

Ceresco Messenger ~ December 2017

Pastors Pen, December 2017

Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house, Not a creature was praying not one in the house, The Bibles were lain on the shelf without care, In hopes that Jesus would not come there. The children were dressing to crawl into bed, Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head. And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap, Was watching the late show with Jimmy Fallon while I took a nap. When out of the east there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here. With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray, I knew in a moment this must be judgement day. The light of His face made me cover my head. It was Jesus returning just like He said. And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself. In the BOOK OF LIFE which He held in His hand, Was written the name of each saved woman and man. Jesus spoke not a word as He searched for MY name, When He said " it's not here " my head hung in shame. The people whose name had been written in love, Jesus gathered to take to His Father above. With those who were ready He rose without a sound, While all of the rest were left standing around. I fell to my knees but it was too late, I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate. I stood and cried as they rose out of sight, Oh if only I had been ready tonight. In the words of this poem, the meaning is clear, The coming of Jesus is drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call, We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

Thank God this only a poem to remind us to ever be vigilant in our walk with God . We are a people living under God's grace . Let us rejoice in the Son of God this Christmas in our homes, Churches and the streets of life.

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)



God's blessings on you and yours!

Merry CHRISTmas .

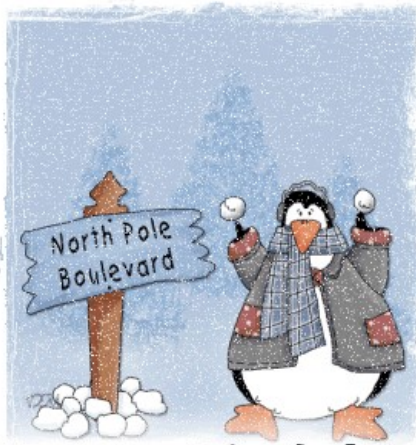
With much love,

Pastor Gary & Phyllis Schooler



December 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Hanging of the Greens & Luncheon 10am-1pm
3 First Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday <i>Church in use after-noon/evening</i>	4 Boy Scouts 7 pm	5 Bible Study 10:00 am	6 Boy Scouts Eagle Board 6 pm	7 Bible Study 6:00 pm	8	9 Church Breakfast 8 Admin Council Mtg 9 am Church in use 11-5
10 Second Sunday of Advent <i>Church in use after-noon/evening</i>	11 Boy Scouts 7 pm	12 Bible Study 10:00 am	13 Worship Ministry Team 5:30 pm Martha Circle 6:30 pm	14 Bible Study 6:00 pm (last until Jan.)	15	16 Kid's Christmas Party 11am-1pm
17 Third Sunday of Advent	18 Boy Scouts 7 pm	19 Bible Study 10:00 am	20 Family Night Potluck 6:30	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Service 9:45 am Potluck 11 am	25 Happy Birthday Jesus! Christmas Day! Church in Use	26 Bible Study 10:00 am	27 Information for the Jan. Messenger is due by noon.	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve Bake Sale/ Fellowship Sunday	We have resumed our Bake Sales on the last Sunday of the month! Be sure to get some great home-baked goods to take home!					

Dec 2 Michael Wood
 Dec 5 Cindy Combs
 Dec 7 Mike Lutz
 Dec 11 Paige Holtz
 Dec 13 Glennie Swann
 Dec 14 Pat Yost
 Dec 19 Scott Wood
 Dec 21 Rayna Sommers
 Dec 24 Carl Clem
 Dec 26 David Smith
 Dec 27 Candace Ivey
 Dec 27 John Paschen
 Dec 28 Marilyn Mead
 Dec 28 Donna Ruthruff
 Dec 30 Viviana Anthony



Happy Birthday



Jan 2 Alexandria Hamaker
 Jan 4 Avery Goodman
 Jan 4 Elise Kidder
 Jan 5 Kathryn Straub
 Jan 7 Olivia Gary
 Jan 11 Richard Schlee
 Jan 13 Bob Beltz
 Jan 13 Amelia Davis
 Jan 18 Sam Henley
 Jan 18 Christin Berry
 Jan 18 Brian Gary
 Jan 19 Jean Clark
 Jan 20 Gary Schooler
 Jan 23 Paul Mead
 Jan 24 Chelsea Kilbourn
 Jan 25 Emily Ivey
 Jan 25 Bryan Davis
 Jan 28 Harlynn Casey
 Jan 28 Diane Burrows
 Jan 29 Ava Marni Bene
 Jan 31 Bailey Davis



Dec 20 Richard & Kathy Straub
 Dec 23 Ken & Kay Davis
 Jan 2 John & Ruth Paschen



Flower Schedule

12/03 Ivey / Poinsettias
 12/10 Halder / Poinsettias
 12/17 Wood / Poinsettias
 12/24 Open / Poinsettias
 12/31 Open / Poinsettias



Join us on Saturday
 Dec. 16th, 11am - 1pm
 Lunch ~ Activities ~ Christmas Fun!



A Song Was Heard At Christmas

Poem By: Timothy Dudley-Smith

A song was heard at Christmas to wake the midnight sky: A Savior's birth, and peace on earth, and praise to God on high. The angels sang at Christmas with all the hosts above, and still we sing the newborn King His glory and His love.

Christmas Acrostic By Johnnie DesRochers

C is for the Child born that night to be our light. (John 8:12)

H is for holy is His name. (Rev.4:8)

R is for rejoice with gladness & joy. (Luke 1:14)

I is for Immanuel, God with us. (Is.7:14, John 1:14)

S is for the star that led the Wise men to Him. (Matt.2:2)

T is for the truth & grace that was sent our way. (John 1:14)

M is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger. (Luke 2:7)

A is for angels singing songs of joy. (Luke 2:14)

S is for salvation.



Martha Circle Minutes,

Our meeting opened with Gretchen reading from "Loving Promises" - "When Troubles Come and Things Go Wrong" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Joanne gave us the White Cross information. Due to our dwindling numbers, and other circumstances, we are going to stop participating in the White Cross. Joy will contact them and let them know that we will no longer be participating.

Joy gave treasurer's report - available balance in checking is \$1,204.06. Secretary minutes from October were in the Messenger.

We want to get wooden hangers for the coat rack in the foyer. Looking at approximately \$100, probably less.

Joy read a thank you note from Joanne Henley. Joanne mentioned that if the kitchen needs anything, maybe a new roaster, that the memorial money from Sam's memorial could be used to purchase that.

Old Business - the banners are up in the sanctuary! We have another one to do, "Standing on the Promises" - Gretchen is working on the lettering.

A few of us went to Amelia's baby shower, and gave her the gift, which she liked.

The Foyer updates are done, furniture has been cleaned up beautifully.

Sunshine - need to send cards to Glennie Swann, Glen Cary, Linda Chisholm, Vi Halder.

Scripture reading for tonight was Colossians 3:12-17

Love Gift \$16.78 Devotional \$6.00

Meeting closed in prayer by Gretchen, and then we had refreshments.

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Pastor Gary Schooler
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THE CHRISTMAS CROWN®

*I see beyond the Christmas Tree
A plan for you, a plan for me.
And so I place on the highest bough
A crown of thorns -- sweet symbol now
-- Hana Haatainen Caye*

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Mark... 15:17

Christians all over the world rely on symbolism as they celebrate the wonders of Jesus and the promises that He made.

What better serves to remind us of His sacrifice than the Crown of Thorns that He wore upon His head? As the Roman Legionaries mocked Christ at His crucifixion, they placed a crown upon His head, hailing Him as King of the Jews. The crown was not a golden one, encrusted with jewels, which would have been befitting of a king. Instead it was formed from a thick-stemmed and thorny plant which grew in the desert of Jericho by the Dead Sea, just thirty miles from Jerusalem. This crown was encrusted with something far more precious than jewels – it was encrusted with the blood of Jesus, the very blood that He shed to redeem His people. The Euphorbia Milli, or Crown of Thorns, has been known to this region for many years as a beautiful ornamental plant, despite its dense thorns.

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