



P.C.A. Witness

(Preaching Christ Always)

If your dentist is like mine, you usually receive a reminder in the mail just a week or so before your next scheduled visit. I really appreciate the reminder, but it never comes soon enough. Immediately following a visit to the dentist, I'm really good about flossing and rinsing on a regular basis. When I get the card a week or two before the next appointment, I start rinsing and flossing with a renewed passion and commitment. It's those 5 months in between visits, however, that I really need to work on (please don't tell my dentist).

The postcard comes as a warning, too little too late. I've been blessed so far with relatively healthy teeth (only a couple of cavities so far). That's not the problem. For me the problem is the shame and guilt that comes with the visit, having to confess to the hygienist that I haven't been flossing and rinsing as thoroughly as I ought. I go through the same cycle of emotions. The postcard tells me to get my act together so I can avoid the critical reproach of my beloved dentist.

And that is what Advent is all about.

We struggle to manage the busyness of our lives. Seasons come and go. We plan for tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow. Eventually we get lulled into a sense of complacency and comfort, never really thinking about the meaning behind what we're doing.

Then Advent comes along. In the middle of our Christmas preparations, the presents, the decorations, the family visits; Advent stands out like a postcard from heaven saying, "Get it together, Jesus is coming back."

Historically, on the first Sunday of Advent the church would focus on passages like that in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus tells us that there will be signs and omens, persecutions and catastrophes, wars and rumors of wars; all taking place before the coming of the Son of Man (Matt 24:3-31). This doesn't sound much like a Christmas message, does it? A message like that really doesn't fit too nicely on our pop-up Advent Calendar or Greeting Card.

But we must realize that Advent is not a "countdown to Christmas," and Christmas isn't just about the birth of our Savior. Advent is a blaring alarm, calling us out of the mundane monotony of our spiritual lives, a reminder to keep watch and be ready. And while Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, of God dwelling with us; it is also a reminder that since Christ came once to save us, He will return to bring us home.

Jesus is coming back. Are you ready? I don't want to be caught unprepared, with a crushing sense of guilt and shame for having not lived up to His calling. Advent reminds us to get back to the work at hand, to live for Him so that people will see that He lives in us.

Consider this Advent your wake up call. Be ready, keep watch for you never know – our Lord is coming soon. It might just be today!

Grace and peace,

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

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Church Phone — 605-647-2659

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December Anniversaries

- 6 Lennox Ebenezer (1888)
- 8 Mike & Betsy Thompson
- 11 Bobby & Candace Conner
- 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 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 David Bartscher
- 30 Harper Lee



This month we are featuring Randy and Linette Dump who live at 46500 278th St, Lennox. They have two adult children and six grandchildren: Brandie and Troy Nordman whose children are Hunter and Wyatt and Brock and Jeni Dump whose children are Christian, Ashlyn, Zak, and Savannah.

Linette grew up in Sioux Falls and Randy in Brandon where they met in 1976 when Linette's family moved there. They were married in 1978. Randy got a job at Jerry's Auto Body in 1989. They moved to Lennox in 1991. Randy was manager and part owner

with Jerry for 20+ years. He has worked fulltime for the past four years in the family business, D&D Small Engine Repair & Sales. Linette has worked various jobs, the last being with the Lennox Schools. Last January she joined Randy and son, Brock, working fulltime in the family business.

When the Dumps children were young they did a lot of camping until son Brock began Go Kart racing. He then moved up to sprint cars. The family was involved but retired from racing last year and only attend car club gatherings now. Randy and Linette also used to ride horses but

now their free time revolves around their business. They value the time they can spend with family.

The Dumps have been living in Lennox for 26 years but never felt connected until they decided to make Ebenezer their church family. They felt so welcomed the first time they visited. Linette had missed the intimacy of a small church. They have enjoyed Pastor Saylor's messages and the biblical teaching. The people of Ebenezer are genuine and caring. They are excited to see what God has in store for Ebenezer within our church and in the community.

Christian Ed News

Adult Sunday School

Class in Adult #1:

This class will begin the series *"Your Divine Design"* by Chip Ingram on spiritual gifts on December 3rd.

Class in the library:

The winter topic for this class is "Faith in Action". In December the unit is "The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ" looking at passages in the New Testament.

S.S. offering: This is the last month for the mission project to support Brandon Haan, the RUF minister, at the University of Minnesota.

Wednesday Evening Activities

The Wednesday evening activities will meet through the 20th and begin again on January 3rd.

Rise With the Guys

Rise with the Guys will meet on December 2nd at 7:00 am at Phil-

ter 4:8. They will be studying Genesis 30.

Women's Ministries News

Rachel Bible study will meet on Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 pm at the home of Clarice Haan. A new study will begin in January on the book of Hebrews. Any woman who would like to be part of this study, please contact Kathy Bunger by **December 1st** so the study books can be ordered.



MISSION NEWS



Paul & Liz Meiners Mission to the World London, England

December 1-6 we will be in Pennsylvania for Liz's niece's wedding and spending time with Liz' siblings. December 8-10 we will be visiting a supporting church in New York and another one December 17th in Florida. January 1st we will fly back to London after spending time with family. Please pray for safety in travelling and for good visits with supporters and family.

Pete & Esther Errington Beyond Plano, TX

Phase 1 training (hands on experience in DMM here in Dallas/Ft. Worth) is off and rolling. We meet weekly. After our second meeting a couple in our group connected with an Iranian woman and were invited to her home to meet her husband. Pray for more opportunities like this to meet people from the nations and help them discover Jesus. Pray for participants to grasp and apply the simple, reproducible disciple making principles.

November 4th a Basic

Training (a 5-hour in person intro to DMM) was held. What a blessing to have 14 people attend! Three of them are considering starting Phase 1 with us in January (two of them asked about it after the training).

Rick & Pam Box MTW/Third Mill Pflugerville, TX

The clinical trial that was to start in November that Pam is to be a part of hasn't begun yet. Pray for patience as she waits.

Ethan Zimmerman
The Navigators
"What am I thinking? What am I doing?" Over the course of the past year, these are questions I have found myself asking.

For me, these questions have become a cry of distrust in God. When I am asking them, it is almost always out of fear and a questioning of God's will and where He has me, rather than a reaffirmation of the calling God has given me. As always, though, my God remains faithful. When I find myself asking these questions, my heavenly Father is good and quick to remind me of the ministry He has called me into. By God's grace, I am confident in where He has called me and

currently has me. He gives me great joy in pursuing ministry and missions work in New Zealand. Above all, I am encouraged, blessed, and enthusiastic to make the move to Auckland, NZ, in January. I know I can trust in the LORD and the work He has called me to do.

In an effort to keep you all updated, I am roughly 63% funded! This is absolutely something I am praising God for! He has showed up in big ways to raise this much of my funds and I am trusting Him to continue bringing in the funds as I push ahead in fundraising. There is still a large sum of money to be raised before we can leave, but I have every confidence God will bring us to 100% in time for our departure. *I am so grateful for those of you who have partnered with me financially and in prayer! My going wouldn't be possible without your trusting God financially and in prayer along with me!*

If you haven't supported me yet, would you please pray about partnering with me fi-

nancially? If you have given a one-time gift, would you prayerfully consider making it an annual gift? If you are partnering with me monthly, would you be willing to pray about increasing your monthly donation, or making a special gift? I appreciate any prayer and consideration you might give.

Union Gospel Mission Lamplighters Auxiliary

A big thank you for all the socks donated from our church (100 pairs). It is an ongoing need all year round so really appreciated.

The December meeting on the 8th will be a Christmas party held in the new dining area. The love gift is cash for Christmas gifts. The Clausen Family will be singing.

Praise for more people attending the chapel services and for averaging 20 people at the 8:30 am Bible study. The women's building currently has 36 women and 19 children. Except for two on disability all the women are working.

We are asked to pray for funds for the Mission and for more volunteers.

Officers' Meetings

The Deacons' will meet on December 5th at 7:00 pm and the Session on the 12th at 7:00 pm.

Adult Choir

The choir will practice on December 6th and 13th at 7:45 pm and will sing on the 17th. Come join us to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Christmas Caroling & Chili Supper

December 10th beginning at 4:00 pm will be the all church caroling. You are all 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.

We are meeting at the church before heading out. We will end up back at the church for a chili supper.

Christmas Program

The children and youth Christmas program will be on Sunday the 17th at 6:30 pm. Watch the bulletin for practice time.

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