

THE WINDOW

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

December 2020

Advent From the Shadows by Andy Hamer, Pastor

Over the last few weeks the inside of our church has gradually started to resemble a pine forest. Honestly, it's amazing that we have enough space to store our copious collection of Advent decorations. A couple of months ago I wondered if we would even make the effort to decorate this year. Now, as I look around the beautifully decorated building, I am so grateful to all those who helped draw us into the season. This year, in the midst of so much tumult and loss, even decorations feel like an act of faith.

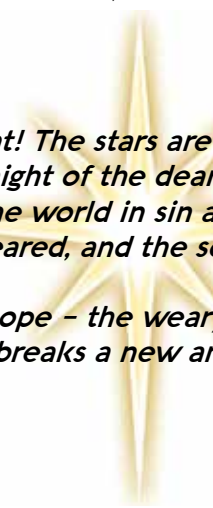
From top to bottom our Advent season is different this year. We rightly grieve the loss of friends, loved ones, and even the loss of simple traditions and gatherings. As individuals and as a church we struggle with the idea that this year it won't even really feel like Christmas. As I wrestle with all this, I find the scriptures telling a different story. Or perhaps it's a story that's surprisingly similar to our own.

God's Messiah didn't arrive in a particularly glorious situation. Our Savior was born in a stable, in a land imprisoned to a far-off empire. He was born to a woman who had conceived outside of wedlock and raised by a man who had almost divorced his mother. The Messiah grew up in a backwater town far from power, and near communities who had no interest in the God of Abraham. The simple truth is that the first Advent came at a dark time – just as Isaiah prophesied. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (9:2)

Even when we consider the days leading to that first Christmas, we find a gritty story. Joseph and Mary (heavy with her first child) are required to travel to Bethlehem for a census. The walk from Nazareth would have taken at least five to ten days, assuming no major issues. Imagine

the young couple trying to comfort themselves with God's promises in the frigid desert winters, or under the watchful eyes of predators in the shadowy forests of the Jordan River valley. See them clinging to their hope as they scramble up the broken rock paths leading into the hill country around Bethlehem. This shadowy journey in a land beset with troubles sets the stage for the birth of our greatest light.

It's true; we have much to lament this year, but an inauthentic Advent season is not one of them. Advent is a time to remember the gifts we have in Jesus, but also to remember the wrongs we hope will be righted when Jesus returns. Often we have to work ourselves up to this longing for the second coming, but this year we find ourselves much closer to, “living in the land of the shadow of death”. We are living in what may be the most chaotic time of the last 50 years, and surprisingly, this uniquely prepares us to celebrate both the first and second coming of our Savior. Perhaps a year spent inundated by humanity's frailty and darkness has us more ready to experience glory and light. Our hope will shine out all the more this year as we find new meaning in our scriptures, our celebrations, and in songs like this one:



*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope – the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

TRADITIONS by Jane Loeck, Elder of Caregiving

"How we celebrate may change but the traditions will continue." This quote from a television commercial really grabbed my attention. What a year of change we have experienced! In a world where everything seems topsy-turvy and uncertain, keeping traditions alive seems more important than ever.

Normally at this time of the year, the tradition of Caregiving Ministry would be to plan and advertise, recruit carolers, and host the annual chili and caroling event. After warming souls with food, jolly groups would head out to spread Christmas cheer to the homebound and those in facilities. How we celebrate may change. Sadly, due to this evil called Covid and the restrictions imposed, we are not able to celebrate with the fellowship of a chili and soup feed and our normal caroling.

However, the tradition will not be destroyed by Covid. The stockings have been crafted and filled by loving West Hills elves. They will still be delivered to the homebound and those in facilities. The most important element of this tradition will continue: caring for the people of West Hills. Caring for the people of West Hills has had to remain a priority.

Our methods of caring for the people of West Hills have changed but the caring continues. We are using it as an opportunity to focus on growing closer to God and strengthening our faith.

Covid cannot stop Christmas from coming. There IS still a reason to rejoice this year. Just as Jesus came to us as a fragile infant over 2000 years ago, He comes to us now. Covid can't keep Him from coming to each heart. Finding His presence in your heart is a present – the greatest gift of all!. Jesus is in our midst and God is glorified.

****2020 Christmas****

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

A pandemic called Covid has robbed
some of our cheer,

Don't hug or touch, keep six feet apart,
now let's make this clear,

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

No groups laughing, ringing jingle bells
or singing carols;

Only silence we hear,

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

Dear loved ones are distant but via Zoom
they are near,

Loneliness makes us drear and feeds our fear,

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

Unusual times are upon us here,

A wake-up message from God to all on this sphere,

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

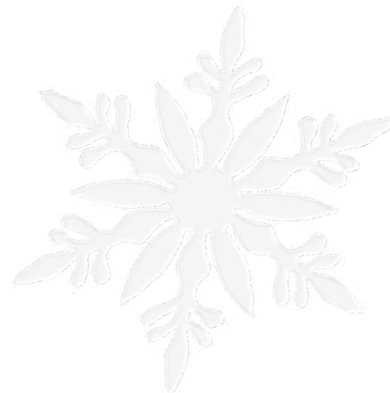
Focus on the baby born to save us all,

to Jesus draw near,

Our Savior reigns victorious, we have nothing to fear,

It's a different kind of Christmas this year.

As we wait for the coming of Christ may our hearts be reborn with Jesus and may we create new traditions in worshipping our Savior and caring for one another. The year 2020 has brought unexpected changes but our God is unchanging. As we read in Hebrews 13:8(CEV), "Jesus Christ never changes! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever!"



December and January At a Glance

At West Hills our mission statement...On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others and the world, provides us with the framework for how we live our lives. Even though life is different now, and we're connecting in new and different ways, here are notable dates this month in the life of our church.

Sundays in December - Live streaming and in-person worship service @ 10 a.m. For those who won't be joining in-person, you can go to the website to connect by live stream! whcomaha.org/live

December 1-20 - Experience Christmas - Check out these ways you can help the child(ren) in your life connect with God, others, and the world during Advent. Go to our website, whcomaha.org to select one or all three activities!

December 18 - Jolly Jingle Jangle - Making Spirits Bright! - An online night of holiday games, entertainment and fun on Zoom at 6:30 pm! Wear your favorite festive gear and bring the cheer!

December 21 - 406 Youth Christmas Spotlight (recorded) - A youth-led prayer and worship concert. Available Dec. 21 on our website, whcomaha.org

December 23 - Tell Me the Story...Sing Me the Songs (recorded) - The all-ages telling of the Christmas story through scripture, pictures, and music. Available Dec. 23 on our website, whcomaha.org

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm Come celebrate the wonder of the birth of Christ with carols, scripture and candlelight. Worship will be available in-person and by live stream. If you plan to join us in-person, please preregister.

January 10 - Ordination Service of Dr. Carolyn Grice at 2:00 p.m. at West Hills

January 31 - Annual Church Meeting - More details to follow.



2020 - WHAT A YEAR! by Gloria Zinn

When one thinks back to March of this year it is hard to remember what a normal year looked like. Not only were we immersed in a pandemic, which in March we knew little about, but throughout the year there were multiple wildfires in Oregon and California, unrest and rioting in a number of cities, and economic crisis, so many businesses closing and so many job losses. During this time a slogan began to take shape as a Black Lives Matter campaign began to expand. Schools closed and a new way of learning, for many children, took place with on-line learning. To top it all off there was a run, of all things, on toilet paper! Stores were also experiencing empty shelves of other items as well.

You began to really stand out if you went outside your house without a mask, and over those months, as more and more people accepted the mask mandate by scientific and medical professionals, those masks became our new norm along with hand washing and social distancing. The market took a real nosedive in March, then it began to rise throughout the summer months, and for some, made record profits.

Our world seemed upside-down as we couldn't attend church on Sundays, nor could we attend any Bible classes and other church events, as our church was placed in a "lock-down mode" with only the essential staff on board. Many of our members who were living in assisted living and retirement facilities experienced lock downs as well, with meals delivered to their rooms and no residents allowed out of their rooms.

The political climate was also changing, for along with everything else we Americans were experiencing in 2020, it was an election year. The entire world was experiencing this pandemic, and if one could sort through the blame-game, the entire world was also suffering the loss of grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends. How very sad. You couldn't turn on the television without the "Covid count" showing the number rising of those affected and those who had died from the disease. It reminded one old enough to remember, of the Viet Nam War count when every night the newscasters would report how many of our American soldiers had died compared with how many Viet Cong. How very sad.

So how did our West Hills Church address this 2020 crisis? For many of us we added a new word to our vocabulary: **ZOOM**. The church organized Zoom meetings for Session, InGathering, and deacons, as well as Zoom Bible study. There were special meetings with Pastor Andy held in the church garden, masks worn of course; as well as organizing our outreach programs such as Shirley Nelson's sloppy joe ministry, Heartland Hope, etc. The only difference was you left your donations in the boxes provided outside the church doors. Online and telephone sermons were available, and each week Thursday Thoughts was sent out, which was like a Sunday morning bulletin, but with much more information. Pastor Andy always opened this informative weekly with a "fireside chat", as FDR was known to do during W/WII. Carolyn Collins kept us updated on all the prayer requests, sending them out (sometimes twice a day) to West Hill's dynamite prayer warriors.

When we were allowed to have in-person worship, the church went way beyond guidelines to make sure everyone would be safe: through cleaning, disinfecting, preregistration for anyone attending, and making sure the three health questions you answered did not open the door to bring in Covid. Masks were required and the church marked off pews so social distancing was easy to fit into on a Sunday morning. Even our wonderful worship team of singers provided the music, via video recording, which assisted us in feeling more "normal." We even were able to experience our monthly communion, either at home with elements of your choice, or during the in-person worship, picking up tiny compartments of packed bread and juice, which were easy to unwrap and participate in with the rest of the congregation.

Sure it all wasn't the same as we had experienced in the past, but since March what has been the same? You adjust and ride it out as best you can. God has given so many gifts to the staff at West Hills, and they have been using those wonderful gifts to make this time in our lives more "normal" through Thursday Thoughts, picnic and music in the park or concerts at the church while everyone sat in cars, to providing sermons over your telephone or computer, to making it easier to give to those who are in need of more help during this time.

2020 - WHAT A YEAR!, continued

You may have been experiencing using your own gifts, perhaps gifts you didn't know you had, during this time. As we tend to travel down a road of fears and/or concerns it is always important to remember God is in charge and is walking right next to us. A Covid pandemic was no surprise to Him. In Deuteronomy 31:6 we are told: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."*

So through this unusual year we have had many opportunities to support our wonderful church by experiencing a "new normal." May 2021 bring each one of us the peace and comfort we are able to have through our church and God's Word.

FA-LA-LA-LA-LA Stocking Delivery



"Chili and Caroling" this year will be without the chili and without the caroling (sad face). But we can still spread cheer. The little angel elves have been busy preparing stockings to be delivered to our West Hills family who are not able to leave their facilities.

We miss not being able to sing to them, see their faces, and have them sing their favorite carols with us but we are hoping that we can still bring some cheer this advent season. We hope to deliver the stockings during the first week of December.

MAKE IT THE BEST

by Pastor Carolyn Grice

Can you believe it?? We made it to another Christmas season!! It's finally here! Actually, this year it seems to have started October 25th according to the Hallmark Channel!!! Can't blame them!! This year more than ever we have needed something to lift our spirits. This season seems to do that for most people.

The anxious anticipation that Advent brings is fun. My pastor colleagues at the ELCA NE Synod office are adamant about not mixing Advent and Christmas and subtly correct you if say something like "It's the Christmas season" before Christmas Day. Lucky for them I always smile and promptly ignore the correction.

Traditionally, my tree goes up a day or two before Thanksgiving Day. I used to do it while watching the Husker game the day after, but the team has required my attention the last ten years so that doesn't work anymore.

I am one of those that does not get hung up on saying merry Christmas as opposed to happy holidays!! I have friends of different faiths and I respect that. There is a lot we can learn from others. I think it's sort of cool to celebrate the different faiths around the same time.

This Christmas season will be different. I am going to miss the hustle and bustle of shopping. I am going to miss the holiday gatherings. I am going to miss Christmas cantatas and potluck suppers and caroling, and, and, and...

I am going to enjoy lots of eggnog and Christmas movies on the Lifetime and Hallmark Channels. I am going to enjoy phone chats and Zoom calls with family and friends.

I think God has an interesting way of making us think it may be time for new traditions— new ways of doing things. That's not so bad. It energizes the brain cells!! I still have fond memories of Christmases past. I am going to enjoy the challenge of coming up with Christmas mischief for this year. I will make the best of a situation not of my choosing, but enjoy the fact that I am still here to do that. In the meantime, I will do what I can to brighten others' holiday season and make this Christmas for me the best one so far!!! Happy holidays!!!!

ONE DEGREE OF SEPARATION

by **Connie Huck, Deacon of Caregiving Ambassadors**

It's been a weird year, right? I've had a lot of time to reflect these last months and I admit to watching more than my fair share of Netflix. Recently, I was thinking about actor Kevin Bacon, and the game that people were playing several years ago called "The 6 Degrees of Kevin Bacon." It's not a real game like Monopoly, but rather a play on the concept or six degrees of separation, the theory that says all people in the world are just six or fewer social connections away from one another. With the Kevin Bacon version, also known as Bacon's Law, you simply take any actor in Hollywood and show how they can get to Kevin Bacon in less than six jumps. I'm not sure if any of us are six degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon, but how are we connected to each other? What brought us all to West Hills was our love for God and our desire to be "on a journey with the living Christ." Now more than ever we need God. And we need each other. How do we share the journey when living in a pandemic that separates us from one another?



Before the pandemic, West Hills already had this great ministry called Caregiving Ambassadors. We have members of our church who feel called to this ministry and who care for people in our congregation who, for whatever reason, may not be able to connect to others through small groups or are not active in a specific church outreach program. We want to be sure that these members are still cared for and held up in prayer. So, the Caregiving Ambassadors check in periodically to see how things are going. It is similar to being a good neighbor. My dad recently passed away in October. For the last three years he has lived alone in the same house he once shared with my mom. At 88 he was no longer able to do some of the things in his yard that he once did. An avid gardener he needed some help this year with

his strawberries and other plants as well as yard work. The neighbor to the west took care of the mowing and snow shoveling, while the neighbor to the east helped him with his recycling so he didn't have to walk down his steep driveway to place the bin on the curb. When my dad became hospitalized the neighbors noticed the change in vehicles in the driveway and were quick to check in and see how they could help. Our Caregiving Ambassadors are here to help too, whether it's just to check in, if there is a practical need that the church can help with, or if there is a spiritual/personal need requiring more care like that of a Stephen Minister.

I am so thankful for our Caregiving Ambassadors and their love and dedication to the people of West Hills, especially during this difficult time when we are separated from one another. I have a little idea, though. You don't need any special training to reach out to someone you've been missing from church. Maybe a phone call, text or note would be a fun way to say "I'm thinking of you and prayed for you today. I am hopeful that one day soon we will all be able to join together again as a whole body. I miss you! Our connection to each other is God and from what I can tell, that's only one degree, not six."

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE

by **Jana Prescott**



What does God look like to me? I'm having a tough time as I write this morning. A lot has been traveling through my head. So what is the best way to give my traveling thoughts to Jesus, letting Him guide my thoughts to where they need to be? You know, where anyone's thoughts need to be tends to change constantly. Like our thought for Andy's opening question on November 1. He asked, "What does God look like to you?" He got several answers; I came up with a few, too: putting God in a sort of see-through mirror, and using my view of Him to see God alive in my family, or inside of a friend I'm talking to. He is any place; all we need to do is view God as the best mirror we've had!

A FEW WORDS FROM WORSHIP RESIDENT, *Anna Hollingsworth*



This semester at West Hills I have been privileged to work in many different areas of ministry. I have been singing and playing keys on the Worship Team and working on the tech side of worship in ProPresenter, sound, lights, and camera. I have done video recording, editing, and downloading/uploading to the website (which takes a lot longer than I ever would have imagined!). I have participated in worship service planning and staff meetings. I have been a part of the team writing the Faith at Home documents. I have also worked with the youth worship team for special events like the 406 Spotlight.

Working with a church staff where many of them are working from home has been a new experience for me. We use Zoom a lot. I have even been a part of Zoom rehearsals which was not something that I ever thought I would be doing. The most fun part of working here has been the funny conversations and meetings between me, Kevin, and Heather. I also enjoy getting to work with our small group of Worship and Music Ministry volunteers who faithfully show up week after week and our family ministry moment volunteer team who put so much effort into creating engaging videos.

Through it all, I have learned a lot. Recording, editing, and operating the livestream cameras have been my greatest areas of growth because I had not done much with them previously. I also learned a great deal about ProPresenter. I have also really appreciated adding a vast amount of new songs to my repertoire. It is very interesting to me that as I have been rotating around different churches, I have noticed how each church has a unique list of songs that fit their congregation. One of the most unique things that I have been learning at West Hills is how to do blended intergenerational worship. I enjoy seeing all ages engaged in worship together in an intentional way.

NOVEMBER *Session notes*

- The Ordination Service for Carolyn Grice will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 2:00 o'clock at West Hills Church.
- Carolyn Grice has been invited by the West Hills Session to give a presentation on what it means to be a Matthew 25 church.
- Session agreed to ask the ministry teams to submit revised budgets in order to come closer to projected income.
- The number of pledge cards received is behind previous years but the amount of the pledges received is averaging higher.
- More pledge cards are being sent out.
- The option to pledge online is now available on the West Hills website.

To contact Session,
send an email to:
clerkofsession@whcomaha.org

THREE WORDS FOR KIDS

Did you know that each week on the pre-service slideshow and in the Details section of the online worship, there are three special words for you to listen for during worship. The words can come at any time during worship, so keep your ears tuned for them. You might even want to count how many times you hear them! Ask your parents to send an email to jessica@whcomaha.org if you hear all three words!

HANGING OF THE GREEN by Maralee Gifford

The pandemic of 2020 did not hold West Hills back from presenting a beautiful Hanging of the Green service at the beginning of the Advent season on the last Sunday of November. Kevin Gibson really outdid himself putting together a wonderful program of songs, readings, presentation of ornaments and flowers, and special videotaped music. It all culminated in the lighting of the all the trees and wreaths against a green backdrop in a darkened sanctuary – a really magical moment.

Thank you to all those who had a helping hand in putting together a truly special program.



The Dunn Family- Johnny, Michaela, Beckett & Evie



Placing the Chrismons-Peg Shirley



Poinsettias-Jack & Judy Pagel



Lanterns-Trink Traudt



Placing the Chrismons-Bob & Jan Drake



Reader-Christy Gibson

HANGING OF THE GREEN, continued



Reader-Bob Drake



Laying the Greens-Peggy Kelley





Our Christmas Gift to You!

Though we have missed many of our favorite people and celebrations during the pandemic, the spirit of Christmas is very much alive at West Hills as a small but mighty team has prepared our church for the celebration of Christmas.

As was the case with many things in 2020, there is a new look to the Christmas decorations! A forest of evergreen trees greets worshipers in Geneva Lounge with lit garland adorning the railings. New garland has been installed under the sanctuary window by Jack Pagel, Ryan Dolezal, Denise Dolezal and John Good. Gaylen and Jan Vermilyea gifted the church twenty beautiful silk poinsettia plants which Gaylen has arranged and encircle the Chrismon trees. Ed Leach shared his carpentry expertise and created a new manger for the sanctuary which awaits the arrival of the Christ Child.

Special thanks to Peggy Shirley, Linda Springsted and Patti Brownlee for their tree fluffing, trimming and hanging of the garland in Geneva Lounge. We are grateful for the time, talents and energy of our dedicated staff: John Good, Kevin Gibson, Heather Hipp, Ricardo Lopez and Rosa Norman. Thank you for all who have made West Hills feel like Christmas!

It is our prayer that whether you worship with us in-person or online, you and your families are able to experience the spirit of Christmas. Though the pandemic has definitely changed many things for us during this past year, it cannot deprive us of our hope in Christ, the joy of the Christmas celebration, and our love for our West Hills family! We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you! Peggy Kelley

MORE CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES



Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, Amazing Neighbors -

Check out these ways you can help the child(ren) in your life connect with God, others, and the world during Advent. These are great for parents and kids to do together, and are also a way we can all invest in a child's journey personally

or by gifting tools to parents. Advent Bingo would be an especially easy and sweet way to connect via phone, Zoom or Facetime if you live at a distance from the child(ren) in your life. Go to our website, whcomaha.org to select one or all three activities!



This year has been a challenging time for everyone. Not only have we experienced challenges in our own country but our mission partners have faced many hardships as well. Traditionally, during this season of giving, we offer opportunities for you to give to mission partners locally and abroad, and this year is no different.

Welcome to God's "Virtual" Gift Shop!
To view the opportunities, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxukrb7p>

OUT OF MY BUBBLE by Peggy Kelley

I realize that I have been incredibly sheltered from racial injustice. I grew up in south central Nebraska where there was little if any racial diversity. I went on to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney where the only diversity was a very small international population.

Mike and I moved to Omaha after college, where we began to experience a more diverse population. West Hills mission experiences and our involvement with Young Life in North Omaha expanded our horizons. We have, however, chosen to live in the suburbs...in the safety of my bubble.

With the unrest and calls for racial justice this summer, it was announced that West Hills would establish a Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force. I, like many of you, had questions and concerns. What would be the purpose of such a task force? What would they hope to accomplish? What is my part in all of this?

As a Christian, I believe that all people are God's children. All are made in his image. And yet, I wonder if I truly live my life according to God's purpose.

I recently participated in the cinematic stories and conversations hosted by William Scheopner, a member of the task force. When reviewing the list of movies that would be watched and discussed, I realized that these were not movies that I had previously seen. I must admit that these were not of the genre to which I would customarily be attracted. This was a humbling realization. I prefer to remain in my sheltered, safe bubble! Although I knew that racial cruelty and injustice existed and was very wrong, I simply did not wish to view it up close and personal.

Watching these movies with a discerning eye has been a growing experience for me. Discussing the harsh realities of racial injustice with fellow Christians has been enlightening. None of us pretend to know the answers. I have a long way to go. I do pray that the Lord will enable me to speak on these issues from a Christian perspective. More importantly, I pray that he might give me a heart to truly see others as he sees them, as his children.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION TASK FORCE



If you are looking for ways you can learn more about racial injustice and what you can do about it, the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force have suggested the following resources you may find interesting.

BOOKS:

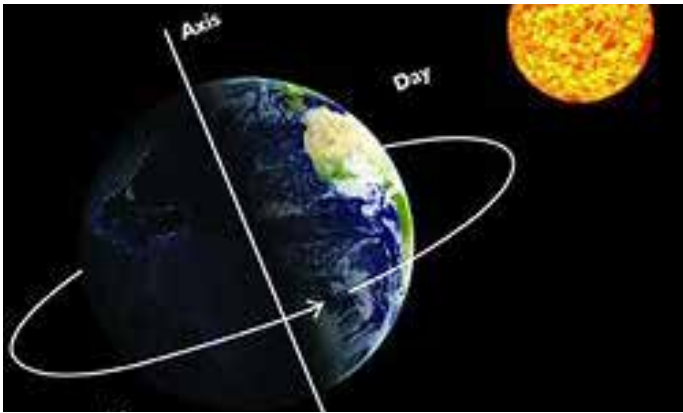
- The Myth of Equality by Ken Wytsma
- White Fragility by Robin D'Angelo
- Stamped by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi
- Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
- Black&White:HowUnityandReconciliationCan Save America by Myron Pierce
- AttheHandsofPersonsUnknown:TheLynchingof Black America by Philip Dray

DOCUMENTARIES:

- "13th" - Documentary film on Netflix - Director Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans.
- "A Time for Burning", 1966 - In 1966 Nebraska, a pastor tried to integrate his white congregation with a Black church.
- "Out of Omaha," 2018 - An award-winning, intimate portrait of twin brothers Darcell and Darrell Trotter, young Black men coming of age in the divided city of Omaha, Nebraska.

SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

The Book of Job and the Earth's Rotation



For ages, scientists believed in a geocentric view (having the earth as the center) of the universe. The differences between night and day were believed to be caused by the sun revolving round the earth. Today, we know that the earth's rotation on its axis is responsible for the sun's rising and setting. But, 4000 years or more ago, it was written, "Have you commanded the morning since our days; and caused the dawn of day to know its place? It (the earth) is turned as clay on a wheel. (Job 38:12,14). The idea here is of a clay vessel being turned on a potter's wheel letting us know that it is the earth that does the rotating around the sun, which is the center of our galaxy.

Comfort, R 2001 *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible Is Supernatural in Origin*, Bridge-Logos Publishers

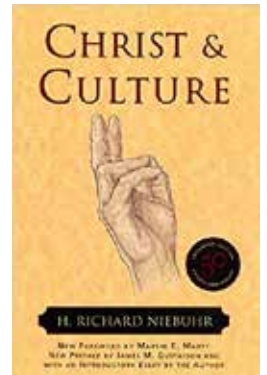
Save the Date!! February 19-21

Looking for a way to escape the "insanity" and spend some quiet time with Jesus? Put this date on your calendar. We have a tentative weekend scheduled for St. Benedict's Monastery for our women's silent retreat. We will of course take appropriate precautions as required by St. Ben's in accordance with state and local regulations.

BOOK REVIEW

Christ and Culture by H. Richard Niebuhr

Christ and Culture by H. Richard Niebuhr is a 260-page book which is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a new foreword. According to Harper One Publishing, the distinguished historian Martin E. Marty regards this book as one of the most vital books of our time."



The book looks at Jesus as being both God and human and questions his place in the world while simultaneously questioning the place of Christians in that same world.

One of the main tenants if the book is how is Christ relevant to the situation in which Christians find themselves living today?

One of the questions asked by the author is: what is the relationship of Christianity to culture? In discussing the answer, the book is broken down into seven sections:

1. The Enduring Problem
2. Christ against Culture
3. The Christ of Culture
4. Christ Above Culture
5. Christ and Culture in Paradox
6. Christ the Transformer of Culture
7. A Concluding Unscientific Postscript"

According to the author, Christ and Culture, like most classics, is not an easy work. It makes demands on its readers. In thirty years teaching Christian ethics at Yale Divinity School, H. Richard Niebuhr (1894-1962) influenced more Christian leaders than any other American theologian of the twentieth century, according to Harper One Publishing.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick

BIBLE QUIZ

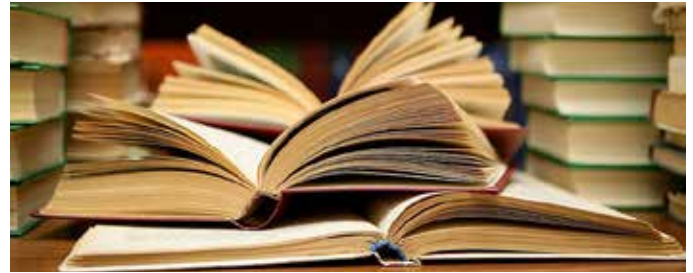
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

1. Who said: "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."?
A) Paul B) Peter C) Jesus D) Moses
2. *What disciple was told by Jesus that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat? A) Peter B) John C) Philip D) Judas
3. * What priest was said to have had no mother or father? A) Ezekiel B) Ananias C) Melchisedek D) Joshua
4. Fill in the blanks: "Now _____ is the substance of things _____ for, the _____ of things not seen."
5. Who said: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"? A) Moses B) Paul C) Timothy D) Peter
6. Who said; "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."?
A) Jesus B) Paul C) Moses D) David
7. *Who built the first altar? A) Abraham B) Noah C) Melchisedek D) Moses
8. Who is the first person recorded in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11? A) Job B) Moses C) Abel D) Adam
9. Who anointed David as King? A) Saul B) Samuel C) Ezekiel D) Jacob
10. Who said: "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer." ? A) David B) Paul C) Jacob D) John
11. *Who plotted to have the entire Hebrew nation completely exterminated? A) Ahab, husband of Jezebel B) Og, King of Bashan C) Pharaoh, King of Egypt D) Haman, minister of Persia
12. In what book in the Bible can you find Paul's words: "If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!" A) Galatians B) Hebrews C) Romans D) 1st Corinthians

*from Bible Trivia by Tim Parker

(answers on the back page)

FOOTNOTES FROM THE LIBRARY



Did you know?...

We have a Children's Library. It is located downstairs in the Crosswalk area. There are many wonderful things to explore. There are books, DVDs, playsets, and more. Resources for all ages to bring alive the wonderful stories in the Bible. So, stop by and check it out (when you can).

MOVIE SUGGESTION



The story based on the worldwide best-selling book, *The Case for Christ: One Man's Journey to Solve the Biggest Mystery of ALL Time*, is now a 113 minute DVD starring: Mike Vogel, Erika Christensen, Faye Dunaway And Robert Forster.

This video is based on the true story from the book of the same name. When writer Lee Strobel's wife moves toward Christianity, he works tirelessly to disprove his wife's growing faith in Christ and is taken on a journey which changes his life.

In this video a journalist investigates a dozen professors asking questions such as:

1. How reliable is the New Testament?
2. Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible?
3. Is Jesus who he said he was?
4. Is there any way to believe the resurrection was an actual event?

The book this DVD is based on was the winner of a Good Medallion Book Award and nominated twice for Christian book of the year.

suggested by Debbie Chadwick

RECIPES OF THE MONTH



CRACK DIP

Mix the following together and leave covered in refrigerator overnight; serve with crackers or tortilla chips:

- 8 oz. shredded Mexican blend cheese
- 2 (11 oz) Mexicorn
- 1 cup mayo (not Miracle Whip)
- 1 cup sour cream
- tops of 3 bunches of green onions, sliced
- 1 4.5 oz. can of diced green chilies
- 1/3 cup jalapenos (chopped).



CRANBERRY SPREAD

- 1 pkg. (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tablespoons orange juice concentrate
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel (McCormicks) or zest of one orange
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans, optional

Beat together until smooth. Refrigerate.





3015 S 82 Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68124
402-391-8788
whcomaha.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



DECEMBER

1-Zoe Dozier
Candy Glasgow
Stacey Mielke
Nicole Schomers
3-Anna Hollingsworth
5-Wayne Moore
6-Sue Carson
9-Joanne Topolski
Brian Meyers
10-CJ Young
11-Mary Turner
Branden O'Hare

13-Dale Hawkins
Austin Wohlgemuth
14-Corey Barnes
15-Eddie Nelson
16-Bill Jansen
Tom Gill
17-Molly Rogers
Jason Scheopner
18-Lynn Burns
19-Kaylee Boyd
Julie Burgess
20-Judy Pagel
Terry Sedivy

22-Randy Hess
25-Scott Lucks
27-Taylor Schommer
28-Bev Eckhoff
29-John Nelson
Mark Zimmerman
30-Rachel Voshell
31-Louie Harrison
JANUARY
2-Verne DeHaven
3-Nancy Chesire
4-Laura Meyers
5-Greg Kuhn

Advent Sermon Series: ANYTIME NOW

Dec. 6 - PEACE - Isaiah 40:1-11
Dec. 13 - JOY - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Dec. 20 - LOVE - Isaiah 54:1-10
Dec. 24 - CHRIST - Luke 2:1-14