



**GLENVIEW
NEW CHURCH**

A NEW CHRISTIANITY

PARK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH

December 2023

Pastoral Message

Follow A Star

It was Christmas time in Phoenix, Arizona, and driving down the road, I passed a local church with a colorful banner advertising their yearly, outdoor, walk-through nativity. The banner read, "Follow a Star."

"Follow a Star"—the title claimed my attention. At the same moment, it was touching, dreamy, and mystical, tinged with a sense of wonder, hope, and promise. I pulled into the parking lot. And as I walked the landscaped dessert pathways, I drank in scenes of Christmas like warm cocoa on a frosty night.

The title of this article – "Follow a Star" – is built around Matthew 2:9 where we read, "And behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was."

Stars in the night sky are objects of beauty, wonder, hope, and promise. It's been that way for millennia, and it always will be. We name the stars, we see constellations in them, we share romantic moments under them, they help light the pathway in front of us, and we navigate by them.

It's the same in the Lord's Word. Stars in the Word are beacons of light – each one symbolizing some element of truth that can guide us on our spiritual pathway, our spiritual journey, and our spiritual walk with the Lord. What is one "truth" you've recently discovered – about yourself, human nature, your life's journey, relationships, etc. – that has meant something to you, positively impacted you, and helped you along your path? That truth is like a star in your night sky.

But stars do more than light our way. Not only do they shine out in the night sky, but we know that each one possesses fiery warmth. Each one is a sun in our universe. In scripture, the sun is a symbol of love – love of our neighbor and love of the Lord. So just as stars in the physical universe can be used for navigation, stars in scripture are like twinkling truths that light our path, point the way, and lead us on to love, goodwill, and goodness in life.

But it doesn't end there. The star that the wise men followed was one with a specific purpose. It was there to guide them to the Lord God – the creator and ruler of the universe – born on earth to help and heal humankind. It's the same with all the stars in scripture. They are there, shining out like beacons of light, leading us to demonstrate love to others and ultimately to the Lord.

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Park News

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Church Calendar

December*

- 3 SUN 10:00 Carols Sunday—Auditorium
11:00 Theta Alpha Guild Christmas Class
 - 4 MON 5:00 Women Unwind—100 Park Drive
7:00 Choir Rehearsal
 - 5 TUE 7:00 Park Dwellings
 - 6 WED 10:30 Arcana Class
7:00 Pastor's Council
7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club
 - 10 SUN 10:00 Christmas Story Worship—Sanctuary
4:30 Tableaux
 - 11 MON 7:00 Choir Rehearsal
 - 13 WED 10:30 Arcana Class
7:00 Boys Club/Girls Club Christmas Party4
 - 14 THUR 7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting
 - 16 SAT 6:00 Christmas Open House
 - 17 SUN 10:00 Christmas Holy Supper—Sanctuary
 - 18 MON 7:00 Choir Rehearsal
 - 20 WED 11:00 Arcana Christmas Class and Lunch
 - 21 THURS 10:00 GNCS Christmas Concert
7:00 MANC Board Meeting
 - 23 SAT 1:00 Choir Rehearsal
 - 24 SUN 5:00 Christmas Eve Family Festival Service
10:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 - 25 MON 11:30 Christmas Day Service
 - 31 SUN 10:00 Worship Service—Auditorium
- * all meetings will be held virtually

So join us this Christmas season, as we remind ourselves of the Lord's birth on earth, remembering that He is always with us, guiding each one of us along an individual, spiritual pathway like so many stars in our night sky. What are one or two "stars" that will lead *you* this Christmas (and in the new year) to the next good conclusion in your life?

"And when the wise men saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."

Come join us this Christmas...and follow a star!
(Mark)

General Announcements

December Worship Services

For quick reference, here are the worship service details:

- Sunday, December 3, 10am, Carols Sunday
- Sunday December 10, 10:00am, Christmas Story service
- Sunday, December 10, 4:30pm, Tableaux
- Sunday, December 17, 10:0am, Christmas Holy Supper
- Sunday, December 24, 5pm, Christmas Eve Service
- Sunday, December 24, 10 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
- Monday, December 25, 11:30am, Christmas Day service

Services may also be accessed online either at the time of the service or afterwards. To access each service, you will go online to the GNCS's YouTube channel by clicking on the following link:

http://www.YouTube.com/channel/UC2RbVX_G_8GOZ4ljsY3nThw

Once the channel has opened, scroll down and click on the date of the service you are seeking.

Come and sing with us for Christmas Eve!

Come raise your voices in song for the 2023 Christmas Eve choir! No matter what your experience level, we would love to have you sing in the choir with us. We will be performing at the Christmas Eve service at 5pm on Sunday, December 24. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm on December 4, 11, and 18, and on Saturday, December 23 at 1pm. To join us please contact Bonny Lundin-Scheer at 847-452-0670 or bonnys@glenviewnewchurch.org. We hope you will be with us!

Pajamas for Christmas – Your financial help is needed!

I'm excited to let you know that once again, we are going to help approximately 40 children who reside at Lydia Home in Evanston have a brighter Christmas morning by providing each child with a new pair of pajamas, slippers, and a blanket! Some of you will recall that we have done this for several years, and it's become a great tradition here at GNCS and I'm confident I can count on your support again this year! *(Please note there was a communication issue and so this notice is arriving later than I would have hoped – sorry about that!)* Due to the lateness issue, GNCS will be doing all the purchasing this year, and so I ask you to help by simply writing a check payable to GNCS or giving cash. (For your reference – it costs about \$40 for each child to receive pajamas, slippers, and a blanket.) I'd appreciate it if you would send your donation by Friday, December 15th.

The GNCS students will wrap and label each child's pajam-

as and then the packages will be delivered to Lydia Home before Christmas. Once again, I'm excited that we have this opportunity and thank you in advance for your support. (Phil Parker, Principal)

Theta Alpha Guild Christmas Class — December 3

You are invited to kick-off the Christmas season with the Theta Alpha Guild Christmas Class Sunday, December 3rd at 11am in the Lake Lounge (following the 10am Carols Service). The program includes a talk from Rev. Elmo Acton and discussion followed by refreshments. All are welcome!

If you need a ride to the class, please contact Sue Lee at 224-324-6389. We will also provide a ZOOM link for people who might not be able to attend in person. (Sue Lee, TAG President)

Silhouette Nativity

The silhouette drive-through nativity on Park Drive will be up and lit at night from December 3 through December 28. Spread the word!

Christmas Tableaux — December 10

Don't miss our annual Christmas Tableaux/Pageant, Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 p.m., featuring still life scenes from the Christmas story portrayed by actors & actresses, and including background music and readings from that story. There will be gifts for children, newborn through grade eight, and we hope to offer refreshments afterward. See you there!

GNCS Christmas Show

Please come to the Glenview New Church School's Christmas Show on Thursday, December 21 at 10am in the Auditorium. This year, it will be a lovely mix of music, poems, and other Christmas-related entertainment put on by the students and teachers at GNCS. The show will be about an hour in length and will be followed by refreshments.

Open House—December 16

You are warmly invited by the pastoral team and their wives, to a Christmas Open House at the main manse (73 Park Drive) on Saturday evening, December 16th, college age and up, starting at 6 pm.

We will provide a base of chili plus non-alcoholic drinks and some wine and beer. If others of you can bring a main course, side dish, soup, salad, or dessert, that would be great! If you have a favorite alcoholic beverage beyond beer & wine, feel free to BYO. We're sure to have Christmas music in the background. We may carry on a tradition of singing Christmas songs later in the evening.

RSVPs (affirmative only) would be helpful so we know many to prepare for. We hope you can come. Christmas cheer to all! (Mark & Ellen, Elmo & Abbie)



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Church Offertory

Thank you to everyone who responded so willingly to our Thanksgiving offertory match program.

We will follow tradition and direct the Christmas Eve offertory as a gift to our pastors. Please designate any contributions toward this (via check or credit card) as Christmas Eve so that your contribution is included in the pastoral thank you. Donations can be made via check or on the church website (<https://glenviewnewchurch.org/about/giving/>).

As a reminder, charitable contributions for both the Glenview New Church and the Midwestern Academy that are mailed are deductible in the year in which the contribution is postmarked, regardless of when it is received by either organization. A check that is mailed and postmarked at the end of December 31, 2023 is tax deductible in 2023, and will be included in the contribution report mailed to contributors in early 2024 for 2023 contributions.

Women Unwind—December 4

Our once-a-month get-together on the first Monday of the month, will take place on Monday, December 4 from 5-6:30pm at Karen Stoeller's, 100 Park Drive, Glenview. Casual - with wine, soft drinks, cheese, crackers, and conversation. Contact: Sandy Ruch 847-724-0363

Christmas Ushers Needed!

We are looking for ushers for the Tableaux and 5pm Christmas Eve services. Please let me know if you might be able to help out on those days.

Sunday Morning – Volunteers Needed

We are offering refreshments after the 10am worship services as volunteers are available. The usher schedule is also open. Anyone is welcome to sign-up and students can earn school community service hours for these and other useful duties. Click this link to sign-up (or send me an email). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0545a5ae2fa7fc1-gncsunday>
Thank you in advance! Martha Heilman, Volunteer Coordinator 847-302-7619

Sunshine Committee

Look around at your community of acquaintances. Could someone you know use a lift or need some nourishing kindness? Soup and cookies are available in the Sunshine freezer! Go get some (free), and help spread the sunshine! Contact anyone on the Sunshine Committee if you need a door code to get into the Assembly Hall and access our freezer in the big storage room off the hall. Gift bags & cards are on top of the freezer. *Want to donate to our efforts?* Make checks payable to Glenview New Church & mail to 74 Park Dr, Glenview, 60025, or go online to <https://glenviewnewchurch.org/about/donate/>. *Want to join our soup-making group, or have questions?* Contact Roxanne Junge - RMJunge@aol.com or 847-962-4073. Building community, no strings attached. We all need it!

New Book for Children from General Church Education!

A Treasury of New Church Stories for Young Children – favorite stories for ages 0-6, with titles including “What Is Heaven?”, “The Little Lost Lamb”, “The Lord’s Prayer”, and “Becoming an Angel”. Questions and prompts provide ideas for introducing children to simple spiritual concepts. This hardcover book makes an ideal Christmas gift at \$21.95. Purchase from the General Church Bookstore by visiting www.newchurchbooks.com, emailing bookstore@newchurch.org or call (1) 215-947-0266, ext. 4922.

A Precious Christmas Gift.

If you are looking for a truly special Christmas gift, consider the following offerings available through the Heavenly Doctrines Publishing foundation and the Kempton Project:

-- A New Church translation of the Word, see thesacredscripture.org/theWord/

-- Newly available print-on-demand copies of classic translations of the *Heavenly Doctrine*, see www.heavenlydoctrinepublishing.org/books-for-purchase/

-- Good-quality, vintage, used copies of these translations of the *Heavenly Doctrine*, contact Gideon and Loretta Alden at algoose2@verizon.net

Park Patter

Thanksgiving has come and gone but it was delightful while it was here. Now there's a lull before the Christmas spirits move in.

Many were the visitors here and there—hard to tell how many, but one group stands out: the Junge, McQueen/Caldwell lunch bunch were 40 in number. Word is that this was a finale of their usual gathering in the old homestead.

Others of us had out-of-town guests—John and Ann Curcio joined the Curcio/Stoeller/Teel/Recht group, coming from California to Illinois.

Everybody had a lovely day weatherwise as well as culinary gormandizing fete!

Wedding bells—November Rendition

Jordan Synnestvedt and Andrew Overeem were married on November 11, 2023. Congratulations to the newly-weds—thanks for keeping the bells ringing!

Now it's time for some post-Thanksgiving guffaws: (It's good to have friends and relatives with plagiarizing tendencies!)



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Church
74 Park Drive
Glenview, IL 60025

12-1-2023

Pun of the Day

I just finished reading a book about the world's greatest basements...it was a best cellar.

It's my first week of working at the bicycle factory and they already made me a spokesperson.

My laptop caught pneumonia, apparently because I left the Windows open.

Always trust nudists—they have nothing to hide!