



# The Church Bell

Salem Lutheran Church  
PO Box 136, Longville, MN 56655

Volume 29, Issue 12

Pastor John Monson

December 2008

John Monson, Pastor (Email: [pastorjm@arvig.net](mailto:pastorjm@arvig.net))  
Rebecca Waterhouse, Ministry Associate (Email: [rwaterhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:rwaterhouse@hotmail.com))  
Sharon Fischer, Sec./News Editor & Carol Raines, Sec./Bkp.  
Jan Elliott & Eunice Benson, Organists  
Charlene Olson, Choir Director

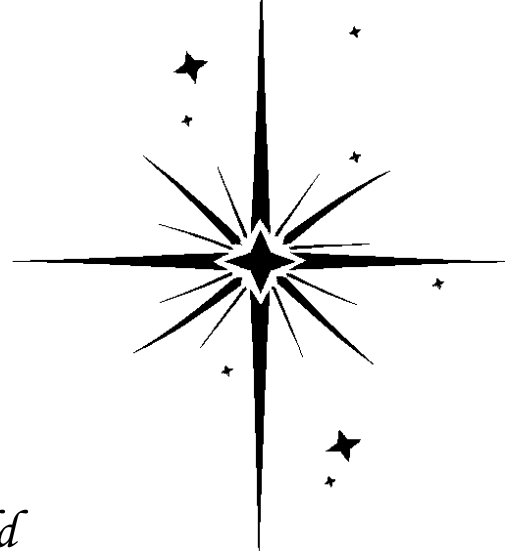
Worship  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. winter months  
8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Memorial—Labor Day  
Office Hours  
Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Telephones  
(218) 363-2011 (office)  
(218) 363-2253 (kitchen)  
(218) 363-9070 (fax)  
(218) 682-3092 (Pastor's res.)  
Email address: [salem@arvig.net](mailto:salem@arvig.net)  
Web: <http://www.salemlongville.org>



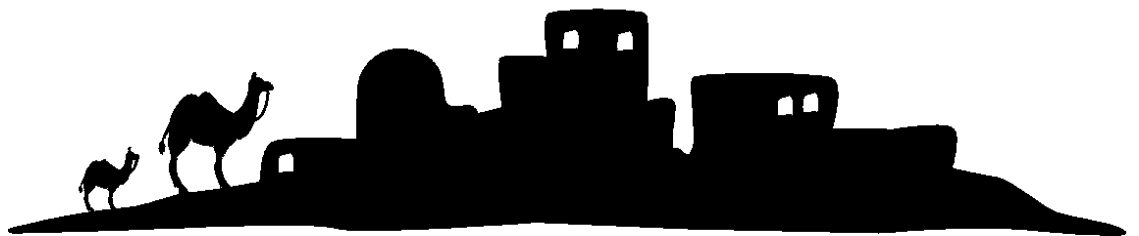
## Once Upon A ... Silent Night

*a legend, a parable, and  
the greatest story ever told*



# Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m.



# Celebrating Advent

## Pastor John Monson

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:15).*

In the important weeks leading up to Christmas, we take time to celebrate the fulfillment of age-old dreams, to grow in hope, and to open our hearts to receive the glad tidings that God is near. Lighted candles mark the progression and gradually dispel the darkness of the world as we move toward a new year of Christ’s presence among us.

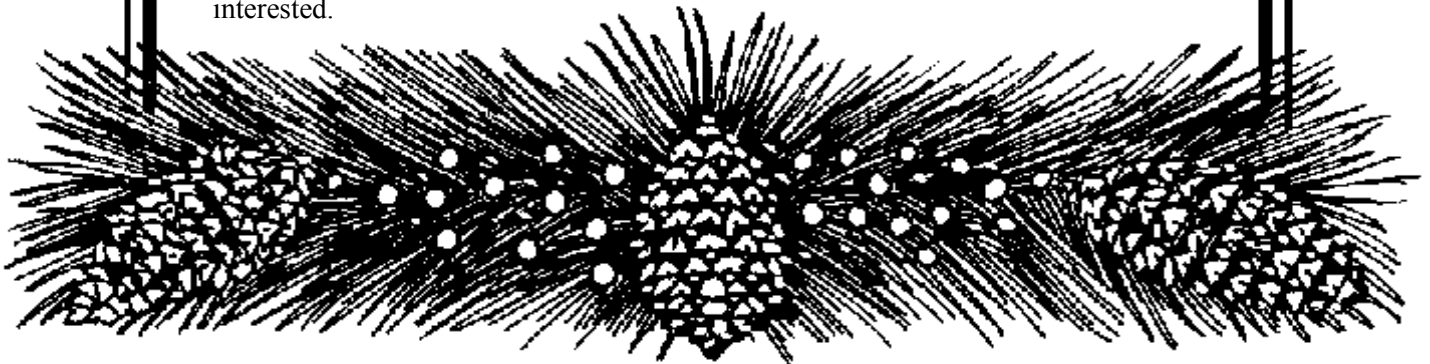
Each of the Sundays of Advent carry a special theme. **Plead for the Coming.** The First Sunday of Advent looks to God who hears our longings for an end to suffering. Whatever the circumstances of our life, a greater day is coming. **Prepare for the Coming.** The Second Sunday of Advent reveals God’s messengers call for

repentance and diligence as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior. **Proclaim the Coming.** The Third Sunday of Advent recounts all that God has done. The special Christmas program, “Once Upon a... Silent Night” (a Legend, a Parable, and the Greatest Story Every Told) involves the generations at Salem in a soul-stirring proclamation of the Good News. **Participate in the Coming.** At the Fourth Sunday of Advent we sense God inviting us all into the story to participate with Mary in being the bearer of God’s gift of Jesus to others.

These days of prayer, pondering, silence, and singing prepare us for the celebration of Christmas Eve when with Christians the world over we rejoice in the unbelievably good news of the Word made flesh in Jesus—news that transcends all times and places.

### Lutheran Study Bible

Special Offer! Order 10 or more copies by December 31, 2008 and receive a 35% discount on Lutheran Study Bible Hardcover Edition! The discount cost is \$22.75. Augsburg Fortress is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of the new Lutheran Study Bible. This exciting new Bible features the NRSV translation as well as introductions, notes, and articles written by over sixty Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians. This resource is designed to invite readers to experience the Bible and its message through solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and opportunities for faith reflection. Reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging, this is the perfect study Bible for both youth and adults who want to encounter Scripture in a fresh and new way! Biblical text is 10 point font; study notes are 7 point font. A Paperback edition is also available at \$17.50 for quantities of 10 or more. Contact the church office if interested.



## Office Notes

### Salem Welcomes New Members

Salem welcomes people into our congregation as either associate or full members. Please contact the church office for more information. Please notify us also if you would like to be added to our "friends" list and to receive our newsletter.



Gordon Holmdahl  
November 14, 2008  
Bradshaw Funeral Home  
St. Paul, MN

### Thank You

Thanks you Birthday Babes for serving cake and coffee for our 50th anniversary. We also say thanks for all the cards, gifts and good wishes. *We are going for 50 more!*  
John & Sandy Roscoe

**Thank You!**

### Special Gifts

This year these gifts were given:  
Gazebo  
Caring Community Grief Booklets  
Banners  
Camperships  
Choir Risers

### Christ In Our Home DEVOTIONALS


The December daily devotional booklets are available and may be picked up from the rack by the church entrance. Take one for a friend.

### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

New name tags have been made and placed in the numbered mailboxes. The membership/evangelism committee requests that Salem members wear the name tags on a regular basis. Members will be specifically reminded of this on the first Sunday of each month. Wearing name tags will help all of us—and especially newer members—to get to know each other better.

### Operation Christmas Child

WOW—42 Shoe Boxes  
Thank you from 42 children!  
Thanks, Bonnie Hockett



**NEW**  
Offering  
Envelopes

**2009 ENVELOPES**  
The 2009 Envelopes will be ready by the end of December to be picked up.

Envelopes not picked up will be held until spring, unless you ask to have them mailed. Don Waldera,  
Financial Secretary

### Acolyte Schedule



*"We light these candles to remind us that in worship Jesus is present with His light and life."*

#### Sunday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Traditions/Communion  
Tyler & Evan Daudt

#### Sunday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Traditions  
Jordan Loren & Jacob Murtley

#### Sunday, December 21

9:00 a.m. Jubilee/Communion  
Tia Lilyquist & Felicia Murtley

#### Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Celebration of the Nativity  
Jordan Loren & Jacob Murtley  
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service  
Andrea Semmler & Zachary Semmler

#### Sunday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Traditions  
Amber & Zach Nornberg

*(At "Jubilee Services" acolytes will NOT be wearing albs. On communion Sundays acolytes have the added duty of assisting the servers at each table with the pottery grape juice chalice. If you have any conflicts with any of these assignments, please substitute with someone else, and notify the church office.)*

### PASTOR'S VACATION

December 29 thru January 5



# Salem Council Highlights

November 12, 2008

## “Seeking Clarity in Mission and Ministry”

### Our Mission Statement:

“Celebrating Christ’s Love Through Hearts That Care and Hands That Share”  
A Shared Vision for the Future to Which God Is Calling Us

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – The balance in the General Fund as of October 31 is \$8,797.75. Council moved to spend local benevolence as follows: \$1,000 World Hunger, \$1,000 to the Food Shelf and \$500 to the Longville Skating Rink.

Aagard reported that Luther Dell, Camp Olson and Miracle Bible Camp each received \$942.00 from the 2008 Auction.

The Council voted to purchase new computers for Pastor John and the secretaries and to upgrade the financial computer.

2. **Membership Team**– The Membership Team reported that the new nametags are being used. Because of the problem of the name tag flipping over, an additional name tag will be on the reverse side of the present name tag. The first Sunday of each month will be name tag Sunday. Please wear your nametag as often as you can.
3. **Property Team** - The Property Team reported that the carpeting in the Church is being cleaned. The Women of Salem are paying to have the chairs in Fellowship Hall cleaned at the same time. Thank you.

Dave Trampe will be talking to JJ Welk about plowing the church parking lot this winter.

Clarence Sjodin and Ron Wiehle are looking at the church bell to see if there is a way the bell sound can be heard in the church.

4. **Other Business** - Darold Daudt is getting members for the Ad Hoc Committee to look at summer worship times.

We always look forward to feedback from you –  
Your council members will be *happy to talk to you* –  
*Come to the council meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.*  
Executive Committee, Bob Alley, President (363-2770)



## “The Heart of Christianity”

**What:** These lectures will be based on Borg’s recent best-selling book, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*. The book provides a valuable glimpse into the essence of Christianity for those who have left the faith because they no longer believe its doctrines, and those who are trying to remain in the faith while questioning its doctrines. With those people in mind, Borg emphasizes the transformational aspect of Christianity by examining the "emerging paradigm" that is gradually replacing the belief-centered paradigm of the last several hundred years. The new paradigm, Borg writes, is about loving God and loving what God loves, rather than rigidly adhering to a specific set of beliefs. In exploring this new way of "being Christian," Borg offers a middle ground for conservative and liberal Christians.

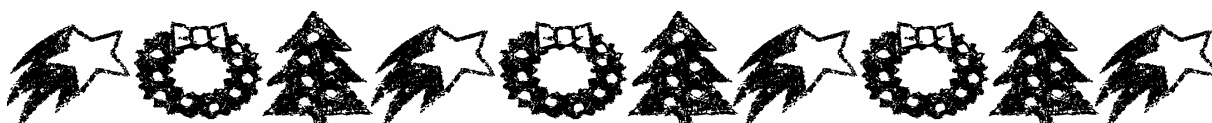
**Who:** Marcus Borg held the Hundere Chair in Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. Now retired, he has been described by *The New York Times* as “a leading figure of his generation of Jesus scholars,” and has been interviewed on many nationally-aired TV and radio programs. Borg was born in Park River, ND, and spent part of his youth in Fergus Falls, MN. He graduated from Concordia College, and later taught at Concordia, Carleton College, and South Dakota State University before moving to Oregon. He is one of the rare biblical scholars to have achieved a national and international reputation. His books have been translated into nine languages, and his *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* is the single best-selling book by a contemporary Jesus scholar. Having grown up Lutheran, Borg became an Episcopalian, and is married to an Episcopal priest, Marianne Wells-Borg. Barbara Brown Taylor stated, “With great clarity and pastoral genius, Borg offers questioning Christians a way to keep their faith without shutting down the search for truth.”

**When:** Thursday, December 4, 2008 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm.

**Where:** The Centrum at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.

**Cost:** Clergy - \$99, Laity - \$89. Group rate for three or more per parish - \$69/ea. Fee includes lunch and breaks.

Registration is available online at [www.charisecumenical.org](http://www.charisecumenical.org) or by phone (218-299-3566). Deadline is December



## Treasurer’s Report



### Mortgage Update

| <b>General Fund</b>          |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance Oct. 1, 08 | \$ 7,597.10 |
| Income for October           | 14,285.95   |
| Expenses for October         | 18,413.01   |
| Ending Balance Oct. 31, 08   | \$ 5,215.73 |

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Beg. Mortgage Balance | \$ 66,978.02 |
| October payments:     |              |
| Principal             | \$ 1,339.06  |
| Additional Principal  | 444.53       |
| Interest              | 320.94       |
| Mortgage Balance      | \$ 65,194.43 |
| October 31, 2008      |              |

**December's Special People**



- 31 Matthew Bandemer
- 31 Pat Krause
- 31 Eugene Wallman



- 1 Joyce Halver
- 1 Logan Lewis
- 1 Terry Poole
- 2 Harriet Mouw
- 2 Andrea Reed
- 4 Travis Wheeler
- 5 Emily Gilsrud
- 5 Mary Kopca
- 5 Sandy Elison
- 8 Lauren Hardinger
- 9 Del Minske
- 9 Steve Moe
- 9 Kori'anna Hart
- 10 Terry Daudt
- 12 Brad Ferris
- 13 Craig Anderson
- 15 Shari Pretzer
- 15 Lenny Brooks
- 16 Chev Krall
- 17 Michael Plotnik
- 17 Sandy Boring
- 18 Sam Nordstrom
- 18 Brent Weaver
- 17 Ethan Dehn
- 19 Rozanne Plotnik
- 19 Diana Hager
- 20 Ron Wiehle
- 23 Laurie Daudt
- 23 Gerald Konrad
- 24 Tom Dollins
- 24 Judy Bogard
- 26 Pam Wedner
- 27 Scott Erickson
- 27 Jean Ballenthin
- 28 Dot Waterhouse
- 29 Terry Rosen
- 30 Nordy Nelson
- 30 Dylan Daudt
- 30 Steve Reiter
- 31 Matthew Bandemer
- 31 Pat Krause



**December**  
ALL Members

- 12 Lee and Shannon Wilberg
- 17 Tim and Jan Marr
- 17 David and Judy Owen
- 19 Ed and Judith Olson
- 21 Lynn and Mary Schmid
- 28 Ken and Ruth Ploetz
- 31 Roger and Donna Zwart
- 31 John and Sandy Weins

**Usher**



Barbara McCuskey  
(363-3385)

**ADVENT WREATH**



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World - he brought light to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



## RED HAT MAMAS

Ladies ....

The Red Hat Society (fun) luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at Patrick's Restaurant at 12:30 p.m.

Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast w/ mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll & dessert, coffee or tea. \$12:00 tax and tip included.

We will be helping the Longville Women of Today with their toy drive. Bring gifts unwrapped. Suggestions for teenagers are gift cards. Money is always welcome and the Women of Today will get names for those in need in our community and shop for items they do not receive.

You may wish to participate in a "White Elephant" gift exchange. This is optional!

Music and entertainment will be provided by Eunice Benson and Isabel Karon

Call: Bev Bixby 363-3297 or Evelyn Burley 682-3052 by December 5th.

## Food Shelf Christmas Bags

*(You may make a cash donation towards the purchase of food. Please put your check made out to the Food Shelf in the Offering Plate.)*

### Dinner Menu:

- \*Donation for turkeys & fresh produce
- \*Stuffing
- \*Cranberries
- \*Fresh potatoes
- \*Gravy mix
- \*Canned sweet potatoes
- \*Vegetable
- \*Pie filling

### Optional Items:

- \*Apples
- \*Oranges
- \*Chocolates/candies

*This will feed a typical family of 3-4. Thanks for your generosity!  
Longville Area Food Shelf Committee*

## Co-Educational Bone Building

Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Bone Building

*Everyone Welcome!*



## What's so amazing about Christmas!



Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby; without fanfare or heraldry.

Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells.

It took years before people fully comprehended God's self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod's prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3, NRSV). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor.

That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16, NRSV).

What's amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth.

# Women's Christmas Brunch

Wednesday, December 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

*Suggested list of things to bring  
for the baskets.*

1. small cups of fruit
2. Jello
3. pudding
4. small packs of cookies
5. nutritious bars
6. cheese & crackers
7. small amount of candy
8. thank you notes
9. individually wrapped goodies
10. sugar-free foods

*All Women of Salem  
are invited to come  
help put the  
Christmas Baskets & Cookie Plates  
together.  
We give to members and friends  
of Salem  
and other community members  
who are in need.*

Music by Pianist: Eunice Benson



**WOMEN OF SALEM**  
are sponsoring half day of music  
and talk programming  
with a strong solid Biblical content  
on December 23rd on KTIG radio,  
102.7 Pequot Lakes.



## Library News

There are a number of Advent and Christmas books in Salem's church library. During December, many of these books will be on a library cart which is in the back of the church. The books can be checked out by completing the due date card and leaving it in the basket on the cart. When the books have been read, please return them to the library. Thanks. Doris Nelson, Library Committee

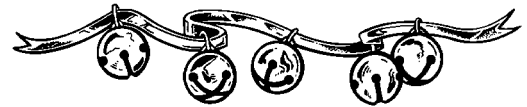
## This and That

### Longville Area Community Choir



### Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7th at Salem Lutheran Church  
*Performances at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.*



### Home Tour

Saturday, December 13th

We hope that you will ALL come to enjoy the fun and fellowship Saturday, December 13th. The Swedish Pancake Breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be a craft and bake sale, then the Tour of Homes at 10:00 a.m. These gracious folks have offered to share their homes this year:

Mike & Judy Czeck  
Bill & Sandy Phillips  
Wally & Vallory Wallman  
Phyllis Eck

### Many Thanks

We would like to thank Salem Lutheran and all of its members for coming together to support Lauren and all individuals with Down syndrome and their families. The Buddy Walk was a huge success! We had 80 Walkers and raised \$5,600 in pledges and donations. This was the very first Buddy Walk for Down syndrome in Brainerd. ARC Headwaters sponsors people with developmental disabilities so they can reach for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Some folks know that our daughter Lauren was born with Down syndrome, which is a chromosomal disorder. She has had very few of the medical issues that go along with her diagnosis, and she is a beautiful, happy, very active 11 month old.  
Beth and Tim Hardinger



Back row: Rob Raines, Shelly Raines, Tim, Beth & Lauren Hardinger, Beth & Tina Digre and Scott Raines.  
 Front row: Carol Raines, Justin Wicks, Tia Lilyquist, and Sierra Likens

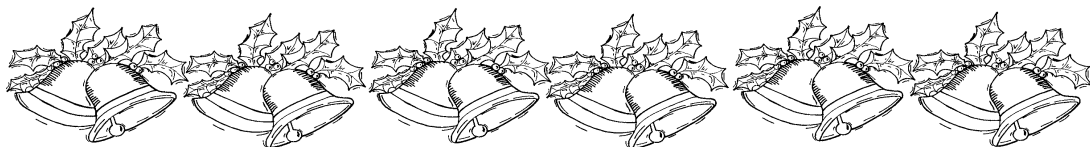
Hello to all who spread the news, and I've got some good news :)

On Saturday, November 8th, 72 people walked the talk to support children, adults and their families with disabilities in a one-mile walk on the grounds of the Arboretum in Brainerd, MN. The walk specifically focused on children and adults with Down Syndrome. Nearly \$5600 was raised with the mayor of Brainerd as well as Representative John Ward in attendance.

Also attending and walking was a delegation of youth from Salem Lutheran Church in Longville. They were motivated to action because there are several lovely families in the congregation that have children with Down Syndrome. Late in September, the church family was told to save their change so they could collect a "noisy offering" on October 19. ( A "noisy offering" is one in which the kids pass around metal pails during worship, and congregants pour in all their loose change, making a "joyful noise." Paper money also makes a joyful noise!) It was fun as the kids shook the pails as they were passed around the pews, but no one ever expected that after all the coins and paper were counted, nearly \$400 would be collected to donate to ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Picture #1 is of "Team Lolo" including the Raines family of Remer-Longville, and the Hardinger family of Brainerd, surrounded by Salem Youth. In the middle, Lauren Hardinger, nicknamed "Lolo", who at 11 months old motivated Salem Youth to shake up their congregation and attend the Buddy Walk.

Hope God finds you all well, I'm grateful to have media who support youth, so I thank you again, enthusiastically, Rebecca H20house, Youth and Family Minister, Salem Lutheran



# Yuletide

## GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

### JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

**What you need:**

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



**What you do:**

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

### PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

**What you need:**

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



**What you do:**

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.

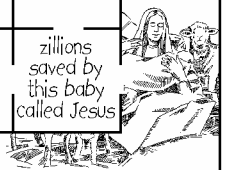


## The Story of Jesus' Birth

Jesus' birth is recorded in three New Testament chapters: Matthew 1 and 2, and Luke 2. Follow some important words about our Savior's birth by starting at a word beginning with the letter A and finishing with a word starting with the letter Z.



|        |        |           |            |           |  |
|--------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|--|
|        | angels | Bethlehem | car        | dance     | easel                                    |
| cat    | bear   | child     | donkey     | egg       | fast                                     |
| holy   | glory  | flocks    | Earth      | feathers  | gap                                      |
| inn    | jacket | grapes    | peace      | quiet     | hat                                      |
| Joseph | king   | Lord      | only       | righteous | shepherds                                |
| kelp   | loop   | Mary      | night      | unique    | tidings                                  |
| last   | maze   | paper     | wise men   | virgin    | water                                    |
| open   | nest   | word      | excitement | young     | zillions saved by this baby called Jesus |



Answer: angels, Bethlehem, car, dance, easel, cat, bear, child, donkey, egg, fast, holy, glory, flocks, Earth, feathers, gap, inn, jacket, grapes, peace, quiet, hat, Joseph, king, Lord, only, righteous, shepherds, kelp, loop, Mary, night, unique, tidings, last, maze, paper, wise men, virgin, water, open, nest, word, excitement, young, zillions saved by this baby called Jesus

### A Christmas Blessing

May you have the spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,  
 The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,  
 The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,  
 The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.

Ada Hendricks



## *A Christmas Wish*

*I wish you the joy of Christmas,  
The season of sweet repose.  
I wish you the peace of Christmas  
To mark the old year's close.  
I wish you the hope of Christmas  
To cheer you on your way.  
And a heart of faith and gladness  
To greet each coming day.*



1340 County Road 5  
P.O. Box 136  
Longville, MN 56655

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage **PAID**  
Permit #4  
LONGVILLE MN 56655



Prepared especially for: