

**WORSHIP TIMES**

Sunday School 8:45AM

Sunday Morning Worship 10AM

Sunday Evening 6PM

Wednesday Prayer Meeting and DU Classes 6PM

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**NEWS and CALENDAR EVENTS**

**Issue 12 Volume 2019**

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go even into Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manager.” Luke 2:15-16

Christ in the Christmas Season

It’s that time of year again. Thanksgiving has come and gone; retail stores play an endless cycle of Christmas songs; and children line up for miles to take pictures with Santa. Christmas is coming! It is an exciting time of year with the joy of seeing family and the anticipation of gift-giving. Christmas also can be a magical time of year where people are united under a common umbrella and for a common purpose. As it often does, the true meaning of Christmas gets pushed aside in the emphasis on Santa and the rush for gifts. More and more people celebrate “X-mas” instead of Christmas and continually push Christ out of Christmas. For most of society, Christmas is another excuse to give gifts and see family, but the familiar story of Jesus’ birth should be the reason Christians celebrate Christmas.

When reading Luke’s account of this story, we see the shepherds who hear from the angels about Christ’s birth. Their first reaction was to not only go straight to Jesus, but to *run* in haste to Him. After they saw Christ, they went out telling everyone they knew. We should have this kind of reaction year-round, but we are given a perfect example of this at Christmas. Jesus did everything for us – he became a man, was exposed to a sinful world, and died on the cross. We can celebrate our family and friends at Christmas, but as Christians, we have to make sure Christ is the main emphasis of our Christmas celebrations, not just a story we talk about at church or read briefly on Christmas morning. Let’s be more like the shepherds, running straight to Jesus and telling everyone we know about Him. The more that society tries to push Him out of Christmas, the more we should be pushing Him back into Christmas. This Christmas season, make sure to tell and show the love of God to someone else. Let’s maintain our excitement, wonder, and awe over the Christmas season and gear it towards Christ, the only reason for the season.

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| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| **1** **RA Canned Food****Drive Starts****GA Post Office****Opens** | **2**Prison Ministry | **3**9AM Prayer Group | **4**11:30AMFeeding Roane St6PMPrayer Mtg. &DU Classes7PMDeacon Mtg  | **5**Prison Ministry | **6****6PM****CHOIR/SOUND BOOTH DINNER** | **7****9AM-7PM****YOUTH BELL RINGING-RURAL KING** |
| **8** 2PMNursing Home Ministry6PM**GA’s dinner &****Lottie Moon Auction**   | **9****PRISON PARTY**Prison Ministry | **10**9AM Prayer Group | **11**6PMPrayer Mtg. &DU Classes7PMCouncil Mtg | **12**SAM’s Lunch7PMBread of LifePrison MinistryPrison Ministry  | **13****NAM Readyville Mill** | **14**11:30AMR\*E\*A\*L LadiesLuncheon |
| **15** 6PMChoir Christmas Program | **16**Prison Ministry | **17**9AM Prayer Group  | **18**6PMPrayer Mtg. &DU Classes7PMStewardship Mtg | **19****YOUTH WINTER RETREAT**Prison Ministry | **20**  | **21**8AMMen/Youth Boys Breakfast3PMChildren's Play Dress Rehearsal**NATIVITY** |
| **22****GA POST OFFICE CLOSES**6PMChildren's Play**NATIVITY** | **23****NATIVITY**Prison Ministry | **24****OFFICE CLOSED** **NATIVITY** | **25****NO SERVICE****OFFICE CLOSED** | **26**Prison Ministry | **27**Prison Ministry | **28** |
| **29****NO EVENING****SERVICE** | **30**Prison Ministry | **31**9AMPrayer Group**YOUTH LOCK-IN** |  |  |  |  |

***MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT***

I would like to start out by saying that my wife and I have had a wonderful time with the kids and all you amazing volunteers that helped this year. You made it possible for us to put on some great events for the kids. It was a fun opportunity to love on these amazing kids and have lots of fun with them at the same time. Now it's time to wind this year down and set our sights on next year's opportunities to love on the kids. Well, right after our beloved Christmas play that is. Our wonderful children have been working hard on the Christmas play for this year. They are excited to show you the new music they have learned and that Jesus is why we celebrate this season. The play is a celebration of our Savior being born, but also makes you realize that much like our chaotic holidays it was crazy busy the night Jesus was born. The world was so bus, hardly anyone noticed that in a lowly manger our Savior was being born. Think about it, everyone was running around like CRAZY trying to get ready for the census. In the midst of this chaos Joseph & Mary were BUSY trying to find a place to stay for the night. With no room in the inn, I’m sure Joseph was stressed. He just needed a room so they could get a PEACEFUL nights rest. All he could find was a spot in the stable. So humbly our Saviour came into the world, on that beautiful star- lit HOLY night. We hope to see you on December 22 at 6pm for our presentation of CRAZY, BUSY, PEACEFUL, HOLY NIGHT.

Children’s Ministry Directors,

Shawn & Rachael Bryant

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 **CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

 “Crazy, Busy, Peaceful Holy Night” Sunday, December 22nd at 6PM please come

and enjoy our Children’s Christmas Program. Remember to invite your family, friends, and neighbors.



**GA Post Office**

Beginning Sunday, Dec. 1st, the GA’s

will deliver your church family

 Christmas Cards for .25 each. All

 **LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

We are taking up donations for Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Your family donation can be given on Sunday, December 22nd. If you and your family are unable to attend that Sunday please go ahead and give your contribution at this time. Envelopes are in the pew chairs or see an usher.

 proceeds will be given to the

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

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**GA AUCTION/DINNER**

Please join us on December 8th at 6PM for the annual GA's Lottie Moon Auction and Dinner. Dinner will be loaded baked potatoes with LOTS

of topping choices. Please bring a dessert. All proceeds will be given to the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering.

**RA Food Drive**Beginning Sunday, December 1st the RA’s are collecting food for the Bread of Life Rescue Mission. Please bring in non-perishable food items and place them in the box in the foyer. The RA's will deliver it to the mission on December 20th

**#CREW Corner**

“23Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” **-Matthew 1:23–25**

For the last few weeks in the youth group, we’ve been studying the miracles of Elisha and seeing how God does incredible things in unexpected ways. He took Elijah away in a fiery chariot instead of having to die to go to Heaven. God allowed Elisha to part the Jordan river to travel across on dry ground, He called two she bears out of the woods to defend Elisha from a group of boys, and He filled a valley full of ditches with water to provide drink for Israel and Judah while simultaneously using that very water to trick Edom into haphazardly rushing to their doom. God truly does work in mysterious ways. The Incarnation of Jesus is one more of those miraculous and unexpected deliverances. Israel was always looking for a mighty military leader to come and rescue them and fulfil the prophecies of the Old Testament but when God sent the Messiah, He sent a baby. This baby would cause kings to tremble and to do the unthinkable to try to destroy Him because they knew that He was the rightful King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As we celebrate Christmas this season, remember the awesome gift that God gave when He sent His Son as an innocent baby who would one day give His very life for us all. I’m grateful for God’s unusual ways and perfect plan! -Bro. Adam

**Poinsettias for Christmas**We will have poinsettias displayed in the church for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one for your family in memory or honor of someone, see Arlene Engelhart or call the church office. Cost $5 each. You may take yours home after the service on December 22nd.

**Choir Christmas Program**

 **"Messiah (Heaven's Glory)"**

Long ago, a Baby was born in

Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah, to redeem and deliver us. Please join us as the choir presents "Messiah (Heaven's Glory)" on December 15th at 6PM.

**WELCOME**

**By Baptism**

Evelyn Siefker

Dina Neff

**By Letter**

David & Sally Race