

SPEAKERS

December 4 – Ken Storm,
Holy Communion

December 11 – Mark
Sunnarborg

December 18 – Ken Storm

December 24 – **Christmas Eve**
Caroling at 6:30 p.m.
Service at 7:00 p.m. - Ken Storm

December 25 – Charles
Korhonen

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.

CONTACT

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Christmas

The season of advent and Christmas is upon us once again and the true joy it brings to the faithful is eagerly awaited. In the story of Christmas, we are reminded of God's great love for mankind with the words of Jesus spoken to Nicodemus which never grow old, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16.** Embraced in this familiar verse is the entire Christmas message; it is God's promise of salvation to every believer. It thrills one's soul to know that it is for each of us, dear Christian friend, for no believer will be left behind. From the youngest infant to the most elderly among us will be gathered there in heaven before his glory encircled throne one day, there to sing his praises eternally.

This year again however, we find there are so many who do not share the joy we feel because they have not experienced the beautiful Light of life in their hearts. Many continue to grope about in spiritual darkness, oblivious to the miracle of the Light that came down from heaven to illuminate the hearts of men. Still others reject the reality of this truth and dismiss God's plan for the salvation of mankind as only a myth and therefore cannot rejoice in the Christmas story. Countless poor souls do not even recognize that they are prisoners of Satan and are wasting in the dark shadows, there bound in the shackles and chains of sin and unbelief.

For many of them Christmas is empty and meaningless and the only celebration they know is found in a few fruitless moments of reveling and drunken partying. On the other hand, the awakened guilty and burdened soul cowers in fear that the Light from heaven will expose his works of darkness, and to him, Christmas is threatening.

Oh, that today men everywhere could hear the beautiful salutation that those lowly shepherds heard on that first Christmas eve when the angel of the Lord proclaimed unto them, *"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.** This now was the fulfillment of God's promise made already in the Garden of Eden and as Jesus explained to Nicodemus as we read in **John 3:17** *"For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

Dear Christian friend, pray for strength to bring this message of Light and hope to poor captives who will be eternally lost without the Saviour. Perhaps there is one such soul today who is waiting for a messenger of the gospel of Light that he may be set free from the dark shadows of sin to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Jesus is the reason for believing everywhere to rejoice and give thanks, for he is the power of God unto salvation to every true believer. Thus, Bethlehem's Child has become for us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; our all in all, and the very reason for the hope every believer has in his heart. Let us therefore rejoice even today, for the true Light continues to shine in the midst

of spiritual darkness and the precious blood of Jesus still proclaims forgiveness to repentant sinners. Even today we are privileged to preach the wonderful gospel of God's grace and forgiveness to the contrite, seeking soul. This then, is the essence of the gospel of glad tidings and the reason for a joy filled Merry and Blessed Christmas to all.

Ken Storm - Pastor