

A Word from the Pastor:

"In lieu of Chocolate... send money!"

Christmas – I am trying to get excited about this Christmas season but with the economy being rough on many people I am worried that the tradition of purchasing people gifts for the sake of giving and not for the thought, may create even a deeper financial problem for people.

I shared this with a friend as I sat in the hot tub a few weeks ago and mentioned that I was trying very hard to get in better shape and the holidays don't help the situation. I told him that people know that chocolate is my absolute favorite gift and personal weakness. He said, well just write a note saying that in lieu of Chocolate send money! We laughed about it and then began to think about how if all people would give what others actually need instead of what they want the holidays would be what they really were meant to be... truly giving from the heart.

Even many the gifts that were given to people in the Bible were to fill need even when it came to royalty such as the Christ Child. Yes, he is the King of Kings, but he also had needs.

"On entering the house, the Wise Men saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11 (NRSV)

These were gifts from the elite for the elite. The Wise Men brought Jesus these gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh but they were also used for medicinal purposes as well as worship traditions of life and death.

So this Christmas, give a gift that makes a difference in someone's life. Give to meet a need and not only desires.

If you are interested in purchasing a gift which has a global impact see the article in this newsletter from the ELCA Good Gifts program. You can even give a family in Africa a goat! By the way, thanks for the chocolate anyway!

AMEN!

Pastor Tony



For more information on the ELCA Good Gifts program
www.elca.org/goodgifts

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