

Last week's family faith talk opportunity: **Name something that gives you joy.**

A letter from CS Lewis which was discovered inside a secondhand bookstore sees the author writing of how “real joy ... jumps under ones ribs and tickles down one’s back and makes one forget meals and keeps one (delightedly) sleepless o’ nights.”

Alison Flood, The Guardian (December 9, 2014)

According to the thesaurus, synonyms for joy are: amusement, bliss, charm, cheer, comfort, delight, elation, glee, humor, pride, satisfaction, wonder. Joy is **GREAT** happiness, pleasure. So how are you doing? Are you ready to receive the King? Have you prepared room for Him in your heart? Are you ready to join heaven and nature in singing out your joy? There’s still time!

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n, and nature sing.*
Isaac Watts



THIS AND THAT

1. What a **JOYFUL** treat it was to see our children act out the story of the first Christmas on Sunday! Many thanks to Jack Casadei (baby Jesus), his mom, Erin Cronk (Mary) and Landon Good (Joseph) for portraying the holy family. And thanks to all the angels, shepherds, animals, wise men and star; to those who helped costume and chaperone the children; to Jack Bowman for accompanying the carols; and to those who read the scripture. The best Christmas Pageant ever!

2. There will be two performances, 5:00 and 7:00, of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at our church on Saturday, December 17th. There is no cost for admission but donations are welcome. This is a family-friendly presentation and if you are able to attend, **do NOT miss this! do NOT miss this! do NOT miss this!**

3. This Sunday, December 18th, there will be Sunday School, Youth Discussion Group and nursery care. Plan to join our all-ages Christmas caroling expedition immediately after church. We travel by school bus to Geer Village and Noble Horizons and return to the church by 1:00.

4. Our children are invited to participate in a “Pop Up Christmas Pageant” at Noble Horizons on Sunday afternoon. Please read further details at the conclusion of this letter.

5. **ON THE HORIZON:**

- Saturday, December 17th *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, 5:00 and 7:00
- Sunday, December 18th Sunday School, Christmas Caroling, 11:15
- Sunday, December 18th Pop Up Christmas Pageant, Noble Hor. 2:30
- Saturday, December 24th All-Ages Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 - No nursery care
- Sunday, December 25th All-Ages Worship, 10:00 - No nursery care
- Sunday, January 1st All-Ages Worship, 10:00 - No nursery care

6. We miss you when you're not here.

This week's family faith talk opportunity: **How can you SHOW someone love?**

Blessings,
Barbara

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
Colossians 3:12*

POP UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Youth participants are being sought for a special Pop Up Christmas Pageant to be presented at Noble Horizons on **Sunday, December 18 at 3:15 PM**. Unlike a traditional pageant, please note, that there will be no prior rehearsal for this event. All are welcome and encouraged to join!

Younger children will wear costumes to represent the familiar characters in the Nativity Story, while older youth narrators read an account of the

Nativity, and all attendees (young and old alike) are encouraged to join in singing familiar Christmas carols.

All youth participants are asked to gather at **Noble Horizons by 2:30 PM on Sunday, December 18th** – at which point remaining roles and costumes will be chosen. Narrators have the option to be costumed or non-costumed. There are opportunities for all ages of youth; infants through high school students are welcome to participate. Participants are encouraged to call in advance to request a particular role or to obtain a copy of the text to practice reading out loud.

The Plan in one (or two) easy steps: 1) SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT: If possible, please RSVP via email below to indicate interest in this event. This will help us organize some of the more prominent roles and costumes in advance, and give the narrators the opportunity to practice the readings in advance of the performance; 2) VERY IMPORTANT: arrive by 2:30PM at Noble Horizons for a pageant orientation and final distribution of the costumes and roles to all present.

This community event is being co-sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church, Lakeville Methodist Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Fr. David Sellery at frsellery@davidsellery.org or call 860-435-9290.