

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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(716)-933-6699

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Websites: (congregation) [www.bethelportvilleny.org](http://www.bethelportvilleny.org); (synod) [www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org);  
(ELCA) [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Worship Service - Sundays at 9:00am; Sunday School at 10:30am

The Rev. Ivy Gauvin, *Pastor*

*God's work. Our hands.*

## JANUARY 2014



I hope you have all had a blessed Christmas and New Year. It's hard to believe that 2013 has passed and that 2014 has begun.

Thinking back on this past year, what stands out most to you? Have you experienced any epiphanies? Have you have been puzzling over something and then all of a sudden, the light comes on. The expression of having an *epiphany* comes from the Christian feast of the same name, Epiphany. It is the season of the church year that follows Christmas and lasts until the first Sunday in March, the last Sunday before Lent.

We celebrate the revelation of God the Son coming among us as a human being in Epiphany. Regarding Epiphany, minister and author Frederick Buechner writes:

*The gifts that the three Wise Men, or Kings, or Magi, brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty but seem hardly appropriate to the occasion. Maybe they were all they could think of for the child who had everything. In any case, they set them down on the straw—the gold, the frankincense, the myrrh—worshiped briefly, and then returned to the East where they had come from. It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, they*

*overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have someday, and that was the gift of themselves and their love. (from Listening to Your Life).*

God calls each of us to draw near and worship him. The word “epiphany” literally means “striking appearance” or “manifestation.” If we are followers of the Lord Jesus, shouldn't every day be Epiphany?

As the prophet Isaiah wrote so long ago, *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined” (Isaiah 9:2).*

By God's grace, may we walk in and lead others into the light of God each day.

Epiphany blessings,  
Pastor Ivy

*If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethel, please talk with Pastor Ivy.*

*You are in my prayers.* Each week I will be focusing on a different member and their family. I will let you know when you are especially being prayed for. Pastor Ivy

*Going on a trip?* Let Pastor Ivy know so we can bless you on your way.



Tithing is a spiritual adventure. It is but the beginning of a deeper, richer relationship with God. The time to launch out is now. Is that an adventure we want? Listen to this true story and then consider the challenge.

A pastor preached a sermon on the benefits of tithing and a couple of years later retired to another city. One day he received a package from a parishioner who had heard the sermon and simply could not forget what the pastor had said. When he opened the package, he found two lovely framed pictures, both of a carved wooden angel attached to the end of a pew in the chancel area where choir members sat during worship. The choir pews were on opposite sides of the chancel facing each other, thus the angels faced one another. One angel was facing left in the frame and the other angel faced right as though they were looking at each other. The pastor wondered exactly why his former parishioner had gone to the trouble of taking those pictures and sending them to him. The man had composed a letter that explained:

*“Dear Pastor, before you retired you gave a sermon on tithing. This gave me the courage to start. At the time I was out of work. I started tithing my unemployment checks. Not long after starting to tithe, I got a job and have been employed ever since. So thanks again for giving me the gift of the tithe. Please consider the photos as a gift in return.”*

Those pictures are now hanging on a wall in the pastor’s home. He considers them among the loveliest gifts he has ever received. The pastor often shows them to visitors and lets them read the letter written by a grateful parishioner. Tithing is, indeed, a spiritual adventure; the beginning of a deeper, richer relationship with God!

***Prayer: Generous and loving God, please help each of us to have a deep, rich relationship with you. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.***

### ***Pray First!***

- for all service men and women, and their families, especially *Juan Fraustro, Andrew Wright, Casey McCarthy, Mike Copponi, Lee Walden, Josh Canaan, Zachary Russell and Kendra Linn.*
- for Christ to be made known in our companion synods - *Zimbabwe and Zambia*, and our partner synod - *Central/Southern Illinois Synod*
- for the Franciscan community at *Mt. Irenaeus* and the *Burkhart Retreat Center for Life* - retreats in our local area
- for our Bishops, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (ELCA) and Marie Jerge Upstate New York Synod), Assistants to the Bishop Dave Preisinger, Mary Johnson, and Dean Daniel Rumfelt. for the mission congregations in our synod—*Organic Faith* in Amherst and *Todos los Hijos de Dios* in Amsterdam
- for the pastors and congregations in our Southwestern Conference and our for our congregation council leaders - President *Bryan Hatch*, Secretary *Jo Kile*, Treasurer *Doug Ploetz*, and members *Gary Murray, Rick Giberson, Marie Franquet*, and *Jerry Maerten*
- for our sister congregation, *Peace Lutheran* and their ministry in Slidell, LA for the ministry of *ELCMA* - Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia
- for area ministries: *Genesis House, Portville Community Food Pantry, and Interfaith Caregivers.*



PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD outside the sanctuary for a COMPLETE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Council Member

Bryan Hatch  
 Pastor Ivy  
 Jo Kile  
 Doug Ploetz  
 Jerry Maerten  
 Marie Franquet  
 Rick Giberson  
 Gary Murray

Committee Assignment

Council President  
 Worship and Music  
 Stewardship  
 Treasurer  
 Outreach/Evangelism  
 Education  
 Property  
 Fellowship



**Bethel Lutheran Church  
 November 2013 Financial Summary**

Beginning Checkbook balance	\$349
Beginning Savings balance	\$100
September General offering	\$5357
September Designated giving	\$345
September Fund raisers- for Bethel	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,702</b>
<b>Total September Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,896</b>
<b>Net Income for September</b>	<b>\$806</b>
Ending checkbook balance	\$3,876
Ending Savings Balance	\$100

**Bills due**

2013 Synod Benevolence	\$2,876
Pastor retirement and disability	\$2,538
King's Greenhouse	180
Augsburg Publishers	187
Verizon	\$113
Utilities	\$395
Group- Sunday school exp	\$128
<b>Total Bills Due</b>	<b>\$6,304</b>



Choir practice is held Sunday mornings at 7:45am. All are welcome to join. **No audition necessary.**



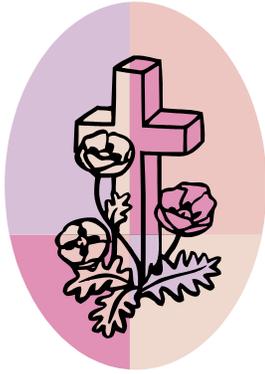
Once again we are entering a New Year and need people to sign up as worship servants. We are in need of Lectors, Prayer Leaders, Ushers, Communion assistants and Altar Guild. There are sign-up sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up for one or more of these positions as you feel led. Thank you.

*Notice: Deadline for newsletter articles is the third Sunday of each month. Please send them to me at my home e-mail at [Junebug44@frontiernet.net](mailto:Junebug44@frontiernet.net) or you can leave written ones in the top basket on the secretary's desk in the office. If you have questions you can call me at 814-698-2648. Thanks.*

June



If you are new to our church or if you noticed that your anniversary or birthday never appeared, please let Nannette, June or Pastor Ivy know your information so we can start the new year off with an updated birthday and anniversary list. We sure don't want to miss wishing anyone a Happy Birthday. Thanks.



## MEMORIALS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### In Memory of Virginia “Ginny Faulkner

Harold “Corky” Hatch

### In Memory of Linda Giberson

Harold “Corky” Hatch

Kurt and Caroline Miller

### In Memory Mary Lang

Skip and Bev Robinson

Rick and Nannette Giberson

### In Memory of Keith Gardner

Kurt and Caroline Miller



Pastor Ivy, Ray and Bethel Friends

Thank you so much for welcoming me to your beautiful little church. I look forward to coming again.

Sincerely,  
Jeannine Shaw



Tackle Hunger! Join Souper Bowl of Caring  
2014

Thousands of youth from churches across the country will Tackle Hunger on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2014. No matter the size of your congregation or of your youth group, you can help provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to the needy. How? Join the Souper Bowl of Caring.

It's as simple as holding soup pots at church doors following worship on or near Super Bowl Sunday and asking worshippers to drop in a dollar to help people who are hungry.

In 2013, youth across the country generated \$7.5 million for local charities through the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2014, we hope to mobilize even more youth and generate even more money for those in need. Join the team! Go online today and register at [www.tacklehunger.org](http://www.tacklehunger.org).



## Souper Bowl of Caring

### **Souper Bowl of Caring history and impact:**

- The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a prayer at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in 1989 and has grown to a nationwide initiative to mobilize teens to fight hunger and poverty.
- Every dollar collected by participating groups is donated directly to a local charity. No money comes to the Souper Bowl of Caring!
- Anyone can participate—congregations, schools, businesses, civic clubs and individuals.
- Ten NFL owners and 2 former US Presidents support Souper Bowl of Caring.
- Since 1990, over \$60 million has been generated for hunger-relief organizations across the country.
- Organizations in all 50 states generated more than \$10 million in cash and non-perishable food items in 2009. Every penny and food item went directly to charities that help those in need.
- In 2009, 260,000 youth participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring Service Blitz.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the Big Game to showcase young people reaching out and helping their neighbors in need.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year in 2009.
- For every \$1,000 entrusted to the SBOC this past year \$14,000 was generated for soup kitchens, food banks, etc. AND also mobilized 330 young people to participate in the effort

### **The need is great:**

- Over 35 million Americans—including 12 million children—suffer from hunger or live on the edge of hunger (data from Department of Agriculture, US Government 2006 report as quoted by America's Second Harvest).
- The US has the highest child poverty rate of any other industrialized nation (America's Second Harvest).

# January 2014



Happy Birthday to:

- 4—J.J. Williams Jr.
- 4—Robert Wolsky
- 4—Scott Wolsky
- 6—Katie Bush
- 11—David Robinson
- 16—Jena Linn
- 17—Rae Fitzsimmons
- 19—Richard Chapman Jr.
- 19—Jeff Scott
- 20—Matthew Cole
- 24—Janet Vanderworker
- 27—Alec Smith



Happy Anniversary to:

- 8—Ron & Trinetta Brewer
- 9—Gary & June Murray Sr.



## Worship Assistants

### Lectors

- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> ..... *Jo Kile*
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> ..... *Judy Graves*
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> ..... *Doug Ploetz*
- Jan 26<sup>th</sup> ..... *June Murray*

### Prayer Leaders

- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> ..... *Bev Robinson*
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup> ..... *Doug Ploetz*
- Jan 19<sup>th</sup> ..... *Bev Robinson*
- Jan 26<sup>th</sup> ..... *Judy Graves*

## Assistants for January

- Acolyte.....*Dakota Brewer,*  
..... *Kassie Lopes & Carly Keenan*
- Communion Assistants.....*Gary Murray*  
.....*June Murray*
- Usher/s..... *Skip Robinson*
- Altar Guild..... *Bev Robinson*
- Bread Bakers .....*Ron Kile*

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR - JANUARY 2014**

Sunday, Jan. 5	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> 7:45am-Choir rehearsal 9:00am- Worship with Fellowship following 10:30am- Sunday school and Confirmation class
Monday, Jan. 6	Pastor Ivy's Day Off
Tuesday, Jan. 7	6:00pm - Stewardship Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 8	6:00pm - God Sightings Bible Study
Thurs. Jan. 9 -Fri. Jan. 15	Pastor Ivy on Vacation
Sunday, Jan. 12	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> 7:45am- Choir rehearsal 9:00am - Worship with Fellowship following 10:30am - Sunday school and Confirmation Class
Monday, Jan. 13	Pastor Ivy's Day Off
Wednesday, Jan. 15	6:00pm - God Sightings Bible Study
Friday, Jan. 17	3:00pm - Worship and Music Committee Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 19	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 7:45am-Choir rehearsal 9:00am- Worship with Fellowship. 10:30am - Sunday school and Confirmation class
Monday, Jan. 20	Pastor Ivy's Day Off
Tuesday, Jan. 21	3:00pm-Christian Education Team
Wednesday, Jan. 22	6:00pm - God Sighting's Bible Study
Thursday, Jan. 23	7:00pm - Church Council
Sunday, Jan. 26	<b>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> <b>Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday</b> 7:45am - Choir rehearsal 9:00am - Worship with fellowship following 10:30 am- Sunday School and Confirmation Class
Sunday afternoon Jan. 26 Through Friday Jan .31	Pastor Ivy will be attending First Call Theological Education in Philadelphia, Pa. Pastor Marie Meeks will be covering in her absence. Pastor Marie's phone number is 716-353-1610.



December, 2013

Dear Sir / Madam:

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 it will be ten years since we lost our son, Shawn, in an explosion in Ghazni, Afghanistan. He was killed with seven fellow comrades that day.

Each year since his death we have celebrated the lives of all these brave men with services at the Allegany Cemetery in Allegany, N.Y. Participants have included the American Legion Post 892, Patriot Guard Riders, AMVETS Post 1, Sons of AMVETS Squad 1, AMVETS Ladies Aux 1, St. Bonaventure ROTC, The Southern Tier Military Support Group, and many friends and family members.

Since this is the tenth year anniversary, our family decided to do something different to keep their memories alive and also help others. On Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 we plan to have a benefit in Shawn's memory with proceeds going to the LEEK Preserve that provides hunting, fishing, and recreational experiences for disabled veterans. The event will take place from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Allegany American Legion Post 892.

At this benefit there would be a DJ, snacks, drinks, a Chinese Auction, 50-50's, and various raffles. A small admission charge will be collected at the door.

Shawn was a great soldier and loved what he did in the Army. However, he also loved a good party. We are hoping that you can help us in our endeavor by contributing to the fundraiser by way of a gift card, tickets, food, a gift basket or items to be put into a basket for the raffle.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.  
God Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Candace Clemens  
American Gold Star Mother of  
SSG Shawn Clemens  
716- 372-9268  
3423 Fortune Drive  
Allegany, N.Y. 14706  
candaceclemens@yahoo.com

***If anyone wants to make a monetary donation checks may be made out to SSG Shawn Clemens Memorial Benefit as we have a special account for the funds.***

**SSG Shawn Clemens**



**Memorial Benefit**

Saturday, January 25, 2014  
4:00pm-9:00pm

Allegany American Legion  
Post 892

Admission: \$5

Come join us for **food, beer, soda, live music** by SHAZAM, **50/50 raffles**, and a **Chinese Auction!**

All proceeds will go to the LEEK Preserve that provides hunting, fishing, and recreational experiences for disabled veterans.

For more information, contact Candy Clemens at [candaceclemens@yahoo.com](mailto:candaceclemens@yahoo.com) or 716-372-9268.



## The Angel in the Hospital

**The heavenly messenger reassured her that no matter what happens, God is in control.**

*By Virginia Garberding, Chicago, Illinois*

Over the last years I had prayed many times after visiting my folks, "Dear Lord, I don't know how this can end well. Mom is in the nursing home and Dad, who has always been there for her, is now failing fast. His memory problems are becoming so much more apparent. You know how fearful Dad is of Alzheimer's disease. He's always been a bad patient and now he dreads the possibility of having to be dressed, fed, bathed, and becoming dependent. I've seen this many times before with others, I don't see how this can end well. Help us, Lord."

In the weeks after Dad had the stroke, he remained in a coma. My brother Marty and his wife, Mary, agreed to share the vigil. I took the day shift and they took the nights. The time seemed to fly, with pastors, church members and people from the nursing home coming daily. I passed the days reading to Dad from the Bible and singing. I especially liked singing his favorites, "How Great Thou Art" and "[Heaven](#) Is My Home."

At night, when my brother came in for the switch of shifts, Mary said. "I'm so glad to be here for Dad. I never was able to do this for my folks." After a week, the hospital sent a nurse from hospice to talk to me and give me papers to fill out before transferring him to a hospice unit the next morning.

Standing there with the doctor who had come from intensive care because he had heard that Dad was "someone important," I said, "Yes, he was a pastor."

I asked the doctor, "How long can a person last like this without food or water?" The doctor took a long look at Dad, the still clear urine in his drainage bag and lack of respiratory distress and said, "It's going to be a few days yet."

After the doctor left, I was determined to get down to that paperwork, because we needed it the next morning. But realizing that it was now after 6:00 p.m., I decided to call my sister, knowing she would be home from work and waiting for the day's update. I went over to the large window ledge and leaned toward the window, where I knew I would have the best reception with my cell phone.

As I was telling her what the doctor said, I sensed a movement behind me. I turned around, knowing Dad had stopped moving several days before. The door was closed, no one had peeked inside to see if I wanted anything, and Dad was lying there just as still as before. I turned back to stare into the night sky and that's when I saw a reflection in the window of something behind me. I wanted to see if there was an obvious or natural explanation for the heavenly phenomena I witnessed in that hospital room.

I quickly looked down the five floors to see if there was any way something was shining up to that room. Below I saw only the typical street traffic coming and going to the hospital. Nothing unusual there. As I turned and looked behind me, my first thought was, "Oh, it's you." The memory came flashing back.

In October 1987, I was the night nurse on a Medicare floor, sitting there at 4 a.m. charting. I looked up at various times to watch the three nursing assistants walk back and forth across the dimly lit hall in front of me as they went to change linen and turn debilitated patients. The next sight was strange. I watched the three come out of one room, cross the hall in single file and go into the next room. They did this several times, but I looked up and there were four of them. The fourth figure was much taller than the other three and towered above them. He was a man, but he didn't so much walk as glide across the hall. I can't describe him, but he was extremely tall and slow moving.

As I sat there, I thought, "They walk with [angels](#) and don't know it. Should I tell them?"

I didn't say anything that night. But over the years that sight never diminished from my memory. Whenever I had a chance to do so, I would tell caregivers, "You know you walk with angels." They may not have grasped what I meant, but I knew. In the back of my mind I often wondered why God had allowed me to see the angel that night, but as I sat beside my father, I suddenly understood.

It was so I wouldn't be afraid and I'd be clear about what I was seeing. As I watched, that tall man from years earlier was there. I knew it was an angel; and as he passed directly over Dad, I was once again caught up in his large size and the slow graceful movements. I now knew why I saw what I had seen in 1987, and why I saw it now. It was for my comfort.

I felt a great sense of peace. As the angel appeared to pass right through the wall, I knew I wouldn't be able to see it again. I turned back to the window. I didn't tell my sister what I had just seen but said simply, "Dad will be gone tonight." She never questioned how I knew.

When Marty and Mary came for their nightly vigil, I also told them, "Dad will be gone tonight." I knew that God had not only spared Dad from the life he had been so much dreading, but He had given me what I didn't know I needed—comfort and deep-settled peace.

I left those hospice papers untouched on the night stand. I took a last long gaze around the room so I would always remember the look and feel of that night. Marty sat in his usual place next to the bed. Dad was peaceful and still, his breathing regular as though he were sleeping. Mary leaned over him, whispering, "Take Jesus' hand, Dad. Take Jesus' hand."

I said "Good-bye, Dad," for the last time and left. He died shortly after I left the hospital. The 90-minute ride home that night was different from the previous seven.

The feeling of comfort, peace, and knowledge of how senseless worry is has stayed with me every day for the past six years since Dad died. When trouble comes, in whatever form—standing next to my car with a flat tire, hearing of a loved one diagnosed with cancer, or family conflicts—I take it to the Lord and leave it there because I know He can and will handle it.

After Dad died, I didn't tell everyone I had seen an angel. Just like many years earlier, I would mention it whenever someone seemed to need to know. As time passed, I read Bible passages referencing angels and read a few books about people seeing angels. But I consciously didn't want to be caught up in the pursuit of angels. However, I have taken much pleasure in the thought that nurses are referred to as "angels of mercy."





Have you ever wondered what the meanings behind some of the decorations that we use at Christmas are? I am not the author of these articles, but did some looking on the internet; and here is what I found out. In each article, I have combined different findings into the one article. The snowman was more concise and various sources had pretty much the same information. The candy cane is a different matter. There are many conflicting stories about the meaning and origins of the candy cane. Much is folklore, and the origins are not certain.

Ray Gauvin

### **The symbolism of the snowman**

Snowmen have probably been around as long as there has been snow. It is not certain as to when they started popping up in winter landscapes. One of the earliest Medieval pictures that contains a snowman dates back to 1320.

The general beliefs about the symbolism of the snowman is as follows:

The white snow represents for the purity of souls filled with God's grace.

The circular snowballs represent the God's everlasting love.

The three snowballs represent the three parts of the Trinity: Father Son and Holy Spirit.

The pieces of coal used to make the eyes, mouth, and buttons, represent God's almighty power.

The carrot used for the nose reminds us that God gives us everything on Earth that we need to live and to grow. The Scarf represents the warmth and tender care of God's love. The top hat reminds us to keep our faith as our top priority. The outstretched twig arms remind us that God's arms are always outstretched waiting to embrace us. And they also remind us of Jesus' outstretched arms on the cross, The broom made of straw and wood, remind us that he was born in a manger, and that he died on a cross of wood to cleanse us of our sins.





## **The history of the candy cane**

Before the invention of the modern pacifier, parents used to give their babies unflavored white sugar sticks to suck on.

Around the seventeenth century, European-Christians began to adopt the use of Christmas trees as part of their Christmas celebrations. They made special decorations for their trees from foods like cookies and sugar-stick candy. The first historical reference to the familiar cane shape goes back to 1670, when the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany, bent the sugar-sticks into canes to represent a shepherd's staff. The all-white candy canes were given out to children during the long-winded nativity services.

The clergymen's custom of handing out candy canes during Christmas services spread throughout Europe and later to America. The canes were still white, but sometimes the candy-makers would add sugar-roses to decorate the canes further.

The first historical reference to the candy cane being in America goes back to 1847, when a German immigrant called August Imgard decorated the Christmas tree in his Wooster, Ohio home with candy canes.

About fifty years later the first red-and-white striped candy canes appeared. No one knows who exactly invented the stripes, but Christmas cards prior to the year 1900 showed only all-white candy canes.

Christmas cards after 1900 showed illustrations of striped candy canes. Around the same time, candy-makers added peppermint and wintergreen flavors to their candy canes and those flavors then became the traditional favorites.

There are many other legends and beliefs surrounding the humble candy cane. Many of them depict the candy cane as a secret symbol for Christianity used during the times when Christian were living under more oppressive

circumstances. It was said that the cane was shaped like a "J" for Jesus. The red-and-white stripes represented Christ's blood and purity. The three red stripes symbolized the Holy Trinity.

The hardness of the candy represented the Church's foundation on solid rock and the peppermint flavor represented the use of hyssop, an herb referred to in the Old Testament.

There is no historical evidence to support these claims, quite the contrary, but they are lovely thoughts.

One symbol for the candy cane is its shape. Turned one way, it looks like a "J" for Jesus. Turned the other way, candy canes remind us of the shepherd's staff. The first people to hear of Christ's birth were shepherds guarding their flocks at night.

Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd and the Bible frequently compares the actions of the Messiah to those of a shepherd searching for his lost sheep.

The sweetness of the candy reminds us that we are fed on the sweet milk of the Gospel our salvation and peace.

The hardness of the candy reminds us that Jesus is our rock of refuge.

The whiteness of the candy brings to mind the Virgin Birth and the sinless life of Christ

The 3 small red stripes remind us of the flogging of Jesus, his crowning with thorns, and the beating Jesus received by the Roman soldiers. The larger stripe represents the blood shed by Christ for our sins.

Some people say that the 3 small stripes honor the Holy Trinity while the larger stripe reminds us of the one true God.

Others claim that the small stripes represent our mini-passions or sufferings and the great stripe symbolizes Christ's Passion.

A green stripe is sometimes placed on candy canes to remind us that Jesus is God's gift to us. (Green is the traditional color of giving.)



Into the world came...

God's purest Light to show us the way;  
God's perfect Savior to free us from sin;  
God's tender Shepherd to care for our needs;  
God's sure Foundation to make us secure;  
God's fullest Joy to give us a song;  
God's broken Bread to satisfy our hunger;  
God's conquering King to rule in our hearts;  
God's healing Fountain to make us whole;  
God's highest Purpose to fulfill our longings;  
God's quieting Peace to bring us rest;  
God's redeeming Love to make us His own.