

First United Methodist Church

310 North Rowley, Mitchell, SD 57301

Rev. Keith Nelson, Lead Pastor

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I find it interesting what “jumps out” at a person when reading through the Bible. For me, in just the past couple weeks there is a verse, a part of a sentence actually, that has really caught my interest. This phrase is a part of the story of Jesus’ birth as told in the Gospel of Luke. The words that I’ve been pondering come from the angel to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

What a great message. What a powerful message. But it’s not that entire message from the angel that has grabbed me in this season, it’s the two-word phrase, “to you...” Yes, I believe it is meaning “to all humankind” this savior is being sent into the world. But there is something about those two words “to you” that has captured my heart and my mind this season.

I believe it would have been easy for the shepherds, an often-overlooked segment of the population in that society, to feel that whatever God was up to in the world really didn’t involve them. After all, they were the lowest of the low...they were *just* shepherds. But this message to the shepherds seems rather personal. After all the angel appears to them and then says, “To you is born...” In other words, God hasn’t written them off. God chose to share this great news on this incredible night...with the shepherds, before anyone else got the news.

Today there are those in our world, even in our community, and maybe even in our church family that feel as though they are overlooked, that God isn’t all that interested in them, or maybe that God has forgotten them altogether. It is especially to these individuals that the angel comes to on this Christmas Eve and says, “To you is born...!”

My prayer for myself (since this phrase has captured my attention) and for us all is that we would experience the “to you...” of the Christmas Story. May we experience the “to you...” of God’s presence and love in this season.

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Pastor Keith

Join us for worship this weekend;

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

(We will not be having Sunday School on December 25 or on January 1)