

# The Lyons Community Church

## Mid-Week Message

Friday, November 28, 2014

Dear friends and neighbors,

Tomorrow is a big day for many people - Regis and I spent yesterday evening preparing my grandmother's dressing, mashing sweet potatoes and planning to pack. We'll be in Denver for the holidays - I'm officiating a friend's wedding on Friday morning. We are excited, but I am also a bit sad as I think of my family gathering back in SC. Many people are not able to be with those they love during the holidays, and so it is with a mix of joy and longing, company and loneliness, that we enter into Thanksgiving, Advent and the Christmas season to come.

Rev. Bob encouraged us on Sunday to share our personal experiences with God, and my family partakes of that tradition each year around at Thanksgiving. We pile our plates high, someone says a prayer (we have 2 preachers and many deacons in our family!) and then as we eat, we go around the table and each person gives an update/review of the past year, sharing what they are grateful for as they look to a new year. It's a lovely way to get to know one another better - I am always surprised by something that is shared!

We have much to share and celebrate within our congregation this week, too: a strong post-disaster comeback, the birth of LEAF from our outreach ministries, the successful partnership with Lyons Valley Preschool, the lower level renovations nearly complete, exciting plans for the upper level renovations underway, the **Hanging of the Greens this Saturday** (hope to see some of you at the church **at 10am**), the baptism of James Leslie Brighton and welcoming his family into membership this coming Sunday, and the celebration of First Advent, ushering in the season of Christ's birth.

You may notice that we're mixing things up a bit this season - adding a few things to our Sunday worship that make these High Holidays a bit more special. We'll be talking about dreams all month. This week we'll start in the beginning - with the prophets who foretold the coming of a Savior.

With the recent verdict and riots in Ferguson, MO and the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre in

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### Sunday, Nov. 30

**Sermon:** 1st Advent: *Keep the Advent Dream Alive - Pastor Emily Flemming*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1-2, 10; Luke 1:67-79

**Reader:** Ellen Hine

**Flowers:** Jay & Lia Malito

**Greeter:**

**Refreshments:** The Salmons

**Children's Time:** Kitty Keim



## *Pastor's Message* (continued)

southern Colorado, promises of peace and the turning of weapons into plowshares are dreams we must hold onto tightly. There are still many prophets among us, many dreams being dreamt (just like Dr. Martin Luther King's vision shared 51 years ago). But we still have much work to do and a long way to go until "peace on the earth and good will to all" is a reality.

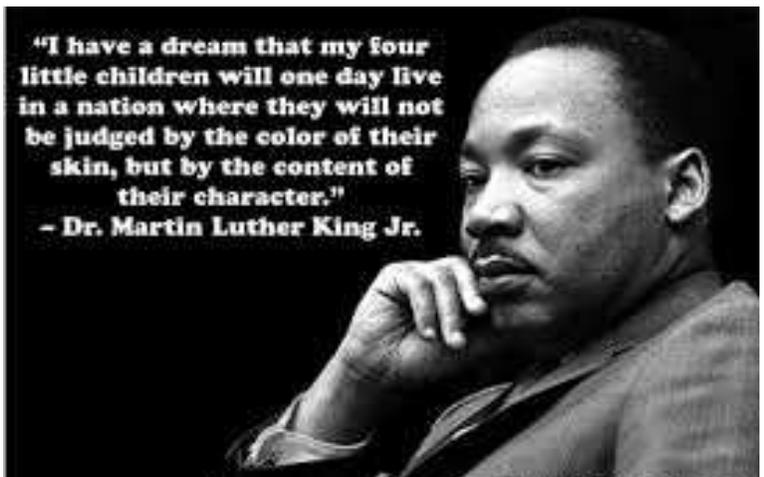
So let's begin this week around our Thanksgiving tables, in our homes and lives, to let peace grow from the seeds of gratitude, giving thanks to God for all the many blessings we have received (rather than focusing only on what we may not yet have or be). Realities are created one decision at a time, one action at a time. Take a moment this week to let one moment, one action, be that of love and of thankfulness. I dare you... heck, I dare myself, too!

*Pastor Emily*

## **Prayers...**

For the Schwenn, Sims, Dudley and Jackson families, Mark Browning's Aunt Marie who is in Hospice and his cousin Drucilla, Steve M. (needs home in Lyons), Geneva's stepmother Alice, Dick and Shirley, Stevie L., Deb O'Connor, Wade T., Kelly W., Arden, Twila, Vance, Geneva, all those missing loved ones during the holidays

*You may make prayer requests or join the Prayer Team anytime by contacting Pastor Emily or Chair Kitty Keim ([kathkeim@earthlink.net](mailto:kathkeim@earthlink.net)).*



## **Announcements**

**Children's Committee** will meet Wed, Dec. 3rd at 6:15pm in Wesleyan Hall (lower level). All are welcome!

If your children will be present on **Christmas Eve** for our 4pm service, we'd love to have them ring bells or lead us in "This Little Light of Mine." Please let Jani know if you can attend.

Mark your calendars: **Charge Conference**, our annual church-wide business meeting, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13th at 2pm at First UMC Loveland. We'd love to see as many of you attend as possible - the Weld County Ramblers will be gracing us with their music.

On the 4th Advent, Sunday Dec. 21st, we will hold our annual **Christmas Pageant**. If you'd like to participate, please let Kitty or Carol know asap.

You are invited to join the LCC Choir during Advent and Christmas Eve. We will be meeting Sunday, **November 30 at 9am** and Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 for rehearsals and will sing Sunday morning, December 7. We will sing that same anthem at an Interfaith Christmas Concert, held at the LDS Church (17th & Alpine in Longmont) Sunday evening, December 14th, 7pm. We will continue rehearsals each Wednesday (Dec. 10 and 17) at 5:30 to prepare music for our Christmas Eve Service. Let me know you're interested! ([Kim2014@live.com](mailto:Kim2014@live.com))