

December 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The first Wednesday of Advent was an exciting one for Trinity United Parish! We were blessed to have the Good News Band from First Lutheran in Minot join us for a special Advent worship service in Glenburn. The evening began with soup & sandwiches served by our youth. Then we gathered in the sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer. The Good News Band shared several songs with us to help us feel the spirit of the Advent Season.

It's so important to take time between Thanksgiving and Christmas to enjoy the Season of Advent. Advent means "coming" and during these Sundays leading up to Christmas, we prepare our hearts and homes to receive Christ once again. If you go to the mall these days, it's as if Christmas has already happened. But during these days of Advent, we need to take inventory of our lives and truly prepare for Christ to be born within us this year. The rest of the world would have us rush right from Thanksgiving into Christmas. But in the church year calendar, Christmas doesn't even start until December 25<sup>th</sup>. And by then, many people are so tired from all the shopping and hearing the same songs played over and over again, that they are ready to put Christmas away for another year.

One way to prepare for Christmas this Advent is to use the Advent Devotional from the Lutheran Association of Pilots & Missionaries. This is an excellent organization that carries the Gospel to people who live in some of the most remote parts of Alaska. Another way to observe Advent is to practice your own lighting of the Advent candles at home on a Sunday evening. Whatever you choose to do to make Advent special, please know that the days of Advent are a blessing unto themselves.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**

Angel Tree – We are sponsoring five families through the YWCA this Christmas. Please choose a gift tag, buy a gift for that person, and bring it back wrapped with the tag on it by Sun. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sun. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> -- Pulpit Swap. We will welcome Pastor Ken Nelson from First Lutheran to preach in Glenburn & Lansford. Pastor Heather will then be at First Lutheran in Minot.

Wed. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade youth will go to Pangea House in Minot for a Christmas party.

Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> -- Christmas program at Trinity United Church in Lansford at 11:00 am, followed by a meal. At Glenburn, we will celebrate the baptism of Myla Maria Pistorino, daughter of John & Elizabeth (Sanders) Pistorino.

Sun. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Youth will be making lefsa at Mickey & Sonja Mickelson's.

Sun. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas program at Trinity Lutheran in Glenburn, followed by a brunch which will be hosted by the youth who are going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2012.

Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve. Services at Lansford will be at 7:00 pm. Services at Glenburn are at 9:00 pm.

In Christ,

Pastor Heather Brown