be attending the Voyagers Continuing Education event in Buffalo, NY November 12th through the 15th.

Terry will bring treats in December.

Pastor closed in prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Spahr, Secretary





Halloween is over, Thanksgiving has been celebrated. The church year has come to a close. We are now on the brink of Advent. When you look up the word, advent, in the dictionary you will find the first definition as “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.”

As Christians, we have come to observe this season of Advent as the coming or second coming of Christ. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season:

Continued.....

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

May we use this time of Advent to refocus our hearts and lives on Christ. Yes, we will celebrate Jesus’ birth at the conclusion of this season but let us also celebrate Christ’s presence in and among us now.

Plan now to come each week as we observe the waiting time of Advent. Plan now to come on Christmas Eve at 4:30 pm to celebrate Jesus birth among us.

Pastor Laaker

Thank You

I want to express my sincere thanks for the recognition and gift for Pastor appreciation. The gift came in handy as we traveled to CA to see our son and his family. I love serving at Grace. Your genuine kindness is deeply appreciated.

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service Schedule:**

**Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
4:30 pm**

**And
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
2315 “I” Street
6:30 pm.**



.....
: Come, celebrate the joy and wonders :
: of Christ’s birth! Come share in the :
: tradition of singing “Silent Night” by :
: candlelight. Invite family and :
: friends; together we can enjoy the :
: fellowship of the Spirit of Christmas. :
.....

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18



Please keep in your prayers the individuals listed below who have health issues and concerns:

Theresa Courtney
Jayne Gustafson
Jack Pablo McGill
LaVonne Moss
Pam Reents
Pauline Stechenfinger
Urbano Vasquez



Andrew Edwards
Carolyn Matson
Sue Mize
Anne Nigro
Ken Spahr
Dan Taylor



Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Lutheran.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.
Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Damon Laaker, Grace Lutheran Church
Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Bishop

Pray for the Sudanese community in general. David Nange and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers.

Pray for our Shut-in and Nursing Home resident:

Mickey Andersen - Home
Barbara Nelson - Life Care Center, Elkhorn



Grace Quilters for
Lutheran World Relief

Monday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join a lively group of people and assemble amazing tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief organization. These quilts are delivered around the world to areas most in need of a little comfort. Please feel free to stop by check out the activity. Coffee break and joke time is 9:30 a.m.; another opportunity for fellowship with one another. No experience necessary!

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



Grace Reads



As Grace Lutheran plans for the upcoming school year partnership with Liberty Elementary, there is a need to fulfill each classroom with readers! There is the opportunity for two readers on each day Grace representatives read at Liberty Elementary. Two readers are needed on the first, second and third Tuesday and Wednesdays of the month. If you are interested to share your talents by being a blessing and reading to a classroom at Liberty once or twice a month; Tuesday reading at 12:20pm and Wednesday reading at 3:05pm. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board, if you have any questions, please call the church office at 402-341-7730.

**Grace Lutheran Church
ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes
Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
402-341-7730**





Do you know anyone searching for the opportunity to learn the English language? Please direct them here at Grace. Every Saturday morning they would be greeted with a smile and very helpful tutors to start their education in one of the most difficult languages to learn as a second language.





For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

 Thank you ESL tutors; Vicki, Arlone, Mary, and Amanda, for making connections with the students willing to learn and form friendships.


 Thank you Greg, Janet, and Mary; who take turns picking up altar flowers every Sunday morning.


 Thank you LaVonne, June, Eva, Marilyn, Donna and Mary for your continued dedication in creating a reflection of God's love and care in every quilt sent to support Lutheran World Relief.


 Thank you LaVonne, Marilyn, Gloria, June, Donna, and Ron, for your dedication and help in assembling the monthly Grace Messenger!

 Thank you Ron, Donna and Brenda for taking care of the altar, and preparing the communion table.

 Thank you to all ushers, Andrew, Vicki, Oren, and Mary for greeting everyone on Sunday mornings.

 Thank you to all who share their time and talents with Liberty Elementary through the "Grace Reads" partnership.

 Thank you to all Loaves and Fishes Pantry Volunteers; for delivering food items on Sunday mornings, unloading and putting foods items away until Monday mornings, getting everything ready for Mondays and in greeting and serving all with smiles, care and love!

 Thank you to Sandy for bringing "Kindness Packets" from Bellevue, Central, and Bertha Barber Elementary Schools in Bellevue. Extending the Bellevue School Theme "Be Kind" to neighboring school districts! Each Kindness Packet contains colored pencils, a book, coloring paper, a granola bar and a positive message written by a Bellevue Student. The packets will be shared with Liberty Elementary through the Grace Reads program.

Stewardship Moment

"Transformed by grace, faith and love."

This three-week emphasis addressed whole-life Christian stewardship. The focus was on how God makes us God's stewards so we can do the acts of stewardship God prepares for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). God changes us from being...

- ¥ Self-centered to Christ-centered
- ¥ Owners to stewards
- ¥ Selfish to generous
- ¥ Controlling to submissive
- ¥ Disobedient to obedient



In week one, our focus was on God's undeserved kindness and love which the Bible calls grace. In week two, we were reminded that it is through faith that we have access into God's grace and a new relationship with God. The third week we focused on the virtue of love. Love ought to follow faith. Love seeks the welfare of others.

Now our task is to live out these marvelous reminders of our relationship to God. May we be encouraged and strengthened by God's grace, grow in our faith and act in love.

Please turn in your 2019 commitment cards. We can be generous stewards doing what God calls us to do.

Arts For All, Inc (AFA) serves thousands of local students each year, many of whom would not otherwise have opportunities to receive arts education. Arts education positively impacts the lives of our children by helping to develop critical thinking, problem solving, resourcefulness, teamwork, and many other skills. An investment in the arts is an investment in the future of our community. The Spring Schedule is now available at artsforallinc.com, classes are \$10.00 per class. If you have any questions, please call 402-556-7821. A schedule has been posted on the bulletin board.





Order Your Poinsettias Cost is \$8.00

A Sign-Up Sheet has been posted on the Bulletin Board, please order before December 9th

Be sure to designate whether you would like a red or white plant and whether you plan to take your flowers home after the Christmas holiday or leave them at the church to be shared with shut-ins. For your convenience, you can call the church office at 402-341-7730 to place a poinsettia order.



Christmas Mitten Tree



It is that special time of year! The Christmas Mitten Tree will be displayed in the upper fellowship hall during the month of December.

As in past years, during the Christmas Season sales, consider adding a pair of mittens, gloves, a scarf or any additional warm apparel to place on the mitten tree. Your gift will go to benefit those in need through shelters and pantries in the area.



Hi Everyone!

I hope everyone had a happy thanksgiving! Personally, I enjoyed traveling home to see my family again. They were very excited to see me and ask all about what it's been like out in Nebraska.



Additionally this month, our house, along with the other Midwest LVC houses, had the opportunity to disconnect from the world and be a part of a retreat at Camp Ewalu in Strawberry Point, Iowa. Five hundred acres to hike, bonfires, limited reception, and surrounded by good people, it was an experience of recharging and thought provoking discussions. We laughed, we sang, we played, and we really just let ourselves be in the moment. The wholesomeness was truly beautiful. I think it was a great way to kick into the holiday season. As we continue into December, I aim to find the Christmas spirit as often as I can in anything I can. I have already begun the season by singing with the Sunday school class, their voices lift my heart as I play along on the ukulele. Remembering that joy of the season, I encourage everyone to share that feeling of happiness with others, and I hope you all find that something that lifts your spirits as well. I wish you all the best this Christmas Season.

Smiles,

Tyler Birkhoff
Community Outreach Coordinator
Grace Lutheran Church
outreach@graceluth.com



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and say, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:10-14

Loaves and Fishes Pantry

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26th Street
402-341-7730

North Door (Parking Lot Door)
Opens at 9:45 am

Pantry is Open 10:00 - 11:00 am
Every Monday

Variety of fresh foods donated by
Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

All are served with love and care.



Lutheran South Pantry
4401 South 23rd Street
402-502-7070

Items that clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are always appreciated: Dish Soap, Kleenex, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush and toothpaste, Shaving Cream, Razors, Mouthwash (without alcohol), Feminine hygiene products, Hair products (combs, brushes, picks), Bathroom tissue, Shampoo, Dry Laundry Soap, Can Openers, Diaper wipers, and Diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups.

We always need paper or plastic bags.

Grace Lutheran Church has three additional ways that you could contribute without spending any out of pocket funds. Only a few moments of your time to download apps for TAGG - Together A Greater Good and when you shop at smile.amazon.com Amazon will donate - Grace's unique link is: <https://smileamazon.com/ch/47-0667089>. Register your Bakers Plus card with Kroger and choose Grace Lutheran as your charitable choice! All of these opportunities will match a certain percentage of your purchases and direct those funds to Grace.



Christian Education Opportunity!! WOW (Word on Wednesday)



St. Luke's/Grace, St. Matthew's, Bethel, and Augustana are combining to offer a new program for the children and young people of our congregations on the first Wednesday of each month.

Children from Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited. Supper will be served from 6:00 to 6:30 pm and classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Come and learn about Advent and the Birth of Jesus! on December 5th here at Grace Lutheran Church with St. Luke's.

*Dates and church locations for 2019 to be determined.

What an awesome opportunity to grow in faith and meet new friends! If you have any questions, please see Brenda Spahr at Grace or Connie Tefft at St. Luke's.



Confirmation Classes

We continue to participate in a combined Confirmation Class with Bethel, St. Matthew and Augustana. December classes will be held here at Grace Lutheran with St. Luke's beginning on December 5th, 6:30 pm.

Grace Sunday School News

The regular Grace Sunday School classes continue to meet every second and fourth Sunday each month. Classes in December will be on the 9th and 23rd at 10:00 am. Children age 4 through 6th grade are welcome! Sunday School class will be performing two Christmas Hymns during Worship Service on Sunday, December 23rd.





**8th Annual Empyrean Trail Run
Saturday, January 12, 2019**

This fun run winds through wooded trails, over rolling hills and even over frozen creek beds around the grounds at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The funds raised help support our Campership program, which allows all children to come to camp no matter their financial situation.

In 2018, over 400 kids received financial assistance to attend camp.

Registration fee is \$40 for the 1 mile walk and 5K run and \$50 for the 10K race. Check-in is at 9:00 a.m., with the run starting promptly at 11:00 a.m. Upon completion, runners will enjoy a delicious Lazlo's catered lunch, including a sandwich and soup combo, amazing empyrean beer and a free giveaway item.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Abbott by email at HAbbott@NLOM.org or by phone at 402-944-2544.

**High School Retreat
December 28-29, 2018**

This High School Retreat will focus on the health of the body, the mind and the soul. Join Carol Joy Holling Camp to take a break, relax, have some fun and focus on what's important.

To learn more and register visit CJHCenter.org/HS-Retreat!

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Goering at JGoering@NLOM.org or by phone at 402-944-2544.



**A Nebraska Brass Christmas
Ho, Ho, Ho
Saturday, December 22, 7:30 p.m.
Metropolitan Community
Church of Omaha,
819 South 22nd Street**



Come enjoy an evening of Christmas music, fantastic fellowship, and delicious refreshments!

Founded in 1987, the **Nebraska Brass** is one of the Midwest's most popular brass quintets. Audiences young and old enjoy the group's serious musicianship and light-hearted humor as they present a variety of music ranging from classical to popular, Dixieland, and jazz. The ensemble presents an annual series of five concerts in both Lincoln and Omaha, as well as five additional series concerts in other Nebraska communities. In addition, the Nebraska Brass participates in the touring programs of the Nebraska Arts Council and the Heartland Arts Fund, performing throughout the Midwest.

The **Nebraska Brass** is dedicated to preserving the great American tradition of brass music and to providing educational programs for young musicians to improve their musical skills. The **Nebraska Brass** commissions new compositions for brass ensemble and also provides an outlet for professional musicians to improve their skills while presenting a professional series of concerts of the highest quality for the citizens of Nebraska.

Ticket prices are: adults \$15, seniors \$12 and students are free.

For additional information please contact the Nebraska Brass at nb@artsincorporated.org or by calling 402-477-7899.



December 2018



2 - Terry Nielsen
 9 - Arlone Farber
 16 - Mary Laaker
 23 - Brenda Spahr
 24 - Greg Hula
 30 - Terry Nielsen
 Jan. 6 - Arlone Farber



1 - Nowa Keita
 3 - Barb Nelson
 15 - Izabella Perales
 16 - Frankie Costanzo Jr.
 18 - Marilyn Van Ormer
 22 - Sherif Lado
 24 - Lola Harsin

December Acolytes

2 - Greg Hula
 9 - Janet Hula
 16 - Andrea Spahr
 23 - Damien Rodriguez
 24 - Donna Adrian
 and Vicki Cox
 30 - Brenda Spahr
 Jan. 6 - Greg Hula



Did we miss your birthday?
 Please contact the church
 office and let us know!



Ushers & Greeters



December Ushers

Mary Laaker
 Andrew Edwards

December Greeters

2 - Bobby Stechenfinger and Vicki Cox
 9 - Ralph Fittle and Gloria Moore
 16 - Ron and Donna Adrian
 23 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
 24 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr
 30 - Sarah and Madison Emery
 Jan. 6 - Greg and Janet Hula



Responsibility List



Altar Flowers

2 - OPEN.
 9 - Arlone Farber to the Glory of God.
 16 - Andrew, Christi, Clay Edwards and Tracy Petrini in loving
 memory of their parents, Albion and Charlotte Edwards.
 23 - OPEN.
 30 - Marilyn Van Ormer, Charlotte and Ed Palczynski in loving
 memory of Kirk Petersen.
 Jan. 6, 2019 - OPEN.

Flower Pick-Up for December: Greg and Janet Hula



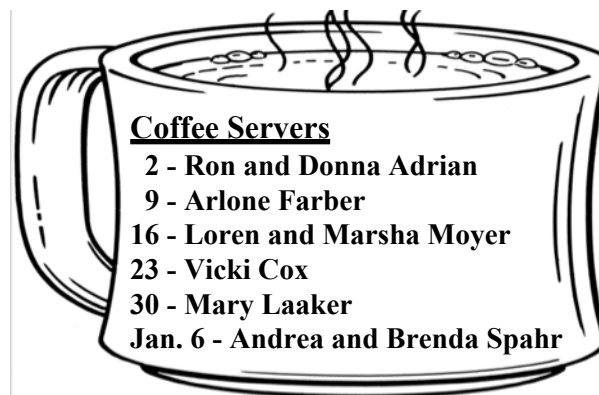
Backpack Program

2 - Jean Johnson.
 9 - Mary Laaker.
 16 - Jean Johnson.
 23 - Marilyn Van Ormer in celebration of her grandchildren, Jill and
 Justin's birthdays.
 30 - Brenda Spahr.
 Jan. 6, 2019 - OPEN.



Coffee Servers

2 - Ron and Donna Adrian
 9 - Arlone Farber
 16 - Loren and Marsha Moyer
 23 - Vicki Cox
 30 - Mary Laaker
 Jan. 6 - Andrea and Brenda Spahr



Will the Christ Child Come?



One Christmas we had an interesting experience that I would like to share. Halfway through December we were doing the regular evening things when there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find a small package with a beautiful ceramic lamb inside. We looked at the calendar and realized that the 12 days of Christmas were beginning! We waited excitedly for the next night's surprise and only then, with the gift of a matching shepherd, did we realize that the lamb was part of a nativity set.

Each night we grew more excited to see what piece we would receive. Each was exquisitely beautiful. The kids kept trying to catch the givers as we slowly built the scene at the manger and began to focus on Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, all but the Baby Jesus. My 12-year-old son really wanted to catch our benefactors and began to devise all kinds of ways to trap them. He ate dinner in the minivan, watching and waiting, but no one came. Finally, we called him in to go through our family's Christmas Eve traditions. But before the kids went to bed, we checked the front step - no Baby Jesus! We began to worry that my son had scared them off. My husband suggested that maybe they dropped the Jesus and there wouldn't be anything coming. Somehow, something was missing that Christmas Eve.

There was a feeling that things weren't complete. The kids went to bed and before I went to bed, I again checked to see if the Baby Jesus had come - no, the doorstep was empty. In our family, the kids can open their stockings when they want to, but they have to wait to open any presents until Dad wakes up. So one by one they woke up very early and I also woke up to watch them. Even before they opened their stockings, each child checked to see if perhaps during the night the Baby Jesus had come.

Missing that piece of the set seemed to have an odd effect. At least it changed my focus. I knew there were presents under the tree for me and I was excited to watch the children open their gifts, but first on my mind was the feeling of waiting for the ceramic Christ Child. We had opened just about all of the presents when one of the children found one more for me buried deep beneath the limbs of the tree.

He handed me a small package from my former visiting teaching companion. This sister was somewhat less-active in the church. I had been her visiting teacher for a couple of years and then, when she was asked to be a visiting teacher, she requested to go with me. I had learned over time they didn't have much for Christmas, so that their focus was on the children. It sounded like she didn't get many gifts to open, so I had always given her a small package - new dish towels, the next year's Relief Society lesson manual - not much, but something for her to open.

I was touched when at church on the day before Christmas, she had given me this small package, saying it was just a token of her love and appreciation. As I took out the bow, I remembered my friendship with her and was filled with gratitude for knowing her and for her kindness and sacrifice in this gift giving. But as the paper fell away, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box was the Baby Jesus! He had come!

I realized on that Christmas Day, that Christ will come into our lives in ways that we don't expect. The spirit of Christ comes into our hearts as we serve one another. We had waited and watched for Him to come, expecting the dramatic "knock at the door and scurrying of feet" but He came in a small, simple package that represented service, friendship, gratitude and love.

This experience taught me that the beginning of the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and actively focus on the Savior. But we will most likely find Him in the small and simple acts of love, friendship and service that we give to each other. This Christmas I want to feel again the joy of knowing that Christ is in our home. I want to focus on loving and serving. More than that, I want to open my heart to Him all year the I may see Him again.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NIV)

shared from skywriting.net

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Continued.....



Light looked down and beheld Darkness.
 "Thither will I go," said Light.
 Peace looked down and beheld War.
 "Thither will I go," said Peace.
 Love looked down and beheld Hatred.
 "Thither will I go," said Love.
 So came Light, and shone.
 So came Peace, and gave rest.
 So came Love, and brought life.
 And the word was made Flesh, and
 dwelt among us."

~ Laurence Houseman
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 JoyfulNoiseletter.com



A police officer saw a man driving with a bunch of penguins in the backseat of his car. The officer pulled the man over and asked, "Where did you get those penguins?" The man replied, "I found them wandering on the side of the road."

"Well, you should take them to the zoo," the cop said. The next day the police officer saw the same man drive by, with the penguins still in his backseat. Once again, he pulled the car over, and said, "I thought I told you to take those penguins to the zoo!"

"I did," the man said. "Today, I'm taking them to church."

~ via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL
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NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

The words in the list below come from the story of the birth of Jesus as told Matthew 1-2 and Luke 2. Circle the letters that make the word. The letters must be in straight lines, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Words may be spelled either forward or backward. How many of these words can you find?

BETHLEHEM	PEACE	EMMANUEL	INN	WISE MEN
NAZARETH	TAXES	MANGER	ANGEL	STAR
CAESAR	JOY	SAVIOUR	JOSEPH	GOLD
GALILEE	MARY	GLORY	SHEPHERDS	FRANKINCENSE
JESUS	HEROD	MYRRH	EGYPT	JERUSALEM

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D B O W I S E M E N B S H E P H E R D S
I E K M B A B Y J S O N O F G O D Y I H
M T G S T J P R O M I S E F B A G R O E
O H J Y K L S R O A A E S S Y R I A H E
R L L B P D R H C J E R U S A L E M X P
P E A C E T A X E S O P E Q C M L A M B
E H R S C U V W R D I S L O S T T S V U
T E M M A N U E L M N J E S U S H T J K
E M L A Y Z A N Y E N K L P D A E A R M
R H E A V E N S C A E S A R H V U R E D
N J O K I N G N O Q F G S N E I F E H L
A N G I F T I H Z J A B L M G O D T T S
L B E R I K P E Q R A N T W C U E J O Y
T S M A N G E R G H I R G L O R Y L M T
G M S A D O J O H N U V R E A X F M R A
H E R O D L A D O R E M Q Z L H I J K L
S F L O R D O F A L L G A L I L E E S J
M W A X K I N G D O M N E W N A M E B F
  
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