

# The Testament

December 2019

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

*A timeless message from the archives...*

## The Unwrapped Gift

- by Deacon Dean Jernigan

Ah, the mystery of the wrapped gift. What can we tell about a gift when it's wrapped? What clues can we get from its size, its shape or its weight? How about the wrapping paper itself – does it offer any clues regarding the content that it conceals? One of the many joys of the Christmas season comes from the process of wrapping our gifts. We anticipate the joy of the recipient unwrapping the gift and visualize the satisfaction that the gift will bring to that person for the foreseeable future.

In some homes, the Christmas tree goes up early and gifts gradually pile up underneath it. Seeing this rise of presents builds the excitement and stimulates our curiosity. In other homes, the tree goes up later and the gifts are not as plentiful. Still, anticipation grows that on Christmas morning, that long-awaited gift will be nestled neatly underneath the tree.

Why do we wrap our gifts? Wouldn't the gifts be appreciated just as much without the wrappings? I believe that they would be, but I have to admit that there is a certain joy that comes with seeing the excitement of the recipients as they rip away the wrappings to expose their gifts. Often, the expressions that follow are priceless!

Much of the gift giving during this time of the year is reflective of the actions of the wise men as recorded in the second chapter of Matthew. Upon learning of the birth of Jesus, they followed His star from the east and travelled to Jerusalem to worship him. After being summoned by King Herod, the wise men found the newly born Savior and showered Him with gifts. *And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and*

*frankincense and myrrh.*  
(Matthew 2:11)

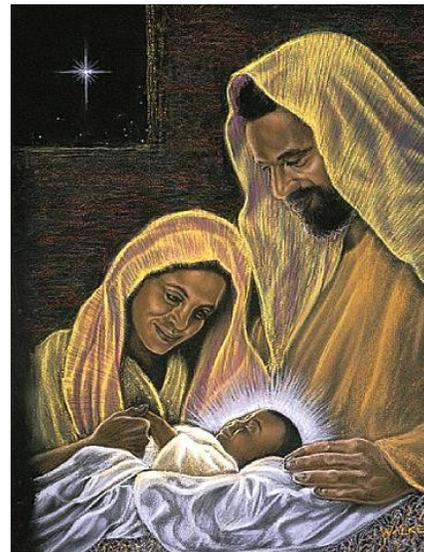
Now more than ever, it is important to remember the example given by the wise men as we approach the day that we celebrate as the birth of Christ. As the true reason for gift giving during this season often gets lost in the commercialization of Christmas, we have to remind others, and sometimes ourselves, why we celebrate this blessed event. Placing the gifts in their proper perspectives, we have to recognize and appreciate that our opportunity for salvation and eternal life is tied to the birth of Christ.

As we select our gifts and pick through the various colors, shades and designs of wrapping paper for them, let's be sure to leave one special gift unwrapped. Let's leave the gift of love exposed so that everyone around us will know that it's there and freely available. Let's act in such a manner that nothing conceals our love and that no one has to guess at its size or sincerity. And let's not wait for Christmas day to share it. Let's offer that unwrapped gift of love every second of every minute of every hour of every day. Offer it to your family, your neighbors, coworkers and even the strangers that stand next to you in the long lines at the mall. Don't worry if the gift is received or even acknowledged. Simply take comfort in knowing that in giving love to others, you are acting on Jesus' Word that it is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)

In offering His Son to us, our Heavenly Father provided the best example of gift giving. Unwrapped and unconditional, the gifts of love and eternal life are always available to us. They are always in season and they never go out of style. Best of all, you will never see their prices marked up or down because they are always free!



## Jesus - The Reason For The Season!



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*

## Please Join Us...

*for a special  
Worship Service  
celebrating the spirit of the  
Christmas Season.*

*Sunday, December 22nd  
11:00am*

*A theatrical performance,  
accompanied by music inspired  
by the biblical experience, will be  
presented to the Lincoln family.  
For additional information or to  
provide assistance, please see  
Deacon William Mayfield or  
First Lady Marva Atkins.*

In this same manner, we too must freely give of the love that we have within us. What better time than now to give yourself as an unwrapped vessel of God's love to those who share His Kingdom with you.

**Merry Christmas!**

# Around Lincoln...



Sis. Adrienne Jernigan and Sis. Pamela Jernigan enjoy the moment with Gospel Recording Artists Maurette Brown Clark and J.J. Hairston at the Lamplight Awards. The awards ceremony is sponsored by The Light 103.9FM and recognizes the positive contributions of local individuals and features a number of prominent Gospel Recording Artist.



As part of the Women's Day celebration, all of the women in the Lincoln family were treated to a luncheon at Golden Corral by the Women's Day Ministry. The gathering was well attended and served as an appetizer for the spiritual food that would be served during our Women's Day worship service on the following day.



Several Lincoln family members enjoy the festivities during Homecoming activities at NC Central University.



**Deacon on Duty for the month of December:**  
**Deacon Carlos Best**  
**(919) 220-8394**

# Minister's Corner

- by Rev. Patricia Lee

## Quality of Days

Why does it appear that as we get older the years seem to pass by so quickly? When we are young with our whole life ahead of us time seems to move at a slow place. Young folk are usually impatient. We often hear them say things like I can't wait to get grown, or to get my drivers' license, or a job, a girlfriend or a boyfriend. Does this sound familiar?



Actually time moves at its same pace. Every 24 hours the earth turns on its axis and a day is complete. Of course the scientist say the earth completes a day of rotation every 23 hours and 56 seconds but rounded off it's 24 hours. It rotates 365 days a year except every four years when February has an extra day making it 366 days that year.

What's more important than the length of days is the quality of our days. During the course of life trouble will come and fill up our days. Trouble is often unexpected. I know from experience. A non stop unbearable, strong pain will grip you and affect your entire body. You constantly cry out for God's Mercy. You ask Him why has He forsaken you? No reply. You pace. You get angry and you question but the suffering continues. It is then that you draw from the quality of your days spent in God's Word. You draw from the fellowships and relationships with your church family and praying friends. You receive the flood of prayers and well wishes. You are strengthened by them and make it through another day even while the pain is raging in your body. Finally the battle is over. The pain is gone.

God still has his faithful warrior. Satan lost. He cowardly walks away but only for awhile. The quality of your profitable, well spent days have brought the victory by God's powerful hand and you can now embrace this upcoming Thanksgiving season with a stronger testimony and a deeper feeling of praise and gratitude. 1 Corinthians 3:13 in the NIV tells us "each one's work will become clear: for the, Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

So I urge you to please be sure you are experiencing Quality Days that are pleasing to all mighty God so He can bless you with His rewards after you have gone through the fire. Then together we can truly proclaim that it is always a "Blessed Thanksgiving!"

## ***Black History Spotlight***



**Moneta Sleet, Jr.**

***Pulitzer Prize-Winning Photographer***

Moneta Sleet, Jr., was born on February 14, 1926 and raised in Owensboro, Kentucky. At a very young age, his parents gave him a small box camera, which he used to take pictures of his family around the house. This marked the beginnings of Sleet's lifelong love for photography.

Sleet attended Western High School and joined the camera club. After graduating, he attended Kentucky State University. He then served with an all-Black unit in World War II, and after his service, returned to Kentucky State University to obtain his business degree. He continued his education at New York University where he took photography courses at the School of Modern Photography. He received his Master's Degree in Journalism in 1950.

Sleet worked for multiple African American publications over the course of his career. He began as a sportswriter for the *Amsterdam News* in New York City and then the magazine *Our World*. Later, Johnson Publishing Company, the parent company of *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines him a position in 1955.

One of Sleet's many assignments was to cover Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sleet reported on the Montgomery Bus Boycott, King's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Selma to Montgomery March, and was given access to the King family at home. Sleet and King formed a bond that lasted until King's death in 1968.

Following the assassination of Dr. King, Sleet photographed King's funeral on April 9th, 1968 at Atlanta, Georgia's Ebenezer Baptist Church. The following year, Sleet's image of the grieving Coretta Scott King won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. This made Sleet the first Black man to receive a Pulitzer Prize in any field and the first person to win an award while working for a Black publication.

Sleet earned other awards over his lifetime including the Citation for Excellence from the Overseas Press Club of America, and awards from the National Urban League and the National Association of Black Journalists. On February 24, 2000, his hometown of Owensboro declared the date Moneta Sleet, Jr. Day and installed a bronze historical marker in commemoration of his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and Journalism.

[www.blackpast.org](http://www.blackpast.org)

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to [newsletter@mylmbc.org](mailto:newsletter@mylmbc.org) by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

**Newsletter Committee**

Reginald Davis • Willee Murphy  
Joan Lofton • Marva Atkins • William Mayfield  
Earleen Sharrock, Editor • Dean Jernigan, Chair

## ***Happy Birthday Jesus!***

*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.*

*And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto 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 manger.*

*Luke 2:1-16*

## ***Happy Birthday to our December Birthday Celebrities!***

*William Mayfield, Sr. • Lisa Eley  
Joi Belcher • Jennifer Crawford  
Bailee Davenport • Marsha Nazzare  
La'Tonya Brodie • Gianna Jackson  
Marva Atkins • Cherelle Lee  
Maggie Harrell • Karl Brodie  
Belinda Owens • Thurman Prescott  
Eugene Lofton • Trudy Owens  
Rosa Bailey • Marcus Lofton*

***Best Wishes For Many More!!***

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# *An Everlasting Thank You!*

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Along with the rest of the nation, the Lincoln family paused during the month of November to honor the courageous men and women who have served in the distinguished branches of our military on Veterans Day. Because of their efforts, we enjoy the freedoms of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness each day. We are grateful and indebted to these individuals and proud to recognize the members of the Lincoln family who have worn the uniforms of our Armed Forces. We also thank those who served but are no longer with us. We will salute them on Memorial Day.



*Rev. Linzie B. Atkins, III  
US Marine Corps*



*Sis. Jeannine Wardrick  
US Navy*



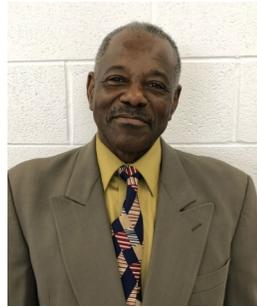
*Deacon Carlos Best  
US Army*



*Sis. Montesia Carrillo  
US Army National Guard*



*Deacon Robert Brodie  
US Marine Corps*



*Bro. Jackie Brewer  
US Marine Corps*



*Deacon William Mayfield  
US Marine Corps*



*Deacon Joseph Hilliard  
US Marine Corps*

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# *Making Their Exodus!*

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Our annual Women's Day Celebration provided a wonderful illustration of unity and mutual admiration for one another among the women in our church family. Working under the theme of "Make Your Exodus. Find Your Freedom and Remember the Covenant" the women were ministered to by the powerful voices of the Women's Day Choir and guided spiritually by an inspiring message from our guest speaker - Elder Dr. Valarie Morrow from Bethel Family Worship Center. As part of the worship service, women who have been members of Lincoln for 30 or more years were recognized. Congratulations to our women on an outstanding worship experience!



*Sis. Kathy Williams, Presider, Elder Dr. Valarie Morrow and the Women's Day Choir.*



*Women with 30 or more years of membership in our church family.*



*Sis. Ebony Atkins, Committee Chair*

# Hallelujah Fest!

Our Hallelujah Fest event provides a safe alternative to Halloween for our youth. Surrounded by family and friends, our youth dress in various non-scary costumes and enjoy a wonderful afternoon filled with fun, food and fellowship. Hats off to our Recreation Ministry for their constant efforts to provide for our youth.



## God's Great Gift Isn't Traditionally Wrapped

*“Out of sheer generosity God put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. He sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin” (Romans 3:24-25 The Message).*

The greatest gift ever given wasn't bought in a store. No cash exchanged hands. It wasn't even traditionally wrapped - instead, this gift was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger.

Yet it cost the Giver everything.

The Bible says God sent his Son to Earth as the greatest gift ever. He came to die and make you right with God. Romans 3:24-25 says, “Out of sheer generosity God put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. He sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin” (The Message).

So why did Jesus have to die? Let's go back to the basics.

♦ **Nobody's perfect.** I've never met a single person who is perfect, and neither have you. I don't measure up to my own expectations, much less God's perfect standard—and neither do you. We've all blown it. The Bible says, “All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory” (Romans 3:23 CEV).

♦ **God is just.** God wants to be fair. When somebody breaks a law, there must be a penalty for it. When you break man's laws, you pay man's penalty. When you break God's laws, you pay God's penalties. The Bible says, “The payment for sin is death” (Romans 6:23 NCV).

♦ **Jesus paid the price for our sin.** The Bible says, “God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us” (2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB). Jesus took on my sin and your sin and all the sin that has ever been committed. That's the Good News, the Gospel. Jesus paid the price you could never pay.

♦ **Accept God's free gift.** God offers us the free gift of salvation because Jesus took upon himself our sin - but it's a gift we must choose to receive. The Bible says, “To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12 NIV).

If you haven't accepted God's free gift of salvation, I pray you will make that decision today. It's one thing to understand the basics of how to have a relationship with Jesus. It's another to accept the gift.

And if you've already made that decision, I pray you share the Good News of Jesus with someone who needs to hear it.

**Have you trusted Jesus for your salvation?**

The Bible says we can only get to heaven by trusting in God through his Son, Jesus Christ. And we don't have to earn God's love or work our way into heaven. The Bible says, “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).

Pastor Rick Warren  
[www.pastorick.com](http://www.pastorick.com)

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# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

DON'T MISS  
DON'T MISS

Christmas



**Theme: Don't mistake all the tinsel and lights for the real meaning of Christmas.**

**Scripture: And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (NIV)**

It's here! It's finally here! Christmas is finally here! I just love Christmas, don't you? What do you like best about Christmas? Is it the Christmas tree with its blinking lights? Maybe it's the beautiful music or the delicious Christmas goodies. Perhaps it's Christmas dinner with turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. For some it might be all of the parties or visiting with family and friends. For many people the best thing about Christmas is the presents — both the ones we give and the ones we receive. Especially the ones we receive!

Hmm. . . Can you think of anything I have left out? Oh yes! It's someone's birthday, isn't it? Whose birthday is it? That's right! It is Jesus' birthday. You know, sometimes we get so caught up in all of the decorations, lights, parties, and presents that we miss the real Christmas.

That reminds me of a story I heard about a little boy who had always wanted to go to a circus. One day he was walking down the street when he saw a poster in a store window. The poster said that a circus was coming to town and that a ticket to the circus cost one dollar. The boy ran home and asked his father if he would give him a dollar to go to the circus on Saturday.

His father told him that if he would work hard and get all of his chores done, he would give him a dollar to go to the circus. Saturday morning came and the boy got up early and did all of his chores.

"I have all of my chores done," the boy told his dad.

The boy's father gave him a dollar and the boy headed into town filled with excitement about seeing wild animals, trapeze artists, and all of the things that come with a circus. Since he arrived in town so early, he was on the front row when the circus parade started down the main street of town. The boy was thrilled when the animals and other circus acts paraded by.

At the end of the parade came the clowns and following the clowns was the ringmaster. When the ringmaster passed by where he was standing, the boy ran out into the street, took his folded dollar bill from his pocket, and handed it to the ringmaster.

"Thanks," mister, said the boy, "that was a great circus." Then he turned around and walked home. He never knew what he had missed. He thought he had been to the circus, but he had only been to the parade.

If we are not careful, we can be like that little boy. We can get so caught up in the celebration, the decorations, and the gifts that we miss the real Christmas -- the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Dear Jesus, Help us not to get so caught up in the celebration that we miss the real meaning of Christmas. Amen.*

<https://sermons4kids.com>

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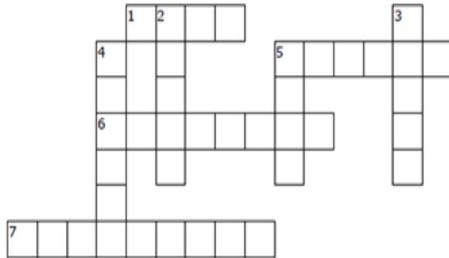
# KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

## The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



### ACROSS

- An infant or very young child
- The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
- A person who takes care of sheep
- The city where Jesus was born

### DOWN

- Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
- The savior of the world
- The earthly father of Jesus
- The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

## The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



L	S	W	M	H	Y	N	J	G	A	O	Z	P	X	K	F	I	U	B	E	T	C	V	Q	D	R
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 8-11-2-20-13-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-10-26-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-20-21-5-1-20-5-20-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-10-19-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-11-26-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-10-7-9-20-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-7-9-20-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-5-20-13-5-20-26-25-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-10-23-17-11-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-20-2-2-17-10-5 \_\_\_\_\_

SHEPHERDS	BETHLEHEM	BABY	MESSIAH	JOSEPH
SAVIOR	MANGER	BORN	MARY	ANGEL

## The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



J B E T H L E H E M N G I H K  
 S A F P V T E N C D N Z B H H  
 F H A T Y F S O N B B D Q B J  
 A V E R E P D R K C A M G Z O  
 S S A P N P V U R I B G Q D S  
 E M D B H A E O I Z Y A K H E  
 L B X I C E I C E N S U S L P  
 S Q O H V V R B R O O M G R H  
 I M U R A N R D B S W S A R K  
 Y F E S N C A B S C H I L D R  
 C M A S L V A X F T E I S E G  
 A J H E S Q M E Z I Z L G K P  
 Y T G K Z I T G S C M N W R Y  
 A N G V W E A G J A A S R X G  
 A Z H X Y W Y H M M R S F F C

SAVIOR	CENSUS	MARY	MANGER	BORN
CAESAR	SON	JOSEPH	MESSIAH	ROOM
CHILD	SHEPHERDS	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY

## An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



K V G J E U J H T U Z G T J N  
 X I Y K V V V Z S H N U B K J  
 P D N W U E J N F O R M O O B  
 C J K G L L I O W N N O R S D  
 H B E E D G X E S N R O N Z B  
 I C G S R O F V B E M W D E I  
 H N L I U P M I I B P A V Q B  
 A Q V B I S H L R M W H R L A  
 Z Z J P J P L X T C D Q W Y G  
 D F H H D P F P H N A C I K A  
 A D A F R A I D W N V X K N B  
 E B W Q K U P O V X I J X Y R  
 Q G P L T C T L R X D L F H I  
 E L I Z A B E T H Q B O C Y E  
 Y K C N P O S T D N F E E O L

ELIZABETH	JESUS	JOSEPH	BORN	AFRAID
SON	KINGDOM	DAVID	GABRIEL	BIRTH
MARY	TOWN	ANGEL	THRONE	VIRGIN

# December 2019

*“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30pm Music Ministry 6:30pm Christmas Service Rehearsal	6:30pm Pastor's Aide 6:30pm Sounds of Joy 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 6:30pm Sounds of Joy 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am-Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Min. 2:00pm Sounds of Joy Christmas Social
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00am Deacons 3:00pm Youth Missionaries	6:30pm Christmas Service Rehearsal 7:00pm Leadership Institute	6:30pm Voices of Praise 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Voices of Praise	7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 10:00am Deaconess 2:00pm Deacon/Deaconess Christmas Social
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:00am Deacons 3:00pm Youth Missionaries	6:00pm Health & Wellness 6:30pm Christmas Service Rehearsal	6:30pm Christmas Service Choir 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	6:00am *Conference Call Prayer Line 12:00Noon Noon Day Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm Christmas Service Choir	7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	Seventh Day Adventist (All Day) 9:00am Layman's League
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Christmas Worship Service</b>		6:30pm 5th Sunday Choir 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	<b>Christmas</b>	1:00pm RTTC Community Group 6:30pm 5th Sunday Choir	7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist	Seventh Day Adventist (All Day)
29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Janice Campbell by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p> </div>			
9:00am Worship Service		6:30pm Mass Choir 7:00pm Seventh Day Adventist Time TBA Watch Night Service				