



Life Together January 2019

Denny Park Lutheran Church

***Gather to worship and fellowship
Grow in the knowledge and love of Christ;
Go...serve, love and impact the world.***

The Gifts of the Magi

For many of us, the story of Christ's birth is a familiar one. And yet, as we hear the story again, there is always something new to learn, significant details that can sometimes astonish us!

I have found it interesting to learn more about the Wise Men or Magi, those travelers from the east who came seeking Jesus and bearing gifts for him. We actually don't know much about the Magi - we aren't even sure how many there were. All we know is that there were three gifts given by them. We may wonder why Matthew, in his Gospel account, goes to the trouble of identifying the specific gifts that the Magi presented. Part of the answer is that the coming of the Magi with their gifts fulfills a prophesy about Gentiles bringing gold and frankincense (Isaiah 60:6). But there is more: each of the gifts tells us something significant about the Christ child.

The first gift given to Jesus was **gold**. Gold is a gift fit for a king. And indeed, though he didn't appear much like a King when he was born of a peasant girl into poverty, this child Jesus was indeed a king! As God in the flesh, Jesus was the King of the entire Universe, the King of Kings. Gold was certainly a fitting gift.

The second gift was **frankincense**. Frankincense is a sweet-smelling gum resin made from the sap of a tree. Frankincense was the purest incense of that day. When burned, it produced a white smoke which symbolized the prayers and praises of the faithful ascending to heaven. The ancients often burned frankincense during worship.

Frankincense reminds us of Jesus' priestly role. Like earthly priests, he would go before God interceding on behalf of the people. But this gift also suggests that Jesus will be more than any earthly priest - He would also offer a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Some would also suggest that this gift reveals that Jesus himself is worthy of worship.

The third gift was **myrrh**, another aromatic gum resin that was considered a valuable commodity. It was mainly used for anointing the dead. This was a surprising gift! However, this gift too, was appropriate and prophetic. While Jesus truly was a King and a high priest, it was also true that Jesus had come to earth for the purpose of dying!

The refrain for the hymn "What Child is This?" says "This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherd's guard and angels sing." The last refrain, however, is quite profound as it adds, "Nails, spear shall pierce him through the lamb of God for me for you." The myrrh symbolizes the death that Jesus would one day suffer on our behalf.

There are many significant details in the Christmas story - details that point to the true character and mission of Jesus Christ. It is amazing that even the gifts of the Magi teach us something about Jesus: his kingly identity; his priestly role of interceding for us, and his purpose to one day die as a sacrifice.

As you hear the Christmas story once again this year, I hope that you will allow God to speak to you both through the larger themes as well as the smaller details, giving you insight, hope and comfort!

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Advent and Christmas season,

Pastor Deborah Lunde



Well we are one year into the vision known as “The Sanctuary at Denny Park”. As the one who deals with the day to day of implementing this vision, I am ending this first year with a mixture of optimism, encouragement, and frustration. On one hand, a great deal has taken place. On the other hand, it often appears on the outside that nothing has happened at all. Patience may admittedly not be one of my higher virtues, but I also understand how essential it is for the process of change. Patience has been the word for this first year as everything sustainable takes a certain investment of time and time is not something that I am not always fond of investing.

Time is needed for relationships to form which in turn lead to beneficial partnerships in the neighborhood. Relationships and partnerships create awareness and awareness is critical to connecting people to what is going on here and ultimately to Jesus and community. Time for me is both necessary and frustrating. I know that it takes it out of my hands (frustrating) and puts it back in God’s hands (necessary).

As we enter in to a new year, optimism and encouragement are building for me. Just yesterday I sat at Creoworks with a group of people in whom we have placed our trust to complete this first phase of our project. I can’t emphasize enough how much better I feel after spending some time with them in their workspace and center of operations. I was able to hear their hearts and witness their commitment to excellence. These are not just builders, they are craftsmen and women who take great pride in their product while personally connecting to their clients. They are so accomplished and committed to their craft that their list of clients and current projects span the entirety of the most recognized companies, organizations and Institutions in the region. Our project was prominently displayed on their board and the same care and commitment to excellence was demonstrated in our discussions of the upcoming schedule. I have no doubt that we are in the right hands and, when completed, this first phase will be an attractive and connective space, enabling us to create incredible opportunities to demonstrate love and commitment to the South Lake Union neighborhood while dissolving barriers to Jesus, faith, and church community.

Thank you for your vision and commitment to lifting Jesus here in the city. I am confident it’s happening right where and when it needs to happen. *Dan*

Beginning 2019 with 3 days of Prayer!!



Join every LCMC Congregation, Member and Pastor's to set aside some time each day on January 1st, 2nd & 3rd. Each person can structure this time however seems best. DPLC will have a guide that will be available on Sunday December 30th.

DPLC Women

Here are some dates to put on your calendar

Miriam Circle: Monday Jan. 14th @10:15

We will meet together for Bible Study & fellowship in room 103 (fellowship hall) Come join us and invite a friend!

Quilters Group: Tuesday Jan. 22nd @ 10am

We will meet in room 103 (fellowship hall)



Are you a prayer warrior, or do you know someone in need of prayer?

The DPLC prayer chain would love to hear from you and support you or someone you know in prayer.

Please know you are welcomed to call:

206-282-0383 to let us know of any needs so we can lift any needs before God.

“Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:12



DPLC Calendar

January 1-3 LCMC Three days of Prayer

Sunday, January 6th

Worship, 9:30am
Fellowship, 10:30am
Adult Bible Study, 11:00am

January 7th, All reports from DPLC officers and ministry teams for Annual Report are due to the office

Sunday, January 13th

Worship, 9:30am
Fellowship, 10:30am
Adult Bible Study, 11:00am
Council Meeting, Noon

Monday, January 14th, 10:15 am: Miriam Circle
Room 103 (fellowship hall)

Sunday, January 20th

Worship, 9:30am
Fellowship, 10:30am
Adult Bible Study, 11:00am

Tuesday, January 22nd, 10 am Quilters Group:
Room 103 (fellowship hall)

Sunday, January 27th

Worship, 9:30am
Fellowship, 10:30am
Adult Bible Study, 11:00am
Property Team Meeting, 11:30am

DPLC - ON LINE

Please visit our website and join DPLC on Facebook and share the page with friends and family.

www.dennyparklutheran.org
www.facebook.com/Denny-Park-Lutheran-Church

You can now give and tithe online

www.dennyparklutheran.org/give-online.html



Pastor Deborah is available for prayer or visits.
Contact her at: 206-623-7447 or email her at prdeborah@outlook.com