



NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022



“And the angel said to them, ‘Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

As we now once again draw close to this Christmas season, it seems appropriate to focus on this wonderful gift of God that brings us joy. There is good news of GREAT JOY. This is an event beyond all events. It surpasses and goes beyond anything that has happened in human history. Nothing can compare to the human experience like this event! The GREAT JOY IS THE EVENT IN WHICH GOD BREAKS INTO OUR WORLD IN HUMAN FORM. It is WOW event or as Wisconsinites would say “HOLY COW!”

Please notice that other words do not compare to JOY. Luke does not use “happiness” or “awesomeness” or “wonder” or “magnificence” or any other word except JOY. The Greek word pronounced in English is CHARA. JOY, however, does not stand alone but it is qualified or quantified with the word GREAT. The Greek word is pronounced in English as MEGAS.

In modern psychology, we have this explanation of JOY: “Psychology of joy accomplishes this by generating a “Loving Space” in which all elements of the human psyche, the subconscious, conscious and superconscious are integrated and from which there is a personal transformation.”

Here in Wisconsin's winter wonderland, we attempt to emphasize the GREAT JOY by buying and decorating Christmas trees, putting up lights, giving gifts, attending holiday programs at schools and the Sunday School Christmas service at church. We attempt to replicate this joy by worshipping in our Christmas Eve service with lighted candles and singing our cherished carols.

(over)

However, please notice that JOY is announced from heaven through an angel. JOY, actually GREAT JOY, comes from God and only God. The wonderful Christmas carol "Joy to the World" signals the message of JOY that can be experienced through our singing.



*JOY to the world, the Lord is
come!*

*Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing.*

Prayer... Dear Heavenly Father, may our soul sing with joy as you have always intended your people to do. Bless our worship together on Christmas Eve this year! May we sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come" not only with our voice but our heart and soul. Amen.