

December 21, 2010

To our dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Laurel Galan and AKF:

Winter has really arrived here in Danville, California. Our winters bring us the rains we need during the dry season to sustain us. We have been in the grips of a big storm over that last few days with a lot of water causing small flooding on roads. Although it is rainy and cold, we gather together to enjoy the Christmas time, it makes us appreciate our families and our church, Peace Lutheran, even more. Christmas is a joyous time for us at Peace. Our children come home from college and all families are preparing for a big Holiday feast to celebrate Jesus' birth. Early in December our Pastor Anita who assists Pastor Steve with our children, had a special day for the children to come and decorate gingerbread houses. Many candies are applied as decorations and the children love to contribute their houses to their families' celebrations. At our Church we will have two services on Christmas Eve. One early in the evening at 5:00 this is the Children's Service. During that service we will tell the Christmas Story with the children acting in a play about the birth of Jesus, from the Annunciation to the celebration of his birth by the Wise men from the East. The later service at 10:00pm is anticipation of Jesus' birth. On Christmas Day we will have a 10:00am service to celebrate the joy of His birth.

Although we are happy this time of year, there is still a lot of suffering going on in our Congregation. Unemployment is very high in California over 10% of people who want to work can't find jobs; making it very stressful for families to enjoy the Holiday season. We all know people who are unemployed, either friends or family. At Peace we share with other families who are not so fortunate; buying gifts and food for others.

Here is some news about people you know at Peace. Karl and Grace Pfeiffer's daughter, Elizabeth will not be home for Christmas as she is spending a year in Germany. Christmas for them will be different this year. Christy Winter's family is together as her son Bobby is home from college for a few weeks. Rich Collins is doing as well as can be expected since the death of his wife Judy earlier. He will be surrounded by his family and we wish them all God's love and grace. Arlene Reed will be busy with her family this Christmas. My son, Logan, and my daughter, Whitney will be home with us for Christmas and we are looking forward to a big Christmas Eve celebration with lots of relatives.

As we wait for the miracle of Christmas and a reaffirmation of God's love for all his people; We wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace, Ceil McCloy for the Peace Partnership Committee