



The Messenger

“Lord, as your blessings flow to me, may they continue to flow through me, for the good and encouragement of others.”

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

Once again advent is upon us and it is time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Evelyn and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The season of Advent begins a new liturgical cycle in the church. Every year we trace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from his birth to his resurrection. The central themes of Advent, a Latin word which means “coming” or “arrival,” are expectation, and longing for the birth of the Christ child. It is the season to focus on the gifts of: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, that God gives us daily, through the Gift of His Son over 2000 years ago.

One of the blessings of Advent is that it counteracts the hype of the commercial Christmas madness, inviting us to a deeper and more fruitful spiritual renewal. Keeping a balance between the spiritual and the secular will require a little planning on our part. Start by making a list of everything that needs to be done. Don't let the list scare you or get you into a panic mode. Then block into your calendar specific times every day for personal prayer, spir-



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Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Dec. 11 - Session Meeting after Worship
- Dec. 15 - Woman's Devotional 11:30 am
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

December 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 <small>Christmas Eve</small> |
| 25 <small>Christmas Day</small> | 26 <small>Christmas Day Observed</small> | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 <small>New Year's Eve</small> |

Carl's Comments Continued

itual reading, and reflection. As you move closer to Christmas you will begin to relish those quiet moments in your day. The spiritual insights will help to keep you focused. You may like it so much that you'll decide to carry over into the New Year the practice of setting aside daily quiet time with God.

God Bless You. Carl



Jack Goggans - Passes Away on Nov. 27

Services and Obituary are pending.



Pictures of Jack at Julie's funeral, Two teaching Sunday School, and with Julie.



Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests - especially in the Summer)

| | Second Sunday of Advent - Dec. 4 | Third Sunday of Advent - Dec. 11 | Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec. 18 | Christmas Eve December 24 | Christmas Day December 25 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st Reading | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Isaiah 35:1-10 | Isaiah 7:10-16 | Isaiah 9:2-7 | Isaiah 52:7-10 |
| Psalm | Psalm 72:1-7, 19-19 | Psalm 146:5-10 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Psalm 96 | Psalm 98 |
| 2nd Reading | Romans 15:4-13 | James 5:7-10 | Romans 1:1-7 | Titus 2:11-14 | Hebrews 1:1-4 |
| Gospel | Matthew 3:1-12 | Matthew 11:2-11 | Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 2:1-14, 15-20 | John 1:1-14 |

Dec. Birthdays



- Debby Aldridge 4
- Betty Gengler 9
- Bob Kerr 12
- Sandie Klingberg 21
- Gidget Todd 31

About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Carl Thompson is having a difficult week. He was not feeling well on Sunday and has multiple doctor visits scheduled. Please pray for healing, strength, and much wisdom for his doctors. His wellness and medical schedules still require much rest. Evelyn is assisting Carl by monitoring texts, emails, and calls related to the church.

Laquita Arner had a one-day knee replacement surgery on 10/28. Even with a bout of COVID she is doing well and continues rehabilitation. Pray for increasing flexibility, and rapid healing. Laquita wants to thank those that have prayed for her and sent cards. Jim still has his good and bad days.

Jerry and Evelyn Matthews have had the flu and a sinus infection. Their daughter and daughter-in-law have had a combination of COVID and the flu. They are improving but keep praying for healing.

Nancy Norris's granddaughter was having difficulties with her pregnancy. Finally the baby, Walker, was born, but was not strong enough to survive. Pray for Leah and Casey Brewton as they deal with their loss.

Joe and Susan Carroll have been through much in the last couple of years and are especially delighted to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary.

Adult Bible Study -Shirley Pinkston

"There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light." John 1:6-8, *The Messenger*

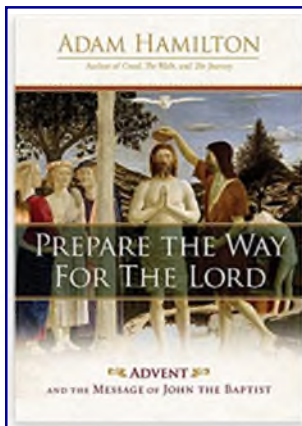
On November 27, we began our Advent lessons, Prepare the Way of the Lord by Adam Hamilton. There are 4 lessons ending on December 18. We will be studying the birth, life, ministry, and death of John the Baptist, along with the continuing significance of his life.

We will have no class meeting on Christmas day, December 25, but keep your study book, Courage by Tom Berlin handy. On January 1, New Year's Day, we will study the last lesson, "The Love of Courage".

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1: 14, NIV

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Shirley Pinkston



Woman's Devotional -12/15

The Church Women will meet on Thursday, December 15th, and Jeanette West will lead the devotional and discussion on the Nativity.

She is suggesting that those who participate might bring related items to display, such as Creche sets or figurines, Christmas cards with that scene, or Creche ornaments.

The group will gather in the classroom after chair yoga about 11:30 AM for a social time and BYO Lunch, and the devotional will begin at Noon. Please feel free to join us for a pleasant exchange of ideas.



Session Meeting Minutes from Two November Meetings - Pat Rehm

Presbyterian Church of Salado Stated Session Meeting Notes- Nov. 6 and 13

At a Congregational Meeting following Worship on November 6, Church Treasurer Pat Hart presented a tentative budget forecast of possible income of \$130,120 and expenses at \$123,260, making a net income of \$6,860. Pledge cards were distributed and should be returned by November 30, as pledges determine the final amount of income to be budgeted.

The Session will approve the final budget on December 11, 2022. The increasing cost of utilities had been included, as well as an estimate for mileage reimbursement for travel to upcoming Presbytery meetings. Pastoral expenses will remain the same until the time when adjustment becomes necessary, and benevolence giving is expected to remain at 24 percent of congregational offerings.

A second business item was a report from the nominating committee, led by Debby Aldridge. Having been asked by the committee to serve a second term as Elder for Finance Personnel, she had agreed, allowing a recommendation to the congregation be presented for approval. *Barclay McCort moved that Debby Aldridge be approved for a second term as Elder; Carl Menyherth seconded the motion, which was passed.*

On Sunday morning November 13 before Worship, the Session greeted Joe and Susan Carroll, who had met with Pastor Carl Thompson about becoming members of this congregation. *Mike Hart moved that Joe and Susan Carroll be received as new members, and Randy Kemp seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.* The Carrolls were warmly welcomed at the beginning of Worship!

Submitted by Pat Rehm, Clerk of the Session



New Members - Joe and Susan Carroll

REJOICE! REJOICE! - Linda Lloyd

The last line of the solo that I sang in church on Nev. 27th was "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel."

The dictionary's definition of rejoice is "to show great joy or delight." When I looked up "rejoice spiritually" I found this in Vine's OT Expository Dictionary. "Rejoicing is a choice. As Christians, we are called to joy, not to negativity and hopelessness. We should focus on what God has done for us, instead of our current suffering or pain. We are called to share that joy and hope with others." These statements parallel what Carl Thompson stated in his sermon this week.



In John Greco's book, *The Promise of Christmas, 25 Reflections for Advent*, he says this. "Imagine the joy that erupted in Heaven the night Jesus was born, the night God's plan of redemption put flesh on and came into our world. It seems the joy was so great that even Heaven could not contain it; it came bursting through the night sky outside of Bethlehem as a host of angels praised God and announced to unsuspecting shepherds that the Messiah had been born." He went on to say that "From the manger forward, as news of the Messiah reaches near and far, every man and woman must respond. Each of us must decide what to do with Jesus."

What can I possibly add to that? Just this. In my mind's eye, I can see the angel Gabriel, sounding the trumpet and God's angelic chorus singing "Rejoice! Rejoice"! And I, a sinner saved by grace, made my decision to follow Jesus a very long time ago.

I wish you a very "Merry Christmas," one full of much rejoicing.

From a Merry Heart - *Linda Lloyd*

♪ Musical Notes ♪

I have enjoyed making acrostics since whichever grade I studied and learned about them by studying poetry. This Christmas season is no different! Making an acrostic slows me down, allowing me to stop and really think of the best way to communicate a message with carefully selected words and phrases.

You can make your own acrostic by using a theme word, followed by descriptive phrases, & sentences. In fact, I would like to challenge you to select a word that frequents your conversations during this Advent time and leading to Christmas. Working on making an acrostic can also relax your mind and help increase your concentration level. Sometimes, it is just fun to try something different!

ADVENT - by Jeanette West

Approach God, our Heavenly Father - "Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James 4:8



Develop your life in Christ - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Verbalize prayer, requests, and thanksgiving - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

Encourage one another through Christ - "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Notice your need to confess - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Thankfully worship and praise God - "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:2

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas as you make memories!

Jeanette West

Musical Note - to Choir Members

NEW Choir Practice Time : 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

SAME Day of the Week : Wednesday

SAME Practice location - Choir area in Worship Center

November 20 - Greening of the Church



The Nativity "Crew" tackles the Shed



Bill Pinkston and Barclay McCort Decorate the Tree

Linda Lloyd, Renita Menyhert, Sara Pettijohn, and Debby Aldridge in the Food Line



Rip VanWinkle inspects his famous Beef-Tip, Lone Star Beer Chili



A table full of "Socializing" - Bill Pinkston, Shay & Rip VanWinkler, Renita Menyhert, Linda Lloyd, Shirley Pinkston, and Cindy Pennington