

Holmes United Methodist Holmes

December 1, 2023
2102—2nd Ave. N
Reynolds, ND 58275

Update!



This Will Be the Last Year of the Nativity

There were stories and maybe a tear or two but at a Nativity meeting it was decided that this year will be the last year of the Holmes Live Nativity. No one is getting younger and there aren't young folks to take over. We decided to end with a celebration instead of waiting until we actually couldn't do it anymore.

We know we have touched many people over the years with the actual meaning of Christmas. And we hope some folks are moved to find their own ways — a live nativity or something else — to share the Good News of a Savior born in Bethlehem who comes to save His people from their sins.

This year's schedule is like this:

- +Thursday, Dec. 14 is set up at Ollmans
- + Live Nativity Performances
 - Saturday, December 16 at 6/6:30 pm
 - Sunday, December 17 at 6/6:30 pm



Holmes Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The parish has planned the following Schedule for that day.

Trinity at 9 am
Beaver Creek at 11 am
Holmes at 5 pm
Chaplain Mark leading



So please notice that there is NOT a morning service at Holmes on December 24. The only service will be at 5:00 pm.



Poinsettias for Church

Shirley Beine is ordering at least six Poinsettias (for \$16) which need sponsors. If you would like to do that let Shirley know you'll take one and tell Chaplain Mark if you want it listed in honor or memory of someone.

Of course, if you would like to bring flowers of your own that is completely acceptable.

Merry Christmas!

How Was Your Christmas?

“ ... and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed in a manger, because there was room in the inn.” Luke 2:7

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” – C.S. Lewis

You’ve heard about “preaching to the choir”? That’s when we give a message to people who already know and believe it. If I say to you that the significance of Christmas is the Christ who came to earth to be the Savior from our sins – I expect you know that; you believe it.

So, here’s a question you will hear: “How was your Christmas?” Most of us, I expect, just say it was good or fine. Sometimes we might begin to say who was there and what we did.

How about a closer look at the question? In looking back at Christmas gatherings over the years what made them truly memorable? We work very hard at gifts but do they make Christmas good? And I don’t envy all the work some (mostly women) put in on food. I enjoy the food – everything except sweet potatoes – but does that make or break the time?

Looking back over my decades of Christmas experience there’s some kinds of things which stand out. I remember some special times which included a special and intimate conversation. There are special worship experiences which stand out both in church and among family. And I got to thinking, what if we worked as hard at helping create those as we do for gifts, decorating or food? How about these?

+We read the Christmas narrative and then ask, “Who is the most interesting character, besides Jesus, to you? Why?”

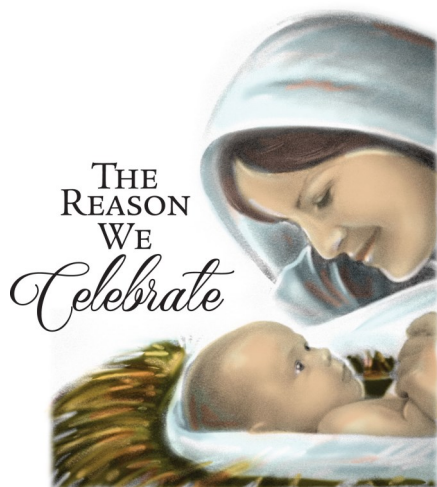
+We reminisce about a gift that had special meaning and share that.

+We think about those who are not with us anymore and share appreciation and memories.

+We attend a worship experience and then, later, share about what made it special or what kind of thoughts came to mind.

You can think of others. But it takes some planning. Remember that the stable didn’t just appear, but God had planned it. It is so easy in the busyness of the season to just skip these kinds of things and try again next year.

Christmas is built on the truth that God sent His Son to be our Savior. It was no accident. The Old Testament prophets predicted it. Our Christmas need not be an accident either. Think what might make it special and what you could do to make that happen.



See you in Church
Chaplain Mark