

Pastor Pete's Ponderings

No other Name but Jesus

January 1st, the Sunday after Christmas this year is the day set aside to remember the **NAME OF JESUS** each year. We usually miss it because January 1st doesn't often fall on a Sunday. I am glad it does this year for the following reason.

A writer made a seemingly convincing argument that all religions are of equal value and that there are many ways to God. The writer suggested that anyone who makes exclusive claims about a particular faith is *unenlightened*. "Many (maybe a majority of people) in our society agree with that assessment.

As an NALC pastor I believe that the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. When I read the book of Acts in the New Testament I find that **there is salvation in no one else except Jesus.** Acts 4:12 says there is **no other name by which we can be saved.**

When Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day after his birth, (Jan. 1st in the Jewish way of reckoning time) he was given the name **Jesus.** "The angel had told Joseph in Matthew 1:21 that "you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

There is no other way to God **except** by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Christian faith **stands above** every other religion for that simple truth. Society may call that unenlightened. So be it. I prefer my enlightenment to come from God's Word and not what is popular by society's standards.

On another note. **Thank you** to everyone who remembered me with gifts and cards during the Christmas season. I always give thanks for the opportunity to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as your pastor. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in the North American Lutheran Church, in 2012.

Annual Meetings are coming in January. **Trinity's** is January 15th at 11:45 A.M. following the worship service. **Badger's** will be January 22nd at 11:45 A.M. following its worship service that day. Please note the **switch** of service and Sunday School times for Jan. 22nd ONLY. It allows me to be present at both congregational annual meetings.

Adopting or ratifying a new constitution as NALC congregations will be a **major order** of business for each congregation. Elections and adoption of Budgets will also take place. Please join me in participating at these important meetings and for the special dinners that accompany the annual meetings.

May Christ's blessing be with you as we enter the New Year.
Pastor Pete



Trinity Lutheran Church Council

Date/Time: Thursday December 1, 2001 - 7:00 pm

Present: Pastor Gene Peterson, Rusty Antonen, Gerry Koisti, Dan Koistinen, David Carlson, Brandy Aho

Absent: David St. John, Harlan Olson, Mary Pekas, Don Thue

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept by Rusty Antonen and seconded by Gerry Koisti

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept by Dan Koistinen and seconded by Rusty Antonen

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed: Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 18th

No reports from Evangelism, Worship and Music, Property, Finance, or Stewardship Committees.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Following discussion on benevolence dollars received, Rusty motioned that monies received for local missions will be given to Hosanna Lutheran Church in Watertown, and monies received for Global missions will be sent to the Lutheran Mission Society. Dan Koistinen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Rusty Antonen motioned to give 1/2 of the Christmas offering to Lutheran World Relief and 1/2 to the Food Pantry. Gerry Koisti seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. Gerry Koisti motioned to present the budget to the annual meeting and Rusty Antonen seconded. Motion carried.
4. Brandy Aho motioned to approve budget and Gerry Koisti seconded. Motion carried.

Gerry Koisti motioned to adjourn and Dan Koistinen seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 5th, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Devotions: David Carlson



Margaret Lincoln has communicated her thanks and appreciation for using the facilities at Trinity for Jon's funeral. His funeral was held on December 10.

~ **Margaret Lincoln and Family**

THANK YOU!

Food Pantry Thank you: God bless each and everyone who helped us give our users a nicer Christmas. Not only did they get turkey and ALL the trimmings, but also sugar, flour, cake mix and frosting, rice, extra soups, etc. to carry them over the holiday school break. The plates of cookies lit up many little faces! If it were not for all of you caring and generous people we would not be the recipients of all the “Thanks”, hugs and smiles. What a wonderful community we live in!

~ Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Staff

Special thanks to Barb Ruotsalainen and Sharon Thue who have given many hours out of their week to help make the food pantry so successful!

Thank you to all who decorated the church for Christmas and throughout the calendar year!

Thank you to the ladies who furnished food and/or worked at the dinner following the Sunday School program.

Thank you to the Sunday School students and staff for another wonderful Christmas program! They work hard on it each year.



A God Nudge

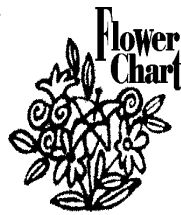
Sometimes a God Nudge directs us toward a person in our line of sight. “I suddenly became aware of him sitting there, and I knew something important was up,” we might say. Or, “God just opened my heart to her.” Other times the person may not be around. We might describe this experience with words like “I felt God leading me toward...” or “Out of nowhere I just knew I had to call Aunt Iris.”

A God Nudge rarely comes in the middle of your thoughts about the intended person, place, or event but rather interrupts your thoughts about something else. God wants you to recognize, *This thought isn't yours but Mine!*

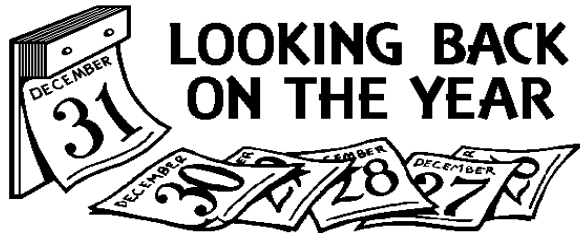
A God Nudge invites you to do something you may not want to do, such as start a conversation with someone you barely know. We commonly assume that if God is asking us to do something, we should feel great peace in doing it. But the truth is often just the opposite. God's work almost always requires that we stop what we're doing, or would prefer to do, and make His agenda our priority.

– Excerpted from *The God Pocket* by Bruce Wilkinson

REMINDER: The flower chart for 2012 is posted in the back of the church. Flowers add a special touch of beauty to the altar, and we are grateful for all who have donated arrangements in the past.



* * *



+++ REPORTS DUE +++

Please note that committee reports are still needed for the Annual Report. All treasurers' reports are needed as soon as your end of the year bookkeeping is completed. **The Annual Report needs to be completed by January 8.** Your cooperation in getting your report in as soon as possible is appreciated so much! **The Annual Meeting will be held January 15 following the 10:45 worship service.**

USHERS FOR 2012

Printed below are ushers signed up for 2012. Others are still needed; please sign up in the narthex, or call Don Thue at 785-3893 to volunteer.

- January..... The Aho's
- February Bob Carlson, Scott Steffensen
- March..... Paul & Mary Pietila
- April Reid & Jeanette Tuohino
- May Gerry & Doris Koisti
- June _____
- July _____
- August _____
- September Lexie Kranz, _____
- October Jonathan Kretzschmar
- November Terry & Paulette Kasten
- December Rusty Antonen, _____

**+++ NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE +++
(FOR JANUARY 22 ONLY)**

To make it possible for Pastor Pete to attend the Annual Meeting at Badger on January 22, the worship service at Trinity will be at **9:15**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at **10:20**. Please note this change is only for one Sunday.

When Troubles Come

Have you noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and then the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us. ~ **The Newsletter Newsletter**

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to the Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies and Pastor Pete for blessing our residents and staff on Wednesday evening with Christmas carols, treats and decorating our hallways. It was a very special evening and so nice!

Also, thank you to the TLC Ladies for the beautiful Christmas handmade quilt donated for the auction at our Harvest Festival in November. How lovely! Your kindness and generosity is very, very much appreciated!

~ **Staff and residents at Golden Living Care Center, LN**

My Dad's Job

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100."

Little Johnny says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

~ **The Newsletter Newsletter**

Evangelism Corner

**“Yet he has not left himself
without a witness in doing good.”**

Acts 14:17 (NRSV)

My church offers a variety of different ways to help us express what we believe as a community. One of these is a statement that talks about God being found in art and music and writing and human interaction, and it concludes, “God has never been without a witness in the world.”

To be honest, it sometimes makes me scratch my head: Is that really true? So recently when I heard it again, I decided I’d put it to the test in the most popular form of culture we have, television. I’d pick a night and watch: Would there be a witness for God on TV?

I found plenty of bad stuff. There was no mention of God or Jesus all night. And yet, far from simply seeing the godless culture I expected, I saw God at work in a whole host of ways.

I saw a promo for a new show about people giving away money to the needy and another about rebuilding houses; a car commercial where the father and son bring boxes of turkeys to a food pantry; and a news report about neighbors taking care of a family after a fire. I saw compassionate doctors and generous workers and most of all, I saw real people struggling to solve real problems as best they could.

In some ways our culture is going downhill. But I learned that night that God is very much present in our world. And if I can’t find God, it may be that I’ve been looking in all the wrong places.

Start looking for God in your daily devotional reading, your church, your friends, your community....

**Give me eyes to see You, God, ears to hear You,
hands to offer You, feet to carry You,
in the places and to the places I live my life.**

- Jeff Japinga

~ Submitted by Evangelism Committee

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ethan Swanson
- 2 Raquel Gorder
- 2 Mike Jager
- 3 Doug Hakeman
- 3 Darian Riter
- 8 Jeanne (Steffensen) Olney
- 8 Jenna Johnson
- 10 Danielle Schaefer
- 13 Lana Niemann
- 16 Paul Pietila
- 17 Jason Arneson
- 21 Delbert Riter
- 21 Morrell Spencer
- 22 Abby Antonen
- 22 Ronald Koistinen
- 26 Carmen Antonen
- 29 Madisen Steffensen
- 31 Reid Tuohino



Please note:

If a person's birthday is not listed during the year, or we have the wrong date, please let us know!

HISTORY OF ALTAR AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sometimes a phone call is received out of the blue that makes one excited and thankful! That call came from a Katherine Peterson-Wilson from Wisconsin. She began asking questions about the altar at Trinity, described it perfectly from a photo she had, and said it was carved by Jes Smidt, a Danish carver. I thought, “How does she know all of this?” Her 88-year-old father was the grandson of Jes Smidt, and Katherine is helping him finish writing a book about the life of Jes.

In the early 1900’s Jes Smidt was living in the Hetland area, and was asked by Pastor Ostergard to carve an altar and pulpit for the Danish Church. The altar at Trinity is the first and most ornate one carved by Jes. During the following years, he carved a total of 22 altars and other pieces of church furniture. Unfortunately, one altar in Texas was destroyed by a hurricane; one altar at their home church in Wisconsin was destroyed by fire.

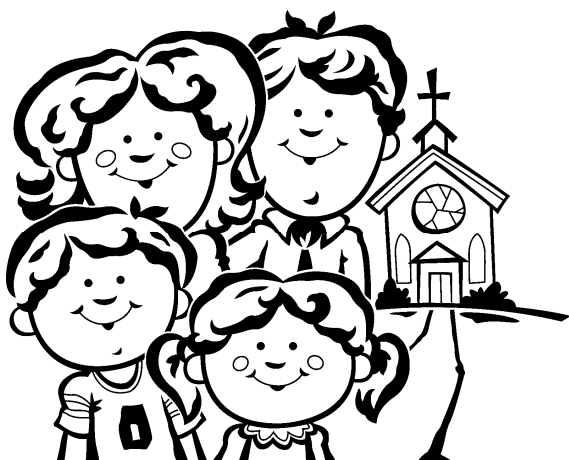
A book will be given to Trinity following its first publication.

Prayer for kids who lose shoes, and those who have none to lose.

We pray for children
Who sneak Popsicles before supper,
Who erase holes in math workbooks,
Who can never find their shoes.
And we pray for those
Who stare at photographers from
Behind barbed wire,
Who can't bound down the street in a
new pair of sneakers.
Who never "counted potatoes,"
Who are born in places we wouldn't
be caught dead in.
Who never saw a circus,
Who live in an X-rated world.
We pray for children
Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls
of dandelions,
Who hug us in a hurry and
forget their lunch money.
And we pray for those
Who never get dessert,
Who have no security blanket
to drag behind them.
Who watch their parents watch them die.
Who can't find any bread to steal,
Who don't have any rooms to clean,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser.
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for children
Who spend all their allowance before Tuesday.
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store,
Who pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories.
Who shove their dirty clothes under
The bed and never rinse out the tub.
Who get visits from the tooth fairy.
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the car pool.
Who squirm in church and scream into the phone.
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at
And whose smiles can make us cry.
And we pray for those
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything,
Who have never seen a dentist,
Who aren't spoiled by anybody.
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves
to sleep.
Who live and move but have no being.
We pray for children who want to be carried.
And for those who must be.
For those we never give up on and
For those who never get a second chance.
For those we smother and
For those who will grab the hand of
anybody kind enough to offer it.

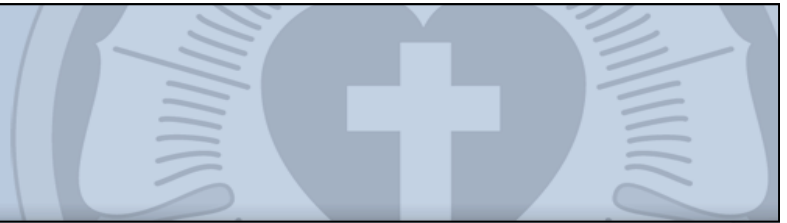
~ Author Unknown





NALC

North American Lutheran Church



AN ADVENT MESSAGE

I trust you have taken time to enjoy the celebration of Thanksgiving. We have much for which we are truly thankful in the North American Lutheran Church.

As we begin a new church year with the First Sunday of Advent, we are filled with hope and anticipation in all this new year holds. Our hope, anticipation and potential are focused in laser-like accuracy on Christ. He is our hope, salvation, redemption and the entire content of the Gospel we proclaim.

During this season of preparation for Christmas, it is so easy to be overwhelmed with the “busyness” that preoccupies the culture around us.

I invite you to counteract that influence with a renewed commitment to prayer and meditation throughout Advent. There is no better way to begin this new year as leaders and congregations, and as the North American Lutheran Church. There is no greater means to strengthen our witness than through our prayer life. The effectiveness of our mission and ministry depends on it.

Luther writes:

“Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, ‘Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that.’”

“If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.”

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.



Bishop John Bradosky

Through prayer we bear witness to the truth that we rely on the Lord’s action and activity. We can accomplish nothing apart from Him. Our work in His body, the Church, is only accomplished by His power and strength.

Advent reminds us of how important it is to wait on Him. His grace entered this world in a more amazing and profound way than we could ever design or imagine. As we wait expectantly on the hand of God to move, we are certain that when He does move our experience will be one of awe and wonder.

It is through prayer that we place our hands into the hand of God. In prayer we make ourselves available to God to be a part of His design, His will, His mission, and His work. We do so with the certainty that even as He used those whose stories we read in the Scriptures, so He will use us to make Himself known and to accomplish His purposes.

The cast of characters who comprise the Church militant is new with each generation. Now we have the privilege that those faithful believers who came before us had — to point to Jesus, to follow Jesus, to proclaim the Gospel of His redemption and salvation, to serve Him in fulfilling His mission in our ministry, to boldly love and care for others in His name until they too come to faith in Him.

In this season of Advent, we encounter many generations of those who shared the prophesy, announced His coming and believed the Messiah would save the world. We meet the cast of those who were used by God to prepare the way, labor through His birth and care for His needs. From the most simple, supportive role to the most complex, all have a part to play in this redemptive story and that story is ours.

Over the past 20 years, I have maintained a tradition during the season of Advent that I share in the hope of also blessing you. I read *Martin Luther’s Christmas Book*, translated and arranged by Roland Bainton. As I consider each section, I read the related Scripture passages and Luther’s reflections, meditating on both. There is sufficient material for devotional reading and meditation through the celebration of Epiphany.

Thank you for your faithful service to Christ and your partnership in this ministry we share as the North American Lutheran Church. Have a blessed Advent season!

Bishop John Bradosky

In Pursuit of the Great Commission

A new demographic change impacting congregational outreach

By Pastor Don Brandt

Sometimes demographic trends can have a significant impact on congregational outreach. One such trend is the sharp *decrease* in the number of American households currently moving in a given year.

And while this means fewer of your members are moving away, it also means there are fewer new residents moving to your town or city. Unlike just five years ago, there are now very few American communities experiencing significant population growth.

What are the implications of this when it comes to your congregation's evangelistic outreach? This means an overwhelming percentage of your community residents have lived at their current address for an extended period of time. And that means they are that much less likely to be looking ("shopping?") for a new church.

Considering this new demographic reality, congregations must now, more than ever, focus on **friendship evangelism**. Now, more than ever, we need to motivate our members to invite their friends and acquaintances. And with Lutherans this is no small challenge!

So what kind of ministry priorities will increase the odds your members will invite someone they know to "check out" your church?

1. Sunday-morning worship hospitality is key. Your members must be reasonably confident that if they invite (and bring) a friend to worship he or she will be warmly received by your members. So everything you can do to create a hospitable environment on Sunday morning increases the odds your people will be intentional about inviting their friends to attend.

2. Sunday-morning worship content also needs to be visitor-friendly. You must do everything possible to insure a quality worship experience. This includes relevant sermon messages, participatory (and quality) music, and a worship liturgy that is not overly complex.

3. Congregational events that are planned with visitors in mind. Let's face it: Many unchurched people will never worship with us unless they have first had a positive experience at one of our congregational events. This being the case, more of our events should be planned with this question in mind: "Is this the kind of event our members would be comfortable bringing a friend to?" Once you've planned that kind of event, announce on Sunday mornings that visitors will be expected, that they *will* have a positive experience, and that members should definitely bring friends! And don't forget that your community-service activities are also ideal opportunities for members to invite friends. (One sample idea: What about marriage classes and/or retreats? Many unchurched couples recognize their need for marriage enrichment and renewal. They might respond favorably to an invitation from one of your couples.)

4. Consider congregational events for families with children. These are especially effective in motivating members to invite unchurched friends. Nesting-stage parents (married and single) have a special bond with friends in the same stage of life. As a result, your nesting-stage members are ideal ambassadors for your congregation. They are often willing to extend an invitation to their friends who are raising children. (Another sample idea: For midsized and larger congregations, why not offer an extra Christmas Eve service specifically for children and their parents? Make sure every element of this service is child-friendly. Advertise this to the community and you will probably have Christmas Eve worshipers who otherwise would not be worshiping at your church.)

5. Regularly remind your members to look for opportunities to invite their friends to either worship or a specific congregational activity. This emphasis needs to become a part of your congregation's DNA. Lutherans, in particular, need to be reminded of the importance of *friendship evangelism*.

BENEVOLENCE DOLLARS FOR 2011

During 2011, your offerings to benevolence were divided between NALC support; NALC American (or local) Missions; NALC Global Missions; Lutheran Core; and the Trinity Food Pantry.

By action of the Trinity Church Council, they moved to send the local missions portion to the new Lutheran congregation in Watertown, Hosanna Lutheran. Rev. Janine Rew-Werling has been called as the mission pastor there.

The NALC Global Missions portion will be sent to the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS), which is a mission project supported by the NALC. ELMS will support training of missionaries and provide grants to local and global mission projects, and new congregations. The society is dedicated to making disciples and fulfilling Christ's Great Commission.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM MOLLY SCHUMACHER

"May He touch your lives with gladness
And warm your hearts with love!"

Molly has a new telephone number:
1-402-206-8788



DO YOU HAVE OLD GREETING CARDS?

Consider sending them to a place where they can be used in art projects:



Children's Care Hospital and School
Attention: Leslie Drew
2501 W. 26th Street
Sioux Falls SD 57105

Come to a meeting of the TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Wednesday, January 4 - 7:00 P.M.

Program — Christi Koistinen

Lunch — Brandy Aho

Hope to see you there!

Amanda Received Awards

Amanda Jensen competed in the 102nd State Oral Interp Festival December 2 & 3 in Pierre. She made it to the state competition both in Reader's Theater and oratory. The Reader's Theater team received 2 superiors and 1 excellent, getting a superior medal (the highest honor you can receive at state). Her oratory received 1 superior and 2 excellent awards.

Amanda is a junior at Arlington, and is the daughter of Larry and Tanya Jensen. Congratulations, Amanda!



"What do you mean 'Creamed
spinach isn't scriptural'?"

Going GLOBAL for Christ!

LCMC

A World Missions Festival for all Lutherans,
presented by the Augustana District of LCMC

MINNESOTA
JANUARY 21, 2012
9:30 am to 12:00 noon
Abounding Joy Lutheran Church
Boy Scout Building
1191 Scout Drive
Sartell, MN 56377
(Across from Coborn's)

← TWO DATES TWO CITIES →

SOUTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 4, 2012
9:30 am to 12:00 noon
Hosanna Lutheran Church
Watertown Event Center
1901 9th Ave SW
Watertown, SD 57201
(Highway 212 west of I-29, adjacent to Best Western)

WHY MISSIONS 6.2 BILLION PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW CHRIST

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Paul Martinson

Co-Founder of China Service Ventures/Professor of World Missions, Luther Seminary

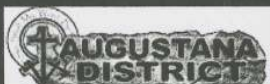
Dr. Paul Martinson is well prepared to inspire us to take seriously why our global witness for Jesus Christ remains at the heart of our calling as the Christian community. Dr. Martinson's roots run deep in Lutheran witness in China. His grandparents went as missionaries to China in 1902. Later his parents also became missionaries in China, Paul being born in China in 1934. Paul, and his wife, Ida, served in Hong Kong as missionaries in the mid-1960s. For 29 years Dr. Martinson served on the faculty of Luther Seminary where he was Professor of Missions and Religions until retirement. In more recent years he has been a leader in forming a mission endeavor to China, China Service Ventures. Ida, a professional leader in the field of nursing education internationally, has been a partner in ministry with Paul each step of the way.



WHO SHOULD COME EVERYONE WHO HAS A HEART FOR MISSIONS

EVENT SCHEDULE

- 9:30 Coffee and fellowship
- 10:00 Opening Devotions
- 10:10 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Paul Martinson
"Why Missions: Four Simple Questions of Adam and Eve & You and Me"
- 10:45 Opportunities and Challenges: Ethiopia (LCMC, NALC & EECMY)
What is the role of the Board of World Missions
Vetted Mission Organizations
China Service Ventures
Mission Committees and Networking
Going Forward Together - What Does it Look Like?
- 12:00 Closing



FREE WILL OFFERING to HELP with EVENT EXPENSES

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Return to:
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
405 3rd AVENUE NORTH
P.O. BOX 230
LAKE NORDEN, SD 57248



*Looking Towards
The New Year*

**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

January 15, 2012

See details in newsletter

Christmas Through the Year

A little bit of Christmas lives
Within the heart each day,
When you do a kindly deed,
Give a word of cheer away.
Why should we save our kindnesses
For just one special time—
The world needs love and caring
When Christmas bells don't chime!

Reach out a hand to help someone;

Cheer some heart today.

The gifts that mean the most
Aren't those for which we pay.

Though tinsel scenes have faded

That mark the yuletide cheer,

Christmas living in the heart

Grows brighter through the year!

~ Author Unknown

