

## ON THE JOURNEY

### Angels, God's Messengers

**"I am Gabriel, that stands in the presence of God." Luke 1:19**

Every year as Christ's birthday approaches, there is always a magical moment when something touches our hearts with assurance that Christmas is really coming at last. We have lived in New York City for many years now, and one such moment is when the great Christmas tree is lighted in Rockefeller Plaza on Fifth Avenue, jeweled with lights, flanked by towering angels made of golden wire. We love to join the hurrying throngs that always slow down to stare at the tree and the angels, especially the angels, with admiration and a touch of awe. Why are angels so fascinating to us earthbound mortals? In this Advent season they seem to spring up everywhere on Christmas cards and gift wrappings, in countless store windows and Nativity scenes; sometimes blowing their herald-trumpets, sometimes just sailing along "with peaceful wings unfurled". But these are just representations, whereas the angels that appeared when Christ was born were real. They appeared to the shepherds, but they made other appearances, too, both before and after that joyous night. So as Advent comes again this year, let's turn back to the tremendous events chronicled by St. Luke and St. Matthew, and see if we can find new meaning in the various appearances of these celestial beings. Two thousand years ago they spoke clearly and directly to human beings like ourselves. Perhaps if we transport ourselves backward through time, and listen carefully and reverently, the angels also may have something to say to us this Christmas.

**Lord, open our eyes and hearts this Advent season to the glad and holy tidings of Your angels of long ago, as well as the ones in our midst today. Amen**

(A Devotion from Norman Vincent Peale, printed in the 1992 edition of Daily Guideposts)

Submitted by Carolyn Miller

### CALENDAR

<b>Wed 12/12</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	6:00 pm	Discovery Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Administration Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Thur 12/13</b>	9:00 am	First Mennonite Women
<b>Sun 12/16</b>	9:00 am	Carry-in Breakfast
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/17</b>	12:00 pm	Blood Drive
	6:00 pm	Ladies Exercise
<b>Tues 12/18</b>	6:00 pm	Community Life Commission
<b>Wed 12/19</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	7:00 pm	Music Practice
<b>Sat 12/22</b>	5:00 pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>Sun 12/23</b>	9:00 am	Phil Preaching
	6:00 pm	MYF
<b>Mon 12/24</b>	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
<b>Tues 12/25</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Wed 12/26</b>	9:00 am	Moms In Prayer
	5:30 pm	Outreach Commission
	7:00 pm	Music Practice

**Administrative Assistant Office Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm**  
**Closed Friday**

- **All newsletter submissions need to be in to Maribeth by noon on Tuesday.**

### December Birthdays

Levi Mast – 13  
 Lloyd Troyer – 14  
 Terry Rheinheimer – 15  
 Gary Miller – 16  
 Betty Birky – 17  
 Curt Troyer – 19  
 Bobbie Werker – 21  
 Loretta Troyer – 23  
 Fannie Hochstetler – 24  
 Wilbur Schlabach – 24  
 Kim Christner - 26

### WORSHIP

**Focus statement:** Certainly, no woman in the history of the world has been more honored, more revered, more adored, and more worshipped than Mary, the mother of Jesus. Many legends and myths have grown up around Mary over the years. The great tragedy of Mary is that she has been adored and worshipped by multitudes, yet very few have ever tried to model her

example of faith in God, the faith that she lived by. Mary's great gift to the world is not only her son, but her example of faith

**Background scriptures:** Luke 1:1-56

### Coffee Prep Volunteers

This Sunday: Kris Rheinheimer

Next Sunday: Janelle Walther

### Welcome Center

This Sunday: Karen Pletcher

Next Sunday: Verna Weirich

## ADMINISTRATION

### Stewardship Report for December 9:

Money Given to Budget \$4,461.00

Amount Needed Weekly for Budget \$5,565.25

Year-to-date Money Given to Budget \$79,951.90

Amount Needed Year-to-Date for Budget \$83,478.75

**From the Board:** An affirmation vote will be taken on Sunday, December 16, to affirm new Commission members. The Food Pantry is applying for a 501C3, which is a tax exempt status. The Board is encouraging the Food Pantry in becoming their own entity, and appreciate them covering the majority of the overhead on the building. As part of FMC's mission, we will continue to provide the building. The next step in our Conference affiliation process is a S.S. hour discussion on January 13, 2019. Copies of Evana Conference and Lancaster Conference will be put in the church mailboxes prior to this meeting.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Elkhart County Rally and Prayer Walk for Life** is on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart at 12:00 noon. The program will include emcee Jeff Fater, RETA Men's Coaching Manager and keynote speaker Ramona Trvino. The Rally will include testimonies from those who have experienced abortion and will be followed by a short pray walk to RETA and the Women's care Center in Elkhart. Go to [www.elkhart4life.org](http://www.elkhart4life.org) for more information.

**Emma Church's Men's Chorus** will present their 7th annual Christmas program, "Goin' to Bethlehem," Sunday, December 16, at their home church in Emma Town (1900 S 600 W, Topeka). Finger food will be

served following the 6:30 program. For more information, go to [www.emmachurch.net](http://www.emmachurch.net) or call 260-593-2036.

## DISCIPLING

**Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night.** Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney basketball games on Saturday, Dec. 15. Girls game begins at 6:00 and boys at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

**Bethany Christian High School** will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

**Discovery Bible Study** will not meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We will resume our Joshua study with chapter 9 on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Join us!

**The preschool students** enjoyed their Thanksgiving Feast of Rulli's pizza and fruit salad, with the help of the Outreach Commission donating the pizza. We were also blessed to be the recipient of the Women's Sewing Group with classroom supplies and a monetary donation. Thank you! Our popcorn fundraiser was also a success! December will be a busy month with our Christmas parties and field trip to the church. We'll pack MCC kits with the Women's Sewing Group and decorate cookies donated by Janelle Walther. Preschool families are adopting food pantry families for Christmas this year.

## OUTREACH

**The Ladies Sewing Group** is helping the Pleasant Oaks Preschool assemble MCC Relief Kits on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Please join in the celebration of teaching little ones to give by contributing the following to the donation box in the foyer: Contents (**new** items only) are 1 adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging), 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper), 1 nail clipper (good quality), 1 hand towel (medium

weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in), and 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 in).

**Fátima's Children's Home** has been providing safety, shelter, and love to children in vulnerable situations for over sixteen years. Now, the organization, which receives no governmental support, is opening a new Home. The second location will be in Sololá, located in a region of the country with a high poverty rate and high need. Guatemala has a very small, underfunded foster care system and these homes are the only alternatives to large, state run institutions for children who are removed from their families for reasons of abuse or neglect. At Fátima's Children's Home children are treated as family - help our family grow!

<https://hipgive.org/project/fa-la-la-la-la-to-solola/>

**The Depot MCC Thrift Shop is seeking a halftime bookkeeper.** Applicants must have a commitment to personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership and excellent organizational and communication skills. Proficiency in working with QuickBooks is a must, and experience working in a retail setting is a plus. Hours are flexible. Please send a resume to Galen Kauffmann, general manager, The Depot Thrift Shops, 1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN, 46528 or email [depotmccthriftshops@gmail.com](mailto:depotmccthriftshops@gmail.com).

