



The Advent/ Christmas season is a season full of traditions. One of the traditions in our household is that we decorate for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. It is always heart-warming to watch the excitement and anticipation as our children help set up the Christmas tree and hang beautiful ornaments on it, or place their stockings on the banister (we've never had a fireplace mantle to hang them from), or hang dazzling lights all over the house. But my favorite decorations are the nativity sets that beautifully depict the birth of our Lord and Savior and remind us of the true reason we celebrate.

I wonder, though, if we don't sometimes lose sight of that and place Jesus on the shelf like any other piece of décor to be absorbed into the background and forgotten until it's time to take Him down and dust Him off. It's easy to be distracted with all of the hustle and bustle that this time of year brings: shopping, wrapping, baking, visiting friends and family – none of which are bad per se – but do we have the same urgency and excitement to worship Christ as we do with these things?

When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. The greatest event since creation to come upon the world had just occurred: our King, our Lord, our Savior and Messiah had just arrived in the flesh...and nobody had any room for Him. In today's culture, we have busied ourselves and filled our lives with so much "stuff" that many people still don't have room for Him; Jesus becomes an afterthought. "I'll read my Bible if I get the time." "I'll pray when I need something." "I'll give to the church if I have a few bucks left over." "I'll come to church if I don't have anything bet-

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Worship Service 9:15 a.m.
Communion, First Sunday of the month
December 2021

ter to do on a Sunday morning." We may not say these exact words, but in our actions, this is the message we send – both to God and to a world that is watching us for signs of what exactly makes Christians any different from them, and subsequently why they should care about Jesus if Christians don't even seem to care all that much.

Now, I know I'm probably preaching to the choir. Those of you reading this newsletter are probably among the faithfully committed Christians, which is why I would like to encourage you to shine all the brighter this Advent and Christmas season. We know what it looks like when a house is decorated for Christmas; we can drive past and see all of the colorful lights on display. Similarly, Jesus said "you are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither does someone light a lamp and place it under a bowl. Instead, they place it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16).

Jesus Christ is the True Light that illuminates the dark corners of the human heart and fills us with His radiance so that we would walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:8). This Christmas, don't place your light under a bowl, but display it proudly on the mantle of your heart for all the world to see. Then, perhaps, every heart will begin to prepare Him room because they cannot help but be drawn to the light of Christ within us.

Christ's peace and love to you this Christmas,

Pastor Ben



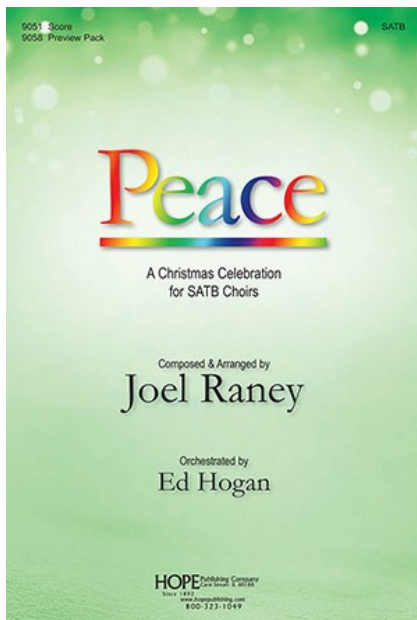
**TOUCH OF HEART GIFT
TAGS ARE
AVAILABLE
IN THE NARTHEX,
AND ARE DUE
DECEMBER 12TH**



**OUR ANNUAL
MITTEN, HAT, SCARF & SOCK TREE
WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX ON
NOV. 28TH, DEC. 5TH & 12TH.
Please place your donations on the
Christmas tree. They will be
distributed by the Son Light House.**

**December's Outreach Ministry is the
Pastor's Fund. Pastor Ben will use these
funds to serve our parishioners in need
and in other various other ways.**

**THE WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW
will be meeting December 14th at 2:00p.m. to
make up cookie and candy trays for our shut-
ins to enjoy this Christmas. Home baked cook-
ie donations are welcomed from all. Any
questions please call Nancy Heivly at
570-3916-9559. Thank you!**



**Mark your Calendar!
OUR TALENTED CHANCEL CHOIR
DIRECTED BY JOY BARTO WILL
BE PRESENTING THIS YEAR'S
BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

**“Peace” by Joel Raney
DECEMBER 19 | 9:15 A.M.**



Welcome Pastor Ben Lander

The installation sermon, "Our Charge" was based on Paul's second letter to Timothy in which Paul encouraged Timothy as he pastored the church in Ephesus.

Officiating the installation was Rev. Charles Lashley, Pastor Emeritus at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Joppa, MD, where Pastor Ben and his family served for almost ten years. Pastor Chuck focused on the qualifications of pastoral leadership and encouraged Pastor Ben in his new role at St. Andrew.

From the beginning of the call process, Pastor Ben and his wife, Katie, have discerned the call of God for them to be here at St. Andrew and God has led them through a peaceful transition from Trinity to St. Andrew. They are certain that this is where God has called them and they are very excited for the opportunities that await St. Andrew as they follow His leading.

Pastor Ben has served Trinity as Youth Pastor for four years, and then transitioned into Associate Pastor in 2016, the role in which he has served for the past five years. He earned his B.A. in Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies from Eastern University and is working toward his M.Div in Pastoral Leadership from Andersonville Theological Seminary. Pastor Ben has also taught Christian Education at Trinity Lutheran Christian School.

Pastor Ben and his wife, Katie, have been married for ten years and have three children: Levi (9), Aliyah (7), and Caleb (1).

Potluck Brunch!

The Parish Life Committee will be hosting a brunch on Sunday, December 12, following the service. Please bring a breakfast or lunch dish to share. Come enjoy a time of fellowship and welcome Pastor Lander and his family. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex, so be sure and sign up so we can get an accurate count to set up for.

DECEMBER | JANUARY USHER SCHEDULE

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| December 5 | Jerry Watson | John Dougherty |
| December 12 | Steve and Hiliary Haddon | |
| December 19 | Nancy Heivly | Karen Myers |
| December 24 | Michele Styer | Luanne Libber |
| December 26 | Leonard and Sheila Morehart | |

ALTAR GUILD

December Joy and Dean Barto

DECEMBER COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Dec. 5 Julie Souter
Dec. 24 Troy Detweiler



DECEMBER LECTOR SCHEDULE

Dec. 5 Sheila Morehart
Dec. 12 Steve Haddon
Dec. 19 No Lector Chancel Choir Cantata
Dec. 24 Erik Houser Candlelight 7pm
Dec. 26 Michele Styer

DECEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Dec. 5 Nora Styer
Dec. 12 Sam Haddon
Dec. 19 Addison Detweiler
Dec. 24 Nora Styer 7:00 P.M.
Dec. 26 Anna Styer

DECEMBER VIDEO | SOUND SCHEDULE

Dec. 5 John Dougherty | Jerry Watson
Dec. 12 Erik Houser | Jerry Watson
Dec. 19 John Dougherty | Jerry Watson
Dec. 22 John Dougherty | Jerry Watson

ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY

December Darlene Waldron
January Julie Roller

Thank you for volunteering! If you are unable to serve on your Sunday, please switch with someone and let Kay know of the change: 570-546-3591.