

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Advent is a time of hope and anticipation. For little children it is a time eagerly awaited, a time that holds the mystery of wonders yet to come.

But for many adults Advent is a time where we feel highly pressured. Time seems to run faster during this season and we are in a constant hurry to fulfill the many tasks noted on our to-do list. Many of us take little time to reflect what the gift of this season is and by the time Christmas arrives, all we want is some time out.

A time out - that is actually one of the gifts of Advent. The little children have it right. Advent is a time of anticipation, of hope, of wonder and joy. Advent gives us a time out of our preoccupied lives and calls us to be quiet, to listen, to reflect. It calls us to prepare for God's greatest gift of all:

Emmanuel - God with us!

In a world that experiences a great sense of "Angst" about the economy, job loss, warfare and global warming, we can give a sigh of relief. God is still in charge. God's reign never ends. God is with us in the midst of global turmoil, calling us to open our hearts and minds to welcome the Savior.

There is a song we like to sing during worship. It is called "The Canticle of Turning." When we turn and allow Christ to change our hearts, we may find that we encounter new vistas, new ventures and new opportunities instead of our old worries and fears.

As we look toward the birth of the Christ child, let us be renewed in spirit to welcome him into our lives and hearts once again.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Dagmar