

# *View from the Pew*

By Bruce Lindquist

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***Filled with talented energy*** -- Leave it to the kids to fill the SOC sanctuary with positive energy. And that was the talk following our church's annual Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 10 -- a palatable feeling in the air by the congregation that they had been "energized" by the performance.

Under the very effective musical, stage and youth guidance of **Nancy Malone, Bruce Strachota** and **Wendi Harmsen**, the children (of all ages) added their signature to a production that was as refreshingly unique as it was timeless. **Oskar Mornes'** horn playing and **Yoomee Harmsen's** work on the piano gave us a preview of two budding musicians. Who knows, maybe 20 years from now, when their names are up in lights, we'll say, "I remember when . . ."

Keeping convincing performances all in the family in Scene One, "Gifts," were **Erik, Jen, Oskar** and **Esme Mornes**, while mother-daughter duo **Brooklynne** and **Michelle Patterson** did the same in Scene Two, "The Perfect Gift." **Michelle** and **Brooklynne** followed that up with readings in Scene Three also, "The Gift of Love." Scene Four, "The Gift of Prayer," featured another mother-daughter combination, **Yoomee** and **Wendi Harmsen**, and bolstered by **Kristi White**, also. The **Mornes'** took over Scene Five, "The Gift of Mission." And also displaying their thespian talents in Scene Six were the SOC wise guys, urr, The Three Wise Men, otherwise know around here simply as **Mark Cohen, Bret Hanson** and **Walter Malone**. Look out, *Way-Off Broadway!* The alter scenes were interspersed with beautiful Christmas music, led by **Bruce** directing and **Nancy** on keyboard.

And waiting in the wings at this year's program were **Wesley** and **Oliver**, young sons of **Jason** and **Nicole Goerges** -- absorbing the material for some future SOC production!

***A leg up*** -- It just isn't the holiday season in St. Louis Park until "the leg" appears in a certain window on Quentin Avenue -- The Leg Lamp, of course! Probably most everyone has seen "A Christmas Story," a very popular, quirky film depicting a Midwest family's misadventures over the holiday season, first released in 1983. In the film, Ralphie's father receives "a major award," which turns out to be a leg lamp (a life-like leg base with a bulb and shade on top).

All in good-natured fun a few years ago, **Dick** and **Nancy Brammer** received such a lamp from their son and son-in-law, and now very carefully pull it out each Christmas and set it on a table in front of their window -- just as in the movie. Over the past couple of years or so, I have kidded **Dick** that it sure must be nice to have such a precious heirloom to display and admire each year -- at the same time thinking what a guilty pleasure that must be. A couple of weeks ago, they unceremoniously presented me with a copy of "A Major Award" certificate which accompanied the fishnet-encased leg -- to get me, I think, to stop my incessant yammering about it every year! Anyway, thanks for the lovely parting gift. --o--

