

# Joy Mennonite Church

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# DECEMBER 1991

Dear Friends,

Hoping that the just past Thanksgiving season has left us in that spirit - that we can now rejoice and be thankful this Advent season at the anniversary of Christ's birth this month. Christ's birth allows us to turn from material to spiritual relevance in our lives and of our social structure.

Have a wonderful, meaningful, and joyous Christmas.

*Bill Klassen*

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### HOW DO WE SENSE THAT GOD IS WITH US

This year during advent we are inviting various people to share a special time when they experienced God with them. As we lift up these stories and look at them we hope it will help us realize anew how God wants to be with us. Also by sharing, one person's story can become our story, too.

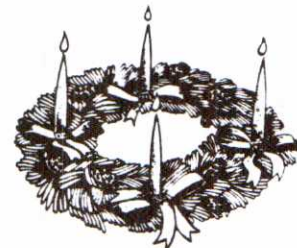
So often we are more aware of God being with us in the extraordinary experience, like crisis times, and forget that God also comes to us in the ordinary experiences. In fact, the coming of God to humanity in the person of Jesus was so ordinary many would not believe. Some asked for a miracle so they could believe. Jesus helped us understand God in very ordinary ways. The rain that God permits to fall on the good and the bad shows us the nature of God's love for all people, both good and bad. The seeds that grow and the little children laughing and playing, so ordinary, yet people with faith perceive God with us in these ordinary things. Jesus spent much of his time with ordinary people, or perhaps less than ordinary, outcasts, powerless people. These ordinary people sensed God was with them when they

were with Jesus. There were others, spiritual leaders, people with clout, as we say, who did not sense God was with them. Some actually said it was not God, but the devil who was manifested in Jesus. Others sought to secure their own positions of power by befriending Jesus. Maybe we cannot speak very well theologically about God, and what God can and cannot do. What we can see is the same story acted out again. The powerful like to claim a special status with God; they accuse anyone who threatens their power of being of the devil. The powers that be declare war and then because of war's uncertainty, they pray that God will be with us. God "with us" means victory and, of course, victory also means to them that God is with us, and so many are deceived.

We have also seen another people, people who worked for a more just world. They suffered terribly for this. These people did not expect victory in their strife but rested in one thing, "God is with us." Jesus warned his followers to be awake and discerning or they would be deceived. The danger of deception has not diminished. Let us be awake, let us be discerning. God wants to be with us. Let us not miss God this Christmas. *MUSES MAUST*

## VISITORS

For a number of weeks we have been blessed. While attending FAA courses here, Lois Maust and Wade Cortez have been worshipping with us. A pity that they are temporary residents in OKC.

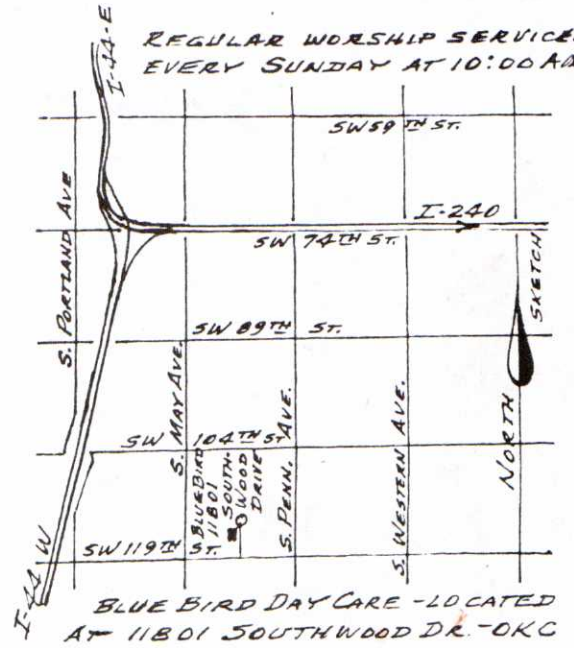


# Special Announcement

For fellowship of love and sharing a carry-in dinner will be hosted at our place of worship on Saturday evening - 6:00 p.m. - 14 Dec. 1991. All are welcome at 11801 Southwood Dr.

## Celebrate

Advent is a time for soul preparation, and to that end we will observe Holy Communion during regular Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. on 22 Dec. 1991. Celebrate with us.



*Joy Mennonite Church*  
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