

Testify
to the
Light



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

LIBERTY POLE — Sun. Worship 9:00 AM — S6759 Hwy. 27 — (608) 675-3630

VIROQUA — Sun. Worship 10:30 AM — 221 S. Center Ave. — (608) 637-3551

December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent

*Please stand if you are able

CAROL SING

WELCOMING WORDS

(please sign the attendance sheets)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP - VIR.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) *Psalm 126:4-6*

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb!

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

Those who go forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

"Advent"

Hymnal No. 201

*CHRISTMAS CAROL

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

No. 220

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

the Apostles' Creed

Hymnal No. 881

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT - VIR.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Hymnal No. 895

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE - VIR.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Liberty Pole: the Metz family

Viroqua: the Weilnau family

ADVENT CAROL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (verse 1)

No. 196

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

(insert)

SPECIAL MUSIC - L.P.

CHOIR ANTHEM - VIR.	"Christmas Blessing"	Price & Besig
NEW TESTAMENT READING	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	(insert)
*CHRISTMAS CAROL	"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"	No. 237
SERMON	"Mary's Story"	Pastor Ethan
OFFERING		
*DOXOLOGY		
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.		
*OFFERTORY PRAYER		
*CHRISTMAS CAROL	"Angels We Have Heard on High"	No. 238
*BENEDICTION		
*THREEFOLD AMEN		Hymnal No. 898
*POSTLUDE		

LIBERTY POLE

VIROQUA

USHERS	Eldon & Judy Gardner	Ellsworth & Ardith Olson
ACOLYTES	volunteer	volunteer
LITURGISTS	Cyndy Hubbard	Cavan Fang
GREETERS		Ellsworth & Ardith Olson

Last Sunday's attendance:	40	50
Last Sunday's offering:	\$1325.50	\$2155

Pastor Ethan Larson
Organists: Joyce Funk (Liberty Pole), Kathy Hanson & Barb Casper (Viroqua)
Choir Director (Viroqua): Lynn Whitney
church office phone: 637-3551
website: www.viroquaumc.org
e-mail: info@viroquaumc.org
pastor@viroquaumc.org

THE WVRQ RADIO BROADCAST today is sponsored by Jean West in memory of her husband Ellis.

THE LIBERTY POLE BULLETINS today are sponsored by Beverly Bankes in honor of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

THE VIROQUA BULLETINS today are sponsored by Maris and Phyllis Kalnins in honor of their 39th wedding anniversary on December 13.

THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS on the Liberty Pole Church doors are given in memory of Orvis Hornby and Lloyd Zitzner, by their families.

THE LARGE POINSETTIAS in front of the Viroqua Church pulpit are given in memory of Jason and Helen Hornby, by their family.

CALENDAR

- Mon. 7 PM Community Carol Sing at the Viroqua Church, refreshments afterward — everyone is invited!**
- Tues. 7 PM Viroqua Administrative Council meeting**
- Wed. 6 PM choir practice at Viroqua**
- Thurs. 4:30 PM prayer service at Viroqua**
- Fri. church newsletter deadline**
- Sat. 9AM - 12 youth meet at Viroqua Church and then shop for gifts for "Adopt-a-Family" program**
- next Sun. children's Christmas programs at both churches during morning worship services**
- next Sun. 3PM - 5 youth meet at Viroqua Church to prepare and deliver food for Fortney Hotel meal**
- next Sun. 5:30PM - Pizza/Game Night at Viroqua Church for the youth:
7:30PM Invite your friends to come play card & board games, and to eat pizza — bring board games, food will be provided.**

The Viroqua Care & Nurture Committee will be making a "**shepherds' run**" on Christmas Eve, delivering cookies to people working at the hospital, sheriff's office, and convenience stores. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please bring in cookies or bars and place them in the kitchen fridge (make sure they are labelled!).



Liberty Pole Poinsettias

from Beverly Bankes, in memory of Conrad Bankes

from Judy Erickson, in memory of Lester and Evelyn Cade

from Delores Hornby and family, in memory of Orvis
Hornby

from Bill and Sandy Marohl, in honor of Sandy's mother

Isaiah 9:1-7

¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.

³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.