

# the good word

Elmwood M.B. Church Monthly Newsletter

December 2015

## Advent

*"If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners. But upon his return on that Day, when he will oppose the high and the mighty, it will be different. Now he comes to the poor, who need a Saviour, but then he will come as a Judge against those who are persecuting him now." Martin Luther, 1530*

Advent is a season of preparation before Christmas. But preparing room in our hearts is to consider the majesty and wonder that God Almighty has descended in the form of a baby and took on flesh. There is little possibility we can grasp how profound the incarnation is, but if there is one clear aspect God has left to us in his birth, it is his accessibility. But you will not find him with the proud or hostile; the Son of God's first bed was a manger, pointing us as the star lead the wise men, that he would be found in the humility of our own poverty, our brokenness, and our need of a Saviour—this is the straw of our hearts of which the Saviour delights to come.

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Ken

WHERE THERE  
IS ALWAYS  
ROOM FOR YOU!



(204) 668-3244 145 Henderson Hwy, Winnipeg, MB  
www.elmwoodmb.com

## December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Second Advent 9am Yth SS/Faith & Life Class 9:30am Donwood Manor 10am Worship/Kids Loft & Communion Service	7	8 12pm Seniors & Willing Helpers Christmas Dinner 6:45pm Drop-In	9 6:45pm Worship Practice	10 7pm Youth	11 8pm Gr. 8-12 Youth All-nighter	5 8am Youth pickup 10:30am Men's Brunch
13 Third Advent 9am Yth SS/Faith & Life Class 10am Worship Service/Kids Loft 6:30pm Carol Service – All are welcome!	14	15	16 6:45pm Worship Practice	17 7pm Youth Christmas Party	18	12 10am Kids Loft Practice
20 Fourth Advent 9am Youth SS 10am Worship Service/Kids Loft 2:30pm Selkirk Ministries 4pm Church Sleigh Ride at Birds Hill Park	21	22 6pm Church Community Christmas Banquet	23 6:45pm Worship Practice	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS PARTY 10am Service	19 10am Kids Loft Practice Hamper Delivery (Time: TBD)
27 10am Worship Service	28	29	30	31		26 BOXING DAY
		<b>Church Office Closed</b>				
		6:45pm Worship Practice				



## The Music of Advent

Advent is the season before Christmas: a time of waiting, anticipation, & preparation. As we reflect on this season, I encourage you to walk through well-known Advent & Christmas hymns. Here is a look at one of my favorites, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".

Vs. 1 *O come, O come, Emmanuel/  
& ransom captive Israel/  
That mourns in lonely exile here/  
Until the Son of God appear.*

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child...& will call him Immanuel-God is with us." (Isaiah 7:14) This name was prophesied many years before Jesus' birth. When we sing it becomes an invitation to God to arrive here now, as well as a prophecy of His return.

Vs. 2 *O come, Thou Day-spring,  
come & cheer/Our spirits by Thine  
advent here; / Disperse the gloomy  
clouds of night/ & death's dark  
shadows put to flight.*

At the end of Zechariah's Prophecy over the birth of his son John, he says "the dayspring from on high has visited us." (Luke 1:78) Dayspring is a word for dawn or sunrise. Christ is the sunrise, He disperses the clouds of the night & causes the dark shadows of death to flee.

Vs. 3 *O come, Thou Wisdom from  
on high/ & order all things far &  
nigh/ To us the path of knowledge  
show/& cause us in her ways to go.*  
God is the source of all wisdom. It is by His wisdom that He made the

earth & established its order (Jeremiah 51:15, Psalm 104:24).

Vs. 4 *O come, Desire of nations,  
bind/ All peoples in one the heart &  
mind/ Bid envy, strife & quarrels  
cease/ Fill all the world with  
heaven's peace.*

"Desire of nations" references Haggai 2:7, "& I will shake all nations, & the desire of all nations shall come:" The history of the world shows us that war & division among people abounds. Since Christ is the desire of all nations, He is the only one who can unite the hearts of all mankind & cause such divisions to cease. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Finally, with the refrain comes a call of praise. We sing "Rejoice!" because God will be with us.

-Marni Enns

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

EMBC sent 54 shoeboxes with Samaritans Purse in November. Thanks to those who contributed!

We have another opportunity to help right here in our own community - to provide hampers for 6-10 families from Lord Selkirk Elementary School, just a few blocks away from our church. We need your help. Over the next few weeks, we will be asking for donations of non-perishable food items (check the info desk for a list of suggested items). There will also be a sign up sheet to provide a toy for each child whose family is

receiving a hamper. On Sat. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, we will need volunteers to meet at the church to assemble the hampers & deliver them to the families. -Witness Department

## New Bulletin

The Refresh team is looking forward to releasing the new bulletin early in 2016. Thanks for your feedback!

## Life Journeys of 2015

### Births:

- Ezra Jacob, son of Curtis & April Klassen. Forever ours April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Grace Anne, daughter of Dustin & Venisha Beaudin on May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Aubrey Jo, daughter of Matthew & Kara Plett on July 5<sup>th</sup>
- Theodore Thomas, son of Tom & Petra Funk on September 27<sup>th</sup>
- Annabella May, daughter of Ovi & Margaret Braun on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

### Marriages:

- Cory Schulz & Jasmine Dyck on April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Randy Mac Klassen & Alannah Harapiak on July 18<sup>th</sup>
- Joel Stevens & Bronte Kibsey on August 15<sup>th</sup>

### Deaths:

- Helen Block on February 26<sup>th</sup>
- Peter Unruh on March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Anne Bartel on March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Wendelin Mann on April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Sophie Dueck on April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Elfriede Peters on July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Mike Schroeder on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Katherine Klassen on October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Helene Wiebe on November 22<sup>nd</sup>

## December Birthdays &

### \*Anniversaries

- 8-Carson Benn, Jack Funk, Blake Gray
  - 9-Ruth Schellenberg
  - 10-Elfrieda Harvey
  - 12-Nate Stoesz
  - 14-Sara Braun, Paul Klassen, Adelina Willems
  - 18-Anna Friesen, Ryan & Michelle Giesbrecht\*
  - 20-Megan Enns, Martin Hiebert
  - 21-Jaydon Froese
  - 23-Erdman Froese
  - 28-Helen Streilein
  - 29-Matthew Plett
  - 31-Megan Klassen, Susi Penner
- \*Denotes an anniversary

## Prayer Focus

"But I tell you, love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44 NIV)

As persecution against Christians has been increasing in many areas of the world, here are three ways that we can pray:

- 1) That God will strengthen, deliver & protect Christians being oppressed or attacked for their faith.
- 2) That the gospel will continue to spread in spite of opposition, & the hearts of persecutors will be changed.
- 3) That Christians will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be strong in the face of opposition & to share & live out their faith without fear.