



P.C.A. Witness

(Preaching Christ Always)

I've have a book on my shelf by James Montgomery Boice entitled, *The Christ of Christmas*. It is a wonderful little book that I like to pull out and read every December, to remind me to preach nothing other than the Christ of Christmas, that all may know and believe in Him for salvation.

As we enter the Advent Season, allow me to share with you a portion of one of Boice's chapters *The Gifts of Faith*, in which he explores the gifts of the magi.

Jesus Christ came to earth to die for our sin... It is a pity to miss the meaning of Christmas through ignorance, or, what is worse, to see it and understand it but fail to commit your life to the one who was born on that first Christmas in order that He might subsequently suffer for you and remove your sin forever.

The world has many false ideas of Christmas. For some persons it is only a story that is somehow meant to glorify babies and motherhood. For others there is the false idea that we must do something for God, like that ridiculous Christmas song "The Little Drummer Boy," which suggests that Jesus will smile on us if we play Him a tune. Jesus does not need us to play Him a tune. He does not need anything we can produce. But we do need Him! We need a Savior...

I have said that we can bring nothing to Christ, who alone is our Savior, but we must come with our faith. Moreover there is a sense in which by faith we too may present our gold, incense, and myrrh.

Begin with your myrrh. Myrrh is not only a symbol of Christ's death but also of the spiritual death that should come to your for your sins. Lay it at Christ's feet, acknowledging that Christ took your sin, dying in your place. After you have done that, come with your incense, acknowledging that your life is as impure as the life of the Lord Jesus Christ is sinless. The Bible teaches that there is no good in man that is not mixed with evil. But it also teaches that Christ comes to live in the believer so that the good deeds produced in his or her life may become in their turn "a fragrant offering, pleasing to God." Finally, come with your gold, Gold symbolizes royalty. So when you come with your gold you acknowledge the right of Christ to rule your life.

Have you done that? Have you come believing in all that the myrrh, incense, and gold signify? If you have, you have embarked on a path of great spiritual joy and blessing. For those are the gifts of faith. They are the only things we can offer to the one who by grace has given all things to us.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ethan".

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Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Kathy Bunger, secretary - lepc@iw.net ~ Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:30-3:30 pm

Church Phone — 605-647-2659 Church Website — www.lennoxpca.org

If you are unable to attend the morning service, you may watch it on cable 19 or 98 or you may Livestream the service by going to the website and clicking the link.

December

Anniversaries

- 6 Lennox Ebenezer (1888)
- 8 Mike & Betsy Thompson
- 23 Bryce & Marne Strasser
- 27 Gabe & Sami Gier
- 28 Dave & Gail Strasser

Congratulations!

Birthdays

- 1 Logan Veen-Strege
- 2 Vera Haan
- 3 Mike Thompson
- 4 Arland Abbas, James Kezar, Madelynn Luvaas, Christian Tolliver
- 7 Linda Cramer
- 9 Amanda Marts
- 13 Mark Luvaas & Karen Strasser
- 14 Mary Beth Haan, Crystal Kezar
- 15 Deb Miller
- 16 Trent Haan
- 18 Gail Strasser
- 19 Jason Lounsbery, Andrew Lundquist
- 22 Steve Zimmerman
- 23 Marlene Abbas
- 24 Jeff Haan
- 25 Anna Abbas, David Bartscher
- 30 Harper Lee

Christian Ed News

Adult Sunday School

Class in Adult #1:

The topics for "Dust to Glory" for December are: The Early Ministry of Jesus continued - Interpreting Parables and the Miracles of Jesus and The Later Ministry



This month we are featuring Verna VanLoh. You may not notice her quietly sitting along the west aisle on a Sunday morning—but she has a very long and interesting history with Ebenezer! Her three adult children live in the Sioux Falls area. They are Gerald and wife Margaret and their daughter Julie; Virgil and wife Linda, their son Dan and wife Laura along with their children Cyndel, Megan, and Ryan; and Betty and husband Ole Olson, son Michael and children Hailey and Mike, and son Richard and daughter Cecilia.

Verna grew up on a farm 3 miles south of Lennox. She was the youngest of 5 sisters and 4 brothers. She attended Lennox High School and then Free-

of Jesus - The Caesarea-Philippi Confession, The Transfiguration, and The Triumphal Entry.

Class in Adult #2:

The winter topic for this class is "Our Love for God". For December the unit is "God is Worthy of Our Love" looking at various passages.

S.S. offering:

Brandon Haan with

man Junior College where she participated in a number of things including playing basketball. After graduating from college, she taught grade school at Home District #1 country school near Wall Lake.

Verna married George VanLoh, also from the Lennox area, in 1941 and they lived in Sioux Falls for several years. George and Verna ran the Red and White Grocery Store in Lennox in the 40's. After that, George worked for the Bultena Hardware Store, then Morgan Hardware and finally Beach Farm Service, all in Lennox. Verna eventually worked at the Bowling Alley for 9 years and Anthony's Bakery for 17 years in Lennox. They built their home at 421 S. Elm, where they raised their children and where

RUF at the University of Minnesota continues to be our project through December.

Our new Compassion Child is Ives Kadjalouna who lives in Togo, West Africa. He will be four years old on December 31st. Check the bulletin board by the library for more information.

Rise With the Guys

Rise with the Guys will meet on December 1st at 7:00 am. They

Verna continues to live. George passed away in 1992.

She enjoys reading, television and keeping track of the family and friends.

Verna has been part of the Ebenezer family since her birth. Her Grandfather, George Bossman, was involved in founding the church. Verna remembers attending church as a child in the 20's and 30's when the services were all in German. She couldn't understand much. Her uncle, HG Bultena, was the church organist. He also was an artist and we have a painting he did in our church library. Verna's mother eventually built and lived in a home that was on the west side of the church by the alley.

will be studying Genesis 42.

Women's Ministries News

- Women's Bible study on I Corinthians will meet on December 1st at 8:30 am. They will be studying chapter 7:17-40.

- Rachel Bible study will be meeting on December 10th at the church.

FAMILY CORNER

MISSION NEWS



Brandon & Erin Haan **RUF at U of MN** **St. Paul, MN**

We had a great time at our Fall Conference on October 26-28 in Baraboo, WI. We attended with the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and Northwestern University in Chicago. Students heard a lecture series on faith and vocation, participated in small groups which discussed questions based on the lectures, and had a little time to rest and play at the retreat center over the weekend.

We celebrated our first "Friendsgiving" at our house this year. We encouraged students to invite their friends who aren't Christians. We had many first time students come! It was a great time of fellowship, lots of food, and building relationships with those who may not believe in God at all.

Please pray for the end of our semester, which is Dec. 21, for Christmas break and that students would continue to grow in their faith in Jesus, and for the start of a great new semester! Thanks!

Chris & Josephine Hatch **Serge**

Currently in Chicago

The Hatches are on HMA (Home Ministry Assignment) this year in Chicago where Chris is working on a PhD in missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity school. Josephine is enjoying being a hands-on mom again after three years and has been developing relationships with a few women in our community including one lady who's just come out of rehab. They have enjoyed attending Kaleb's soccer and basketball games regularly this fall. Please pray for Chris' studies, Josephine's friendships and for their children Rahel and Kaleb who are both facing times of transition. Rahel is a senior at Calvin College in Grand Rapids while Kaleb is a senior in high school.

Last month, the Hatches enjoyed a visit from Israel Kolade, a British-Nigerian background member of New City in London who recently came under-care of the presbytery's "Candidates and Credentials Committee". Chris took him on a visit to Covenant Seminary where he hopes to attend in the fall of

2019. Ask the Father to guide his steps as the Hatches encourage him in his efforts to prepare for the ministry as a pastor.

Paul & Liz Meiners **Mission to the World** **London, England**

PRAY for my (Paul) trip to Manila, the Philippines, this weekend. Our denomination here is helping some men there and in Singapore and Jakarta to get ordained and organized as churches. We examined one of them through online calls and another man and I are being sent as a commission to ordain the man in Manila. They already have a growing church and elder trainees, so this will help them to get other elders ordained, establish a membership, and move ahead significantly as a church. Together these churches could become a presbytery in the next few years. PRAY for a safe and fruitful trip, and that the two of us won't be handicapped by tiredness coming from London and Paris for the weekend.

PRAY also for conversions I'm having with various people interested in possibly work-

ing with MTW in the British Isles, that I can learn about them and they about work here to help in finding a good fit in ministry. It is a gift to have people interested in joining the work of growing churches here.

We were able to get into our church building Nov. 4th. It still isn't totally finished, but we are working around the workmen. We so much enjoying being in the building.

Union Gospel Mission **Lamplighters Auxiliary**

Our church donated many hooded sweat-shirts for Christmas gifts. Thank you very much for all who donated.

It was reported that the Mission continues to preach the gospel every evening at the chapel services with around 100 in attendance.

The next meeting will be held in the Gospel Mission chapel on December 14th. The Love Gift is money for children's Christmas gifts given at the Christmas party that is held each year.

Prayer is appreciated for more volunteers and funding.

Officer Meetings

The Deacons will meet on December 4th and the Session on the 11th at 7:00 pm.

Adult Choir

The choir will practice on December 12th at 7:45 pm and will sing on the 16th. There will be only one Wednesday evening practice. They will practice on Sunday morning the 16th at 8:45 am.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

So pleased to report that we ended the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project with 99 completed boxes. An amount of \$1286.79 went along with the boxes for shipping expenses and also the gospel message materials that are provided for each child. There were many wonderful gifts, school supplies and necessities (each had soap/washcloth and toothbrush!) that we were able to put in each box. Thanks to everyone who supported this mission, from

those who purchased thoughtful items, made donations to generously cover the shipping cost, and worked hard packing everything just so. I am also thankful to Erma DeWilde for making me aware of Operation Christmas Child 7 or 8 years ago. It was a joy to share the results of this mission with her. Praise God for giving us this opportunity to share the love of Christ! Karen Mossefin

Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper

December 9th will be our all church Christmas caroling. You are invited and encouraged to come and join together to share the joy of the Christmas season and birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ through song.

You are asked to meet at the church at 3:00 pm. We will end up back at the church for a chili supper. **Please bring a plate of cookies or Christmas treats to share.** The bus will be used

again this year and also the flat bed weather permitting. If you know of someone who would like to have the carolers stop at their home, please contact the church office at 647-2659.

Christmas Program

The children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, the 16th, at 6:30 pm.

There will be a time of fellowship following the program. Everyone is asked to bring 1 1/2 dozen Christmas goodies.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our candlelight service to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior, will be at 6:30 pm on the 24th. A special offering will be taken for the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund to assist needy PCA retired or disabled pastors, missionaries, their widows and dependent children. The principle source of funds to meet these needs is this annual offering.

"Reaching Christ Always"

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LENNOX
EBENEZER
PRESBYTERIAN