

PARTNERING HOME & CONGREGATION

Deb Grismer - Pastor of Community Faith Formation

“A Tree for Christmas”

There are many stories and traditions which surround the Christmas tree. There continues to be controversy among the both the Christian and secular communities as to what is the true meaning of the Christmas tree and should we continue to have this Christmas symbol be a part of our lives.

On December 17, 2006, the Bethlehem preschool – kindergarten Sunday and Wednesday school children presented “A Tree for Christmas” for their Christmas program. They offered us a way of remembering why we are celebrating Christmas as we decorate and gather around Christmas trees. Below is a summary of their program. I encourage you to save this and keep it with your Christmas tree decorations and use it each year as you put up your tree and take it down. Talking about what the tree and ornaments can symbolize is one way of easily and significantly passing on the faith to those around you, especially young children of God.

The Christmas Tree: The branches point to heaven where Christmas first began.

The Lights: The lights remind us of Jesus, the light of the world. Jesus is the Savior God promised to send. Read Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:5

The Angel: The angel(s) remind us of Gabriel, God’s special messenger and of all of the angels who announced the birth of Jesus. Read Luke 1:28-32

The Bells: The ringing of the bells reminds us to stop and listen for the important Christmas message: Jesus is born!

The Garland: In wrapping garland around our tree, we are reminded of how Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and how God’s great love enfolds us all at all times. Read Luke 2:6-7

The Candy Canes: Candy canes remind us of shepherds’ staffs. Candy canes on the Christmas tree remind us that shepherds rejoiced and at the news of the birth of Jesus and shared this Good News with others. Read Luke 2:8-18

The Ornaments: Ornaments of every color remind us that Jesus came to save people of every color and nation. Because all people sin, all people need Jesus, the Savior. Read John 3:16-17

