



THE CHIMES

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Norridge, Illinois
The Rev. Luther John Bajus, pastor 60706-2994

Vol. XXIX No. 12

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DECEMBER, 2010

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THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

(Author unknown)

It was a simple story, written by a woman who shared something that happened one Christmas season when her family stopped at a little restaurant miles from home. She wrote:

"I sat Erik in a highchair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly Erik squealed with glee and said, 'Hi there.' He pounded his fat baby hands on the highchair tray. His eyes were wide with excitement and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin. He wriggled and giggled with merriment.

"I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man with a tattered rag of a coat, dirty, greasy and worn. His pants were baggy with zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose, it looked like a road map.

"We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. 'Hi there, baby; hi there, big boy. I see ye, buster,' the man said to Erik.

"My husband and I exchanged looks, 'What do we do?' Erik continued to laugh and answer, 'Hi, hi there.' Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby.

"Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, 'Do ya know patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo.' Nobody thought the

Continued on next page

old man was cute. He was obviously drunk. My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence, all except Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.

"We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. 'Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik,' I prayed.

"As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's 'pick-me-up' position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's.

"Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Erik in an act of total trust, love and submission laid his tiny head on the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands--full of grime, pain and hard labor--gently, so gently cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back.

"No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms for a moment and then his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, 'You take care of this baby.'

"Somehow I managed, 'I will,' from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest--unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby and the man said, 'God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift.'

"I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying 'My God, my God, forgive me.'

"I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin and made no judgment. We were a child who saw a soul and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, 'Are you willing to share your son for a moment?' when He shared His for all eternity."

"But thanks be to God! He GIVES us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable GIFT, His Son and our Savior, Jesus, the Christ, and in His Name I wish you a blessed Christmas.

Pastor

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS



- D. 2 Matthew Velez
- D. 3 Jim Stuber
- D. 6 Susan George
- D. 11 Richard Griesmann
- D. 12 Carol Christensen
- D. 13 Eunice Bajus
- D. 14 Lindsey Noel Thorn
- D. 15 Adriana Pilolla
- D. 21 The Arthur Constien
- D. 23 Andrew Velez
- D. 24 Anne Peck
- D. 24 Clarisse Cerny Casalino
- D. 25 Ann Bietsch
- D. 25 Carol Elliott
- D. 30 Nancy Geis

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



- D. 2 Ronald and Sue Thorn
- D. 12 Jan and Luba Pala

DECEMBER GREETERS

- D. 05 James & Amy Wood
- D. 12 Christine & Cindy Wolford
- D. 19 Dennis & Irene Katz
- D. 24 Christmas Eve - Elders
- D. 25 Christmas Day - Ushers
- D. 26 John & Eleanor Kachmarik
- J. 01 New Year's Day - Ushers



NEWS
FROM
ZION

Thank You: Sincere appreciation is extend to all for their donations of non-perishable food items for the St. Cyprian Food Pantry. This year, Nona Schipull gave us information how we can earn money from Thrivent for our donations to Food Drive. It includes submitting the receipts for food donations and allocating for purchasing food items and delivering them to church.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please contact Lillian Czarkowski, Marlee Johns or Anne Peck to order your Christmas poinsettia plant(s) to decorate our Chancel for Christmas. The cost this year is \$7.00 per plant. Following the Christmas Day service, you are invited to take what your ordered with you. As in the past, the cost will be nominal.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

We will have the privilege and opportunity to make our commitment to the Lord on December 12th. Your commitment is to be sealed, placed on the Altar and returned to you, December 2010. It is good for us on occasion to take inventory of our spiritual life as it relates to our stewardship of time, talent, toil and treasure.

Attendance: Six from Zion attended the Reformation Service at Resurrection, Merrillville, IN. and nine from Zion attended the LWML Rally also at Resurrection on October 31st and November 6th respectively.



GIFTS - MISSION TREE

The Christmas tree in the entry way has been set up to receive your Christmas greetings as well as gifts for missions.

Everyone is invited to participate. This may be done for any of the following reasons:

1. Instead of giving cards to members you may express your greetings on the tree and give a gift to missions, using the monies ordinarily spent on cards for missions.
2. If you utilize the mail boxes in the Ushers' Room instead of sending cards through the mails, consider donating the postage money to missions.
3. You just want to make a special gift to missions that others might know our Savior's love.

The Guild has designated these gifts for the Miller family in Thailand. Lucille Crummett or Sharlene Prien can assist you.

December Acolyte Schedule

- D. 05 Amanda & Paige Peterson
- D. 12 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez
- D. 19 Jeffrey George & Tyler Johns
- D. 24 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez
- D. 25 Cindy Wolford
- D. 26 Amanda & Paige Peterson

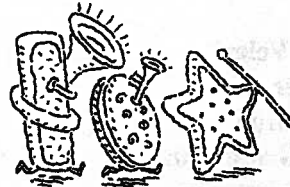
2011

- J. 01 Cindy Wolford
 - J. 02 Austin & Alexis Johns
 - J. 09 Logan Gizel & Taylor Gizel
 - J. 16 Daniel Dymitrowicz & Tyler Johns
 - J. 23 Emilie Stoller & Victoria Velez
 - J. 30 Jeffrey George & Tyler Johns
-

Children's Service

The children will share the Christmas Story with the congregation, Sunday, December 19th, 9:30 a.m. Rehearsal will be December 18th 10 a.m.

Cookie Walk



Cookie Walk

The "Cookie Walk" will also be held on Sunday, December 19th following the Worship Service.

All members are invited and encouraged to bring home-made cookies as a donation for the walk. Cookies may be purchased per pound.

Christmas Trees & Decorations

Our thanks are expressed to all those who came out Tuesday, November 30th to assist in putting up our Church Christmas trees and decorations.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Voters of Zion will meet December 12th following the Worship Service to consider our Guide for Spending in the New Year of 2011. Communicant members of Zion who have reached 18 years of age and desire to become Voters are requested to speak with the Pastor prior to the meeting.

LENT

Lent begins later this year. Ash Wednesday is March 09th and Easter is April 24th 2011.

As in the past, Lenten Vespers will be at 7 P.M., preceded by a Hymn Sing at 6:45 P.M.

**"The Lord bless YOU at Christmas time,
and into the New Year."**

REPORT ON ZION WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2010

Twelve people met at noon for a delicious lasagna luncheon made by Marlee Johns and desserts by Ann Peck.

At 1 P.M. Pastor Bajus led us in the devotion from the LWML Quarterly titled "He Only Has Eyes for You!" How we stack up in the eyes of others does not reflect who we really are. Our identity is in the Lord, and He says: *You are valuable in My eyes.* Martin Luther, commenting on Isaiah 43:4, said: "Although in supreme trials we seem nothing in our own eyes and are condemned as one cast off by the world, in God's eyes we are glorious. Therefore we may be vile in our own eyes, in the eyes of the world, and even in those of our (sisters). Fear not. In God's eyes we are regarded as a precious jewel." (*Luther's Works, 17:88*)

Virginia distributed flyers regarding the **Guild Christmas Party** on December 5 and said she now is selling tickets.

Marlee said someone is needed to collect monies for the purchase of **poinsettias** to decorate the church at Christmas. No volunteers were forthcoming at this time.

The Hostess Schedule through June 2011 was distributed. **Hostesses for May 10, 2011 are still needed.**

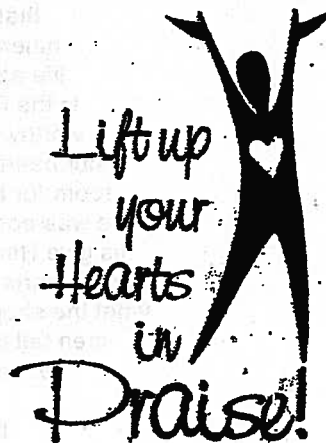
Lucy Crummet and Sharlene Prien are again taking care of the Mission Tree this year. **The money donated to the Tree will be sent to the Millers in Thailand, working with Lutheran Bible Translators.** Other mission requests were discussed, but tabled until the February 2011 meeting.

Nona stated that Saturday November 14, the Faithful Hearts & Hands will be cleaning the church beginning at 9 AM. All who are able and willing are welcome to help. A lunch of sloppy Joes will be served. Nona reminded everyone to donate to the **Food Drive** and put your receipts and the time spent getting the food to church into the yellow box.

Marlee reminded us that the **Cookie Walk is December 19.**

Edie reported that the **International LWML Convention will be held in Peoria, Illinois June 23-26, 2011.** At the Western Zone Rally Nov. 6, Edie Constien was elected to be the Western Zone delegate to the Peoria Convention. Also, the **SELC District LWML has been commissioned to help organize the National LWML Convention scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh in 2013.**

Edith Constien, Secretary





The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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DECEMBER 2010

**VESELE
VIANOCE A
StiASTLIVY
[pozehnany]
NOVY ROK**

[* see page 6]

If you need a translation]

*A Very Merry
Christmas and a
Blessed New Year
to you all!*



Lutheran Haven Christmas Seals

by Don Kovac, Exec. Director

One of the first actions taken by the Haven's founding Board of Trustees at their inaugural meeting was to establish the Christmas Seal program. "Duly moved and seconded that the LUTHERAN HAVEN conduct a Christmas Seals Campaign this year as introduced and recommended by Pastor Stephen M. Tuhy for the benefit of the Haven. Motion carried" January 24, 1946.

The Haven's forefathers looked to the proceeds from the Christmas Seal program to help fund charity care. And that hasn't changed!

God's work through the ministry of the Haven could not have taken place without those who have supported those in need. In today's difficult economic times, the support for the Christmas Seals will be a blessing to those whose funds have not been able to sustain their long term care needs. Even with the help of Medicaid, we continue to be dependent on gifts from our friends.

This past year, Lutheran Haven provided \$347,580 in charity care. Our prayer goes with the 21,000 Seals that have been mailed to Haven friends and SELC District congregations that God would move people to respond in a generous way.



Christmas Tree

by Rev. Albert Bielenberg

Our
Lord
Jesus
came to
the world
long ago to
give His life
that we and all
others might have
life abundantly. He
is the One altogether
worthy of first place in
our hearts. There was no
room for Him in the inn, so
He was born in a manger. Let
us give Him His rightful place
in our hearts so that we may feel
what the shepherds and the wise
men felt long ago. O Come
let us adore Him,
Christ
the Lord



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p>Annual Mt. Jan. 30th 10:45 am</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">January 11</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						1	2	3	4
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5 9:00 AM Early Communion 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S., 10:45 AM B.C. Guild Party	6	7	8	9 7 P.M. Choir Rehearsal	10	11																																																	
12 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S., Voters' Mt Budget 10:45 a.m.	13	14 Council Mt. 7 p.m.	15	16 7 P.M. Choir Rehearsal	17 Choir 1 p.m.	18																																																	
19 Worship 9:30 with Children Leading Cookie Walk 10:45 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Communion 7:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day 10 a.m.																																																	
26 9:30 AM Worship 10:35 AM S.S., 10:45 AM B.C.	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	New Year's Day 10 a.m. Fellowship @ Worship																																																	

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



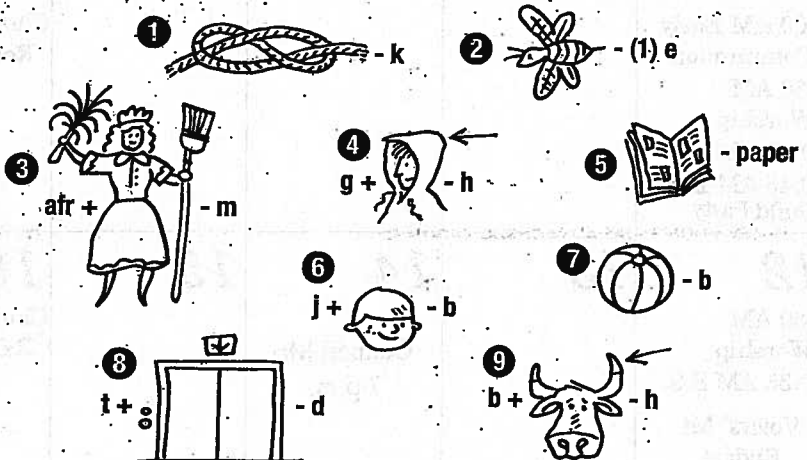
[KID1210A]



The angel's message

On the first Christmas-Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ I bring you _____ 4 _____

_____ 5 _____ of great _____ 6 _____ that will be for _____ 7 _____ the people.

Today in the _____ 8 _____ of David a Savior has been _____ 9 _____

to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NV

Answers: 1. knot-k=not; 2. bee-(1)e=be; 3. atr+maid-m=afraid; 4. g+hood-h=good; 5. newspaper-paper=news; 6. j+boy-b=joy; 7. ball-b=all; 8. t+down-d=town; 9. b+horn-h=born
 "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NV

[KID1210B]

"An Ode to Christmas Lights"

Bursting through December nights
That could be long and cold,
Our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
With colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
And from trees both small and tall,
The lights cry out, "We have good news!"
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,
The sorrow, war and fear;
But God has sent his Son for all,
To show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.
Christ's with us day by day,
Illuminating paths so we
Can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.
Make your world shine clear and bright.
God's love surrounds and blesses us.
Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

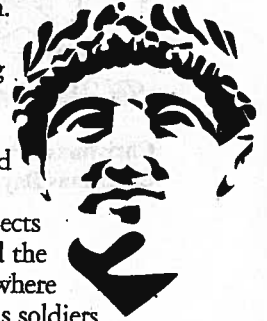
In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church. Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall), was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."

Bible Quiz

Only one of the four gospels has the story of King Herod being fearful when he learned from the wise men that a special baby had been born. The wise men asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Shocked and threatened by their query, Herod pretended to want to pay his respects to the newborn himself. He asked the wise men to return and tell him where the child was. Then he ordered his soldiers to kill every male child age 2 and under. That ancient holocaust is often called the Slaughter of the Innocents, or the Massacre of the Infants.



Which gospel contains the shocking story?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

Answer: A (See chapter 2.)

[Image above: HEROD_6204, HEROD_6204C]

A sure and bright faith

In 1943, German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was in prison because he opposed Adolph Hitler's demonic actions. Bonhoeffer knew he would soon be executed. It was a time of loneliness and dreadful anticipation.

While writing a letter to an old friend during Advent, Bonhoeffer remembered this hymn verse:

The manger glows bright and clear,
The very night gives out a light,
Darkness must not here appear,
But faith remain both sure and bright.

The brave Bonhoeffer knew that no matter how dark and challenging a Christian's circumstances may be, we can celebrate joyously because the Lord has come. As he was led away to be hanged, Bonhoeffer said, "This is the end — for me the beginning of life."

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
8600 West Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706-2994

Non-Profit Organization
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River Grove, IL

Christ, the Savior is Born.



The Miracle of Christmas

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day 10 a.m.

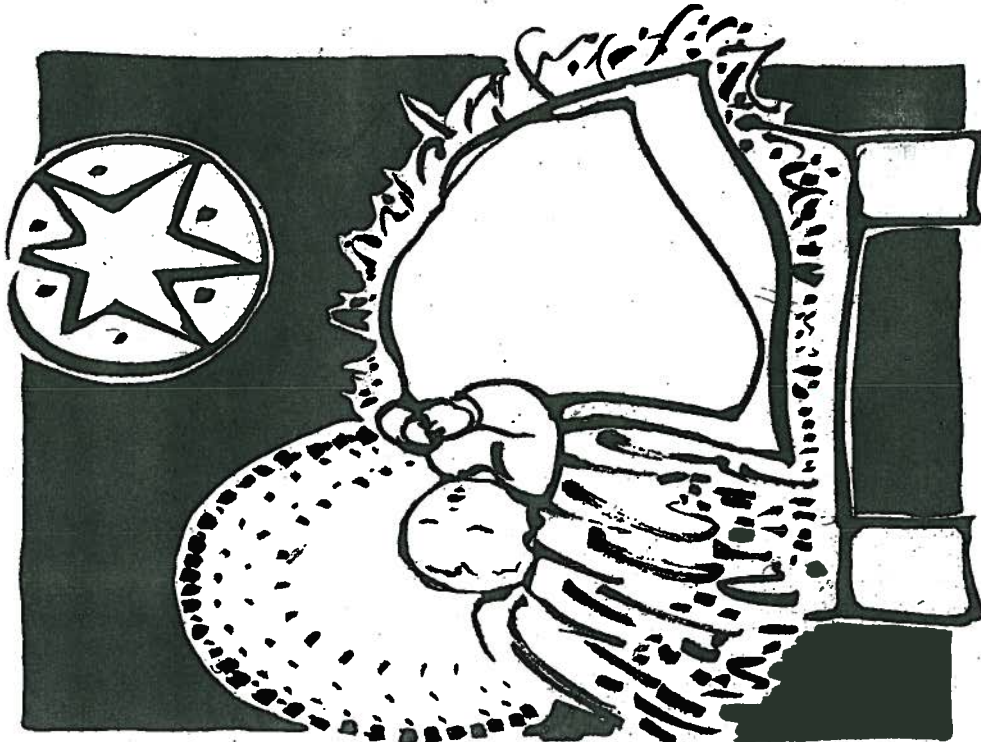
BLESSINGS TO:



Sunday Schedule

Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:35 a.m.
Bible Class - 10:45 a.m.

New Years Day 10 a.m.
Fellowship Hour 11 a.m.



Full of grace and truth
JOHN 1:14

15