

Shepherd's Staff *We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

December 2017 "You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.



The Best Ever!

As I was thinking about this coming Christmas and the toys that will be purchased for all the girls and boys, I could not help but remember my best gift ever! It was a few decades back when the time for opening presents finally arrived. My four brothers and I were waiting with wild expectation to see what we would find. That year was especially exciting for me as of all the gifts wrapped so beautifully, mine was the biggest of all!

When it finally came for my turn to open the biggest gift, I was delighted to find a new toy crane! This was not something made of molded plastic like ones found today but was made of steel with six real rubber tires! It was BIG which made the box so large as well. With the yellow six wheeled truck to the yellow crane with its black boom and the included clam-shell bucket that would dump its self when cranked all the way to the top, it was all mine! It was a Christmas to remember.

Many a Christmas has come and gone with many gifts but it seems none compare to that one special year, 1964, when I got the biggest. I now have added a few years so my joy comes from seeing others receive their best ever gift. Having children, and now grandchildren, only heightens the enjoyment of watching the excited looks and screams of delight when gifts are given.

I don't know if you have a story of your best ever Christmas or not. We all tend to remember the best times in our lives as the cherished memories. Still I know now that the best was not a big yellow truck. Indeed, the best was something that God had given even before I was old enough to understand the importance of the Gift. You see, when the time was just right, God gave us His Son! The reason for the Christmas celebration was nothing less than Jesus coming into a world he created so that redemption could come.

The song, "We Are the Reason" tells us about our being the reason Jesus came. How we are the reason that he gave his life. I know now that the best ever gift is not something that came in a box with wrapping paper. It was a child who came into the world even though the world did not receive him as the King he is. A cave stable with a manger for a bed is no place for any newborn baby, certainly not for the One who was both man and God!

At least now, we are given the opportunity to welcome Jesus into our heart and lives. He desires to be a part of us in a mysterious way but one that comes by faith. Believing that Jesus came to be our Savior is the way we invite Him into our lives. When we do, we are changed, not simply for life, but for eternal life. A new life spent with God in the Kingdom of Heaven, where we will live with Him for eternity. A comfort for us and for those who love us.

This year when the presents are handed out, and someone is blessed to get the biggest (and best) gift ever, I pray they realize that the real best ever is Jesus!

Pastor Rus

Christmas Acrostic

By: Johnnie DesRochers

- C** is for the Child born that night to be our light.
H is for holy is His name.
R is for rejoice with gladness & joy.
I is for Immanuel, God with us.
S is for the star that led the Wise men to Him.
T is for the truth & grace that was sent our way.
M is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes
in the manger.
A is for angels singing songs of joy.
S is for salvation.

CHRISTMAS.365GREETINGS.COM

Candy Cane Christmas Poem

Sharing Christmas with others can be easy - no
pain.
Just tell them the story through the sweet candy
cane.

Turn it to one side and the cane makes a "J"
That stands for Jesus whom we celebrate this
day.

Now turn it around, it's the staff of the shepherd
Who listened to angels and believed what they
heard.

The cane starts out white, so solid so sure.
To remind us that Jesus' life was so pure.

Then a red stripe is added in a long winding
swirl
A symbol of the blood he would shed to save
the world.

As you eat this sweet candy remember these
things,
And the sweet gift of Jesus that each Christmas
brings.

**THINK
ABOUT
JESUS
EVERY
TIME YOU
EAT A
CANDY
CANE**





December Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

12/6 Darlene Bruns
 12/7 Delbert Cordes
 12/7 Joel Reints
 12/12 Angie Meester
 12/13 John DeBerg
 12/14 Helen Druvenga
 12/14 Clayton Groeneveld
 12/20 Duane Anderson
 12/20 Betty Mulder
 12/27 Austin Shepard
 12/31 John Oltman

Happy Anniversary

12/10 Ken & Jan Johnson
 12/10 John & Karen Oltman
 12/17 Mark & Lanae Kramer
 12/26 Paul & Ruth Haan
 12/27 Irv & Amy Haan



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20th of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
12/3	Ken & Nancy M. (N)	Ken K.	Ryan & Stacy	Clarence & June
	Clarence & June K. (S)		Deb	
12/10	Dennis & Sharon S. (N)	Marlyn A.	Kayla & Shelly	Steve & Charlene
	Arnie & Kay S. (S)		Stacy	
12/17	Rollyn & Kathy D. (N)	Gerald H.	Amy & Kay	Don & Annie
	Marlyn & Marcia A. (S)		JoLynne	
12/24	Ken & Janet J. (N)	Mark K.		John & Karen
	Gene & Janet V. (S)			
12/31	Hermine E. (N)	Ken M.		Pat & Deb
	Pat & Deb P. (S)			

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

#The teacher schedule will be in the bulletin. You can always check the website as well- the bulletin is always on there (even before Sunday!!) www.parkersburg-crc.org If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.

Christmas



Christ	Child	Baby	Born	Wisemen
Shepherds	Angels	Sing	Hallelujah	Savior
King	Prince	Peace	Love	Joy
Manger	Hay	Swaddling	Mary	Joseph