

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

December

Tapiola Apostolic Lutheran Church newsletter

2009

## THE FIRST ADVENT

**“For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David  
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”**

Luke 2:11



## “THE GOSPEL”

The term “gospel” is commonly used with reference to any one of the first four books of the New Testament, and the definition of the word “gospel” means “good tidings” or “glad tidings”. However, with our limited comprehension we only have a measured revelation of God’s wondrous grace portrayed in the gospel. So profound is the magnitude of the gospel that words cannot begin to adequately describe the greatness of it. Let us therefore attempt, by God’s grace, to focus briefly and simply on that which we have seen, which we have experienced, and which we as God’s children believe concerning the gospel.

First we must recognize that Christ and the gospel are one. They cannot be separated. We read in the scriptures that Jesus Christ, the son of God, was from the beginning and dwelt with God in heaven. As he, himself, stated in John 17:5, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” Thus we conclude from this passage in the scripture and from those recorded in the Book of Genesis, that God, with his Son, had from the beginning prepared a way for sinful man to be reconciled to his creator. A sacrifice would have to be offered for the atonement of man’s sin. He became that perfect and only acceptable sacrifice on the cross of Calvary and he would become glorified in the power of his resurrection, being victorious over death, hell, and the power of the devil. This is the good news borne by the angels to the shepherds of old and to all of mankind yet today. Herein lies the gospel of salvation for all who believe.

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## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Dec 6th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Holy Communion
Dec 13th	Earl Kaurala Christmas Program	11:00 AM 2:00 PM	
Dec 20th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	Medical Care - Chad Kuivanen
Dec 24th	Ken Storm	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Caroling Christmas Eve Service
Dec 27th	Ken Storm	11:00 AM	

JESUS SAID,  
“For where your treasure is  
there will your heart be also”

Luke 12:34

**Ken Storm, Pastor (906) 482-3234 Church (906) 334-2766**  
**Church Location - 17602 N. Lake Ave. Tapiola, MI**  
**Bible Study - Wed. - 7:00 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study - 9:45**  
**Sunday Worship - 11:00**

## TELECONFERENCE

Local: 334-6338

Long Distance: : 1-906-334-6338

Instructions:

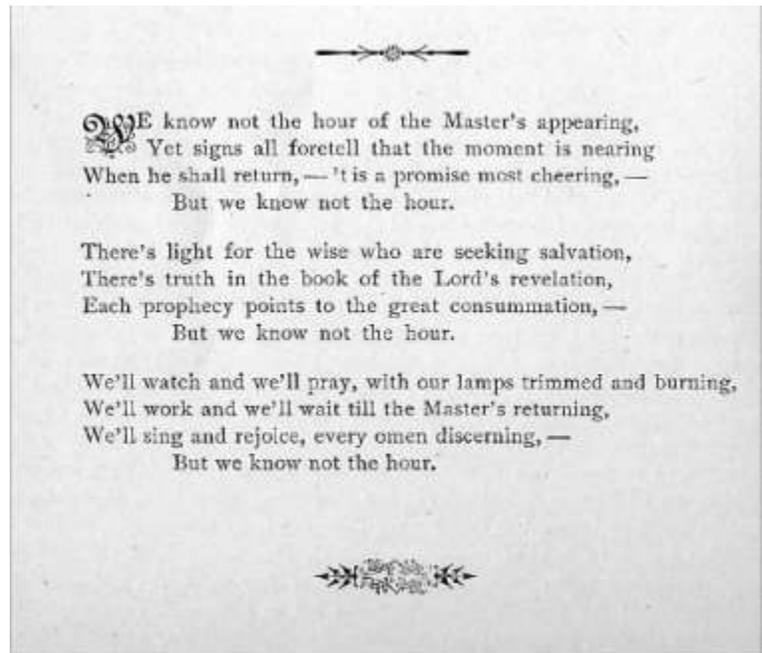
After “greeting”, enter Conference  
Identification Number 44444

# THE SECOND ADVENT



“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner”

Acts 1:11



And knew not until the flood came,  
 and took them all away:  
 so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:39

Universal was the doom, neither rich nor poor escaped: the learned and the illiterate, the admired and the abhorred, the religious and the profane, the old and the young, all sank in one common ruin. Some had doubtless ridiculed the patriarch--where now their merry jests? Others had threatened him for his zeal which they counted madness--where now their boastings and hard speeches? The critic who judged the old man's work is drowned in the same sea which covers his sneering companions. Those who spoke patronizingly of the good man's fidelity to his convictions, but shared not in them, have sunk to rise no more, and the workers who for pay helped to build the wondrous ark, are all lost also. The flood swept them all away, and made no single exception. Even so, out of Christ, final destruction is sure to every man. No rank, possession, or character, shall suffice to save a single soul who has not believed in the Lord Jesus. My soul... behold this wide-spread judgment and tremble at it.

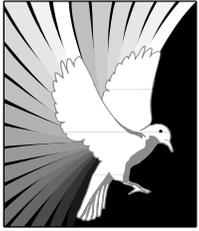
How marvelous the general apathy! they were all eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, till the awful morning dawned. There was not one wise man upon earth out of the ark. Folly duped the whole race, folly as to self-preservation-- the most foolish of all follies.



Folly in doubting the most true God--the most malignant of fooleries. Strange, my soul, is it not? All men are negligent of their souls till grace opens their eyes, then they leave their madness and act like rational beings, but not till then.

All, by the grace of God, were safe in the ark, no ruin entered there. From the huge elephant down to the tiny mouse all were safe. The timid hare was equally secure with the courageous lion, the helpless cony as safe as the laborious ox. All are safe in Jesus. My soul, art thou in Him?

C.H. Spurgeon



TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. Box 531  
Houghton, MI 49931

I am the light of the world:  
he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness.  
John 8:12

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## THE SINNERS HOPE

Come, ye humble sinner-train,  
Souls for whom the Lamb was slain,  
Cheerful let us raise our voice;  
We have reason to rejoice;  
Let us sing, with saints in heaven,  
Life restored and sins forgiven;  
Glory and eternal laud  
Be to our incarnate God!

Now look up with faith and see  
Him that bled for you and me;  
Seated on His glorious throne,  
Interceding for His own;  
What can Christians have to fear  
When they view their Saviour there?  
Hell is vanquished, heaven appeased,  
God is reconciled and pleased.

Snares and dangers may best,  
For we are still but travelers yet;  
As the way indeed is hard,  
Let us keep a constant guard;  
Neither lifted up with air,  
Nor dejected to despair.  
Always keeping Christ in view;  
He will bring us safely through.

Harts Hymns

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman - Tom Mackrain  
Secretary - Cal Niemela  
Treasurer - Jon Lehtinen  
Trustee - Chad Kuivanen  
Trustee - Peter Olson  
Trustee - David Somero  
Trustee - Charles Korhonen

## “THE GOSPEL”

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We see the fulfillment of God’s promise as recorded in the prophesy of Isaiah 1:18, “Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

We read in the scriptures of the wonder working power of the gospel, which is the preaching of Jesus Christ, as recorded on the Day of Pentecost, in Paul’s conversion, and throughout the New Testament. We have seen it’s power manifested in our day when repentant hearts have sought forgiveness for their sin’s and received the gospel message which proclaims God’s grace; the very essence of which is the forgiveness of sin’s in the holy name and precious atoning blood of Jesus. How wonderful it is to see this great miracle of God performed through the power of the gospel; greater still to experience it in our own heart. To this wonderful and indescribable work of God through the gospel, he adds still another marvel, and that is faith to believe these miracles are true in me and in you. If in our hearts we believe that he is, and that he is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, (Heb. 11:6), then, we too, like faithful Abraham, will have our faith accounted unto us for righteousness. Only then are we able to witness of God’s great love and say with the Apostle Paul, “For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 2Tim. 1:12 Again he states, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.” Rom. 1:16-17

May our dear Heavenly Father continue to impart the wonderful, resounding words of His gospel unto the hearts of men everywhere as the angel of old testifies even today, “-- Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

May this Advent and Christmas season be blessed from above with all spiritual blessings for you and your loved ones.

Ken Storm - pastor