

December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Advent



*Our Divine Savior*

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



566 E. Lassen Ave, Chico, CA 95973

Phone..... 530.343.4248

Fax..... 530.343.3538

Pastor..... R. Francis Stevenson

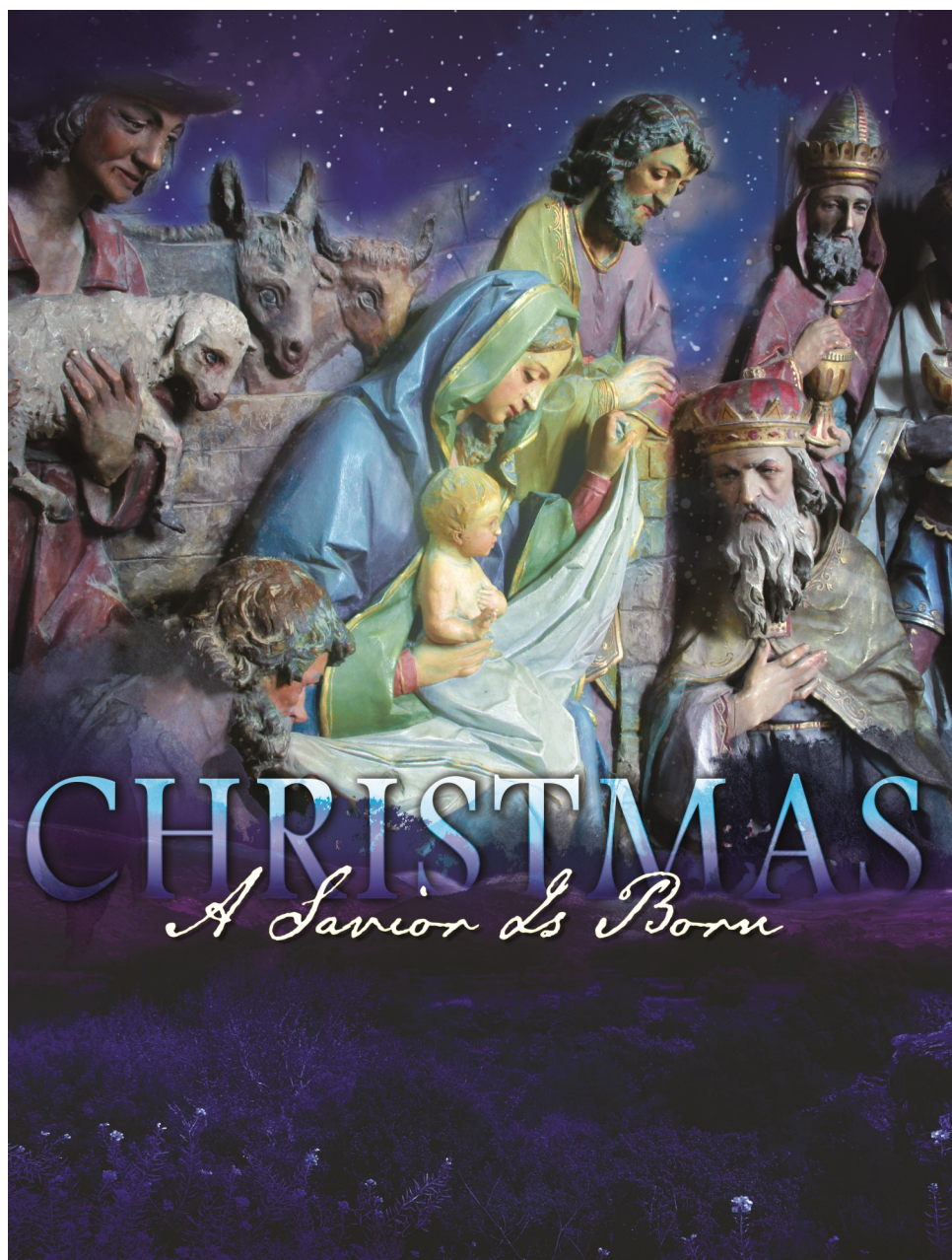
Deacon ..... Mr. James Burkett

Website: [www.ourdivinsavior.org](http://www.ourdivinsavior.org)

Email: [ourdivines@yahoo.com](mailto:ourdivines@yahoo.com)

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon.– Fri. .... 10:00am-3:00pm



#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm,**

**Sunday: 7:30, 9:00**

**& 11:00 am,**

**Morning Mass: 8:00 am**

**(Monday-Friday)**

**Confessions:**

**Saturdays 3:30-4:30 pm**

**MISSION STATEMENT** Our Divine Savior Parish, a Roman Catholic community, nourished by God's grace and the sacraments, embraces the mission of Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we live the gospel through our worship of God and through loving service to one another and to the greater community.

## PARISH PERSONNEL

### FACILITY MANAGER

Dan Layne, 521-6520  
danlayneods@gmail.com

### OFFICE

Carol Weigel, Secretary  
Gale Golden, Office Assistant  
ourdivines@yahoo.com  
530-343-4248

### BOOKKEEPER

Barbara Linquist, 343-4248

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jennifer Forward, 345-6201

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Cecelia Dickman, 802-1608  
odsmusicdirector@gmail.com

### YOUTH MINISTRY

Rob Sheridan, 680-4294  
odsyouthministry@yahoo.com  
Facebook.com/odsyouthministry

### NURSERY CARE

Amanda Ball  
Cynthia Boucek

### Website:

www.ourdivinesavior.org

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
10:00 am-3:00 pm

## PARISH MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Director of RCIA :  
Stephanie & Deacon James Burkett, 893-2348  
rciaods2@yahoo.com

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Deacon James Burkett, 893-2348

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

By appointment, 6 months in advance.  
Call the Parish Office

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays from 10:05am - 10:50am (SH)  
Wednesdays from 7-8 pm (SH)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During the 11:00am Mass -  
Matt & Pamela Meuter, 566-0425

## PARISH MINISTRIES /ORGANIZATIONS

### ALTAR SERVERS

Dan & Derette Layne, 521-6520

### BEREAVEMENT /FUNERAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Tamara La Rossa, 809-1782

### BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday mornings 9-11AM  
in the ODS Prayer Room.  
Everyone is welcome.  
Contact Terry Matthews, 893-1644

### BULLETIN

ourdivines@yahoo.com , 343-4248  
Deadline: Friday, by 1:00 pm  
**Bulletin Advertising:** Please call the Parish  
Office, 343-4248

### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Sharon McQuirk, 530-570-0181  
Carole Claiborne, 530-228-9701

### CATHOLIC LADIES RELIEF SOCIETY

Kathy Lanphear, 899-7783

### CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

Deacon James Burkett,  
893-2348

### CHOIR

Children's: Tuesday, 4:30-5:30pm  
Adults: Tuesday, 7-8pm  
Both in the Social Hall. Contact Cecelia  
Dickman, 802-1608,  
odsmusicdirector@gmail.com

### CONSOLATION MINISTRY

Lyn Dorenzo, 891-8026

### FLOWER DONATIONS

Pat Mulholland, 891-8342  
Norina Egan, 342-2027

### INNER HEALING MINISTRY

Derette Layne, 530-588-4386  
for a confidential appointment.

### JESUS CENTER

Randy Linquist, 894-0460

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13765

Steve Mormann, 410-5882

### LEGION OF MARY

Claire Richard, 893-1722

### LITURGY COMMITTEE

Joanie Frericks, 345-4283

### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER and VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Deacon James & Stephanie Burkett,  
893-2348

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Friday mornings, 6-7AM in the Knights of  
Columbus Room at ODS Parish. Contact  
Deacon Steve Schwartz, 891-0626.

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Bunny Ripp  
Please call Parish Office,  
343-4248.

### PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Steve Appleby, 899-1672

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dave Scott , 343-2484

### PRO-LIFE CATHOLIC MINISTRY

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays  
of the month in the ODS,  
Social Hall #4, 6-8:30 PM.  
Mary Waldorf, 345-8638

### PRO-LIFE ROSARY GROUP

This group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
of the month in the  
Social Hall, #4, 6-7 PM.  
Diane Lusk, 519-9749.

### SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES

If interested in joining one of the Small Church  
Communities, contact Carol Weigel, 343-3885

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Judith Rojas, 342-2676

### TORRES SHELTER

Rich Nichols, 520-4418





## READINGS

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Monday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Tuesday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	23	5:00	+	Fr. Tom Dermody, d, (Connie Cox)
Sun	24	7:30	+	Pearl Swinehart, d, (Michael & Laura Gainok)
		9:00		Living & Deceased Parishioners of ODS
		11:00	+	Ray & Betty Frandrup, d, Wally & Eileen Bird)
			+	Elvin & Zella Bird, d, (Wally & Eileen Bird)
Christmas Eve		7:00 pm	+	Leo Frericks, d, (Joanie Frericks)
		11:30pm	+	Rita Frericks, d, (Joanie Frericks)
				Joseph Tillotston, Health, (Mary Ann Duncan)
Mon	25	8:00		Intentions from Hear Our Prayer Book
		10:00		Joseph Tillotston, Health, (Mary Ann Duncan)
Tues	26	8:00		Chris Rigopoulos, Special Intention, (Tom & Mary Ann Ward)
Wed	27	8:00		Leola McCampbell, Special Intention, Tom & Mary Ann Ward
Thurs	28	8:00		Intentions from Hear Our Prayer Book
Fri	29	8:00	+	Marion Perry, d, (Perry & Brandt Families)
				Laurel Gainok, Happy Birthday, (Mike Gainok)



### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

#### December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

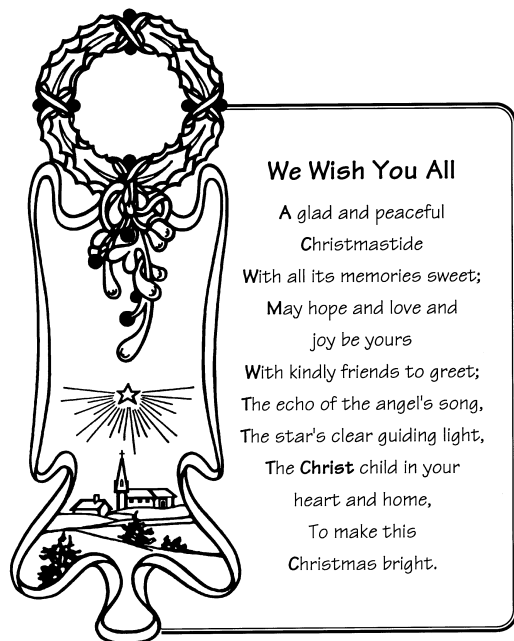
"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.



*Parish Finances will be reported after the holidays because of the time constraints in publishing the bulletin.*



## Mark your calendars now! Jan. 6

An inspirational movie, *Phil's Camino*, will be shown in the ODS Small reception Room in the Social Hall. January 6, Saturday, at 10 a.m. This is the story of a man with stage 4 cancer who was too ill to walk the Camino pilgrimage in Spain so he set up a "Camino" in his back yard. During his journey, Phil was coping with three "C"s, Cancer, Camino, and Catholicism. The film explores the power of faith and healing. The director will be here on Jan. 6 and will answer questions and seek feedback on this not-quite-finished version. No charge.



## Please Keep In Your Prayers

Catherine Anderson  
Carmela Sorrentino  
Marie Viera  
Esther Lund  
Larry & Kathy Grundmann  
Jim Hubbard  
Mary Kay Bringham  
Virginia Bourdic  
Bill Sheridan

John Golden  
Isabella Brazzale  
Joseph Cruz  
Wayne Burkett  
Ruth Fischer  
Jeff Carr  
Rueben Guerra  
Jo Ann Coules  
Vincent Lucido

Geoff Edmond  
John Hauder  
Elmer Silvera  
Madeline Ballew  
Janet Grens  
Rosemary Hull  
Tom Claiborne  
Mary Sajben  
Pat Bernadett

*Please note: in order to keep our Prayer List current, names will remain on the list for 4 weeks.  
Please resubmit after that time by contacting the Parish Office, 343-4248*

## Retreats

### RESTORE YOUR SOUL!

All the Christmas gifts are ready to be given, except the ones for YOU and YOUR SPOUSE! This year give a lasting, healing gift of the heart. Jesus is inviting YOU to Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights, California. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday and ends at lunch on Sunday. The women's retreat is early this year - January 12-14. Don't delay! The men's retreat is February 16-18, 2018. Registration on-line is preferred at [christthekingretreatcenter.org](http://christthekingretreatcenter.org). Select programs, then parish weekend retreats, to find the registration form. If you need help or prefer, call Stephanie Burkett at 893-2348 or Terry Matthews at 893-1644.



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**

Children's Mass 4 PM

(Social Hall)

Vigil Mass 7 PM (Church)

Midnight Mass 11:30 PM (Church)

#### MONDAY

**December 25, Christmas Day**

8 AM (Church)

10 AM (Church)

### NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE

**January 1, 2018**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

9 AM (Church)

There will not be a Vigil on December 31st

### CHRISTMAS DINNER PRAYER

Loving God and Father of us all, we joyfully celebrate the birth of your Son, the eternal Word who came to dwell with us and is born this day of the Virgin Mary. May the meal we share on this great feast satisfy us not only with the good food you give us, but also grace us with the fullness of your love, which you bestowed on our human nature when your Son took on our very flesh. May we come to share completely in your divine life through the coming of your Son among us. May his self-giving love be made manifest in our hearts so that the joy of our Christmas feast may extend beyond our family and home to touch the lives of others with the love that makes this day holy and makes us all children of one family in you. Amen

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

#### December 25, 2017 The Nativity of the Lord

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! Today we rejoice that this new life, this infant God, has come to be "the light of the human race." He is here to shine in the darkness of our sin and sadness, to bring joy and peace in place of sorrow. We celebrate this day with all the energy we have because we know that Christmas truly means good news!

Many of us have topped our trees with a bright star that helps to light up our homes, especially at nighttime. These stars should be more than just plastic decorations, however! They should also shine as reminders to us of the Star of Bethlehem that announced the coming of Christ. What better way to welcome the Light of the World than with that magnificent star?

And just as the Magi found their way to Jesus by following the light of that star, so we too have a heavenly guide to follow: Jesus himself! We have his words and teachings recorded for us in Scripture, his actions and directives preserved through the Tradition of the Church, and the guidance of his Spirit to assist us along the way. And all of these gifts are ours because of Christmas! Because the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

As we exchange gifts with our loved ones on this special day, may we remember all of these wonderful things we have already received. And may we strive to give to our family and friends not only the treasures that come in boxes and bags, but also a share in the greatest gifts of God: forgiveness, mercy and the unconditional love that brings joy enough to last the whole year through.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes meet September through April. New students are **always** welcome! To register your student call or email the Religious Education office or simply come to our next class meeting. Our K-6th grade Religious Education classes meet on Sunday morning from 10:05-10:50AM between Masses. We also have a Wednesday night option from 7-8PM for 2nd-6th graders. The holidays have arrived. Be sure to check the calendar for class times as we will not be meeting every week.

	Religious Ed/Sacraments Schedule
12/20-31	No Religious Ed- Christmas Break

## 🧩 Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY	WEDDING	BABY
JOSEPH	ANGEL	JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT	DREAM	VIRGIN

V I R G I N T H W I S  
J C S H U J O S E P H  
D R E A M R W I D A O  
S O B Y A O N U D G W  
M E N G R W E A I S D  
T B A B Y B M O N A E  
R E N D R O I T G J O  
S P G O H F J E S U S  
K A E I V N A G M D L  
H O L Y S P I R I T Y  
S R H N E D L S E H A

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## Mission for the Week

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.

## Sharing the Gospel

Think of the people you trust. These are people you can count on, no matter what happens. Both Mary and Elizabeth were amazed to learn that they were pregnant. God had surprised each of them with a special miracle - a baby. God trusted them both to take care of their babies. Mary and Elizabeth trusted God to help them. You can trust God, too.

## Prayer

God, help me to trust you like Mary and Elizabeth did.

## Something to Draw

Draw a picture of three people you trust.

## Mission for the Week

Name three reasons you can always trust God.

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## Sacramental Preparation

Do you want your children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation? Sacrament preparation is a two-year journey in our Diocese. Contact the office of Religious Education for more information or to register. We look forward to journeying with your family.

Jennifer Forward DRE

Phone: (530) 345-6201

Email: [odsreligious@yahoo.com](mailto:odsreligious@yahoo.com)



## DO YOU LOVE FUN?

Are you organized? Do you love to be lifted and surrounded by faith filled fun? We are looking for a Co-Leader to help plan and organize our Annual Vacation Bible School. This position comes with a small salary. Help us keep this great ministry going.



Youth Ministry meets in the Youth Room (Social Hall) on Sundays from noon to 2PM.

***Please check social media for holiday schedule***

More information can be found at [odsyouthministry@yahoo.com](mailto:odsyouthministry@yahoo.com). Check Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or on the web.



**MARRIED COUPLES:** Christmas is just eight days away. Are you still thinking about the perfect gift to give your spouse? We have the answer: A World-Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend. This weekend will completely change your relationship. Your love will be renewed. Next World-Wide Weekend is February 9-11, 2018 in Sacramento, CA. Visit :<https://www.sacramentowwme.org> or contact Terry & Janet at [applications@sacramentowwme.org](mailto:applications@sacramentowwme.org) or (916)489-3464

### THANK YOU BULLETIN ADVERTISERS!

On the back of this bulletin you will find our bulletin advertisers. We appreciate their support. Please take a look at our advertisers and if you are looking for a product or service, please consider them first. Don't forget to let them know that you saw their ad in our bulletin.

There is still time to place or sponsor an ad in our bulletin by contacting

Gina Shaughnessy, 952-356-6488,  
800-950-9952 ext.2487 or  
[gshaughnessy@4LPi.com](mailto:gshaughnessy@4LPi.com).

### AWE!

Catch your breath. Look around. See the four lit candles on the Advent wreath, look at the gifts under the tree, explore the nighttime lights in Chico. It's beautiful! People have made our world a place of beauty with their decorating.

Now look again. The sun will come when morning dawns! The frost is everywhere. The night sky is limitless, too huge to imagine or take in. Our unbelievably complex world of nature, history, and future is all a gift from God.

An even greater gift appears.

God will be born to us, in the form of a tiny baby, a human. Like every human, He is a miracle. But there is more! He is the **God** of all of this majesty, all of this magnificence. He knows each of our needs (and wants), He has counted the hairs of our heads, He loves us with the tenderness of a child and of a shepherd.

What does this Christ Child, God of Gods, require of us? To **know** that He is God and to accept the gifts He showers on us, the big healings and the little miracles that come each day. He wants our love! He wants to know we recognize His gift of life, of family and friends, of safety, of food. He wants us to live free from fear, in His holy peace.

Everything else is fluff: the things of this world. We are invited today to live in the new world of God With Us, Emmanuel.



### Everyday Stewardship

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for forty-plus years. I have had forty-plus Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember it is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over two thousand years ago and continues to call to us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the One who leads us.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS