

“The CHIMES” – December

Volume 54, No. 12

2019

Continuing the Conversation...

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other...The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ...All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it”.

—1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12, 27 NLT

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”

—James 2:14-17 NLT



Change is all around us and always around us, sometimes coming quickly and other times ever so slowly. Summer slowly turned to fall, which quickly turned to winter. The seasons in the church also change from restarting our regular programming in the fall, to a season of giving thanks, to

Advent and Christmas and anticipating a new year of new challenges.

Sometimes change is corporate—in the last newsletter it was shared that we will be changing our leadership structure in this church after decades of doing things the same way. Sometimes change is very personal—in the last month I experienced change in my personal life when a younger brother unexpectedly passed away. We come to expect some kinds of change and other kinds of change happen around us, taking us by surprise, and eventually forcing us to pay attention. I have been wondering what this (especially this second kind of change) means for the church.

I am more convinced than ever that the church—you and me, the body of Christ—cannot be passive spectators as the world changes around us. Jesus has

given us the mission of sharing God’s Gospel message and making disciples for Christ, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:18-20 for specifics).

That is a big job for an imperfect church—and all churches are imperfect because they are made up of imperfect disciples. The apostle Paul reminds the church “we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us” (2 Corinthians 4:7).

But in spite of its imperfections, God has not given up on the church. God’s love continues to become a reality in the world through the lives of ordinary followers of Christ who continue to grow into a life in which they love God with their whole hearts, souls, minds, and strength and learn to love others the way Jesus loved them. The Bible is full of stories of imperfect, ordinary people that God has done extraordinary things through. God continues to call the church to be the primary means by which God is at work to transform the world into the kingdom of God.

To be more specific, God intends for our congregation to be the physical expression of Christ’s presence in our community. As a follower of Jesus, you are called to be one of the people through whom the risen Christ is alive in this world. You are a part of the body of Christ and you have a role to play. You are all called to serve.

But God has not left us to do God’s work alone. Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit who would enable us to become that which we could never become on our own. Through the Holy Spirit God has gifted every believer with at least one spiritual gift. This is over and above our natural talents and abilities, but can be given by God to complement our natural abilities.

If we want to experience the fullness of life that God intends for us, as we grow into a life that is centered on loving God and loving others, there comes a time when we stop being spectators and become participants in God’s transformation of the world. It takes all members of the body functioning as they are meant to for the body to be healthy and vital. If you are not actively participating in the ministries of this church, not using your God-given gifts, you are not living life to the fullest. You are missing out on God’s best for you.

If you are one of the very active it may be time to notice the people around you who could be mentored into active participation—people who need encouragement to see the God-given gifts they bring into this Body.

But you may ask, “What if my serving doesn’t seem to make a difference? What then?”

Both the Gospels and *The United Methodist Book of Discipline* set our service in the context of our prayer for God’s kingdom to come and God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. That kingdom is both already here and coming in the future. It is here in the lives and service of the followers of Jesus, and it is coming in its fullness at the final coming of Jesus Christ. *The Discipline* says that we live our lives of discipleship “in active expectancy...waiting for the fulfillment of God’s universal love, justice, and peace on earth as in heaven.”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our servant-shaped lives become physical expressions of God’s reign and rule in the present, bearing witness to the way the world will be when God’s kingdom purpose is fully accomplished in the future. We do what we do as disciples of Jesus Christ, not because we think our efforts will result in success, but because it is who we are. Do you find yourself still wondering if the small acts of service you offer—and there is nothing wrong with starting with small acts—could possibly make any difference at all? Remember the old saying it is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark.

The truth is that we never really know how God might use the gifts of service we offer. But we dare to believe that the Spirit of God can take our lives—prayers, talents, gifts, service, and witness—and use them as a part of God’s transformation of some small part of this world into something like the kingdom of God. The challenge for us as followers of Christ is to use the gift that God has given, trusting that God will use it in ways beyond our imagination for God’s glory.

If you would like help uncovering your gift there is a useful assessment online at:

www.ministrymatters.com/spiritualgifts/

or talk to me about spiritual gifts and how you might use yours. See the last page of this newsletter for a “Spiritual Gifts Overview” that gives some examples of spiritual gifts from *A Disciple’s Path* study.

God bless you as you seek to know and love God fully!

Pastor Loretta



During this special service, the meaning behind many of the elements that we use to decorate for Christmas will be explained through Scripture readings and hymns. The service is meant to help us focus on the true meaning of this wonderful season...and maybe even open our eyes and hearts to the wonder around us.

Other events to look forward to...

The Chancel Choir will present the Christmas cantata, “Do You Hear What I Hear?” on Sunday, **December 8** during worship.

What were the sounds of the first Christmas? What are the sounds of Christmas today? Do we hear what they heard that night long ago in Bethlehem? Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph were listening and heard the news...angels, shepherds, then wise men heard the news of the birth of a Savior...and followed.

Come to the stable...come and worship the newborn King...and listen to the song of Bethlehem.

The BASH children will present a Christmas program during worship on Sunday, **December 15**. After worship, during our fellowship time, they will also host a **Birthday Party for Jesus** and we will collect and bless needed “gifts” for Harbor House in Superior. Items we are especially looking for are socks, pillows and pillow cases, and blankets. You can bring in your unwrapped “gifts” throughout December and put them under the Christmas tree.

THE *Wonder* OF CHRISTMAS

This four-week Advent study continues on Monday evenings, Dec. 2, 9, and 16 at 6 p.m. There is still time to join the study if you would you like to experience the wonder of Christmas as never before. *The Wonder of Christmas*, explores the true wonder of Christmas through four elements of the Christmas story: a star, a name, a manger, and a promise. We have already had some great discussion around “a star.” The youth and BASH children are also having a good time learning to see the true wonder of Christmas throughout Advent using age-appropriate materials provided for this Advent study.

As we look to these four wonder-filled aspects of the Christmas story, we are rediscovering that the true wonder of Christmas is found in the love of Christ and made real in our hearts when we share that love with others.

If you aren’t able to participate in the Monday night study there are still many opportunities this Advent season to embrace and celebrate the true wonder of Christmas through special worship services, Christmas caroling, and just taking the time to be still and notice the wonder of God at work around us.

The Chancel Choir invites one and all to join us for a jolly evening of caroling on Wednesday, **December 18** starting at **6 p.m.** We will meet at Cyndi Wise's house (409 N. Benton St) and then carpool to Morrow Home Community and the homes of some of our members. Dress warm as we will be outside part of the evening. Bring some Christmas goodies to share for the party afterwards. A good time is sure to be had by all!



Two Special Candlelight Services Coming Up this month

A candlelight service of lessons and carols will be held at the former **Big Creek United Methodist Church** at **6 p.m.** on Sunday, **December 8**. Pastor Loretta will be leading the service, with Cyndi Wise at the organ and Beth Nowak and Pastor Loretta providing special music. There will be refreshments following the service.

If you are looking for a quiet break in the midst of a busy holiday season to help you refocus and re-center this may be just the ticket for you. Everyone is welcome!



*Light the Night Christmas Eve Service
of Lessons and Carols*

Tuesday, December 24 at 5 p.m.

Come and celebrate the joy and birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ in this beautiful service of light and sound.

Luminaries are available to purchase in honor or memory of loved ones. An order form is available in worship bulletins and the church office.

Pastor L is also in need of Scripture readers for the lessons. There are four Scriptures still available for readers; sign up with Pastor.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people... Luke 2:10



On Sunday, **December 29** we will enjoy a Christmas hymn sing (with a short meditation) during 9:00 a.m. worship, as we not only enjoy singing again some of our favorite Christmas hymns, but hear the history of these songs. This will be a "wonder"-ful way to close the Christmas season and anticipate the New Year to come. Hope to see you there!



A Note from the Financial Secretary

The **deadline** for all donations and contributions to Sparta United Methodist Church for deposit in 2019 **to be received** is **Monday, December 30, 2019**. Heidi Sullivan, the SUMC financial secretary, will be collecting the mail for us early each afternoon on December 26-31 and any contributions received on those days will be deposited on Monday, December 30, so it appears on your 2019 giving statement. If you need to drop off a contribution for 2019 rather than mail it, please have it in the church office by **Tuesday, December 24** or in worship **Sunday, December 29**, so Heidi will have it for deposit that final week of the year. Thank you!



A Note of Appreciation and Thanks...

Thank you to all those who gave memorials to the Freedom Honor Flight and to Sparta United Methodist Church in memory of Keith Kenyon. Thank you, too, for all the thoughts, prayers, and visits. They sure helped get us through a very difficult time.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Carolyn Kenyon & Family



shopwithscrip

Did you know you can financially support the Sparta United Methodist Church while making everyday purchases of groceries, gas, gifts, or entertainment?

Our church is now partnering with shopwithscrip to earn money for the church from purchases you make at many businesses. Stop in the church office and pick up a list of local businesses who are participating to give a percentage of money you spend at their establishments back to the church when you shop using their Scrip gift cards.

You just pre-order and pay for the Scrip gift cards for businesses you regularly shop at and when you receive your cards use them for shopping—just like using any other gift card. You don't have to spend any more for your regular purchases than you normally do; the only difference is using the Scrip gift cards benefits your church.

We are planning to start out by placing orders for scrip cards monthly. If you have questions you can contact Cheryl Isensee at (608)343-7815.



Other ways to financially support your church



Did you know that when you shop for the holidays at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139, AmazonSmile donates to United Methodist Church?

When you shop on smile.amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. To use this new opportunity just go to the smile.amazon.com site and put Sparta United Methodist Church into the search area. Several choices will come up (just be sure to select the Sparta, WI option). **You can go directly to our support page by entering the link:**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-6026139>

What an AWESOME way to donate **FREE** dollars to the church! We have already received our first

donation from AmazonSmile and should be receiving another donation soon! We hope you will consider how your upcoming holiday and Black Friday purchases can contribute to that total!

You can also set up regular e-giving to the church through my.eoffering.com. The simplest way to get set up is to go to our church Web site at:

<https://lewaughtal.wixsite.com/spartaumc>

and click on the **give online** button, or stop in the church office for information on signing up.



Giving: The Community of Love

“Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4:8-11a, NRSV)

In addition to being secure in God's abundance, good stewards need to be oriented toward building a community of love. We do this because it is what God wants for us and because it glorifies God: our community of love is God made visible to those who cannot see him. The community of love has many aspects:

Loving God. In order to best love others, we must love God first. This is the greatest commandment and the source of our love.

Loving one another. More than loving others as ourselves, we are called to recognize that we share the same shortcomings and sinfulness in the eyes of God. Therefore, in constant love for one another we avoid being judgmental and practice forgiveness.

Living out our giftedness in the Body of Christ. We share the gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed on us in order to build the church. We have all things in common: we study scripture and pray together, we are in fellowship and break bread together, we give generously and distribute the proceeds to meet our needs and the needs of others.

Witnessing to God's glory. We as individuals and as the church exist to glorify God. The community of love is a light that shines for all to see. This stewardship season let us remember not just what we give, but why we give: so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
www.wumf.org or Facebook/wumf.org
Or call 1-888-903-9863



I want to send out a heart-felt thank you to all who shared cards, prayers, kind words of comfort, and for those who stepped in for me to lead some of the always present ministries of our church when I needed some time after the death of my brother Richard. Times like this are never easy, but they are made much more tolerable when surrounded by a loving and supportive community of faith. Thank you again!

—Pastor Loretta and Tim



Records and History News...

Start your Christmas shopping with a book. Contact Records and History if you are interested in purchasing Julian Hutchinson's most recent book "Our City Our Church." They are \$10 each. I'll bet we could even get the book(s) personally signed for you.

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual "Our Community in Concert". It will be **Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** You can bet it will be another show stopper!

Records and History Committee

We Are - Keeping the Eternal Flame Glowing



Trustees Report

There is a need to get two new air conditioners to replace the ones in the Church offices. This should be done in the Spring before they are needed during the cooling season.

Several more things still need attention at the parsonage. Dave Kemp will check on the trim in the kitchen. The roof and gutters above the laundry room at the parsonage still need to be fixed. Dave will check with John Lodico on this and see when the best time is to take care of it.

Additional items that need to be fixed/updated in the parsonage include the upstairs bathroom (flooring, tub surround, faucets, and tub). A motion was made to contact Bath Fitters and Maxwell White for estimates. Priscilla Hemmersbach volunteered to do this.

There needs to be some weather stripping done on both the inside and outside doors on the front porch to the parsonage. The ceilings in the parsonage, especially the one below the upstairs bathroom, need attention. Screens are needed for windows in several rooms in parsonage (kitchen, bedroom and dining room). There is also a need for one or two more electric outlets in the dining room. Dave Kemp will discuss these projects with John Lodico.

Other things brought up regarding the Church building and its needs included:

- We will need to discuss the new Audio Visual for our Sanctuary when more Trustees are present.
- Pete Foss is working with the security cameras in the Church to see where would be the best areas to place them.
- Discussed the need to remove the big old projection TV from classroom 5 that no longer works
- Discussed relocating the rack of long heavy tables and the rack of old folding chairs from the hallway by the classrooms. Proposed moving them into the double door storage closet near the Janitor's closet.

There is a need to update and replace the Office Manager's computer due to the age of the machine (5½ years) and the fact that its software is outdated and will no longer be supported by Microsoft effective January 2020. In addition, this also presents a need to transition to a new email application for Jan, the Office Manager. An estimate for a new desktop HP computer, setup, updates and installation, etc. has been obtained from Putman's Computer Services to address all these needs. Approval was given by the Trustees to purchase the new computer proposed for the office according to Terry Putman's recommendations. Terry was contacted and given approval to order the computer. Once it is received he and Jan will work out the details for the installation of the new computer and transfers of data from her present computer to the new one.



A Note of Thanks...

Thank You to all who donated items for the Warming Tree this year! All the hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and sweatpants were picked up and delivered to various places that had need for them on November 20. **Thanks also to our Mission Committee** for its donation of \$200 dollar that Beth Nowak used to purchase items for the Warming Tree. Thank you so much for doing your part in keeping the kids in our community warm this winter!

With Love & Prayers, Health Ministry Team

Parish Nurse News...

Christmas...it is that time of year again. So what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Luke 2:4-19 says:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which

the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." (NIV)

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season! Rejoice!
Merry Christmas!
Priscilla Hemmersbach, RN
Parish Nurse



Our Deepest Sympathy to...

The family and friends of Richard Charneski (brother of Pastor Loretta), for the loss of Richard.

The family and friends of Ellen Flood (sister of John Abbott), for the loss of Ellen.

The family and friends of Kathleen Porterfield (cousin of Cindy Isensee), for the loss of Kathleen.

Nurture News...

Submitted by Cyndi Wise

"For unto us a Child is born..."

Sunday, December 1 – The first Sunday in Advent brings a special "Hanging of the Greens" worship service at **9:00 a.m.**, with a blessing of the symbols of Christmas!

Advent Devotional booklets will be distributed. Thank you, to all for sharing with each other as we enter this season of Awe and Wonder.

Sunday, December 8 – The Chancel Choir will present a Cantata "Do You Hear What I Hear?" for our **9:00 a.m.** Worship Service.

At **6:00 p.m.** this year's **Big Creek Candlelight Christmas Service** will be held, with Pastor Loretta leading the worship. Beth Nowak will be joining her for special music. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. All are welcome to attend this special event.

Thursday thru Sunday, December 12-15 –SUMMIT Spirits presents "Happy Hollandaise" (a holiday comedy) in the Fellowship Hall. **Evening performances are at 7:00 p.m.** Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; **with a Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m.**

Sunday, December 15 – The children will present their Christmas Program during the **9:00 a.m.** worship service. B.A.S.H. teachers and children will also host a Birthday Party for Jesus in The Gathering Place following the program.

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. – Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service of Lessons & Carols will begin at 5:00 p.m. Luminaries will "Light the Night" approaching the Court Street entrance to the church on Christmas Eve.

"**Light the Night**" luminaries may be purchased again this year in honor or in Memory of loved ones. **Cost is \$5 for one or \$10 for three.** If you would like to purchase luminaries stop in to the Church Office to pick up or fill out a form. Forms will also be provided as inserts in the Sunday bulletins. **Deadline to order luminaries is Monday, December 16, 2019.**

Thank you to Ken Shaw for donating and assembling the Christmas tree, lights and angel topper in the Sanctuary. It looks just beautiful! We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Thank You to Ron and Donna Burnham for donating the Nativity scene and crèche placed at the Court Street entrance. "Jesus is the reason for the season!"

Once again, **thank you** to Kevin and Carolyn Lieder for decorating the tree in The Gathering Place. It is always so lovely!

A heartfelt **thank you** from the Nurture Committee to all who helped decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall after church on November 24. Everything is beautiful!

Love came down at Christmas and Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ's birth!

"May you have the gladness of Christmas, which is HOPE; the Spirit of Christmas, which is PEACE; and the heart of Christmas, which is LOVE!"



**You
Epitomize
Success!**

Thank you Aleigha, Amy, Ann, Barb, Beth, Bev, Bob, Cathy, Ce, Cheryl, Cindy, Cyndi, Dana, Danette, Dave, Deb, Denise, Diane, Donna, Dorothy, Duane, Eileen, Emily, Gail, Jan, Jane,

Jeanine, Jenny, John, John, Johnny, Jolene, Judy, Kathy, Karen, Karen, Kristy, Larry, Laurie, Pastor Loretta, Lorna, Lynn, Margie, Marty, Mary, Maxine, Paul, Peggy, Pete, Phyllis, Priscilla, Ron, Ron, Jr., Rose, Sara, Theresa, Toni for saying **YES** at Harvest Supper time with donations & time.



BASH News...

We ended October with popcorn and the movie "Prince of Egypt/Joseph: King of Dreams." In November we are doing an Advent Study called "The Wonder of Christmas" by Ed Robb & Rob Renfroe.

The kids have been working with Ellen Hemstock on their Christmas Program called "Silent Night: The Birth of a Carol." Mark your calendars!

The **BASH Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m.** during the Sunday Service. We will also be hosting a **Birthday Party for Jesus** after the service. Please plan on joining us.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful and I would like to thank the moms, dads, and grandparents who pick up and drop off kids each Wednesday night. Our BASH is truly blessed to have such an awesome group of kids and teachers. Have a Wonderful and Blessed Thanksgiving!

God's Blessing, Lynn Humphrey

Roof Matching Funds Progress

We continue to make progress toward meeting the matching gift for the work that needs to be done on the outside of the church. **As of Sunday, November 17 we are at \$13,875.**



With your faithful support we are so close to meeting the financial obligation for this work. **Prayerfully consider how you can support the project while continuing your regular financial support of the ministries of this church.** With all of us doing our part and working together we will be successful in raising the remaining **\$4,125** (and then some, to begin an ongoing maintenance fund for the continued care of our properties).

Please designate your extra gift for this project to:
church roof/trustees.

Sparta United Methodist Church Mission Statement:

*We are called to make maturing disciples of
Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*



Advent and Christmas Quiz

1. True or False: Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.
 True False
2. One of the Wise Men gave the gift of myrrh, which is...
 Middle Eastern money
 A brewed drink
 An easily shape metal
 A perfume
 Rare, expensive food
3. **What is a traditional living Nativity celebration called in Mexico?**
 Feliz Navidad
 Las Posadas
 Nochebuena
 All of the above
 None of the above

4. **Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley?**
 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 Hail to the Lord's Anointed
5. **Why did Joseph not divorce Mary after he found out she was pregnant?**
 Divorces 2,000 years ago were very expensive
 An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream
 He didn't want to lose the dowry
 All of the above
 None of the above
6. What happened in December of 1914?
 The first living Nativity scene was enacted
 Macy's held the first Christmas Parade featuring Santa
 A "Christmas truce" went into effect between British and German soldiers
 A Canadian inventor broadcast the first radio program which included the carol "O Holy Night"
 Hallmark released its first series of holiday cards
7. Which historic period(s) mention fruitcakes?
 Ancient Egypt
 Roman Empire
 Middle Ages
 Victorian England
 All of the above
8. Who originated Watch Night services?
 John the Baptist
 Martin Luther
 King Henry VIII
 John Wesley
 President William McKinley
9. **What was the shepherd's first reaction when an angel of the Lord appeared to them?**
 They began dancing with joy
 They ignored the angels because they were tired
 They were terrified
 All of the above
 None of the above
10. **According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?**
 10 miles
 50 miles
 100 miles
 500 miles

Just for fun, take this quiz. The first person to bring in the completed quiz with correct answers to Pastor L may have a small prize in their future.

Directory Updates...

Carolyn Kenyon, 401 S. Water St., Apt. 105, Sparta, WI 54656

David & Diane Schultz, 1701 Bernard Ct, Apt. 7, Sparta, WI 54656

Antonia Gutierrez, 1650 N. Dewey Ave, Apt. 10, Reedsburg, WI 53959-1038

Liz Risseuw, 815 E. 6th St. N., Lot 11, Ladysmith, WI 54848-1567

Mary Cole, 623 E. Main St., Unit 20, Sparta, WI 54656

Danielle Dale, 1128 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304



Spiritual Gifts Overview

The spiritual gifts appear in bold. Each gift's contributions to the church is printed in italics below the gift. Descriptive words that often characterize persons with that particular gift are listed below the gift and its contributions.

Administration

Efficiency

Conscientious

Objective

Efficient

Organized

Responsible

Thorough

Goal-oriented

Apostleship

New Ministries

Entrepreneurial

Cause-driven

Risk-taking

Adaptable

Adventurous

Culturally Sensitive

Distinguishing of Spirits

Clarity

Insightful

Truthful

Challenging

Intuitive

Sensitive

Perceptive

Decisive

Encouragement

Strength & Comfort

Affirming

Motivating

Consoling

Challenging

Reassuring

Comforting

Positive

Evangelism

The Good News

Confident

Relational

Faith Sharing

Outgoing

Spiritual

Challenging

Communicator

Faith

Confidence

Prayerful

Assured

Trusting

Inspiring

Optimistic

Positive

Hopeful

Giving

Resources

Charitable

Generous

Responsible

Disciplined

Trusts in God

Good Steward

Resourceful

Healing

Wholeness

Compassionate

Trusts in God

Faith-filled

Powerful in Prayer

Humble

Spiritual

Submissive

Helps (Serving)

Assistance

Available

Reliable

Practical

Dependable

Willing

Selfless

Servant-oriented

Hospitality

Food and Fellowship

Friendly

Gracious

Inviting

Trusting

Caring

Responsible

Warm

Leadership

Direction

Diligent

Visionary

Persuasive

Influential

Role Model

Motivating

Inspiring

Mercy

Care

Empathetic

Compassionate

Sensitive

Responsible

Kind

Caring

Burden-bearing

Pastor-teacher

Shepherding

Influencing

Nurturing

Guiding

Disciple-maker

Protective

Prophecy

Conviction

Confronting

Penetrating

Compelling

Outspoken

Uncompromising

Authentic

Message of Wisdom

Guidance

Reasonable

Thoughtful

Insightful

Skillful

Sensible

Teaching

Application

Articulate

Analytical

Practical

Studious

Authoritative

The spiritual gifts do not confine our service only to the areas where we are gifted. Rather, they point the way to ministries where we will lead and serve with our greatest passion and joy. (From *A Disciple's Path Daily Workbook*, page 116.) This list is not all-encompassing, but provided to spark your spiritual imaginations.