



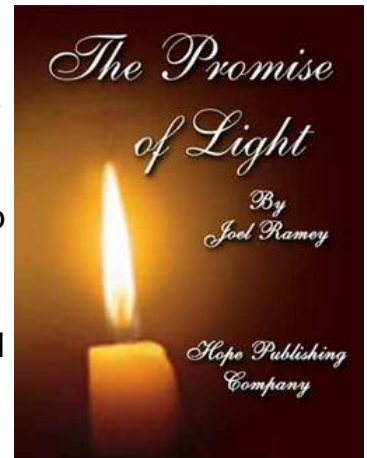
Christmas Cantata

Sun., Dec. 6

The Chancel Choir and Sanctuary Singers will be presenting the cantata, "The Promise of Light" on Sunday December 6 at both the 8:30 & 11:00 worship services. This cantata is an energetic musical, with a contemporary

sound. It is the story of God bringing light into the darkness, and the Light that we must take out into the world.

You won't want to miss this beautiful Christmas message!



Christmas Eve Worship Services

CHRISTMAS EVE



Once again we are offering 3 worship services on

Christmas Eve:

5:00, 9:00 & 11:00

5:00 pm will feature a family-oriented service in the fellowship hall. There will be a

multimedia presentation, along with a special Christmas message from Pastor Steve. Children will have their own Christmas story and snack in room 200 during the sermon, and will return carrying their lights during

the singing of Silent Night.

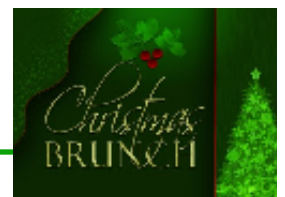
9:00 & 11:00 pm services will feature music by the Chancel Choir, hand bells, trumpet, flute and strings. There will also be candlelight, and messages from Pastor Steve & Pastor Nathan.

All Church Christmas Brunch

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 10 @ 11:00 am for this Christmas tradition, sponsored by the UMW. Tickets can be purchased for

\$5.00 each. The menu for the morning will be egg casserole, Jello and ice cream for dessert. We will once again be entertained

by the Munster High School Ensemble.





...within the community

The Season for Angels

The Salvation Army is in full swing preparing for Christmas. Families in need have been

interviewed and the familiar paper angels for the "Angel Tree" are available. The Salvation Army will follow the same format as the last several years —gifts are set up "like a store" and parents



Angel Tree

will chose appropriate gifts for their children. This prevents inequities

between children in a family.

Once again, Ridge Church has signed up for 125 tags to

provide Christmas gifts for children who might not have much of a holiday without our generosity.

The Christmas Angel Trees are up, and gifts will need to be returned, UNWRAPPED, no later than

Thursday, December 10th.

As you go about your shopping, please consider purchasing a couple of toys "for the angels."

Any questions, contact Kathy Giannini, 924-1355.

All Church Christmas Caroling, Sunday, Dec. 20

Help spread the joy and love of Christmas by going Christmas Caroling with us. We'll gather at church at 4 pm and carpool to locations we will be singing at. After we are finished, we will return to the church for a time of refreshments and fellowship.



Join Us for Caroling

Decorate our Mitten/Scarf Tree



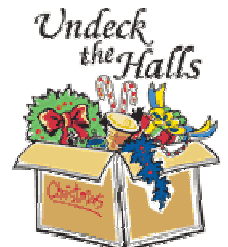
During the season of Advent, we will be collecting new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for children and adults. Gently used winter coats

will also be donated. We will be decorating a special "giving tree" with the items that are donated.

All items will be sent to the Cedar Lake Food Pantry, who will distribute them to low income families.

Undeck the halls

On Sun., Jan. 3 right after the 9:45 service, and the 11:00 service we will be taking down decorations and could use your help. A chili lunch will be served.



...with the pastor



Advent is a special time of year. While we often think of it as a four week build up to Christmas, it really wasn't designed that way. Instead, it is intended as a time helping us as we journey toward Bethlehem each year.

Our society, unfortunately, has turned the season into one in which we spend money that we don't have, on gifts that people don't need. Jesus came not to offer us gifts of stuff; Jesus came to offer to us the gift of life. And by life, I don't mean simply eternity. Jesus came to show us how to live each and every day so that we might find true meaning and hope.

During this season of Advent, we are going to focus on WAITING. Waiting is hard, especially when we really don't know what it is we are waiting for. But in the advent of Jesus we find

that we are waiting for four particular gifts that he desires to share with us. We will talk about the gifts of love, home, belonging and peace – each of these gifts are the gifts of Jesus

Take time during this season to pray this prayer every day. It was written by The Rev. Nathan Decker, pastor of the Cheriton Charge in Virginia.

...we are going to focus on WAITING.

Great God of Presence and Promised Coming,
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another.
We have not followed the paths you have given us, Choosing instead to follow our own.
We have broken relationships,
We chase consumer desires,
We treat those who wait on us as less

than human.
We have rebelled against your love;
We spend our time and money, on gifts for those who give us gifts.
We have not loved our neighbors, we spend time With family and friends out of obligation rather than sincere love.
We have not heard the cry of the needy,
The mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy,
The cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice.
Free us for joyful obedience, through the Advent of Christ,
Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope.
Amen.

Wait with me, so that we can experience the gifts, that Jesus desires to share with us this season.

Pastor Steve



...within our church and beyond

WWE for December Dinner 5:45 Program 6:45

Cost: \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 3-10. Please sign up on the attendance sign-in books on Sundays, or call the church office, 838-4770, if you will be joining us for dinner.

Pastor Steve will be leading us in a three-week Advent

Study using the birth stories from the Gospel of Luke.

Menus for Dec:

Dec. 2: Sloppy Joes, Chips, cole slaw and dessert

Dec. 9: Baked pork chops, mashed potatoes, vegetable, applesauce and

dessert.

Dec. 16: Pizza, salad and dessert.



We will resume our WWE programming on January 6, 2010.

COMING TO WWE IN JANUARY:

The class you've been waiting for... "Have a New Kid by Friday"

Want a kid without the attitude? Without the behavior that makes you slink away in the grocery store and pretend you're not the parent? A kid with

character who isn't a character? If you're tired of defiant attitudes and power struggles with your little ankle-biters or the disrespectful hormone group, this class will offer some simple principles to follow, and you'll have a new kid by Friday. Watch for more information.

POINSETTIAS

If you wish to donate a 6" poinsettia to decorate the worship areas on Sun., Dec. 20 and on Christmas Eve, please fill out the envelope inserted in the bulletins on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13. You may give it in honor of someone, or a special occasion or in memory of someone.

Book Group

The next meeting of the book study group is Dec. 14 @ 7 pm. We will be discussing **The Three Miss Margarets**. Miss Peggy, Dr. Maggie and Miss Li'l Bit—friends for nearly a lifetime find it funny that everyone in their little Georgia town

looks up to them as icons. Little does the town know that beneath their friendship lies a thirty-year-old explosive secret that is about to be revealed.



...with upcoming events



Gift Cards for the Holidays

We will be placing orders for two weeks before the holidays. We will be selling gift cards on these Sundays:

December 5 and December 12. Gift cards can be used several ways that can make



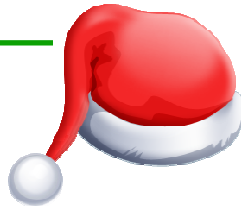
your Christmas shopping convenient. Gift cards make great gifts! You can also purchase

gift cards to use when you are doing your Christmas shopping! All proceeds

help fund our Open Gym program here at Ridge UMC, which is a great outreach and ministry!

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 5 is the date for Breakfast with Santa here at Ridge Church. Tickets are on sale now \$5.00: pancakes, sausage, milk and orange juice. There will be a craft for children to make, and an opportunity to visit with Santa. There is a 9 am and a 10 am seating.



Christmas Craft Fair at Munster High

Once again Ridge Church will be working the concession stand on Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 5 & 6 at Munster High School for the Parks Dept. Craft Fair. We get to keep all the proceeds for everything we sell. This is a great

opportunity for Ridge Church. We will be asking for adults and youth to help man the concession stand, as well as donations of water, pop (Pepsi products only), sloppy joes, buns, and baked goods. Watch for sign-up, questions see Nancy Caddick.

Christmas Shopping online this year?

Did you know that Ridge church can benefit from your Christmas shopping this year? There are five websites that share a portion of their revenue back with Ridge Church for those purchases made after linking from the church's website. This program has been in place

for over three years and we have raised over \$1,000 in that time. As you are shopping this year, please consider the following websites and link to them through the **Resources tab on ridgeumc.org:**

Amazon.com

Buy.com

Flowerdelivery.com

Shoebuy.com

Snapfish.com



...within our church

Youth Update

The Ridge Youth will be going on our annual Christmas shopping trip on Sat., Dec. 12. We will be traveling to the Woodfield Mall this year and it should be a great day of hanging out and shopping for our families. If you would like to go along, please visit the youth page at <http://www.ridgeumc.org/Youth.html> and click on the "Youth Registrations"

link. Please sign-up by December 9.



bring a "white elephant" gift for our crazy gift exchange.

On December 20th the youth will be going caroling, as part of the all church caroling group. Details of times will be in the bulletin and sent over e-mail. After the caroling, we will be having our Christmas party. Everyone should

Please note there will be NO YOUTH GROUP on Dec. 27, 2009.

Many thanks to everyone for their support in ordering greenery!

Recycle Christmas Tree Lights and Electrical Wires

Bring old Christmas tree lights, electrical cords and electrical wiring to the church as part of our recycling program. Barrels marked for this collection are at each main entrance. The collection period starts

with the Christmas tree decorating time, and ends after the New Year weekend.

The reason for doing this: to save valuable copper resources from the landfill.

The proceeds from this venture will go to our church program.

Please participate.

Thank you from the Environmental Missions Team

2010 Finance Drive Up-date

As of Nov. 18, 2009 we have received faith promise cards from 129 church families, with pledges totaling \$367,887. We were blessed that even in this economy that many families were able to increase their pledge from

last year, and others were able to maintain last year's pledge. As of this time, we have not yet received a commitment from everyone. If you have not yet returned your faith promise card, you may call Nancy Caddick, 838-4770

and give her your pledge, or fill out a card on Sunday and return to the office.

Thank you to those who have returned their faith promise card.

...within the community



.Operation Christmas Child and Thanksgiving Pack-a-sack are

now complete. Almost 100 filled grocery sacks were donated to Greater Hammond to provide Thanksgiving baskets for local families. Thank you to all who donated, and remember the needs of the hungry are not just at the holidays. Donations can be brought in anytime for the Hammond Food Pantry. A couple dozen

shoe boxes were delivered for Samaritan's Purse. Each year the creativity of the donors gets better and better....the gift boxes were great. On behalf of children worldwide, thanks for your efforts. Also, a big thank you to all who continue to donate clothing, household goods, used cell phones and all the other items in our collection centers. Capes House, and Sojourner Truth House in Gary are

grateful for the support of the Ridge Church family. Our used cell phones are going to the Verizon HopeLine program to support domestic violence victims. And cash donations support our hunger programs (Soup Kitchen and Saturday homeless lunches), Capes House supplies, and many other needs that come up during the year.

Personal Thanks

Many thanks for your cards, calls, and especially your prayers for my recovery. I'm doing well and have resumed my activities now. I was not allowed to drive, had to sit in the back seat and be driven like Miss Daisy.

Pat Snyder

FISH FRY THANKS

Thank you to all who bought tickets, baked, helped set-up, serve, bread the fish, and clean-up. We served approximately 138 people, and made a profit of \$1,000. Mark your calendar for our future fish fry dates: Feb. 19, March 5 & 19.

USED PIANO

The trustees are offering an old, Everett upright piano, (that needs reconditioning) to the first person who contacts the church office, 838-4770. They ask that you make a donation to the church, and move the piano yourself.

From home to home

And heart to heart

The warmth of joy at Christmas

Brings us closer to each other.

Christmas Blessings from the Staff



**RIDGE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

8607 COLUMBIA AVE
MUNSTER, IN 46321

219-838-4770

Worship: 8:30, 9:45 & 11 am

Sunday School 9:45

E-mail: ridgeumc@sbcglobal.net

Steven Conger, Senior Pastor

Nathan Whybrew, Assoc. Pastor

www.ridgeumc.org

Presorted

First-Class Mail

U.S. Postage Paid

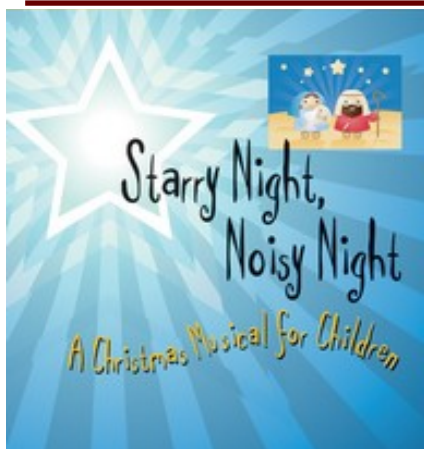
Hammond, IN 46321

Permit No. 1503

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TIME DATED MATERIAL —
PLEASE RUSH**

“Starry Night, Noisy Night”



**Children's
Christmas Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 20th
@ 9:45 am**

Make plans now to be at church on Dec. 20th as the children's Sunday School present their annual Christmas Pageant. Hear the Christmas story told from the stable animals' point of view; cows annoyed by the bright starlight, sheep spending so much time watching the bustling activity outside the stable they almost miss the miraculous scene unfolding before

them; chickens too busy pecking out IM's to receive the message conveyed by the birth of Christ. Come hear a message that will encourage you to turn away from all of life's distractions as you celebrate God's gift, and worship the Child of Christmas.