

Seedlings✳: "Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark" (Rabindranath Tagore).



## **"Sure On This Shining Night"**

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).



## **Christmas Eve 2024**

at Sts. Peter and Paul

You may watch by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).



## **"See Amid the Winter's Snow"**

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).

*Alleluia. Alleluia.*

*See, amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.*

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the lofty skies,  
He, who, throned in light sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim.*

*Hail thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing throughout Jerusalem,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*Alleluia, Alleluia*

*Sacred infant, all divine,  
Tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss,  
Down to such a world as this.*

*Hail thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail redemption's happy dawn,  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

**"See Amid the Winter's Snow" • TEXT: Edward Caswall (1814–1878) • MUSIC: Sir John Gross (1800–1880) • Arrangement by Dan Forrest**



**A New Year Prayer**  
*by Rev. Marcy Sheremetta*

***As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear:  
our health, our family and our friends.***

***Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains.  
Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.  
Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.***

***Let us keep God... in our hearts and to chant God's name each day.  
Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.***

***Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.***

***May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.  
May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you  
a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.***



## The Shock of Faith: It's Nothing Like I Thought It Would Be

*An essay by David Brooks*

*To read, click on the link above.*



## Cradle Hymn

*by Kim André Arnesen performed by Nidarosdomens jentekor (Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir)  
and conductor Anita Brevik.*



## **December 2024 Greetings from Ketumbeine, Tanzania**

Dear friends,

*Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace (Zechariah in Luke 1:78-79).*

As we celebrate God's tender mercy this Advent season we are thankful for all of you who partner with us. As you know, [Global Health Ministries](#) has had a huge impact on our work over the past 25 years. Enjoy this video featuring rural health care, including in our village of Ketumbeine: [Rural Health Care 2024](#) .

With thanks,

*Steve and Bethany Friberg*

*ELCA Sponsored Missionaries in Tanzania*



**Friday Noonday Concert | Friday,**  
**December 20th**  
at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago







*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”*

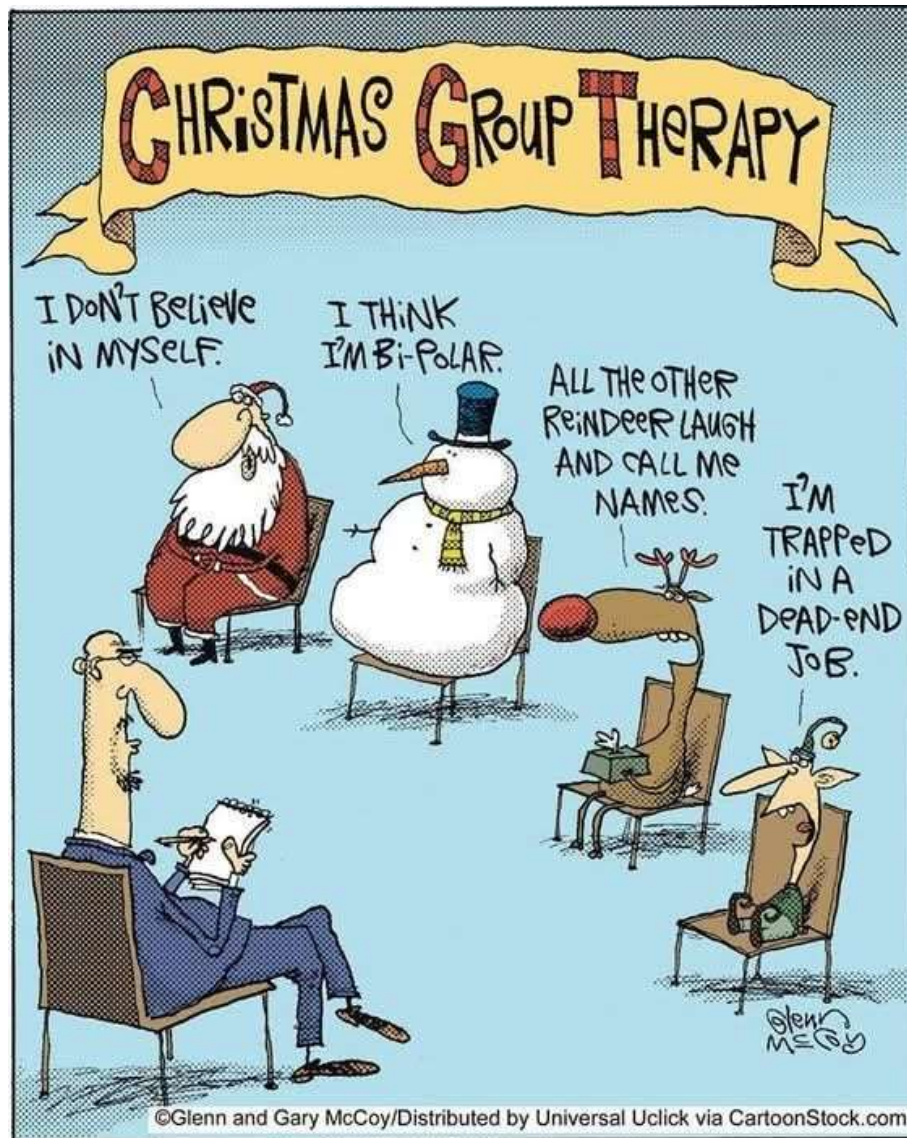
*When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*



## **Faith is the Bird that Feels the Light**

You may listen by clicking on the above link or [HERE](#).



**Please note:**

For urgent pastoral care and *important* administrative matters, please contact Pastor Dennis at his mobile phone number.

The landline at the parsonage is no longer in service. ☒x  
If you need this contact information, please reply to this message.

*Photos: Olivia Lauritsen (New Mexico desert) and Rafael Martinez (Christmas Eve 2023)*

***Please forward this e-newsletter  
to others who may be interested!  
And previous issues of  
"Seedling" E-News are posted at the  
website.***



***For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water...  
(Isaiah 35:6b-7a).***

**Join us every Sunday at 10:15 a.m.  
For continuing live streaming of the  
liturgy  
please click [HERE](#).**

**Recordings of the services are uploaded to the same site for  
viewing at a later date.**



**[www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org)  
Church office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. -  
Noon**

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