



Christmas these days doesn't seem the same, as it was when we were kids. We would go to church Christmas Eve for the children's program, come home with a bag of nuts, candy and an apple. After going to bed, it was difficult to fall asleep for the anticipation of the morning excitement.

We would hear the laughter and delight as our parents were decorating the tree, so that in the morning 5 AM, when we got up, we would view a very special sight. All for us kids.

Because there were so many of us, we each

received one gift and it was special. Those were great years growing up with the love and care of both parents.

Perhaps many folks these days try to recapture those feelings by buying a lot of gifts and calling Christmas a "time of giving."

As our lives have changed with age, we become more aware of why Christmas is celebrated. As much as we appreciate the earthly gifts, the true gift of this season is the gift that our God in heaven is giving us through the birth of His Son, Jesus.

We invite you to join with us in this great celebration of Hope and we extend to each of you a very Merry Christmas and many spirit-filled blessings in the New Year.

'Before they call, I will answer.' (Isaiah 65:24) Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.

*There is no cost, but a lot of rewards. Let's continue praying for one another. The greatest gift is Jesus, the Son of God, who died to take away our sins. Our foolish doubt, not believing God can and does answer prayer, is paid for by the precious blood of Jesus. All the more reason to believe that God will provide everything else we need, too.*

Joseph E Stickney – December 2011  
David's Star Ev Lutheran Church

