



## THE HEARTFELT CHRISTMAS TREE

There is a special Christmas tree  
That lives within the heart.  
It isn't pine, and can't be bought  
At any store or mart.

Each branch holds some fond memory  
Of joyful Christmas cheer,  
Reminding us of those we love  
And always will hold dear.

The gifts beneath this Christmas tree  
Are stacked up very high  
With kindly deeds of thoughtfulness  
That one could never buy.

The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands  
Through every passing year  
With lovely gifts and blessings  
Having come from far and near.

Atop this tree a star shines bright,  
While angels sing God's praise;  
Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared  
And blesses ALL our days.

—Peggy Ferrel

*Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod  
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My fellow redeemed,

Recently, I've been thinking about Decembers in Los Angeles. The weather is very mild, and opening a window on Christmas Day isn't unusual. This reminiscing brought a song to mind as I've been preparing for Christmas. It debuted 59 years ago this month: "California Dreamin'," sung by The Mommias and the Pappas. Here are the lyrics:

*All the leaves are brown  
And the sky is grey  
I've been for a walk  
On a winter's day  
I'd be safe and warm  
If I was in L.A.*

*Stepped into a church  
I passed along the way  
Well, I got down on my knees  
And I pretend to pray  
You know the preacher like the cold  
He knows I'm gonna stay*

*All the leaves are brown  
And the sky is grey  
I've been for a walk  
On a winter's day  
If I didn't tell her  
I could leave today*

*California dreaming  
On such a winter's day*

The song's author, John Phillips, was suffering through a nasty East Coast winter. He wanted nothing more than to be back in Southern California. Then one night he had a dream—this very song!

The author of this song reminds me of Joseph. Imagine for a moment you are in this poor guy's shoes. You are legally contracted to marry a woman who's just told you that an angel came to visit her. And she tells you she's pregnant. Pregnant by the Holy Spirit, no less. Joseph's not stupid. He knows where babies come from. He can't ignore Mary's unfaithfulness.

Joseph's hopes and dreams have been shattered. All he has worked for, all he has dreamt, has been ruined. Like John Phillips in "California Dreamin'," Joseph is stuck. Maybe Joseph goes for a long walk. Does he go into a synagogue he passes along the way? Does he kneel to pray, but nothing comes out of his lips? Does the rabbi know he's there? Does God know he's there? Does God even care?

The good news is He does care. He cares about you, and He cared about Joseph. We hear in Matthew chapter 1: "But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She

*Continued on page 3*

Continued from page 2

will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)."

Jesus comes to heal your shattered dreams. He hears your prayers. He bears the burden of your sins and will bear you up to your Father's side where you will be safe from sin, death, and the devil, and where you bask in the warmth of His glory.

Yes, nails and spear shall pierce Him through; the cross He'll bear for me, for you. That is why He came down from heaven: to let the earth have its way with Him that He might have His way with you. And His way is life. So be not afraid, for I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born a Savior, God in the flesh, who fills you with life divine.

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Manz

**Special Voters' Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, December  
3, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Church sanctuary

Topics:

- 1) Electrical upgrades
- 2) Select Insurance  
provider
- 3) Election of Church  
President

**IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP**

- **Tuesday, December 3 @ 7p—Special Voter's Meeting**
- Thursday, December 5 @ 9a - Care & Share Meeting
- Friday, December 6 @ 9a—Decorating of the Church
- Monday, December 9—Deadline for donations for Orphan Grain  
Train to church
- Sunday, December 15 @ 3p—Caroling with Chili Supper
- Monday, December 16 @ 4p—LWML Christmas Celebration
- Thursday, December 19 - Deadline for Chronicler articles
- Sunday, December 22 @9a—Christmas program during DS
- Tuesday, December 24 @ 7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service
- Tuesday, December 31 @ 7:00pm—New Year's Eve Service
- Tuesday, January 14 @ 9a—Quilting
- Thursday, January 16 @ 9a—Quilting

It is that time of year again where the members of OSL get the privilege to sponsor families from the St. Nicks Christmas Club as we have done since 2009. This will be the 15<sup>th</sup> year that we been donating to so many that are in need. One year we were able to help 58 children. This year we will be taking donations November 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup>. This will allow us time to be ready when the book is available for adopting families to start shopping. We are always looking for cheerful elves to help with the shopping. What would you have to buy you ask? Each child gets an outfit, socks, under garments or diapers, and an item from their wish list. Also anyone that is in need of a winter coat, boots, mittens, hats we always purchase as I feel this is a necessity. There is no set dollar amount for you to spend on a child as each child's needs are different. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact me. It is a good feeling knowing that you helped out a family that may not have had much this holiday season. LWML would like to thank each and every one of you for your support towards our missionary projects.

Mary Ervin



### December Volunteers

Usher - Michael Weddell

Greeters - Michael & Patsy Weddell

Fellowship -

Elder - Jary Boger

Media - Julie Dlouhy

Altar Guild - Julie Dlouhy



**We need volunteers for December for Fellowship. Are you the one who can fill this spot? If so, please sign up on the form on the bulletin board beside the mail boxes. Your help will be greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you!**

### **Orphan Grain Train Delivery**

A trip to drop off items for Orphan Grain Train is planned (weather permitting) for Tuesday, December 10. If you have any items you wish to donate, please put them in the marked container in the entryway by the office by noon, Monday, Dec. 9. If you have several items, please put them in plastic bags marked OGT & set them beside the OGT container. They are always in need of men's clothing & shoes. They will take almost anything as long as it's clean & in good condition-clothing, shoes, coats, purses, bedding, toys, sporting & medical equipment, etc. However, they do not take anything breakable or electric.

Dear Members,

The holiday season is upon us and we are asking the members and friends of our congregation to help decorate the church for this holy season. You may take part in this traditional event by purchasing a poinsettia. They will be delivered for you and used in decorating the church until the conclusion of our Christmas worship, at which time you may pick yours up and enjoy them in your home.

To take part in this tradition, please fill out the form, which is available each Sunday, and place it in the collection plate along with your money. Or, you may take your request and money to the church office.

Please place your order now as the firm deadline will be  
Sunday, December 8th

The cost of the 6 in. poinsettia will be \$14.00 this year.

*Ordered from The Flower Court, Newton, IA*

Your Elders



### Christmas for Seniors

An additional opportunity for the OSL Family to show their love to the folks at Linden Place (aka Mc Cann Village).

Many senior residents at Linden have no family so a small group at Linden have taken on the task of collecting donations to create Christmas gift bags for the residents.

A collection box is set up in the Narthex as well as a list of suggested items for men and women. The list is also printed here. As you are out shopping consider picking up a few items to help fill the Linden Place Christmas bags.

The collection will end on December 15th.  
If you have questions contact Julie  
521-3473

### Suggested Items to Purchase:

- Socks
- Fuzzy Socks
- Purse size handsanitizer
- Deodorant (Men's or Women's)
- Hand lotion
- Small Kleenex pocket size
- Tooth paste
- Snacks—Cheese and Crackers
- Christmas Candies
- Candy canes
- Peppermint sticks
- Hot Chocolate packets
- Wordsearch
- Crossword puzzles
- Pens and pencils
- Small note pads
- Flip note books and envelopes
- Purse size calendars
- Wall calendars
- Scotch tape
- Dish towels
- Hot pad holders

 *Peace on Earth* 

*Don't forget to look for the  
lighted display sponsored by  
OSL at the Maytag Park  
Holiday Lights this year!*

## **NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION**

**Beginning December 1st,  
Read one chapter of  
The Book of Luke in the Bible  
each evening.**

**There are 24 chapters.  
On Christmas Eve you will have read  
an entire account of Jesus's Life  
and wake up Christmas Morning  
Knowing WHO and WHY  
We Celebrate!!**

**“Gloria In Excelsis!”  
An Advent & Christmas Concert**

**December 8 at 2:00pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
206 1<sup>st</sup> Ave South  
State Center, IA 50247**

**See a flyer about this on the bulletin board in the Narthex.**

It was discovered that a local painter/handyman, James Shadden, and a few other fellows were driving to Creston, North Carolina on October 17 to help repair houses damaged in the hurricane. Sully Construction loaned them a 16' enclosed trailer so they were taking along tools, supplies, bedding, & some clothing. Our quilting gals unanimously agreed to send quilts. Fifteen quilts and 19 toddler/receiving blankets along with a sleeping bag, coats, and miscellaneous items were dropped off before James and his crew left for North Carolina. Please continue to pray for those affected by the hurricanes.



Pat Shelton & JoAnn Bringolf delivered 15 quilts and 19 toddler/receiving blankets, a sleeping bag, coats & other miscellaneous items to Pat Coady for delivery to Creston, NC.



**Deliveries of quilts to:.**



**Jo took to Adult Nutrition in Newton**

**Jo took to Lynnville-Sully Schools**



**Sue took to DHHS**

Sock-tober was a Sock-cess! There were socks with stripes, socks with dots, fuzzy socks, unicorn socks, tall socks, short socks, black socks, pink socks, even itty-bitty baby socks! There will be lots of warm tootsies because of your donations. Thank you!



LWML NEWS: Please join us Monday, December 16 at 4p for a Christmas Celebration. No business meeting is planned, just fun and games. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share. Hope to see you then! *Gail Hartz*

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT.** If you were unable to present your stewardship commitment forms during the November 10 service, it's not too late! You may still submit your forms by giving them to Donita, placing them in her mailbox (Huegel), or dropping them by the church office. Mickey will soon begin organizing your Service Opportunities responses, and we don't want anyone to be left off the list for the coming year. If you have questions, contact Donita at (319) 330-5626.

### Needs at Berg

Used clothing - bottoms for boys or girls  
Sweatpants – 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Leggings – Size small to adult size  
Shorts – 50-60# sizes

Also needed are boxes of Band-Aids.

You may leave your donation at the church, and we will deliver them to Berg.

Thank you!