



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Christmas, 1991 . . .

CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH?

These were the words spoken by Nathanael, who was also known as Bartholomew, to Philip as we find them recorded in the Book of John 1:46. The words reflect the general opinion

many people had for the small village of Nazareth where our Lord grew up to manhood. Jesus also noted in the 24th verse of St. Luke, chapter 4, "No prophet is accepted in his own country."

Today, as we approach another Holy Season, the

world looks to another small town in the Holy Land, where the most important event in all of history occurred almost 2,000 years ago

and asks virtually the same question, "Can any good things come out of Bethlehem?" This town, which is described as "little" in the Book of Micah among thousands of other insignificant hamlets that were in evidence during the time of Christ, the question is answered by the fact that Bethlehem was the birthplace of the Son of God, just as had been prophesied by the prophet Isaiah 800 years before.

Despite the constant turmoil and threat of conflict that one sees in the land where Jesus lived and died so long ago, Philip would still say to those of us today who would ask the same question, "Can any good thing come out of Bethlehem," by replying, "Come and see." The star of Bethlehem still shines brightly today and beckons us to that lowly stable where the King of Kings lay, an unspeakable Gift from a kind and merciful God to a lost and sinful world.

It has been said that "great things come

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THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY IN FAR EAST

The following excerpts from a letter sent to THE DEAF LUTHERAN by Dr. Louis R. Jasper, who is currently serving in Macau are being reprinted for the benefit of our readers. Pastor Jasper, who until recently had been working in Hong Kong, has been reassigned to Macau on a full time basis. He states the change has presented a challenge to him and wife, Joan, which has meant being away from home 4 or 5 days a week. He also suffers from progressive degeneration of his spine, which makes carrying things difficult, but which

is necessary for his work.

While great importance is attached to the education of handicapped children in western nations and other countries as well, the same is not true in countries such as Macau, where parents feel that such children will never amount to much, and are more inclined to take them out of school to work and help support their families. Dr. Jasper sees a challenge in not only educating such youngsters, but their parents as well as to the importance

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CAN ANY GOOD THING COME OUT OF NAZARETH

in small packages." One of the greatest wonders of Christmas is where it all began. Modern day births are almost always in well equipped hospitals where the latest technological advances are available for any problem. Yet, God choose a lowly stable for the birth of His Son, and He was laid in a feed box used for cattle, instead of cradle. Those in attendance, besides His earthly parents, were just a few shepherds and some livestock. There were no world wide announcements of the royal birth; no parades and no armies marched. As the few knelt in adoration at the miraculous birth, angels sang praises to God.

The birth of Jesus was unlike any other birth in history; nor will there ever be another like it. First, He was and is the only Child ever born to be completely without sin, likewise, His immaculate conception is the only birth ever so conceived. He was both true God and true man, this being necessary so that the plan of redemption for a lost world could be carried out.

SPIRALING POSTAGE COSTS

While the cost to mail a first class letter in the United States has been going up rapidly, if it is any consolation, we can cheer ourselves up with the reminder that other countries charge more. For example, in Canada, it costs 45¢. Check these raises:

July 1, 1885--2 cents
 November 3, 1917--3 cents
 July 1, 1919--2 cents
 July 6, 1932--3 cents
 August 1, 1958--4 cents
 January 7, 1963--5 cents
 January 7, 1968--6 cents
 May 16, 1971--8 cents
 March 2, 1974--10 cents
 December 31, 1975--13 cents
 May 29, 1978--15 cents
 March 22, 1981--18 cents
 November 1, 1981--20 cents
 February 17, 1985--22 cents
 April 3, 1988--25 cents
 Today, it is 29 cents.

Now they are talking about another increase, possibly to 30 cents. Those Christmas cards are going to cost more to mail. To save money, try to buying your cards during the off season, right after the holidays, or in July, when the temperature is very hot and no one is thinking of Santa Claus!

The Christ child had a number of names, all of which describe His deity. The most common are the ones we use most often: Jesus, Saviour, Lord, Messiah, Christ and God. Isaiah also calls Him, "Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Wonderful, for people marveled at the miracles He wrought; Counselor, for His words were full of grace and truth and He spoke with authority and giving wise counsel to all who would hear and believe; The Mighty God, for He is God and He and the Father are One (John 10:30).

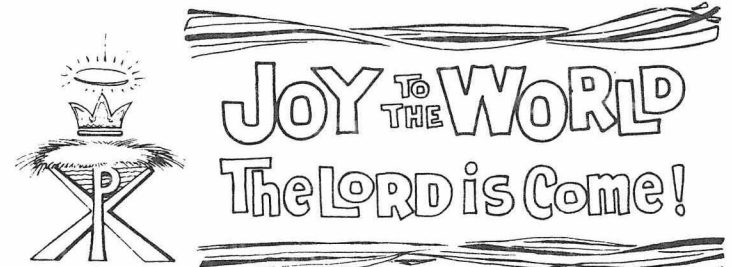
To the secular world, Christmas means buying and giving gifts, yet the coming of the Saviour was a gift of such magnitude that it is beyond our comprehension to fully understand, so great was God's love to mankind. Actually, God's Gift of His Son to the world is not just one, but two gifts: First, in Him, we have complete forgiveness of sins, and secondly, He promises the gift of eternal life to all who will be His followers. In Christ, we compare the temporal with the eternal.

This Christmas, let us take time to ponder the true meaning of the holiday. Take time to think about what that Baby born in Bethlehem so long ago really means in your life today, and forever. Take time to praise God and thank Him for His unspeakable Gift to us. Take time to talk about Jesus to others and what He has meant to you in your life.

Let us celebrate the birth of Immanuel, which is yet another name for Jesus, meaning, "God With Us."

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Or Betlehem?" Most definitely, yes! Come and see.

A blessed and Merry Christmas to you all.



We wish all our readers a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

The Deaf Lutheran Staff
 Lester Ahls, Editor
 Elmer Francisco, Bus. Mgr.

THE ORIGIN OF SANTA CLAUS

John of Beverley Chapel for Deaf
Dallas, Texas
Rev. Ronald Friedrich, Pastor

In the year A.D. 300, in the town of Myra, east of Greece, on the northern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, there lived a Christian



pastor named Nicholas. His wealthy parents died while he was young, leaving him a great inheritance. But Nicholas wanted to love and serve the Lord;

he became a pastor at age 19. He often secretly helped people in their needs by giving them gifts without their knowledge.

One day as Pastor Nicholas was giving a secret gift to a needy family, he was caught in the act. Soon everyone in town figured out who was doing all the kind acts of charity. Pastor Nicholas used this discovery to teach the people about secret giving from the Bible (Matthew 6:1-4).

After Pastor Nicholas died, the people of his church continued his tradition of secret giving. Anytime someone asked about a gift from an unknown giver, he would be told, "Oh, I guess Pastor Nicholas has been here again."

Pastor Nicholas' tradition spread all over

the Christian world. In Europe, Christians celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6. In Germany, Saint Nicholas was translated as "Saint Nichlaus" and the Dutch called him "Sinter Klaus." Early American settlers from Holland living in New Amsterdam (now New York City) brought their Christmas traditions and stories, where English speaking Americans changed the Dutch "Sinter Klaus" to "Santa Claus."

The Americans made many other changes in both the celebration of Christmas and the character of St. Nicholas. But one tradition remains: The giving of gifts in secret.

And it all started with what Jesus said in Matthew 6:2. . . .

"When you give to poor people, don't announce that you are giving . . . So when you give to poor people, give very secretly. Don't let any person know what you are doing. Your giving should be in secret. Your Father can see the things that are done in secret. And He will reward you."

This Christmas Season, remember that Jesus gave you the best gift of all: the gift of His life on the cross. In His death, you have complete forgiveness and the promise of an eternal home in heaven.

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THE THE CHALLENGE OF MINISTRY IN FAR EAST

of an education.

Dr. Jasper, who teaches courses in special education at Concordia School in Macau has classes intended for teachers in regular schools who have handicapped children in their classes. He points out that the average size of such classes is 58 students making it easy to understand how little attention handicapped students would receive in such situations. He says they are beginning to identify these integrated handicapped children and expand its program of support services for them, their families and teachers. Whenever possible, such children are being transferred to a new government school in the next building behind Concordia so they can easily come next door for special help.

Macau has no program for blind children, so Concordia is beginning to train teachers to work with such children, in addition to its present role of teaching the deaf. Hopefully, this program of identifying more and

more such children will encourage the Macau government to respond more quickly to the needs of Concordia School for proper facilities so that it may expand its services.

Pastor Jasper notes that the present school, where they have been for about two years, is already short of space and is hopeful that the government will assist in the location (or building of) a permanent purpose built facility.

Pastor Jasper says he makes about 100 or more trips each year on a jetfoil (a high speed vessel propelled by jets at over 40 mph) and goes without cost, thanks to complimentary tickets provided by the owner, which saves a lot of mission dollars for other needs.

(The 1991 ILDA convention, which was attended by Rev. Jasper, has allotted \$7,500 of its \$20,000 mission budget, for projects in Macau, Hong Kong and India over the next two years.--Ed.)

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS . . .

LCMS President **Ralph A. Bohlmann** was presented with one of the "I Love You" signs weaved in honor of the 50th anniversary of the LWML by Dr. Glenn O'Shoney who spoke at the just concluded ILDA convention in Toledo, Ohio. President Bohlmann extends his personal thanks for the gift from the convention, stating that the gift symbolizes our commitment to sharing the good news of Christ with others.

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A reception and program highlighting the work of retired **Pastor Delbert Thies** was held at St. Mark's Lutheran church in Omaha, Neb. on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 1. Rev. Thies, whose work in the ministry of the church has spanned 40 years has been experiencing some health problems of late and we pray he is on the road to recovery and will be able to continue serving the Lord for many more years.

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Conspicuous by their absence were **Victor and Evelyn Lyon** of Bozeman, Mont. who failed to make to this year's ILDA convention. A letter from the couple explains that Vic took sick the day before departure with a temp of 103 degrees, forcing them to cancel all reservations. We genuinely missed them this time, and hope the one in Texas in 1993 will see them in attendance.

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Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of its church building on Sunday, Nov. 3. Rev. Paul Stanko, Dayton, Ohio, who was originally a member of the building committee, will speak.

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Emmanuel Lutheran church, West Allis, Wis., is putting its church parsonage up for sale. The asking price is \$28,000. Approximately \$1,300 from two separate funds will be used to purchased new equipment for their Macintosh computer.

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It is interesting to note that this year's 50th anniversary LWML convention in Cleveland, Ohio drew more than 7,200 participants, of which 20 were deaf ladies from throughout the USA. About 15 more attended services. The convention adopted a mission goal of \$1,111,000. **Mary E. Mowl**, wife of Donald Mowl, who is ILDA historian, attended the convention. The next LWML convention is to be held in Alberta, Canada in 1993.

Did you know that retired **Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf** who led the UN forces in operation Desert Storm last winter is a member of the LCMS?

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The 75th anniversary of the **Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)** will be celebrated in Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1992.

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Rev. Eric Ziegler was installed as pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Newark, N.J. on Sept. 8.

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Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. was the recipient of a grant of \$12 million dollars from The Kellogg Foundation for a new Conference Center. The grant is, by far, the largest the school has ever received from the private sector.

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Former ILDA board member **Dan Glenney** and his wife, Kathy are announcing the arrival of twin grandchildren, a boy and a girl on Sept. 1. They are now blessed with five.

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Zenith Electronics will have five new television set models on the market this year (1991) with the built-in decoder chips. This is a full two years earlier than the chip law requires for them to be in place by 1993.

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St. Matthew Lutheran Church of the Deaf will observe its 80th anniversary with divine service at 11 a.m. followed by a reception on Oct. 27. Recently installed Pastor David Boyd will be the speaker, which will afford everyone an opportunity to meet him.

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Holy Three-In-One Lutheran church, Houston, Texas held its last service in their former church at 4411 LaBranch on Sept. 8. They have now moved to St. Mark Lutheran church, 1515 Hillendahl, Spring Branch, where services will be held in the Conference Room as of Sept. 15. Rev. Don Zuhn serves as pastor. A free spaghetti dinner was served after church services on the 15th in celebration of their new church home.

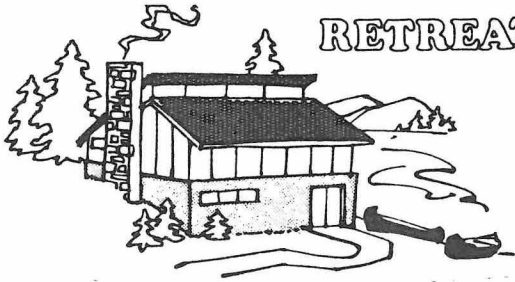
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Mr. Richard Sharp has assumed the presidency of the ILDA's Northwest Region following Mr. Larry Gorton becoming ILDA president-elect. He belongs to the Western Washington Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

OHIO RETREAT BRINGS TOGETHER DEAF AND HEARING

SUMMER

RETREAT



Ice and snow and Christmas may hardly be a good time to bring back memories of a strictly summer activity when the temperatures outdoors were in the mid-nineties, but



CAMP STAFF AT FULTON, OHIO—First row, left to right: Pastors Chris, Reading, Pa.; Don Leber, Columbus, Ohio; Gary Lawson, Cleveland, Ohio; Shirrel Petzoldt, Toledo, Ohio, and Edwin Bergstresser, Pittsburgh, Pa. Those in background are staff.



GATHERING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE—Part of the large group are shown here gathered for songs at the Lutheran Camp in Fulton, Ohio in July. About 160 deaf and hearing children participated, along with a full camp staff. Photo courtesy: Larry D. Ginter.

the following story and pictures were submitted by Larry D. Ginter of Parma, Ohio, who tells of the camp for Lutherans at Fulton, Ohio which saw 78 deaf and 80 hearing children get together for a week of fun filled activity, which included pre-breakfast devotions, hiking and playing games, Bible study and worship, swimming, crafts, basketball to name a few of the exciting week-long events of July 7-12. A full staff of both deaf and hearing counselors were on hand and who joined in the fun which also included evening campfires, skits and playing hide-and-seek. Plans for another retreat in 1992 are being planned.

WINTER WEATHER TERMS

Most of us watch the weather reports on television, especially when bad weather is expected, but do you understand the terminology that the forecasters use? The following may help clarify some of this jargon:

BLIZZARD: Winds in excess of 35 mph (miles per hour) and visibilities of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. This would mean wind driven snow/ice.

WINTER STORM WATCH: Advance notice that severe winter weather may develop. It does not mean severe weather is a certainty.

WINTER STORM WARNING: This is issued when severe winter weather is occurring or is expected to occur within the next 12 hours.

ADVISORIES: These are issued when weather elements will have an impact on public safety, but not severe enough to issue a warning.

HEAVY SNOW: Indicates a snowfall of 6 inches in a 12-hour period, or 8 inches or more in a 24-hour period.

Motorists caught in a blizzard are generally advised to stay with their vehicles if they become stuck during such severe weather, it is very easy to become disoriented walking for help in blinding snow. If travel is a must. It is advisable to have a full gas tank, water, and some food and blankets. And beware of carbon monoxide gas, which is always present in automobile exhaust, and which can seep into car interiors undetected.

He came to pay a debt he did not owe,
because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

WINDISCH TRAVELS TO EAST GERMANY

Richard G. Windisch Sr., a member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Newark, N.J., flew via Lufthansa Airlines to Cologne (now called Koln) Germany on Sept. 6, 1990 for a two-week visit to the birthplace of his parents in Glauchau, in what was formerly East Germany, but since reunited into a single nation similar to pre-war times. Windisch, who still has relatives living there, was given a tour of the area of his ancestors' birthplace, as well as visits to local churches (Kirche). Because he has

impaired hearing, he was introduced to a class where sign language was used, "but unfortunately for Windisch, their sign language is based on the German language, and is as different from American Sign Language as English is from German."

One of the big surprises of the visit Windisch took was when a tour guide was asked, "Do people here believe in God? to which the guide replied with another question, "What is God?" The effects of more than 40 years of communist rule and official state sponsored atheism is a cause for concern, according to some who returned and were asking what could be done to help Lutherans in East Germany.

One of the purchases made by Windisch was a German Bible written by Martin Luther for the people of his times, which he intends to study along with his English Bible in the King James Version. He also brought back more than 100 photographs he took with his compact 35 mm camera.

Windisch is a member of the ILDA and can usually be found at our biennial conventions. He was in Toledo this summer, as usual.



WEST HARTFORD BIDS FAREWELL TO THE GEHLBACH FAMILY

--The above picture, taken July 14, 1991 shows the group who came to bid farewell to Pastor Gehlbach and family prior to his call to Minneapolis, where he began work Aug. 1.



THE DARYL GEHLBACH FAMILY--Left to right, Janet, Megan, Jason and the pastor.

"Give thanks
to the Lord,
for He is good,
for His steadfast
love endures
forever!"

Psalm 107:1-2



NEW BOOK TEACHES CHILDREN HOW TO SHARE JESUS' LOVE WITH THE DEAF

A new hardback book, "Ann Elizabeth Signs With Love", approximately 8-3/8"x10-7/8" by Annetta Dellinger with 32 four color pages throughout is available from Concordia Publishing House at a cost of \$8.95.

The book introduces 3 to 7 year olds to Ann Elizabeth, a young deaf girl who doesn't let her special challenge keep her from sharing God's Good News. Ann Elizabeth uses sign language to communicate with others her love for the Saviour and what He's done for her.

Easy-to-follow sign language symbols are pictured for each word in the popular Bible song, "Jesus Loves Me," so children can learn to sign just like Ann Elizabeth.

In preparing to write "ANN Elizabeth Signs

With Love" Dellinger conferred with pastors and teachers for the deaf. Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor for Deaf Ministry, praises Dellinger's book, saying, "sign language is the 4th most common language in the world . . . many people will be excited about your book. Your signing descriptions are excellent. I like to teach children to sign, "Jesus Loves Me" when I visit schools."

Inquiries should be directed to Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63118.

TAX TIME IS ALMOST HERE AGAIN

While we are very loath to mention taxes while dwelling on the Yule Holidays, taxes are an inescapable fact of life which all of us have to face up to.

With this in mind, we are listing a few helpful tips to keep in mind as the time nears:

If you choose to hire a professional to do your tax forms for you, remember these rules of warning. . . .

Choose a business that is open all year, not one open only at tax time.

The tax preparer should be willing to explain how taxes are filled out and to answer your questions.

Never sign a blank tax return.

Don't believe a preparer who promises a refund no matter what the instructions say.

Don't hire a tax person who suggests you not to report all your income or suggests you make up deductions.

Make sure the person who fills out your forms signs their name on the preparer's line."

Be sure to save all receipts for which you can claim a deduction, i.e., a donation to your church, United Way or Red Cross, for example. The IRS will hold you responsible for any errors on your return, whether you made them or not.

OOOOOPPS!

A minister went to call on an 80-year-old lady from his church. While sitting and visiting, he ate all the peanuts in a dish.

When he was leaving, he apologized for eating all her nuts.

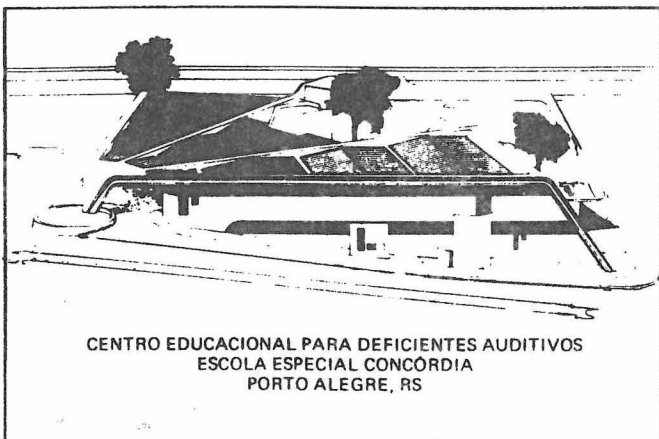
She said, "That's O.K., I can't eat peanuts any more. I suck the chocolate off and put the nuts in that dish."

25TH ANNIVERSARY

All of us have said at one time, or another, the cliché, "how time flies." Would you believe that Concordia Lutheran School at Porto Alegre, Brazil, is now 25 years old? The International Lutheran Deaf Association has contributed to the school through its mission projects for many years and we are gratified and thankful to God to see how He has blessed these efforts.

Founded Sept. 5, 1966 by Dr. Martim C. and Naomi H. Warth in almost primitive conditions, the school has grown to 275 students, which includes a high school and opportunities to go on to higher education.

Activities in conjunction with this celebration have included a service of thanksgiving at St. Paul's church on Sept. 15; an art festival on Sept. 18; folk dance on Sept. 20; a folk traditional church service on Sept. 21 and in October, a sport festival.



CENTRO EDUCACIONAL PARA DEFICIENTES AUDITIVOS
ESCOLA ESPECIAL CONCORDIA
PORTO ALEGRE, RS

WHY GO TO CHURCH?



Rev. David A. Boyd

Has anyone ever asked you why you attend church services, or why anyone should? Here is an excellent answer:

1. My chief reason for attending church is **TO GIVE WORSHIP TO GOD**, who commands it, expects it and deserves my worship. God gave me the command when HE said, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it

ILDA BOARD TO MEET IN ST. LOUIS

The executive council and board of directors will hold their first post convention meeting in St. Louis at the LCMS International Center on the dates of Nov. 22, 23 and 24, 1991.

President Ronald Madding decided to call the meeting for this fall instead of waiting until next spring so that urgent matters could be discussed and planning implemented. The last non-convention session was held on March 9, 1990.

The spring, 1992 meeting will not be held.

holy." HE reveals that HE expects it when HE reminds me through HIS Word, "We love God because HE first loved us." (I John 4:19) and HE certainly deserves our worship because HE loves us and gave HIS only begotten Son to die for us. (John 3:16)

2. I worship God **TO GET HIS BLESSINGS** of forgiveness and benediction through HIS Word and two Sacraments. To starve myself by refusing the "Bread of Life" would be to commit spiritual suicide.
3. I worship **TO SET AN EXAMPLE** for others. Children whose parents attend church regularly go to church also. But children whose parents neglect worship are usually backsliders.
4. I worship **TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY**. Someone wrote a cute poem on "Why I attend church":

Every week at my church,
 I intend to make a visit.
 So when they carry me in some day,
 The Lord won't ask, "Who Is It?"

It is only through repentance and faith that we can be right with God and be assured of salvation. Jesus promises, "I am the Resurrection and the Life, anyone who believe in ME, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in ME shall never die." John 11:25-26--Alpha News



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