



The

# Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618-632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

## Upcoming Events

### December 2023

**Sun. Dec. 3, 10, 17**

Worship 930 am

Sun. school 1045 am

**Mon. Dec. 4, 11, 18**

Support Group 7 pm

**Tues. Dec. 5**

Quilting 930-12 pm

Elders Mtg 7 pm

Youth Board 7 pm

**Wed. Dec. 6**

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

**Wed. Dec. 6, 13, 20**

Advent Dinner 6 pm

Advent Worship 7 pm

Adult Choir 745 pm

**Sat. Dec. 9**

Christmas Program

Rehearsal 9 am

Birthday Party for Jesus  
11 am

**Sun. Dec. 10**

Christmas Program during  
930 am worship

**Tues. Dec. 12**

Church Council 7 pm

**Thurs. Dec. 14**

Fellowship Mtg 430 pm

Ladies Night—Christmas

Bunco—6 pm

**Tues. Dec. 19**

Christian Ed Mtg 7 pm

**Sun. Dec. 24**

Christmas Eve

Worship 7 pm

Candlelight Communion

Worship 1130 pm

**Mon. Dec. 25**

Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

**Tues. Dec. 26**

Stewardship Mtg 6 pm

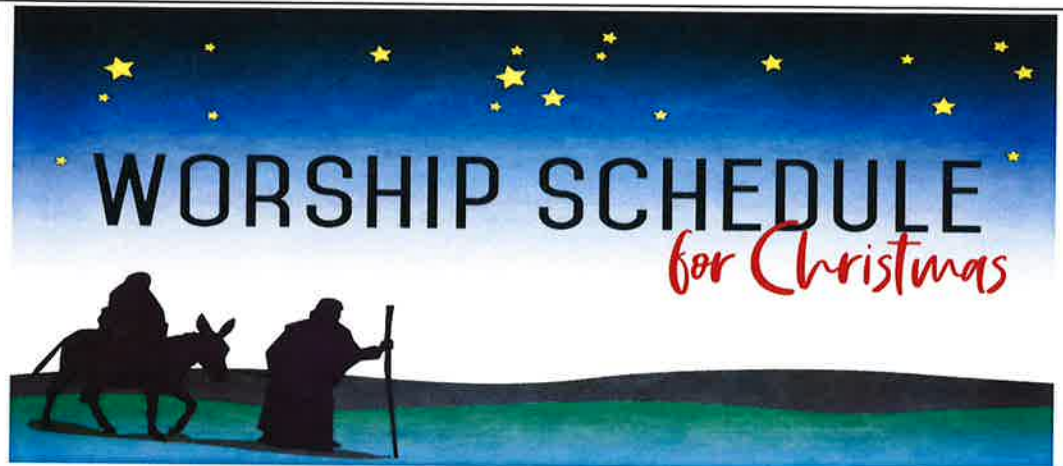
**Sun. Dec. 31**

Pastor Vern's last Sunday

Farewell Service followed

by luncheon at KFC

Hall 1 am



## Schedule of Holiday Services 2023

**Wed., Dec. 6 & 13, 20**

Advent Dinners—6 pm

Advent Service—7:00 p.m. Adult choir 745

**Sunday, December 10**

Children's Christmas Program—9:30

**Christmas Eve December 24**

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Family Worship 7 p.m.

Midnight Candlelight Communion - 11:30

**Sunday, December 31**

Worship—9:30 a.m.—Pastor Vern's last Sunday

Service followed by Farewell Luncheon at KFC Hall 11 am

No Sunday School

A CHRIST-CENTERED  
**CHRISTMAS**





## FROM OUR PASTOR

Beloved Blessed Savior Family,

This is my final newsletter article as your pastor! Now what I want to share with you in this article isn't a "Good-bye. We hope to have many more years to serve God with you at Blessed Savior as lay members in the future. The new pastor needs time to establish his ministry among you without the lingering influence of the former pastor. This means that the new pastor will have the opportunity to perform all the wonderful services I have enjoyed doing over the years like baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and the like. I will be in contact with our new pastor so that when he feels comfortably in place, we can return to our church home which we love so dearly.

It is important for you to understand that the new pastor will be God's called and ordained servant to guide our congregation in the coming years. God "always works good for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes," (Romans 8:28) so let's earnestly pray for the man God is drawing to accept our call and pray for our hearts to receive him and the gifts he brings in Word and Sacrament.

That being said, I want to draw your attention to St Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi, the first chapter, verses 3-6:

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ* (Philippians 1:3-6).

Verses 3-5 expresses, better than I ever could, my heartfelt feeling toward our congregation. In the RPVV (The Revised Pastor Vern Version), Paul is saying "Every time I remember you in my prayers I thank God with JOY! It was the Philippians who followed the apostle's journeys and sent provisions to sustain him in his work. Whether he was in prison or out spreading the Word of God in new territories, the Philippians recognized they were in a partnership with the apostle.

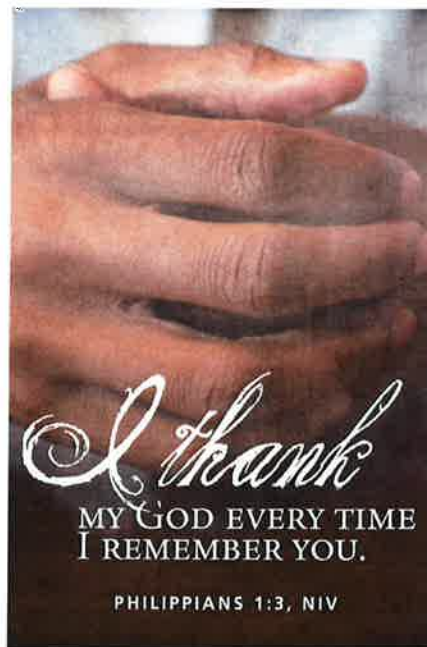
That's what made Paul joyful. He wasn't in the ministry alone... He had a church in Philippi that saw his success in ministry as their success and the kingdom of God's gain. They also saw his trials and tribulations as their own as well. Pastors need partners and because of your partnership with me for the sake of the gospel, not only did I never feel alone, but it brought joyful thanksgiving to God in my remembrance of you all.

Now, here's the thing about the ministry of our Lord: The work is not done until the Head of the Church says it's done! The frustration that I carry with me every day is my inability to get things done. Many other pastors have shared with me that they feel as though they are leaving the ministry only half-done. There's so much to do. So many people still need to know of the grace of God in Jesus for their salvation. The proclamation must still go out. Encouragement of God's people must constantly be given. Prayers for the sick and injured are an ever-changing daily routine. But here's the beauty of our partnership; it's in the 6<sup>th</sup> verse:

*"I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

The Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit will not leave the success of the kingdom in the hands of mere mortals. God takes the full responsibility. It is God the Father who brings people to faith, it is God the Son who redeems them by His blood shed on the cross; and it is God the Holy Spirit who dwells in the hearts of every believer so that all who live by faith may enter into the presence of God pure, spotless, and blameless on the last day. In other words, the work that God initiated in us, He holds Himself responsible to complete. Pastors will come and go, but Christ remains forever! Working in the hearts of believers and unbelievers alike. This doesn't minimize the work Christ has called us to perform, but it releases us from the guilt of leaving before we feel our life's work is done! He's got our backs!

(continued on page 5)







Preparations are underway for the 2023 Christmas Program. The Sunday School children will perform during the regular service on December 10 with a cookie reception and then Sunday school.

Children will be practicing songs and parts during regular Sunday School times with a special practice on Saturday, December 9.

#### **December 9 - Program practice**

Arrive at 9 for practice

Jesus's birthday party for students at 11 am

Practice and meal completed approximately 11:30.

#### **December 10 - Program**

Children arrive in their Sunday School room at 9:00 am

9:30 Service/Program begins

Cookie reception followed by Sunday School. Please bring a platter of cookies to share.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or December 31.



Happy December! The Fellowship Committee is always trying to work together with other committees to ensure our church membership gets to celebrate great times with each other.

December starts off with Advent Dinner on Dec 6, @ 6pm sharp. We will also have Advent Dinners on the 13th and the 20<sup>th</sup> followed by Advent Worship at 7 pm.

December 9<sup>th</sup> the children will be practicing for the Annual Christmas Program followed by the Birthday Party for Jesus. Practice begins at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served around 11 – 11:30 a.m.

On December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm, we will be having Ladies BUNCO. This is a Christmas Bunco, so bring a **\$10 gift**, your appetizer, and your game face and let's have some fun and Christmas Cheer.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, it is the BIG Day! It's Pastor's Retirement and Retirement Party. Your invitations should have already arrived. If you did not get one, please see Nancy in the Office. The Retirement Party will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in O'Fallon. Please RSVP asap to Nancy at [nancy@mybslc.org](mailto:nancy@mybslc.org) or call the church office (618-632-0126).

That's all for the Fellowship Committee for the end of the year! Please feel free to submit any new ideas you have for us for the coming year. You can contact Ginger Kieffer @ 619-4067-2639 or Gwen Borsch @ 618-304-2338.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

The Fellowship Committee



**Advent  
DINNERS**

**BUNCO  
NIGHT**



Ladies Christmas Bunco!!

Thursday, December 14 6 p.m.

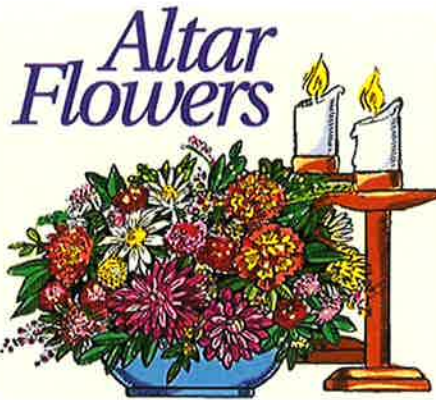
Bring a \$10.00 gift & your appetizer

Get ready for a fun night!



## Altar Flowers

I have been noticing that other congregations have beautiful flowers on the altar much of the year. So, I had this idea. (That usually scares my wife.) "Why couldn't we do that?" Of course, the idea of doing it would not be just because "other people are doing it." It would be to beautify the House of the Lord to His praise. I have checked with some members of the altar committee. One member commented: "Oh. We used to do that a 100 years ago." Hopefully, the congregation has grown some since "a 100 years ago." Some altar guild members said they would be willing to donate in memory of someone, for a birthday, anniversary, or another special occasion, or simply to the glory of God. Flowers could be ordered from wherever you choose and brought to the church to put on a stand behind the altar (by the flower business or yourself). If it is not indicated on the Flower Chart, let the secretary know by Wednesday, so she can acknowledge them in the bulletin. Some members may wish to donate flowers from their yard or garden; is there someone who would volunteer to arrange the flowers for the church? I have checked with Pastor Vern, who says this would fall under the Worship Committee: Eric Stake said he has no problem with it. What do you say? How about giving it a try, beginning in the new year?



The congregation has been blessed with beautiful flowers outside the church during the warm months by Harry Russell. And, Nancy does a good job of keeping those Peace Lilies in the narthex looking good (watering them). Would you be willing to donate a bouquet to the congregation for use in front of the sanctuary for some special occasion? I will provide a sign-up sheet for the different Sundays of the church year, located on the little table in the narthex. (It's even possible that we could use the flower bouquet a second Sunday, if it was put in the refrigerator in the sacristy where the wine and grape juice are kept.) It would not be necessary to have flowers behind the altar every Sunday. In fact, flowers are traditionally not placed in the sanctuary during the Lent Season, which would be Feb. 14(Ash Wed.) – Mar. 24(Palm Sunday) in 2024. Easter will be early this next year, March 31. Of course, Easter Lilies would be used then and for some Sundays following that.

Perry Schefelker, retired(?) pastor



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays, Dec. 5, Jan. 2 and Feb. 6** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.

Together let's Honor and Celebrate the Retirement of Our Beloved Pastor

Vernon K. Lintvedt

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church -1205 North Lincoln Ave. O'Fallon, IL

Worship Service—9:30 a.m.

Farewell Luncheon Reception

Knights of Columbus Hall—402 E Hwy 50, O'Fallon, IL 62269

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RSVP by December 15

nancy@mybslc.org or 618-632-0126





# Stewardship CORNER



## LCMS Stewardship Ministry The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8-11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?



Stewardship  
Sunday, Dec. 3

Pastor Vern Continued  
from page 2

My job and the job of every pastor is to faithfully proclaim Christ crucified for the remission of sins and to administer the Sacraments, God's "means of grace." If we have been faithful in that endeavor, privately and in public, we can rest assured that God will bring it all to completion.

In closing, I just want to publicly express my gratitude to God for all of you. One of my favorite passages is from Romans 1 where Paul communicates his desire to visit them again:

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine" (Romans 1:11-12).

I pray that you have been encouraged by me as I have been so wonderfully encouraged by you. Our ministry has truly been a partnership. As this pastor rides off into the sunset of retirement, I am comforted that Christ, our ultimate Partner, will remain with us all wherever life takes us.

Marty and I will continue to pray with and for you all.

Your Partner in  
Christ,

Pastor Vern



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Cheryl Krantz
- 2—Ryan Moureau
- 5—Sloan Colvin
- 6—Laurie Tatge
- 9—Dennis Brockmeyer
- 10—Todd Gorney
- 11—Brooks Colvin
- 15—Erik Lintvedt, Dale Schutte, Gwen Borsch,
- 17—Lauren Williams
- 17—Luke Lesire
- 20—Tammy Ellington, Carrie Johnson
- 21—Danielle Stake, Jaye Drouin
- 24—Joseph Monaco

If we have overlooked your anniversary or birthday, please notify the church office. 632-0126.

- 1—Charla Morton
- 5—Natalie Bartimus
- 6—Terry Colvin, Matthew Bowman,
- 7—Connie Schatz, Rachel Schmidt Mikaila Soberanis
- 8—Hadley Williams
- 12—Don Drouin, Sr.
- 21—Anna Satrom, Eric Stake, Ellie Ernst
- 22—Stephanie Williams
- 24—Cheryl Vohlken, Hayleigh Williams, Thomas Borsch, Mary Bruns
- 25—Nathaniel Ellington,
- 26—Andrew Mabry
- 26—Simorah Longhorn, Connor Gass
- 27—Amy Boggs
- 28—Mark Berens, Paul Monaco
- 29—Thomas Satrom, Tom Sotiropoulos,
- 30—Rick Applegate, Isabel Calzada

- 27—Don Drouin, Marc Ellington
- 27—Marcie Monaco
- 28—Audrey Lesire
- 28—Mark Morton, Bill Feldmann, Audrey Lesire
- 31—Ed Brandmeyer,



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1—Greg & Angie Conrad
- 9—Bob & Charla Morton
- 14—Mike & Tyler Owens
- 19—Rick & Barb Applegate



- 6—Don & Jaye Drouin
- 29—George & Kim Kruse



## Advent Traditions

"The way you celebrate Christmas can be a gift in itself," said Fred Rogers, "handing on traditions that will give your child a feeling of continuity, comfort and joy in all the Christmases to come." In American homes, common Advent traditions include wreaths, calendars and logs. Did you know about these European traditions?

In Normandy, children used to set fires in fields during Advent. The flames killed caterpillar eggs and drove away rodents. The tradition reflected good conquering evil, just as God's perfect Son rescues us from sin.

On December 13, Scandinavian countries honor Saint Lucy (or Lucia), a third-century martyr who, according to legend, brought food to people in the catacombs during winter. For light — and to be able to carry as much food as possible — she wore a wreath of candles on her head. On St. Lucy's Day, the oldest daughter gets up early and brings sweet rolls to family members. The tradition reminds Christians that Jesus is a gift of light and love for our dark world.







Here's some of the kids from the Bible Club that I shared Jesus with.



Thank you to each of you, my friends at Blessed Savior who kept me in prayer as I traveled on my Puppet Mission Trip to share the good news of Jesus at Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Outreach in Winnebago, Nebraska. I was also able to do another puppet show at another Lutheran preschool near Seward Nebraska.

Pastor Ricky Jacobs, the pastor at Jesus Our Savior and Sherry Tietz, the preschool teacher do such a beautiful and excellent job of sharing Jesus with these Indian children all through the year. Please keep them along with the children in your prayers.

I was thankful for good weather during my travels.

What a blessing it was to see Vic-ar Matt and Tami Martin at their new home in Remsen, Iowa and to see the church where Matt is now serving. Tami even took me to Mission Central where you can learn about our Lutheran missionaries from all over the world, and how they are bringing others to Christ.

I am also thankful that the Lord kept me healthy and safe during my entire trip.

Karen Anders



thank you

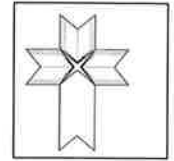
Here's just some of the little Native American children at Jesus our Savior Lutheran Preschool in Winnebago, Nebraska with Pastor Ricky and Sheryl (the preschool director and teacher) that I did the puppet show for.





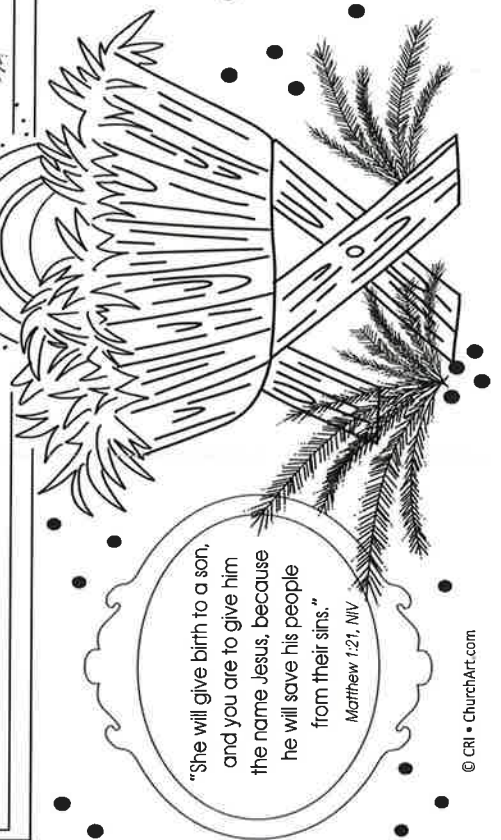


The Sanctuary  
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church  
1205 North Lincoln Ave.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269



# December

2023





## Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights  
that could be long and cold,  
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy  
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,  
and from trees both small and tall,  
the lights cry out, "We have good news!  
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,  
the sorrow, war and fear;  
but God has sent his Son for all,  
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.  
Christ's with us day by day,  
illuminating paths so we  
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.  
Make your world shine clear and bright.  
God's love surrounds and blesses us.  
Come, celebrate God's Light!—Peggy Ferrell

## Come as You Are

If you sometimes have a "love-hate" attitude toward Christmas, you're not alone. Theologian Charles Spurgeon bemoaned the "gluttony and drunkenness" that often marked the holiday in 19<sup>th</sup>-century England. "If there be any day in the year of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Savior was born," he said, "it is the 25<sup>th</sup> of December."

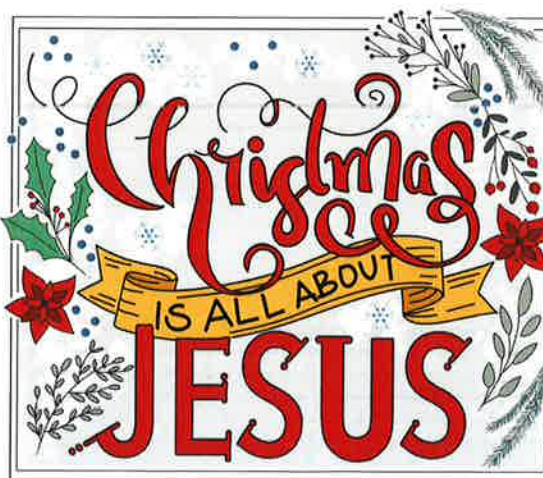
Yet Spurgeon also wished "there were 20 Christmas Days in the year," because Christ's birth represents "supreme joy." In his writings and sermons, Spurgeon urges people to honor Jesus' birthday "all year round," reminding them that they can come "just as you are" because "no forms of etiquette are required in entering a stable." God offers everyone total acceptance, Spurgeon adds, "for he puts himself into that manger that you may approach him."



## Manger Hearts

God came to earth in the  
Christmas birth of a tiny baby  
boy,  
Whose life and death are re-  
deeming us yet with blessings,  
grace and joy.

Our minds may know this  
history but stand in awe at mys-  
tery.  
So faith becomes the way to  
make our hearts like "manger  
hearts"  
where Christ can dwell and  
God imparts his wondrous love  
each day.—Peggy Ferrell



## The True Meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun, but they hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love. —Heidi Mann

# MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



## What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



## What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

# New INSIDE



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

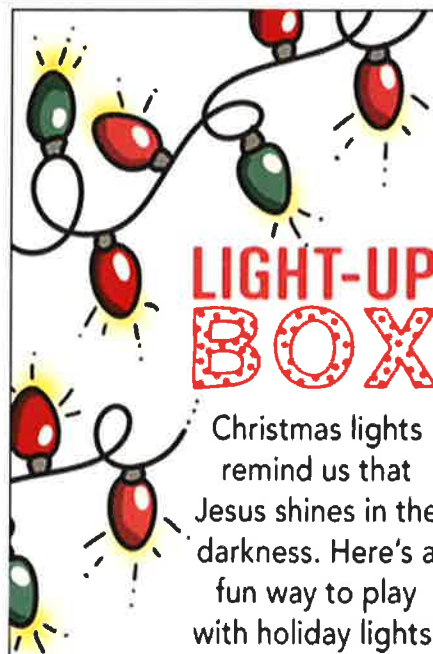
## What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



## What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



# LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

## What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



## What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
  2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
  3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
    - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
    - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
    - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!





## Holiday Humor

Much planning and preparation goes into worship during December. But that doesn't mean Christmas services and pageants are always picture-perfect. For anyone who's experienced holiday chaos (who hasn't?!), take comfort in knowing you're not alone.

Church leaders who shared stories with Outreach magazine describe an alarming number of Christmas candle vs. hair incidents. Here's what else has transpired:

- One pastor was sharing the Nativity story when he bumped the button on his singing Christmas tie, which didn't have a mute button. So congregants had to listen to the entire verse and chorus of "Jingle Bells."
- A child discovered a live mouse in his chocolate-filled gift bag on Christmas Eve. Although the creature jumped out and scurried out the door, worshipers saw it return for the next service.
- After flames were distributed for the candlelight service, a pastor said, "Now that we're all good and lit ...," causing laughter throughout the pews.

Children tend to go off-script during Christmas plays, as evidenced by all the bloopers available online. (Check out the YouTube clip titled "Sheep, Mary tussle over baby Jesus in children's pageant gone hilariously awry.")

## The Heart of Home

During a road trip one dreary, drizzly December day, I thought about how traveling is an act of faith — both now and in Bible times. Unlike Mary and Joseph with a donkey, I have more horsepower, yet I still rely on God to navigate through detours and delays.

On that particular journey, some friends who were away let us stay in their home, and it was such a haven. We turned on cozy lighting, got in our pajamas and heated homemade soup I'd brought. Those simple comforts symbolized warmth, home, nourishment. It was the welcome Mary must have longed for after her difficult trip.

After our meal, God's word fed my soul and I prayed: "Lord, I want my heart to be as warm and welcoming to you as this place to stay has been for us. Make me a place where you are invited, honored and welcomed — a peaceful haven for your Son." —Monica Wilkinson

## Numbering our Days

To fix what they call a disorganized date-tracking system, professors Steve Hanke and Dick Henry have developed a "permanent calendar." On it, January 1 is always a Monday, so holidays and birthdays occur on the same day every year. The 364-day calendar eliminates leap years, time zones, Halloween and every Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Instead of leap days, "every five or six years, we'll have an extra week at the end [of December] when you can party," says Henry.

Because the permanent calendar is predictable, it reportedly would save money and time. Yet despite almost two decades of work, the idea hasn't taken off.

However we track our lives, we do well to remember this prayer: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. ... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:1, 12 NIV).

## Christmas Crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?  
*It's Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?  
*Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?  
*"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?  
*Ornamints.*

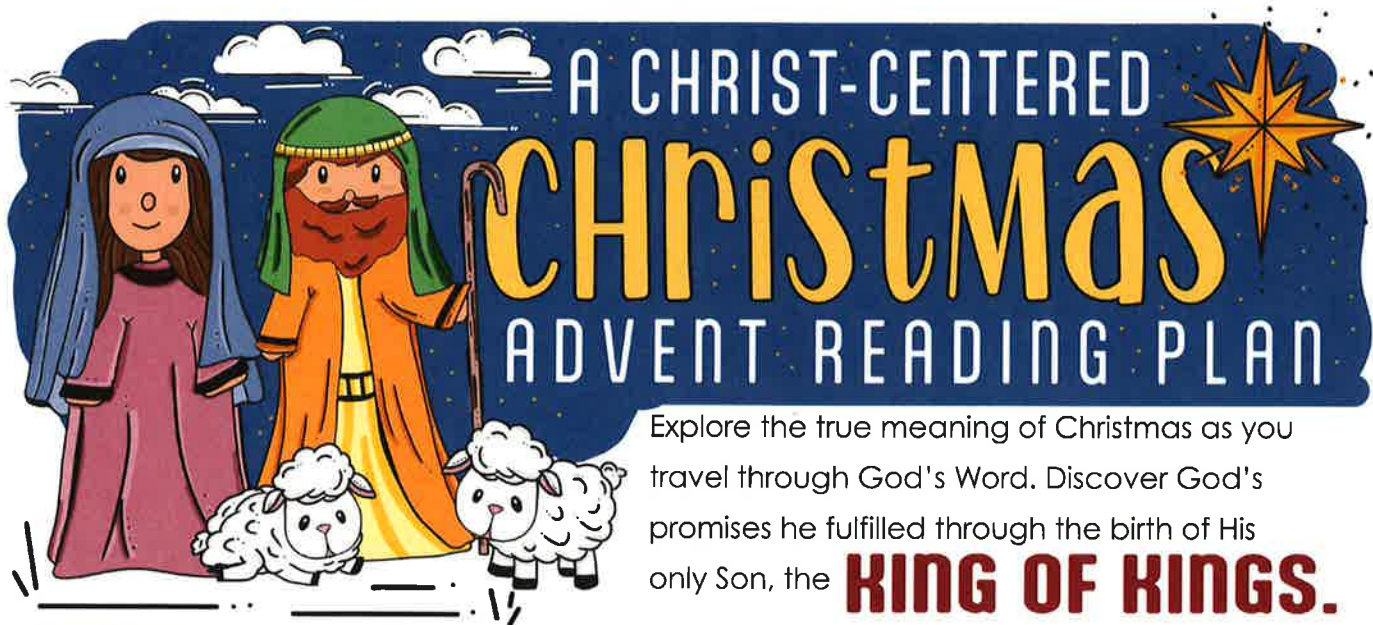
What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?  
*Santa walking backward.*

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?  
*Because he went down in history.*




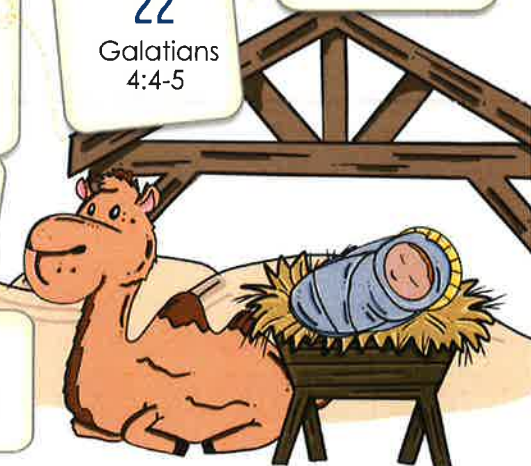
What is an elf's favorite kind of music?  
*Wrap music!*

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
*Nothing. It was on the house!*

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?  
*Elfies.*



Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

<div>1 Isaiah 7:14</div> 	<div>2 Isaiah 9:6-7</div>	<div>3 Malachi 3:1</div>	<div>4 Micah 5:2-4</div>	<div>5 Luke 1:5-7</div>	<div>6 Luke 1:10-15</div>	<div>7 Luke 1:18-22</div>
<div>14 Luke 2:15-20</div>	<div>13 Luke 2:8-14</div>	<div>12 Luke 2:6-7</div>	<div>11 Luke 2:1-5</div>	<div>10 Luke 1:30-33</div>	<div>9 Luke 1:26-29</div>	<div>8 Luke 1:24-25</div> 
<div>15 Matthew 1:18-21</div>	<div>16 Matthew 1:22-25</div>	<div>17 Matthew 2:1-3</div>	<div>18 Matthew 2:4-6</div>	<div>19 Matthew 2:7-9</div>	<div>20 Matthew 2:10-12</div>	<div>21 Romans 15:13</div>
			<div>23 Philippians 2:8-11</div>	<div>22 Galatians 4:4-5</div>		
			<div>24 James 1:16-18</div>	<div>25 John 3:16</div>		