

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Already in the Garden of Eden God told of the one he would send into the world to be our Savior: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head and thou shall bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15. These words he spoke to Satan who had beguiled Eve into eating of the forbidden fruit. From that time forward God spoke, through the prophets, of the coming Messiah (Savior).

The fulfillment of that promise came when Jesus was born in Bethlehem's manger. It was on that night God sent his angel to bring this wonderful news to the shepherds, who in the same country, were watching over their flocks. Beholding the angel and the radiance of God's glory around him, they were stricken with fear. It was then the angel spoke, both to quell their fears and to announce the most glorious news man has ever received. He said, "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

Today, these "Good Tidings" continue to echo throughout the world and bring great joy to every believer. Our hearts rejoice to know that we, poor sinners though we are, have been invited to receive these good tidings, which is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The very essence of this gospel is the forgiveness of our sins in the name and blood of Jesus, our Savior. He came into this world to take away our sin so that we, who were alienated by sin, could be reconciled through faith in him, unto our righteous Heavenly Father. Cleansed from sin, and trusting solely in the merits of Jesus, we cling by faith, to his sure promises of eternal life with him one day in heaven's glory. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."--John 10:10 Herein lies the hope of all who repent and believe the gospel.

Dear reader friend, have you come to this intimate knowledge Jesus, not only to view the babe in

Bethlehem's manger, but even more importantly beholding him as he died on the cross for you? We pray that all who hear the gospel call would be humbled in heart to find that God still loves sinners and wants to draw near unto them. May many an unbeliever today hearken to his call and with broken and contrite hearts, seek his grace and forgiveness. It is God, through his servants on earth today, who declares forgiveness to the repentant sinner in Jesus name. For it was Jesus who said to his disciples, "Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them, ---"John 20:23

When the peace of God overflows the joy-filled heart of the forgiven, the vigil begins with great expectancy for the glad tidings of our Savior's second coming. "Come ye blessed of my Father ---" will be the welcome invitation of Jesus heard in every believer's ear as that beautiful eternal Christmas begins.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ken Storm - pastor

Worship Service Schedule

Dec 2	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
Dec 9	Mark Sunnaborg	11:00	
Dec 16	Ken Storm	11:00	2pm Medical Care Facility
Dec 16	Sunday School Christmas Program 4pm. Meal following.		
Dec 23	Jim Johnson	11:00	No Sunday School
Dec 24	Ken Storm	7pm	Caroling begins at 6:30
Dec 30	Chad Kuivanen	11:00	No Sunday School