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Leadership Lessons from The Nativity

By: John C. Maxwell

The beauty of Christmas is that it’s a profound message, yet so simply given. Three ordinary objects from the Christmas story offer profound lessons in leadership.

1. The Star: Be a Travel Guide

Scripture says the star the wise men saw “in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” ([Matthew 2:9,10](#)). The wise men rejoiced over the fact that God provided them with a remarkably accurate travel guide. They understood they never would have found Christ without the star. The Christmas star was God’s gift of direction, God’s travel guide for seekers.

Throughout history, God has seen to it that those who diligently seek after Christ find Him. God has provided travel guides that have led, and continue to lead, others to Jesus. Now God wants you to be a travel guide for others. Some leaders function as travel agents. Travel agents send people to places where they themselves have never been. They give them a brochure and say, “Bon voyage.” Genuine leaders, those who are effective and influential, are travel guides. Travel guides take people to places they themselves have already been and experienced. The message of the Christmas star is that in order to lead others anywhere, you must go before them.

2. The Stable: Be an Incarnational Leader

Why would God allow Jesus to be born in a dark, smelly stable crowded with animals? This was a strategically divine decision God made not to shelter His Son from life’s harsh realities. God sent Jesus to live in the real world. Life without advantage? He lived it. Shortage, poverty? He’s been there. Discrimination, oppression? Jesus was a refugee before His first birthday. Rejection? He experienced it. Ridicule? It was part of His daily life. Abandonment? By lifelong friends in His greatest time of need. Death of loved ones? Multiple times. Physical pain? More than you or I will probably ever experience. Sometimes life hurts so deeply you want to cry out, “I can’t go on because nobody understands!” The stable reminds us that Jesus understands. He’s been there. He became flesh in order to live with us, identify with us, and know us. This is called the incarnation.

(Continued on page 3)

Year-End Tax Benefits

By: David McMullen

As Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild members, you already support our organization in so many wonderful ways, and for that, we’re grateful! From now until December 31st, there’s an opportunity to support the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation and receive tax benefits in return, by making a gift tax-free with an IRA.

An IRA charitable rollover, also known as a QCD, allows donors aged 70½ or older to transfer any amount, up to \$100,000, from an IRA directly to charities such as the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation. The distribution is tax-free and counts toward your required minimum distribution.

This means that from now through December 31, 2024, donors aged 70½ or older can move up to \$100,000 from their IRA accounts directly to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation, without having to pay income taxes on the money for this year. The donor does not have to pay income tax on the withdrawal, nor does the donor receive a charitable tax deduction.

To qualify, you must:

- be 70½ or older
- instruct your IRA administrator to transfer your selected dollar amount (up to \$100,000) directly to the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation
- make the gift by December 31, 2024, to qualify as a tax-free charitable IRA rollover for 2024

To initiate an IRA charitable rollover, contact your IRA administrator and instruct them to make the contribution directly. Please also let the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation know when to expect your gift. For more information, contact Executive Director of Development & Marketing David McMullen at 716-684-0202 ext. 1806, or via e-mail at dmcullen@niagaralutheran.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Niagara Lutheran, and best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

President: Judy Hardie
Editor: Shaylee Torres
Printing/Folding: Joann Thaesler and Susan Thaesler
Circulation: Mary Ann Young and Mailing Crew

Next Meeting:
December 10th @ 11:30am
GreenField Manor 5953 Broadway, Lancaster
Devotions - Pastor Roger Griffiths,
Zion Lutheran in Clarence, NY
Program - A “Festive Christmas Program” and
Basket Raffle to support The NLHS Guild

This Winter Edition of the Guild Gazette is published for the months of December 2024 and January & February 2025.
Mark your calendar for the first 2025 meeting:
March 18, 2025

Holiday Greetings To All,



I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas, surrounded with the love of family and friends. Snow has been late in coming but I'm sure we'll soon see our share of the white stuff as then Christmas draws nigh. As we bake, shop and have parties and gatherings, let's not forget what Christmas is all about. It is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate, remember to keep Him in your heart and in your actions.

We had over 50 people attend our November meeting at the Manor. We appreciate all that The Manor and staff do in accommodating us and serving us great lunches. Pastor Ernest Green from St. Paul in N. Tonawanda led us in devotions reminding us to pray and be thankful for God's love and all that He has given us. We also welcomed back Chaplain Deborah Greatrix-Tyler after a long medical absence. She is part time now but plans to be able to return to full time in January. We continued with WNY Heroes. What an insight to all this organization does; from training dogs, to the mental, physical and financial help they give our veterans. Truly inspirational! Great meeting!

I would like to thank all who helped with the Holiday Bazaar, from baking, to delivering, to pricing, to working the table. I appreciate all of you! We sold \$400 worth of baked goods and some bowl koozies for the microwave. A tray of goodies that remained at the end was given to the staff to enjoy. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves shopping, snacking, horse drawn carriage rides and of course, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

I want to thank those who already renewed their membership for 2025. Envelopes were in last month's newsletter, so many mailed or brought them to the November's meeting. If you didn't submit yours yet, you can bring it to our December 10th meeting to save the stamp.

Our December meeting will be a fun and festive event. Pastor Roger Griffiths will be doing devotions and then leading us in stories and carols. Judy Kroll will be in charge of our basket raffle. See or contact her @716-681-4232 if you wish to donate a basket. Remember lunch is \$15 but there will be no free will offering collected. Raffle tickets are an additional cost. Our meeting will be the last day for collecting calendars.

After our December meeting our next meeting will be in March and announced in our next newsletter in February. There will be no meetings in January and February.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!
-**Judy**

P.S. We pray to God to keep all our members and their families safe and healthy. Continue to keep in prayers Donna Welton, Barbara Ross and Chaplain Deborah Greatrix-Tyler as they continue medical care.

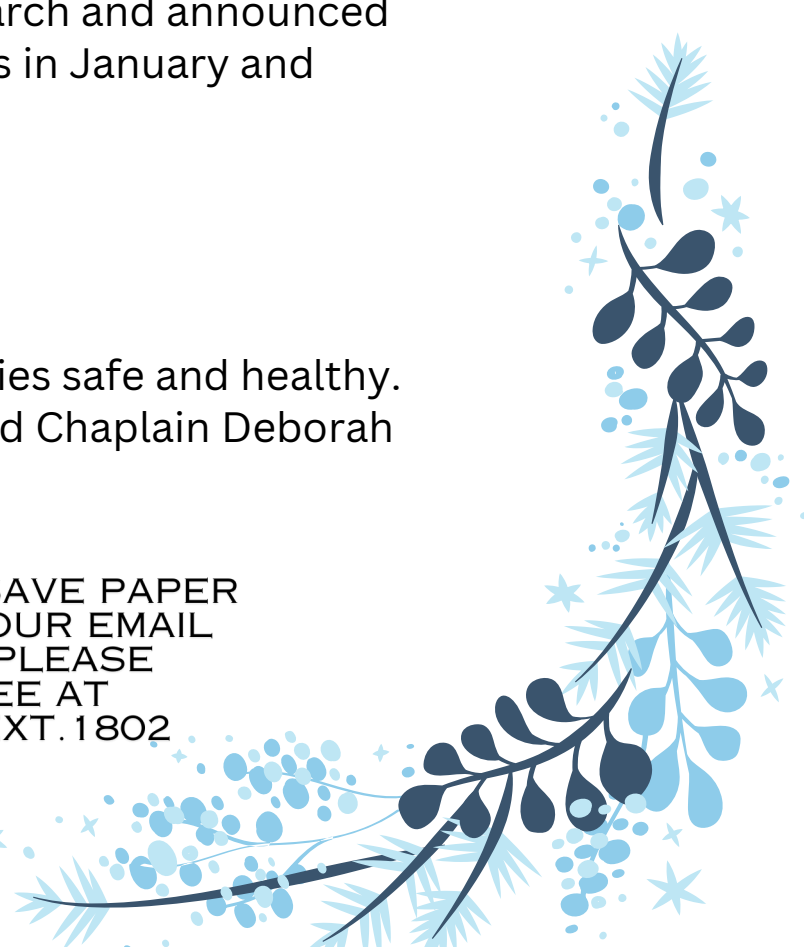
Next Guild meeting:
December 10
11:30am
(gathering)
12pm Lunch
GreenField Manor
Program:
A "Festive Christmas Program" and Basket Raffle
RSVP to Carol Butch @
716.693.7048 by noon on 12/03
Please inform us of any dietary restrictions so the staff can prepare in advance!

Reminder:

Dash Market Receipts may be dropped off or mailed to Karen Saona at:
27 Hummingbird Lane
Amherst, NY 14228



IF YOU'D LIKE TO SAVE PAPER
AND SWITCH TO OUR EMAIL
NEWSLETTER, PLEASE
CALL SHAYLEE AT
716-684-0202 EXT. 1802





Resident Birthdays

december

Court	GHRC	Terrace
JOANNE B. 12.23 PATRICIA B. 12.26 RAYMOND C. 12.28 DENIS P. 12.30	MARY L. 12.03 ANN S. 12.08 MARY ELLEN W. 12.08 JOAN B. 12.10 ANTHONY D. 12.10 CAROLMARIE T. 12.15 DORIS P. 12.17 THOMAS M. 12.21 HALINA P. 12.21 RAYMOND C. 12.28	MARIE S. 12.03

january

Court	GHRC	Terrace
GENEVIEVE W. 01.03 RICHARD G. 01.10 SYLVIA E. 01.19 AUDREY M. 01.25 VITA M. 01.30	WALTER S. 01.03 NANCY A. 01.07 DOROTHY Z. 01.08 MARTHA H. 01.09 PATRICK C. 01.12 MARY J. 01.15 MARY T. 01.15 JOHN C. 01.20 ANNE J. 01.23 WILLIAM L. 01.24 MARCIA M. 01.24 JEAN K. 01.28 OLIVE K. 01.31	MILDRED M. 01.03 GEORGIAN S. 01.09 PRUDENCE D. 01.13 BETTY Y. 01.18 LYNN N. 01.22

february

Court	GHRC	Terrace
	JOY M. 02.01 GRETA A. 02.04 JOANNE M. 02.04 MARY S. 02.05 JANET W. 02.08 ELIZABETH K. 02.09 RICHARD S. 02.11 ANNA P. 02.13 EUGENE K. 02.14 JUNE T. 02.28	DORIS P. 02.01 JOHN K. 02.06 RICHARD S. 02.11 MARGUERITE M. 02.22



WISH LISTS for ACTIVITIES & RESIDENTS

GF Court: Tanya Renkas at 684-8400 ext.6303

- Snack sized candy bars, small single serve cookies, and crackers
- Stuffed animals—Dollar Store
- Acrylic paint—all colors
- Seasonal decorations—Dollar Store
- Large print Crossword puzzle and Sudoku books

GF Terrace: Jessica Cornell at 681-6364 ext.3001

- Beanie Babies
- Hard candy
- Colored pencils & coloring books

GHRC: Marybeth Mego at 684-3000 ext.1344

- Snack sized candy bars & hard candy
- Large print crossword puzzles & word search
- Small stuffed animals

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The profound lesson of that simple stable urges you to be an incarnational leader. If you are going to influence anyone or anything— your employees, a client, your spouse, or even your kids— you are going to have to get really good at incarnational leadership.

Incarnational leadership is a complex term for a simple concept: Good leaders must get out of their own shoes and put on someone else’s. Identify with those you lead by being with them rather than above them, asking them questions and connecting with them emotionally. Get out of your comfort zone, get out of your chair, get into the stable, and get into their shoes.



3. The Manger: Make People Extraordinary

The only reason most of us are even familiar with the term manger is that there’s a small Scripture reference that says God’s Son was laid in one (Luke 2:7,16). We don’t know for sure, but it’s likely that the manger was simply a shallow trough carved directly into the stone floor of the stable where Jesus was born. But because God’s Son was laid in a manger, look what happened to an ordinary piece of stone. All of a sudden it had a new dignity. The ordinary became extraordinary— a feed trough for cattle became the cradle of a King. What a transformation! The simple manger is a symbol of what can happen to an ordinary man or woman when Jesus Christ resides inside. The manger is encouragement that you, in all your ordinariness, can become a leader of extraordinary influence.

A star, a stable, a manger: Learning profound lessons from these simple Christmas objects can transform you into an extraordinary leader who points others to Jesus, identifies with people where they are, and helps them achieve their God-given potential.

Legacies for Life ~ Gifts made by bequest through a will, bequest or insurance policy, play a vital role in our mission of compassionate care. To learn more, contact the Foundation at (716) 684-0202.
“Each of us can be a rainbow of hope, doing what we can to extend ourselves in kindness and grace to one another”



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WINTER 2024 NLHS GUILD GAZETTE

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GreenField Manor - GreenField Court
GreenField Terrace

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Niagara Lutheran Health System Guild:
The NIAGARA LUTHERAN HEALTH SYSTEM GUILD
serves the constituents of the affiliates and any other social ministries
related to the Niagara Lutheran Health System as they are able.
All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to join the NLHS Guild.