

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

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This is a fun time of year! Beyond the holiday lights, Christmas programs, gift buying, cookie making, home decorating, family planning, etc....this really is a fun time of year. One of the things that I enjoy are the Christmas cards and letters that Nancy and I receive from friends and family from far and wide. Usually the letter tells of significant happenings in that family's life during the past year. Those letters help us stay connected with what is going on in their world.

Nancy and I also send out the annual "Nelson Letter," sharing with others a few of the big things going on in our lives during the past year. Hmm, do you suppose I had much to write about this year?? Anything big happen in our family?? ☺ For some reason the Christmas Letter writing falls to me. So, a couple of weeks ago, I sat down at my computer and started making a list of events from our families lives in 2016 that would be "letter worthy." Then I typed out a letter, Nancy addressed the envelopes (that's her job in this task), together we signed, stuffed, and sealed the letters...and away they went in the mail.

What's really interesting is to pull out the file of Nelson Letters from previous years and to simply look through them...all 34 years of them. It's fun to see how our family has grown, matured, the things we've dealt with, how we've laughed and at times cried together. That's all a part of being a family.

This year I'm thinking of starting a new tradition, that of writing a Christmas Letter to God. Truth be told God really doesn't need a Christmas Letter from me. God knows all about my life already. But in my Christmas Letter to God I'll highlight the spiritual journey I've been on this year...from my perspective at the end of the year. I believe that would be a great exercise for all of us to do, to write just a page or two about the journey we've had with God. Where have we grown and matured, what have we learned, and maybe even where have we laughed and cried with God. Of course, God already knows these things, but this is really an exercise in helping each of us remember the journey of this past year.

How about it, are you up for writing one more Christmas Letter? Take a few moments to connect with God and remember the journey the two of you have been on in 2016. Chances are it will help you think about and prepare for the journey to come in 2017.

Serving Together,
Pastor Keith

This Sunday the UMW will be having a bake goods and craft sale at the church to support the Stained Glass Window Fund. The sale items will be displayed in the North Hallway by the Johnson Gathering Area.

Our Christmas Weekend Worship Schedule is;

Acoustic Christmas Candle Light Service – Friday at 5:30 pm in the Chapel

Christmas Eve Candle Light – Saturday 4:30 and 6:30 pm – main sanctuary

4:30 – Christmas Carols and Candle Light

6:30 – Carols, Candle Light, and Communion

Christmas Day – Christmas Worship at 9:30 am

***Invite a Friend
Bring your Family!!***

All are welcome at our
Christmas worship
services.