Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is unique among the Sunday's of Advent. Though part of Advent, it stands out from it. The pink, or more correctly, the rose candle symbolizes joy in the midst of darkness, mourning and sadness and so this week is set apart from all the other weeks of Advent, which focus on things like repentance and Christ's coming. Gaudete Sunday gives us another perspective and a glimpse of the joy that awaits us.

The word "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word that means "be glad" or "rejoice." It's taken from Phil. 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: Rejoice!" It's easy to rejoice in the Lord when things go well or when life goes our way. It's simple to be joyful in the Lord when we have a faithful spouse, good health, obedient children and money in our bank accounts. But we are called to rejoice always. That means that we rejoice even when we lack these things, or when life is difficult.

Gaudete teaches us to repent from finding joy in health, wealth and success. It teaches us to repent from measuring the "growth" of the church through finances, attendance and demographics. It teaches us to repent from doubting God's promises and searching for happiness in the things of this world and to find true joy in His Word. Gaudete forms and shapes our understanding of Advent and Christmas by teaching us that true joy is found only in Christ.

Because of this, we can rejoice even in the midst of grief and sadness, even if we are persecuted, even if there is no restoration, even if there is no healing or cure for our sickness or disease. It teaches us to rest from trying to find joy, knowing that joy has found us. The "joy" of this world is for a moment, but joy in Christ is everlasting. Therefore, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say: Rejoice" *(Phil. 4:4).*

Blessings,
Pastor Bryan Drebes

Church Events

Day	Time	Event
Sunday	9:00am	**Lessons and Carols**
	10:00am	Fellowship
Monday	6:30pm	Quilters
	7:00pm	Elders Board
Tuesday	9:30am	Alanon
	4:30pm	Siena Francis House
	7:00pm	Directors Board
Wednesday	9:00am	Foster Care
	2:00pm	**Worship**
	7:00pm	**Worship**
Thursday	7:00pm	Gamblers-12 Step
Sunday	8:00am	**Eucharist**
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:15am	Education Hour
	9:30am	Adult Bible Study
	10:30am	**Eucharist**

We Have a Treasurer! Lynn Wegehaupt has agreed to a three year term as Treasurer for Pacific Hills, replacing Dan Swan. Welcome Lynn! And thanks to Dan for your faithful service . . .as well as thanks to all of you for your input and prayers over the past few months.

Thanks to my great board for the help with the annual congregation meeting meal. See you next Sunday, December 15, after the 9am service, to begin filling the goodie bags for the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Sandra Glissmann

Fifth Sunday is Coming: Mark your calendars as a reminder that we have just one Sunday service—at 9am on December 29 to continue our practice of having a single service anytime we have a firth Sunday in a month. Fellowship time will follow in Acker Hall. Please plan to attend.

For your consideration: The piano in Acker Hall has been replaced. The old one is available for donation to the first person who claims it. You must also be responsible for moving it out of Acker Hall. Call the church office to let them know you would like to claim the piano and will move it. If you have questions or need more information about this instrument, call Sara Young at 402-397-7987.

Mission and Social Committee continues to provide an opportunity to donate warm woolies throughout December. Hats, scarves, gloves and socks are welcome for men, women and children. Place in boxes under Christmas tree, in narthex, or donation bin. Thank you.

Schedule of Events:

Advent began, December 1—During Advent, our Sunday morning messages will follow the lectionary. During our Wednesday mid-week sermon series we will examine different "Angles on Advent Angels".

December 15, Lessons and Carols, 9am only
December 18, 2pm and 7pm
December 24, Christmas Eve, 5pm and 7pm
December 25, Christmas Day, 9am
December 29, Fifth Sunday Eucharist, 9am only

Pacific Hills members who have pledged to support the Forward in Faith Together capital campaign should use separate envelopes from your regular offering envelopes. Envelopes are available in the narthex.

Sunday School Classes begin at 9:15am:
Nursery opens at 9am (main floor-south door entrance-canopy extension)
Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will meet together for opening in Rooms 206/207 and then break into two separate groups for lessons.
Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will remain in Rooms206/207
1st and 2nd grade students will move to Room 212
3rd through middle school students will meet in Room 208
Adult Bible Study begins at 9:30am in Acker Hall
Topic: A Biblical Study of the End of Times

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Events of Other Congregations and Agencies

CHRISTMAS CONCERT at CONCORDIA Jr. - Sr. High
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Annual senior high concert, **Sunday, December 15, at 7pm**. will feature vocalists from the Concordia Chorale, Singers, Harmonix (Contemporary A Capella), instrumentalists in the hand-bells choir, orchestra, jazz band and concert band.

LORD'S LAMBS CHILD CARE is looking for full and part time staff. Immediate openings for: Toddler Room, Twos Room, Floaters, and Substitutes. If you enjoy working with children in a Christ-centered environment, please contact Denise, our director, at Director@lordslambselkhorn.org. Employment application is downloadable at http://lordslambselkhorn.org/meet-the-staff/. Or call Denise at 402-289-9291 or Director@lordslambselkhorn.org