



The Link

December 6, 2009

“We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace. We will become a world-wide church dedicated to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit.”

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, let us continue our celebration of this season with some understanding of what the coming of Christ means for our world and us individually. Jesus tells us, first and foremost, that history and human life are not meaningless. There is a plan and a pattern that underlies all human endeavor, and the culmination of that great plan will be the coming of Jesus Christ. A long time ago in a manger, a baby was born. He was a sign to us. His presence read, “THIS IS NOT AN ABANDONED WORLD.” Advent says that history has a purpose. This world matters to God.

Advent also says that we are to be diligent in making a difference in the world. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees,” Jesus said. “When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. It’s easy to get lax in our preparation for the Kingdom. I’m sure you have noticed that the newest members of any church are always the most enthusiastic. It is sometimes difficult for people who have served Christ over a lifetime to maintain that enthusiasm. Advent is a time of rekindling that enthusiasm, that devotion to Christ. This world matters to God and our work in Christ’s behalf matters to God.

This brings us to the last thing to be said: the centerpiece of Advent is Christ himself. Whether we are telling the Christmas story about the babe in the manger or whether we are telling about the other stories of Christ’s life, at the center of our message is Christ himself. Christ emptied himself, came into our world, lived among us, died for our sins, and promised us that he would return.

Today let us begin celebrating the tremendous gift each of us has received. Remember you matter to Christ, you need to be enthusiastic in sharing Christ to the world, and your message must always be centered in Christ himself.

Claude Rains, President/Financial Officer, Central Missouri Mission Center

December 13—Temple Advent Service, 7 PM, *Follow the Star*. Join the Council of Twelve, who are planning, presiding, and participating on a journey to Bethlehem and beyond. Nativities from around the world will be displayed through December 23rd in Shalom Place.

January 2 — Jr. High/Sr. High Mini Leadership Retreat, 10 am-5 pm, at the Warrensburg Church. Come with fund raising ideas.

January 9 — Worship for Everyone, Pleasant Hill Church, 8:30 am-2 pm. This is the second workshop of three workshops and will concentrate on understanding worship. The third workshop will be on transforming worship and will be held at **Sedalia Church, February 6,** same time. The workshop is free, but please call 1-888-747-0439 to register. Bring a sack lunch and drink will be provided. Hope to see you there!

January 10 — Mission Center Council will meet at the Mission Center Office, 3 p.m.

January 10—Third Event of the Auditorium Organ's 50th Birthday. Ken Cowan and Lisa Shihoten, a husband and wife duo, will present a unique concert of organ and violin music at the Auditorium at 3:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, visit http://www.cofchrist.org/dome_spire/calendar.asp

January 21—CMMC Young Adults (ages 18-35, single or married) meet with First Presidency, 5-9 p.m. at the Warrensburg Church. Pizza and salad bar will be provided at 5 and opening worship will begin at 6. Call 1-888-747-0439 or 660-747-6193 if childcare is needed.



January 17—President Stephen Veazey will bring words of guidance and inspired counsel as the church continues to engage in prayer, discussion, and discernment about important issues. The church is invited and encouraged to participate through on-site attendance at the Temple, and via live webcast at www.cofchrist.org.

January 31—Temple Event—*Light for the Journey*, 2:30-5:30 p.m. You are invited to experience spiritual renewal through encounters with God and one another. Come seeking the presence of God and be touched by the Spirit in Word, song, silence, and fellowship. Join with members of the First Presidency. Infant care and special activities for children and youth are planned. Go to www.cofchrist.org for more information.

February 7—World Conference Delegate Meeting, 2:30 pm, Warrensburg Church.

March 20 — Tony and Charmaine Chvala-Smith Workshop, 8:30 am -4 pm at the Warrensburg Church. Register by calling 1-888-747-0439 or locally, 747-6193.

April 10-17, 2010 — World Conference at Independence.

2010 Family Camp, will be June 30-July 4, at Lake Doniphan. Start making plans with your friends to be there!

2010 Camp Dates:

Children's Camp — June 4-6, Grades K, 1, 2, Camp Far Westa

Sr. High Camp — July 5-8, Grades 9, 10, 11, 12, Camp Far Westa

Junior Camp — August 2-6, Grades 3, 4, 5, Camp Far Westa

Jr. High Camp — August 2-6, Grades 6, 7, 8, Camp Far Westa

Spectacular — July 24-31, Grades 10, 11, 12, Graceland University

**The Central Missouri Mission Center Office will be closed
December 24-January 4, 2010 for the holidays.**



***Happy
Holidays***

from us to you!

Happy New Year
Happy New Year