

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
101 Foundation Ave
PO Box 94
Glyndon, MN 56547-0094

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GLYNDON MN 56547

Glyndon:

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck
Senior Pastor @ Glyndon

Pastor Ryan Tonneson
*Associate Pastor of Youth,
Young Adults & Families @ Glyndon*

Glyndon Office: 218-498-2808
Fax 218-498-2129
mflc@maranathafreelutheran.com
www.maranathafreelutheran.com

Ulen:

Pastor Peter Ward
Pastor @ Ulen
Ulen Office: 218-596-8580

December 2023 Newsletter



... "where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom." II Corinthians 3:17

Members of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations



DECEMBER 2023 @ ULEN

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 9:00am - Worship Service / Communion 10:15am - Sunday School	4	5	6	7 1:30pm Ladies Christmas Party	8	9
10 9:00am - Sunday School 10:00am - Worship Service w/Sunday School Christmas Program	11	12	13 9:00–11:00am - MOPS	14	15	16
17 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School Council Meeting following Sunday School	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 NO morning Worship Service or Sunday School 4:00pm -Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00am - Worship Service NO Sunday School	1 	2	3	4	5	6



DECEMBER 2023 @ GLYNDON

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	27	28	29 5:00-6:30pm Supper 5:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Kids Club 6:45pm Friendship Club 6:45pm Men's Study 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm SaltTeens	30	1	2 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 6:00pm Dusty Way Chapel
3 9:30am - Worship Service w/ Communion 10:45am - Sunday School	4	5 6:30pm Women's Christmas Party	6 5:00-6:30pm Supper 5:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Kids Club 6:45pm Friendship Club 6:45pm Men's Study 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm SaltTeens	7	8	9 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
10 9:30am - Worship Service 11:00am - Sunday School Christmas Program 11:30am - Meal served by Youth	11	12 NO Morning WMF 7:00pm Evening WMF at Janet Boe's home	13 5:00-6:30pm Supper 5:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Kids Club 6:45pm Friendship Club 6:45pm Men's Study 7:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm SaltTeens 8:00pm Church Council	14	15	16 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
17 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 1:30pm - Caroling 6:30pm - Christmas at the Barn (DeJong's)	18	19	20 6:00pm - SaltTeens Christmas Party	21	22	23 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 6:00pm Dusty Way Chapel
24 9:30am - Worship Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 5:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
31 9:30am - Worship Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	5	6 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
Glyndon, MN**

Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon				
as of 10-31-23				
General Fund			Current Month	Year to Date
Contributions			\$25,044.00	\$247,312
Expenditures			-\$27,168.00	-\$284,783
Surplus / (Shortfall)				\$ (37,471)

	10/31/2023
GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$25,044
Deacons	-\$17,819
Education	\$0
Finance	-\$4,241
Trustees	-\$4,799
Worship & Music	-\$285
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	-\$27,144
Other Income (Rent, Interest, etc)	\$42
General Fund Balance Change	-\$2,058

GENERAL FUND BALANCE			\$35,992	Target is \$60,000
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<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Building Fund			\$ 19,094
Building Improvement Fund		-1920.81	\$ 5,867
Christmas Eve			\$ -
Cookbook Sales for Missions			\$ 220
Designated Donations			\$ 420
Good Samaritan Fund		-81.06	\$ 2,176
Holiday Baskets			\$ 1,442
Lent Offering			\$ -
Memorial Fund			\$ 9,103
Men's Fellowship	100		\$ 1,652
Men's Fraternity			\$ -
Outreach Ministries			\$ 166
Sunday Fellowship Fund			\$ 469
Sunday School Missions	30		\$ 325
Trails End Ranch			\$ -
VBS Blanket Project			\$ 515
Wedding Fund			\$ -
Wednesday Suppers	867	-1123	\$ 2,721
World Missions Fund	5	-124	\$ 7,678
Youth Activities Fund	650		\$ 6,684
Youth FLY Fund	45		\$ 4,014
Special Funds Balance			\$ 62,547
General Fund Balance			\$ 35,992
CHECKBOOK BALANCE			\$ 98,497
PETTY CASH BALANCE			\$ 20

*Detailed expense reports are available in the Glyndon office.
Questions can be directed to Kristine Quanbeck - Treasurer
treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com
218-498-2808*

December ~ Happy Birthday!

Jaxsyn Gallagher	December 01
Todd Dravland	December 03
Alexa Davis	December 04
Chelsey Baer	December 05
Stephanie Schlauderaff	December 05
Jordan Billings	December 06
Wayne Tweten	December 06
Ethan John	December 07
Hank Boe	December 08
Carol Lackey	December 08
Steve Stong	December 08
Todd Rasmussen	December 08
Irma Hendrickson	December 10
Pat Palloch	December 10
Bruce Smith	December 10
Preston Erickson	December 10
Kathy Frankhauser	December 13
Alex Frost	December 13
Isabel Klemetson	December 14
Jane Dahl	December 14
Aubrey Huewe	December 15
Glenn Urlacher	December 15
Jared Northridge	December 16
Scott Fuglie	December 16
Jason Krueger	December 16
Lori Olek	December 18
Carlie Erickson	December 19
Bailley DeJong	December 19
Michelle Brown	December 19
Isaac Schmitke	December 21
Duane Swanson	December 21
Cecelia Mosloff	December 22
Naomi Nelson	December 24
Micah Schlauderaff	December 24
Don Pake	December 24
Henry Singer	December 26
Jenifer Spielman	December 27
Yoseline Gonzalez	December 27
Nathaniel Tweten	December 28
Jessica Zillmer	December 28
Travis DeJong	December 28
Owen Larson	December 30
Josiah Quanbeck	December 30
Sully Rickford	December 30
Shelby Skolness	December 31



December ~ Happy Anniversary!

Howard & Julie Scheuring	December 03
Craig & Sara Larson	December 05
Hank & Janet Boe	December 07
Todd & Sara Dravland	December 13
Jarred & Amy Johnson	December 15
Doyle & Wendy Fevig	December 18
Gordon & Karen Fevig	December 19
Pr Curt & Kathy Frankhauser	December 26



Military Personnel

Thankful for those who serve our country!

Kally Anderson, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson
Levi Dahl, grandson of Harvey & Dianne Dahl
Cody Dravland, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Trevor Dufault, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Makalia England, niece of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Jonathan Eastvold, nephew of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Brody Erickson, grand nephew of Glennys Sivertson
Kyle Johnson, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud
Layne Johnson, grandson of Ardis Johnson
Hunter Macziewski, son of Doug & Tiffany Macziewski
Sierra Northridge, member of Ulen congregation
Andrew Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean
Josiah Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean

Winter season is upon us

Glyndon Cancellation of church services or Wednesday evening activities will be posted on KVLV, In-Forum, WDAY, our Web page, Facebook and E-mail. We will follow DGF School storm cancellation policy, if school is cancelled on a Wednesday, our evening activities will also be cancelled.



GLYNDON LIBRARY—

BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER:

For Kids:

“**Far From Home**” by Sarah Parker Rubio is a story of Loss, Refuge and Hope.

For Adults:

-> In a town called Jingle Bells, Arkansas, Kristianna Harrington fights for love...again! “**Forever Christmas**” by Christine Lynxwiler.

-> The Cadence of Grace Series by Joanne Bischof has 3 books in it:

#1 - **Be Still My Soul**

#2 - **Through My Heart is Torn**

#3 - **My Hope is Found**

“-If you loved Janette Oke books, you’ll want to read this tender tale of grace, forgiveness & redemption.”



Operation Christmas Child Update

We sent out 52 boxes! Thank you to everyone who donated material for boxes, made a monetary donation, filled one or more boxes and prayed over the packed boxes and the child who will receive the gift box.

Our boxes are now on their way to a country thousand of miles away from us to a country we may never have heard of.

Just as God has blessed each of us. I pray each gift will be a blessing to the child God has chosen to receive it.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”. 1 Peter 4:10

Thank You

The Worship & Music Board would like to thank the Maranatha congregation for all your generous donations for the UC Hope Thanksgiving food drive we held last month. We collected and donated 425 pounds of food and \$310.00. THANK YOU!

#

Janet Boe expresses her thanks to all the prayers, cards, visits and encouragement she has received following her recent fall. She continues to recover from the fractured hip and asks for continued praying for complete recovery and patience.



^ SaltTeens! Sunday, December 10 we are **servicing a meal** for the congregation following the Sunday School Christmas Program. Prep will start following the worship service and continue through the Sunday school hour. The meal will be served following the program, at approximately 11:30. We'll aim to be done with clean-up by 12:30. The free-will offering will go towards the youth activities account.

Parents, in order to help prepare and serve this meal, we're asking you to provide ingredients. A sign up sheet was texted out at the end of November. If you didn't get the text, there is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

^ The SaltTeens will hold their **Christmas Party** on December 20, with food, fellowship and a white elephant gift exchange.

^ Our **Winter Lock-In** will be January 19-20 at Maranatha! Food, activities, games, movies – all night long! Parents, in order to help facilitate this event, I'm looking for parent volunteers to work a shift. Check with Pr Ryan to sign up!



TRAIL LIFE USA

Adventure > Character > Leadership

Hey guys! Trail Life will be kicking off in January! At the time of this printing, we don't have dates hammered out. But keep an eye on our Facebook page (facebook.com/MN5318) or the Maranatha bulletin for times and dates. Trail Life is a Christ-centered, outdoor-focused ministry for boys that places special attention on adventure, leadership, and character development from a Christian worldview. Their motto, Walk Worthy, is taken from Colossians 1:10. All boys are invited to join either the Woodlands Trail (K-5), the Navigators (6-8), or the Adventurers (9-12).





Women of the AFLC

WMF NOTES

(Women's Missionary Federation)

Glyndon Morning

Morning WMF met on November 14, 2023, with 14 ladies present.

Pat Johnson opened with prayer and we did the Bible Study "Abigail, a lesson in Discernment".

Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

~ Tuesday, December 5th is the all-ladies Christmas party at 6:30pm.

New Business:

~ Election of officers: Cris Finstrom was elected Vice President (2nd term) and Delores Welle elected as Secretary (1st term).

~ Motion made and approved to give \$150 for shipping of the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

~ Motion made and approved to give \$100 to Christian Ed and \$100 to Home Missions.

~ Motion made and approved to give \$100 to the ARC, Association Retreat Center.

We closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lila Ebner, Secretary

Glyndon Evening WMF

Evening WMF met on November 21st at Pat Lewis's home. There were 5 lovely ladies present. Luci Carlson led our Bible study on Abigail.

Pat Lewis started our business meeting with prayer. Secretary and Treasure report were read and accepted.

Old Business:

- Gave \$50 to UC Hope for Thanksgiving.
- Paid for postage for Operation Christmas Child boxes

New Business:

- \$50.00 was approved for Home Missions and also for Christian Education.

- Discussions on joint WMF Christmas Party

Prayer requests were shared and prayed over.

Next meeting will be December 12th at Janet Boe's home.

Respectfully submitted by Coco Geray

Ulen WMF

Our Ulen WMF met Tuesday, November 14th at 1:00pm with 7 ladies present. We did our Bible study on "Abigail" together. Following our Bible Study, MaryAnn W. opened our business meeting and the Secretary & Treasurer's Reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

We discussed our ladies Christmas Party and it was agreed to hold in on Thursday, December 7th at 1:30pm. We will be including something different this year and that will be each person will make a Christmas craft to take home. Dianne received a Thrivent gift card to be used on our party expenses. We thank Lori Pender for her willingness to come help with our project. An offering will be taken at our Christmas party and a motion was made & seconded to give it to Church's United in Moorhead as they have many Urgent Needs at this time.

New Business:

Our project offerings for November is for Home Missions and December is for Christian Education (Parish Ed & Schools) A motion was made & seconded to send our \$50 for each at this time.

Election of Officers for next year was discussed and each officer position will remain the same for the next year as each agreed to take another term. President-MaryAnn W; Secretary-Ellen; Treasurer-Dianne; Sonshine Secretary-MaryAnn S; Cradle Roll-Ellen.

Our Bible Study for 2024 in on Philippians called "Exuberant Joy" written by Angie Lombardo.

Thinking ahead we discussed Advent being a little later so we have more time to decorate the church for Christmas. Also, it was decided to continue our WMF meetings during the winter months on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and then go back to Monday evenings in the summer months.

Our meeting was adjourned and we closed with several prayer concerns & prayers of Praise!!

MaryAnn S. served us a delicious dessert, ice cream & coffee.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Zillmer, Secretary



- 11/15/23 Congregational Meeting continued -

- ~ A unanimous ballot for Alyssa Johnson as Secretary was made by Art Welle, seconded by Chanyce Dahl, motion passed
- ~ A unanimous ballot for Glenn Urlacher as member of the Board of Deacons was made by Chad Johnson, seconded by Cliff Langerud, motion passed
- ~ Board of Trustees (2 positions open)
 - * Nominees: Travis DeJong, Dave Jensen, Jason Koehler
 - * Ballots cast and tallied. Jason Koehler received majority vote and tie for second position
 - * ballots re-cast for Dave and Travis and tallied for second position. Dave received majority vote
- ~ Board of Finance (1 position open)
 - * Nominees: Monica Briske and Art Welle
 - * Ballots cast and tallied. Art Welle received majority vote
- ~ Board of Worship & Music (1 position open)
 - * Nominees: Ashley Hurner and Pat Lewis
 - * Ballots cast and tallied. Ashley Hurner received majority vote
- ~ Board of Education (1 position open to complete term expiring June 2025)
 - * Nominees: Liz Tonneson
- * Dave Jenson thankful for live-streaming of services
- * Bill Dale thanked congregation and thanked Jake Pender and Jeff Ehrichs for their work last winter with snow removal

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck - great to see a church at work, thankful for Wednesday night kitchen crew. Thanksgiving Eve service 11/22. Closed the meeting in prayer.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Art Welle and seconded by Jeff Ehrichs; motion carried

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson

Christmas Schedule at Glyndon

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10th at 11:00am

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24 - 9:30am Worship Service
& 5:00pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Schedule at Ulen

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10th at 10:00am
(as part of the Worship Service)

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00pm

Christmas Caroling



Sunday, December 17th

1:30pm at the church

Your invited to come caroling with us! We will take a bus around Glyndon, Dilworth, Fargo-Moorhead sharing with members of our congregation. We will end with going out for supper at *Pizza Ranch* around 5:30 and then attend Christmas at the Barn at DeJong's barn in North Moorhead at 6:30 returning to the church after.

Christmas at the Barn

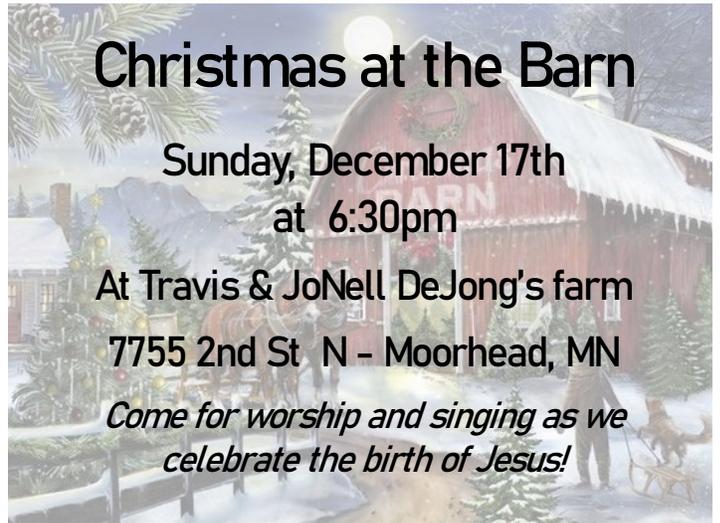
Sunday, December 17th

at 6:30pm

At Travis & JoNell DeJong's farm

7755 2nd St N - Moorhead, MN

*Come for worship and singing as we
celebrate the birth of Jesus!*



**Maranatha Glyndon
Women's Christmas
Party**

**Tuesday, December 5th
6:30pm**

**All women and teenage girls
are invited!**

**Come for food, singing, games
and a fun evening at Maranatha**

**Come early or stay late for a craft and photo
booth!**

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon
Council Meeting**

November 8th, 2023 8:00pm

Present: Todd Rasmussen, Glenn Urlacher, Sheila Smith, Bruce Smith, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Kristine Quanbeck, Jeff Ehrichs, Chad Johnson and Alyssa Johnson

Glenn opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary’s report of October meeting minutes was read by Alyssa. Chad made a motion to approve the minutes as read, seconded by Jeff; motion carried.

Treasurer’s report was given by Kristine. Reported October 2023 income as \$25,044 and expenses of \$27,144. General fund balance \$35,992 (target \$60K). Review of proposed 2024 budgets. Financial snapshot to be added to Sunday bulletin - frequency TBD. A motion was made by Jeff to approve the financial report, seconded by Sheila; motion carried.

Board Reports:

Finance – Todd

- * Budgets reviewed – no further updates

Trustees – Jeff

- * TVs to be installed, Electrician to connect wires
- * Water heater replaced in education wing
- * Painting to start in narthex beginning of December
- * Jack Olek to do snow removal this winter

Education – Glenn

- * Christmas program 12/10 – youth to serve soup and sandwiches
- * VBS team will be split with Ulen again this summer – will be submitting application for team

Worship & Music – Sheila

- * 11/12 Movie night – LifeMark. Youth will serve free-will offering supper
- * 12/17 Christmas caroling at 1:30pm. Dinner at Pizza Ranch following, Christmas at DeJong’s barn after meal

Deacons – Chad

- * Deacons planning Thanksgiving Eve service
- * No youth lefse this year

Pastor Report – Pastor Lloyd

- * Marie Tweten funeral 11/11
- * Nominating committee work complete for this year
- * District Pastor meeting 11/16

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chad, seconded by Jeff; motion carried.

Pastor Lloyd closed meeting in prayer

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Ulen Council Meeting

The November meeting minutes were not approved and available for this month’s newsletter.

**Maranatha Free Lutheran – Glyndon, MN
Congregational Meeting**

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 – 7:00 PM

President Glenn Urlacher called the meeting to order. The hymn, “He Leadeth Me” was sung. Followed with the reading of and reflection on Matthew 16:18.

Congregational Secretary’s meeting minutes from Congregational meeting on June 25th, 2023 and Annual Congregational meeting on January 29th, 2023 were read by Alyssa Johnson. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Jeff Ehrichs, seconded by Bill Dale, motion carried.

Treasurer’s report was given by Kristine Quanbeck. Budget for 2023 was \$375,870. Year-to-date expenses of \$284,783 and contributions of \$247,312 (-\$37,471). Proposed budget for 2024 is \$367,998, decrease of 2%. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Cliff Langerud, seconded by Chad Johnson, motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

* Review of 2024 Budgets

Deacons – Chad Johnson

- ~ Adding line item for Trail Life - \$2700

Worship & Music –

- ~ Increasing budget for bulletin costs

Education –

- ~ No change

Trustees – Jeff Ehrichs

- ~ Increase in utilities and insurance

Finance – Todd Rasmussen

- ~ Lutheran Ambassador magazine subscriptions have changed to free-will offering – for those receiving, if no longer interested contact them to cancel your subscription
- ~ Line item Monthly Stewardship – 10% of tithing is sent to AFLC, budget decreased with forecasted decrease in Congregational tithing
- ~ Support for Laura Finstrom, Teach Beyond, will go until middle of 2024
- ~ General Fund balance has decreased significantly, target is \$60,000. January 2023 it was at \$72,000 and currently at \$36,000

* Question raised regarding snow removal – Jack Olek has taken over snow removal. Jack and Emily Olek donated landscaping this past summer. Congregation thankful for their generosity

* Election of Officers & Board Members

- ~ A unanimous ballot for Cliff Langerud as President was made by Bruce Smith, seconded by Chad Johnson, motion passed

- continued -

Maranatha News

DECEMBER 2023

FROM PASTOR RYAN...

Then Judah said to his brothers, "...Come, let us sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him... And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. (Genesis 37:26-28 ESV)

I'll admit it: the narrative of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers seems like an odd place to begin an article for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Yet, as we covered this true story in our 6th Grade Bible Overview Confirmation Class lately, I was struck with the reoccurrence of a theme we typically associate with Christmas. See if you can catch it as we go through this narrative. (I'm gonna pick and choose some verses, but if you would like to follow along in Genesis 39 and read the full context, go right ahead!

Genesis 39:1-2 - Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man.

In the next handful of verses, we're told how Joseph rose through the ranks of Potiphar's other slaves to become the house overseer, in charge of everything associated with Potiphar – whether it was in the house or in the field. Joseph made all those decisions and Potiphar "had no concern about anything, other than the food he ate" (Gen 39:6). Potiphar's house prospered as a result.

Everything was going good for Joseph – until it wasn't. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph and, when Joseph refused her advances, she accused him of inappropriate sexual conduct. Joseph is quickly thrown in prison by Potiphar – and it's probably a minor miracle that he wasn't killed on the spot. Yet, even in prison, Joseph's character and leadership had a chance to shine. As a result, the prison warden put Joseph in charge.

Genesis 39:21-23 – But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

I hope you caught the Christmas theme in these verses. The key to this narrative isn't Joseph's rags-to-riches ascents nor his moral fiber nor his great leadership skills. The theme of these verses is the Lord's presence in Joseph's enslavement and his imprisonment. "The Lord was with Joseph."

The theme of the Lord being with His people is what Christmas is truly about. In theological terms, we call this Jesus' *incarnation*. The word "incarnation" is a term that comes to us from Latin. It means "in flesh." The One and Only Son of God put on human flesh and became man.

Matthew 1:20-23 - An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Immanuel. God with us. In Genesis 39, the Lord was with Joseph in a real way – but it was only a spiritual reality. In the person of Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. In Jesus, God was with His people.

Even though the physical incarnation of Jesus Christ ended with His ascension into Heaven, Immanuel is still present with His people. Jesus promised us that "where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20) and that He is with us always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

As we enter these seasons of Advent and Christmas, may we remember Jesus, our Immanuel, who is always present with us. Amen.