

Four Films For Advent 2015



Theme of Hope *Le Havre* A magical Finnish film about the miracles that a warm heart can work in a world of hatred and divisiveness. The director calls *Le Havre* an "unrealistic film." We are sad to say that he's probably right. It is unrealistic in this day and age to focus on the poor and the elderly, to lift up the basic goodness of people, to criticize the inhumane treatment of illegal immigrants, and to show how we are all connected with each other in ways we have never considered before. *Le Havre* has it all — humor, sadness, health and illness, friendship and community, and doing the right thing in a world that is going a little mad with hatred for the "other."

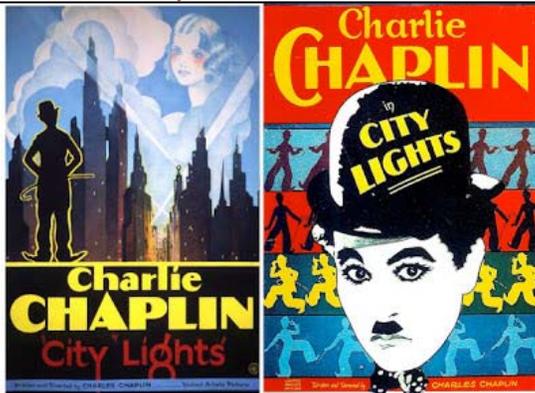
Monday, November 30, at 7:00 P.M.



Munyurangabo

Theme of Peace *Munyurangabo*: This stunning 2008 film about reconciliation in post-genocide Rwanda is a perfect film for Advent. It's full of moments of beauty and unresolved tension, hope mingled with sadness.

Monday, December 7 at 7:00 P.M.



Theme of Joy *City Lights* Charlie Chaplin's *City Lights* was released in 1931, two years into the Great Depression. The film is mostly about characters who are destitute. It was made for people who were destitute. *City Lights*, like its protagonist, brings joy to people in sore need of it. We hope that as you watch it, you will laugh. Whatever stresses you are facing this holiday season, we hope *City Lights* lightens the load for an hour and a half or so.

The Little Tramp's love for the blind girl is one of the most steadfast loves ever filmed. He loves her unconditionally. It's good that his love for her is unconditional, because she's no saint. She is selfish, arrogant, and greedy. In *City Lights*, poverty doesn't create moral virtue. The poorest of the poor is just as spiritually needy as the richest of the rich. The Little Tramp is the exception. He is a source of patient, unconditional love. The Little Tramp loves the blind girl regardless of her faults, and in the end, she is transformed by his unconditional love. The final act of *City Lights* is among the most genuinely touching and joy-inspiring ever filmed.

Monday, December 14, at 7:00 P.M.



Theme of Love *Babette's Feast* This Danish film, which won the 1987 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, is based on a short story by Isak Dinesen. Written and directed by Gabriel Axel, this literate and lovely-to-look-at film compels us to meditate upon the needs of the flesh and the needs of the spirit. It is also about choices, talent, gratitude, friendship, grace, and hope.

Monday, December 21 at 7:00 P.M.