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December 2014

**P A S T O R   A N T H O N Y ' S   R I P P L E S**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Back in September, I went to LutherCrest Bible Camp (near Alexandria) for our synod's annual Fall Theological Conference for Pastors. The conference began at 9:00 am on a Monday and I could have drove up Sunday afternoon, but in order to spend more time with my family, I chose to make the 3½ hour drive early Monday morning. It was dark when I began my journey northward. As I was driving north on highway 4, the horizon began to change colors. To my right, I could see the light from the sun was beginning to show. To my left, I could see the darkness getting pushed away.

In John's Gospel it says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) From the east, you can see the sun rising and as it does, it pushes the darkness away. When the light is present, the darkness cannot overcome it. No matter how much it tries, the darkness from the previous night will not be able to overcome the dawn of the new day. So too, Jesus (the light of the world) pushes our darkness away. Jesus makes it impossible for the evil darkness to overtake us. Just as there are shadows present throughout the day, we too will have moments of darkness in our lives. But these moments of darkness will not be able to overtake us as long as we have Christ on our side.

Advent is nearly here, which means that periods of darkness get longer, but our altar cloths turn to blue as we wait in hope of Christ's return. When Christ does return in glory, the darkness of this world will fully come to an end. Until then, we light candles in anticipation of Christ's return. On Christmas Eve, we will proclaim these words from John's Gospel in hope that one day the promise will be fulfilled, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, we REJOICE in the Lord. Those first Christians from Acts 2 were "praising God and having the goodwill of all people." (Acts 2:47) Advent and Christmas are seasons of the church year where we especially REJOICE for all that the Lord has and will do for us. We have already been claimed as a child of God, been given the gift of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins, and we wait in anticipation for the return of our savior – the one who shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome him! REJOICE in the Lord, for one day Christ will come again! Until then, we light our candles as we wait and hope.

*Reminder: Christmas Eve Candlelight services begin at 5:00 pm at Trinity & Waverly,  
6:30 pm at St. Peter.*

In Christ,  
*Pastor Anthony*

## P A S T O R   E R I C ' S   R I P P L E S

Dear fellow rejoicers,

We continue our emphasis on the theme, "What we do as Jesus' followers." We are looking at what the early Christians did from Acts 2. We focused on "sharing" because they shared. Now we focus on "rejoice", because they rejoiced. Here is the NIV translation, "They ... ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." (Acts 2:46 - 47)

I see some happy people in these verses. It seems like they were enjoying their time with one another as they praised God and shared the good news of Jesus. Their hearts were glad. When do you experience a glad heart? My Norwegian heritage allows me to experience a heart that fluctuates from the one extreme of "not too bad" all the way to the other extreme of "pretty good". And, my heart feels "pretty good" on Sunday morning when I come to worship with you. Each of our Circle of Faith congregations has a kind of joy in it's fellowship. People smile, people care for one another. Why? I think it is because like the early Christians we too gather to celebrate the great good news of Jesus. Jesus is right smack dab in the middle of it all. From our songs, to our readings, to our prayers, to our sharing, to our coffee to our connections outside of church.

Many of us have had the joy of the good news of Jesus since our baptism at a very young age and so we may sometimes take it a little bit for granted. We plod along in the routines of church chores and life chores and forget the extraordinary blessings of Jesus. This month we are reminded to rejoice. I hope it won't be too much of a struggle. Remember how all the angels in heaven rejoiced when one lost sheep was found and how they rejoiced with the shepherds when Jesus was born. We do that too. It is important. Your rejoicing does a great deal for me and I know it does for others as well.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to all. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)

Pastor Eric



Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>      5:30 – 7:30 pm  
@ Tim Peterson's — 2176 100th Ave, Trimont

At the Waverly corner on the Welcome Blacktop (130th Ave) turn west 3 miles to 100th Ave. turn south (left) then go 1/4 mile, the first place on the left.

## December Worship Schedule

### *Sunday Worship Services*

Date	St. Peter – 8:30 am	Trinity – 10:30 am	Waverly – 10:30 am
<b>December 7 – Communion</b> <i>St. Nicholas Day Worship</i> <i>Altar Color: Blue</i>	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Anthony	Karen Koeder <i>Children's Christmas Program</i>
<b>December 14</b> <i>Altar Color: Blue</i>	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Eric
<b>December 21</b> <i>Altar Color: Blue</i>	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony
<b>December 28 - Communion</b> <i>Altar Color: White</i>	Pr. Eric	TBA Pulpit Supply <i>Pr. Anthony on vacation</i>	Pr. Eric

### *Special Worship Services*

Date	St. Peter - 6:30 pm	Trinity – 5:00 pm	Waverly – 5:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, December 24</b> <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> <i>Altar Color: White</i>	Children's Christmas Program	Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion <i>Pr. Eric preaching</i>	Candlelight Service w/Holy Communion <i>Pr. Anthony preaching</i>



## **ST. NICHOLAS PARTY!**

On December 6<sup>th</sup> each year, churches throughout the world celebrate the life and work of St. Nicholas. This year Circle of Faith will be learning and celebrating the work that St. Nicholas did for Christ's church. You are invited to join us on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> as we learn about St. Nicholas and REJOICE in the Lord at all of our regular worship services.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

Trinity, Welcome – 5:00 pm w/Holy Communion  
Waverly, Trimont – 5:00 pm w/Holy Communion  
St. Peter, Ceylon – 6:30 pm Sunday School Christmas Program

### **Parish Weather Cancellation Policy**

Traditional methods of phone trees (St. Peter & Waverly) and radio announcements will continue. We will also post closings on Circle of Faith's Website, and on our Facebook Page.

# WINE, WOMEN & the WORD

## Cancelled for December

Next WWW (*Wine, Women & the WORD*) will be Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
At Velma Schaal's — Directions will be in the January newsletter.

## FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE

Circle of Faith Parish was challenged to collect 1 pound of food for each one of our baptized members. To meet the challenge, we needed to collect at least 850 lbs. of food. At the time of printing, the total amount of food collected for those in need is 897.8 lbs. of food. All of this food will be delivered and donated to Heaven's Table and the Salvation Army in Fairmont during the first week of December.



St. Peter – 185 lbs.	Currently at: lbs. 215.2
Trinity – 450 lbs.	Currently at: 421.8 lbs.
Waverly – 215 lbs.	Currently at: lbs. 260.8
Total – 850 lbs.	Current Total at: lbs. 897.8

Way to go Circle of Faith! We made the challenge!

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A thank you from St. Peter Sunday school kids

A special thank you to Ronnie Leiding and Darrell Klenz for assembling the  
Sunday School's Cross project.



## **Circle of Faith**

Parish Council Meeting Minutes — November 17, 2014

Meeting was called to order at Trinity Lutheran in Welcome at 6:06 pm by President Steve Williamson. Other members present: Merle Burmeister, Jody Franck, Jon Helvig, Joel Rabbe, Kirsten Rabbe, Jon, Saxen, Liz Stahl. Staff present: Pastor Anthony Christoffels.

Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jody Franck, to approve agenda. Motion passed.

Pr. Anthony led devotions - "What We Do", based on Acts 2:41-47.

Kirsten Rabbe presented the Secretary's report for the October 1, 2014 Parish Council meeting. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Liz Stahl, to approve the Secretary's report as presented. Motion passed.

Joel Rabbe presented the October 2014 Operating Statement. Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Merle Burmeister, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Liz Stahl would like to look into service contract options. Pr. Anthony will have the administrators look into options. Motion passed.\

### **PASTORS' REPORTS**

Pastor Anthony Christoffels

. Food Shelf Challenge – Goal of 850 lb. for the parish. 600 lb. as of last Thursday. Each church needs to bring more to get to their goal.

. In keeping with the "Rejoice" theme for Advent and Christmas, on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a special St. Nicholas Day themed worship. Normal worship times at all 3 churches.

. Vacations: Pr. Eric - December 7<sup>th</sup> (granddaughter's baptism), [Karen Koeder will fill in at Waverly. Pr. Anthony will contact Bishop Jon for communion permission.] Pr. Anthony – Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> (including Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.) Note for the future: this will be an annual vacation for Pr. Anthony. The Council will arrange for coverage, only at Trinity, Communion Sunday.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Circle of Faith Insurance**

All congregations need to keep a copy of their current insurance policies in the church office. When all are there, Jon Helvig will review them and bring any recommendations to the Parish Council.

#### **2015 Parish Council – New Members – Congregational Recruitment**

Steve and Pr. Anthony reminded each congregation to be working on nominating one new Parish Council member to be elected in January at our annual meetings.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Circle of Faith Stationery**

Pr. Anthony presented pricing for Circle of Faith letterhead and envelopes from Photo Press in Fairmont. Motion by Joel Rabbe, seconded by Liz Stahl, to approve ordering COF letterhead and envelopes within the office's budget, with the office deciding quantity needed. Motion passed.

#### **2015 Parish Budget**

Joe presented the YTD Operating Statement – 10 months ending 10/31/2014. Jon and Jody presented the 2015 Proposed Budget. Each line item was discussed. Motion by Jon Helvig, seconded by Joel Rabbe, to approve the Circle of Faith Parish proposed budget as presented by the Finance Committee. Motion passed. Finance Committee members will be available at their own congregation's December Council meetings and January annual meetings to explain it to each of their congregations at their December meetings.

### **DISCUSSION**

The next Circle of Faith Parish Council regular meeting will be December 9, 2014, 6:00 pm, at Trinity in Welcome. Motion by Jon Saxen, seconded by Jody Franck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kirsten Rabbe-Secretary

# A Seminarian's Letters Home

December 2014

To the membership of Circle of Faith Parish:

Greetings to you all from Evanston, IL! As I write this, we are all shivering here on the shores of Lake Michigan – that icy blast of polar air hit us full on. The snow has not yet come to stay, but winter's cold bites deeply already. It's a crazy time to focus on the word REJOICE, isn't it? Everything is cold and lifeless, the days turn pitch black very quickly, and all we have to hold off the dark of the year are the tiny lights of Advent candles.

This month at Circle of Faith, we'll be having a parish party to celebrate St. Nicholas of Myra, whom we know better as Santa Claus. He was a Turkish bishop who was famous for his devotion to the poor. The legend is that he learned of a congregant who was going to have to sell his three daughters as slaves, because he could not provide for them. Nicholas came by the house in the dead of night and threw bags of gold coins into the chimney. One of the daughters had hung socks by the fire to dry out after washing them, and the purses of gold happened to fall into them. That's where the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings comes from. With that money, the father could ensure his children's future.

No, in case you are wondering, our own bishop won't be throwing bags of treasure down our chimneys on Christmas Eve. But Advent is the time for unexpected treasures to show up among us. After all, who would expect that God would appear as a human being, born the homeless child of an unwed mother? Who would expect that that child would grow up to save us all, and promise to return? And who would expect that people who bear the name Christian would be singing constantly, lighting candles, blessing water, and all the other fun things we do on the darkest, coldest nights of the year, celebrating our hope at the time when everything seems completely devoid of hope? But that's what Advent is all about, the time for singing our prayer that Immanuel come, and joyfully trusting that the Word made flesh has already come, and will come again.

Praying through the dark and cold by Advent's candlelight, let us pray for God's blessing, using these words:

*Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.* [ELW, Advent IV]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your fellow member and pilgrim,  
Carl P. Rabbe, M.Div.



# ST. PETER RIPPLES

No Council meeting was held in November



The WELCA will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd at 12:00 NOON for a potluck meal with a program to follow. This is a special invitation to all women of St. Peter. Come and enjoy fellowship and singing.

The tri-annual convention will meet in the cities in July in 2017. Registration is \$280 or so until the end of Dec. I will try and find all the information if anyone is interested, There was also talk about a day for \$100.00---maybe a bus trip from conference but nothing is final as yet. I'm thinking about going---come along.

Our WELCA group gave out \$1500.00 in Christmas cheer this year. Our balance as of Nov. 20, is \$973.00.

Our sympathy to the Onken family in their loss of Shirley.

Jeannine will have Altar Care in Dec. Group 3 next work detail.

Dec. birthdays are Elaine on the 1st and Janice on the 6th.

Stay warm and healthy. Blessings, Janice

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

St. Peter Lutheran Sunday School will have Sunday School on Dec 7th, 14th, and 21st for Christmas program practice.

Sunday school Christmas program is on Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm.



SUNDAY DECEMBER	USHERS
7	Dale and Jeanne Leiding
14	Todd and Tina Peta
21	Jeremy and Chelsie Wink
28	Ronnie and Jane Leiding
JANUARY	
4	Kathy Bremer and JoAnn Wink

# TRINITY RIPPLES



## Trinity Lutheran Church – November 17, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm by President Henry Borchardt.

Opening devotions were by Pastor Anthony.

Members present: President Henry Borchardt, Pastor Anthony, Jean Schock, Eileen Morrow, Becky Detert, Mary Ann Frerichs, Jon Saxen, Velma Schaal, Larry Phillip, Dallas Rasmussen, and Liz Stahl.

**Pastor's Report:** There will be a special service on December 7<sup>th</sup> with a St. Nicholas themed service. Pastor Anthony will be on vacation Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. We will have a pulpit supply pastor to cover the Sunday service.

**Secretary's Report:** Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Jean Schock seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Liz Stahl seconded. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Mary Ann Frerichs seconded. Motion carried.

**Youth & Board of Ed:** WOW is going great. They have an average of 14-15 students attending. They will be purchasing a larger TV for WOW use with some memorial funds. They will hand out the God's Work Our Hands t-shirts at their Christmas party.

**Deacon's Report:** nothing to report

**Trustee's report:** nothing to report

### **Old Business:**

*Special meeting* - A special congregational meeting will be held after the church service on Sunday November 23 to approve the new constitution.

*Pastor's window* - The new window has been installed in the Pastor Anthony's office. We will check around for vertical blinds for the new window.

*Additional windows* - The trustees will get a bid on replacing the window in the overflow and the basement windows for a future project. This is nothing that has to be done immediately.

*Trustee resignation* - One of the changes in the constitution will necessitate one of the current trustees being released from their position early. The trustees will discuss between them which one of the members will volunteer to go off.

### **New Business:**

*Budget* - The Circle of Faith Parish has completed their budget for 2015. The trustees, Becky Detert and Pastor will work on Trinity's budget for 2015.

*Ushering* - We are setting up an ushering list for Sunday services. If you are willing to usher, please let the church office know.

*Parish Council* - Liz Stahl will be going off the Parish Council in January and we will need a replacement for her position.

*Auto pay* - Eileen made a motion to set up automatic pay for REA, City of Welcome, and Mn Energy invoices monthly. Jean seconded. Motion carried.

*Ladies Aid* - Trinity's Ladies Aid had a special meeting on Sunday November 15, 2014. A discussion was held to dissolve the Ladies Aid. There will be an executive committee created with three members of the Circles to serve on the board.

The next meeting will be December 9, 2014

Jon Saxen moved to adjourn, Liz Stahl seconded. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Eileen Morrow, Secretary



### Special Constitution Meeting November 23rd

The meeting was called to order by President Henry Borchardt following the church service. The proposed constitution was presented highlighting changes. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Eileen Morrow, seconded by Don Saxen to approve the new constitution. Motion carried. Another vote will be taken at the annual meeting to ratify the new constitution with a 2/3 majority vote required.



If you wish to grace our altar with a poinsettia during the Advent Season, please contact Mary Ann DeBus at 728-8778 or the church office at 728-8259. The flower can be 'in memory of' or 'in honor of' a loved one. The poinsettias may be brought to the church during office hours or on a Sunday. A memorial list will be printed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

DATE	COMMUNION	USHERS
December 7	S-Velma Schaal H-Bocky Borchardt	Larry and Deb Philipp
14		Jon and Jen Saxen
21		Todd Williams & Larry Puhrman
24	Council	Joel and Becky Detert Lorrie and Paul Jensen
28	S-Bocky Borchardt H-Jon Saxen	Henry and Sun Borchardt
January 4	S-Jon Saxen H-Brian Burmeister	Dallas and Tami Rasmussen

#### **ATTENTION:** Trinity Lutheran Women

We are sending a survey about our church circles. We would like all of our women to participate in filling Out the survey on the bottom of this page and return it to the church office by December 15th.

-----  
Check the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be active in a circle

\_\_\_\_\_ the best day of the week for circle meeting

\_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00 pm - the best time for circle meeting

2. \_\_\_\_\_ I would be willing to work for different church functions (funerals, coffees, etc.)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to donate food or money for funerals, May coffees, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ signature

TLC Circle Committee

Thank you for filling out the form, singing, and returning it.

# W A V E R L Y   R I P P L E S



## Waverly Lutheran Church Council November 11, 2014

Members present: Pastor Eric, Rosemary Atzenhoefer, Cliff Armbrust, Don & Nancy Nordstrom, Tim Peterson, and Deborah Schneider.

President Tim Peterson called the meeting of the Waverly Lutheran Church Council to order at 7:00 p.m., at Waverly, on November 11, 2014. President Peterson led the council with devotions from Luke 12:22.

October Secretary's report was read by all.

Treasurer's report was given by Cliff. Year-to-date income minus expense -\$13,808.05. Motion by Rosie, seconded by Nancy to accept the report. Motion carried.

### New Business

After lengthy stewardship discussion, motion by Don to send Stewardship letter to all members of the congregation. Seconded by Rosie, motion carried.

Guide 1 insurance coverage will be discussed at the Annual meeting.

With no further business, motion by Rosie, second by Cliff to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Schneider Council Secretary

Waverly Council will meet at Schneider's on December 16 @ 6 p.m. Please bring your significant other and an appetizer to share!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Waverly Sunday school: There will be Sunday school on Nov. 30 to practice for our Christmas Program. Our program is December 7th.





Quilters report for November: On Tuesday we had 8 workers and 10 quilts done. Wednesday we had 5 workers and 6 quilts done. Total of 16 quilts.  
Thank you to all that helped.

Lauri (Bentz) took 15 quilts and 7 baby quilts with her .  
Larry Peterson took 15 quilts and one baby quilt to Pine Ridge.

Next work days are in Jan. the 13 & 14th. We can still use double sheets for backing.

Rosemary Atzenhoefer

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S TIME
December 7	Belva Peterson	Jenny / Shane Kuehl	Pastor Anthony
14	Joanne Sherman	Heidi/Brian Clow Family	John Sherman
21	Karen Koeder	Lindsey Bettin	Pastor Eric
24	John Sherman	Kendra/Dan Helvig	Pastor or none
28	Erwin Atzenhoefer	Sonja Haugen/Susan Krueger	Tim Peterson
January 4	Don Nordstrom	Emily Bettin	Susan Krueger

**December Ushers:**

Don Nordstrom, Dennis Krueger  
Bob Olson, Jim Sherman  
Jon Helvig, Daniel, Helvig

**January Ushers:**


Tim Peterson, Steve Williamson  
Randy Schneider, Brian Clow  
Jeff Lueth

# December 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Elaine Krueger  <i>Susan &amp; Tony Hed</i>	2 Keith Thiesse  <i>Greg &amp; Jennifer Moore</i>	3 Alysha Gibson Wes Strausser Shirley Burmesiter Nellie Oanes	4 Nathan Chukuske Shirley O'Sell	5 Barbara Sherman Alexander Hansen	6 Janice Franck Tanner Muller Steve Morrow  <i>Lee &amp; Mary Thompson—*45</i>
7 Laura Justice	8 Carol Senne Tracy Winter Tonya Brooks	9 Janet Poppe	10 Madison Fletcher Jenna Baldwin	11 Cory Lyons	12 Dawn Greeley Joel Rabbe Justin Hansen  <i>James &amp; Carol Chukuske—*50</i>	13 Joshua Peterson Daniel Armbrust Bryanna Petschke Dallas Rasmussen Paul Jensen
14 Gayle Askeland	15 Renee Hartwig Jesse Bettin  <i>Jack &amp; Mim Potter Tom &amp; Rose Hovick</i>	16 Bob Moffitt Steve Wenzel Jeff Miller Elizabeth Benge	17 John Garbers  <i>Gerald &amp; JoAnn Wink</i>	18	19 Arnie Baumgart	20
21	22 Kelsey Krueger Matthew Benge	23 Bob Nelson  <i>Wes &amp; Carolyn Strausser</i>  <i>Steve &amp; MarLeone Williamson</i>	24	25 Jordan Peterson Phil Burgess	26 Johanna Petschke	27  <i>James &amp; Monica Chukuske</i>
28 Tyler Lyons  <i>Robert &amp; Charleen Swanson</i>	29	30 Todd Morrow  <i>David &amp; Laurie Jensen</i>	31 Angie Schmidt Kelsey Williams  <i>Darrell &amp; Deb Miller</i>			

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2  7 pm Mary Circle–WLC	3 Noon–WELCA-StP Potluck 1:30 pm Dorcas-WLC 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 pm Confirmation Men's Garage–5:30pm	4	5	6
7  SECOND SUNDAY OF Advent Worship / Comm St. Nicholas Party SS -StP Christmas SS Program – WLC	8	9 6:00 pm Parish Council Mtg.  7:30 pm TLC Council mtg.	10  6 pm Supper 6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 pm Confirmation	11	12	13
14  THIRD SUNDAY OF Advent Worship  SS– StP	15	16  WLC Council mtg .6 pm	17  6:30 pm WOW-TLC 6:30 pm Confirmation	18	19	20  Ripples Articles Due
21  FOURTH SUNDAY OF Advent Worship  SS–StP	22	23	24 St. Peter SS Program–6:30 pm  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  TLC–5:00 pm WLC–5:00 pm	25  Christmas Day 	26	27
28  Worship / Comm.	29  9:30 a m Assemble Ripples	30	31			



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#### HYMN OF THE MONTH

Christina Rossetti came from a remarkable family. Her father was a political refugee from Italy and became a professor of Italian at Oxford. Christina, her sister and two brothers all became writers. The third brother was an artist. Christina was a poet and often compared to Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Although she was engaged several times she never married because of her strong religious principles which she would not compromise.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” is a Christmas song based on a poem written by Christina before 1872. It wasn’t published until after her death in 1904. It became a Christmas carol in 1906 when it was paired with music by Gustav Holst. Both the lyrics and the music are simple and easy to understand. In the carol Rossetti tries to portray the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, contrasting the first and second coming. She also describes the angels present at His birth, and the physical affection that Mary is able to display with a mother’s kiss. And in the last verse she says: “What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what can I give Him? Give my heart.” Simplicity at its best.