



Bethesda Outlook

December 2013

May CHRIST, Be our LIGHT, Your LIGHT

I find it very difficult to wait, do you? For me this time is an opportunity to relearn how to wait, to remember as if a new discovery of the art of appreciating the future in an unhurried way of being. And yet, this year, although it is hard to wait, I find myself yearning and longing for the waiting time to begin, even before Advent has begun. I find myself seeking to stay in the present of each and every moment, of each and every day, and find meaning in the waiting.

The nights of December are long and getting colder and we yearn for light. When we step into this sacred time, we step into a blurring of future; present and past. We await the coming of God through the Son, Jesus the Christ. We come to the manger on Christmas Eve with trust and hope that the light of Christ will come and dwell with us and within us to overcome the darkness of our days and lives.

This Advent we are challenged to seek out God's vision and future *for us*, and for our broken world, and to live that as a powerful and present reality. *Advent does not mean wishing; advent means coming, the coming presence of God!* How might *we be* Advent people, the coming presence of God, for and to those around us in this place and time,

today? Past is *present!* The hope that fills Advent is not for a maybe-perhaps-not-yet event. Future is *now!* Who was, who is, and who is to come in a feeding trough, a manger, on Christmas morning.

In your waiting, may God's love and peace break into your hearts with wonder and may you share that peace as Advent people for our world. May you live in the holy present, now, and on Christmas morning awaken at the manger to Jesus breaking in and doing new and wonderful things in you and through you.

Merry Christmas to you and all your loved ones and may *Christ* be your *Light* so that the *Light Of Christ* shines in your hearts today and in the coming New Year!

*Pastor Malcolm and Charlie
Brown*

CHRIST, Is your LIGHT





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p> <p>BETHESDA AT SMOKEY POINT REST STOP</p>	<p>2 Community Dinner 5:30pm Facilities Committee 6:30pm @ J. Minnis'</p>	<p>3 Girl Scouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>4 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>5 Life Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>6 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon</p>	<p>7 Hospitality Comm. Mtg. 10:00am</p>
<p>8 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p>9 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Foodie Book Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>12 Girl Scouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>13 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p>16 Ruth/Miriam Circle Noon @ J. Anstice Community Dinner 5:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>17 Girl Scouts 6:30pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>18 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00pm</p>	<p>19 Life Group 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>20 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon</p>	<p>21 Family Movie Night 5:00pm</p>
<p>22 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p>23 Sue's Bible Study 2:00pm Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE <i>Family Worship Service 5pm</i> <i>Candlelight Worship Service 9pm</i></p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY (office closed)</p>	<p>26 Girl Scouts 6:30pm</p>	<p>27 Mtlk. Terr. Sr's. lunch - Noon</p>	<p>28 Men's Fellowship 8:00am</p>
<p>29 Bible Study 9:00am Worship 10:15am Comm. Dinner prep. 3:00pm</p>	<p>30 Community Dinner 5:30pm</p>	<p>31</p>				



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|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 - Frances Hinson | 15 - Rod Schwald |
| 6 - Paula Geyen
Andrew Molitor | 20 - Robin Anstice |
| 10 - Jeanette Anstice
Kristina Cochran | 21 - Jim Rasmussen
Judith Schwald |
| 11 - Cliff Pearson | 22 - Kasi Reeves (Olson) |
| 13 - Cameron Anstice
Tricia Goldsmith | 23 - Pat Olson |
| 14 - Alice Swierenga | |

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**WE ARE HERE TO
 SERVE YOU!
 CALL US FOR
 ANYTHING!**



Come and Celebrate

*Come to the manger
 and meet the Christ Child*

Bethesda Lutheran Church

- December 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent-10:15am*
- December 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent - 10:15am*
- December 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent-10:15am*
- December 22nd - 4th Sunday of Advent - 10:15am*

December 24th - Christmas Eve Services:

5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship

9:00pm Traditional Candlelight Worship Service

December 29th - Lessons and Carols- 10:15am

My dearest Bethesda Family,

Welcome to a new season expected waiting and preparation for our annual celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ! I wish you all joy and lots of love as we ready our spirits for this blessed event.

Many things have happened since I last wrote to you all. The biggest thing was the sale of my beautiful Lake Forest Park home that I shared with my husband, Bill, for so many wonderful years! Being a landlord was painful to say the least and it was with a great sigh of relief to regain access to my home at the beginning of September. Although the renters tried to take good care of my home, it was heartbreaking to see the havoc they wreaked in one year. I spent the better part of September, cleaning, painting and doing minor repairs to the house and grounds. It took me 6 hours just to clean the ovens!!

We finished cleaning on a Thursday afternoon just as the stagers arrived to "set the house". My real estate agent asked me if I would like to hang any of Bill's art in the house as he thought it might be a good "sale line". It felt wonderful to grace the walls of my home with a collection of his posters one last time. So many memories flooded through my heart and soul.

The house was on the market for one weekend and I had a buyer! With only a little back and forth financial dialogue, we agreed on a price and I closed the deal on Oct. 17th! I had an opportunity to meet the new owners, a 30 something professional couple with no kids, and show them around the house. I was able to tell them how everything worked, gave them a little history about Bill and I and our life there. They were grateful for all the appliance manuals and the a list of the businesses that helped keep that old lady in good repair.

They seemed to really be in love with the space and I know they will make it their own as time goes by. I thanked them and walked away closing that door behind me.

And, me! Well, I feel such a sense of relief to be free of such a heavy responsibility! I am debt free and truly ready to let God take me to the next chapter!

I renewed my lease on my little apartment downtown as I am feeling more settled in my life. Immanuel Lutheran Church is a great blessing. Many people have opened their hearts to me. I was asked to join the Visual Arts Committee. Our role this fall was to prepare and present two Sundays on the Care of Creation. "Flora & Fauna" were our themes. I choose to work with the Sunday Schoolers. We made a "tower of boxes" covered in colored paper and decorated them with fall foliage, seeds and nuts. It was stunning. The following week, we colored animal shapes, cut them out and attached them to the boxes. It was a gift to work with the children, learn their names and meet their parents! The rest of the sanctuary was decorated beautifully as well.

I miss you all and remember all the fun projects we worked on together.

Please sing this hymn in your hearts with me (#815) as we await the coming of our Lord.

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Much love is coming from my heart to yours! Many blessings of the season.

In Christ, Dena Lee