

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Love Candle

December 21st, 2014~9:30 a.m.

ENTRANCE

*Welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. It is our heart and desire to **engage** the community of Waseca with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **equip** those who respond to be the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ and **empower** them to go into the world as partners with God for the healing of the world.*

NEWS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

WELCOME

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP.....“View The Present Through the Promise”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, NRSV).

John Mason Neale who brought us the beautiful Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" we sang in week one also translated the text of this beautiful and haunting hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten." The original work was written by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius in the late fourth century. "Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source the ending He, of the things that are, that have been, and the future years shall see, evermore and evermore." Captured here is the love of God who is larger than the universe and yet joined us and walked our journey. As we light the fourth candle of Advent, let us reflect on the immense love of our God as we await the arrival of a very special baby.

(Light three blue candles and one pink candle)

HYMN OF CELEBRATION:....."Of the Father's Love Begotten."...UMH No. 184

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of Love, we await your coming with great expectation. Our lives are marked by love even when our circumstance might prove to the contrary. May we bring love to every heart this Advent season.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING:.....Isaiah 7:10-14

All: Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,

L: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

All: But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

L: And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

All: Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

HYMN OF CELEBRATION....."Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ...UMH No. 229

KIDS TIME.....How Can God Listen to Everyone at the Same Time?

ANTHEM....."Carols of the Season" ...Faith Choir
(Hark! The Herald Angles Sing, The First Noel, Joy to the World, Silent Night)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (All children ages 4-6th grade are invited to attend our Sunday School at this time. Please go to the back of the sanctuary to meet your teacher.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON.....**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

MESSAGE "The Road To Bethlehem" ...Pastor Victor Waters

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING..... "Give Thanks" ...TFWS No. 2036**

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S GIFTS

*** CLOSING HYMN..... "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" ...UMH No. 216**

SENDING FORTH.....

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. May almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen

EXIT MUSIC

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH & MILITARY FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:



Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Rosalind Peterson, Gerri Peterson

Colony Court: Millie Groh, Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg, Leona Quast

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI: Marlene Rietfort

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Rodger and Vada Dahnert, Bruce and Deb Hering, Leona Quast, Jim Barber, Dave and Joann Eggness, Kookie Kukacka, Deloris Asmus, Peter Fog, Jim Keller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to Barb Klampe and the choir for an excellent job with the presentation of a very special Christmas.

Thank you to all who made "A simple Christmas" possible. Pastor Victor, who told the marvelous story, Mark Lamont who blessed us as St. Nicholas, Linda Lohse, who made Mark's costume, Neil Fruechte who provided the scenes on the big screen, the choir, for sharing their talents and providing year long dedication; and to our fantastic congregation. Merry Christmas, Barb Klampe.

Fellowship: Sherry Scholljegerdes, Vada Dahnert, and Patrice Waters will provide cookies. Thank you.

For your information: We have hand sanitizer in the inner and outer narthex. Thank you.

We are **coordinating the Christmas Dinner** at the **Senior Center**. We are looking for volunteers to help serve and transport meals to shut-ins that request them and for those who can help set up on December 23rd. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the office if you are interested in serving.

Sherry Scholljegerdes will give a presentation on her trip to Haiti during Fellowship on Sunday, January 4th.

The following is the Conversation, Bible & Friends schedule during the holiday season:

- December 23 - No meeting.
- December 30 - No meeting.
- January 6 - We will meet at Ardella Draheim's home. We will be using the new 2015 Disciplines Devotions book at this meeting.

Children's Activity:



The angel Gabriel appears to Mary
Luke 1:26-38

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

12/21/2014 (Sun.) 9:30-10:30 a.m. – Worship Service-
"The Journey to Bethlehem"
*Sunday School (Ages 4 years - 6th grade)
10:30-11:30 a.m. –Fellowship

12/22/2014 (Mon.) 12:00 p.m. -Newsletter collating

12/23/2014 (Tues.) Faith Messenger mailed

12/24/2014 (Wed.) **4:30 P.M. - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service**

12/25/2014 (Thur.) **12:00 p.m. - Christmas Community Dinner at the Senior Center**

12/26/2014 (Fri.) Office Closed

12/28/2014 (Sun.) Pancake Mix Sunday
9:30-10:30 a.m. -Worship Service
*Sunday School (Ages 4 years - 6th grade)
10:30-11:30 a.m. –Fellowship

* Lakeview Room
**Fellowship Hall