



Bethany Home Association

Independent Living • Assisted Living • Long Term Care

December 2019

Season's Greetings from Bethany Home Association!

I've found that the end of each year is often a time of reflection, a time of celebration, and a time to count my blessings. At Bethany Home Association, we strive to spend every day "Celebrating Life's Journey Together in God's Love." As the current stewards of a Mission spanning more than a century of service, we are blessed to continue our work in service for others. I find it rewarding to have found a career dedicated to serving and am doubly blessed to be surrounded by so many talented caregivers and wonderful people.

Those we serve have led fascinating lives. We are surrounded by history and have an opportunity every day to learn more from those that built the country we live in. I've met farmers, teachers, nurses, preachers, switchboard operators, veterans, and people from all walks of life. All of those we serve have stories to tell, and we all benefit from the wisdom they share. Work with seniors is truly a calling that enriches both those served and those serving.

It is also a blessing to work for Bethany Home Association. In a faith-based mission of the church, I am regularly reassured that our hearts are in the right place as we serve God by serving others. The laughter and the smiles seen in everyday encounters are a common occurrence. The people here have found a genuine joy in service, and those that reside here experience joy in encouraging one another.

Perhaps one of the greatest blessings is the support we have received from our friends in the Smoky Valley communities. Whether you have given your time or funds, you have my gratitude. Without our volunteers and donors, we could not continue our mission or provide the enriching activities that makes Bethany Home Association a special place to live and grow.

May God Bless you this season,

Kris Erickson





Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Thank You!

Your donations truly **make a difference** in the lives of those we serve at Bethany Home. All donations to Bethany Home go directly to support care, programs, and activities for **residents**. Here are just a few ways your support has changed the lives of residents and staff at Bethany Home



Bethany Home residents enjoy games, activities and trips!



GSCF



A grant from the Smoky Valley Fund through the Greater Salina Community Foundation helped pay for upgrades to the security monitors at the Assisted Living. Funds from the Annual Match Madness ensure that our endowment will last to serve future generations.



Veterans are honored at an annual program through our partnership with Kindred Hospice



Donate online! Visit www.BethanyHome.com and click on the 'SUPPORT US' tab to make your donation.

CHAPLAIN PHIL'S BLESSING



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

One of my favorite Christmas Hymns is *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. It is technically a hymn for the Season of Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas. However, it is appropriately sung throughout the whole season. Its beautiful, almost haunting melody is one that is familiar to most of us. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

It sings as a prayer. That was indeed the original intent of the hymn. Originally written around the ninth century as a monastic chant, the monks would recite each verse in a repetitive nature. In the weeks and days leading up to Christmas, they would add verse after verse, culminating on Christmas morning.

Originally sung in Latin, as were all monastic chants, it could easily have been lost to obscurity if it were not for John Mason Neale. Born in 1818, Neale was a priest in the Anglican Church of England. He served in an untraditional ministry by running a home for elderly men. This was a precursor to modern nursing homes. (My kind of pastor!) He was also disillusioned with the modern, popular hymns of his day. Hymns by such composers such as Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, and even George Frederic Handel. Even though today these composers are found in most hymnals and we have no problems singing them together in the same worship services, the debate was similar to modern disagreements of singing contemporary or traditional music in worship. Some arguments never change.

Neale was not just disillusioned with modern music in worship, he also fought for reforms in architecture, art, and even the way churches were heated in the Winters. His argument was that all these changes detracted from the worship experience. In an effort to look backwards, he endeavored to compose music that was reflective and prayerful. In his lifetime he either wrote or translated around 60 hymns including the familiar *Good King Wenceslas* and the Easter hymn, *All Glory Laud and Honor*.

Thus, he came across the Latin text of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, translating it into English. Over the years, people have added more and more verses, to the point where this is one of the longest hymns in modern hymnals. I think the original composers would be more than pleased with this. It is a reflection, it is a prayer, and it is a reminder for us of the promise of Christmas. Emmanuel is a Hebrew word meaning, God with us. When we sing this hymn, we are singing, O Come, O Come, God with us. Let that be your prayer, this Christmas season, O Come, O Come, God with us.

Finally, it is a connection with the past and our shared Christian heritage. We are connected to a people, a place, and a language that is long gone. Yet, our faith, our belief in Emmanuel unites us all in God's grace and love. At Bethany Home, we have reminders of the past, daily. We hold on to traditions and memories that root us in our identity and sustain us in our faith. We also live in the present, today. Our prayer, our hymn remains the same. O Come, O Come, God with us.

During this season of Christmas, I invite you to remember the past of Christmases long gone. Traditions, memories, and relationships. I also invite you to a time of prayer and devotion for Christmas today.

New traditions, new memories, and new relationships. Most of all, I encourage you to invite Emmanuel, God with you, into this season and always.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall
come to you, O Israel.*

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Phillip Hett





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BethanyHome.com

IN LOVING MEMORY

Donald Ash

Don Baker

Doris Bendel

Frances Bokma

Sherrill Bricker

Rosa Brock

Bill Buschbom

Dan Carr

Naomi Cooper

Diane Cummings

Beth Curchy

Bryce Daily

Marjorie Dauer

Donald Elliott

Carol Fanshier

Paul Gentine

Elvin Gerard

Arlo Gruenthal

Doris Holloway

Cleo Howard

Max James

Donald Johnson

Madeline Keenan

Joe Knott

Lillie Krehbiel

David Larson

Edward Leaf

Jean Lightner

Faye Lindholm

Ray Mai

George Maior

Carol Olsen

Ruth Ostberg

Bud Ostberg

Avis Palmquist

Johnny Patrick

Dorothy Peterson

Diana Rhoads

Von Scarrow

Ila Siemers

Connie Sink

Billie Stein

Okley Strawn

Charles Strickland

Rose Thomas

John VanDerWege

Mary Watts

Beverly Wolf

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23:6