THE JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



THE COMPANION



JOY TO THE WORLD! CHRISTMAS HAS COME...AND GONE.

For a lot of people the joy of the Christmas season is opened gifts and a family meal. But here we are just a few days out and the glow of Christmas is fading fast. Christmas morning quickly turned into a living room filled with empty boxes, shredded wrapping paper, trampled bows and ribbons and half-played with toys; Christmas Evening quickly transitioned into empty

wineglasses on the dining room table and a stack of dirty dishes piled sky high in the kitchen sink.

The story of Simeon and Anna from <u>LUKE 2</u>, challenges us to rediscover the true joy of Christmas. Joy to the World! The Lord has come! The joy of the things of this world is empty. As empty as those packages scattered on the floor. But Christ fills us with a joy that cannot be contained. A joy that can redefine our lives. It is my prayer for you that you may be filled with the Lord of the Lord as his salvation is revealed to you in his word and in his sacraments.

Simeon and Anna had been waiting. A long time. Waiting to be comforted. Waiting for hope to be fulfilled. Their story from **LUKE 2** is filled with an overwhelming sense of expectation and longing on the part of this elderly man and woman. They were worshiping, praying and fasting, day and night. Waiting. And waiting on the Lord's timing. Trusting that he is going to keep his promises. Simeon had been told that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Both he and Anna were waiting for the Lord's promised redemption.

Then, suddenly, the waiting was over. They entered the Temple that day with nothing but a promise, but they left with hearts full of hope and a message so wonderful that it transformed these tired people into bold witnesses of God's promise fulfilled. They had seen Jesus. Incredible joy filled their hearts.

We're tempted to look at Simeon and Anna and interpret their responses as relief from a great burden that has been lifted. We can think of many who carry burdens. Who struggle with depression or a lingering illness or living life without the ones they love. We can think of those who beg for a quick passage to heaven after a long life, crying out to the Lord, "Why don't you just take me?" Many carry burdens. Many lack joy.

But joy is not simply freedom from a burden. Simeon and Anna's celebration in the temple is not from a burden lifted but from a gift given. Joy is found in a gift received. The answer to emptiness is being filled...Hands and a heart that are full of the right things. Things like the gift of salvation given to us in baptism. The promise that we will never be alone. The truth that the gospel really does change people. The truth that it changes the world. That it changes you and me.

Through his word and through his Spirit, Christ is working in your heart and mind to redefine joy in our lives according to the gifts that he is giving us. You are forgiven! You are Free! Christ has defeated sin, death and the devil and has given you new life now and eternally! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!









PHOTOGRAPHS FROM AROUND FAITH!

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!









CAR-OLING







A Special Thank You to our wonderfully awesome photographers, Marjie Keating, Dastor Harbaugh, and Becky Dearson!





≁ Š JANUARY SERVANT LIST Š★★

JANUARY	JANUARY 2ND	JANUARY 9TH	JANUARY 16TH	JANUARY 23RD	JANUARY 30TH
ASSISTANT	~PLEASE VOLUNTEER~ SEE PASTOR or SARA WILLIAMS				
LECTOR	MARJIE KEATING	TIM RUEDIGER	JEFF vanderhoof	MIKE GOLCHERT	MARJIE KEATING
FLOWERS	PLEASE NOTE: The NEW 2022 FLOWER				
COFFEE HOUR	and COFFEE CHARTS are in the NARTHEX!				
ALTAR GUILD	BECKY PEARSON	RUTH NUTT	SARA WILLIAMS	JULI REYNOLDS	BECKY PEARSON & RUTH NUTT
OFFICE HOURS: PASTOR HARBAUGH'S OFFICE HOURS: 10 AM - 1 PM* *OR BY APPOINTMENT MARTHA'S OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS 9 AM - ONE					

CHICKEN QUESADILLAS YIELDS: 4 SERVINGS PREP TIME: 25 MINS TOTAL TIME: 25 MINS

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp. plus 1 tsp olive oil, divided

- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 6 oz. shredded cooked chicken breasts (about 1 1/4 cups)
- 6 oz. shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 4 tsp. all-purpose flour 1/2 c. chicken stock 4 oz. sliced mushrooms 4 large flour tortillas

Salsa, sour cream, fresh cilantro, lime wedges, and sliced avocado, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add flour and chili powder. Cook, stirring, 1 to 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in stock. Add bell pepper, mushrooms, and chicken. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cheese. Heat 1/2 teaspoon oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Spread half of vegetable mixture on a tortilla, leaving a 1-inch border all around. Top with a second tortilla. Cook, turning once, until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Repeat with remaining oil, tortillas, and vegetable mixture. Slice into wedges and serve topped with desired garnishes.



PLEASE NOTE: You can use beef, pork, tofu-etc in place of the chicken. AND you can change the vegetabes to ones you prefer AND you can do the same with the chicken stock, tortillas and the cheese.

The Deadline for the <u>FEBRUARY</u> <u>2022</u> <u>NEWSLETTER</u> is: MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2022 10 AM

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS! MARTHA LADEN - 01/05 NATASHA NUTT - 01/27

If you want your birthday in the Newsletter, please contact Martha in the office at: {831} 394-1312 -or- at office@faithseaside.org



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM AROUND FAITH!



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH INSTALLS THEIR NEW PASTOR! REV. JOSHUA ANDREW SCHMIDT



