

# Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

(541) 884-1635 [www.lutherankf.org](http://www.lutherankf.org)

December 2018

As we approach Christmas, one of the best parts of the season is singing beloved Christmas hymns. There are many familiar tunes that are fun to sing, as well as lyrics which are rich in meaning, helping us to rejoice in the Savior who was born for us.

One hymn that may not be so familiar is by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676). The first line is: "All My Heart Sings and Rejoices (*ELH*, #115); or alternatively: "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" (*TLH* #77). I doubt many congregations have sung all 15 verses. Here I would like to highlight just a few verses, and encourage you to read/sing the rest as a devotion. They tell so clearly why we rejoice at Jesus' birth.

Forth today the Conqu'ror goeth,  
Who the foe, Sin and woe,  
Death and hell, o'erthroweth.  
God is man, man to deliver;  
His dear Son Now is one  
With our blood forever. (vs. 2)

He becomes the Lamb that taketh  
Sin away And for aye  
Full atonement maketh.  
For our life His own He tenders  
And our race, By His grace,  
Meet for glory renders. (vs. 6)

What a wonderful message of Christmas: that eternal God became man, "one with our blood forever." Why? He came to conquer spiritual enemies we could not free ourselves from: sin, death, and the devil. He came that, by sacrificing Himself in atonement for our fallen race, we may live "at one" with Him forever in glory.

When we find ourselves weighed down by sin and guilt, tempted to despair of God's love, here is proof that God is for us, and not against us – in the loving gift of His Son in our flesh:

Shall we still dread God's displeasure,  
Who, to save, Freely gave  
His most cherished Treasure?  
To redeem us, He hath given  
His own Son From the throne  
Of His might in heaven. (vs. 3)

If our blessed Lord and Maker  
Hated men, Would He then

Be of flesh partaker?  
If He in our woe delighted,  
Would He bear All the care  
Of our race benighted? (vs. 5)

In the birth of God as a dear little Baby, we see how tenderhearted and approachable He makes Himself to us. Infinitely powerful over all things, yet He came in such a way that we could even hold Him in our arms!

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, Doth entreat:  
"Flee from woe and danger.  
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you  
You are freed; All you need  
I will surely give you." (vs. 7)

How sweetly and tenderly Jesus invites us to flee to Him in every need and entrust our lives to His care. When we are weighed down by troubling effects of sin – sorrow, sickness, pain, and death – He understands; for He lived in our flesh as a man of sorrows and suffering. More than that, He has plans to deliver us in the best way, ultimately in heavenly glory:

Ye whose anguish knew no measure,  
Weep no more; See the door  
To celestial pleasure.  
Cling to Him, for He will guide you  
Where no cross, Pain, or loss  
Can again betide you. (vs. 9)

So we welcome our dear Savior's birth, holding Him near in our hearts by faith. We rest our souls in His loving care as we pray:

Let me in my arms receive Thee;  
On Thy breast Let me rest,  
Savior, ne'er to leave Thee.  
Since Thou hast Thyself presented  
Now to me, I shall be  
Evermore contented. (vs. 12)

I am pure, in Thee believing,  
From Thy store Evermore  
Righteous robes receiving.  
In my heart I will enfold Thee,  
Treasure rare, Let me there,  
Loving, ever hold Thee. (vs. 14)

In His loving care, Pastor Smith

# Living for Jesus: *In the Light of God's Greatest Gift*

(A newsletter of our ELS Board for Home Outreach)

Our devotion for this month focuses on "God's Greatest Gift" which, of course, is Jesus Himself. His birthday is such a wonderful cause for celebration!

As we hear again the story of His birth on Christmas, we stand in awe of God's amazing love for us, that He would send His Son to be our Substitute, and live in perfect obedience to God's Law for us. As we gaze into the manger in Bethlehem through the eyes of faith, we also know that Jesus came to be our Sacrifice, to lay down His life willingly, as the innocent Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the whole world – yours and mine. And through the life, death and resurrection of this little Baby, we know that we have a forgiveness and salvation that is sure and complete in every way.

Such amazing love of the Father for you and me, shown in His Greatest Gift to us, is also the motivation and the power for all we do for Him.

One of the best-known Bible verses is John 3:16: *"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Please notice the progression: first, God's Greatest Gift is given in love for the whole world; then comes

the response of Spirit-worked faith, believing in Jesus as God's Son and our Savior. In this Season where love is so often shown most lavishly to those who already love us, may we stand in awe of the Father's Gift of Jesus – His Greatest Gift, given to the whole world before any of us loved Him, given to us whether or not we would receive His Gift in faith, and love Him in return.



What does Christmas mean to you? Whether it is a time to celebrate the birth of your Savior and Lord as God's Greatest Gift to you in the blessing of the Holy Spirit; or whether you hardly know Jesus and haven't really stopped to consider Him, may the blessings of this Season – His joy and peace – be yours now and always through Jesus, God's Greatest Gift.

Please join us for worship this Christmas Season. And if you do know Jesus as God's Greatest Gift, thank God for that knowledge! Please share that Good News with someone you love. They just may receive it through the blessing of the Holy Spirit, as the Greatest Gift they have ever received, too!

Merry Christmas to you, and a Blessed New Year in Jesus!

## Midweek Advent Services

(Noon Service, followed by Lunch)

*"Isaiah Pictures the Coming Messiah"*

- December 5 (at the church)
- December 12 (at Pastor's home)
- December 19 (at the church)

## Christmas Services

- Sunday, December 23 at 9:30 AM –  
*Children's Christmas Program*
- Monday, December 24 at 6:30 PM –  
*Christmas Eve Service*
- Tuesday, December 25 at 9:30 AM –  
*Christmas Morning Service*

# December 2018 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>2</b> <i>Advent 1</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Midweek Advent 1 Service at Noon Lunch afterwards <u>(At the church)</u></p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Rogue River Place Outreach Event 2:00 PM</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> <i>Advent 2</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Voters Meeting &amp; Meal After Church</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Steven Karp</i></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Midweek Advent 2 Service at Noon Lunch afterwards <u>(At Pastor's home)</u></p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Charles &amp; Eva Brumble</i></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b> <i>Advent 3</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Wally Klein</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Midweek Advent 3 Supper – 5:30 PM Service – 6:30 PM <u>(At the church)</u></p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> <i>Winter begins</i></p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Aspen Smith</i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> <i>Advent 4</i></p> <p>Children's Christmas Program 9:30 AM <i>(Refreshments after church)</i></p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 PM</p>	<p><b>25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p>Christmas Morning Service 9:30 AM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Adeena Klein</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Steve &amp; Elizabeth Karp</i></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30</b> <i>Christmas 1</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Michael &amp; Bethany Harrington</i></p>	<p><b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Matthew 1:21</i></p> </div> </div>				

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