

**“This Christmas ... one for the SOUL”**  
**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462**  
**Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939**  
[www.allsaintsjoy.com](http://www.allsaintsjoy.com) (web-site)    [allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allsaintsjoy@sbcglobal.net) (e-mail)

**December ... 2008**

**Hi, Friends!**

Rushin' down LaGrange Road ... let's get one more thing done before saying “enough is enough.”  
Already thinking about tomorrow ... as usual, my agenda is #1. My world takes over ... all the “other worlds”  
kind-of pass me by on my way *to where I think I need to be next.*  
It's the “Wal-Mart Shuffle” ... as I make my way through the door.

Then he catches my eye. So does she. I pause ... then I stop ... and I watch.  
An aging grandpa-type ... limping, kind-of struggling ... holding the little girl's hand.  
Their clothes spell hardship ... their faces exude struggle ... I wonder once again what I'm in a hurry for.  
*How will their Christmas be?*  
*Will her wishes come true? ... will Santa be there? ... is “being a Grandpa” for him all*  
*it's cracked-up to be? I want to take the “limp” away ... I want her to be free to make snow-angels*  
*with Q in the front yard!!*

I see him struggle to put her in a cart ... and there they go ---- slowly down aisle 3.  
For now ... this is where the angels sing ... this is where the shepherds walk ... this is where the wise-men  
discover what it means to give.  
Aisle 3.  
St. Coletta's.  
In a crowded apartment ... where a single-parent tries to hold it all together.

The star of Bethlehem is in you.  
It's in Annie's ride to chemotherapy ... in Dawn's family room ... in Kieran's journey back to the hospital.  
It's in Kim's smile ... little Drew's quiet struggle ... Sandra's courage when she hears the news.  
It's in the quietness of your own soul ----- as you pay the bills, go to work, re-direct your priorities,  
and try to help your family understand ... *things may have to be a little different this year.*

Yes, it will be different (even tho' I say this every year).  
The manger will be closer ... maybe even in my own the back yard.  
The shepherds will look different ... because I'll see them along the way.  
The star will shine differently ... 'cause I want it to come from inside my heart.

And the wise-men's gifts?  
More precious than ever: my time, my attention, my love, my heart.

There is a humble place on LaGrange Road.  
It's not fancy, but it's open. It's not big ... but it has a big heart.  
The preaching is average ... the coffee is strong.

And just maybe ... together ... we'll keep the star shining ... even in aisle 3.

Joy and Love ... “rev”

***A stewarding/giving note.***

Our official “campaign” will kind-of wind down this weekend. Just want to share ... how inspiring it is ... to see all of us WORK TOGETHER to keep our humble church strong and viable. Your pledge/commitment means a lot ... and hopefully you know how confidential it is. Please ----- do your best ... I hope All Saints continues to be worth your financial and spiritual support. Special thanks to Nancy Ellis and the “stewardship team” for their unselfish support and time spent caring for our church.

**SOME ADVENT – CHRISTMAS NOTES**

**\*ARTISTS’ FAIRE ...** this Thursday (Dec. 4) before and after church ... and Sunday (Dec. 7) ... all morning. Come and “celebrate the arts” ... we’ll have some light refreshments to enjoy on Thursday.

**Because of all that is going on ... we won’t be having “advent suppers.”**

Come a little early for worship ... have some coffee, maybe a glass of wine around the tree ... Thursday evenings are a good time to pause, reflect, and capture the true spirit.

**OUR OUTREACH CONTINUES ... THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.**

*If you adopted one or more folks ... the gifts need to be here on Sunday.*

*\*We still can use cash/check donations ... the “love bucket” will be smilin’ on Sunday.*

*Also ----- youth – groupers ... if you’d like to help us wrap ... we will be doing this beginning at 3:00 on Wednesday, Dec. 10 (it’s our only day) ---- and you can get COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS.*

**A WINE TASTING PARTY ... AROUND THE TREE.**

*Saturday, December 13, 6:30 ... tickets are \$12 ... bring a “little something” to share. It’s an adult evening ... please invite neighbors and friends. Last call for tickets this Sunday!!*

**A FEW YOUNG FOLKS NOTES**

*\*Youth group ... this Sunday ... quick breakfast in the kitchen ... then off to “team connect” to bring the Christmas spirit to our friends at Sunrise!!*

*\*Sunday School-ers ----- Your “practice” for our Christmas Eve service is on Saturday, Dec. 20 ... 10 AM. You bring such joy to us at 4:00 on Christmas Eve.*

**SPEAKING OF CHRISTMAS EVE**

*\*4:00 service ... with lots of joy and help from our Sunday School kids.*

*5:00 – 9:30 ... open house at the Borlings ----- drop by anytime!!*

*9:30 and 11:00 ---- candlelight worship (a brief mid-night Communion after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service)*

**MEN’S CLUB POTLUCK ... Thursday, Dec. 18, 8:00 (around the tree)**

*We would like to have “new guys” join us ... to see the kind of things our men’s club is doing. You can sign-up on Sunday ... or just give us a call here at the office. The men’s club is all about “doing good stuff.”*

**A BIG THANK-YOU to Sue Smith and Len Weislo ... for their work**

*to up-date and improve our web-site ----- please check it out: [www.allsaintsjoy.com](http://www.allsaintsjoy.com)*

*Information ... prayer requests ... sermons ... they are there. It’s all a part of trying to keep us connected.*

To all of you ---- a joyous and bless Advent and Christmas.

