



*May the joy of Jesus fill your heart and
and
rejoice in the hope and peace
May we keep our minds and
true Star of Christmas*

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to you!

As we pause at this time of year to celebrate the birth of our Savior and thank you for your faithful partnership in proclaiming this One that we celebrate, let us not be buried beneath the excess responsibilities that come through additional commitments and programs, the shopping and planning and everything else that it is. It is an opportunity to break out of the mold the world has set and make this season the real reason for the season!

The Apostle Paul writes, *"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Not by works, but by His grace, through the gift of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." Galatians 4:4-6*

We are the beneficiaries of this promise. God did indeed send His Son, Jesus, as a tiny infant to a manger, came to make each of us God's own dear child. It's all about Jesus. That focus certainly happens in our lives. However, often that's where it stops. We get so busy with holiday traditions and calling is to connect people to Jesus. What about making Jesus apart of our lives? filled our conversations, our Christmas cards and letters, our social media posts. What witness to the world be?

Everything else is really subservient to Jesus! One of my favorite Christmas traditions is the Manger. It's kind of a redeeming image. It says, to me, that even the gift of forgiveness, that maybe the St. Nicholas tradition needs greater emphasis. The first received the most precious gift of life in Jesus.

During these wondrous and busy days, may Jesus be and remain our focus. The main thing—and that main thing is always Jesus!

A few additional things to consider:

Click for info on:

- [LutheranLife Online](#)
- Travel to the Holy Land with President Walton. [INFO.](#)
- Next FLGA District Board of Directors Meeting Jan. 29-30, 2010. For [INFO](#)
- Feb 4-6, 2010: LAA and EC Conference – Zion New Life, Winter Garden, FL - [INFO](#)
- 2010 Hearts for Jesus project: “Soles for Burundi” [INFO.](#)
- Veterans of the Cross Retreat, March 1-3, 2010 - [INFO](#)
- LCMS National Youth Gathering – We Believe [INFO](#)

Christmas Greeting from President Walton

This year's Christmas Greeting from the District Office comes in the same format as our monthly e-news. We hope you will share this greeting with your entire staff or membership, and also forward it to anyone else you feel may enjoy it.

- We are currently working with LCMS WORLD RELIEF and H families, called Veterans of the Cross/Soldiers of the Cross (retired workers). This fund helps pastors and church workers with financial assistance. You will be hearing more about this in the next meeting with Kallesen for additional information.
- The other Veterans of the Cross, the one that focuses on retired workers, will be held March 1-3, 2010 for retired rostered workers. If you would like to speak to Paulette.
- Let me say a word about calling congregations. I know some of you may not understand that there is a protocol in place which I am trying to understand, in terms of getting the required information and timing issue that needs to be validated. History shows that in terms of grieving, and setting a vision and preparing for a new situation can create a disastrous situation. I realize that congregations need to encourage you to use this time wisely to prepare. Without the Lord's help, "They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength..." The new District President are indeed gracious. Just know I am confident we are able.
- We are currently working with the interview committee to find a replacement after 26 years of faithful service to our District. Unfortunately, we are losing Neubauer, with him when he retires, so we will be shifting our focus. We will miss them both a lot!!
- Circuit Counselors should be getting together plans for Spring. Please receive more information about this soon.
- Let me encourage your congregation, if it is possible, now to renew your current District pledge! We've been blessed by the creativity of the past month, and it all helps us as we serve together to glorify God.
- Like many congregations, the District is going through their own challenges. Many are going through, and want to gently encourage you to take steps of faith and commitment to Him. I know this is preached, but commitments make the District function, and together, we can overcome. Once again, I remind you, the District is funded through your support.

Let me again express how humbled I am to serve in this position, and how dark and uneasy, but we have a Savior who came as the Light to the world and look forward to going where we've never been in 2010!

Have a very Merry Christmas and celebrate the One who is the reason

**Share this e-news
with a friend!**

If you know someone who might enjoy receiving the e-news from the Florida-Georgia District President, please send them your copy and invite them to join the group, by clicking on the link below:

[Email Sign-up](#)

Focused with you on Jesus,

Greg

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"The love of Christ urges us on." 2 Corinthians 5:14

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*Top: Chaz Ruiz, Don Lauher, Lynda Voss, Mar
Carol Neubauer, Rich Neubauer, Paulette Is*

*Bottom: Dave Weidner, Cindy Hammerstro
Greg Walton, Doug Kallesen*

Insert: Kathy Keene



