



Red Bank United Methodist Church

"A Diverse Body Unified by Christ"

DROP YOUR BLANKET

This year marked the 50th anniversary of "A Charlie Brown Christmas". What a classic television special. And what a cartoonist Charles Schultz was.

Schultz was brought up in a Lutheran home. In his adult life he attended an Episcopal, Presbyterian, and later in life a Methodist Church. Faith was simple for Schultz; faith is nothing more than simple trust in God in every aspect of our life.

A Charlie Brown Christmas was almost canned by television producers. The religious overtones and the Christmas message as found in the Bible was to be cut out of the cartoon. That's what the producers told Schultz. He said "no" and actually made a slight adjustment to the episode in reaction to those anti-faith sentiments.

It's very small adjustment and would be unnoticed by producers and viewers. Small but a big and powerful message that little change gave.

Linus....you know....the guy with the blanket; a security blanket. Responds to Charlie Brown's question : *"does anyone know what Christmas is all about?"* And Linus responds..*I'll tell you what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,*

Fear not:

And that's when it happened.....the change that wasn't in the original episode. The thing Charles Schultz added after producers protested the reading of Luke 2. *And the angel said unto them, **Fear not:*** (at that very moment), Linus drops his blanket. Linus drops his blanket.

In all the Charlie Brown programs and episodes (47 to be exact) this is the one and only time Linus ever lets go of his blanket.

*And the angel said unto them, **Fear not:** for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*



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Security blankets are things we hold on to when we are afraid; something we turn to when life throws us a curve; when we're stressed, troubled, uncertain; things we turn to when we need comfort and assurance.

Linus had a blanket; for some it's a stuffed animal; for some it might be drugs, alcohol, smoking, food; for some it's overspending; for many their security blanket can be the wrong thing or the wrong person.

Linus is right....the angels' message ; the Christmas message as found in Luke 2 is what Christmas is all about. And it's such a powerful message that Linus dropped his blanket at the point of the angel saying: *Fear not: I bring you good news of great joy.....there is a Savior and it's Christ the Lord.*

Drop your blanket.....what is it that you need to let go of? You've been holding onto it for too long and it's not working. What is it that's been a false sense of security in your life? Let it go! Let it go!

You're stressed. Troubles have blindsided you. Life has changed. You turn to something for comfort. It might comfort you for awhile but in the long run it causes more trouble in your life than comfort. Let it go! Let it go! Drop your blanket!

Maybe it's some substance you put into your body and you know it's not good for you. Maybe it's a habit you cannot break but know you should.

Maybe it's a so-called "friend" or group of friends who in reality is not a "true" friend; and they are simply using you. Let it go! Drop your blanket!

Maybe it's resentment toward somebody. You hold on to it tightly. At first, it gave you comfort; but now it eats you up inside. Let it go! Drop your blanket!

It's only when we let go of something we can take hold of something....or someone. Drop your blanket and take the hand of Jesus. Or let him take your hand. Give him your life. Give him your fears, worries, troubles, stresses. Maybe our security blanket is believing we can live our life without Christ in it. Drop your blanket and take hold the hand of Jesus.

I pray you will hear the angels' message : *fear not.....drop your blanket.*



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Luke 2:8-20 King James Version (KJV)

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.