

THE SILVER LINING

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CHRISTMAS IS REAL

Christmas is real, is joyful and bright,
Filled with more than dreams are tonight,
For with God's own Son, in bountiful love,
There's brought glad tidings, peace from above.

Sleighting comes Santa, some will array . . .
Comes down chimney, some fairy tales say,
But what these can't do, God can, and more!
There is no end to His heav'nly store.

He hears a child's prayer, wishes faith said;
No chimney nor wall e'er halts His tread.
He comes, and He places His real good gifts,

And bright eyes glow and love's joyous lifts.

We fall asleep mid our dreams of morn;
We hope mid tears when heart is torn.
He fills with love's glad warmth forever.
Christmas is good from heav'nly Giver.

If thus we can go sweetly to sleep
Wrapped in warmth of sweet glow of peace,
Ours is delight and joy waits for morn;
The contented heart does Father adorn.

Rooms of delight after long winter's night
Will spread for wond'ring, joy colored sight.

The family's all in! Christmas is here!
So dear is our home; so real is our cheer.

Our Father's gifts, so priceless and dear,
Grow more precious as days dwindle near.
Christmas fin'ly 'rives; we are at home,
With contented hearts, no more to roam.

So look for the real gifts of His grace,
Of more wonders than mind can embrace.
Home rich in mem'ry yet glad to be . . .
Wonderful Christmas! Wait till you see . . .

The editor

First Pastor Donated Land for A Church

The first Apostolic Christian Church in America was founded in Croghan, in 1848 by a group from Alsace Loraine, France. Shortly after, a group of like faith coming from Switzerland built a church near the Ohio River at Sardis, and thus founded the second Apostolic Christian Church in America. There are now 63 in 17 states.

The first Bremen Apostolic Christian Church was built in 1911 on a piece of land four miles north of Bremen on the Dogwood road, donated by Bro. John Gerber, who was the first Bremen minister.

In 1924 the present church was erected on 124 North Baltimore St., with Bro. Christian Zimmer as minister. In 1927 Bro. Henry Souder was appointed to assist in the ministry and has continued to serve until the present time. In 1935 Bro. Herman Hueni was appointed. He



The Church Building At Bremen

served until his death in 1961. Bro. Earl Zeltwanger was appointed in 1955. He, with Bros. Henry Souder, Verdon Feldman and Harold Zeltwanger are the present ministers.

The ministers with Eugene Saud-

er, Eugene Zimmer and E. W. Schumacher comprise the governing board. Trustees are John Schuch, Carl and Donald Zeltwanger. Sunday School superintendent is Eugene Sauder.

A Brotherhood Aid Program covers losses, sustained by members and any who attend and support the church.

The Missionary program basically supports institutions spreading the word of God. It supports sound missionary endeavors. This program is becoming increasingly active. A World Relief program supports organizations doing good by self-help contributions such as the heifer project, Care, etc.

The members operate and support seven nursing and rest homes. A large home for retarded children will soon be under construction.

The Apostolic Christian Church

is a fundamental church. The doctrine of the church, as the name applies, is based on the teachings of Christ and the apostles. It is the aim of the church to retain and practice the order and discipline taught in the New Testament churches, which were founded and established by the apostles. The teachings found in the New Testament provide the only doctrine and creed.

The doctrine and practice of faith and repentance, confession and remission of sin, and baptism of faith by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are required for membership. The evidence of conversion is to be seen in conduct and speech, and by living a separated life from sin and worldliness.

The practice of closed communion is observed, and its frequent observance is for the edification and strengthening of the church body.

The Apostolic Christian Church considers the Sunday School of great importance, and has made provision for seven classes, ranging from beginners to a young adult group. Emphasis is laid upon the teaching of sound doctrine.

Morning Worship is at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:50 a.m.; Midweek Service, Wed., 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend church and Sunday school.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Mary Hoffman — Norene Herbst
Bros. Robert Miller, Portland; Sam Aeschliman, Bluffton; and Joe Zimmerman Jr. of Morton were guest ministers.

On Sat. night, Nov. 2, four precious souls gave their testimonies. They told of the work the Lord has done in their lives, and how they were led by the Holy Spirit through repentance. Now God has granted His precious peace in their hearts. It is always inspiring and encouraging to hear these testimonies. On Sun., Nov. 3, through holy baptism we welcomed as our brothers-in-faith, Herb Blunier, son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Mariam Blunier; Ed Sauder, son of Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlis Sauder, Alan Hodel, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Hodel; and Chuck Hodel, son of our friends, Carl and Betty Hodel. We surely wish for these dear brothers God's blessings and help. Bro. Roy Sauder was here Sat. night and Sunday to assist Bro. Gene. Also Bro. Vernon Leman was with us for Sunday.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr announce the engagement of their daughter, Chris, to Bro. Bob Hartter, son of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter of Sabetha. They are planning a January wedding.

John Diggle, son of Bro. John and Sis. Sara Diggle, was in the hospital, but is home again, feeling better.

Bro. Jake Schafer is in the hospital, and has had major surgery. We pray that God will be with him, and give him strength and renew his health.

Carol Rocke, daughter of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae Rocke was married Sun. Nov. 17 to Rollie Rumbold, son of Bro. Louie and Sis. Anna Rumbold of Bradford. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Our congregation has been deeply saddened with the passing away of five beloved brothers and sisters. Bro. Jack Leman was called to his rest on Wed. Nov. 6. On heaven's shore, his dear wife, Sis. Lillian Getz Leman has been waiting for him. They leave nine children, Bros. Bill, Sam, and Paul; Bob, Jerry, John and Kenny; Sisters Mary Ann Klaus and Lydia Hohulin.

On Thurs., Nov. 7, Bro. Henry Heiligenstein passed away. We know the Lord will be near his beloved wife, Sis. Anna Belsley Heiligenstein, to help her through the lonely days ahead.

On Fri. Nov. 8, our dear Sis. Anna Hodel Herbert, wife of Bro. Fred, could lay her armor down. May God be near her husband and daughter, Norene, who were given the strength and privilege to stay by her side from day to day during her weeks of illness.

On Mon. morning, we heard our aged Bro. Will Rocke had passed away at the Nursing Home in Eureka, where he and his wife have lived for the past year and a half. His wife, Sis. Persida Steffen Rocke still lives at the Home. He also leaves nine children: Bro. Leroy and Sis. Amy Stoller, Mrs. Lillian Gudeman, Mrs. Linda Fehr, Mrs. Minerva Legel, Mrs. Leona Menton, Mrs. Alvina Fehr, Mrs. Myrna Weyeneth and Elmer.

His sister passed away only six hours after Bro. Will had died. Sis. Mary Rocke, who also had been living at the Eureka Nursing Home for several years, died Mon. Nov. 11. She had been in failing health for many years. We pray that God

will be their Comforter and help in time of need.

These faithful and loving brothers and sisters have been fine examples. As we behold the pillars in our congregation, falling one by one, we pray that those of us who are still here will have the grace to rise to meet the responsibilities that face us. We humbly ask the Lord to give us wisdom and strength to carry on, that we can pass on to our children and future generation the priceless heritage that has been given to us.

Bro. Pete Pfister, who recently passed his 93rd birthday, had surgery for a hernia. He has been able to return to his home. May he continue to enjoy good health.

To Mother, With Love and Gratitude

Thanks Mother for the happiness
I've known because of you.
Thanks for the thoughtful things
you've done,
And all that you still do.
Thanks for being your own sweet
self;
You're as dear as a mother can be,
And Mother, last but far from
least,
Thanks for the love you've given
me.

Many from our congregation were hospitalized. Bro. Eugene Bertschi is again able to serve us in the ministry, after a stay in the hospital. Bro. Melvin Mangold was hospitalized for surgery on a broken elbow which he sustained at work. Bro. Jake Schafer is home, after major surgery, and is improving slowly. Sis. Fannie Minger underwent surgery and is home, getting along well. Sis. Leah Moser

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was in the Eureka Hospital for a few days and has returned to the Roanoke Manor Nursing Home. Sis. Ollie Leman is able to assemble with us, after having had major surgery. Sis. Viola Belsley is convalescing at her home after major surgery. Bro. Fred Siebenthal is able to attend morning services, after being confined to his home the past several months. May the Lord continue to restore and bless all these with health and strength.

The coming marriage of Bro. Brent Pflederer and Sis. Donna Bowald has been announced. Brent is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pflederer of Morton, and Donna is the daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Mardell Bowald of Roanoke.

On Sun. Dec. 1, Jim D. Braker and Marjorie Sauder were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents by Bro. Eugene Bertschi. Jim is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker of Remington. Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith Sauder are the parents of Marjorie. The newly-married couple will be making their home at Fort Wayne. We extend them our best wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Leman of Normal are the parents of a baby boy, Bradford Lee, their second son. The grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Ruth Knapp of Peoria and Bro. Rowland and Sis. Verla Leman of Roanoke.

We again enjoyed visiting ministers. They were Bro. Henry Beer (Milford), Bro. Raymond Roth (Burlington, Okla.), and Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington).

LANDERSVILLE, ALABAMA

R. R. 1, Moulton, Alabama

Billie Jo Harville

We know that the time of harvest of crops is past, but we all should work harder for the harvest of God. "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;"

Our youth group had their meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tom Norton. A nice group were there. They enjoyed themselves, singing praise.

Ann Klopfenstein underwent surgery on her knee. We thank God for her speedy recovery. We are happy Price Byars, father of John Byars, has returned to his home, after having surgery in Decatur General Hospital. Hospital patients were Shelly Dutton, and Sis. Opal Frost.

We had evening service at the home of Price and Ruth Byars, Thanksgiving weekend. We enjoyed singing hymns together, Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein had Bible reading. Price has not been well for several weeks, was able to be with us in our Sun. morning service. We thank God for answering prayer. Once this month Bro. Lavoyd Moore and family was with us for our Sun. morning service. We enjoyed the fellowship.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Lucille Heiniger

Memories of a loved one who has long gone to her reward. She was a very dear old mother and Grandma Bucher to all who knew her. We first learned to know her when she came to La Crosse from Gridley, after the death of her dear husband Gustave in March 1924. She was the mother of eight children; four of whom were still at home when she moved here. They moved into a house in our neighborhood, so we soon learned to know and love her. We were quite young and often visited there. Hers was a home that was always open and welcome to all who came.

She lived in La Crosse until the children married. She then gave up housekeeping and made her home with her daughter Ida. She was very devoted to her family and spent some time visiting each. She was very concerned about her children's salvation, she attaining her salvation in her youth. She lived to see all of them repent except one son, Jack, who was very fortunate to find his soul's salvation at the age of seventy years, about a year before his death this past June.

She was always busy at something. She passed many hours at quilting, knitting or crocheting; making many quilts for others. She also had a great talent for music. I used to enjoy listening to her beautiful alto voice as she would sing from the **Zion's Harp**. She could sing the notes from all the songs in this book from memory.

While visiting with her daughter Louella, at Hoopston, she became very ill and passed away in November 1952. Her friendly smile and loving way was missed by all, for truly she lived the life of a child of God.

Near shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's
free light,

Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and
night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and
tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam
of light.

Onward it crept with added
strength,
With never a thought of fear or
pride;
It followed the light through the
crevice-length
And unfolded itself on the other
side.

Shall claim of death cause us to
grieve
And make our courage faint or
fall?
Nay, let us faith and hope receive;
The rose still grows beyond the
wall . . .

Scattering the fragrance far and
wide,
Just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will forevermore.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Marcelle Dapper — Jan Elsasser

As we again approach the Christmas Season, our Sunday School children are enthusiastically learning their pieces and songs for our annual Christmas program, which will be held Sun. Dec. 15.

Let us stop and think of the giving. We should not give for material reasons, but give from the heart. How many of us hurriedly write Xmas. Let's remember to leave Christ in our Christmas.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the Donald Reichardt family, in the loss of their 5-year-old son, Mark, recently. Mark's grandparents, the late Bro. Mike and Sis. Elizabeth Reichardt, were members of our Maywood congregation. Donald Reichardt and his family moved from California and are now living in Colorado. Sometimes we don't understand the reason, but must realize God also wants young flowers in His garden. May God comfort the family in their lonely hours.

Misfortune has again struck. Sun. Nov. 24, Brent Strahm, son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Strahm, fell off his bike and struck a curb. He had a slight concussion, lost

some teeth, and has several lacerations of the face. His younger brother, Rory, had inner ear surgery on Mon. Nov. 25. They are both getting along very nicely. We are again thankful for God's protection over them.

We again welcome Bro. Reuben and Sis. Marie Farney, who have returned from Oklahoma, where they spent the summer months. We are thankful for their safe return.

We gathered at the church for fall cleaning. We appreciate the efforts of all of our friends and members who participated.

A tho't: Christ was born FOR us that He might be born IN us!

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Carol Schieler — Shirley Anliker

Bro. Henry Beer of Milford brought God's word to us on the evening of Nov. 13. Our services were well attended, for which we are thankful.

The angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth; we again rejoice that two souls have found the need of their salvation. They are Jim Swartz, son of Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Swartz from Bluffton, and Bill Frank, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah Frank of La Crosse. We wish them God's guidance and nearness, as they begin their new walk of life, and pray that more can see the light before it is too late.

A blessed week-end of fellowship was enjoyed by some of our students who journeyed to Bluffton. What a blessing we have to share in the fellowship of those of like mind and faith. Let us ever appreciate these times we have together.

Those on the sick list were Sis. Mary Heinold and Sis. Janet Overmyer, who spent a few days in the hospital. Both were happy for a speedy recovery.

Plans are being made for our Christmas program, which will be held December 18.

At this writing, all of our students have left for Thanksgiving vacation, and we trust all will have a joyous holiday.

THEY NEED YOUR PRAYERS

The college students are the ones
Who surely need your prayers;
Oh yes they have their learning,
But you rarely find Christ there.

His name? Oh, yes, it's mentioned
By lips that blaspheme Him;

By tongues that yield to Satan,
By youths marred black with sin.

The boys and girls seem happy
They laugh and talk and shout,
But dates and cards and dances
Are all they talk about.

And if you mention Christ there
And say He died for men,
They look at you amazed, and say,
"Fanatic! One of them!"—

I never would have thought it;
You seem quite happy, too,
But when I come to think of it
There isn't much you do.

You don't go to the movies,
And dances, never one;
I beg of you, please tell me,
How do you have your fun?"

And then you explain to them
The joy you have in Him.
Because you know He lives in you
And saves from power of sin. . .

So let us give them one and all
The precious Book of Love,
That shows the folly of mere fun,
And tells of God above.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Thanksgiving Day has just passed. We can all say as our 9-year-old granddaughter said, "There's a thousand things to be thankful for."

Now we are going to name some of them. We received so many blessings from Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford) and Philip Sauder (Cissna) and the loved ones they brought along.

Our last minister, Bro. Lester Huber, is no stranger to us. How thankful we were that he and all his family could be with us. His voice was so loving to hear again.

Misfortune came to some of our loved ones, of which we are so thankful they are improved. I had just looked out the window and saw our neighbor, Sis. Louise Onken, quickly come out of the house to go with her brother, Sam Gudemans, for visitation of Bro. Jack Leman, who was always such a friendly cousin. I thought how nice, that sisters and brothers can go together. In just a little bit the ambulance went by. They were hit by a car and Louise was thrown out. She was hospital-

ized a week, but how thankful she wasn't hurt worse.

So quickly Stanley Boehning also was run over by his disc, when the tractor seat broke for him. He was in the hospital a week, but everyone is so thankful he was saved. Bro. Wayne Huber has to be in the hospital again. We earnestly pray he can continue to improve. Bro. Glen Gutweins and Bro. Dale Wards daughters are also well again. A person's heart always go out for innocent darlings when they must suffer.

Our Bro. Ronald and Sis. Vicky Anliker are thankful for acts of encouragement, to help them carry their burden that they have with their tiny baby boy, which has had to be in the hospital so long.

James and Sharon (Gutwein) Denton are happy for their baby daughter that God entrusted unto them.

Two couples were made thankful by their weddings—Roger Ward and Sandra Long, and Dennis Albrecht and Sandra Robinson. May the Lord grant them a wonderful life together.

At our Thanksgiving program, we were reminded to also have a Thanks-living. Our teenagers told us to send letters of cheer and warmth to our soldier boys. How about making our New Year's resolution to write at least once in 1969 to our service boys? . . . Don't think anything could give more cheer in the "Happy New Year".

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Mrs. W. A. Jacobs
Mrs. H. G. Bucher

If people would turn back to God and ask His guidance, we would not have so much trouble in our world. Let's get down on our knees and pray to God in heaven to help us in these serious times. We know God will make a way for people of all races. We believe in letting God work in or through us, because man cannot do anything right himself. This nation was founded on Christ, so if people would do more looking to Christ and following His will, they would find that the things which are wrong would soon straighten out. Everyone who really want this country to be better place to live in should pray. With faith, God will see to the rest.

Bro. Dillar Ames, son of friend Dillar Sr. & Sis. Mildred Ames, arrived home safely from Vietnam. Baptismal services were held for

his sister, Carolyn Lester, by Elder Bro. George Yergler, Dec. 1. We wish her God's blessings on her new path of life.

LATTY, OHIO

Dolores Grant — Marguerite Stoller
Visiting ministers were Bros. Henry Beer of Milford, on Nov. 17, and Walter Rehklau of Toledo for our Thanksgiving services.

Engagements: The two oldest sons of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller are engaged. Wendell is engaged to Glenna Goeltzenleuchter of Latty, and Lamar to Shirley Dunifon of Van Wert. Jim Price, son of Bob and Aldine Price of Van Wert, is engaged to Marge Reynolds from Van Wert. We wish them God's blessings.

John Schlatter was in the hospital, but is home and improved.

Bro. Jesse Gerber has been attending church again, for which we are all thankful. Sis. Bertha Stoller is home from the hospital, but not improving as fast as we would like. Lawrence Ringger, son of Nathan and Sis. Alma Ringger, was in a serious auto accident and is in the Intensive Care Unit of Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne. Our prayers are with him and his family.

We come to Christmas, with all its color, joy, and wonder, its spirit of goodwill and warmth . . . But how do we come to Christmas? What it means to us depends on what we bring it, not in gifts and outer display, but in the inner offerings of love and faith that abide in the heart.

RITTMAN, OHIO

**Florence Hartzler
Elma Stoller**

"1968! Another year. Another harvesting of grain. Another harvest of souls. Thanks be to God!" Words spoken to us on Thanksgiving Day by Bro. Ben Stavenik, visiting from Mansfield.

We are glad to see Sis. Lula Bertschy and Sis. Marion Steiner can assemble with us again, after their stay in the hospital. Hospitalized for a few days were Sis. Ella Widmer and Tommy Stoller. We thank the Lord for His healing power.

A new baby was born to Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery. She is named Amy Marie. Aaron welcomes his new little sister.

After spending four years in the air force, Gary Zollinger has been discharged. We thank the Lord for

protecting this dear friend and bringing him safely home to his loved ones.

Glory to God in the Highest! And on earth, peace, good will toward men! So as the angels praised, that night so long ago. Christ was born in a stable, and put in a manger. Such a lowly and humble beginning for the greatest man. Let us never forget the true meaning of this blessed day, Christmas.

Long has man struggled on toward the dawn,
And searched with tear-stained eyes for break of day;
Long has creation travailed, prayed,
And yearned for earth's dark night of sin to pass away.

But now the sound of battle and of strife
Will soon from east to west be made to cease,
And nations all in silent awe behold the coming
Of the mighty Prince of Peace.

Our Circle

The first people we see or meet on Sunday morning are the Sunday School scholars, hurrying to their classes. Some of the songs they like are, "The Sunday School is our delight, we love it more and more" . . . or "Count your many blessings, name them one by one".

As we come down from Sunday School, we see that the older sisters have taken their places in the church room, waiting quietly for services to start. The older brothers, too, are in their places, ready to worship the Lord. We listen to the singing, the bass, low and blending in with the tenor, the young singing, and the old joining in.

The young widows (we have three) bring their children to Sunday School and then to church; they are listening for a comforting word from one of the ministers, to help them through another coming week.

During noon hour we fellowship with dear sisters, relatives and friends. We see the sisters working in the kitchen, some washing dishes, some serving at the table, and some drying dishes and carrying them away. It is good to see our friends helping right along. We especially want to mention that our dear Sis. Della Maibach, who

passed away recently, was seen by the coffee maker almost every Sunday; now the duties have been taken over by her daughter, Sis. Martha Walder, helped by Sis. Mary Stoller, among others.

We also see at noon our dear Bro. Ray Musser, being pushed in his wheel-chair by a willing driver. Our dear Sis. Ella Fankhauser is also confined to a wheel-chair, but cannot attend services too often. We enjoyed visiting her at home, and gave her a little sunshine by singing for her. We all could say, "We received a blessing, too."

At about 12:45, we sing . . . songs such as are in the hymns of Zion, "God Will Take Care of You" . . . "Be Silent, Be Silent, a Whisper is heard" . . . and others. As services start, we look around. All heads are bowed in silent prayer for the ministers, to speak a word that will be of worth to us in need.

A visitor there for mid-week services was Bro. Ernest Gerber & daughter, Sis. Betty Bauman, who used to be in our midst but now lives with her folks in Rockville, a young widow with three children. We thank Bro. Ernest for his inspiring message, and Sis. Betty for her visit.

If we look in the faces of our new converts, how they are listening with awe to the teachings they are receiving from God's word through His teachers.

The evening sunsets have been so pretty. Truly they are painted with the hand of the great artist Himself, our Lord, who also brings the rain, snow in its fluffy whiteness, and the sun. When we see and hear the rain falling, and look at it as blessings falling from God, we will enjoy the raindrops pattering on the windows.

Caroling! How we love to go out during Christmas and sing carols to the shut-ins. Many Sunday School scholars and teachers join to bring a bit of cheer to those weary souls. How our noses and toes get cold, but our hearts are warmed by the glow on the faces of those we sing to.

We hope you have received some blessing in reading this **Silver Lining**. Even though we may think that surely some other sister is more capable of writing this, we try to do our best so each reader can find something that went to their heart. We pray the Lord will give you many blessing throughout this joyous Christmas season.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen — Katie Kachelmuss

Our guest ministers were Bros. Perry Zimmerman, Ernest Gerber, Noah Schrock and Willis Wiegand. Bro. Schrock accompanied Bro. Herman Kellenberger on a spiritual mission to Regina, Saskatchewan Canada. On their return Bro. Schrock was with us for Wed. evening services. Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Wiegand ministered the word to us, reminding of the thing to be most thankful for, the wonderful plan of salvation brought to earth from God by His Son, Jesus Christ. We should be thankful for this every day, not only on Thanksgiving Day. May God bless the efforts of His servants.

Oh precious Saviour, fill anew
Thy servants who are staunch and true
With light and Holy Spirit,
With joy and with Thy wondrous night,
That in Thy service they delight,
Producing fruits of merit!

Sis. Sophie Gudeman has been missed from our Church Circle, due to illness. Sis. Helen Liebig and Sis. Ruth Metzger have had surgery, and are getting along quite well. We look forward to seeing them among us again soon.

Bros. Joshua Broquard and Dan Koch were with us when we partook of Holy Communion. We missed some of our aged members who were not with us, as they have gone Beyond the Sunset and are at rest. There were in our midst two aged sisters now over 90 years old, Sis. Lydianna Moser and Sis. Karoline Kuehner.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and hand,
To Zion's realm and Holy Land
We journey on.

We are thankful to the brothers who served us in this Holy Communion.

We are approaching the Blessed Christmas Season, which is such a joyful time. We can listen to the children telling of the birth of the Christ Child, the carol singing and the messages we will hear in our services. In this way we would wish all a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Jean Belsey Kaufman are living at 233 Robert Dr., Elgin 60120. They have recently been united in marriage; we welcome Jean into our Church Circle. May God bless their future life together.

BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser

Celestial night,
Perfect beauty;
Abiding faith,
Sacred duty.
Sheep in the fields.
Shepherds near by;
Angel of God—
Light from on high.
Heavenly star,
Songs from above;
Manger cradle,
Motherly love.
Radiant joy!
Glorious morn!
Hallowed message:
Jesus is born!

Sis. Leah Bauman was a hospital patient for a week, due to an infected toe. Now home, she is thankful that doctor's orders to rest her foot doesn't curtail her quilting.

Bro. Alpha and Sis. Lena Strahm enjoyed a visit with their son, Dr. Waymer Strahm, his wife and two children in Hawaii. Bro. Noah and Sis. Lillian Edelman enjoyed the trip with them. They report Hawaii a most beautiful place.

Keith Meyer left Nov. 25 for induction into the army. This is Sis. Pearl's third son in service, with James in Vietnam and Earl in Korea. Keith will get his basic in Ft Leonard Wood. May the Lord keep these boys in the shadow of His wings, and in due time bring them safely home is our wish and prayer.

Sara Jean arrived Dec. 1, to be welcomed into the home of Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm. Grandparents are Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter. Sabetha.

Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Lorene Strahm became grandparents for the first time on Nov. 20, when Camille Lanette was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm, Wichita.

On Dec. 22, our Sunday School children are planning to tell the Christmas story through song.

Now as we bring this year's reporting to a close, we want to wish all our readers a blessed Holiday Season.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser — Carolyn Gerber

"No garment is more becoming to a child of God than the cloak of humility."

Engagements: Sis. Judy Fiechter to Bro. Patrick Dubach; parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Walter Fiechter and Bro. and Sis. Leonard Dubach. Sis. Jill Isch to Bro. Steve Roth; parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Roger Isch and Bro. and Sis. Earl Roth of Fairbury. May the blessing of God attend thee; may the Sun of glory shine around thee; and may the gates of plenty, honor and happiness be ever open to thee.

Shut-ins: Those hospitalized were Sis. Fannie Baumgartner and Sis. Joyce Gehring; Bros. Wm. Kaehr and Charles Kaehr. May God grant you new strength, health, and many blessings too, likewise to those that are shut-in at their respective homes.

Births: A daughter, Susan Elizabeth to Bro. and Sis. Robert Troxel; a daughter, Julie to Bro. and Sis. Doyle Frauhiger.

60th Wedding Anniversary: "Best wishes for a lifetime of happiness together" Bro. and Sis. William Neuenschwander—Parents of 12 children.

We rejoice again; three more friends have been announced for provings and baptisms, Nova Steffen, Marydean Schladenhauffen and Mike Meade.

"... behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."

O Christmas is a glorious time,
The birthday of the King,
When heaven and earth proclaim
good news

And joyous carols ring . . .
For lo, in Bethlehem's lowly stall,
With Joseph and the maid,
The baby in rude manger bed
So tenderly is laid.

Yes, love is born; and peace and joy
To mortal man is given;
How vain seem quarrels and world
strife

In this pure light of heaven . . .
For just as lowly shepherds came
And wise men to the stall,
So let us find and worship Him,
And yield to Him our all.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Fannie Schieber — Jeanette Knapp

Our visiting ministers of Nov. were Bros. Uriel Gehring, Burling-

ton, Ia.; Joshua Broquard, Fairbury; and Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, Ill. We thank them for their visits and the words spoken.

Sis. Lillian Schrock is in the hospital. We hope she can soon be home and improved in health.

The Bible Class, their teachers and parents from our church were hosts to the Bible Class of the Oakville church the 24th of Nov. We enjoyed having the young folks assemble with us, and are thankful they all returned home safely. We had Christian Endeavor singing at our church that evening, too. The next Sunday it was held at Goodfield.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Sharon McClure of El Paso have a new little daughter, born Nov. 11, and named Crystal Lynn. She is a sister of Jeff and Kimberly. Bro. Walter and Sis. Erma Miller are grandparents, also Mr. and Mrs. Cecil McClure of Carlock.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lois Stoller of Danvers have a new little daughter, born Nov. 18 and named Kathy Marie. She has two brothers, Tim and Paul. Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Stoller of Haviland, Ohio, are grandparents.

Card of Thanks. I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital. Love, Margaret Ott.

Phyllis Schieber was home over the Thanksgiving holiday to visit her parents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Lorene Schieber. Phyllis is a nurse in New York City.

The young folks who are at different colleges spent their Thanksgiving vacation with their folks. We always enjoy having them assemble with us again.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

**Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher**

Our visiting ministers were as follows: Bros. Robert Grimm—Goodfield, Roy Grimm—Taylor, Willis Wiegand—Goodfield, Elmer Witzig—Gridley, Don Sauder—Roanoke, Frederick Knapp—Congerville. We surely want to thank them for their visit and the many good teachings we were reminded of through their ministry.

The engagement of Sis. Beth Hodel and Bro. Curtis Rocke was made known. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Harold and Mildred

Hodel, and he is the son of Bro. and Sis. Virgil and Pauline Rocke.

Those in the hospital recently are as follows—Jane Anliker, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Walter and Wilhelmina Anliker. She is now at home. Sis. Martha Wettstein (my mother), medical patient; she is home too. Sis. Clara Zimmerman, wife of Bro. Lawrence, medical patient. Sis. Lucy Kempf, medical; Sis. Della Anliker for surgery. Sis. Esther Wagner from the A. C. Home is also a medical patient. Sis. Leah Bowald has left the hospital and entered the "Home" as a resident.

Births: A son, Mark Alan was born on Nov. 21. He is the fourth son for Bro. and Sis. Lloyd and Betty Schumacher. A son, to Wm. and Betty Kinder on Dec. 2. His name is Leon Willis, and he has two sisters waiting at home.

Bro. Leroy Huber and Sis. Clara Stoller have been united in marriage. May God's blessings rest upon them and be gracious unto them through all their lifetime . . . And may good health be their portion. We are so thankful to have Bro. Leroy take his place among us again.

May all who read the Silver Lining have a very Blessed Christmas, and may the Christmas Season have a special meaning to everyone. May the Bethlehem Star yet shine into many hearts that are in darkness.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Alma Baum — Gus Baum

We welcome and appreciate the God-inspired messages brought us by our guest ministers, Bros. Elmer Schmidt—Winthrop, and Clifford Grimm—West Bend.

As the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, so we rejoice that Ken Lawson has heeded the call of the Lord.

A heavy blanket of snow, with breath-taking beauty welcomed us this morning—far more beautiful than any artist could paint. Birds rest on the snow-filled branches in search for food, which becomes difficult during such weather.

It is a wonderful time of year, the pure white snow somehow fits in with the Blessed Christmas season, when we celebrate and deeply ponder over the birth of our Saviour whose blood of all gifts the greatest, a gift everyone can partake of, given by God many years ago. Sometimes our hearts overflow with these glad tidings, as we

realize even during such a joyous season the many broken hearts in this troubled and confused world. As we share gifts to those we love, it might be good to dwell on the little things we might give in spiritual gifts that keep giving, and as a chain link us together, until the Glorious Christmas when Christ shall return.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Joan Getz — Mrs. Ken Getz

Bro. Noah and Sis. Mary (Birkey) Zobrist celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house, receiving their many friends. May God grant them many more blessed years together.

Bro. John Zimmerman is now recuperating at Restmor Nursing Home. Sis. Louise (Streit) Ackerman and Bro. John Frank are now home, after a short stay in the hospital. Bro. Joe Kaiser is still in the hospital, after falling on the ice and breaking his hip. Friend Dick Bernhardt has recently entered the hospital for surgery. We wish all these dear ones a speedy recovery.

Bro. Carl Kaiser died Nov. 14. He is the husband of Sis. Lillian (Stortz) Kaiser, and is survived by her; a daughter, Sis. Edith (Mrs. Martin) Hohulin; and three sons, Bros. Kenneth, Lester and Harry Kaiser.

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sis. Donna Bowald of Roanoke, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Mardell (Blunier) Bowald, to Bro. Brent Pfloderer, son of Friends Lloyd and Margaret (Stetzler) Pfloderer was announced. The engagement of Sis. Annette Stieglitz, daughter of Friends Joe and Lena (Hoerr) Stieglitz, to Bro. Lawrence Tanner, son of Friends Gotthold and Anna (Grutter) Tanner was announced.

Baptizing services were held for four dear souls: Gary Rumbold, son of Sis. Beulah (Martin) Rumbold; June (Mowerv) Slagel, granddaughter of Sis. Ella VonBergen; Dennis Feucht, son of Friends John and Florence (Dietrich) Feucht of Elgin, Ill., and his wife, Beth (Menold) Feucht, daughter of Bro. Herman and Sis. Oletz (Honnegger) Menold.

We were richly blessed with wondrous teachings of the word from Bros. Albert Aberle of Tremont and Don Sauder of Roanoke.

Sis. Emma Herman wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for all the cards and gifts received

during her recent illness.

With the Christmas season approaching:

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry,
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King."

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Isn't this a blessed time of year? The Sunday School classes are preparing for their annual Christmas program; many of the children, sewing circles, etc. are remembering the less fortunate with gifts of love and compassion. We can truly agree—it is more blessed to give than to receive.

We welcome a new child of God in our precious faith. Dennis Baurer. He is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Verna Baurer.

Today we heard again it is up to you, individually, to choose your destiny for eternity. Blissful joy and rest or endless torment. Today, God's hand of welcome is extended to one and all.

Our thanks to the following ministers who had such timely warnings and exhortations for the unconverted and for those of us, who by the grace of God, have chosen to serve Him: Bros. Arthur Baurer, David Kieser, Cleo Rinkenberger, Noah Schrock, Edmund Kloter, Harvey Grimm and Hartzell Kaisner.

Sis. Louise Schlatter, lifelong Peorian, died Nov. 16. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Theodore; three daughters, Rose Martha Schlatter, Mrs. William (Erma) See, Mrs. Charles (Mary) Mangold; one son Theodore J. Schlatter; one sister, Mrs. Minnie Roloff; and seven grandchildren.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner are the parents of Steven Gregory, born Nov. 16. Paternal grand-

parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida Kaisner of Forrest. Maternal grandparents are Urban and Martha Bahler of Fairbury.

John and Jean Estes are the parents of Steven John, born Nov. 17. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Francis and Sis. Dorothy Meier.

Morris and Carol Leman of Shawnee Mission, Kansas are the parents of Cynthia Renee, born Nov. 21. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Cora Leman.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Lucille Unsicker are the parents of Karen Jean, born Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day. Paternal grandparent is Mrs. Katy Unsicker. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Emil and Sis. Louise Lauber of Princeville.

Bro. Leroy Hartman has been confined in the hospital with a heart condition. Our prayers are with him and his dear family.

The Mortonaires were our guests at the December Hymn Sing. "O Holy Night" was sung so lovely! We appreciate their visit and do hope they will come again soon.

May God bless you all this Christmas season.

PULASKI, IOWA

Mrs. Dave Wiegand

Little Cynthia Christine arrived at the home of Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Martin on Nov. 18. She was welcomed by 2 brothers and 3 sisters. Her grandparents are Sam and Sis. Louise Martin, Princeville, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Drayer, Cissna Park.

We have received the happy news that our dear friends, Dale and Carol Strassheim have repented and found peace with the Lord. They hope to be taken into the fold in the near future.

The fall farm work is mostly done. It has turned cold and wet. We are truly thankful for the bountiful harvest with which the Lord has blessed us.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

The Milford and Bremen young folks spent the day with our young people. We all enjoyed the program after church services.

My sister Eunice was in the hospital several days for X-ray and medication. She has been resting for several weeks and slowly improving.

Bro. Joe Kaisner and others from Forrest brightened the day for all, as it was very gloomy.

Ken and Loretta (Beckley) Schneider have a baby girl named Lisa Jane. They have 1 girl and 3 boys awaiting her homecoming.

The Fool says, "There is no God." The wise men found him in a manger. We can have Him in our hearts through faith and prayer.

A Christmas Prayer

"O God, our help in ages past; our hope in years to be." Look down upon this present and see our need of Thee . . . For in this age of unrest, with danger all around . . . we need Thy hand to lead us to higher, safer ground . . . We need Thy help and counsel to make us more aware . . . That our safety and security lie solely in Thy care . . . And so we pray this Christmas to feel Thy Presence near . . . And for Thy all wise guidance throughout the coming year . . . and keep us gently humble in the greatness of Thy love . . . so some day we are fit to dwell with Thee in peace above.

"People should look for joy in the WORD, not in the world."

STUTT GART, GERMANY

William Emch

As I sit here this Sunday afternoon, waiting for an alert to be called, so we can load our equipment and move to the field for a week, I think of another alert that has already been called. Are we ready for the coming of our dear Lord and Saviour? Have we kept our corners clean? His coming will leave us no time to complete any finishing touches that we may need.

Bros. Dennis Koehl and Bill Emch spent Thanksgiving with Jerry and Deanna Gasser. It is really wonderful to be able to spend such a homelike day so far away from home. On the following Sunday, Bros. Dennis and Bill went to Wurzburg to pick up Bro. Eldon Getz, Remington, who just arrived in Germany. We then went to Aschaffenburg, to see Bro. Harlan Metzger, Thomas Menold, Morton, has arrived in Germany, but has not been able to assemble with us.

The 30th of Nov., Bros. Harlan and Eldon came to Stuttgart by train and spent the week end with the Fritz Judt family at Ludwigsburg. The fellowship that we receive from all the German families is such a big help. We cannot be

thankful enough for this opportunity.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

Bro. William Wieland, a very dear brother and friend, has passed away. Left behind are twelve children, his grandchildren, and a host of friends and relatives.

There will be a very big vacant spot without Bro. Will. He was not a loud man to draw attention in that way, but he drew attention from a lot of people with his willingness to quietly visit and listen to people. We would not wish to have Will back with us, but he will be missed by each of us, especially myself. We feel he has a much better home. He was an example of quiet faith and a light to all. We pray to the Lord to give comfort to those who are left behind.

Those on our sick list are: Sis. Minnie Freidinger (she is a little better); Bro. Andrew Virkler (who had an accident); Friend Eli Zimmerman (who had surgery); Sis. Lily Meister (who is still in the hospital, following surgery). Pray for our loved ones who are afflicted in body and soul, to help them overcome.

We have heard recently through the servants of our Lord, **Today** is the time to seek your Lord. Dear friends, and those who have found the way, if there is anything that might be amiss with your heart, **Today** is the time.

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Delores Duckworth

Martha Kieser

Visiting ministers who brought us words of life were Bros. Silas Leuthold, Princeville; H a r t z e l l Kaisner, Detroit; and Al Aberle, Tremont.

Bro. Herman Dietz remains a patient at St. Marys Hospital, Rochester Minn. 55901. We are thankful he is showing some improvement, and pray that God will continue to grant Bro. Herman His healing power. Other shut-ins were Dick Dietz, with a broken bone in his foot, and Sis. Audrey (Ben) Ehnle, with a broken tailbone. They are both able to gather with us again. Sophie Hunziker has been unable to gather with us since her illness. We wish her the Lord's nearness.

Little Jana Marie was born to Bro. David and Sis. Shirley Kieser on Nov. 9. Jana's sisters are Mar-

tha Kay, Pam, Kathy, Charlene and Carol. Sis. Martha Streitmatter from Princeville and Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille Kieser are the grandparents. Happy "first" parents of Dwight Charles are Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Kieser; Dwight was born on Nov. 16, and came to live with them Nov. 22. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Freida Rehklauf of Toledo and Bro. George and Sis. Esther Kieser.

Rollie Rumbold and Carol Rocke from Roanoke were united in marriage Nov. 17, at the home of Carol's parents. We wish them the blessings of God in their life together.

We were glad to have several young people from the Elgin and Chicago Bible Classes with us the week end of Nov. 10.

Sis. Eleanor Yackley has returned to her home in Taylor, after being employed here for a few months. We miss having her in our midst.

As of Nov. 6, our Wed. evening services at 7:30 have resumed for the winter months. All are welcome to worship with us.

Our Circle

"Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom the world rejoices."

These words we sang in chorus as we gathered together on Thanksgiving Day, to humbly thank God for our many many blessings. How thankful we should be each day for the goodness of God! Even in tribulation, surely there is much to thank Him for. Many times our troubles are blessings in disguise. They only draw us closer to Him.

We in Bradford are certainly thankful for our little church that God has provided for us! On July 5, 1964, approximately 35 families from the Princeville congregation began gathering here. Our only minister at that time was Bro. Jim Ringger. Since then, Bros. Roy Ehnle and Nathan Stoller have been chosen by God to feed His flock here. Indeed we are so thankful for their humble preaching and loving ways. Many times we have been uplifted and the dear friends have been invited to come to the Saviour. Bro. Silas Leuthold from Princeville so faithfully shepherds our flock.

Since that first Sunday back in

1964, there have been 36 births, 14 baptisms, 4 marriages of members (2 here), 8 marriages of friends, and 1 funeral at our church. There are 2 more tiny graves in our cemetery of dear infants whom God chose to be with Him.

We feel we have been richly blessed thus far, and pray it will continue to be so. Our deep concern is that we can keep this true faith to hand down to our dear children, of which there are many here. Our church is fairly "young"—our only "old" member is "Grandma" Knoblock (Sis. Pauline) who gathers quite often, and whom the little children love to gather around to get their candy.

We are glad for our fellowship hall, where we can meet all the members and friends and feel that true Christian love flow from heart to heart. How thankful we are for visitors! Occasionally some come unexpectedly; we are so glad for each one who thinks of us. We are so thankful for this precious fellowship, when we can meet someone perhaps for the first time, and feel we have known each other for a long time.

Sis. Martha (Nathan) Stoller, with a helper keeps our church house clean. Bro. Ed Ehnle is our janitor. Certainly these are important duties. Sis. Margaret Tanner gives us the use of her basement and does much work for our World Relief Sewing. We enjoy gathering the first Tues. of each month, to make things for those less fortunate. We heartily invite everyone to visit us in Bradford anytime!

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Millicent Frieden — Laverne Roth

"... Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see..."

They came that time to Bethlehem, the simple and the wise. The shepherd in the fields saw the glory in the skies—and sought the holy manger bed, that place of mystery—where God Himself had broken in upon humanity. The greatest men who walk the earth can offer us today no diviner revelation. This then is the Way... Though to knowledge high and vast the human mind may soar, every man must come at last unto the stable door.

Our visiting minister has been Bro. Joe Aberle of Sabetha. Bro. Joe was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Mary, and daughter, Sis.

Judith, of Detroit. We greatly appreciated the fellowship with them, as well as the timely messages brought to us.

Sings and group fellowship have been held in the homes of Floyd and Sis. Matilda Schupbach and Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney.

Thanksgiving Services were held the evening preceding Thanksgiving. This also marked the beginning of our midweek services.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

During the past month, we had from our congregation, Friend Ernie Schambach united in marriage to Annette Beutel at Tremont. The ceremony took place Nov. 10.

The engagements of Bro. Daryl Hari to Sis. Janet Heinold of La-Crosse, and Bro. Duane Reutter to Sis. Kay Baumgartner of Cissna Park were announced in November. Bro. Daryl teaches in the Skokie, Ill., school system; Bro. Duane is now continuing his education in Milwaukee, Wis., and comes to Chicago on week ends.

Sis. Anna Stortz has improved during her long convalescence, so that she may be able to leave the hospital soon.

We were blessed with a visit by Bro. Harold Gramm of Morris, who spent Dec. 1 in serving us from the word.

It is a joy to have visitors, and we extend a special invitation to all who may be in the Chicago area on business or vacation visits. Our midweek services are held on Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

We praise the Lord for Wanda (Kaisner) and Al Kupferschmid turning to the Lord to seek a personal Saviour. Al received notice to leave for Vietnam this month.

Also going to Vietnam recently were Dan Kaeb, son of Bro. and Sis. Dave Kaeb, and Charles Wenger, son of Bro. and Sis. Willard Wenger. Herbert Steffen, son of Bro. and Sis. Alph Steffen, was assigned to Germany. We pray for the Lord to watch over them, and for their safe return.

A new baby boy, named Shannon, was born to Bro. Howard and Sis. Eileen Maurer; Shannon has one brother, Shawn.

The engagement of Bro. Steve Roth, son of Bro. and Sis. Earl Roth, to Sis. Jill Isch of Bluffton

was made known Thanksgiving Day. Bro. Steve was drafted for army service this month.

Sis. Rose Steffen and Bro. Elmer Aberle are in the hospital. Sis. Clara Neukomm, Sis. Anna Roth, Sis. Martha Widmer have left the hospital to recuperate.

Funeral services were held for Silas Hartman, age 78. He had been a resident of Fairview Haven. Surviving are 5 sons, Bro. Vernon, Bro. Warren, Wayne, Arthur, Don; and 4 daughters, Mrs. Caroline Schaffer, Mrs. Marjorie Schaffer, Mrs. Gladys Memler, Mrs. Betty Hibner.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Elna Grimm

'Twas the night before Christmas,
but they did not know . . .

Those shepherds who watched in
their fields long ago.

So silent and peaceful were
heaven's blue skies,
When all of a sudden, to their
awful surprise!

There appeared in their midst a
great blinding light.
The angel of God had appeared
in the night.

Fear not, He addressed them, Glad
tidings I bring . . .

Tonight there is born unto you a
great King.

In the city of David, this Babe
you will find,
Which is Christ the Lord, your
Saviour divine.

Wrapped in swaddling clothes,
in a manger, too . . .

Now, let this be a sign unto you.

Then even the flocks in the field
ceased to graze . . .

For with hundreds of angels the
sky was ablaze!

Glory to God they praised as they
glistened.

The shepherds, enchanted, stood
rigid and listened.

Then just as it happened, it all
disappeared . . .

They trembled. In awe they
exceedingly feared.

Oh surely they'd find Him, for
the angel had said . . .

He was lying there in a manger
bed.

Just think of the joy and the
passion they felt,
As thankfully, prayerfully,
humbly they knelt . . .

To worship the King they had
happily sought.

Oh praise be to God for a miracle
wrought.

Our friend, Loretta Hess, was
announced for proving and baptism.
We are so glad that the waters are
still being troubled.

Those on the sick list have been
Bro. Frank Woertz, Sis. Fannie
Witzig, and Sis. Julia Leman.

A baby girl was born to friends
Ron and Lois Underwood on Sun.
Nov. 10. Her name is Sharon Kay.
Bro. and Sis. Simon and Mary Ellen
Wiegand are the maternal
grandparents.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Martha Stoller

Carolyn Zimmerman

Sisters Eleanor Honegger and
Lydia Maier each had a short hospi-
tal stay. Bro. Dennis Fehr, son of
Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge, has his
foot in a cast; he fractured a bone
when he turned his ankle in school.

Jerry and Beverly Bachtold wel-
come their third son into their
home. He has been named Bradley
Gerad.

A family gathering, with all
their 11 children attending, mark-
ed the 55th wedding anniversary
for Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise Zim-
merman. They met at the home of
their son, Bro. Bob and his wife,
Sis. Judy.

We thank the ministering Bros.
who visited us. They were Bros.
Loren Strahm, Gridley Ks.; Roy
Ehnle, Bradford; Art Baurer,
Princeville; Dale Eisenmann, Chi-
cago; Dave Wiegand, Champaign;
Earl Kilgus, Remington; and Merle
Kaisner, Fairbury.

Dale Leman, son of Bro. Sidney
and Sis. Helen, and Miss Mary Ann
Gaston were married on Nov. 30.
May they experience many bless-
ings in years together.

Al Kupferschmid and his wife
Wanda have returned from Ft Sam
and are presently with his parents.
Al will report for duty in Vietnam
this month. They were here for the
baptism of his brother, Bro. Rich-
ard, who was baptized on Dec. 1
after having given his testimony
on Sat. evening.

Our Sunday School teachers,
with their children, are planning

the annual Christmas program, which will be presented on Wednesday evening, Dec. 18.

I once read a short article I would like to share: It begins with a minister that has dozed into a short sleep, while sitting in his chair on Christmas morning. He began dreaming of a world in which Jesus had never come. He left his chair and began walking through his home, only to find no signs of Christmas, no brightly lit candles, no neatly wrapped gifts for loved ones, no one seemed to be hustling around, readying for the Christmas feast with all its usual trimmings—No Christ to gladden hearts! He left his house and walked out into the streets; he found no church standing where he always conducted his services. He slowly walked back to his home, went to his den to read, but every book about the Saviour had disappeared. As he pondered, the phone rang, and a voice asked him to visit a dying mother. He hastened over and with the weeping child sat at the bedside; picking up the Bible beside the bed, he opened it to find no Gospel of hope, salvation or resurrection! Only "dust to dust" and an eternal farewell. They could only bow their heads together and weep in bitter despair. He was suddenly awakened by the sound of carollers singing outside—

"Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

A silent prayer of thanks and praise left his lips—Let us be glad and rejoice today, because **He has come!**

FT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Wendell Anliker

Once again the holiday season is here, and we thank God for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon us.

Two of our married couples have left us, Alf Kupferschmid, who will be going to Viet Nam, and his wife Wanda, from Fairbury, left here Nov. 5. Dan and Diane Stoller from Oakville left the 23rd of Nov for a short leave, before going to West Point Military Academy in New York, where Don will be working as a computer programmer.

Bro. James Heiniger from Morton and Arthur Beery from Rittman have started their basic training at Ft. Sam. We want to wel-

come them into our small fold. We were blessed with quite a few visitors. Bro. Edwin and Sis. Patricia Ringger from Gridley, Ill. journeyed the many miles to be with us Nov. 10. Edwin brought us many wonderful teachings of the word. On the 24th, Ministering Bro. Nathan Steffen and his wife, Sis. Marilyn from Elgin, Ill. flew down to be with us. We are thankful that we have this opportunity to hear God's precious word so far away from home.

We welcome into our group Charlotte Metzger, who came down to be with her husband, Bill the 9th of Nov.

Bro. Walter Gasser from Columbus, Georgia, is currently attending a basic medical officer course here for 6 weeks, and will be returning to Ft. Benning upon completion of the course.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicky Bucher had all of us over for a big Thanksgiving dinner, the 28th. We were happy to have with us for Thanksgiving Day Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch from Lamont, who stopped in to visit us while on their honeymoon.

We're expecting Bro. Roy Ehnle from Bradford to be with us the 8th of December, which will conclude our scheduled services for this year. We want to thank everyone who came to visit us this past year, and hope it's been as much a blessing to you as it has been to us.

Most of us will be going home over Christmas, as those in training will be getting off the 20th. May God be with us all throughout this holiday season, as we commemorate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

As we near the end of another year, I wonder just where has the time gone! When I think of Christmas and the "Wonderful Story of Love" it tells, and how Love came down to be born in that lowly stable so many years ago, I think of this definition of "Humility" that someone has made.

"Humility is the perpetual quietness of heart. It is to never be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore. To wonder at nothing that is done to me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me; and when I am blamed or despised, it is to go and kneel to my Father in secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of

calmness when all around and about is trouble."

Lucette Stoller, daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Minerva, and Elwood Lee Dietrich of Great Rapids, Michigan, were united in marriage on Nov. 9. May the Lord bless them. They are at home at 128½ East Leith, Ft. Wayne 46806.

Surely it was an enjoyable evening when the young people of nine of our Indiana churches spent Sunday evening, Nov. 17 together, here at Ft. Wayne. Surely there is blessing for all who gather for fellowship and singing praises to our God. We are thankful to Elder Bro. David Bertsch of Leo for his closing meditation and prayer.

We were richly blessed by the words of Bro. Harold Zeltwanger of Bremen at the close of our Thanksgiving Program. He likened the "Harvest of Souls" to an orange tree, which is a continuing process of producing ripened fruit. You will find the blossoms, the growing fruit, and the ripened fruit all on the same tree. He invited our friends not to put off what they can do today, for "TOMORROW your TODAY becomes YESTERDAY" . . . opportunity may be lost forever!

On Thanksgiving Day, the Lord provided the way for Bro. Walter Rager of Toledo to be with us. In his message he told of our "First Thanksgiving", but reminded us that the "First Thanksgiving" was observed by Moses and the children of Israel.

Hospital patients were Bro. Phil Clauss, medical, and Sis. Mary Martin, surgical. May their recovery be hastened by the many prayers uttered for them.

Our thoughts and prayer are with Bro. Bill Steffen, who was inducted into the service on Dec. 2. His parents are Bro. Luther and Sis. Helen. May the words of the hymn "Living In Faith", which we sang together be a comfort to him.

With mercy and with goodness,
Our hearts are oft refreshed,
And when we need His presence,
He answers our requests.

In closing, we wish each one all the blessings of Christmas in this glad and joyous season, and in all the days to come.

Two dollars is suggested to be given, per year, for the Silver Lining.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Dixie Stoller

We are rejoicing with our friends, Vic Gudeman of Cissna Park, and Sue Caldwell of La Salle—who attends Gridley church, as they have found the necessity of a Lord and Saviour.

We extend our best wishes and the Lord's richest blessings to Sis. Beth Hodel and Bro. Curt Rocke; they are preparing to tread the path of life together.

May all the joys of this Christmas season be yours throughout the coming new year.

GIRARD, OHIO Jesse C. Emch

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them;"

As we approach this Festive Season, the end of the year and the beginning of a New, do we not have reason to search our own heart, lest we may be found as the children of Israel? Let us all seek the Lord earnestly and prayerfully.

Sis. Ethel Hafely, who is a patient in the Glenn View Manor Nursing Home, Mineral Ridge, Ohio, appears to be failing in her physical strength. She is 76 years of age. Friend Grace Stoll is now at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lillian May, Mineral Ridge. She is seriously ill. Esther Saylor is still a patient at the Community Hospital, Warren, O.

Sis. Sadie Schladen, who will be 96 years old on the 18th of January, makes her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lauer, 2056 Pleasant Valley Rd., Niles Ohio. Sadie spends most of her time sitting in her chair at a window, and does considerable reading without glasses. A card or note will be welcome.

Sis. Sedona Habeger, our second oldest member, will be 86 years old Jan. 8. She has never spent a day in the hospital, on her own account. She is very faithful in attending the assembly. Sedona is one of those dear sisters who can be classed in the category of "The Quiet People". A card or note will be well in order.

Her address: 1741 McCullum Rd. Youngstown, Ohio 44509.

Sis. Ella Deislinger wishes to ex-

press her sincere thanks to members and friends, for their get-well wishes, prayers, gifts and flowers received while at the hospital and home. It will always be remembered and deeply appreciated. May God bless all for their act of kindness.

Miss Suzanne Emch and Mr. John Sabini were united in marriage in New Jersey, Oct. 11. Suzanne is a senior at Upsala College, and her husband John is a student teacher at Stephens College, Hoboken New Jersey. Suzanne is a granddaughter of Bro. Jess and Sis. Marie Emch. We wish them God's blessing.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held Sunday, Nov. 24. Bro. Harold Emch was elected trustee, to serve for a 3-year period.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures, great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well!

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr
Mrs. Eldon Metzger

Jake Strahm and June Ferguson of Houston, Texas, were married on Nov. 4 in Houston and spent some time with his folks, Bro. and Sis. Loren Strahm.

Recently in a sermon Bro. Loren Strahm mentioned he believed all want to see Jesus. Zacchaeus made special effort to see Him—and Jesus came to abide in His heart, and ours, IF we make an effort.

We have had considerable moisture the past weeks, hampering harvesting. Much of the corn is still in the field.

The Lord willing, the children of Bro. and Sis. Matthias Strahm plan to have a 50th wedding anniversary reception for them Dec. 15. May the Lord bless them with His rich gifts. Sis. Lena is very active, doing much with the World Relief activities.

Moving? Send former address and new address. Send zip number.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

"Sing ye to the LORD. . ." During November, the Vesper Choir was again privileged to sing to the Lord. They presented hymns of praise to the patients at the Geriatric Center, to the residents of the County Home, as well as to those in our Church Home, where we also enjoyed visiting with these dear ones as we shared refreshments, following the program.

There is much excitement and happiness in the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Sauder, as their six sons are beaming with pleasure in the arrival of a baby girl. The welcome little sister has been named Julie Ann. Bro. Will and Sis. Mary Sauder are the paternal grandparents.

We are thankful that Sis. Kelly Domka Beard has recovered sufficiently from surgery that she has been discharged from the hospital. Bro. Alvin Riggenbach is a hospital patient, where he is in traction to try to correct a neck ailment. Doby Weil is confined to his home following a coronary attack. We pray the Lord's healing power on each one.

On Sun. Nov. 10, we were visited by Ministering Bro. Carl Kipfer of Bluffton and Henry Manz of Paulding. Bro. Aaron Steffen of Alto proclaimed God's word to us at services on Thanksgiving evening, and extended his visit with us to include worship on Sun. Dec. 1.

As Christmas season is again approaching, young and old alike are making preparations for observing that period commemorating the greatest of all gifts—God's Son.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

May God's richest blessings be with you all at Christmas and throughout the New Year!

SABETHA, KANSAS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

We were permitted to hear the testimony of Friend Shelby Meyer and to witness her baptism. We now welcome her as a dear sister in faith, and pray that many more can enter in while it is still the day of grace.

Sis. Jane Hartter and Bro. Ron Isch of Lamont were united in marriage. We ask the Lord's blessings on their union as they establish their new home together in Lamont.

We appreciate the visit of Bro. Roy Werni of Lamont and Bro. Ben Fehr of Roanoke. We thank them for the message given, and may the Lord add the increase thereto.

SARDIS, OHIO Doris Indermuhle Our Circle

Though our congregation is quite small, it is often greatly increased by many who enjoy driving, oftentimes great distances, to praise and worship God with us. On Nov. 24 over 100 came to be with us for a very special reason; another of our small group of friends had turned to the Lord, had found grace to repentance, and peace with God. Friend Bill Brake, with the Lord's help, was able to sincerely testify of the love of God for him, as he found it through repentance. Surely all who witnessed his testimony and baptism must have felt the joy that likewise shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents.

We want to thank all who put forth effort to be with us on this occasion. A special thanks to our dear Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman and the ministers, Bros. Robert Beer and Henry Sabo, Mansfield, and Fred Marty, Rittman.

Sis. Almeda Brake (Bro. Bill's mother) wishes to thank those who helped in any way with the preparing, serving or furnishing of the meals on this, a very special day for her.

We also recently spent an enjoyable evening visiting with Bro. Henry Manz and Bro. Elias Manz. They stopped here while Bro. Elias' son, Bro. Ken, attended Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, for an examination.

From our small circle to yours, whether large or small—May God's greatest gift to mankind reign over you in this Christmas season and during the coming year.

SHIODA, JAPAN Toshio Uchida

Brothers and sisters in America, we are thankful that we can celebrate Christmas with many friends. When we say "Merry

Christmas", let us also give thanks for the fact that Christ came to earth to make an atonement for our sins.

In our three churches in Japan we are making plans for Christmas. Our minister, Bro. Willis Ehnle, and our two teaching sisters are making preparations for certain activities.

I am especially interested in Bro. Willis's plan to put a Christmas pamphlet or card in with the newspaper delivered to every home in the village where our church is located. When everyone sees this and the invitation included, if only one soul would come and be converted to Jesus Christ for eternal salvation, how wonderful it would be.

It is indeed a wonderful thing, that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We request that the many brothers and sisters in America will join together in prayer, that God would grant strength to us brothers and sisters in Japan to be useful in the salvation of those who do not yet know the grace and mercy of God.

My 22-year-old daughter, Hatsune, is leaving for Bro. Joe Schrock's home in America on Dec. 3. She plans to stay two years, if the government grants permission. If you should meet her in church, please try to guide her so that she can repent and become a child of God. She may be lonely far from Japan, but if she can become a child of God I have no worry.

Matthew 28:20, Behold I am with you even unto the end of the world.

All loved ones in America, may God's grace be upon you abundantly, and may you have a nice Christmas.

Translated by Willis R. Ehnle

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY Ed Aeschleman

During the month of November we were all surely reminded, by the day set aside by the law of the land, how much we really have to be thankful for. It is our wish that every person on earth could understand the true value of the precious gift offered by God through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Visiting ministers included Elder Bro. John Bahler and Bro. Ernest Gerber, who offered them-

selves freely as servants of God. We were told of our duties to the Lord and of the priceless gift of eternal life that awaits all who remain faithful to the end.

Bro. John Bahler announced the wishes of our dear friends, Philip and Janice Webber, that they might be baptized and be members of the holy church of God. They have found their peace with God. We pray for His richest blessings bestowed upon them. They represent a needed encouragement to our small congregation.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Judith Aberle — Donna Hartzler

Have we ever compared ourselves to Barabbas, the murderer who was set free when Jesus was sentenced to die? As Jesus died in his stead, so also He died that we might be set free. We were reminded of this by Bro. Art Gudeman, who ministered to us on Sun., Dec. 1. It was a pleasure to have Bro. Art and his family with us for the week end.

We are thankful to have Bro. Ben Maibach and family safely returned, after spending the week of Thanksgiving at their home in Florida.

The Sunday School has been practicing Christmas carols. They intend to sing at several of the nursing homes in the area and also make tapes for several people who cannot be with us at Christmastime. I think it makes us all a bit happier when we can share the joy of Christmas with others who are less fortunate than we.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Alfred Bahler and Raymond Roth. We are so thankful for their words of love and exhortation.

Our Friend Ezra Winger is a patient at Carl Hospital. Sis. Edna Hoffman has been confined to her home, due to surgery on her toe.

Sis. Elizabeth Sinn and Bro. Fred Knapp were united in holy matrimony Nov. 14 by Bro. Ezra Feller. Many good wishes go with them. May God richly bless them. Sis. Elizabeth and Bro. Fred wish to express their thanks to the many friends that have remembered them with cards and good wishes.

The engagement of Sis. Kay Baumgartner to Bro. Duane Reutter was announced. Kay is the

daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner; Duane is the son of Wm. and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter. We wish them God's richest blessing in this important step.

As the Christmas Season is approaching, let us eagerly look forward to the spiritual gifts of our Lord, as little children look for personal gifts. "Glory to God", let all men rejoice and hearken once more to the angels' voice.

Through the efforts of one of our civic groups, a number of our servicemen from Chanute Field were brought into our vicinity on Thanksgiving day. After church services various families took them into their homes and shared with them Thanksgiving dinner, which was greatly appreciated.

Had Sis. Lydia Scharlach lived 13 more days, she would have attained the age of 98, but God saw fit to take her away a few days before. Funeral services were held Nov. 16. Survivors include daughters, Sisters Ella, Cora, Nettie, Bertha and Mrs. Lorin (Mary) Anderson; sons, Clyde, Arthur, Aaron, Lester and Harry. May God comfort the family, especially the daughters who so loyally cared for her in her last years she was an invalid. Our home ministers officiated.

Life is Eternal, the good Lord said,
So do not think of your loved one
as dead,

For death is only a steppingstone
To a beautiful life we have never
known,

A place where God promised man
he would be

Eternally happy and safe and
free . . .

A wonderful land where we live
anew

When our journey on earth is over
and through—

So trust in God and doubt Him
never,

For all who love Him live forever,
And while we cannot understand,
Just let the Saviour take your hand,
For when Death's angel comes to
call,

God is so great and we're so small
And there is nothing you need fear,
For faith in God makes all things
clear.

Cissna Park Collection

January is the month to collect
the annual dues for the Silver Lin-
ing. It can be given to your re-

porters. Your cooperation is appre-
ciated. Thank you.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Wanda Kraft—Marie Zaugg

We were privileged to have as our guests, Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth Fischer and their two daughters, Sisters Mary Ann and Mille from Roanoke. We had asked Mary Ann and Millie to come and show us their film and World Relief display. We enjoyed having them and thank them for giving of their time for such a worthwhile program. I am sure it is impossible, for us who have so abundantly, to comprehend how much the things that we can make and give really mean to these poverty-stricken people.

Leon and Carol Sinn are the parents of a baby girl, born Nov. 20. They have named her Staci Jean. Bro. Albert and Sis. Anna Scheitlin of Elgin, Ill. are the maternal grandparents, and Bro. Gus and Sis. Ruth Sinn are the paternal grandparents.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Clarence Yackley from Phoenix, Albert Scheitlin from Elgin, and Sam Huber from Burlington, Kansas. We have been blessed by their love and effort and thank them for coming.

Sis. Carrie Massner was hospitalized for a few days. We are thankful that she was released in time to spend Thanksgiving with her family.

We thank the Heavenly Father for His great gift, His Son. This steadfast Light came down to earth that long ago Christmas; we can never truly find words to fully express our thanks, but grant, O Father, that we may ever keep that Light aglow in our hearts. May it always shine through us to make the world a better place for all men, everywhere.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Herman Schaefer

Mrs. Carl Joos

Elder Bro. Paul Fehr performed the wedding ceremony of his daughter, Sis. Velma to Bro. Gary Domnick, son of the Bro. and Sis. Glen Domnick, on Nov. 17. We all wish them the blessing of the Lord in their new life together.

The Prince of Peace

Friend, have you ever stopped to
think

What life for us would be
If God had not sent His dear Son

To earth for you and me?

If there had been no Prince of
Peace,

No Jesus Christ, divine,
Who willingly left heaven's bliss
To save your soul and mine?

If there had been no Sinless One
To die on Calvary,
How gloomy, sad, and desolate
Your life and mine would be.

But oh we can rejoice; God sent
His dear Son to be born.
In Bethlehem the Sinless One
Appeared on Christmas morn.

Now in this life and that to come
Sweet peace is ours. What's more—
A bright eternity with God
The Father is in store.

We had given the address of our
Sis. Gloria Koehl, who is going to
school in New Mexico. We would
like to report a change. Her new ad-
dress is 1516 Carlisle Blvd SE
Albuquerque New Mexico 87106

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Martha Steiner

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever
things are true, whatsoever things
are honest, whatsoever things are
just, whatsoever things are pure,
whatsoever things are lovely, what-
soever things are of good report;
if there be any virtue, and if there
be any praise, think on these
things."

Friend Dan Stoller has been re-
assigned by the army to a post in
West Point, New York. He and his
wife Diane are enroute to their
new station; they are certainly
happy to be able to assemble with
the Rockville congregation again,
as they had been living in New
York State this past summer.

Friends Dale and Carol (Rinken-
berger) Strassheim have been an-
nounced for proving and baptism
in the near future, if it is God's
will. They are currently living in
San Antonio, where Dale is in basic
training.

Bros. Harvey Heiniger and Ed
Lanz, and Bro. Uriel Gehring from
Burlington were the ministering
brothers in attendance at the
November meeting in Iowa City.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

" . . . and when they had opened
their treasures, they presented un-
to him gifts; gold, and frankin-

cense, and myrrh."

At this Christmas season, we should give special thanks to God for all the many good and holy blessings bestowed upon us in the past, and not forget the true meaning of the Christmas spirit, as so many do at this time of the year.

On Nov. 24 the first church service of the season was held, with a large number attending. Bro. Ben Maibach was our minister; his inspirational message reminded us of the many blessings that we have to be thankful for in this day.

Bro. Ben was with us on Dec. 1 and explained the need for both repentance and baptism.

Bro. Philip Wingeier will be staying at 2727 Parma St., and invites all that are in the sunny south to visit our congregation and worship with us. Services are held at the Women's Club Building at the corner of Palm Ave. and Park Ct., 1 P.M.

LAMONT, KANSAS Mrs. Stephen G. Schrader Our Circle

As I think of our church circle, I see not only the faces that are in church now, but also those of the loved ones who are at rest in the Lord, and who as a link in a chain helped preserve for us our faith today. They kept their trust and, by the grace of God, passed on to a new generation the living faith by which they had lived their lives. Before my mind's eye passes the image of such as Bro. John Wernli, a gentle, quiet man of few words who, nevertheless, exhibited the peace and love he experienced within. My grandfather Gottfried Gruber was another steadfast soldier, one who was not attached to earthly things—his wants were few—his was a deep and abiding faith, never wavering.

Coming back to the present, I think of our beloved elder who is seasoned in faith and tempered by the cares thrust upon him; his love and patient concern is evident to all. Our younger minister, who shares in proclaiming the gospel of love and redemption through Christ, comes into view. His concern for his brethren and for those who have not yet yielded their lives to Him can be felt by all. Another brother appears—he has retired, but labored for many years in the ministry; his concern is also for any without the Fold, and especially for his children. These

are but a few examples of all the brothers we find in our circle.

I also think with special feeling of two dear sisters and their brother. They have been members of our circle for as long as I can remember. As a child, I recall Leah and Dena stopping at our place and taking wonderful walks with us in the woods on Sunday after church, hearing from them the love of Christ there and in Sunday School—to me they were the day School—to me they were the very embodiment of Christ's love. Now our children are also fortunate enough to experience some of these same things when they are around these dear ones. As I glance around our circle, I see the faces of two other sisters, loved ones who throughout their lives of faith have by their manner of living helped shed abroad the love of Christ and a helping hand to those in need. These are but a few of the sisters, but ones who help make the circle complete.

The circle would never be complete without our small ones. As they come into church and Sunday School, their bright quick smiles and the eager looks on their shining and freshly scrubbed faces can be seen. Truly these little ones cannot but be very close to the heart of their Maker . . . And we in turn can only pray that by the Lord's grace and patient calling when these small ones mature, that they can become the link of faith to a new generation.

We welcome Sis. Jane Hartter Isch, who became Bro. Ron's helpmate on Nov. 24, into our congregation. We would wish for them a long and happy marriage in the Lord.

Bro. Raymond Roth of Burlington, Okla., ministered unto us. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. LaVerne.

Sis. Dena Fechter has again been hospitalized with an asthma condition, but we are happy to report she was released this morning. We pray that the Great Physician will keep her in His loving care and that her health will improve.

I neglected to mention last month that Bro. Charles Gleichman submitted to surgery. His recovery has been swift, and we are thankful that he was not shut-in for long.

The Gridley congregation shared Thanksgiving Eve services with

ours. There is certainly an added blessing when the two congregations can worship together.

The season of Christ's advent is before us, and we are once again reminded of the sacrifice He endured to be our Redeemer and Mediator.

Though Christ a thousand times

In Bethlehem be born,

If He's not born in thee

Thy soul is still forlorn.

The cross on Golgotha

Will never save thy soul;

The cross in thine own heart

Alone can make thee whole.

Among those on our sick list is our Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker, who has a badly bruised foot and ankle. Some of the ligaments were torn loose. We hope for him a speedy recovery. Bro. Chris Sauder continues to be a shut-in. His condition remains the same. We pray that the Heavenly Father can give both him and Sis. Lena much patience.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI

Mrs. Paul Haab for Mrs. Eli Sutter

Those hospitalized were Shelly Hoerr, daughter of Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr; and Bro. Clarence Kolthoff. We are ever grateful for the Lord's ability to heal our mortal bodies when it is His will.

We never know the day nor hour when a loved one may be taken from us. On Nov. 21, Bro. Eli Sutter of our congregation was relieved of the suffering of a lengthy illness, when a sudden heart attack took him out of this life to be forever with the Lord. Services were held on Sun., Nov. 24 by our Elder Bro. Noah Schrock, with Bro. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski assisting.

Bro. Eli was born at Elgin, Iowa on Dec. 21, 1901, the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Rachel Schneider Sutter. He was married to Sis. Elizabeth Grimm on June 5, 1923, at West Union, Iowa. Surviving are his widow, Sis. Elizabeth; three sons, Bros. James, Gerald and Richard, all of our Taylor congregation; and two daughters, Sis. Naomi Heimer (Taylor) and Sis. Joyce (Robert) Pohl of Burlington. Also surviving are a foster son, Robert Frieden of Santa Ana, California; a brother, William of West Union, Iowa; a sister, Sis. Marie Blunier of Roanoke; and 26 grandchildren.

Bro. Eli was a member of our congregation for many years and served faithfully in the various offices to which he was elected. He will surely be greatly missed by our entire congregation.

The family's sorrow was multiplied when a baby boy, born to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter, died on the day following their father's death, Nov. 22, after having lived only a few minutes. The infant was named Eli Frederick and was survived by his parents; four brothers, Steven, Daniel, Richard and Timothy; and two sisters, Marcia and Peggy. Graveside services were held on Sat. Nov. 23 by Bro. Roy Grimm.

The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Although many will greet Christmas and the New Year with sorrow in their hearts, we all with one accord rejoice that God's unspeakable gift, His only begotten Son, provided a Way whereby we will again meet our loved ones in our heavenly home, where there will be no more sorrow, but only happiness and great joy forevermore.

LEO, INDIANA

Mrs. Elias Souder

"Great is the Spirit of Christmas that brings to every heart beauty and good will towards all mankind."

Our young people and Sunday School children gave an interesting Thanksgiving Program at the church, the Sun. evening before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving services were Thanksgiving morning.

We are happy to report Elizabeth Stieglitz and her daughter, Imogene are both at home, recuperating from injuries they suffered from an accident on their way home from Illinois. The accident happened near Ft. Wayne. They spent 10 days or longer at the Hospital before coming home.

James Winzeler, son of Pearl and Raymond, has been spending much time on the high seas. John Klopfenstein, son of Nancy and Wm. Klopfenstein left his home Mon. Dec. 2 to serve his time for the government.

We had visitors from our neighboring churches. Their help was much appreciated at the Rest Homes at Butler. Because of so much flu, the one Rest Home was not visited. Many here have been ill and still are.

TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

Awful busy day of the month has come again, and people are crowded in town for preparation for Christmas and New Year holidays. However, for we true Christians, it is very wonderful and precious month, because we could remember how wonderful blessings come upon us through Jesus Christ, who was born by our Father's eternal promises. We should thank Him that He gave us such wonderful gift of Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are much blessings recently here in our churches in Japan, and pretty many young people are coming to services. Our American sisters are coming from country church every second Sunday, and soldier brothers are coming from Yokohama every Sun. morning if they don't have duty on Sunday. They also attend Sat. night English Service with some other Japanese English students. These English classes and services are taken care of by John Klaus. Pretty many young people are attending this service.

Christmas Poem

Betty Klaus

Jesus was born, a little babe
In a lowly stable, no room in the inn.

He rose to be the Saviour of mankind;
With his birth it did begin.

Then through boyhood days he went
About His Father's business.
So many wondrous things He did;
Marvelous and wondrous 'tis.

Cleansing the lepers, curing the sick,
Sight to the blind, healing the lame,
Teaching and preaching, doing God's will;
Miracles today can be done the same.

For Jesus shed His blood for us
There upon the cross,
Crucified in agony,
Suffered much for us.

Now He's up in Heaven
At the right hand of God.
Hosts already with Him are
And the saints who before us trod.

His promises before us lie;
In the Bible are words so true.
How wonderful to read therein;
It gives us strength anew.

Let us be among the wise
And let our lamps be burning.
How sad 'twill be the lot of those
Who now the Lord are spurning.

So with these tidings of great joy
May all of us who can
Give glory to God in the highest
And on earth good will to men.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

Converts, Terry and Bev Miller and family of Remington, visited with her parents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt. We rejoice with them in their new-found life in Christ.

We extend a warm welcome to Bob and Marge Messner and sons, Bob Jr., David, Paul, and Jeffery. Bob is the son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Florence Messner. He has one year of duty left in Thailand, and then he will have put in 20 years in the Armed Forces. We pray the Lord will watch over him and his family while he is gone.

Sis. Bernadine (Ray) Messner had surgery. May God be with her and her family.

The Christmas season is here. Small children are eagerly looking forward in joyful anticipation to the Christmas program in church. Our preschool and first graders will sing this song to the melody of "Jesus Loves Me."

Happy folk on Christmas Day
Listen what we have to say;
Jesus came to us below,
For God loved His children so . . .
We're glad it's Christmas
And that God loves us so.

Could we use their faith and love to grow a little stronger in Christ?
Let us take heed and make Christmas a holy time, taking care, not letting the worldly pleasures intermingle and interfere with God's word.

Once again it's Christmas-time. God's love is everywhere proclaimed in each beloved song, in every humble prayer. May it fill your home and heart with hope and faith anew, And may it fill a glad new year with lasting joys for you.

OUR CIRCLE

Our circle in church is truly a family circle. We are small in num-

ber, but ever pray the Lord will add the increase.

Our two widowed Sisters, Emma Schmidt and Carrie Messner, are the oldest members of our church. They have seen many years in our congregation, through the building of our old and now our present church, and also the coming and leaving of dear ones.

Our first minister was Bro. Mike Miller, and his wife was our dear Sis. Ida both gone home to be with the Lord. We have three ministers now, Bros. Harold Messner, Elmer Schmidt, and Le Roy Messner. Bro. Harolds and Bro. Le Roys live at Gaylord, as do Bros. George Messners, Mike Messners, Roland Messners, Marlyn Messners, and Leo Messners.

In the town of Lafayette, Sis. Emma Schmidt, Bro. Elmer Schmidts, Bro. Walter Messners and Bro. Donald Messners reside. Bros. Fred Messners and Bill Messners live on a farm near Gibbon. Bros. Cornelius Messerlis, Carl Millers, Dick Schmidts, Jim Messners, Sisters Dorothy Jacobsons, Donnabell Nelsons, Sis. Pearl Lienemann, Carrie Messner, and Bro. Dennis Messners have Winthrop homes and addresses. Bros. Ray Messners, Roy Howks, and Eugene Schmidts live at distant towns. The Henry Schmidt family are at Hutchison.

We are thankful for our many friends and their families who attend church here. The Winthrop congregation used to be a farming community, except for Bro. Ben Messner who ran the Winthrop Meat Market. Now today a person can count the farmers on one hand. This is an example of the changing times we live in.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Carolyn Dotterer—Lois Heiniger

Lisa Kae was born to Bob and Janet Farney on Oct. 7. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney, and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Weaver. Lisa is welcomed at home by Cheryl, Steve, Keith and Kathi.

We will miss Bro. Les and Sis. Lucy Fischer and children, Pam, Charles, and Russ. They are returning to Roanoke, having spent several months in Phoenix.

Bro. Alphi Fisher is progressing well at home, following minor surgery. Also ill was Jon Kokanovich, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris. We are glad he is well enough to attend school again.

Each year when Thanksgiving Day arrives, we are especially reminded of the many, many blessings that God bestows on us. The greatest of all God's gifts is His gift of salvation to all who will accept it.

On Sat. Oct. 26, we were privileged to hear the testimony of John Dotterer, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina. Sun. Oct. 27, John was baptized and welcomed as a new brother-in-faith. May God ever grant him grace to stay true to the Lord.

We rejoice with Ann Mangold, daughter of Sis. Doris Mangold, of Roanoke, that she has turned to the Lord in repentance. Ann has been going to school in Arizona since September. May God bless her in her new life in Him.

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Vera Yackley's new address is 1726 E. Mountain View, Phoenix Ariz. 85020.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

**Mrs. Paul Eisenmann
Mrs. Paul Wagler**

Even as sheep are put in a sheepfold at night where they are kept close together, with a light turned on as wolves and coyotes do not like the light, so should we stay close together in the church with Jesus, our Light, at the door of our sheepfold. This is the thought given us last night by our ministering brother, who also said that Satan has many more years experience than any one of us has, or ever will have. This should behoove us the more to stay close together in the light.

We were thankful to have Bro. Raymond Roth and his wife of Burlington, Oklahoma visit us last night. Bro. Vernon Leman of Eureka also visited us this month. May they be blessed for their efforts.

We are glad to see Sis. Sarah (Mrs. Julius) Gerst in church, after a stay in the hospital. Hospitalized were Page Massner, little daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Ann Massner; Keith Massner, little son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner; and Mike Pohl, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce Pohl. Little Mike's stay in the hospital was extended a few days during the absence of his parents, because of the death of his grandfather, Bro. Eli Sutter. We extend our sympathy to the Pohls in the death of Sis.

Joyce's father. We also give our sympathy to the family of Mary Miller, who died at the age of 89 years. She lived with her brother and sister, Sam and Elizabeth Miller.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA Howard and Louise Getz

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Henry and Robert Grimm (Morton and Goodfield), Elmer Hartter (Milford), Robert Meyers (Bluffton) and John Bollier (Leo). We have had generally large groups of 50-60 people this fall and are very heartened by the interest shown by many of the friends. If just a few more families move to the Indianapolis area, a church of our own will be much sooner in coming. We have appreciated the use of the YMCA, but would feel more at home in our own building. Visitors are always welcome.

... For the Priceless Gift of Christmas is meant just for the heart, And we receive it only when we become a part Of the kingdom and the glory which is ours to freely take, For God sent the Holy Christ Child at Christmas for our sake, So man might come to know Him and feel His Presence near, And see the many miracles performed while He was here . . . And this Priceless Gift of Christmas is within the reach of all, The rich, the poor, the young and old, the greatest and the small, . .

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

**Carol Virkler
Mrs. David Schamback**

Funeral services for Bro. Samuel J. Virkler were held at Croghan church Nov. 11, with Elder Bro. John Widrick officiating. Even though his life was short, 23 years, with a long illness, he will long be remembered by all who knew him for his patience and cheerfulness: always looking on the bright side; always a kind and cheerful word for others. Now his long suffering is over, and he is "Safe in the arms of Jesus". The family of Bro. Samuel J. Virkler wish to extend thanks to all who sent cards and extended sympathy at the time of their bereavement.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Niles and Sis. Polly Farney in the death of her father, William Hawk.

Sis. Inez Snyder is home from the hospital and improving. Hos-

pitalized are Betty (Mrs. Everett) Virkler and Sis. Mary Rohr.

On Nov. 23, Janet Purvines, daughter of Larry and Sis. Louise, and Louis Beck, son of Mrs. Walter (Harriet Beck) Lasher, were united in marriage.

Submitted by Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler:

Who shall say which ones receive the greater blessing when we go to hold services at the Bender Nursing Home, Glenfield, each third Sunday in the month . . . The patients there? or those who go to minister and visit them?

Sis. Vera Virkler and Clarence Farney from the Croghan congregation are residing there, also a cousin to several of our loved ones, Nina Farney, who has been blind since birth. Nina's special gift and love is music; and what a joy it is to see and hear her when she requests that we sing "What a Friend We Have In Jesus."

Another patient softly cries each time the "Old Rugged Cross" is sung. Sometimes he requests that we sing this song, and expresses his thanks after it is finished.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Lydia and Eunice Kammerer

Although Thanksgiving was a very rainy day, our congregation was filled to capacity, giving thanks to our Lord and Saviour for the many blessings all of us received. We are glad that the people feel it worthwhile to come and worship on this special day. We trust that when the new edifice is completed they will continue to fill our church.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Orville Ringger, Bluffton; Bro. Jim Ringger, Bradford; Bro. Stoller, Ft. Wayne; and Bro. Harold Gramm, Morris.

Two more souls have been added to our converts, Jim Meiss, son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Ethel Meiss, and Ada (Klopfenstein) Chaisten-son, daughter of Sis. Anna Klopfenstein and the late Bro. Elmer Klopfenstein. We wish all the dear souls God's grace and help to live and walk the way of righteousness.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy Muselman, who have lived in our community, are planning to make their home in Morton.

On Dec. 1, Bro. Orlyn Miller, the son of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Esther, and Sis. Carol Schlipf, daughter of Adam and Lula, were united in holy

matrimony. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Edwin Ringger.

Bro. Lyle Wettstein, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein, is expected home from Vietnam. We are glad for Lyle and everyone who is able to come back to their loved ones. Byron Martin, son of Sis. Laura and the late Harold Martin, has been discharged from the Service. We are happy for Byron and his mother.

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kiefer & family have been transferred from Chicago to Iran, as an engineer. Mike is the son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Lovene Kiefer of Gridley. He attended Sunday School and worshiped with our congregation until he moved to Chicago. We wish them God's protection in this foreign country.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig have moved into their new home which they recently built. We wish them God's blessing and happiness.

I am glad to report that my co-reporter, Sis. Eunice is recovering from a severe case of upper respiratory infection. Sis. Elizabeth Stoller is recovering from flu and cold.

Joe Stoller, son of Bro. Edward and Sis. Marie, is attending college in Ft. Lauderdale.

Bro. Jack Gramm returned to Korea, after a month's leave with his wife, Sis. Elizabeth, and parents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Ruth.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

As we approach the Christmas season, may we pause in reverence and adoration at the impact made by the Master Teacher on human civilization. Truly it is a time when children's faces glow brighter, men exhibit more kindness to others, and all our hearts are more in tune with the harmony. Let us this Christmas look beyond the tinsel and glitter, see the true character of Him whose birth we celebrate, and exemplify it in lives of service to and an unflinching love for our God and our fellowmen. Last night a boy from Norway spoke to us of Christmas in his homeland. He felt that in his country as in ours a great deal of emphasis was placed on giving expensive gifts at Christmas time, instead of recognizing and emphasizing the true meaning of this holiday. As we listened to the carols being sung in five languages and viewed the Christmas customs in many lands, we observed that the celebrations were simi-

lar, for running through them all in word and song is the recognition of this great holy day, the birth of Christ.

Ann Simons was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy. She is feeling fine again. Louisa Rentsch is home, after another short stay in the hospital. Oscar Banwart has returned home following a three-week stay in the hospital, and is able to assemble with us again. Sis. Lizzie Remm remains in the hospital. Sis. Caroline Lehman is hospitalized as a result of injuries received in a fall. Her heart was touched and filled with joy, when some of her loved ones came in with a birthday surprise, as she lay on her hospital bed. As the author once wrote, "No one goes his way alone; all that we send out into the lives of others comes back into our own"—Sis. Caroline's life has been dedicated to serving others and bringing happiness to them. May God bless all the sick, and may good health soon be restored to them.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

Our Circle

The circle of love and brotherhood that exists within each individual congregation is an ever-existing condition. The constancy of it may seem to vary from time to time as it is viewed through individual eyes. If one is going through a time of spiritual conflict, it may seem that the love and security we are seeking is lost from us. In truth the love that exists between believers in Christ is one of the most constant and enduring conditions in our ever-changing world.

As we each take inventory of spiritual experiences during the past year, we find the assets far outweigh the liabilities. We value the love and interest that is shown by older members for the younger ones. In reverse, the same love is felt and expressed. We remember words of encouragement spoken from the pulpit, a pulpit that is filled Sunday after Sunday with brothers willing to stand before us, empty of themselves, so that they might be filled with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to minister to us.

We especially value the knowledge that the living word is still awakening souls. We are truly thankful for those who have been and will soon be added to our circle of membership.

We even value the experience of loss from our circle. In times such as these, we find the circle grows smaller, but through loss often comes great gain. The love between those remaining must become more strong, true and sustaining, so that the wound of loss can heal. Often the loss of a Christian brings new awareness to those seeking salvation.

We value the **Greatest Love of All** that sustains a congregation through bad times and good, and our circle becomes still more meaningful to us, as we evaluate the true love and influence it has on every life within it.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Mary Gerber have sold the hotel they have lived in and operated for many, many years, and have moved to a home which they have purchased in Goshen. We wish them continued health and happiness in their life, which will be much freer of heavy responsibility, and which they richly deserve.

Bob's parents, Bro. John and Sis. Aline Hoerr of Peoria have purchased a home just up the road from us and are planning to move to our community soon. We ask God's blessings on their undertaking, that they might enjoy many years in our church community which certainly welcomes them.

Sis. Nancy Zimmerman was hospitalized for medical treatment. She is home and able to resume the care of her family, for which she expressed great thankfulness. We join with her in this.

We thank Bro. Perry Zimmerman and those accompanying him for their visit to our church home and for God's word which he so bountifully shared with us.

The Christmas wishes of the Milford congregation go out across the miles and into every home or temporary station where the Silver Lining is received. May the year ahead be full of spiritual blessings for each individual who reads these words.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

**Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey**

The mine disaster at Farmington is about 65 miles from New Martinsville; we like the rest of the nation feel the effect of this great tragedy. We have neighbors and

friends who had relatives and friends among the trapped men.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sabo, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beer of Mansfield visited in New Martinsville on Nov. 23, and attended services at the Monroe Church on Nov. 24.

Dr. "Ted" Oneacre, son of Alma and Edward, passed away on Nov. 24 after a five-year illness. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and two brothers.

Miss Margaret Witschey and Mrs. Elizabeth Witschey Hawkins visited with their brother and families in Charlestown, W. Va., over Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Emma Mullett Corby, widow of Charles Gorby and who has been ill for many years remains about the same. Robert Roth, husband of the former Austa Lohr, has been quite ill for several days.

Walter Emch, who had been a patient in the local hospital for so many months, was removed to a local rest home on Dec. 1. His condition remains about the same. Elza Ritz was hospitalized and had a cyst removed from the palm of his right hand.

Mrs. Elza Ritz, Mrs. C. O. Wade, Mrs. Jessie Bleuer, Mrs. Gus Weltz, Paul and Edward Berger attended services at the Monroe Church on Nov. 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weltz attended the wedding of their grandson, Eugene Weltz and Kathy McQuire on Nov. 30.

Once again it is Christmastime, and we would wish for all our friends of the Silver Lining and elsewhere, a very Merry Christmas, with a glad New Year to follow.

PORTLAND, OREGON

**Connie Steffen
Our Circle**

In a small church, it's hard to write about just a few people. Each is dear and special in their own way. In our older members we can see loving examples of Christian living in their sunset years, so we can well look to them for not only advice, but examples also. We look to our children as our future church, and we have a wonderful heritage to maintain, so this gives the parents a great responsibility. May we all look to the Lord for guidance every day.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Margaret Bantwart were in an auto accident while on their way to church. A car ran into the side of their car, resulting in a broken collar-bone for Mar-

garet, and Ray had a bruised left shoulder. Margaret was not hospitalized, and though it was painful, we are so glad it was no worse.

It seems so good to have Sis. Lottie Bartel (Burlington Okla) visiting us for some weeks. Lottie and her late husband, Henry (lovingly known to us as "Red") lived in Portland all their married lives, some 30 years. Her visit has recalled many precious memories the young and old had enjoyed with them through the years. One of our dearest memories is of "Red's" conversion a few months before he passed away.

Our loved ones and friends are fast passing away,
To the country that's wondrously fair;
Our circle down here groweth smaller each day,
But the circle grows larger up there.

Our hearts are made sad when we bid them goodbye,
As they pass from this country of care,
But there comes a joy as we look t'ward the sky,
For the circle grows larger up there.

It will not be long 'till the glories above,
With our loved ones and friends we shall share;
United again by the Saviour's great love,
In the unbroken circle up there.

The circle grows smaller down here,
Where sorrows and heartaches appear,
But the circle grows larger up yonder,
Where God shall erase every tear.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

**Josephine Schaefer
Mary Jane Leuthold**

Sis. Eileen Roberts has been confined to her home for several weeks, but we understand she is improving, and hope she will be among us soon.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder and son Johnny have moved to Tremont from St. Joseph, Mo. Bro. Charles lived in this Tremont area most of his life. We heartily welcome him and his family back into our midst.

Sis. Leah Schurter is now mak-

ing her home in the Restmor Home in Morton. We miss her, but feel she is well cared for in her new dwellingplace.

Annette Beutel and Ernie Schambach were married Nov. 10. We wish them much happiness in their united life. They are making their home at 306 Wilson Apt E, West Chicago 60185. She is the daughter of Bro. Will and Sis. Rose, and he is the son of Sis. Pauline of Lester.

The engagement of Becky Koch, daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Anne, and Rick Roots of Pekin has been made known.

The sound of Christmas again rings in our ears. It's the rush of Christmas trees, wrappings, gifts. Everything for Christmas but Jesus! It seems the world forgets our Jesus who was born in a lowly stable. How he was so very perfect and so very humble all his life. He always had all he needed of everything, but was not granted riches or pearls on this earth. He cared not for this world and all its lusts, but was content to serve his God and look towards heavenly things for his entertainment. Spiritually, we can learn all we need to know from one perfect man. His purpose on this earth was to fulfill God's will, in providing a way that all could come to life through repentance and confession of sin, picking up the cross and walking the narrow path that leads straight to heaven's door. All the torture and false accusation filed against him, and then dying and shedding his blood for a whole world of sinners seems too much for modern-day men to believe. They would rather create their own version of the holidays. This Christmas, let the warmth of Jesus enter our hearts, and his birth dwell in our minds not for just a day, not just a year, but our entire life. Then someday, if we are found faithful, we can hope to meet this Jesus and live with him in a home of perfectness.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart
Elder Bros. Noah Schrock of Oakville and Leo Moser of Lester spent a blessed Sunday, when they conducted baptismal services, following inspirational provings on Sat. evening for Larry and Marvella Wickman and Galen and Mary Jo Metzger. We welcome them into the fold, and thank the Lord for still calling and granting grace unto repentance, as friend Cheryl,

daughter of Bro. and Sis. Noah and Emma Gerber has turned to the Lord. May His grace be extended to many more.

Two new baby boys have been born: Joseph Edward to Robert and Barb Fehr on Nov. 10 and Lance Edward to Bro. and Sis. Victor and Marilyn Banwart on Nov. 21.

Hospital patients were Sis. Esther (Mrs. Nathan) Banwart, who is home and slowly improving; Bro. Noah Anliker, who is home and recovering from surgery; and Ray Freiden, who has returned home from the hospital and is some better.

At our yearly church election, retiring Bible Class teacher Bro. Elmer Fehr was replaced by Bro. Silas Metzger, and retiring Sis. Katie Ludwig was replaced by Sis. Clara Banwart. May the Lord bless all who so untiringly devote time to teach the youth.

As we review the past year, there is so much to thank our dear Lord and Saviour for, in spiritual as well as material blessings. May our most bountiful harvest be put to good use. May the greatest gift of all, our Lord and Saviour, be put foremost in all our hearts and homes this happy Yuletide season.

How long has it been since you, when the cross of life was pressing heavy, searched for someone whose burdens seemed to be greater than your own, and then went the extra mile and did something about it? This teaching was brought to mind while visiting with an aged sister-in-faith who recently has eye surgery. While in the hospital many miles from home, without very many to be much concerned about her or even knowing that she was there, she was cheerful. Rather than spending her time feeling sorry for herself or worrying about what would happen should her failing eyesight get even worse, she counted her blessings, one of which was that she could be out of bed, enabling her to go to the bedside of her roommate who was bedfast . . . In her own words, "You know my roommate said she could sleep better if I'd sing a few hymns to her. I only wish I could have remembered more verses by heart." Then again, "I don't even have any idea what religion my roommate was, but if it helped her a little, it made me feel glad". When things don't go quite right, just take a little time to

write a message of cheer to someone in the service or call up a soldier's mother or someone who has been ill, and your troubles will seem so much smaller.

We are happy to report that Mr. and Mrs. James Zaugg have assembled with us again since his discharge. They are making their home in Des Moines, where James is employed. Bro. and Sis. Galen and Mary Jo Metzger have moved from West Bend to Ames, where Galen has enrolled in college. These distances aren't so great that we still hope to have them among us often.

AKRON, OHIO

Florence Graf

Following their testimonies the previous evening, Richard and Evelyn Baumgartner and Carl and Kathy Graf were baptized and received into our congregation. Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman performed the baptismal services, which were well attended by members and loved ones of our new converts. We welcome them, and their families, into our brotherhood.

Sis. Katherine Novotny wishes to thank all those who remembered her with letters, cards, prayers and loving thoughts during her recent stay in the hospital.

Our young people are busily engaged in practicing songs and carols for Christmas services at school and at church—a happy time of year once again.

To all my readers far and near
To all my friends so dear,
A few short words
With meaning clear . . .
A blessed Christmas and a glad
New Year!

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

One by one recall, the summer beauties have folded and died. In recompense, how the heavenly Father is giving us winter scenery which is lovely. We have had several light coverings of glistening snow. Our wild songbirds are again appearing from out the deep woods in search of food. From our window sight the sprightly titmice, chickadees and nuthatches, anxious to partake of the bird seed which we put out in various feeders. Among the larger and more colorful ones we see bluejays, downy, hairy and red-capped woodpeckers. The latter ones enjoy suet, which

tends to give them body warmth to withstand the strong gales of our winter season.

Our Sunday school pupils are planning to present a program on the 15th of Dec., directly after our afternoon services. This will consist of poems and songs kin to the birthday of our Saviour. May all of the readers of the Silver Lining have a blessed Christmas season. What a wonderful gift God gave mankind, when he sent His Son to the earth for our sake.

Bro. Uriel Gehring and family from Burlington visited here the week end of Thanksgiving. Uriel expounded the scriptures at our Thanksgiving services.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Eli Sutter family in the passing away of our Bro. Eli. Every death presents to us the truth of how brief life on this earth really can be.

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Keith and Sharon Kellenberger

We really appreciated and enjoyed the many visitors we had. Bro. Wm. Stahl of Princeville and Benj. and Betty Lou Riggenbach of East Peoria joined us for church services the Sunday they were here. Bro. Bill thoughtfully brought along two tapes of sermons for us. Later in the week we enjoyed sightseeing and a meal with them and Nelson and Ella Huber of Tremont. The following Sunday Bro. Alpha and Sis. Lena Strahm and Bro. Noah and Sis. Lillian Edelman of the Bern congregation joined us for services. They came to visit Dr. Waymer Strahm (Alpha and Lena's son) and his family. We enjoyed visiting with them and were surprised to learn that Bro. Alpha and Keith's father, Nathan, grew up together. Wed. evening we spent a pleasant evening visiting at the Edelmanns' motel-apartment. Right now we're happy to have Keith's sister, Lorraine, and her husband, Dale Tatge, with us for two weeks. It is refreshing to see the beautiful creations so familiar now to us through someone else's eyes!

Our phone number was wrong in last month's report. The correct number is 871-726.

This island (Oahu) gets no snow, but the weather becomes rainier and slightly cooler in the winter months. Let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. We wish you all a "Mele Kalikimaka"

(Merry Christmas) and peace and joy in the new year!

JUNCTION, OHIO

Mrs. Ben Manz — Mrs. Alvin Manz

Hospitalized and released was Sis. Madeline Manz. May the Lord continue to comfort and strengthen her, and may we together help to bear one another's burdens.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ernest Graf, Akron; Eugene Fetter, Walter Rehklau, Toledo; Henry Beer, Milford; Kenneth Sauder, Mansfield; Sam Aeschliman, Bluffton. We are thankful that our ministers are still speaking by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. May it never be otherwise.

We are admonished not to be selfish with what we have gained, but to share the good news with others. Have you invited a neighbor to your church this month?

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Robert and Janice Sutter

The Carpenter of Galilee
Comes down the street again,
In every land, in every age,
He still is building men.
On Christmas Eve we hear Him
knock;
He goes from door to door:
Are any workmen out of work?
The Carpenter needs more.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Loretta Steffen

Greetings at this Christmas Season to all that love the Lord!

Now we who love Christ must stand for Him and do as He would do. Probably in each of our homes we have a written message from Him. The letters on the front are B-I-B-L-E.

He would decorate His abode in the beauty of holiness. Even the humblest stable reflects this, for Christ was born in a stable. I am reminded of His glorious decorations He put on every weed and tree, when the sunlight glitters on the snow.

His gifts would be love, salvation, comfort and cheer. If we read the sermon on the mount, we will quickly know that Christ's special blessings are upon the poor in spirit, sad, meek, hungry in spirit, peacemakers . . .

The greatest gift He offers is salvation, and this is free to all. If we reject this wonderful gift, how many times will He call at our heart's door? How many times would you knock, knowing your

neighbor was home, if he refused to open to accept your most gracious gift?

Let us put Christ and his love into our Christmas.

"Be like Jesus this my song,
In the home and in the throng,
Be like Jesus all day long;
I would be like Jesus."

Sis. Bertha Schwarz passed away on Nov. 22, at the age of 79. Elder Bro. Joe Waibel conducted the funeral services, and spoke that the Lord took her little ship of faith and led it gently home.

Sis. Fern Wingeier was hospitalized, but is home again, recuperating from surgery. This month she and Ministering Bro. Phil, her husband, plan to leave for Sarasota, to spend the winter. We wish them a safe trip, and we'll all miss them until they return.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Ann Zimmer — Becky Feldman

Bro. Verdon and Sis. Becky Feldman were blessed by the birth of a daughter, Nov. 14. Elizabeth Ann was welcomed home by her brother Timothy. We pray for God's continued blessings on our ministering brother's lovely family.

Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and Noah Bauman visited at the home of Bro. Dan Germann, to serve Communion to him and other members of the congregation gathered there. Bro. Dan is still unable to attend services.

Our Thanksgiving program was enjoyed by all as our Sunday School classes and others reminded us of the many ways God has blessed our land, our families and each of us.

Bro. Harold Zeltwanger ministered, telling us about the 23rd Psalm. He opened up for us the many tender kindnesses of our Lord and Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, to us his sheep. This psalm is so familiar to us, that it is good to be taken deeply in its true meanings, that we may think and feed upon them.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

Traditionally on Thanksgiving Day, millions gathered around their tables and thanked God for the bountiful repast. After the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, a few set aside one day a year for prayer, choosing a day at their convenience. Thomas Jefferson when ap-

proached thought all proclamations undemocratic, and refused to make one day on any occasion. Because of him, the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day disappeared for many years. Nonetheless down through the years New Englanders did celebrate. Some towns observed in October, others in November. Still in other parts in the fast-growing nation, the day was completely ignored.

A native of New Hampshire, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale while in her 40's was suddenly left a widow. With scanty means to provide for their five small children, she determined to try her hand at writing. This turned out to be highly successful. From the very beginning she was obsessed with the idea of making Thanksgiving a national holiday. In one of her books, she devoted one chapter to a New England Thanksgiving dinner. In her columns appeared many impassioned editorials, proposing that Thanksgiving be made a national holiday. It was she who promoted pumpkin pie to its honor as a Thanksgiving dessert. She wrote hundreds of letters to mayors, governors and other influential government personnel, urging the day to be observed nationally.

The year 1863 was the year of Gettysburg and the riots in New York—riots that nearly wrecked the city and caused many deaths and hardships. Mrs. Hale did not cease in her efforts. In her editorial, which appeared on schedule, she urged President Lincoln to make a proclamation creating a national holiday that would soothe "sectional feelings." A lonely and frustrated man in the White House, he agreed with Mrs. Hale. He too longed to heal feelings. A few weeks later, President Lincoln issued a proclamation naming Thurs. 26 1863 as a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our Beneficent Father."

We are glad for the safe return of our two soldier friends, Richard Hany and Emery Zahner. They with others served in Viet Nam, and now have been discharged.

When one is troubled in his soul and feels separated from his Maker, he can turn to a forgiving God for relief. Such was the consensus of Lorraine Dombek and Chester Luginbuhl, when they presented testimonies before the church body, relating some of the wonderful ex-

perience they had made. Bro. Rudolph Graf of Akron was present and assisted Bro. John Bahler with the provings and baptisms. Bro. Ed. Aeschliman of Delaware likewise spent the Sunday with us. Bro. Chester's parents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Vi. Luginbuhl, and Sis. Lorraine's are Louis and Sis. Matilda Ott.

Bro. Roger Moser and Sis. Joni Kloter were united in marriage on November 24. Elder John Bahler solemnized the holy rites. The wedding supper was served at the bride's home. Her parents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Florence Kloter, and Bro. Roger's are Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Emma Moser. The couple left for Bermuda on their honeymoon.

A little girl, Valerie Kay was born to Bro. Ronald and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl. They have one other child, a little boy, Lee Edward.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts — Anna Marie Baer

The words we find in St. Matthew's gospel, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" came to mind when I felt the tremor from the earthquake. Is not God trying to tell us to beware of the beginning of the end?

A goodly number assembled with us Wed. evening Nov. 13 to witness the marriage ceremony of Bro. LeRoy Huber and Sis. Clara Stoller. Bro. Silas Leuthold performed the simple but impressive ceremony. Bro. Joshua Broquard asked the blessing on this couple and family. We truly wish them God's richest blessings. They spent a few days in Hot Springs, Arkansas, then returned here for a few days.

We were so thankful to have Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern with us one Sunday morning. As we went to church the first Sunday in December, big flakes of snow were falling, truly a pretty sight. We were pleasantly surprised to find we had visitors. We were thankful for the messages, brought in a simple, forceful manner by Bros. Walter Anliker and Clarence Kachelmuss.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Janet Martin, and family, whose dear mother died recently.

A daughter was born to Sis. Frances and Bro. Eddie Knobloch Nov. 23.

Bro. Fred Schafer is recovering nicely, following surgery.

Our Circle

Thanksgiving Day, one set aside to give thanks for blessings. How thankful we are that not only on this day, but with us every day we are thankful for our many blessings. The day dawned dark, dismal and rainy. The wind was blowing. How thankful we were for our health, our good autos to take us to the house of worship and for a place to worship, filled with Christian friends. Each one quickly entered the church; all found warmth and comfort.

Our faithful janitor, Bro. Eddie Woertz, had checked early in the morning, his custom, to see that it would be comfortable when worshipers arrived. Eddie spends many hours during the week seeing that all is in order. Sometimes it is hard to have it "just right" for everyone, but he tries his best. His wife, Sis. Lucy helped clean for a number of years.

Our Elder Bro. Silas Leuthold and wife, Sis. Mary and daughter Sis. Vivian were earlycomers. Silas has been our faithful shepherd for many years and is so patient and understanding with his flock. He always has time to listen to each one's problems, and gives sound advice. We are thankful he is able to carry on and proclaim the word in truth and sincerity, to admonish, encourage and strengthen us. Mary is his faithful helpmate and upholds him. Vivian is teaching the innocent little one, as is their son Bro. John a Sunday School teacher. Their daughter, Sis. Marie, is married to Bro. Leonard Menold, who has his place in the Sunday School.

As we climb the stairs to the assembly room, we pause on the first landing and look out the window to the new edifice being built behind our present building. It is interesting to observe the progress made. The roof is practically done; it is enclosed to keep out the elements of the weather. Inside work can be begun. "Is our heart's door closed to the elements of the world and opened for the Lord to work?"

Our faith is founded on firm foundation in Jesus Christ. Each member has experienced the need of repentance, the joy of forgiveness and the unspeakable peace of heart. Our older members . . . are pillars; they show us much how they remain faithful and how to show eagerness to worship to-

gether. They have weathered many a storm and were victorious; even though they don't preach from the pulpit their every day conduct in humbleness and sincerity, earnestness in prayer, can preach deep-going sermons.

We enter the empty assembly room; one by one our loved ones begin to assemble. Our ministers, Bros. Silas, Dave Kieser, George Wagenbach, Joe Stoller and Arthur Baurer take their places. Dave, an ordained deacon, is a big help to Silas. His faithful mother, Sis. Martha Kieser left many memories, and often Dave shares with us in his sermons. He and his wife, Sis. Ruth (Knobloch) often visit the shut-ins. Their children all worship with us, Patricia at home, Sis. Karen who is married to Bro. Harold Steiner (who helps with the song service) and Bro. Veryl and Sis. Lavonne (Grimm) and sons.

Three of Bros. Dave's sisters assemble with us; Sisters Elizabeth Kieser, Marie Stahl, and Nathalia Feucht. Marie's husband, Bro. Wm. spends much time taking recordings; he assumes the duty of keeping the speakers in order, as well as the furnace and plumbing. Their daughter, Sis. Bernice, recently began teaching Sunday School; their sons, Harvey and Bro. Lyle and his wife, Sis. Betty (Tanner) worship with us. Bro. Norman was recently married to Sis. Gloria Metzger, and they live in the Chicago area but visit home often.

Sis. Nathalia Feucht and her husband, Bro. Daniel and family are all members. Bro. Daniel has been a song leader for many years and is our treasurer. His son, Bro. Earl assists his father in song service, and Sisters Shirley and Betty enjoy singing. Bro. Earl's wife is Sis. Margaret (Broquard); they have three children.

Bro. George Wagenbach has occupied the pulpit many years. He and Sis. Elizabeth display quiet, humble dispositions. They moved to town, but George still enjoys helping on the farm. Their two sons, Bros. Raymond and Lawrence and families worship with us, as does their daughter, Sis. Bernice Stoller, and husband Bro. Vernon Stoller, one of our trustees. Lawrence is a song leader.

Bro. Joe Stoller is one of our younger ministers; each time he leaves food for thought. His pleading invitation for the friends to repent makes us wonder how they

can put off till tomorrow what they should do today. His wife, Sis. Emily (Menold) is a faithful helper in teaching their children the way of obedience.

Our young Bro. Arthur Baurer has also won the confidence of the congregation. He and his wife, Sis. Joy (Bittner) live in town. A common sight during the summer is to see Arthur and his sons mowing the churchyard.

We were privileged to have Bro. LeRoy Huber minister to us. The rain was beating against the windows, but such a feeling of warmth & peace prevailed. LeRoy so kindly invited the dear friends to share the joy of peace of heart.

I was touched to see so many friends present. We feel that if only one little phrase is remembered, it can grow, just as a spark can kindle a big fire.

Two young boys have surrendered their will into the Lord's, have found peace, and are waiting to give their testimonies of their new-found faith. Chuck Schafer, son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Esther (Baer) still attends school; we trust he will be willing to learn in this new school. His cousin, George Baer, could realize there was no true happiness in following the ways of the world. He is the son of Otto and Eleanor Baer and is following in the footsteps of his three sisters who have been converted. Sisters Anna Marie, DeLores, and Linda.

After Bro. Lowell was so suddenly taken away, this family showed such faith and courage and were an inspiration the way they carried on each day. Steve repented and found peace with God and was a big help for his mother. Jane, Stanley, Jim, Bob and Carol were obedient to their mother and brought her joy. Sis. Twylla and her husband, Bro. Floran Streitmatter display love to the fullest extent; even though they live quite a distance are among the first on Sunday mornings. Floran is a Sunday School teacher; Gloria married Bro. Bob Walder, and we enjoy having them visit us.

(to be continued)

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OVERCOMER

Henry Souder Jr.

Revelation means uncovering. What was secret in time past is shown. The book is wonderful. It pulls aside the curtain. We see the vast power of God, the angels, the future.

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."

He knows. He sees as things are. Some of these people in Sardis were busy. Theirs was a doing that was vain. The must is life. It just wasn't there for many.

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

There is a way of thinking that deceives. It is dreadful to think of one, once living in beautiful light, waking too late. Grace would have been known. All the wonderful watchwords of the church would then avail nothing. The soul of such would sink deeper into hopeless despair, and grind the teeth.

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Our Lord tells what to do. Bring the beautiful memories of snow-white bliss. Think about the promises made. We agreed to stay true. Listening were not only people, but the Lord Himself. We grounded in

Scripture. The Lord did not change. Some in Sardis did.

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy."

They went to the assembly, together. To this number a great trial came. There was a faithful few to give joy. God chooses His winners well. He knows what is best, and who fit into His plan. What a priceless privilege to walk with Him in white.

It could very well be that some of those in so much danger listened. It meant more than the whole world.

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Here, we like to be well-dressed. We like colors that are becoming. The apparel of eternity will be more beautiful than the best fashionable, comely design here. His people look wonderful in purest white. Eternal fashion never fades. Certainly it is a dream. Our fondest wish will be fulfilled. Joyous will be a chorus, in white, beautiful, more lovely than winter's wonderful . . . and ages never end.

We should note that the Father will erase the name, unless He is listened to. The promise is to only the overcomers.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

He speaks. It is within any member's ability to listen and win. These messages of the Spirit come with living power. We need to be aware of the real movement. No day is spared of the dear, considering heart of God moving in His plan for His people.

Each of us as a part of the church fit somewhere in this made-known picture of His churches. Where is it? He gives the living word to arouse us.

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"

He knows His church. There was reason that key turned. These people took care the home front. They did the first works, as the Lord desired. What they had, they used. The word was their aim, their watchword, their wall. The word was their plan. They shone for Christ.

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Vain would be the one who thought he had an open door, and did not. If a farmer lets the place run down, he is not fit for the place across the fields. What God has given to do, He expects to be carried out. Then He adds more.

What wondrous things are through the open door!