



## From Our Pastor

### *The Perfect Gift*

Isn't it wonderful to find the perfect gift for someone you love? Many think the perfect gift is something that makes the receiver say, "Wow!" Perhaps because the gift is extravagant and would never be purchased by the person receiving it. Some think the perfect gift is the latest "must have" toy or "hot" item on the market.

Yet, in reality maybe the perfect gift is more something that brings joy to the receiver's eyes immediately upon opening and for years to come. Something personal with a value not necessarily established by money or the opinions of others.

When you think back to childhood, is there one Christmas gift you received that, to this day, makes your heart smile? If so you experienced a great example of Christmas giving. A gift that in some way reflects the love of God we see in the coming of the Christ child.

If you never received such a Christmas gift you are not alone. Many sense something special about the Holy Night, but can't quite put their finger on it. Some feel a sense of loneliness, emptiness, and a yearning for something more. Some get stressed, even angry, and reject Christmas. Perhaps because it doesn't come to them on their terms. After all, they have wants and needs that seem to have little to do with the ancient story of a baby born in Bethlehem.

"Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" we ask. Not the right question if we want

to remember what Christmas is really about. Of course Christmas is about celebrating God's perfect gift to the world- Jesus Christ. Not about the fulfillment of the desires of a shopping list. While that may seem obvious, it can be very difficult to find evidence of Jesus in our daily rush through December in our materialistic, Santa centered, "happy holiday," culture.

God wants us to remember that there is nothing more precious than a baby. A baby created by God for a special purpose, the One sent to save us from ourselves. The One sent to show us how God means for us to live and to love. Receiving the truth of Jesus is the most personal and perfect gift we can hope for. The gift that keeps giving peace, hope, love, and joy through all our days and forever.

We'll be preparing for Christmas and celebrating Jesus at Deer Creek Shores. That's what we do! If you aren't there you will be missed.

Wherever the holidays take you. Have a blessed and Happy Christmas. God has the perfect gift for you!

Yours in Christ,

Rev John Martin