



In the Loop

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

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December 2, 2021

Pastor's Point

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world,
for peace like rivers,
for the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick—
for joy that is contagious,
for nations that feel like neighbors,
and for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.

God is here. God is still creating.

Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

The prayer above is one written for this hope-filled week as part of our Close to Home Advent series from A Sanctified Art. It's initial question, "Can one be homesick for something you've never known," floats at the forefront of my mind this week. Preparing for Christmas is something inherently nostalgic. From Folgers commercials to Hallmark movies, we consume media that prescribes an idyllic world. We measure our memories and stories by these standards and when they sometimes fall short, we have a tendency to massage reality, to paint over it with a broader brush or a more glittery color.

And then we might try even harder to carry that nostalgia into the future, to make the next Christmas align with our idealized notions. A bigger tree, more presents, more lights, more ornaments. Another pageant, another recital. A picture perfect family Christmas card. As our expectations grow, so perhaps, do our frustrations until Christmas becomes less a time for anticipation and celebration than for resentment and exhaustion.

I wonder how our experience of Advent and Christmas might differ if we let ourselves be guided not by nostalgia or cultural narratives, but instead by the assurance that God is present, even in our imperfect, messy holiday celebrations. That each year, Jesus comes to us as a child, a newborn completely vulnerable to the dangers of the world. I wonder if we might find a deeper level of hope, other kinds of joy, know a different sort of peace. I wonder if we might love more openly, allowing ourselves and our families a wider grace.

Blessings,

Pastor Heather



CCC Youth bell ringers



The CCC Youth are scheduled to ring bells for Salvation Army from **3:00-5:00 on 12/21**. We will be **inside Eastland Mall in front of Kohl's**. This is the inner mall entrance. Everyone is invited to come out on the 21st to support our youth and the Salvation Army. See you there.



Food Pantry Sunday December 12th



Your Outreach group is requesting your help with our local food pantries.

The second Sunday, December 12th, is officially pantry Sunday. When you come to church December 12th, please consider bringing an item or items of non-perishable food to place in the pantry box at the South entrance.

Thank you for helping your Christian brothers and sisters in need.

Christmas Food Baskets 2021

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Christian Brothers & Sisters!

Our Christmas Food Basket is underway for 2021. This year we will be partnering with Tinervin Family Foundation. Tinervin is a not-for-profit organization. They support our community in so many ways (i.e., on average they distribute 66 food baskets a day). At Christmas Tinervin hands out 2,500 food baskets and the recipient may choose either a ham or a turkey with their basket.

With your help, we look forward to working with Tinervin Family Foundation to provide a great Christmas dinner for many needy families. Centennial is receiving your contribution for food baskets to our community from December 5th through December 19th. You may place cash in an envelope and designate food basket **OR** you may write a check to Centennial and designate food basket. You may place your contribution in the offering box or send it to the office. Please insure we have your contribution **no-later-than December 19th**.

Thank you for helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters enjoy a holiday feast. Blessings to you and to your family this Christmas and always!

Your Outreach Group



December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 HOPE First Sunday of Advent	29	30	December 1 Bridge 12P-GH	2 Outreach 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah FGNA 7P-FH	3 Young at Heart Party-sponsored by Elders 12A-2P-FH	4 Scott Christmas Party 8A-FH Bridge 12P-GH
5 PEACE Second Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting After worship	6	7	8 Bridge 12P-GH	9 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	10	11 Bridge 12P-GH
12 JOY Third Sunday of Advent 2nd Sunday Food Pantry	13 Trustees 11A-library	14 CWF 9:30-FH	15 Bridge 12P-GH	16 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P	17	18 Bridge 12P-GH
19 LOVE Fourth Sunday of Advent	20	21	22 Bridge 12P-GH	23 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	24 Christmas Eve Eve Service 7P	25 Christmas Day 
26	27	28 Elders 6:30P-FH	29 Bridge 12P-GH	30 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	31	January 1 2022 New Year's Day

DECEMBER 5, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED 2022 BUDGET



Prayer Request

Dan Frizzell, health issues. Please keep Dan in your prayers.

Stanley Peebles, father of Joe Peebles, has COVID. Please pray for a recovery.

Pryscilla, sister of Kip Hayden, has had a series of falls. She has been placed in a rehabilitation center to try and determine the cause and receive physical therapy to overcome the situation.

Continuing Prayers

Diane Armstrong, Peggy Bates, Ricky, Calista, Cole, Muriel Dawson, Terry Foland, Rae Geske, Scott Griffith, Jim Hawkins, Joan, Jeff Stauffer, Tammy Leonard, Penny, Lexi Peterson, Lily, Mary Ann, Pete Rasmussen, Fern Scaggs, Cindy Schroeder, Joe Schroeder, Kathy Scott, Barbara Short, Rhonda Smith, Marian Wrinkle

At Home/Assisted Living

Anita Poling (Westminster)

Nursing Home

Heritage Manor-Tom (Billy) Robey, Rev. Barbara Short, Don Short; Martin Health -Earl McIntyre

Military

Mark Brienen, Keyla Folsom, Troy Guyran, Benjamin Horn, Michael Iverson, Adam and Angie Lienhop, Clay Short, John Thomas, Darrell Walton, Glen Whitecotton, Christopher Wilson-Poston

Prayers for CCIW congregations and ministries: FCC Downers Grove, FCC Robinson, University CC Chicago; Blaine CC, Arcadia, MI

December Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Emilia Todd	12/07
Tom (Billy) Robey	12/10
Ruth Roley	12/17
Denny and JoAnne Pritchard	12/27