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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

My favorite gospel is the gospel of John. John writes of the divinity of Christ in words that are beyond beautiful....

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

These words come to mind as I see Christmas lights going up well before Thanksgiving. We, as a people, are longing for the light that shines in the darkness of our circumstances. We long for the Son, full of grace and truth.

With no family gatherings for Thanksgiving, we look hopefully toward Christmas – but in our hearts we know the truth – gathering at Christmas is very unlikely. The COVID virus will likely still be too dangerous. To be safe, and to keep our loved ones safe we may need to stay home.

So, what to do? Search for the light. Put up your tree and all the trimmings. Cook a delicious meal for your immediate family. Call, Facetime, or have a zoom meeting with your family. Celebrate the birth of Jesus and his continued presence in our world, in our lives. Maybe, just maybe we will feel the presence of Christ this Christmas like never before. Don't allow the "Grinch" we call COVID19 to steal our Christmas spirit. We know that Christmas doesn't come from a store. We know that Christmas is much, much more!

Your worship team will continue to work hard to bring you meaningful Advent and Christmas services. You will be able to watch them via a You Tube link found on our website and Facebook pages. We will also be assembling advent and worship packets for some of you who may not have access to the internet. We will celebrate together, though apart, and we will welcome the light that shines in the darkness.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you!

Pastor Carolyn



Special Points of Interest:

- December Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- December Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant
Office Hours:

Church Office is Temporarily Closed

Prayer Requests

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

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Whispering Creek Care Center Janesville: Muriel Jenkins

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Joe & Gloria Tollefson, Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Nancy Tollefson, Linda Wilson government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



A Garness Family Update

First of all, thank you for all the support you have provided with my daughter Ruby's cancer. Her therapy is completed, surgeries and all. She is still on preventative medications. She presently has returned to teach at TEAM Academy here in Waseca, wanting to be closer to family. Secondly, as some of you know, I was diagnosed with my third cancer in June. I had twenty wonderful years since my last cancer and now the breast cancer has returned. It has moved on to the Lymph Nodes as well as some of the bones. Surgery was not possible so I tried Endocrine Therapy which did not work for me. I have also had a TIA during this time. The cancer is not aggressive so I have decided to put it all in God's hands. I will continue to enjoy family and write as long as I am able. Thank you for all your prayers for Ruby and now, for myself. At this time, we are doing OK. Just keep us in your prayers.

Financial Situation Remains Tight

With one month to go in 2020, we remain hopeful that we will be able to complete the year with all bills paid including 100% of our Apportionments without having to rely on a Special Ask. With limited or no regular church services due to the Covid19 restrictions, it is easy to neglect our individual weekly giving. But the expenses of Faith Church continue on.

We encourage you to mail in your weekly or monthly giving when you are unable to attend regular church services. Those that do come in are deposited regularly, and that is what has enabled Faith Church to keep paying its bills. Many of you have been mailing your checks to the church office, and we sincerely appreciate that support.

Return to Red Phase

At the beginning of year 2020 I don't think many of us knew what coronavirus or COVID 19 was, but we are aware of it today and how it has impacted our daily lives, interactions with other people, and how we go about doing our daily business. It has been over 8 months that we have been dealing with this pandemic, with no end in the immediate future. Today this virus is out of control in our country, state of Minnesota, and in Waseca County.

We have become accustomed during advent season to the decorating the sanctuary, special music from the choir, and also different individuals willing to share their talents leading up to Christmas. But with what is going on in the world today, none of this will be possible this year. Unfortunately, this will include our annual Christmas Eve worship service. We can still celebrate the birth of baby Jesus in our mind, hearts, and with our immediate family, but we ask that you be wise and safe about it.

On Sunday, November 22, an announcement was made by Dave Baldini, Church Council President, that, unfortunately, we will be returning to the red phase based on recommendation from Bishop Ough. This means that the church building is closed and worship services have been moved to virtual only. Worship services can be viewed on our Facebook and website pages via a You Tube link. Daily devotions will be put on our Facebook page Monday through Friday. All in person meetings that had been previously scheduled will now need to be conducted by Zoom meeting or e-mail. Pastor Carolyn will be working from home. Please feel free to contact her if you need anything. Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will also be working mostly from home. Mail, e-mail and phone messages left on the church answering machine will be checked regularly so if you there is something you may need, please reach out via e-mail or phone message.

Our plan is to continue to monitor this situation for any improvement and when and if possible, going back to in person worshipping. We also want to say a special thank you to you the congregation for all you have done to keep everyone safe and doing what has been asked of you. This step backwards has nothing to do with the congregation, you have done nothing wrong. Please continue to check on one another, write notes of encouragement or run errands for someone in need.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Pastor Carolyn, Jarod True or Dave Baldini. Thank you for understanding in this difficult period of time.



Glad Tidings: Hidden Word Puzzle for CHRISTMAS

ANGELS
 BETHLEHEM
 BIRTH
 CAESAR AUGUSTUS
 CENSUS
 CITY OF DAVID
 FLOCKS
 FRANKINCENCE
 GALILEE

GABRIEL
 GLORY TO GOD
 GOLD
 GOOD WILL
 GOSPEL
 HEROD
 HOPE
 HOST
 IMMANUEL
 JESUS

INN
 JEWS
 JOSEPH
 JOY
 LIGHT
 LUKE
 LOVE
 MANGER
 MAGI
 MARY
 MESSIAH

MIRACLE
 MYRRH
 PEACE
 ROOM
 SHEPHERDS
 SON
 STABLE
 STAR
 SWADDLE
 TAX
 WISE MEN

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

The Nativity Word Search



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

ANGELS
 ANNA
 AUGUSTUS
 BETHLEHEM
 CYRENIUS
 DAVID
 EGYPT
 ELIZABETH
 EMMANUEL

FRANKINCENSE
 GABRIEL
 GOLD
 HEROD
 JOHN THE BAPTIST
 JOSEPH
 MANGER
 MARY
 MYRRH

NAZARETH
 ROMAN
 SHEPHERDS
 SIMEON
 STAR
 SWADDLING
 TAXES
 WISEMEN
 ZACHARIAS

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr

Franz Gruber

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Won - drous star,
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright. Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child;
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 lend thy light. With the an - gels, let us sing,
 love's pure light. Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heavenly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ia. Christ the Sa - vior is
 Al - le - lu - ia to our King. Christ the Sa - vior is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace. Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace;
 born;
 born;
 birth;
 Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born."
 Christ the Sa - vior is born.
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent Night

1818

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

It was Christmas Eve in the Austrian Alps. At the newly constructed Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, a Tyrol village near Salzburg, Father Joseph Mohr prepared for the midnight service. He was distraught because the church organ was broken, ruining prospects for that evening's carefully planned music. But Father Joseph was about to learn that our problems are God's opportunities, that the Lord causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him. It came into Father Joseph's mind to write a new song, one that could be sung organless. Hastily, he wrote the words, "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright . . ." Taking the text to his organist, Franz Gruber, he explained the situation and asked Franz to compose a simple tune.

That night, December 24, 1818, "Silent Night" was sung for the first time as a duet accompanied by a guitar at the aptly named Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf.

Shortly afterward, as Karl Mauracher came to repair the organ, he heard about the near-disaster on Christmas Eve. Acquiring a copy of the text and tune, he spread it throughout the Alpine region of Austria, referring to it as "Tiroler Volkslied."

The song came to the attention of the Strasser family, makers of fine chamois-skin gloves. To drum up business at various fairs and festivals, the four Strasser children would sing in front of their parent's booth. Like the Von Trapp children a century later, they became popular folk singers throughout the Alps.

When the children—Caroline, Joseph, Andreas, and Amalie—began singing "Tiroler Volkslied" at their performances, audiences were charmed. It seemed perfect for the snow-clad region, and perfect for the Christian heart. "Silent Night" even came to the attention of the king and queen, and the Strasser children were asked to give a royal performance, assuring the carol's fame.

"Silent Night" was first published for congregational singing in 1838 in the German hymnbook, *Katholisches Gesang—und Gebetbuch für den öffentlichen und häuslichen Gottesdienst zunächst zum Gebrauche der katholischen Gemeinden im Königreiche Sachsen*. It was used in America by German-speaking congregations, then appeared in its current English form in a book of Sunday school songs in 1863.

Were it not for a broken organ, there would never have been a "Silent Night."



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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will not meet in December.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will not meet in December.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible and Friends will not meet in December.