



# Churches celebrate birth of Jesus Christ...

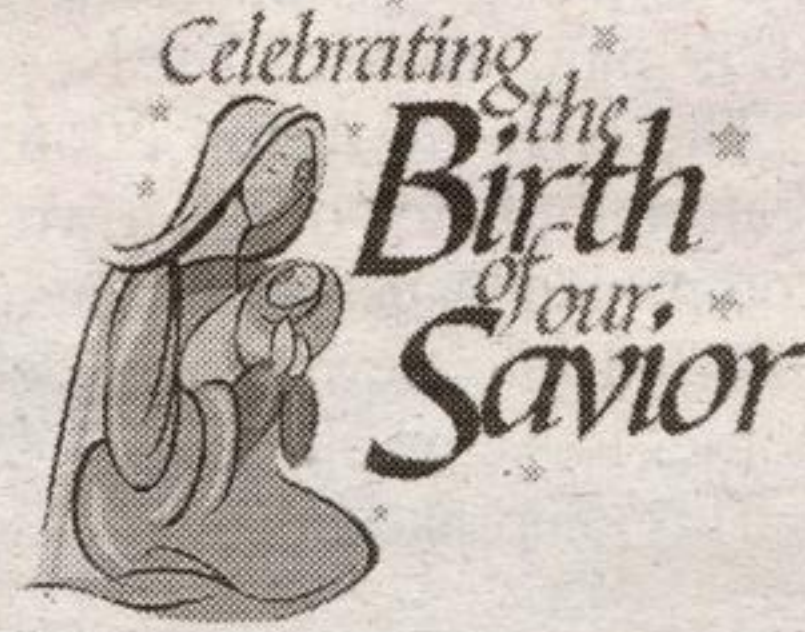
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"The Christmas Eve service will include a number of people reading the Christmas story from the Bible, along with fellowship with family and friends, and we welcome everyone to this traditional service," Sloos said, adding they do not have a service on Christmas Day.

Evangel will hold a family worship service to talk about looking ahead to 2006 on Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Canon Mark Tiller was only half joking when he said he expects "pandemonium" at the 5 p.m. children's service on Christmas Eve at St. Alban The Martyr Anglican Church.

"We have our contemporary music group play contemporary music and even some roly-poly stuff. We sing happy birthday to Jesus, and we're in and out in an hour," Canon Tiller said, adding the 7:30 p.m. family service is more tra-



ditional, like the 11 p.m. service, but without the choir.

On Christmas Day, the service at St. Alban's is at 10:30 a.m.

The dramatic lighting of the Christ candle in the darkened church will help Knox Presbyterian Church members celebrate Christmas at a family service beginning at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve that will include carols, hymns, meditations and a scripture reading.

The Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. at Knox is a Communion service, and on New Year's Day there will be a regular service at 10:30 a.m.

Bethel Christian Reformed Church held its

candlelight service on Sunday, and will celebrate Christmas with a regular worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

"We will celebrate Jesus' birth with the Sonrise men's choir and trumpet, piano and organ music," a church spokesperson said.

The candlelight family and children's service scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Acton Corps of the Salvation Army is expected to be "dramatic and effective" according to Corps spokesperson Heather Lambert who expects songs, hymns and the Christmas story.

On Christmas Day, the Corps will hold a service at 11 a.m., and on New Year's Eve, there will be a Watchnight Service in the sanctuary at 11 p.m. to welcome 2006.

For the third year in a row on Christmas Eve, the congregations of Acton's Churchill Community Church and Trinity United Church will join at Trinity at 11 p.m. for a special

service.

They will sing carols and hymns, receive Communion and watch a play about a doctor being called into work on Christmas Eve when a baby is born.

Churchill will also hold a carol sing and Christmas message service at 7 p.m. on Christmas, and no service on Christmas Day. There will be a regular service at 11 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Trinity will also hold a family service with candlelight, carols and the children's and senior choirs at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. There will be a shorter and more informal service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day and at 10 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Acton Baptist Church welcomes all to its candlelight service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and its regular worship service at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day.

And, while the pews of many Acton churches may be filled this weekend with people who only show up once or twice a year, that's okay with the spiritual leaders of Acton Christians.

Father Bulbrook said he put it to his congregation this way about a week ago, "I said that the people who come once a year would be taking their seats, but that was okay because for some reason, there's something about God as an infant in this beautiful form that attracts people 'home' for Christmas. Let us just pray that this year, or next year, that they will come home to stay."

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