

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

December 2024

December is the month in which we remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is the greatest gift that God gave to sinner man.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:7-14 And she brought forth her first born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night And lo, the angel said unto them, fear not; for behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men.

Martin Luther in his sermon on the meaning of Christmas wrote quote "Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to humankind than this, that Christ became human, a child, a baby, playing in the lap of his most gracious mother.

Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? The power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt is overcome if you come to adore this gurgling Babe, and believe that He comes, not to judge you but save you." (This sermon excerpt can be found in Martin Luther's Christmas Book.)

Thank you to our Heavenly Father for sending us the greatest gift on that Christmas morning so long ago. His only begotten son our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ**.

As we reflect on the happenings of that first Christmas morning let us remember we truly have been blessed this Christmas season to once again hear and consider the happenings surrounding the birth of our Lord and Savior **Jesus Christ**.

Merry Christmas and have a joyful and blessed Christmas this year.

God's Peace

Bill Seppala