



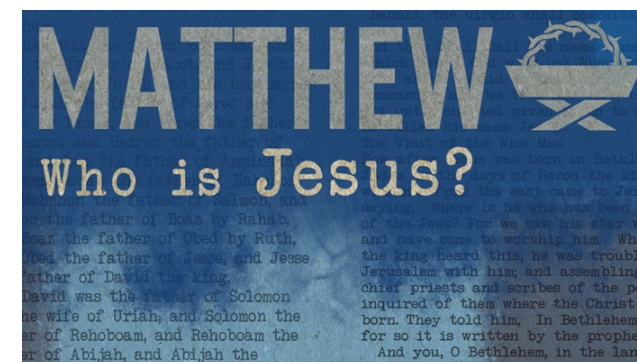
The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Dec. 4 Randy Dec. 18 Randy Dec. 25 Doug Dec. 7 Darryl Dec. 21 John Dec. 28 Scott Dec. 11 Andy Dec. 24 4:00 Scott Jan. 1 Andy Dec. 14 Doug Dec. 7:00 Andy						
Wednesday Advent Services will be live-streamed					2	3
4 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 10:15 Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	5 10:00am Bible Study	6	7 6:30pm Advent Service	8	9	10
11 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 10:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Mellen	12 10:00am Bible Study	13 1:00pm Sewing Circle	14 6:30pm Advent Service	15	16	17
18 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am service 10:15 Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	19 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg.	20	21 6:30pm Advent Service	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4:00pm 7:00pm
25 9:00am Christmas Service 2:00pm LGP	26 OFFICES CLOSED	27	28 6:30pm Worship Service	29	30	31

Lot's of things are going on this time of year, hunting season is over, people cleaning up after that, preparations for Christmas are well underway, at least for some. The church is beautifully decorated for the Advent of our King, and a thank you to all who assisted in that effort.

Some news circulating in Circuit 1 of the North Wisconsin District. A couple of our sister congregations are vacant or becoming vacant. Pastor Karl Wellnitz has left Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mellen and Pastor Matthew Gunia has accepted a call and will be leaving Trinity Lutheran Church in Ironwood. The Circuit Visitor is working with our circuit churches for assistance to cover worship services at Immanuel and are alternating coverage for their Sunday afternoon services. I have not heard when Pastor Gunia's departure date is, nor what kind of assistance will be needed there, that will be determined later. As you all know vacancies are hard on a congregation and I ask that you include both Immanuel and Trinity Churches in your prayers as well as an extra prayer for the pastors who will be helping them through their times of vacancy.



I do believe things are proceeding nicely here at Zion during this Advent season. We have a series on "Who is Jesus according to the Gospel of Matthew" on Sundays and a series on "Angels; the ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope" on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30.

We are also doing a Bible Study on who the writer of the Gospel of Matthew says Jesus is on Sundays after Worship. We also have the Monday morning Bible study, we are working to the conclusion of the Gospel of John. Sunday mornings also include Sunday School and Confirmation. All and all a pretty active group I would say. *(Continued on next page)*



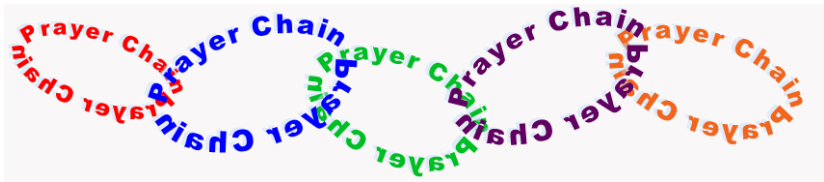
DECEMBER
Shannon Esala
715-292-0711
Justin Esala
715-292-5326

Altar Guild



Starting December 21st we will gain a teeny-tiny bit more than 2 minutes of sun each day. It doesn't sound like much, but by the end of January, which will be here before we know it, that will add up to 1 hour and 24 minutes more of sunlight. Now that will be nice.

There is one thing that I wanted to talk to all of you about. and that is the reorganiza-
tion and restarting of a prayer chain here at Zion. Our last official prayer chain was
overseen and run by some of the ladies including Marge Douglas, who, I believe was
the hub/contact point. Since Marge’s passing, a number of years ago, the prayer
chain disappeared. Now I receive prayer requests on pretty much a daily basis.
Sometimes it is simply a request for me to pray for someone personally, sometimes I
am asked to put someone on the church’s prayer list. There are times however when I
would like to be able to spread the word quickly and effectively to as many of you that
would be willing to help me, in lifting up people and causes to the Lord. With technolo-
gy today, particularly with the advent of the smartphone, notifying people of a needed
prayer could be quick and simple. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex for those in-
terested in being part of the prayer chain. Once we have the list I would then have a
meeting or two to meet with all of those interested, to talk about prayer, provide some
sample prayers and guidance on prayer and then put you to work. I believe we have
all seen the power of prayer at work, we saw it here recently in our own congregation.
It is easy to do, the time require-
ments are minimal, and you can do
it whenever and wherever you are. I
look forward to joining with you in
the power of prayer.



The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians; ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ *pray without ceasing,* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thes 5;16-18)

What letter time than the celebration of the Advent of our King then to pray together
unceasingly. Again, I look forward to sharing with you in the power of prayer. God
Bless You and Merry Christmas!

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit
and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes
5:23)
Pastor Rick

"After the season is over, the Christmas lights come down, the fragrance of pine
dissipates into the air, and the Christmas music no longer plays on the radio, we
may ask, ‘What happens next?’ The wonder and awe of Christmas is just a begin-
ning. Christmas reminds us that the babe born in Bethlehem has given us purpose
for living, and what happens next to us largely depends on how we embrace our
Savior, Jesus Christ, and follow Him."

You have to love how children can be so blunt and truthful. It can sometimes be amusing (or
quite embarrassing) when a child blurts out an answer that most people didn’t anticipate. Such
is the case for today’s short story. I am sure that the wisdom of this little darling will bring a
smile to your face!

In a grade school lesson, a teacher
was explaining a little bit about
whales.

A little girl in class piped up and said:
“I just learned that Jonah in the bible
was swallowed by a whale.”

The teacher said it was physically
impossible for a whale to swallow a
human because even though it was
a very large mammal its throat was
relatively small.

The girl said: “I am sure Jonah was
swallowed by a whale.”

The teacher reiterated that a whale
could not swallow a human; that it
was physically impossible.

The little girl replied: “My Sunday
school teacher told me Jonah was
swallowed and she would not lie to me.”

A bit perturbed by this, the teacher proclaimed: “That is a “story” from the bible, it is not factu-
al, and I will not argue with you.”

After a little thought, the girl responded: “Well, when I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah”.

Now challenged, the teacher spouted: “What if Jonah didn’t go to heaven?”

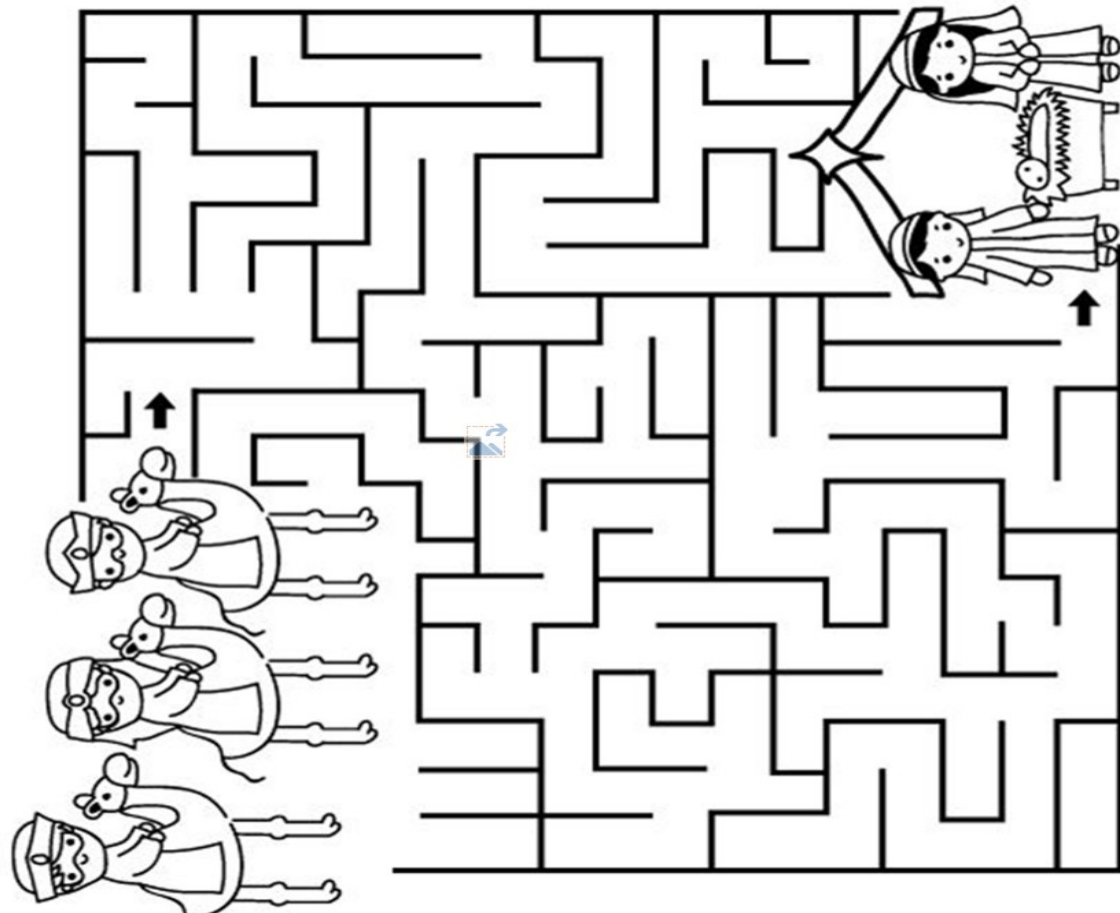
Not at all daunted, the girl quipped, . . . “ok then you ask him.” ~ *Author Unknown* ~

— — “Out of the mouth of babes . . . “



Nativity Maze

Help the Three Wise Men find the manger.



Match these clues from the Bible and Jesus' birth to the answers.

Joy To The World!

Third gift presented by Magi	A. Jesus
King at the time Jesus was born	B. Incense
Jesus found lying in this	C. Magi
Town Jesus was born in	D. Joseph
This has a pleasant scent when burned	E. Myrrh
"O Come All Ye _____ on Earth"	F. Bethlehem
"O Come All Ye _____"	G. Angel
This means "God with us"	H. Faithful
Where Holy Family fled to after Jesus birth	I. Gold
Precious metal given as a gift to Jesus	J. Mary
Mary with child through the _____	K. Dream
He is the reason for the season!	L. Peace
Visitors saw the star from the _____	M. Nativity
Human father of Jesus	N. Herod
An angel appeared to Joseph in a _____	O. Egypt
Visual representation of the birth of Jesus	P. Manger
Jesus' mother	Q. Holy Spirit
Another name for the three Kings	R. Immanuel
Announced His birth to the shepherds	S. East



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
 Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
 Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade 8:45am Confirmation 9:45am
 Bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am
 Women's Group Thursdays 1st & 3rd monthly 6:30pm

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M 9-5 T 9-5 W 12-8 Th 9-5 F off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours Typically M-W 8:30-2:30
 Days and times may change.

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Administrator: Autumn Heidrick 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home
 Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.
*Arlene Zimmerman
 Violet Basina
 Nancy Zehe*

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION
 For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.
*David Wright
 Jordan Thimm
 Andrew Pruss*

*Lord,
 Hear Our
 Prayer*

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill
 Madge Houle
 Alice Balmer
 Penny Larson
 Vi Basina
 Dave Pearson
 James Fletcher
 Sheryl Hildebrandt
 Harold Larson
 Diane Beiersdorff
 Linda Stenroos

Dave Anderson
 Lowell Nutt
 Riley Bretting
 Cindy Lazarik
 Doug Preuter
 Mike Trimble
 Jamie Klema
 Mike Ariens
 Randy Spangle
 Karin Pierce
 Frances Balmer
and those in our hearts

Ann Williams
 Randy Mashlan



Northern Wisconsin District Stewardship

Below is a graphic of how the NWD stewards the undesignated congregational income sent by churches. Your gifts make a difference, helping to do ministry many of our congregations could never do on their own. The mission of the North WI District LCMS is to encourage, network and equip Lutheran congregations of the NWD LCMS to vigorously make known the love of Christ. Watch for a more detailed annual report in February or review the past report on the nwdlcms.org website under About Us/Board of Directors.

Below L to-R:
DJ Schult
Assistant to the President
Sandie Pagel
Administrative Assistant, Office Support
Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck
District President
Lori Kavajecz
Executive Assistant, Office of the President
Bill Jordan
LCEF Vice-President & NWD Business Manager Finance Dept.



Christ Is Born for You
By Martin Luther (Faith Alone - 365 Devotional Readings)



The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city."
Luke 2:10-11

No matter where you're reading in the Bible, faith is the first mystery you should recognize. Faith is not believing that the story you're reading is true as written. That does nothing for anyone. Even unbelievers can believe this Bible story about Jesus' birth is true. Faith is not a natural work apart from God's grace, as the Scriptures clearly teaches. Rather the right kind of faith, the kind that flows from grace and that God's Word demands is firmly believing that Christ was born for you. His birth is yours and occurred for your benefit.

For the Gospel teaches that Christ was born for our benefit and that everything He did and suffered was for us. As the angel says here, "I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city." With these words, you can clearly see that He was born for all of us.

He doesn't say, "a Savior was born," but rather "your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born." In the same way he doesn't say, "I have good news," rather "I have good news for you," a message that should fill each of us with joy.



1. Not at home in a trough.
2. Floor of ship with the buildings used for events.
3. Morally right ruler at what time first part of sealed underground tank goes before first part of rope with noose.
4. The evergreen shrub with the evergreen climbing plant.
5. At the same time as guardians viewed their groups of sheep.
6. Deity cease work, you archaic happy and honorable males.
7. Enclosed by the dreary middle part of the coldest season.
8. The dozen twenty-four-hour periods of religious festival.
9. Fifteenth letter to move towards everything archaic you devoted.
10. Circle before small settlement of shortened Elizabeth, meadow and edge of cloth.
11. No noise when it's dark.
12. Small Scottish trio of rulers.
13. Listen, the harbinger spiritual beings make musical sounds with the voice.
14. Chime of bell happily not off, a long way above ground.
15. The original without the Spanish.
16. What is a parents favorite Christmas carol?

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI			
Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2022			
Saturday, November 19, 2022		Page 1 of 1	
Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
101.101	fM & I CK ACCOUNT Gen.	62,295.35	33,628.84
	General Checking	\$62,295.35	\$33,628.84
101.201	GEN FUND SAVINGS Northern Stat	33,656.63	34,248.80
119.999	TO BALANCE 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015	0.00	0.00
	Total Assets	\$95,951.98	\$67,877.64
Liabilities			
202.102	M & I Line of Credit Loan	0.00	0.00
202.103	BULDG LOAN PAYABLE	95,714.71	95,714.71
202.104	Principle from Bldg Fund	(63,699.39)	(72,896.02)
	Note payables LCEF & M& I bank	\$32,015.32	\$22,818.69
200.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	397.08	1,892.38
201.101	BORROWED WITHIN ORGANIZATION	0.00	0.00
201.201	EMPLOYER'S TAXES PAYABLE	4,452.67	(8,463.49)
201.203	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PAYABLE	21.67	471.67
	Total Liabilities	\$36,886.74	\$16,719.25
Fund balance			
	Total Fund balance	\$59,065.24	\$51,158.39
	Total Liabilities and Fund balance	\$95,951.98	\$67,877.64

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - Ashland WI					
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for October 2022					
Saturday, November 19, 2022		Page 1 of 1			
Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
BUILDING ACCOUNT TO BALANCE LOAN	(23,755.65)	0.00	(936.96)	0.00	(22,818.69)
BUILDING CAPITALIZED	(6,372.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(6,372.00)
General Fund	84,331.97	13,726.46	17,709.35	0.00	80,349.08
ORGAN FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	\$54,204.32	\$13,726.46	\$16,772.39	\$0.00	\$51,158.39

1. Away In A Manger
2. Deck The Halls
3. Good King Wenceslas
4. The Holly And The Ivy
5. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
6. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
7. In The Bleak Midwinter
8. The Twelve Days Of Christmas
9. O Come All Ye Faithful
- 10.O Little Town Of Bethlehem
11. Silent Night
12. We Three Kings
13. Hark The Herald Angels Sing
14. Ding Dong Merrily On High
15. The First Noel
16. Silent Night

Random act of kindness
Think of one today that you will do this week. It'll make someone's day and your day, too!

Winter's Embrace By Patricia L. Cisco
Shimmering lakes of silvery ice welcomes skaters' scarring slice. Hills adorned in lacy white watch children sleigh into the night. In the brilliant pristine light, snow birds in tall trees take flight. Evergreens draped in capes of snow, their heavy branches hanging low, blanket earth as north winds blow. Winter's dance is quite a show, an ice-kissed, dazzling, magical place, transformed by winter's cold embrace!

SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

The origins of Christmas songs dates back to around the 4th century when some of the first Latin Christian hymns were written about Jesus Christ. These early hymns were sung during church Christmas celebrations and eventually evolved into the songs we recognize today.

“**Good King Wenceslas**” is a classic and popular Christmas carol about a king from Bohemia who journeyed through harsh winter conditions to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen, which is on December 26th. The most sung version of the song was written by John M. Neale with help from his music editor Thomas Helmore in 1853.

Neale’s original English lyrics were set to the melody of a 13th century Easter hymn called “Tempus adest floridum” (“The time is near for flowering”) from the 1582 hymn book *Piae Cantiones*. Although the song is popular, academics have been critical of Neale’s decision to put his own lyrics over the original melody.

“**O Come, All Ye Faithful**”, originally known as “Adeste Fidelas” in Latin, is A well-known Christmas carol with disputed origins. The most popular English version of the song was written in 1841 by the English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley.

The original Latin song has been credited to several people including John IV of Portugal in the early to mid-17th century, John Reading in the late 17th century, and John Francis Wade in the mid-18th century. Wade’s version is the one used today and was first published in *Cantus Diversi* in 1751. A copy of Wade’s original manuscript is housed by Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, England.

“**Resonet in laudibus**” (“Let the voice of praise resound”)/ “**Christ was born on Christmas Day**” is a traditional Christmas carol from 14th century Europe. Its exact origins are difficult to date, but it was widely-known and sung all over medieval Europe. The oldest known written copy of the song appears in the Moosburg Gradual of 1360.

In 1582, the *Piae Cantiones* — a collection of medieval Latin songs — was first published by Theodoricus Petri, a Finnish student at the university in Rostock. The book helped popularize several of the most-known Christmas carols including “Resonet in laudibus.”

Popular English hymn writer, John M. Neale, translated the song into English as “Christ was born on Christmas Day” and based his version on the one in *Piae Cantiones*.

“**In dulci jublio**” (“**In sweet rejoicing**”)/ “**Good Christian Men, Rejoice**” is another traditional Christmas carol dating back to medieval times. The song's exact origins are unknown, but Heinrich Seuse is typically credited as the song’s author. According to German folklore, Seuse wrote the song sometime in 1328 after he heard the angels sing the words and joined them in a dance of worship.

The original song lyrics are a mixture of German and Latin and the oldest extant copy of the song is found in Codex 1305, a manuscript dating from around 1400.

One of the most popular versions of the song is the English version written by J.M. Neale called “Good Christian Men, Rejoice.”

“**Entre le bœuf et l’âne gris**” (“**Between the Ox and the Grey Donkey**”) in English, is one of the oldest French Christmas carols that is still sung today. According to different sources, the song either dates back to as early as the 13th century or the 16th century. Like most early Christmas songs, “Between the Ox and the Grey Donkey” is about the nativity scene.

Not much is known about the song other than the fact that it originated in France. The song may have been inspired by the Book of Isaiah chapter 1 verse 3 where the ox and the donkey are present for the birth of Jesus Christ.

“**The Friendly Beasts**” Of the very oldest Christmas songs on this list, “The Friendly Beasts” is still regularly sung today and is considered a traditional Christmas song. The song is about the animals (a donkey, cow, sheep, camel, and dove) present at Christ’s birth during the nativity scene and the gifts they bring to baby Jesus.

The original lyrics of the song were written by an unknown author in 12th century France and the song is set to the melody of the Latin song “Orientis Partibus.”

The modern English words were written by Robert Davis in 1920. Over the years, the song has been recorded by several famous singers including Burl Ives, Harry Belafonte, Johnny Cash, and Garth Brooks.

“**Corde natus ex Parentis**” (“**Of the Father’s Love Begotten**” **LSB 384**) While “Corde natus ex Parentis” isn’t a popular Christmas song today, it is probably the oldest known Christmas song that is still performed by a few churches. The oldest written record of the hymn appears in a manuscript dating back to the 10th century.

The song, which is actually a Christian hymn, was written by Roman Christian poet Aurelius Prudentius. The words, which were originally written in Latin, were translated and paired with a medieval plainchant melody called *Divinum mysterium*.

Today, two English translations of the song are used in its performance: one by John M. Neale from 1851, which was later extended by Henry W. Baker a decade later and the other by Robert Furley Davis for the *English Hymnal* in 1906.

“**Jesus Refulsit Omnium**” (“**Jesus, Light of All the Nations**”) is often cited as the oldest known Christmas song in the world. Like many of the first Christmas songs, “Jesus Refulsit Omnium” is a Christian hymn.

The hymn was composed in Latin by St. Hilary of Poitiers sometime in the fourth century. It is believed that he may have created the song after the first recorded Christmas celebration took place in 336 AD.

Several people credit St. Hilary as the first Latin Christian hymn writer and two other hymns are attributed to him. Although “Jesus Refulsit Omnium” is the oldest Christmas hymn, it isn’t widely-known today.

"**In the Bleak Midwinter**" is a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti, commonly performed as a Christmas carol. The poem was published, under the title "**A Christmas Carol**", in the January 1872 issue of *Scribner's Monthly*, and was first collected in book form in *Goblin Market, The Prince's Progress and Other Poems* (Macmillan, 1875).

In 1906, the composer Gustav Holst composed a setting of Rossetti's words (titled "Cranham") in *The English Hymnal* which is sung throughout the world.¹ An anthem setting by Harold Darke composed in 1909 is also widely performed by choirs, and was named the best Christmas carol in a poll of some of the world's leading choirmasters and choral experts in 2008.

The "**Coventry Carol**" is an English Christmas carol dating from the 16th century. The carol was traditionally performed in Coventry in England as part of a mystery play called *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. The play depicts the Christmas story from chapter two in the Gospel of Matthew: the carol itself refers to the Massacre of the Innocents, in which Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two in Bethlehem to be killed, and takes the form of a lullaby sung by mothers of the doomed children.

The music contains a well-known example of a Picardy third. The author is unknown; the oldest known text was written down by Robert Croo in 1534, and the oldest known setting of the melody dates from 1591.^[1] There are alternative, modern settings of the carol by Kenneth Leighton and another by Philip Stopford.

Treasurer's Report as of October 2022					
Saturday, November 19, 2022					Page 2 of 2
Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
WATER - CHURCH	0.00	125.00	1,270.78*	20.78	1,500.00
Church Utilities	\$1,642.44	\$1,443.00	\$13,696.17	(\$733.83)	\$17,300.00
BUILDING CAPITALIZED PROJ	0.00		0.00		
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	1,074.79	167.00	14,681.49*	13,011.49	2,000.00
ORGAN PURCHASE EXPENSE	0.00		0.00		
PRESCHOOL BLDG. MAINTENANCE	0.00	167.00	0.00	(1,670.00)	2,000.00
PROPERTY/WORK COMP INSURANCE	4,569.00	679.00	7,603.50*	813.50	8,145.00
Snow Removal	0.00	167.00	227.50	(1,442.50)	2,000.00
TRUSTEE SPECIAL PROJECTS	0.00		0.00		
Church Maint. & improvements	\$5,643.79	\$1,180.00	\$22,512.49*	\$10,712.49	\$14,145.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	0.00	8.00	39.00	(41.00)	100.00
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	0.00	42.00	92.27	(327.73)	500.00
KITCHEN SUPPLIES	0.00		0.00		
Member services in and out	0.00		0.00		
MUSIC	0.00	8.00	250.00*	170.00	100.00
Office Supplies	0.00	125.00	465.21	(784.79)	1,500.00
POSTAGE	196.88	33.00	257.32	(72.68)	400.00
Software Fees	179.35	250.00	1,436.28	(1,063.72)	3,000.00
Technology - Marketing	258.39	167.00	3,590.47*	1,920.47	2,000.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	65.00	250.00	1,536.15	(963.85)	3,000.00
Church Supplies	\$699.62	\$883.00	\$7,666.70	(\$1,163.30)	\$10,600.00
\$ FOR CONFER/ CONVENTIONS	172.00	83.00	1,719.83*	889.83	1,000.00
\$ TO EDUCATION	0.00	292.00	1,910.69	(1,009.31)	3,500.00
\$ TO EVANGELISM	0.00	83.00	637.86	(192.14)	1,000.00
\$ TO LFOJ CHILD CARE SUPPORT	0.00		0.00		
\$ TO STEWARDSHIP	0.00	8.00	0.00	(80.00)	100.00
\$ TO YOUTH PROGRAMS	0.00	83.00	0.00	(833.00)	1,000.00
BRICK MISSION	135.00	135.00	1,350.00	0.00	1,620.00
MISSION various	0.00		0.00		
MISSIONS TO SYNOD	1,000.00	1,000.00	9,400.00	(600.00)	12,000.00
OVERALL OFFERINGS PD TO SYNOD	0.00		0.00		
PUBLICATIONS LUTH WIT. ETC	0.00	42.00	684.39*	264.39	500.00
Ministry Disbursements	\$1,307.00	\$1,726.00	\$15,702.77	(\$1,560.23)	\$20,720.00
interest on line of credit	0.00		0.00		
LOAN FEES	0.00		0.00		
Mort. & credit card interest	98.33	250.00	1,177.13	(1,322.87)	3,000.00
PRINCIPAL payment	936.96	1,035.00	9,196.63	(1,153.37)	12,425.00
Total PRIN. AND INT. payments	\$1,035.29	\$1,285.00	\$10,373.76	(\$2,476.24)	\$15,425.00
Ordination Expenses	0.00		0.00		
principal to principal from bl	(936.96)		(9,196.63)		
TRUSTEE CONTROLLED DISBURSEMNT	0.00		0.00		
Total Expense	\$16,772.39	\$14,918.00	\$138,063.26	(\$1,923.11)	\$178,999.00
Difference	(\$3,045.93)	(\$950.00)	(\$7,906.85)		(\$11,379.00)

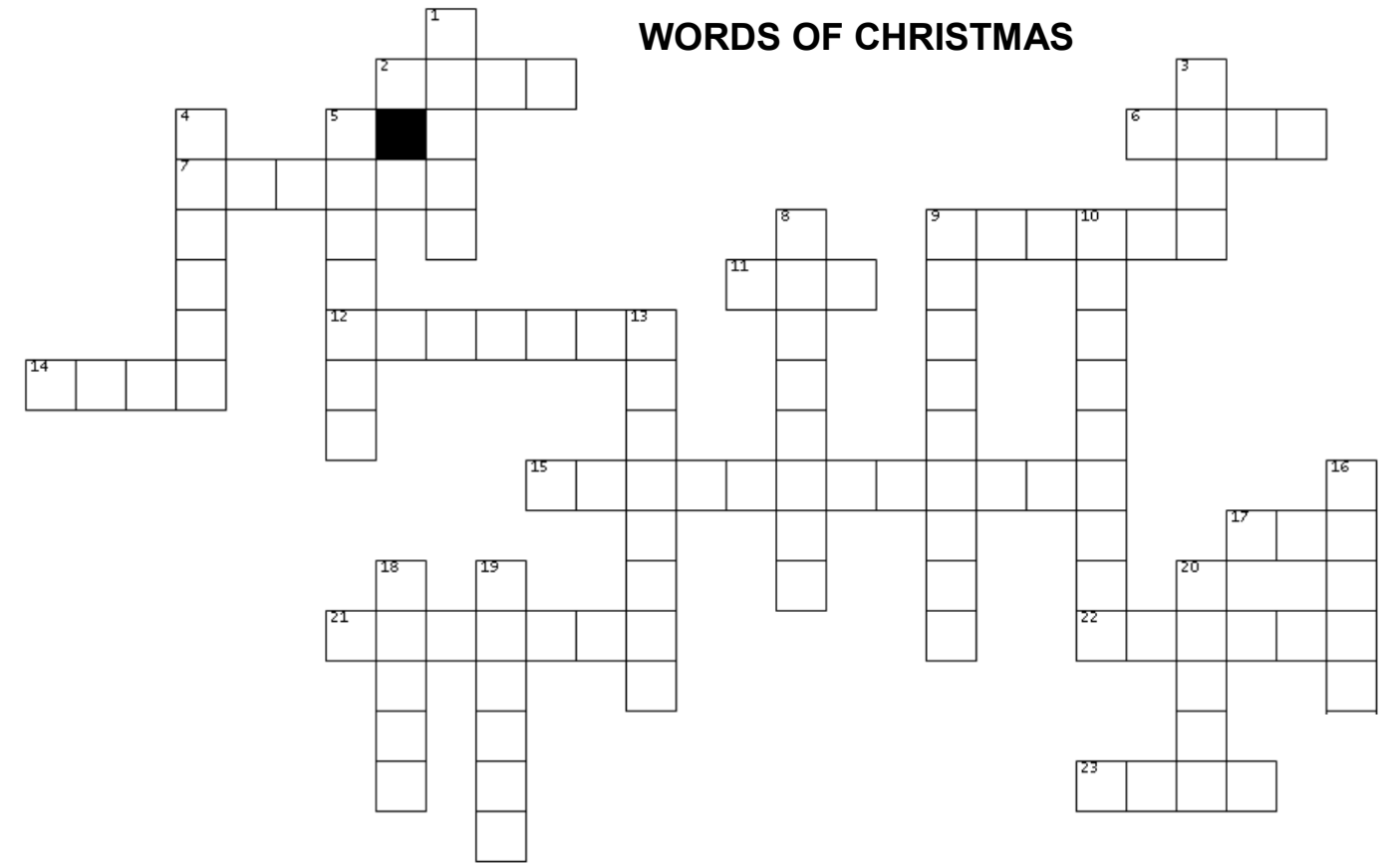
Treasurer's Report as of October 2022

Saturday, November 19, 2022

Page 1

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget
Income					
BUILDING CAP PROJ FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
EDUCATION FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
EVANGELISM FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
GEN. FUND ENVELOPE RECEIPTS	14,890.00	13,968.00	135,436.91	(4,243.09)	167,620.00
GEN. FUND INTEREST EARNED	0.32		14.79		
GENERAL FUND LOAN PROCEEDS	0.00		0.00		
LFOJ FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Member services\$ etc	0.00		0.00		
Mission MISC IN/OUT	0.00		(9,775.00)		
ORGAN FUNDRAISER	0.00		0.00		
Special Gifts	0.00		0.00		
STEWARDSHIP FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Transfers in/out general fund	(1,211.86)		3,897.71		
Trivent Choice Dollars	48.00		582.00		
TRUSTEE FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
YOUTH FUNDRAISERS	0.00		0.00		
Total Income	\$13,726.46	\$13,968.00	\$130,156.41	(\$4,243.09)	\$167,620.00
Expense					
CHOIR DIRECTOR SALARY	0.00		0.00		
Guest/vacancy pastors	0.00	25.00	723.58*	473.58	300.00
MILEAGE OR TRAVEL EXPENSES	332.11	42.00	332.11	(87.89)	500.00
ORGANISTS SALARY	0.00	337.00	3,200.00	(170.00)	4,040.00
PASTOR'S SALARY	3,818.18	4,136.00	40,090.89	(1,269.11)	49,636.00
SECRETARY SALARY	950.63	926.00	8,859.40	(400.60)	11,115.00
SEXTON SALARY	175.00	275.00	1,684.39	(1,065.61)	3,300.00
SMP PROGRAM VICAR ED	0.00		0.00		
Treasurer Salary	110.00	275.00	979.00	(1,771.00)	3,300.00
Church Salaries	\$5,385.92	\$6,016.00	\$55,869.37	(\$4,290.63)	\$72,191.00
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	0.00	42.00	0.00	(420.00)	500.00
EMPLOYER'S FICA TAX EXP	386.62	473.00	4,193.28	(536.72)	5,677.00
HEALTH & DISABILITY INS.	94.97	125.00	1,070.74	(179.26)	1,500.00
PASTOR'S HOUSING ALLOW.	1,153.84	1,250.00	12,115.32	(384.68)	15,000.00
PASTOR'S PENSION PLAN	359.86	453.00	4,059.29	(470.71)	5,441.00
PASTOR'S PROFESSIONAL EXP	0.00	42.00	0.00	(420.00)	500.00
Pastor's retirement Savings	0.00		0.00		
SEC. PENSION PLAN	0.00		0.00		
Employee Benefits	\$1,995.29	\$2,385.00	\$21,438.63	(\$2,411.37)	\$28,618.00
ELECTRICITY - CHURCH	774.47	417.00	3,368.72	(801.28)	5,000.00
FUEL - CHURCH	30.13	542.00	4,050.92	(1,369.08)	6,500.00
INTERNET SERVICE & SOFTWARE	79.99	92.00	941.50*	21.50	1,100.00
TELEPHONE - CHURCH	149.97	121.00	1,653.77*	443.77	1,450.00
WASTE DISPOSAL	607.88	146.00	2,410.48*	950.48	1,750.00

WORDS OF CHRISTMAS



Advent	Faith	Incense	Magi	Myrrh	Savior
Angel	Frankincense	Jesus	Manger	Nativity	Shepherds
Bethlehem	Gold	Joseph	Mar	Noel	Stable
Emmanuel	Hope	Joy	Messiah	Rejoice	Star

An elderly couple has dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives leave the table and go into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one says, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man asks, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thinks and thinks and finally asks, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turns towards the kitchen and yells, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'



Christmas is Travel Time

During the month of December there are many trips that families take. Families head off to celebrate Christmas with extended family. Some families head south to enjoy sunshine or north to the cottage to enjoy winter weather. The semester comes to an end and college students head home.

The Christmas story is about Mary and Joseph taking a trip. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary. (Luke 2:4-5) By the time we get

to January 6 – Epiphany – Mary, Joseph and Jesus are heading off to Egypt while the “Magi from the east...returned by another route.”

These trips are all the result of the ultimate trip that took Jesus from heaven to earth as he took on flesh and blood to be born in Bethlehem. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. (Galatians 4:4-5) His trip to earth had a purpose – to redeem all the lost people of the world due to sin. He did it successfully through His death and resurrection and His next trip was special too – he ascended into heaven.

This past Sunday I preached at an installation and I learned the pastor had been born in Britt, Iowa. What I learned about Britt is that it was on a railroad line and also home of the National Hobo Convention, held on the second weekend of every August since 1900.

According to Wikipedia: “The National Hobo Convention is the largest gathering of hobos, rail-riders, and tramps, who gather to celebrate the American traveling worker. A hobo is a migrant worker in the United States. Hobos, tramps and bums are generally regarded as related, but distinct: a hobo travels and is willing to work; a tramp travels, but avoids work if possible; and a bum neither travels nor works.” They would travel by jumping on a train to ride free from one town to the next.

I shared with those in attendance that we are very much like a hobo. Our journey here on earth and eventually to heaven is a free ride because of God’s love and grace, based on our faith in Jesus our Lord. It cost us nothing. It doesn’t depend on our works because Jesus did the heavy lifting, the tough job – dying for us. What we do in response is a fruit of our faith.

So enjoy your time during Advent as you prepare for Christmas. Celebrate the birth of the Christ child. If you are taking a trip – be safe. Enjoy family. Have a blessed Christmas.

One more thing... Jesus has only one more trip to take. “He will come to judge the living and the dead.”

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, District President

While out and about
compliment a parent on how well his/her child is behaving.
You'll make their day.

Zion Lutheran Church Council November 21, 2022

Call to Order

Opening prayer – Pastor Williams

Roll Call – Darryl Warren, Elders & Education Nick Jarvela, Trustees
Jule Jarvela, Secretary Chuck Chronis, Financial Secretary Lisa Guski, Treasurer, LFOJ
Lori Anderson, Evangelism Pastor Rick Williams

Approval of Minutes - 1- Nick Jarvela 2 – Chuck Chronis MMC

Pastor’s Report – Will do services at Mellen twice monthly through March 2023, doing LFOJ chapels & ordering curriculum for teachers to use, Advent Bible Study begins Sunday, Nov. 27th, Christmas Eve services 4 & 7 PM, Christmas Day service 9 AM

Approval of Treasurer’s Report – 1 –Nick Jarvela 2 – Chuck Chronis MMC

Approval of Agenda with one addition – 1- Lisa Guski 2 – Lori Anderson MMC

Board Reports –

Trustees – New Fire Alarm System installed, replaced LFOJ sump pump battery, new heat traces installed on roof.

Financial Secretary – No report

LFOJ – Washer hose broke causing water damage and cleanup, kitchen stove replaced by donation, maintenance schedule being created, need staff

Evangelism – Directory wrapping up

Education – Going fine

Elders – No report

Official Acts

Death – Madge Houle 1-9-22

New Member – John Swanson - 11-1-22

Transfer – Roger & Sally Gustafson - 11-16-22

Old Business – None

New Business

A. Assistance with QuickBooks update. Pastor will help

B. Advent Calendars – will purchase for Sunday School only 1-Jarvela 2 -- Chronis MMC

C. Christmas gift LFOJ Staff/Zion Staff – 15 Chamber Dollars

D. Zion Budget – reviewed with no changes

E. Bi-annual Meeting with LFOJ Board – Will be discussed by John Pruss and Lisa Guski

F. Church Insurance – Cost rising. Discussed ways to lower cost. Voted to leave deductible as is – 1-Lisa Guski 2- Chuck Chronis MMC

Next meeting December 19, 2022

Adjournment – 1- Chuck Chronis 2- Lisa Guski MMC

Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Jule Jarvela, Secretary

Repeat the words of Luke 1:28,38

from Gabriel and Mary frequently this month: “I am highly favored” and “The Lord is with me” and “I am the Lord’s servant.”

Years ago it was Christmas Eve. Exchanging gifts after church. Two of my boys came to me holding a gift from both of them. They were excited. I was, too. I opened the gift and there was the largest cow pie I've ever seen. They started laughing. Really? A cow pie for Dad? As I looked closer I could see that it was not real. It was solid chocolate. It was huge. They knew I liked chocolate. But this was too much. I knew I could never eat that much chocolate. So I thanked them. Then I thought about a word. I will regift it and send it to my brother Bruce for his birthday on January 20th.



A few days after his birthday, Mom called. She was livid. She said Bruce, her favorite son, had just called her and told her that I'd sent him a real cowpie for his birthday and his feelings were hurt. She said, "I want you to get on the phone right now and apologize to him. You've hurt his feelings." I tried to explain that it was solid chocolate. She said, "Don, don't lie to me. You call and tell him you're sorry." I said Mom, "I'm not lying. After all, I am a minister and I wouldn't lie." She didn't believe me. So I called up Bruce and said, "Really, you lied to your Mom and she believes you and not me." He laughed and laughed.

I think about someone else who was told something and he may have responded, "Really?" In Luke 2 we read about Simeon who was told by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Lord's Christ before he died. He may have said, "Really?" And then "Really?" turned "Real." *"Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought the Child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying 'Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation.'"*

Remember that Simeon was living in difficult times, just like you. The world was bad. The church was bad. Yet, he believed the promise and finally held the "Promise" in his arms. He was now ready to depart this world. Believe me, and if you can't believe me, then believe the Holy Spirit who says that this Jesus is for you. You will see. You will behold. Really? "Yes, 'really' says the Holy Spirit!" By the eyes of faith you have already seen Him. And it won't be long, and you will really see Him!

My Lord Jesus, I want to be like Simeon: righteous in faith, devout in holding You close, and waiting for You to come to take me Home. Really! Sovereign Lord, I see You as my Savior who came from heaven. I believe that you went first to the **CRADLE**, then You went to the **CROSS**. And, dear Jesus, now You wear the **CROWN**. I believe that You have paid for all my sins. I now have peace. Whenever You wish, I am ready to leave this world and join You in heaven. Until then I will keep my eyes on You. Until then I will "search the Scriptures" as You told me to. Until then I will do my best to tell others about You. Thank You, my Lord and my God. Thank You! Amen!

Today's story makes me feel good and I smile. I hope that you find this humorous little tale as enjoyable as I did.

Going to bed the other night, I noticed people in my shed stealing things.

I phoned the police but was told that no one was in the area to help. They said that they would send someone over as soon as possible.

I hung up.

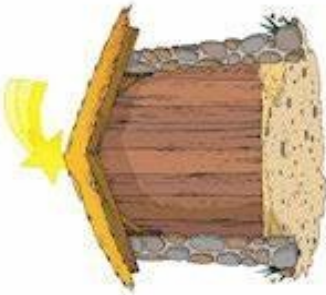
A minute later, I called the police again. "Hello," I said, "I called a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to worry now because I shot them."

Within minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, plus helicopters and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the officers said, "I thought you said that you shot them."

To which I replied, "I thought you said there was no one available."

Nativity Word Scramble



All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

- 1. KREENANSFCI
- 2. NNI KEERPE
- 3. AZHTRNAE
- 4. BMHEELHTE
- 5. LDGO
- 6. RYRMH
- 7. HARLSATAB
- 8. RCASPA
- 9. EMRHLCIO
- 10. AIGRELB



When you read this, you will never think of Thunderstorms the same way again.

This should make you smile!!

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.



At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called,

"What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."

You're Invited

Birthday parties are happy occasions for family members and friends. But what could anyone have done that would warrant a month-long celebration (Advent)? What did Jesus do that makes Christmas the holiday of the year?

He entered this world as a helpless Baby; birthed in a dirty cattle barn; fathered by God the Holy Spirit. Unbelievable? Right! But it did happen. Why?

Man had rebelled against God, and God sent Jesus to take our punishment. That is why He came, why He died, why He rose again from the dead. By faith in this Savior God gives you forgiveness of all your sins and writes your name in the Book of Life in heaven. Praise God! Andrew Culverwell wrote:

Celebrations come because of something good,
celebrations we love to recall.
Mary had a baby Boy in Bethlehem,
the greatest celebration of them all.
Come on, ring those bells, light the Christmas tree.
Jesus is the King born for you and me.
Come on, ring those bells, ev'rybody say,
"Jesus, we remember this Your birthday."

We encourage you to invite your friends to celebrate Jesus' birthday at our Christmas Eve Services at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Then join us again on Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day, at 9:00am. Ask them to join you for these celebrations. This is an important invite.



"Hi, Grandma! Did you come through the woods and over the river to get here?"



There was a theft on a snowy day, but everyone claimed that they were home. One of them was lying. Who is the thief?

Jesus Is Holding You In His Arms So You Won't Be Frightened By Pastor Don Ginkel

The Solomon Rosenberg family endured life together in a Nazi death camp. Not only were Solomon and his wife imprisoned, but their two children, Jacob and David, and Solomon's aged parents, too.

The first to die in the ovens were the grandparents. They were in their eighties and unable to work the long, grueling hours. Under Nazi policy, since they were unable to "earn" their livelihood in the camp, they forfeited their right to life! Solomon feared the next to go would be David, the youngest, who was slightly crippled. Every morning as members of the family went their separate ways, Solomon feared it might be the last time he would see David.



Upon returning "home" one day, his greatest fear had been realized. David was nowhere to be found. He quickly scanned the crowds of people and saw Jacob huddled in a corner crying.

"Where is David? Did they take David today?" he asked. "Yes," Jacob replied between sobs. "But where is mother? She was well. She could work. Where is she?" Jacob looked at his father with tears flowing from his cheeks. "Papa," he said, "they came for David, and he started to cry. And so Mother pleaded to go along, and they let her. I saw them go Papa. Mother was holding David in her arms so that he would not be frightened!"

This earthly story is a picture of what God did in a much greater way when He came to earth. The Baby "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12) comes for one reason - to die. Not to the ovens of Auschwitz, but to a cross to die for your sins. He comes to hold You in His arms so that when you walk through the valley of death, you will not be frightened (Psalm 23:4).

This is Christmas. He comes to bring life out of death. He opens the doors to heaven. He comes to say, "Do not be afraid. I hold you in My arms." The future is promised. "Heaven is your home!" "Glory to God in the highest..." (Luke 2:14).

The following little ditty might make you scratch your head but also might bring a smile to your face.

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

Everybody thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Makes you think, doesn't it