

Greg Olson

From: First Lutheran Church [flcptown@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2007 10:04 AM
To: greeolson@frontiernet.net



December, 2007

Dear members of First Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When we were down in Lakeshore, MS, this last month, we worked on the house of Miss Judy. We got most of sheet rock in and now the skeleton of a house was beginning to look like a home. They have been living in a FEMA trailer for 27 months since Katrina whipped out their home with a 40 foot storm surge. Now they may make it in by Christmas.

Miss Judy said, "Last Christmas when my grand-babies came over all we had was a paper Christmas tree taped to the frig. Now this year we can have a real tree."

We sometimes take our "real trees" for granted. I won't this year. But as I think about her statement, there is something more here. We sometimes have this "paper" faith that we hang up for Christmas. But do we have a "real" faith?

Real faith I suspect takes Jesus very seriously in our lives. It allows Jesus to change us so that we no longer are caught up in fear, resentments, grief and pessimism. A real faith for Christmas is filled with joy in the coming of a Savior and the compassion to share with the world around us. I hope you have a very real experience with Jesus this year. Maybe in a hymn, a worship service, or in your giving, Jesus will be very real for you this Christmas.

Rita and I want to thank you all for your support of the ministry here at First Lutheran Church. We thank you for the Christmas greetings, the prayers, and your contribution to making this a special time and witness to our community. You are in our prayers this season. We thank God daily for you.

Peace,
Pastor Greg and Rita Olson

Sunday, Dec. 16, 9 am Worship, 10:15 Sunday School Program, and then soup lunch in the fellowship hall.

Sunday the 23th with Advent 4Worship at 9, 10:15 Sunday School.

Dec. 24th 5:00 pm Holy Communion worship on Christmas Eve and 11 pm Candlelight service.

Dec. 30th, 9:00 am Youth Service, favorite hymns.