

The SPIRIT of the season of Advent & Christmas

Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church
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December 2019

GOD'S PROMISED DAY CAN'T WAIT (HOPE CAN'T WAIT)

Someone once told me that hope was naive—
A foolish game that children play
When they pray that summer won't end,
And bedtime won't come.

Someone once told me that hope was naive as they
Cradled pessimism in their lap like a sleeping cat,
Stroking their ego while they stoked a fire within me.

I never said it would be easy.

The ground is frozen, you are thirsty,
and the night is long.

But I will say this—

I have found hope to be the rhythm of love and
the fiber of faith;

For to hope is to believe in God's ability to bring
about a better day,

And like a child with an Advent calendar,

I will always be counting down the days.

So to those who cradle pessimism and fear,
You can find me outside—with the kids—wishing
on stars,

Praying to the God of today

That tomorrow will be just as beautiful.

Set your alarm.

We'd like for you to join us.

The sunrise won't wait.

Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



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from Pastor John...

This "poetry prayer" by Sarah Are catches the theme of our Advent worship so well that I am lost for words!

What Can't Wait?

God can't wait!

We can't wait!

Advent prepares us to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child!

Set your alarm. We'd like for you to join us.

You're Invited to a
PanCakes and Pajamas Party

Let's Celebrate...



Jesus' Birthday

December 15, 2019

4:00-6:30 pm



Dinner, lots of games, crafts and more.

ALL kids 6 months- 6th grade are welcome

Invite your friends, grandkids, nieces/nephews, cousins and neighbors.

Let's fill Fellowship Hall! **RSVP by December 8**

rdsowa@yahoo.com or sign up in the Gathering Space

Please consider a gift of baby wipes for the Diaper Bank



A DAY FOR DANCING

Sunday, December 15

The adult choir will present *A Day for Dancing*, by Lloyd Pfautsch, Sunday, December 15, during 9:00 and 11:00 worship.

Carols are sung every year to celebrate the birth of Jesus. *A Day for Dancing* presents nine carols which recount the story told in the Christmas lessons. Most of the carols are English from the 15th century.

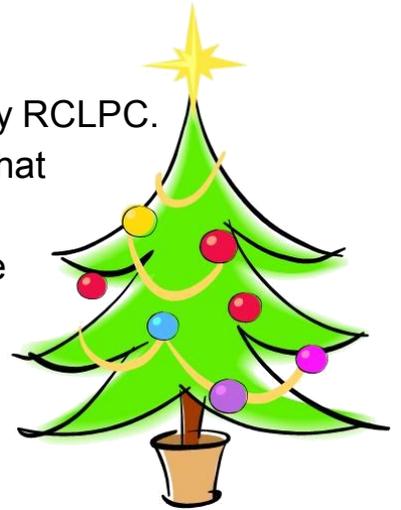
Lo! How a Rose is Blooming is a 15th century carol from Germany, and *What Shall I Bring to the Babe In the Manger?* is a Spanish carol.

Please invite family and friends to worship as we hearken to the story of Christmas with a spirit of joy and dancing.

The Giving Tree is Up and Ready to be “Undecorated”!

You can add a *SPARKLE* to someone’s holiday season!

Each angel tag has a Christmas wish from a Mission supported by RCLPC. The tag may be for a specific individual or a family supported by that agency or the tag may be for general gifts that are given out by that organization. All you do is pick tags off the tree, purchase the item(s) listed on the back and **return the gift as specified to the tree by December 11th**. Thank you for making Christmas a happier one for someone! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joan Jensema



The Delightful Aroma of Butter Cookies



Have fun with your family and friends decorating cookies. People return due to good cookies and we get to show off our beautiful historic church. Did you know we are the oldest continually supported congregation in McHenry County?

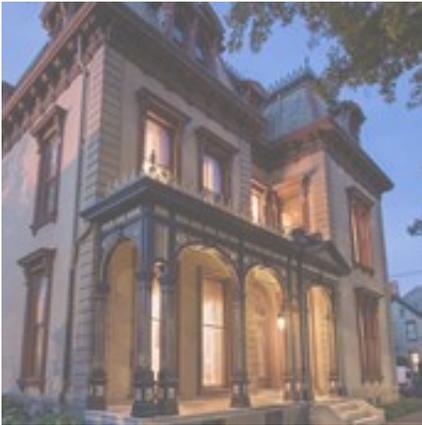
Let’s welcome people with smiles, hot coffee and LOTS of cookies. We need bakers to make our cookie walk successful. Donate a dozen or many dozen of any confection. You can also help with decorating fellowship hall and set up ahead of time or other jobs on cookie day.

Save 25 cents a pound this year when you bring your own containers to the **28th Annual Cookie Walk, Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9am to noon** here at RCLPC.

Let our guests shop first, then select from many platters of delicious breads, candies and sugar cookie cut outs, gingerbread men, fudge, candy, and other delicious treats to share during the holidays for only \$9 per pound. Proceeds will go toward our church budget, Youth Missions, and the Diaper Bank. *What can’t wait*, is for you to join in fellowship to bake and/or help. Sign up today.

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT- WHAT CAN'T WAIT? WE CAN'T!

In our third year of intergenerational Advent, we have chosen to visit the four gospel homes and how they each write about the birth of Jesus. You'll venture into each house and do activities that reflect what is important about the manger for the gospel. Meet us in Fellowship Hall each week for a journey like no other. We can't wait to take this journey with you!



MATTHEW'S HOME- *HOPE* CAN'T WAIT.

December 1, 10-10:50 AM

Welcome to the historical, Victorian home of Matthew. In its 42nd generation of ownership, pay special attention to the details and enjoy each nook and cranny. Spend time with all the ornaments on the tree, all the history that this home evokes. It is a story steeped in history and how we are each a part of Christ's birth. Look at the glorious family tree. When you visit this home, you'll notice the family heirlooms, the antiques, the photographs. At Matthew's house, what can't wait? Here at Matthew's house, hope can't wait.

Activities:

- ◆ **Build a family Advent wreath**
- ◆ **Hot Cocoa Bar**
- ◆ **Whole Church Family Picture Around the Manger at 10:25**
- ◆ **Sign cards for the college students.**



MARK'S HOME - *PEACE* CAN'T WAIT.

December 8, 10-10:50 AM

Are you in search of the real meaning of Christmas? Welcome to Mark's home; we think you'll like the view. Here at Mark's home we look to the future. The manger is important because of the cross, and for that reason, we reflect inwardly on the peace and grace of Jesus Christ. The home may appear sparse, but Mark has personally designed it that way so that you do not get lost in the "extras" of the story but rather return to the fact that Jesus is the reason for the season. As the first of the gospel homes, Mark chose to give just the facts, and we think you'll clearly see that reflected in his choices. What can't wait? At Mark's house, peace can't wait.

Activities:

- ◆ **Sign cards for the shut-ins**
- ◆ **Brewed Awakenings**
- ◆ **Make a bird feeder to help you find peace in nature**
- ◆ **Make foot salts to relax your weary feet**





LUKE'S HOME - *DELIGHT* CAN'T WAIT.

December 15, 10-10:50 AM

Do you believe in the magic of Christmas? Then step inside Luke's glorious house, filled with laughter and parties, angels and dreams. Here at Luke's house all of the nativity characters have their place, and their stories come to life with hallelujahs and resounding music. There is so much to see and do. It will

take time to make it through Luke's home, but the residual joy from it will make this home worthwhile. Enjoy some time on the porch, chatting with old friends or savor the Christmas decorations in each room. Need to fall in love with the Christmas story again? You've come to the right place. What can't wait here? Joy and delight.

ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ **Cantata breakfast party**
- ◆ **Nativity craft**
- ◆ **2-week Christmas challenge**



JOHN'S HOUSE- *COURAGE* AND *LOVE* CAN'T WAIT.

December 22, 10- 10:50 AM

Over the river and through the woods and up a hill and around a windy road, head deep, deep until you are unsure of where you are. Then, off in a distance you will see a light. Welcome to John's house. John's house isn't like any of the other Christmas stories, or, quite frankly, any of the other homes you have seen.

It is a literary scholar's dream world. This home has large glass windows and candles in every one of them. John's house will let you interpret Christ into the fullness of time, starting with the beginning. What can't wait at John's house? Courage and love.

ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ **Celebrate with our college grads**
- ◆ **Make a Christmas Italian Ice**
- ◆ **Build luminaries to line the church walkway on Christmas Eve**
- ◆ **Make a luminaria for your home**

Want to know the stories in more depth?

Come join us Wednesdays for dinner and devotion.

Dinner and Advent Study –

"Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes"

3 Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18

Dinner begins at 5:45pm; Class Discussion, begins at 6:00pm

Please sign up in Gathering Space, so we can plan accordingly.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

4:00pm, Family Service

"A Christmas Mouse"

7:30 & 9:30pm

Candlelight Services

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29

One Service Only at

10:00AM