



December The Joyful Noise



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

This time of Advent and Christmas I invite you to reflect on the wonder and majesty of the meaning of “Immanuel”, “God with Us.”

But I will begin with clarifying the difference between “Immanuel” and “Emmanuel”. The word “*Immanuel*” comes from the Hebrew of Isaiah 7:14. “*Emmanuel*” comes from the Greek of the New Testament in Matthew 1:23 where Matthew is quoting Isaiah 7:14. Basically “*Immanuel*” is the Hebrew spelling and “*Emmanuel*” is the Greek spelling. Both mean “God with us.”

“God with us” is the most extraordinary truth of history. The living, eternal creator of all expanses of the universe, become human, a baby. The eternal infinite become finite. The omnipotent almighty becomes a weak and helpless baby boy. Why? TO BE WITH US in order to REDEEM us from our sin so that we can be with Him for all eternity.

This is so absolutely unique in history of the universe. The second person of the Trinity, the Son became flesh and dwelled with us.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

When you see a baby, think about God being a baby. When you see a Creche, think about God being born in such a lowly estate. When you hear the song “*Mary Did You Know*” by

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, pause your business and listen, paying particular attention to:

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the
nations?*

*Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am*

This child is the GREAT “ **I AM** ”

In worship and AWE!

Pastor Jeff

Prayer Moment:

Christmas Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), Episcopal priest,
Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering
love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters
in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee, Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes
once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Christmas Eve Worship - Tuesday Dec. 24th at 7 P.M.

Sing with Great JOY!

A Savior has been BORN! He is Christ our LORD.

Emmanuel, GOD with US!.

We'll worship our God with

Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion.

Bring a Friend!

Walking in the Word – Tuesday Night Bible Study will meet December 3rd, 10th and 17th beginning at 7 p.m.



Walking in the Word

Solomon is growing older. Soon his son will be king. Oh the trouble that is coming. The son is not like the father. What will happen? Come and share in this faith deepening time together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We concluded by 8:15 p.m.

Children's Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Come and enjoy time together in the House of the Lord. Through Bible reading, songs, memory verses, and crafts children will be disciplined in the Faith.



Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will be exploring **Who Jesus Is** this year. We will be studying the names of Jesus from A-Z. We will learn about Jesus' character and power by exploring His titles and adjectives. Join us in learning about Jesus the Creator, Healer, and Teacher and MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

Heather Lee looks forward to each week and discipling the children of Faith in Christ.

Remember Children's Choir is included in this time each week.

No children's Sunday School, Sunday December 29th for Christmas vacation.

Christmas is a time to be thankful and as I think of all the wonderful things I am thankful for, I pause to thank my wonderful family who took me in when I was just three days old. Without them I wonder where I would now be. For they did not know me nor my mother who brought me to their door that day. Oh, I am thankful they opened that door!



Christmas-time was a time of love, laughter and joy as my mother decorated the house and purchased small gifts she and my father could afford. I was always left in suspense as my mother tried to get me to guess what was in each one of my packages.

When I was older, my brother would wake me early so we could run down the stairs to see what Santa had left us, many times sneaking a peak before we would wake-up Mom and Dad. As we grew older, I will always remember him cooking breakfast after the gifts had been opened.

Yes, I had a wonderful family, sent from God. I am so blessed to have had them in the early chapters of my life. They are all gone now, my brother, too, and I look forward to meeting them again in heaven someday.

I would like to share this poem that a good friend gave to me many years ago.

It brought me strength and understanding:

Legacy of an Adopted Child

Once there were two women who never knew each other.

One you do not remember, the other you call mother.

Two different lives, shaped to make your one...

One became your guiding star, the other became your sun.

The first gave you life and the second taught you to live it.

The first gave you a need for love, and the second was there
to give it.

One gave you a nationality, the other gave you a name.

One gave you a seed of talent, the other gave you an aim.

One gave you emotions, the other calmed your fears.

One saw your first sweet smile, the other dried your tears.

One gave you up ... that's all she could do.

The other prayed for a child and God led her straight to you.

And now you ask me, through your fears,
the age old question unanswered throughout the years...

Heredity or environment, which are you the product of?

Neither, my darling neither.

Just two different kinds of love.

~ Author Unknown ~

"Merry Christmas!"

Linda DeWitt.

Church Council Member



*Women
in
Service*

Loyal Followers of Christ - (LFC)

Will meet on Friday, December 6th in Perkins Restaurant on North Limestone at 12:00 noon for their annual Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange. Each member is to bring a wrapped gift with the value to be approximately \$7.00-\$10.00 for the gift exchange.

Sewing & Service Circle

Will meet Thursday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. in the church to work on their projects.

Ruth Circle

Currently not meeting

Women of Today

Will meet for their regular meeting on Monday, December 16th at 3:00 in the church.

Complete this form and send it, along with your payment, to the church office no later than **DECEMBER 15TH** (orders may also be placed in the offering plates or hand delivered). Add a dedication below, if you wish, to be printed in our Christmas Eve bulletins.



Name (s) _____

Number of flowers ordered _____

Payment enclosed at \$9.00 each: \$ _____

Dedication: In Honor Of/In Memory Of:

*Thank you for helping us decorate for Christmas!
Poinsettias may be picked up after the
late service Christmas Eve
or left on the altar during
the remainder of the
Christmas Season.*

MONTHLY EVENTS

First Sunday of each month is Parish Nurse Sunday. Take a few minutes to stop by the nurse's table and have your blood pressure taken.

Fourth Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Bring in your non-perishable food items and place them in the container in the entrance hallway.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



We will once again be playing "post office" for your Christmas Cards being sent to one of your church family members. There will be a basket in the narthex in early December for you to put your "outgoing" cards in. They will be sorted alphabetically and be available for pick up the following Sundays. **No stamps needed!** Remember....no cards will actually be mailed so do not include any mail for out of town members or shut-ins. These cards should be mailed in the usual way.



Caroling

December 15th Christmas Caroling to FIC's Homebound

All are invited to join TWIGS after church on Sunday, December 15 to share some Christmas cheer with our homebound. Please bring a brown bag lunch to eat after worship as well as your Christmas spirit. Following the caroling all are invited back to Dave & Holly Hare's home for dinner and fellowship!

*"Good Christian Friends REJOICE
with heart and soul and voice!
Jesus Christ is born today!"*

ANNUAL REPORT



All information for the annual report must be submitted to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 12th!**

Here it is, what we've all been waiting for – the Christmas food basket list. The purpose is to provide a large family with enough food for a Christmas meal plus another day or so. Each basket needs the following

Breakfast items

- Large box of cereal
- Juice - 2 lg. Cans
- Fruit - 6 cans (2 each of same fruit)
- Oatmeal or instant oatmeal

Dinner items

- Spaghetti - 2 lbs.
- Pasta sauce - 2 lg. cans (No glass jars)
- Instant potatoes – lg. box/pkg
- Noodles – 16-oz. pkg.
- Chicken or beef broth – 2 cans of same kind
- Tuna – 2 cans same kind
- Vegetables - 6 cans – (2 each of same veg.)
- Hamburger Helper – 2 boxes
- Tuna - 2 cans

Lunch items

- Peanut butter
- Soup - 4 sm. or 2 lg. cans
- Crackers - 1# box
- Ramen Noodles - 4-packs
- Mac & Cheese - 4 boxes
- Canned Pasta – 2 cans (SpaghettiO's, etc)

Snacks

- Cookies – family-size pkg.
- Chips, popcorn, nachos – 1 lg. Bag

Complete Form, Clip and turn in to the church office:

Date _____ Full Name _____

Time spent shopping/packing box _____

Thrivent Member _____ (Yes) _____(No)

We're short on time to get our food baskets ready, but if we work together, we can make it happen. And remember, if you need help shopping, put your cash donation in the offering plate (mark it for Christmas Baskets) and someone will shop for you. All food items donated should be placed under the cross in the entrance hallway (by the storage room doors). Complete boxes can be placed on the stage in the fellowship hall.



Here are some important dates to remember:

- December 15 - deadline for turning in food at the church
- December 18 - deliver food to St. John's Lutheran Church
- December 19 - food will be distributed from St. John's

Drivers will be needed at Faith in Christ on the 18th and St. John's will need people to work on both the 18th and 19th. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the food basket table in the entrance hallway.

Please fill in the slips at the bottom of your food list and turn it in to the office or to Jim or Pat Kunce. Thrivent (formerly AAL & Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance) uses this information to help them determine what funds they share with the church community in Springfield.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS!



Cub Scout Pack 311 is collecting items to be shipped to our Military Men and Women. If you would like to be part of this project, please select some of the items listed below and place them in the container provided in the Narthex.

FOOD ITEMS - individual serving sizes only

(Please NO PORK products and NO Alcoholic Beverages)

- Pre-sweetened powdered drink mix packets
- Beef Jerky - huge hit - love these
- Gum
- Tuna or chicken creations lunch kits with condiments
- Cup O Noodles or Cup O Soup
- Protein/Granola Bars
- Coffee creamer and sugar packets
- Ground coffee packets and tea bags
- Hot chocolate mix
- Trail mix, nuts
- Small boxes cereal
- Cookies Candy
- Fruit snack (rolls-ups, gushers)

TOILETRIES - travel sizes

- Lip balm/chap stick
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Eye drops
- Baby wipes
- Gold Bond powder- for their feet

FUN THINGS - individual or travel size

Hand held games
Board games - small travel size
Word games - small travel size
DVD's and/or CD's
Nerf footballs, basketballs - any small balls
Playing cards/card games
Dice games - Boggle, Mississippi Marbles
Batteries - AA, AAA, C and D
Whoopee cushions
Paddle balls
Hacky sacks
Yo-Yo's
Jigsaw Puzzles - small travel size
Velcro darts
Squishy balls
Magazines/books - love computer mags

OTHER

Fabric softener sheets - for inside their boots
Phone cards - really need these to call home
Small tablets or paper and pens
Socks - heavy white or black, cotton only
Bug wipes
Sunglasses
Blank cards with envelopes
Brown T-shirts - sizes Med/Large/XLarge
Boxer Shorts - sizes Med/Large/ XLarge

REMEMBER FOR SHIPPING PURPOSES

NO Aerosol cans
NO glass containers



Jingle Bells, delicious smells, breakfast with the Scouts . . . and Santa!

Saturday, December 7, 2013

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Where: Faith in Christ Lutheran Church
1603 Moorefield Road

Boy Scout Troop 311 would like to help those less fortunate. Please help with our toy drive and bring a new, unwrapped toy. All toys will be donated to a local charity.

A silent auction and yummy bake sale filled with holiday goodies will also take place.