



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

December 23, 2021

Christmas Message from Bishop Joy

I have a book in my office entitled, "God gave us Christmas" by Lisa Tawn Bergren. In this children's story a young bear cub asks his mother who invented Christmas - God or Santa. Mama Bear indicates it was God, and that God is more important and easier to find than Santa. She tells the little cub that God is everywhere. The little bear cub is not so certain, so Mama Bear and the young cub set off on an adventure to look for God.



They climb a mountain and slide down the snowy bank. At night Mama Bear points out God in the northern lights. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is how God gave us Christmas. They come upon a huge lake and find God in the frozen lake and the power of a melting glacier. Jesus has the power of God. Jesus will be a powerful King. At sunrise they find God in the bright morning sun. Jesus is always with us, shining in our lives. They pass a little flower and find God in the beauty of the bloom. God lives where we do not expect. Christmas is about surprises. Finally, on their way home they pass a church. Inside they are singing about how God gave us Christmas when Jesus was born. The little cub asks if Jesus would have come for the mean or grumpy animals. Mama's reply is that Jesus is a present for everyone, grumpy, happy, mean or kind. God gave us ALL Christmas.

This Christmas may you know that Jesus is a present for you! You are included in the love of Jesus Christ; nothing will separate you from this love. God gave you Christmas.

Merry Christmas!
Bishop Joy