

December 2010

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest." Isaiah 9:1-2

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, from the One who was, who is, and who is to come:

God's grace and peace be with you all!

During Advent each year we talk about the three comings of Jesus Christ into our world. The first way that Jesus came into our world was as a babe in a manger some 2000 years ago. During these days when there is a lot of shopping and buying gifts, we know that Jesus Christ came into our world to bring us the best gifts of all. He brought gifts of salvation and eternal life into a world that desperately needed to hear God's message of hope.

And then there's the second way that Jesus Christ comes to us. He comes to us each and everyday of our lives, through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. We read his Word and hear about the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, and he comes to us. We gather for worship around the altar to receive the bread and the wine, and he comes to us. He comes to us with forgiveness of sin and hope for the coming kingdom of God.

But there is a third coming of Jesus Christ that we talk about during Advent and that is his final coming. We long for the time when he will come and reign on the earth and establish God's kingdom once and for all. We see glimpses of that kingdom even today. We see glimpses of that kingdom when Christians reach out and touch others in the name of Jesus Christ. God's kingdom is here. It hasn't fully arrived yet, but it is here. And those glimpses of God's kingdom give us hope.

This year, we in Glenburn and Lansford will show our appreciation in a very special way for all the gifts that God has given us. Our Parish is going to sponsor three families through the YWCA. Soon you will see a Christmas tree at church with gift tags on it. Please take a tag and buy a gift for a member of one of these families. It's our way of spreading God's Kingdom here on this earth and remembering "the One who was, who is, and who is to come."

Some upcoming events to look forward to:

Wed. Dec. 1st: We will hold a special Advent meal and worship service at Glenburn. A meal of soup and sandwiches will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by a worship service at 7:00 pm. The service will feature the Bell Choirs from First Lutheran in Minot.

Sun. Dec. 5th: Deb Kunkel, YWCA Director, will join us to share about the work of the YWCA in the Minot area during worship at Glenburn & Lansford.

Sun. Dec. 19th: Come and experience the joy of Christmas as the children and youth present Christmas programs. Lansford's Christmas program will take place at 9:00 am, and Glenburn's will be at 11:00 am.

Christmas Eve Worship: On Fri. Dec. 24th, we will hold Christmas Eve candlelight worship with Holy Communion. Services will be held at Trinity Lansford at 7:00 PM and Trinity Glenburn at 9:00 PM. Come and join in celebrating Christ's birth!

Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season,
Pastor Heather