



## Christmas Carols

This Advent season we plan to sing Christmas carols early and often because... why not?? We only get one time of year where we get to sing some of these beloved classics. One of my favorites is "O Holy Night". "O Holy Night" is one of the most loved Christmas carols of all times, but have you ever heard the amazing story behind this carol?

In 1847, in a small French town, a parish priest needed a song for the Christmas Eve service. He asked the local poet to write a poem that church people could recite. The poet asked a friend who was a classical musician, to write what would become the music we know today. First sung by a soprano virtuoso, the song quickly became popular all over France. However, when it was discovered that the words were written by a skeptic and the music by a Jew, church leaders banned the song in France.

In America during the Civil War, the song was discovered by an abolitionist preacher who was moved by the words of verse 3 that says, "Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease." Alongside the fight to end slavery it spread across America. Years later, in 1906, a Harvard professor performed the first radio voice broadcast in history. In this broadcast, he picked up his violin and played the song, "O Holy Night" which became the first song ever broadcast on American radio waves.

With words written by a skeptic, music composed by a Jew, brought to America by a pastor to expose people to the gospel's view of slavery, and the very first song broadcast on radio waves. Only God can orchestrate something like that. Merry Christmas!

### Worship Notes

\***December 1**, 6-8pm Northern Options for Women Gala will include Christmas music by Kathy Tompkins and a Christmas radio drama by Jeff Adams

\***December 16** worship service will feature a visually stunning Christmas play by the Sunday School children

\***December 23** worship will feature most of the worship team singers all on stage together singing Christmas carol favorites

\***December 24**, 5-6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be a wonderful traditional service to enhance your family Christmas celebration

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.  
Pastor Seth



## The Word This Christmas

This fall we have been encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John. In every chapter, Jesus has revealed another wonderful and amazing side of himself. However, there are still some amazing parts of Jesus that we have overlooked. We moved past the first part of John 1 this fall so that we could come back to it this Christmas. In the first part of John 1, we discover the Christmas story from John's point of view. It is an amazing story of God's Son, Jesus, becoming the Word to us, the full revelation of God. I invite you to join me as together we discover **The Word This Christmas**.



12-7  
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"... Grandma said Christmas is just around the corner."  
JEFF AND THE KEANE

## Waffles & Widows



Join Tucky Dill and other widowed ladies for a time of encouragement and fellowship.

When: Saturday, December 15  
Time: 10am  
Where: Gym

Please call Tucky at 218.742.6040 if you have any questions.



## Celebrate Recovery

When: Tuesdays\*  
Time: 7pm  
Where: Room 200

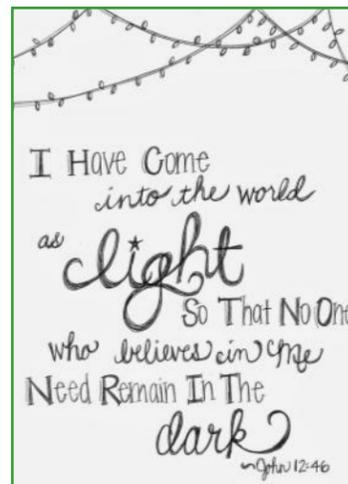
This is for anyone who has hurts or hang-ups that they are working through.

Questions? Call Mary LePage at 286-5236 or Will Davies at 283-0925.

\*Meeting on December 25.



When: Thursdays  
\* will meet December 6;  
then break until January 12.  
Time: 6:30-8pm  
Where: Room 200  
Questions: Contact Steve & Priscilla Schrock at 285-3400.



## Special Christmas Services

Children's Christmas Program —  
Sunday, December 16;  
9am & 10:30am

Christmas Eve Service —  
Monday, December 24, at 5pm

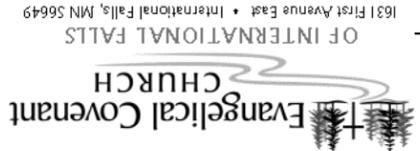




<b>New Testament</b>		<b>Old Testament</b>	
▶ <b>JOHN</b>	▶ <b>REVELATION</b>	▶ <b>JOB</b>	▶ <b>HOSEA</b>
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:15-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:9-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 14:22-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 15:18-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:14-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	▶ <b>JOEL</b>
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:12-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:1-23	▶ <b>AMOS</b>
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 16:25-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 31:24-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:6-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 17:20-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 33:12-33	▶ <b>OBADIAH</b>
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-21
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:19-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 34:21-37	▶ <b>JONAH</b>
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 18:28-40	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:1-15	▶ <b>MICAH</b>
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:17-27	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 36:16-33	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:28-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	▶ <b>HABAKKUK</b>
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 19:38-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:1-21	▶ <b>ZEPHANIAH</b>
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 38:22-41	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	▶ <b>HAGGAI</b>
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:19-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	▶ <b>ZECHARIAH</b>
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 20:24-31	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 41:12-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-9
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 21:15-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 42	▶ <b>MALACHI</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/> 1-4

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**From the desk of Pastor Dan ...**

*The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.*

John 1:14 (The Message)

I love how Eugene Peterson in The Message has paraphrased John 1:14. He takes an abstract idea and brings it home to where I live. Think about it... Jesus came to live and reveal God to us where we live; not somewhere far off, but up close and personal, in our neighborhoods. That's the message of Christmas.

Let me ask you- has Jesus moved into your neighborhood? Is He present when you interact with your neighbors? I'm not just referring to a geographical place but all those people who you interact with in your neighborhoods, in your office, at your place of work, in your classroom. These are your neighbors and these are the people that Jesus wants you to introduce to Him.

How do you do that? The answer is as simple as being neighborly. Get to know them. Do something fun together. Have them over for pizza. Invite your neighbors to our Christmas Eve Service. Show Jesus by the way that you live and work and interact with them. When you get a chance, tell them how Jesus has changed your life. You would be amazed at how Jesus is able to transform your neighborhood when you become a good neighbor.

The Word this Christmas at I Falls Covenant is Jesus and the good news is that he has come to live in our neighborhoods.