



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 13, 2009**

Alleluia! I will send My messenger ahead of You, Who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia!

**GREETINGS and WELCOME to
Brooklyn Lutheran Church.**

VISITORS please sign the guest book.

Come and worship with us again soon!

Available from an usher:

- **Bibles** to follow along with the Scripture Readings.
- **Large print hymnal** is available.
- **Quiet bags** for small children.

Please return these to our ushers following the Service.

Prayer Before Worship: Heavenly Father, I have come to worship You. Draw near to me in Your gracious Word, and assure me of Your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear Your voice and sing Your praise. Amen

HYMNS: 4 14 23 275

ORDER OF SERVICE: Morning Praise, Page 45

Prayer of the Day—Spoken by all together,

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 130 (Page 114)

We can rejoice as we wait for Judgment Day because we know that the Lord has forgiven our sins. We put our hope in Him Who lifts us out of the depths of despair.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7 (Page 1830)

Even though St. Paul was in prison and had endured many hardships, he could still rejoice and give us the encouragement to do the same. Since God's forgiveness is constant, our rejoicing will also be constant.

THE MOST PRECIOUS OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the midst of the Great Depression when a family of three--Mom, Dad, and little six-year old Peter--had absolutely no money for store-bought presents. Nevertheless, they were very inventive in celebrating Christmas. They decided to make pictures of the presents they would like to give one another if money were no object. So they drew pictures or cut out pictures from catalogs and magazines. They put the pictures into boxes, stuck some old bows on them, and put them under a scraggly Christmas tree. On Christmas morning the tree was heaped with riches. The gifts were only pictures, to be sure, but they were symbols of Christmas giving. There was a shiny new car for Dad and a red motor boat, some golf clubs, a new suit, some sweaters, and an all-weather coat. Mom found her dream house and a diamond necklace, dresses, coats, and a vacation cruise.

Most of the make-believe presents were for little Pete. There were pictures of a camping tent, a new bicycle, a pedal car, and all kinds of toys and games. Now, of course, Mom and Dad didn't expect anything from little Pete. But Pete, with a squeal of delight, crawled under the tree and pulled out a gift he had prepared all by himself. He handed his present to his parents with a smile and they opened it. They found a picture-gift more precious than all the others. It was drawn with first-grade crayons. It was a picture of three people standing together with big smiles on their faces. They had their arms around each other. And under the picture, little Pete had printed a single word--"us."

The light dawned and tears of joy filled the eyes of the parents because they realized that, in years to come, they may be able to give some of those Christmas presents they had only imagined, but they could never give a present more precious than the one they had received that year--the gift of love they had for each other.

Only God can give us a Christmas gift still more precious: **God so LOVED the world that He gave His one and only Son.....** As we gather with those family members whom we love and who so love us – sons, daughters, fathers, mothers, grandchildren, grand parents and others, let us not forget or despise the great gift God gave into this world and to the cross for your sins and mine. God sacrificed His Son in our place. How difficult do you think it would have been for Peter's parents to slay their only son?! Yet that is exactly what Jesus' Father and our heavenly Father did. Now we are HIS children and one day we will join Him in heaven's glory. What a great "Christmas" gift THAT will be!

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 (Page 1593)

The Judgment is coming. Those who refuse to repent and continue to hold on to their sinful lives will be cut down. But those who repent rejoice in God's good news of forgiveness. This joy will show itself in lives filled with good works.

SERMON: **Zephaniah 3:14-17 (Page 1466)**

Christmas—The Day That God Sang!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Meditation Theme for the week: "Jesus Is Near"

Today's Offering Counters: B. Larson & A. Boyd

Today 10:00 Worship Ushers: R. Stelter & A. Boyd
11:15 Brooklyn Bridge School Board
7:00 Church Council

Mon. Wise Penny Work Day
7:00 Sunday School Teachers Meeting

Tues. 7:30 Christmas Concert at West Lutheran

Wed 6:30 Advent Service with Choir and Preschool
Choir rehearsal following.

Thurs 3:00 & 3:30 Prairie Lodge Services

Fri. 9:30 Bible Class

Next Sun. - 6:30am Time of Grace, TV ch 9

8:45 Sunday School

8:55 Adult Sunday School

8:55 Adult Class: Joel & Amos

10:00 Sunday School and Choir Christmas Service—

Ushers: G/ & C. Schimenz

Fellowship following

Last Sunday we were served a wonderful lunch after which we decorated the church. Thanks to all who provided the lunch, helped with the decorating and purchased poinsettias to beautify our Church during this Christmas season.

Last Sunday Worship Attendance: 71

Sunday School Attendance: 7;

Adult Bible Class: 10; Adult Sunday School: 7

Offering: \$3209.50; Needed for Budget Week - **\$2,565**

Offerings YTD: \$118,605; (Budget: \$125,685) short:-\$7,081

Special Advent Service, 6:30pm, this Wednesday evening! It is special because it will be an opportunity to worship and socialize with the preschool families. The children and choir will both be singing anthems. **Refreshments** will be served during a social following the Service. There is a snack signup sheet on the table in the Commons. We expect that many preschool families will also be bringing snacks.

We would like to thank everyone who donated flowers for the altar this past year and to Kari Gabrielson for doing all the flower arranging. There is a flower calendar for 2010 so if you would like to donate flowers for a special occasion, please sign up for that day.

The mitten tree, sponsored by our Sunday School, is up in the Commons! Mittens, Scarves, and Hats are being gathered for distribution among children in our community who will need them against the cold Minnesota winter. Watch for sales at stores and pick some up for the tree! Former member Verna Salzwedel, living in the Brainerd area, has come through again with a year's worth of knitting countless sets for us to take to CEAP.

Forward In Christ, in addition to many fine Christmas season articles, features ex-con Ron Whittaker, who is now a member at Risen Savior in Milwaukee and another who writes

Upcoming Holy Day Service Schedule

December 16—6:30 pm, Preschool
and choir Service
December 20—10:00 am Children's Service
Christmas Eve—10:00 pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day— 9:00 am Festival Service
New Year's Eve—7:00 pm Service
with Communion

Our Christmas Eve Service time preferences were according to a point system: 10pm (19), 9pm (15), 8pm (14), 7pm (12), Thank you for your responses.

anonymously calling himself "A Prodigal Son – Restored." Pick up a copy of the December FIC from mailbox tray!

Brooklyn Bridge Bucks is the name for the Scrip program by which people can buy debit cards at church for purchase of all kinds of merchandise, entertainment, dining, gas, etc – even groceries and VISA prepaid card!and the school gets credit for a percentage of the value.

66 Prepaid (Gift) Cards for a total of \$2,970 face value were sold last Sunday! That benefited Brooklyn Bridge School \$114.00—at no additional cost to our member purchasers!

Check it out with Cindy Boyd and Dawn Heebl. this morning! Save yourself hassle and get people something you know they will use by going **gift cards for Christmas!** **New playground equipment** is the designated project for funds raised through Brooklyn Bridge Bucks!

The Wise Penny Thrift Store is need of volunteers to help with our annual winter cleaning. We are also installing new carpet and are in great need of helpers to move racks and shelving.

Please contact the store at 763-682-4178 or Lanita Farstad at 612-310-5418 with your availability and numbers of volunteers. We would encourage groups of youth with leaders and high school students working towards Honor Society requirements.

- Dates: Dec. 28th-will be moving shelves out of carpet area
- Dec. 30th-we will be putting shelves back
- Jan 2-we will be moving everything out of 1/2 of the lower level
- Jan. 5-we will be moving everything back in place

If you can help any time from Christmas until the 5th, please call. There is still donations to sort and other cleaning to be done. Thank you, Wise Penny Board



*Brooklyn Evangelical
Lutheran Church*
Our Mission:

*We exist to use the
Gospel of Christ to
win the lost and to
nurture believers,
all to the glory of
God.*



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