



Advent Greetings from Mount Luther

About 2,000 years ago, some shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night. In those days, messages didn't come via Facebook, My Space, or Twitter. They came in the form of angels who told the shepherds that a special baby had been born in Bethlehem.

The shepherds with haste went to see the Christ Child. And you know where they found him? They found him in a manger. They found him in a trough, a wooden box, filled with scratchy hay. The place where animals get their food is where Mary laid Jesus, the savior of the world.

Today, the scriptures hold Christ for us. But Martin Luther, in a Christmas Eve sermon, said that the community of believers is the manger in which the Christ Child is found. Camp is one of those communities. Just as the trough where animals get their food held the little baby Jesus, people from all walks of life come to camp to be fed with bread and wine and to feed their spirits for their walk of discipleship. And after they come to see Jesus, they can leave us, testifying to the living presence of Christ... just like the shepherds did so long ago. Camp becomes a real living nativity. It's where we gather in Christian community for worship and witness and we see the real Christmas story unfold. Being the manger is a wonderful opportunity!

You have a wonderful opportunity this holiday season. You can give a holiday gift to the ministry of Mount Luther. We've had a financially challenging year this year- an unplanned electrical upgrade, lower than normal annual fund giving, and a decrease in campers have caused us to tighten our belts. Through your support, Mount Luther can continue to be the community where campers find Christ. It can be the place set apart where they experience God, nature, and service. In an era of advanced technology and instant communication, the value of providing a quiet place where participants can hear God's voice is more important today than ever. Provided with this letter is a list of "gifts" you can give to help us continue God's work in this special place.

God came down to us but had no crib for a bed. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, ready to take on the sins of the world. He was placed in a manger, an animal feeding trough, where he laid down his sweet head under the starry night. And as the children's hymn reminds us, he will stay close by us forever and love each of us until he comes again to take his Advent people to heaven to live with him there. I can't help but think that camp is a little foretaste of that feast to come!

On behalf of the entire Mount Luther family, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chad

Chad Hershberger, Executive Director



HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT MOUNT LUTHER

When making a donation, please mark which item number you'd like your money to go toward. Donations can be made in honor or memory of someone as an alternative gift purchase. If you'd like, please request a gift card acknowledging the donation.

Item #	Description	Cost
AF-1	Camper's Snack Card per camp per week	\$5
AF-2	Staff Shirt that we provide for each staff member	\$5
AF-3	Maintain ropes course for three summer campers	\$10
AF-4	Extra Supplies (crafts, pool, etc) needed for each camper	\$15
AF-5	Promotional and Postage Expenses for one summer camper	\$20
AF-6	Meals for one day for one camper	\$25
AF-7	Annual Fund support per day per camper needed to subsidize summer camp fees	\$35
AF-8	First Aid and CPR Training for one staff member	\$50
LOC-1	Amount of donations per day it would take in one year to pay off our Operating Line of Credit	\$70
40XF-1	Amount of donations per day it takes to pay our monthly mortgage for the Evergreen Center Construction Project	\$120
AF-9	Utilities cost per day	\$130
EDG-1	Donations per day needed in 2010 to pay off Emergency Electrical Upgrade	\$205
YCF-1	Donations per camper needed to replenish 2009 Campership Fund (18 campers received scholarships)	\$220
YCF-2	Amount of 2010 Camperships for one full week of camp	\$415
AF-10	Computer Expenses per year	\$500
AF-11	Amount spent each summer to provide fuel for camper transportation	\$1,000
AF-12	Adopt a Staff Member! Donate all our expenses for one member of the summer ministry team	\$2,750
AF-13	Donation toward the Annual Fund (at the end of November, we still needed \$27,100 to meet our 2009 budget)	Any amount
YCF-3	Donation toward the Youse Campership Fund (at the end of November, we still needed \$3,900 to meet our 2009 budget)	Any amount
40XF-2	Donation toward the 40 By Faith Capital Campaign (at the end of November, we still need about \$215,000 to pay off the principal)	Any amount
EDG-2	Donation toward the Emergency Electrical Upgrade (at the end of November, we still need about \$74,715 to fulfill this obligation)	Any amount
LOC-2	Donation toward our operating Line of Credit (at the end of November, we owe \$25,400)	Any amount