

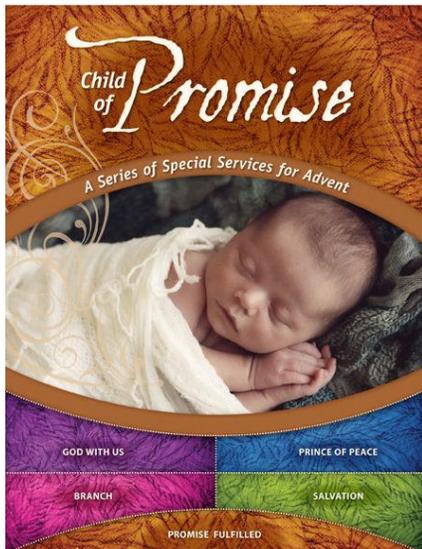


The View



DECEMBER 2013

Vol. 38 No. 11



Child Of Promise

A Series of Special Services for Advent & Christmas

The Bible is full of sacred promises, and ultimately all of the promises of God are found in the Christ Child. In this Advent and Christmas season we will explore the promises associated with the original Hebrew names given to the *Messiah*, the *Promised One* (Isaiah 7-12). Each service will explore the meaning behind the promises of Scripture and how those promises give meaning to our lives today as people of promise as we await the Christ Child.

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). In the Hebrew name *Immanuel* (meaning “*God With Us*”), Isaiah captures the essence of the promise of Christ’s presence with us forever.

“The government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called ... Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). In the name *Sar Shalom* (meaning “*Prince of Peace*”) Isaiah proclaims the promise of harmony and unity which only Christ can bring.

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit” (Isaiah 11:1). By using the name *Nezer* (meaning “*Branch*”), Isaiah reveals to us that Jesus is connected to us and we are connected to Him – always.

“The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2). When he used the name *Yeshuah* (meaning “*Salvation*”), Isaiah was highlighting the promise that Jesus would be the One who would be our ultimate Rescuer from sin, death and hell. We will celebrate that salvation in the personal and united beauty of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). When the Christ Child was born on Christmas, He became The Promise Fulfilled in human flesh, Isaiah assures us, and we celebrate that glorious truth on Christmas Day!

PASTOR LARRY RABON

Mission of the Month for December: Disaster Relief for the Philippines

LCMS team reaches typhoon-ravaged area *By Megan K. Mertz*

A disaster team from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was attempting Tuesday, Nov. 19, to enter Tacloban, the Philippine city hit so hard Nov. 8 by Typhoon Haiyan — one of the strongest storms ever recorded. The Rev. Glenn Merritt, director of LCMS Disaster Response and leader of the team, said via telephone that the city is under “a military lockdown because they are trying to clear the bodies and to control disease. But we have a local person from Tacloban with us and we think we will be able to get through the roadblock.” The Synod team arrived in the Philippines Nov. 16 to help the Lutheran Church in the Philippines, an LCMS partner church, coordinate disaster-recovery efforts following the typhoon. After working in Mahayag, “where two [Lutheran] churches and a parsonage were destroyed,” Merritt said, “we’ve done a lot of interviews with members, seen the damage, done assessments and determined that we needed to release ... \$100,000 immediately for emergency food, medical supplies and shelter repair.” At the time of the phone call, he said team members were at a marketplace in Baybay, “trying to buy rice and beans and some other food stuffs to take with us toward Tacloban, where we hope to meet the pastor from the church there,” and deliver the food supplies to him. Merritt said that the team is on the move on the island of Leyte in “one small van. And we’ve just continued traveling forward.” He said they would “continue working with the Lutheran Church in the Philippines as they try to respond to the needs, not only in Mahayag, [but] now on up into Tacloban.” And he indicated that on Wednesday (Nov. 20), “we are going back to the island of Cebu to do some debriefing and strategy planning long-term.” Merritt relayed in a Nov. 18 text message that the team arrived “in a totally devastated area” on the southern end of Leyte the night before, after a two-hour boat ride. He went on to describe the scene on the ground that night as “total darkness,” with “the faces of struggling, but not defeated, people peering through the gloom in the soft light of small fires and candles.” Merritt also mentioned the lack of food and water and the limited availability of communication channels in the area more than a week after the storm tore through. *Megan K. Mertz is a staff writer with LCMS Communications.*

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD – The James Family to Sri Lanka



Rev. Roger and Amy James with sons, Eli (far left) and John (right).

Rev. Roger and Amy (LaMere) James are preparing to serve as LCMS missionaries in Sri Lanka, where Roger strengthens the Lanka Lutheran Church by teaching pastors, vicars and laity. He also travels around the country to preach and teach at the various congregations and preaching stations.

“Thanks be to God! We are pleased to announce that we expect to deploy toward the end of December. But the details are different than we expected. We had always intended to deploy straight to Sri Lanka, but it has become apparent that we would not be able to get residential visas in any timely manner. After much consideration the next best alternative appears to be to deploy to India. It is fairly easy to get visas for India and we would be only a short flight from Sri Lanka”.

To subscribe to the e-mail newsletter following the James family on their journey contact Rev. James at roger.james@lcmsintl.org.

(Mt. Pisgah supported missions: Myers Family – Macau China; James Family – Sri Lanka; & the Laotchikit Church School - Haiti)

From Mt. Pisgah Preschool:



PARTY TIME — With the possibility of our Rating Scales taking place in December, we are planning an Advent/Christmas Party on **Wednesday, December 4th**, for our school and church families. This is in place of a Christmas Program this year.

On December 4th, we would like to recognize Ms. Barbara for her service to Mt. Pisgah Preschool. We bid her farewell and wish her God's richest blessings in her new endeavors. **Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. and an Advent Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service

Thursday, November 28th

at 10:00 AM



***You are invited to a
Christmas Luncheon
after the 2nd Worship Service
on Sunday, December 8th***

There is no charge, but sign up is required to help plan the meal. Please see Jan Tharp, Joan Ginter or Adell Keeney to add your name to the list!



Here's Going Caroling

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us on December 8th, after the Christmas Luncheon, as we go Caroling to our homebound members and friends. Just sign up on the poster in the Narthex to join the fun!



A sign-up board with gift selections for our adopted family, as well as a large collection box for the unwrapped gifts, is now in the Narthex. Friday, December 20th is the last day to drop off your gift.

THANK YOU!

Please join us for our Mid-Week Advent Services

(Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18,

at 10:00AM and 7:00PM);

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

(December 24th, 7:00PM);

and our

Christmas Morning Worship Service

(December 25th, 10:00AM)



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