

October 10, 2017

Dear Friend of Vespers:



For 62 years Christmas Candlelight Vespers has been blessing the Buffalo Niagara region with a wonderful start to the Advent and Christmas season. As we celebrate this joyous time of the year, we invite you to join us for an amazing celebration of God's gift through the Word, music and song! In this Reformation Anniversary Year, Vesper's will pay homage to Martin Luther and his Christmas carol, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*. First Trinity Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda, NY, will host the **62nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers** on December 3rd at 4:00 and 7:00 PM. Please invite your friends to join you for this service of light, under the direction of David Werth.

The Valparaiso University Guild members are very proud to have co-sponsored this event since its inception. Over the years our co-sponsors have included Martin Luther Christian School and now Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center - providing services right here in the Western New York Community!

Pioneer Camps' vision statement- *To show the face of Jesus to all-- by words and actions-- amidst the splendor of God's creation*, gives a glimpse of this fine Christ Centered organization.

The Valparaiso University Mission Statement represents their dedication to our wider church community - *"Valparaiso University, a community of learning dedicated to excellence and grounded in the Lutheran tradition of scholarship, freedom, and faith, prepares students to lead and serve in both church and society."*

While the primary purpose of this event is worship, rather than a fundraiser, generous donations by patrons have allowed us to contribute offerings to the Valparaiso Annual Guild Student Gift, for such programs as Engineers and Nurses without Borders, Chapel and campus renovations and smaller department grants. Pioneer Camp utilizes the Vespers donations primarily for Agape Camp, a camp for those with Developmental Disabilities, and Papyrus Camp, a special program for youth in foster care, grandparent care or other out of home placements. We would love to be able to continue the level of support provided in past years to these fine Christian organizations. We are asking you to prayerfully consider a Patron donation to our program.

Please see the attached flyer for the Christmas Candlelight Vespers and consider adding your name to our Patron Listing. We also welcome church listings, so please feel free to share this with your Pastor or church council. Perhaps you would like to place this gift in memory or in honor of a loved one, the form enables you to do so. It would be a wonderful way to help us celebrate our 62 years of Vespers, aid Valparaiso University and Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center to continue their missions and give Glory to our God.

Yours in Christ,

Diane McMullen, Chair
Christmas Candlelight Vesper Committee