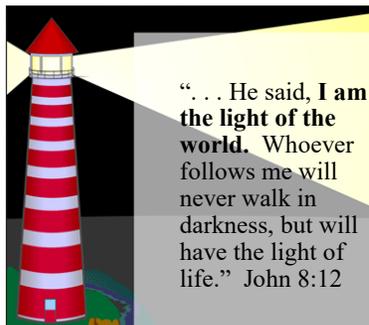


# Pastor's Ponderings

December 2018

Pastor Rich Taylor



“... He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

## NEED WHAT?

For all of us our needs are great – for some the needs we have are greater than for others as it seems that there just isn't a way to meet the needs facing us! Let me share with you some needs that have come across my desk very recently.

A need for financial help came from a youth ministry that is reaching out to children ages 0 – 18 years old. The letter spoke of a young girl, 8 years old who was staying in this youth shelter for the second time, having lived in youth shelters, foster care, and been hospitalized “suffering much trauma and has many emotional and behavioral reactions to this”. A second individual, a young girl, 16, who is living in a shelter for the third time after having been abused at home and can no longer live at home. Another need request came from Mitch Glaser who is the President of Chosen People Ministries – you will remember Klaudia Zhelezny, a completed Jew who spoke to our congregations a couple of years ago of her work with the many Jews who live in and around New York City. The headquarters building of the Chosen People Ministries she has been a part of for the past 20 years, is housed in a building in midtown Manhattan, New York, and is over 100 years old. Major repairs to the building, some very urgent, have begun and the total cost is around \$900,000. This building has been used by our Lord as a lighthouse, where His Word is offered to both Jews and Gentiles alike, seeing many come to put their faith in Jesus as God's Messiah, the Savior for all men. Then let's speak of locally, as we have received 116 need calls to EGAMA since last December 1<sup>st</sup> and have given financial aid of approximately \$10,000 to help meet a variety of needs for families among us. I believe as you read these thoughts you could add other needs you are aware of, both of your own as well as of others you know personally! It is said that peoples' needs just never quit and to a point that is true!

Please read the entire Bible verses that I quote:

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:16,17*

God, our creator, knows all of our needs – all of them! God fully knows and understands what we perceive to be our greatest need, past, present and what we feel will be our greatest need in the future! With this understanding, we give thanks to Him this Christmas for truly knowing our GREATEST OF ALL NEEDS, the need with several aspects. The need to know Him (a); the need to be known by Him (b); the need to know God's love (c), mercy (d), His grace (e) and peace (f) in our lives; the need to have Him forgive all of our sin (g); the need to have a genuine and lasting hope in this life and beyond the grave (h); the need to have meaning and purpose in our life (i); the need to be able to love and forgive others (j).

So, what did God do to meet this GREATEST OF ALL NEEDS? According to the Bible, as quoted above, He gave His only Son for all of us. I invite you to take a couple of minutes during the Advent Season and look up the following Bible references that speak of Christ Jesus fulfilling each aspect of our GREATEST OF ALL NEEDS mentioned above: (a) Jn. 14:9 – 11; (b) Jn. 1:12,13 & I Cor. 8:3; (c) Jn. 4:1 – 42; (d) Mk. 10:45 – 52; (e) Jn. 21:1 – 14; (f) Jn. 14:27, Lk. 24:36 – 39; (g) Jn. 5:24; (h) Lk. 24:32, I Cor. 15:19; (i) Mt. 28:19,20; (j) Mt. 18:15 – 35.

What great joy fills our hearts and minds as we celebrate God's sending His only Son into our world on Christmas! We may find ourselves with the mixed emotions of awe, reverence, worship, praise, wonder, respect and at the same time, excitement, joy, thanksgiving and more as we celebrate God becoming flesh and living among us, for us!

May you and your family have a most blessed Christmas celebration and a Christ filled, Christ centered New Year!

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!** (Heb. 11:15)

In Jesus' abundant, never-ending love,

Pastor Rich

HOLMES & SAMUEL LUTHERAN CHURCHES

# The Beacon

## *A Christmas Story, the Freebie*

Paul drove his Christmas present, a new car, to work. When he came out of work, a little boy was staring at it. The boy asked, "Is this yours, Mister?" Paul nodded, "My older brother gave it to me for Christmas." Paul said, "That's right." The boy said, "I wish..." then he hesitated.

Paul thought he was going to say that he wished he had a brother like that, but was stunned to hear the boy say, "I wish I could be a brother like that." He was so moved, he impulsively replied, "Would you like a ride in her?" "Sure," he said. Then he shyly asked. "Can we go by and show my brother?" Paul thought he wanted to impress his brother.

They stopped in front and he said, "Can you wait just a minute? I'll be right back." In a few minutes, the boy came out carrying his polio-crippled brother. He set him down on the steps and said, "There she is, Bobby, just like I said. His brother gave it to him. It didn't cost him anything. Someday, I'm going to get you a car just like that one. And you and I are going to drive her to see all those things I've told you about."

This Christmas let's be like this little boy. The question isn't so much what we are going to get or give for Christmas, but how we are going to live.

### **Trust in the Lord**

*When life gets you down and your troubles seem to mount, think of your joys and your blessings then re-count. Lift up your eyes; the climbing will be steep, for the mountains are higher than the valleys are deep. And if you feel sad and your heart is filled with woe, look to the mountains; not the valleys below. Remember the good and try not to weep, for the mountains are higher than the valleys are deep. Soon you'll be lifted to heights far above. Sharing with others the blessings of love. Trust in the Lord; you are one of His sheep, for the mountains are higher than the valleys are deep.*



## **THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS**

The Almighty became an infant,  
The Shepherd became a lamb,  
The Judge took our sentence,  
The Lord became a man,  
The Invisible became visible,  
The Eternal stepped in to history  
To make us His own again.

—Ron Berris

*"...they will call him  
Immanuel"  
— which means,  
"God with us."*



*Matthew 1:23*

When my son was young, we belonged to a small country church. When Communion was served, deacons would pass around the "bread and juice."

One Sunday, we attended a church out of town that was more formal. What our church called bread and juice, this one referred to a elements, a word he didn't understand.

As Communion began, the pastor said, "If the deacons will come forward the elements will pass among us."

My son was suddenly excited and I didn't know why. Then he leaned toward me, whispering something that caused me to burst out laughing. With all eyes on us, I took him by the hand and we made a hasty exit.

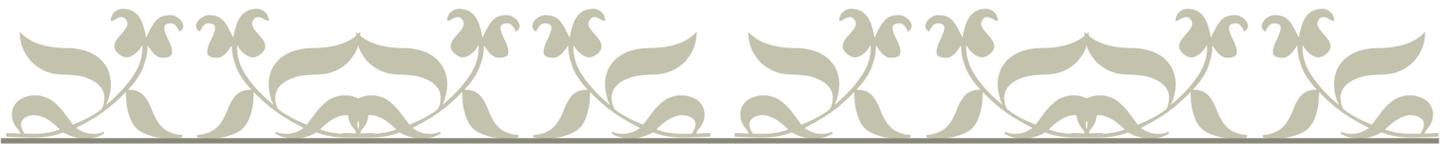
All the way to the car, he protested. "Mom, we're going to miss the circus. The pastor said the elephants were going to pass among us!"

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

PO Box 393  
Eagle Grove, IA 50533  
[www.SamuelLutheran.net](http://www.SamuelLutheran.net)  
[www.HolmesLutheran.net](http://www.HolmesLutheran.net)

**Pastor Rich Taylor**  
Office: 515-448-4450  
Cell: 515-890-9898  
Home: 515-448-9091  
Email: [pstrich@ymail.com](mailto:pstrich@ymail.com)

**Parish Secretary - Annette Taylor**  
Office: 515-448-5038  
Email: [HSChurchSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:HSChurchSecretary@gmail.com)



# WOMEN

## Holmes Women

### HOME CIRCLE

Wed, December 5th @ noon  
Lunch at the Family Table  
with the Samuel SLCW  
(The men are invited)

## Samuel Women

### SLCW

Wed, December 5th @ noon  
Lunch at the Family Table  
with the Holmes Home Circle  
(The men are invited)



### DECEMBER FLOWERS:

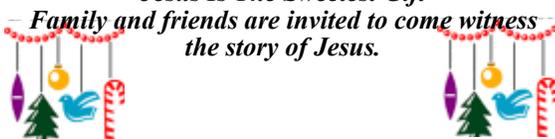
*Ella Gangestad*  
*Annette Taylor*

### MARY/MARTHA

Wed, December 19th @ 1:30pm  
Lesson: TBD



The Holmes Lutheran Sunday School Program  
will be December 16th during the  
morning worship at 9:00am.  
They will be presenting  
"Jesus Is The Sweetest Gift"  
Family and friends are invited to come witness  
the story of Jesus.



### DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY FOCUS:

Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Soup, Soup Mixes,  
Cake and Cookie Mixes, Crackers, Cookie Mixes,  
Dish Soap, Dish Detergent, Baby Foods, Sham-  
poo, Infant Formulas, and Diapers.

As usual, any food products, paper products, or  
personal hygiene products are always needed.

# Friendly Reminders

- ◆ **Sunday, December 4**

First Sunday in Advent

- ◆ **Wednesday, December 5**

Ladies Joint Christmas Lunch

Joint Council Meeting @Holmes

- ◆ **Sunday, December 16**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**

10:45am Samuel

9:00am Holmes

- ◆ **Wednesdays:**

6:15pm~Confirmation at Samuel  
(check December calendar)

- ◆ **Friday Mornings:**

9:30am Bible Study

- ◆ **WORSHIP SCHEDULE  
(check December calendar)**

**Holmes:**

9:00am Worship

10:15am Sunday School

**Samuel:**

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Worship

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Holmes & Samuel Lutheran Joint  
Service at Holmes ~ 7:00pm



## The Christmas Teacup

*"Grandma, why's that teacup sitting 'neath the Christmas tree?" Amanda asked her grandma, with eyes wide as they could be. "Because, my child," Grandma replied, "it's a reminder of the many ways God demonstrates His never ending love."*



*"You see that pretty tea cup was once just a lump of clay. It yelped and cried as God began to mold it one fine day. Then God placed it on a wheel that wildly spun around, as the teacup cried in fear, 'O Lord, please put me down!'"*

*"But the Lord said, 'Not quite yet! Please trust me, if you will.' As He gently place the teacup deep inside a fiery kiln. There the cup felt true despair, as flames around it burned. She feared the Lord had left for good, never to return."*

*"All at once cool air rushed in as the door opened wide. God's loving hands reached in to bring His precious cup outside. Then came strokes from a fine brush, dipped in God's choice of paint. Weak from heat, engulfed in fumes, the teacup thought she'd faint."*

*"Quietly the teacup cried, 'O Lord, what wrong have I done?' 'My child, I'm only finishing the work that I've begun,' God said. And locked the cup again behind the oven door—Yet from those flames she reemerged, a lump of clay no more."*

*Stronger and more beautiful, her purpose now defined, the teacup sat in wonder as the Master's name was signed. "Honey," Grandma whispered, "that teacup's like me and you. God has a special purpose for each struggle that we go through."*

*"So let's sit down and share a special cup of Christmas tea. And thank the Lord for all He does to fashion you and me., into folks He had in mind since long before our birth—The loved ones Jesus came to save when He came here to earth." —Shared by Ev and Orv Wyman, Chicora, PA in the Undercover Club*

November 5, 2018

Samuel Lutheran Church  
201 N Lincoln Ave  
Eagle Grove IA 50533

Dear Samuel Lutheran Church

Perhaps you have already read the enclosed article entitled, "Proudly Supporting the E.G. Sr. Center" as it appeared in the Eagle Grove Eagle on October 25, 2018.

The purpose of the Sr. Center is to support the Congregate Meal and Meals on Wheels programs for Eagle Grove and Goldfield. The center also provides activities for our sr. citizens.

Bingo is no longer offered at the center which helped support the day to day costs. Bingo was dropped as the customers traveled to Ft. Dodge, Belmond or Jewel where the jackpots were larger. Bingo could not also not be held with only 5-6 bingo players.

Our monthly bills are:

\$449	Mid-Am. (budget billing)
\$180	Janitor
\$154	Insurance
\$ 32	Trash Man
\$ 20	Phone
<u>\$855</u>	Total

Other purchases include paper towels, toilet paper, ice melt, grit and snow removal. Just like home, we have had problems with the walk-in freezer.

We are reimbursed by Elderbridge through E.G. Concerned Inc. each month with \$12 per day for meals served, \$60 janitor and \$20 phone. This is a total of \$328.

In order to keep our center open to serve the approximately 1800 meals per month for Eagle Grove and Goldfield, we would appreciate any contribution you may give.

Sincerely

Loretta Baker, Site manager

Loretta Moon, Treasurer

Warren Scholte, President EG Concerned, Inc.

Enclosure

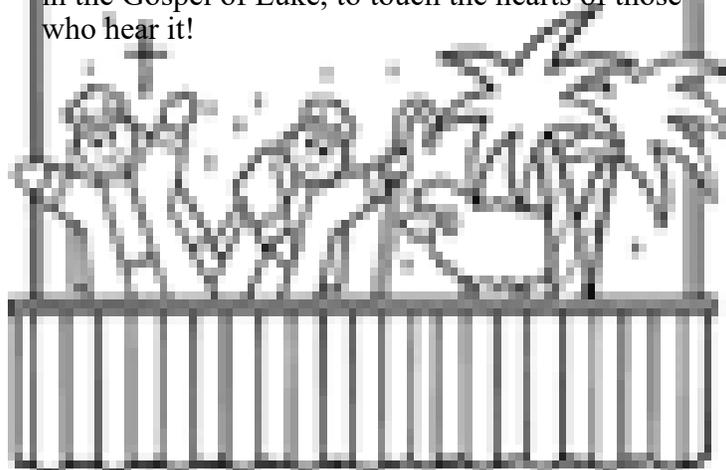
EG Sr. Citizens  
308 W Broadway  
Eagle Grove IA 50533

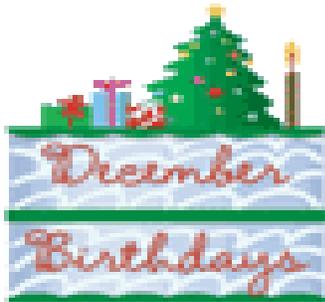


Tuesdays are a busy and fun day at Samuel beginning at 9:00am. Ladies from the congregation who enjoy quilting gather together to work on various colorful quilts. They're made to give to graduating seniors or needs that arise in the area. These quilts pictured above were made and donated to the Veterans at Central Iowa Shelter in Des Moines. Pictured from left: Jan Reed, Marilyne Johnson, Vicki Wagner, Anna Belle Hinz and Marge Brown. Other quilters not pictured are Barb Dooley and Jean Lehman.

The youth of Samuel will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16th, during the church service at 10:45 a.m. by our Little Disciples. Please plan on attending to see a traditional folktale "The Tale of Three Trees" by our younger Sunday School students, followed by a SOLA "Recitation of Scripture". Between each scripture piece there will be congregational singing of Christmas carols.

The students will first present their program for Rotary Senior Living in the South building on Wednesday, December 12th. This is a time of fellowship with the residents, as they also share a meal with them, members of our church and Rotary staff. Please pray for the message of our Saviors birth, found in the Gospel of Luke, to touch the hearts of those who hear it!





## **HOLMES**

**December 4~ Ted Steffenson  
Pastor Taylor**

**December 5~ Madison Pate**

**December 6~ Annette Taylor**

**December 10~ Jarika Eisentrager**

**December 11~ Marguerite Wagner**

**December 14~ Erin Johnson  
Justin Reed**

**December 19~Deb Prehm**

**December 20~ Harvey Derscheid  
Jessica Steffenson**

**December 24~ Matthew Odland**

**December 30~ Reed Lette  
Adriana Range**

## **SAMUEL**

**December 3~ Shad Thomason**

**December 4~ Pastor Taylor**

**December 6~ Annette Taylor**

**Jeremy Thompson**

**December 7th~ Charles Olson**

**December 9th~ Andrew Wagner**

**December 10~ Rose Darland**

**Tricia Rosendahl**

**December 13th~ Brandon Mohr**

**Joanne Olson**

**December 15~ Beth Johnson**

**December 16~Robbie Foster**

**Angela Wesselink**

**December 18~ Todd Ramsey**

**December 20~Avery Ann Dooley**

**Aubrey Ellen Dooley**

**Clark Morgan**

**Kent Rutherford**

**December 22~Kelven Reeves**

**December 23~Paul Brown**

**December 26~Kyle Foster**

**Shawna Pyle**

**December 30~Keith Sampson**

**Zachary Steig**

**December 31~Lucas Sunner**