

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Greetings from the 2025-2026 ALA of NE Chaplain, Vicki Colson. I hope you all enjoy the Christmas Program I found in our old files. I have freshened it up for you.



Setting: A covered table with a Christmas tree which may be a branch of a tree or a piece of evergreen set in a decorated container of sand. You will need 5 birds: cardinal (red), dove (white), oriole (one black and orange), bluebird (blue), and(robin brown and orange). A pattern for the birds is included if you do not have pictures of the specific bird type. Also, a star for the tree top. You will need a Leader and five participants. The Chaplain will read the prayer.

Leader: (Holds star) The custom of decorating Christmas trees comes to us from Germany. They used the evergreen because it stands for life as the needles stay green throughout the year. The first Christmas trees were decorated with stars, angels and tiny toys. Candy and nuts were also hung from the branches. They thought the candles looked like the stars on a Christmas night.

In the Ukraine, ornaments made like spider webs were supposed to bring good luck.

Circles, squares and stars made of straw were used in Lithuania.

The children of Sweden tie sheaves of grain to the tops of poles so that the birds, too, may enjoy a Christmas time.

Our Auxiliary Christmas tree will be decorated with birds “in flight of service.”

Cardinal: (Place bird on tree) The Cardinal brings us a message of LOVE. Christmas is giving our time, our talents and our love to the service of the Christ whose birthday we celebrate! When the Wise Men followed the star, they were bringing gifts to Jesus. Because love is the spirit of Christmas, it changes hearts and lives. Let love set wide your door. The little Christ Child comes once more.

Dove: (Place bird on tree) The Dove brings us a message of PEACE. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.” (Luke 2:14) Always at Christmas we hear everyone speak of “Peace and good will,” and many hands are raised in prayer as we offer petitions for peace on earth.

Peace was the first thing angels sang. Peace is the nurse of love. Peace is the mother of unity. Peace is the rest of blessed souls. Peace is the dwelling place of eternity. Peace, prayer; this is the gift of Noel.

Oriole: (Place bird on tree) The Oriole brings us a message of JOY. For all of the joys that the Christmas season brings, we give thanks. As we wrap our gifts with the love and joy in giving, helping those in need, bringing comfort to those who are ill, and cheer to the lonely, may we too lay our gifts at His feet and feel the wonder of His presence. There was the light of JOY in the rejoicing hearts of all who came to worship the newborn Christ. (song suggestion; "Joy to the World.")

Bluebird: (Place bird on tree) The Bluebird brings us a message of FAITH. The beginnings of our nation are rooted in the promise, the faith and the assurance given people by the everlasting Spirit that is in the Light from the Christmas Star. It is a beautiful faith. It is the trusting, strong faith of a child. Whether in time of war or in time of peace, whether in time of happiness, or in time of strife, Christmas comes, as the years come. "We walk by FAITH, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7) Faith is the spark that leads man on.

Robin: (Place bird on tree) The Robin brings us a message of Christmas.

Tw'as a starry night and the wind was still, And the Star shown bright o'er Judea's hill, When God sent His beloved son down, and left Him with Mary in Bethlehem town. Then the angels sang till the break of morn "Rejoice! For the Prince of Peace is born."

Leader: (Place the star on tree) The Christmas tree that I want for each of you has a bright and shining star at the very top. It will shine through the darkness around you and brings hope to the world as it did so many years ago in Bethlehem. Included in my wish for you is that the tree will be a part of all the good times that will be yours this season, helping to make this Christmas the merriest of all.

AND I WISH FOR EACH OF YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS DAY.

(Song suggestion: "We Three Kings" chorus)

Oh star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Chaplain: For all the joys that the Christmas season brings, we give thanks, O God, but most of all we thank thee for the gift of thy Son. May the spirit of loving and sharing be in each of us this Christmas season and every day of our lives; and may we, like Jesus, bring the message of peace and good will to our world. Amen

PATTERN FOR BIRD TO BE PLACED ON TREE

