

December 2022

From Pastor Gleason.....



God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

An English professor wrote the words: "A woman without her man is nothing" on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All of the males in the class wrote: "A woman, without her man, is nothing."

All the females in the class wrote: A woman: "without her, man is nothing."

Punctuation is everything.

So it is with the Christmas carol, *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman*. When it is sung, most people hear the caroler singing a blessing for "God [to give] Rest [to] Merry Gentlemen," as if addressing a pub full of gentlemen making merry with a pint or two of ale and bidding them to go home and sleep it off.



*"Remember Christ our savior/ Was born on Christmas day/
To save us all from Satan's power/ When we were gone
astray/Oh tidings of comfort and joy."*



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December 2022 Messenger

In fact, it is rather a blessing for God to grant and "keep" (the Olde English meaning of "rest") them merry, in other words to give a cheery heart to gentlemen who may be dismayed (*"let nothing you dismay"*) at the unrest and sadness of this fallen world. That cheerfulness and peacefulness of heart comes when we *"Remember Christ our savior/ Was born on Christmas day/ To save us all from Satan's power/ When we were gone astray/ Oh tidings of comfort and joy."*

May our loving and gracious God and Father *rest ye merry* this coming Advent and Christmas season. And may our Lord prosper and bless you in the coming New Year.

In Jesus, the blessed Savior born on Christmas Day,

Pastor and Cindy Gleason



Zion Church Advent Services

At 7:00 p.m. on three Wednesdays this year

November 30

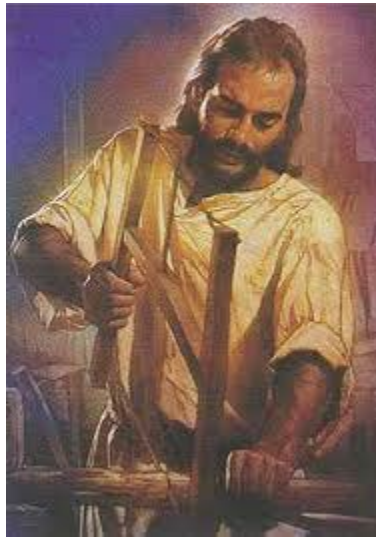
December 7

December 14

Keep on sanding, Lord...

“If the wood is really smooth, it can move on it’s not smooth, send it back for more

That’s what the project manager stated as he on being the Quality Control person. We Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a ministry to supply complete with mattresses and bedding, to



to the finishing table. If sanding.”

gave instructions to me were at the workshop of real wooden beds, children who have none.

Believe it or not, there are children in our communities who do not have a bed to sleep in. They sleep on mattresses on the floor, on sofas, with their parents.

The Zion Youth Group was given an explanation of the ministry. There were many steps that had to be taken in order to build a complete bed, but first was the sanding. We were all given hand held power sanders. Different lengths of raw wood were piled high on tables. The group was instructed to begin sanding the top, bottom, sides, and edges of all the boards. Upon completion, they would walk up to my table for inspection. I watched the project manager as he slowly but methodically ran his hands down the sides of the wooden boards, checking for roughness and nicks. Knots in the wood were an ever present problem as this caused rough edges. The power sander had to be forced into crevasses in order to produce a truly smooth, safe piece of furniture.

If God is the Potter and we are the clay, it seems that God could also be the Carpenter and we are the wood. The Lord Jesus, being the Master Carpenter of us all, could be expecting His wood to be the best. In human terms, He would expect us to be hard as oak, as beautiful as cedar, walnut or cherry. We would be smooth and polished with no imperfections. But He knows we are not perfect. We come to Him filled with rough edges that, if felt by human hands, could cause splinters or even blood to flow from the carpenters’ hands.

Our Lord, the Master Carpenter, sees something beautiful in us. Even though we come with nicks and rough edges, He sees the finished product. He calls us His own and works with us, with love, mercy, and forgiveness. No matter how long it takes, He is never finished making us into a beautiful person, a child of the King, until we finally return to Him in His heavenly realm.

(Thoughts from Sue Miller)

The Secret Santa Program

Zion will be helping the Staunton Lion's Club make Christmas a little brighter for families in need.

Each year the Lion's Club, along with the help of many organizations in town, is able to have families come and "shop" for gifts for their children. This is a program that families are required to preregister for in order to participate.

We are asking our families to consider donating a new unwrapped toy, game, book or even clothing for a child from newborn to age 15.

If you would like to contribute but don't want to shop you can simply send in a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you.

All donations of items or cash should be sent into Zion School by Friday, December 9. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kleckner.



Zion Church's Services during Christmas and New Year's

Saturday, December 24th 6:00 p.m. Divine Service (Communion)

Saturday, December 24th 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service

Sunday, December 25th 10:00 a.m. Divine Service (No Sunday School today)

Saturday, December 31st 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

Sunday, January 1st 10:00 a.m. Divine Service (No Sunday School today)



Concordia Seminary's #GivingTuesday is coming!

Support the Sem Nov. 29th.

Please mark your calendars and join with us in supporting the Seminary this Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29. Help prepare pastors, deaconesses and other church leaders to bring the Gospel to the world!

Thanks to a special matching opportunity, your gift can go twice as far! Gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to the first \$50,000 raised! Please join us and help us reach our campaign goal of \$100,000.

Since its founding in 1839, Concordia Seminary has provided more than 13,000 workers to the church. Our students become pastors who preach and lead in your congregations, and deaconesses who care for and serve your congregation and your community in times of need. They become scholars and leaders for the church throughout the world! Thank you for being a part of this incredible mission!

Gift received on Giving Tuesday will be used where needed most in the Seminary's ongoing mission to prepare future pastors and deaconesses in the name of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Please help support our future servants of the Word today!

Our mailing address is:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105

December

2022

Zion Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5pm Evangel 6:30pm Trustees 7:30 pm Men's Cl	2 8am Last Day to Order Charleston Wragham Zion Gift Shoppe	3 5pm Worship/Comm
4 8am Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Comm 2-4pm Youth Group	5 2-6 Zion Blood Drive D.Q. Fund Rais	6 9-11am Pastor Gleason's Office Hours	7 8:30 am Chapel 9:00am Lydia Circ 7pm Advent Serv	8 5pm Ladies' Aid/LWML Meet @ Cavataio's	9	10 5pm Worship/Comm
11 8am Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Comm	12	13 9-11am Pastor Gleason's Office Hours 6:30 Elders Mt	14 8:30 am Chapel 9:00am Lydia Circ 10:30am Glenwood 7pm Advent Serv	15	16	17 5pm Worship/Comm
18 8am Worship/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Comm Christmas Program 1:30 P.H. Choir 3:30 J.N. Choir	19	20 9-11am Pastor Gleason's Office Hours	21 8:30am Chapel 9:00am Lydia Circ Noon Early School Dismissal 5pm Little Italy's Fund Raiser	22 No School	23 No School	24 6pm Worship/Comm 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service
25 10:00 am Worship with Communion No Sunday School Merry Christmas!	26 No School All this Week >>>>	27 9-11 Pr. Gleason's Office Hrs. 6:30pm Admin Coun 7pm Parish Ed	28 9:00am Lydia Circ 10:30am Glenwood	29	30 Church Office Volunteer Is needed today And the week of January 2-6	31 5pm Worship/Comm Only one service on January 1 st @ 10am No Sunday School