

INTO THE FOLD December 2019

visit our website at www.umcrp.org

Ponderings by Pastor JoEllyn....



RIGHT DECISIONS

Matthew 1:18-25

"The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

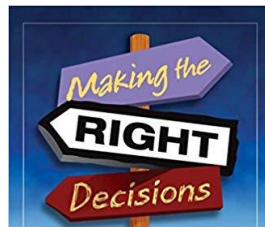
But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated, "God is with us."

When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son. And he named

Him Jesus. ---(Holman Christian Standard Bible)



Today and in the days ahead, I know we will have to make many decisions

whether minor or major. This reading from Matthew, shared that Joseph was faced with a difficult situation after discovering that Mary was with child. Joseph had two options running through his mind: divorce Mary quietly or have her stoned to death. But, God had a third and right option: marry her. This option had not occurred to Joseph. But God often shows us there are more options available than we think.

Although Joseph would be doing the right thing by breaking his engagement, God's guidance allowed him to make the right and best decision.

When we have an important decision to make, we sometimes feel we cannot trust anyone---not even God. But God knows what is best for us.

He is a better judge and His judgment is always right.

We must learn to trust Him completely in every choice we make. As we spend time in prayer with our Creator, let us bring decisions that we need to make before Him and He

will surely direct us as we make the right decision.

Praying You Through,
Pastor JoEllyn



Love has come to us again in 2019, as we celebrate the birth of our

Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our wish is that each of you will experience this Christmas with fully open hearts, you are deserving of that type of joy this year.

We wish you a Merry, Joy Filled Christmas And the Happiest New Year.

Pastor JoEllyn and Lester



Thank you Halyn for sharing your lovely gift with us during our

worship service. We enjoyed every note. Pastor JoEllyn

Ditto from all your friends at RPUMC..

Absolutely amazing. Can't wait for your next performance..

Hint: It will be Christmas Eve Candlelight service@ 8 p.m...

If you weren't in church a few weeks back you missed an awesome performance by Halyn, Cheryl Pumroy's granddaughter...



Bette's Bits & Bytes:

Down through the ages, Jesus has been known by many other names that tell of His greatness and of His work.

Among these names are

Christ,
Holy One,
Redeemer,
Immanuel,
Son of God,
Teacher,
Messiah,
Almighty, and, of course,
Savior.

The first letters of these sacred titles spell the name of this season when we celebrate the wondrous birth of the Baby Jesus.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/1973/12/a-christmas-message-to-children-of-the-church-in-every-land?lang=eng>

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!!

"Hakuna Mattata"!

Blessings & Peace be yours, *Bette*



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We continue to take a look at angels in Judith MacNutt's book, Encountering Angels..

Angels Are Among Us

Have you ever noticed, just for a moment, the fragrance of flowers Or felt a comforting presence even though no one was near?

You may have just encountered an angel. Judith MacNutt shares true-life stories of angelic encounters from people around the world. Through these accounts and biblical passages, you will discover the gifts

and guidance God offers through these heavenly beings--and the truth about their roles in your life as bringers of peace, comfort, warning, protection and love.

Excerpted from

<https://www.goodreads.com>

Please come & join us. class meets at 10:30 right after fellowship hour

CHILDRENS CHURCH:

A new program begins December. Karen Fitzgerald is excited for this change in Sunday School program.. **KidsOwn Worship** will help the Kids experience God through dynamic Bible learning and engaging worship. Prayer, praise and worship all tie into the weekly Bible passage. Creative lessons and crafts keep kids engaged, and music teaches Scripture—all with life-changing results. The children will meet together for music, then go to their respective classes.. Even the preschoolers will be involved, so they start their journey to know Jesus and what He is all about...



The November Best Years meeting was the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, held at the church, hosted by; Rose Lenig, Linda Everingham, Connie Reynolds, & Iva Wasielewski. Iva said grace followed by a delicious traditional meal of Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, home made crescent rolls, corn casserole, green bean casserole, home made pies, pecan, apple, pumpkin & custard. A free will offering for the dinner collected \$294. For Prairie View & Rolling Prairie Schools backpack program. December birthdays are Pam Pask 12/3, Lois Markley 12/4, Pam Dixon 12/7, Shirley Kirkham 12/7, Steve & Linda Everingham celebrate an Anniversary 12/29...Bingo was then played with

winners: Ben & Karen Rison, Deanie Ebanks, Jim Williamson, Shirl Sater, Lester & JoEllyn Chadwick, Connie Galloway, Connie Reynold, Evelin Hamilton. Others present: Art Lenig, Joe & Susan Knowlton, Bob Russell, Sharon Campos, Ann Riedstra, Wayne Kirkham, Steve Everingham, Bette Schaefer & guests Sue & Dan Hartwick, John Smith, & Aaron Lullenberg. An update on, Harold Carlson who is still in the hospital was given by Pastor JoEllyn... The next meeting will Wednesday December 18, at the BlackSmith Shop at noon.



Thank you
Rose Lenig,
Linda
Everingham,
Iva Wasielewski,

& Connie Reynolds for the delicious & very tasty Turkey, fixings, & sweet & luscious desserts you worked hard & lovingly on preparing & serving to those who came for the Best Years Thanksgiving Luncheon..



29 Steve & Linda
Everingham

December



01 MacKenzie Boswell
03 Pam Pask
03 Leslie Witkowski
04 Daniel Lenig
04 Neal Tuholski
05 Cory Moore
05 Alexander Lenig
05 Camden Rinkle
06 Holly Williamson
06 Chris Adams
07 Pam Dixon
07 Shirley Kirkham
08 Nancy Blunk
09 Cheri Ringer
10 Clint Weisenberger

- 11 Jackie Wheatbrook
- 11 Susy Lenig
- 12 Suzanne Flagg
- 12 Denice Tuholski
- 13 William Dare
- 13 Madelyn Syverson
- 16 Mackinzie Arford
- 18 Alana Witkowski
- 18 Jackson Hakes
- 23 Aaron Askew
- 24 Charles Ed Lenig
- 27 Dave Freese
- 28 Mike McClelland
- 30 Brianna Boswell
- 30 Joseph S. Pask



If you have a need or you know someone that needs prayers, Call Pastor JoEllyn and she will relay to the next person to activate the Prayer Chain. Pastor JoEllyn's Cell phone # for After Hours Emergency & Prayer Chain Request **(219)-363-5061**

EVENTS & MEETING

Christmas Choir Practice every Thursday 7 p.m Thru Dec 12....

Saturday, December 7 - Experience the Journey to Bethlehem @ Christian Church in RP 5 p.m.

Sunday December 8th, 9 a.m.

There will be Church here at RPUMC after all Sunday Dec 8th at our regular time of 9 a.m. We will start our Advent Worship time here and travel to Christian Church, for their 10 a.m. service, for a special presentation of Journey to Bethlehem, to end Our Worship praising our Lord Jesus with our sisters & brothers in Christ at RP Christian Church ...

UMW Tues Dec 10 9:30 a.m.

Called Board/Council Meeting

Tuesday Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

To finish up yearly business... All chairpersons please attend, provide agenda, & if can't attend, send a

representative, or provide a report on your committee activities..

All Music Sunday Dec 15, 9 a.m

BEST YEARS Wed Dec 18, noon @ Black Smith Shoppe

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Service Tues Dec 24 8 p.m.

Office Closed Dec 24 & Dec 25

Christmas Day & Jan 1, 2020

Can you believe 2020??



December
FOOD
PANTRY
Requests

In Need of plastic bags
Canned Pasta, (beef-a-roni,
spaghetti -O's etc.
Can't keep on the Shelf
Any kind of soup
Any canned Fruit



By Penny Derucki

The November 12, 2019 meeting of the United Methodist Women was canceled due to bad weather. The guide line that we follow is that if the New Prairie School are canceled or delayed, we will not meet. This year we had planned to travel to Oak Woods Manor in La Porte to visit our friend and longtime member Mary Eddy. We will plan to do that in the new year.

From our Prayer Calendar, the **Mission Witness** for today -I experience God...with two other missionaries from the U.S. who provide Monday night dinners for mission and Peace Corp volunteers. God assures missionaries that nothing is lacking - even that feeling of being part of a family. The **Mission Focus** takes us to Senegal. Women's Skills Center. Teaching sewing and cooking

skills to women to help lift their families out of poverty.

The New Prairie Boogie, held on November 9, 2019, at the La Porte County Fairgrounds was a very successful fundraiser supporting the NPUSC Nutritional Services Angel Fund. The Angel Fund was established to ensure that all NPUSC students receive lunch when their student funds are unavailable, and to prevent lunch shaming. The Angel Fund does this by providing funds to cover the cost of lunch for students whose accounts need assistance. Families are never asked to pay back the meals covered. The Angel Fund is fully funded by generous donations. A **Thank-you** to our Major Donors, which included the **Rolling Prairie United Methodist Women** and the **Rolling Prairie PTO** was included in the program book. The support of our congregation in the UMW fundraisers is greatly appreciated.....

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 9:30 am at the church. Iva Wasielewski will be our Hostess and Barbara Parker will give our Program.

The United Methodist women are reviving a mission. With the congregation's help we like to take meals to fellow members who have been discharged from hospital, sick, had a baby, ect. We are looking for volunteers, who when called upon, will make meals (or purchase) and deliver to those in need. If you would like to help or have more questions please call Barbara Parker at 219-851-3026



Thank You
Mike Harris for
helping change the Sign
Message...

With Deepest Sympathy

Jesus stretched out His loving hands
and welcomed these friends & family
members onto the shore of heaven...

RIP Bob Lenters, brother of Ann
Riedstra

As I was thinking about another
Christmas without, Dad, & Grandma,
and our 23rd without Mom, I thought
about the many of our church family
that had loved family and friends that
went to rest in Jesus arms this past
year.. I found this poem, "First
Christmas in Heaven". I hope that it will
soothe the hurt within your heart as
you celebrate this first Christmas
without your Loved One. And for those
of us whose pain is not as fresh, yet
our hearts still sore especially at this
time of year, it is a reminder that our
loved ones, too, are spending
Christmas with Jesus again
this year..

"My First Christmas in Heaven"

I can see the countless *CHRISTMAS
TREES* around the world below with
tiny lights like *HEAVEN'S STARS*
reflecting on the snow. The sight is so
SPECTACULAR; please wipe away that
tear, for I am spending *CHRISTMAS
WITH JESUS* this year. I hear the many
CHRISTMAS SONGS that people hold so
dear, but the *SOUND OF MUSIC* can't
compare with the *CHRISTMAS CHOIR*
up here. I have no words to tell you of
the *JOY* their voices bring, for it is
beyond description to *HEAR THE
ANGELS SING*. I know *HOW MUCH YOU
MISS ME*: I see the pain inside your
heart, But *REJOICE* for me, for I am
spending *CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS
CHRIST* this year. I can't tell you of the
SPLENDOR or the *PEACE* here in this
place. Can you just imagine
CHRISTMAS WITH OUR SAVIOR face to
face? I'll ask Him to *LIFT YOUR SPIRIT*
as I tell Him of your love. I can't count
the *BLESSINGS OF LOVE* He has for
each of you. So *LOVE AND KEEP EACH
OTHER* as my Father said to do, and

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, as you lift
your eyes above. So have a Merry
Christmas, all of you whom I hold dear,
Remember, I am spending *CHRISTMAS
WITH JESUS* this year....Please let your
HEARTS BE JOYFUL and let your *SPIRIT
SING* for I am spending *CHRISTMAS IN
HEAVEN* and I'm walking *WITH THE
KING*.- by Wanda White @ copyright 1999
printables4free.com



Mike Harris
(Colonoscopy Dec 10)
Howie Walsh (stage 4
pancreatic, stroke,
Barbara Parker) Kaitlyn
Lullenberg(lung health, Iva's great
granddaughter) Harold Carlson (home,
recovering), Bobby Elkins (broke leg,
Jeff/Bobette son), Joel Majot (Colon
Cancer, surgery Thursday, friend Dave &
Bette Schaefer), Bill Dare (Cancer,
Chemo), Jeff Smith (surgery Nov 22
brother-in-law Linda Steve Everingham)
Bob Hughes (rehab, Sue Hughes brother-
in-law), Jerry Daley (medical issues,
brother-in-law Lynsey Daley), Steve
Owens (cancer, Ann Reidstra) Carrie
Chadwick (surgery on arm, Pastor JoEllyn
daughter), Mike Grant (broke leg, Lisa
Tucker) **Denice Boyce (home after
surgery, Sherry/Paul Iwaszewski sister)**
Deb Harris (2 broken bones in foot)
Donna Cain (health issue) Scott Thieme
(on mend), Dave Schaefer (on mend)
Margaret Rimmer (health, mother of
Shirley Novak, Janice Stroud) Joe (health
issue) & Susan Knowlton (health issues)
Jeanette Wideman (health issues,
mother Cheryl Lenig), George Glassman
(Dememtia – varicose veins , pain, friend,
Jeff/Bobette Elkins) Karl Dorr (hip
replacement – son-in-law Jeff/Bobette
Elkins) Ray McVay (on mend after triple
bypass, June Lenig brother) Bruce
Melton (home recovering after back
surgery, Penny Melton hubby) Connie
Kibbe(complications of infection due to
MS, Barbara Parker family), Nina
Fitzgerald (unspoken request Karen
Fitzgerald daughter) Joe Jones (Hospice,
brother-in-law Art Schuck) Pat Majot
(home after valve replacement, friend

Dave & Bette Schaefer), Brenda Loggins,
(depression, Kathy Crass daughter)
Nancy Vale (Cancer- wife of Pastor Bob
@FUMC LP. Pastor JoEllyn) Michelle
(cancer, friend of Pam Dixon), Marlene &
Bob Baughman (on mend) Baby Girl
Depoy (hole in heart healing, weighed 1
½ lbs now weighs 3lbs, growing nicely,
family Bobette/Jeff) Jim
Poole(lungs, brother Karen Fitzgerald &
Steve Poole) Abigail Smith (21 yr old
granddaughter Susan & Joe Knowlton,
suffered a stroke) Brad Nimtze (health,
Sherry & Paul Iwaszewski son-in-law)
William Budig (cancer, friend Mason
Phillips) David Jandrisovits (continued
complications from heart surgery, Rose
Lenig), Barry Pumroy (healing, foot
surgery, Cheryl's hubby, Virginia
Bradford (recovering back surgery Doug
McNabb (3 brain tumors, father of
Jennifer Casper, friend of Pastor JoEllyn
& Salem Chapel secretary) Louis Seitz
(stomach removed, Rita Chadwick's
father)

Continue to lift up those in our church
family that are struggling with various
health concerns who
wish to not be named. Please keep
their UNSPOKEN REQUESTS lifted in
prayer, as God knows who each of
them are and what it is they need. Give
them strength Oh Lord, to deal with
whatever their struggle... Let them feel
your arms embracing them with your
warm, wonderful, love.. Bless them
with your Peace. Thank You, God....

**If you want someone to remain on or
add please fill out new request card or
call Pastor JoEllyn or
Bette 219-778-2910**



Garrett Obenchain
US Air Force
Reserves Son of
Jeremy & Stefanie
Grandson Art &
Rose Lenig
Jacob Adams US
Army- States
grandson Chris
Adams

Craig Carlson, (pilot) US Air Force son
 Harold & Carrie Carlson
 Matthew Chadwick US Army - son
 Lester & JoEllyn Chadwick
 Michael Showalter Marines,
 grandson Wayne & Shirley Kirkham
 Matthew Rompca Air Force
 nephew Shirley & Wayne Kirkham
 Katelyn Williamson
 U S Marines
 Daughter of Al and granddaughter
 of Jim Williamson
 If you have someone serving and would
 like on our prayer list please let
 Bette know...
 Please lift all those serving our country,
 who are struggling, for whatever the
 reason; being alone, illness, divorce, loss
 of job, loss of loved ones, going through
 the firsts
 after death of loved one.
 Give thanks for everything....
 Hear our Prayers, Oh Lord!



A few fun healthy snack ideas...

CHEESE STICK SNOWMEN

<https://www.t1everydaymagic.com/cheese-stick-snowmen/>
 INGREDIENTS



12 Mozzarella string
 cheese sticks
 Permanent markers
 (black and orange)
 Black construction
 or foam paper
 Double-sided tape
 Ribbon for scarf
 HOW TO MAKE IT
 Use permanent
 markers to draw a

snowman face toward the top and
 buttons down the length of the
 wrapper of each cheese stick, as
 shown.
 Cut out a hat shape out of paper or
 foam & Secure with double-sided
 tape just above each face.
 Cut 12 pieces of ribbon about 2 to 3
 inches long and tie one around each
 snowman's neck.

Green grape Christmas tree snack recipe

<https://www.sheknows.com/food-and-recipes/articles/1059007/healthy-edible-christmas-tree-snack-recipes/>

If you're short
 on grapes, then
 you can just use
 both halves of
 12 grapes. I
 prefer to eat the
 stem ends
 myself and use
 the pretty ends
 to make the tree.



Serves 1
 Total time: 5 minutes

Ingredients:

24 green grapes
 1 raspberry

Directions:

Slice the grapes in half.
 Arrange the non-stem ends into a
 Christmas tree shape. You can either
 eat the stem ends or save them for a
 fruit salad.

Place a raspberry at the top of the
 tree.

Kiwi Christmas tree snack recipe

<https://www.sheknows.com/food-and-recipes/articles/1059007/healthy-edible-christmas-tree-snack-recipes/>

We leave the skin on our kiwis
 because it's extremely nutritious,
 with loads of fiber and vitamin C. My
 son loves it, but
 if your kids are
 resistant, then
 feel free to peel
 the kiwi before
 slicing.

Serves 1
 Total time: 2
 minutes

Ingredients:

1 kiwi
 1 raspberry

Directions:

Slice the kiwi into rounds.
 Cut 4 of the rounds in half, and
 arrange them in 2 angled columns to
 form a tree shape.



Cut 1 of the kiwi ends into a
 rectangle for a tree trunk.

Ham & Cheese Christmas Crackers

<https://www.eatsamazing.co.uk/family-friendly-recipes/party-food-ideas-recipes/ham-cheese-christmas-cracker-snack>

This ham & cheese
 crackers snack
 makes a fun
 Christmas party food
 idea or cute
 Christmas snack for
 kids - they're so
 quick and easy to
 make!



Course: Party Food, Snack
 Cuisine: British, Christmas
 Servings: 10 crackers
 Author: Grace Hall

Ingredients

10 small savoury crackers (I used Ritz)
 2 ham slices
 2 cheddar cheese slices

Instructions

Lay out the crackers on a plate or platter.
 Using a circle cutter the same size or slightly
 smaller than the crackers, cut out rounds of
 ham and pop one on top of each cracker. I
 used the crinkle side of the cutter to make
 them a little more decorative.
 Cut shapes from the cheese using festive
 themed mini cutters (I used snowflakes,
 stars, gingerbread men and snowmen) and
 pop them on top of the ham.

Serve immediately and
 enjoy!



Jesus Is Comin' to Town

Scripture:

*She will bear a son, and you are to
 name him Jesus, for he will save his
 people from their sins." Matthew
 1:21*

Excerpted from sermons4kids.com
*One morning last week a tune started
 going through my mind. I often wake
 up in the morning with a song on my
 mind and often go to bed at night
 with a song on my mind. But this
 particular morning was different. I
 woke up with the tune "Santa Claus Is
 Comin' to Town" running through my
 mind, but the words that came to my
 mind were not the usual words to*

the song. Here are the words that came to my mind.

Wipe away your tears, get rid of your fears;
Here's the best news you've heard in years!
Jesus Christ is coming to town.
He's makin' a list in the Book of Life,
That'll be the end of your trouble and strife!
Jesus Christ is comin' to town.
He loves you when you're sleepin',
He loves you when you're awake;
He loves you when you're bad or good,
But be good for Jesus' sake!
Now put on a smile,
get rid of that frown,
Spread the "Good News" all around;
Jesus Christ is comin' to town.

At this time of year, many people are thinking about Santa Claus coming to town and thinking about all of the great gifts that Santa will bring them. But the real reason for this season is the celebration of Jesus Christ's coming--and he brings us the greatest gift of all. He brings the gift of God's love. The Bible says, "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Yes, he loves us when we're bad or good, what a great love that is!

Dear Lord, we thank you for your great love. We thank you that you showed us that love by sending your son, Jesus, to save us. In his name we pray, amen.



Some Christmas Reminders

excerpt from www.tonycooke.org/holiday-resources/christmas_illustrations/

* May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift,

His only Son.

- * May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- * May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- * May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- * May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- * May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- * May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the son the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- * May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!

Names of Jesus & Scripture

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/50-names-of-jesus-who-the-bible-says-christ-is.html>

1. **Almighty One** – "...who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." [Rev. 1:8](#)
2. **Alpha and Omega** – "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." [Rev. 22:13](#)
3. **Advocate** – "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." [1 John 2:1](#)
4. **Author and Perfecter of Our Faith** – "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." [Heb. 12:2](#)
5. **Authority** – "Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'" [Matt. 28:18](#)
6. **Bread of Life** – "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'" [John 6:35](#)
7. **Beloved Son of God** – "And behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" [Matt. 3:17](#)
8. **Bridegroom** – "And Jesus said to them, 'Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.'" [Matt. 9:15](#)
9. **Chief Cornerstone** – "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone." [Ps. 118:22](#)
10. **Deliverer** – "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." [1 Thess. 1:10](#)
11. **Faithful and True** – "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war." [Rev. 19:11](#)
12. **Good Shepherd** – "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." [John 10:11](#)
13. **Great High Priest** – "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." [Heb. 4:14](#)
14. **Head of the Church** – "And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church." [Eph. 1:22](#)
15. **Holy Servant** – "...and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." [Acts 4:29-30](#)
16. **I Am** – "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'" [John 8:58](#)
17. **Immanuel** – "...She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" [Is. 7:14](#)
18. **Indescribable Gift** – "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." [2 Cor. 9:15](#)
19. **Judge** – "...he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." [Acts 10:42](#)
20. **King of Kings** – "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." [Rev. 17:14](#)
21. **Lamb of God** – "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" [John 1:29](#)

22. Light of the World – "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [John 8:12](#)

23. Lion of the Tribe of Judah – "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." [Rev. 5:5](#)

24. Lord of All – "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." [Phil. 2:9-11](#)

25. Mediator – "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." [1 Tim. 2:5](#)

26. Messiah – "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ)." [John 1:41](#)

27. Mighty One – "Then you will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." [Is. 60:16](#)

28. One Who Sets Free – "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility," [Eph. 2:14](#)

29. Our Hope – "...Christ Jesus our hope." [1 Tim. 1:1](#)

30. Peace – "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two

31. Prophet – "And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." [Mark 6:4](#)

32. Redeemer – "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth." [Job 19:25](#)

33. Risen Lord – "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." [1 Cor. 15:3-4](#)

34. Rock – "For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." [1 Cor. 10:4](#)

35. Sacrifice for Our Sins – "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved

us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." [1 John 4:10](#)

36. Savior – "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." [Luke 2:11](#)

37. Son of Man – "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." [Luke 19:10](#)

38. Son of the Most High – "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David." [Luke 1:32](#)

39. Supreme Creator Over All – "By Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together..." [Col. 1:16-17](#)

40. Resurrection and the Life – "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." [John 11:25](#)

41. The Door – "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." [John 10:9](#)

42. The Way – "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." [John 14:6](#)

43. The Word – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." [John 1:1](#)

44. True Vine - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." [John 15:1](#)

45. Truth – "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [John 8:32](#)

46. Victorious One – "To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne." [Rev. 3:21](#)

47. – 50. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." [Is. 9:6](#)

All this...and so much more. He, alone is worthy.

Advent Wreath..

Dec 1st is the first Sunday of Advent 2019. The Advent season comprises the four weeks before Christmas. It is an old tradition dating at least as far back as the 400's when the early church observed a period of preparation leading up to Christmas.

Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts and our minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. The word "Advent" means "to come," and the Advent season focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Christmas and then also anticipating Christ's second coming and soon return.

Hope EXCERPTED Gail Rodgers
thelife.com/advent-week-

The God of Hope sent His son to be our Savior. He is only one prayer away. If you want the confident expectation of His strength and wisdom in your today and His help and hope for your tomorrow, you need only ask so that you may overflow with hope.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

PEACE EXCERPTED Gail Rodgers
thelife.com/advent-week-

The angels proclaimed "Peace on Earth" when the Baby Jesus was born. Today we wonder as we listen to the evening news, is peace possible? We all need two kinds of peace in our lives. We need inner peace, but we also need peace with others. God addresses both. He tells us what to do to find that peace.

INNER PEACE begins with a relationship with God, and it continues as we focus on His strength and allow Him to fill us. We can exchange our weakness for His strength in any area of life. God's Word says, *"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is focused*

on You because He trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3).

Personalize that verse with your own name in it: “God will keep me in perfect peace as my mind focuses on Him and trusts Him.” Inner peace hinges on your trust in God. If inner peace is eluding you these days and anxiety is spilling over in your life, choose to trust God. You can choose to put your hand in His and draw from His patience and wisdom as you take each step. He will guide you through the maze of life if you ask Him. Choosing to trust God with those blind corners in your life will take you down the road to inner peace. Choosing not to trust Him will take you down the road to stress and worry. Inner peace is there for the choosing.

PEACE WITH OTHERS

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God” (Matthew 5:9).

Peace with others begins as we understand that God has called us to be peacemakers in our world. Is there somewhere in your own world where you can be a peacemaker this Christmas? Is there an invitation that needs to be extended to smooth over a fractured family relationship? Is there an apology to be made or a silence to be broken that has stood as a barrier for too long? Don't miss the blessing God promises in your life as you respond to His call to be a peacemaker in your own circle. We can help bring peace to our world one heart at a time.

JOY EXCERPTED Gail Rodgers
thelife.com/advent-week-

As I re-juggled my “to do” list of Christmas preparations, my thoughts bounced around the changes that have come and how Christmas will be somewhat different this year — good changes, challenging changes, hard changes — the interesting mosaic of

life. It's different for all of us, yet we all share in that changing landscape of life. Sometimes finding joy in the changes is easy. Other time it's very challenging.

As I pondered the changes in my life, and in our world, I thought about Christmas and the birth of Baby Jesus. Sometimes that manger scene seems so irrelevant and so far removed from day-to-day life. Yet an old verse in the Bible brought freshness to my soul this week as I pondered how the Baby Jesus impacts my life today. It truly gives new cause for joy — to stop and listen again.

“For unto us a child is born ...and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Any need you have in life and in the changing landscape of your mosaic can be answered by Jesus. If you need wisdom or strength, He will be your Counselor. If you need a mountain moved, He is your Mighty God. If you need comfort, forgiveness and gentle healing, He is your everlasting Father; and if your heart is anxious and troubled, He will be Peace to you. Jesus is our rock and our hope — our cause for joy!

Let your heart pause with thankfulness as you prepare for Christmas. Look at the manger scene with the fresh wonder of all He is to you. Let joy seep into the changes of your life. No need or change that you face will not be met by Him. He is so much more than just a baby! Invite Him into your changes! Let joy fill your soul.

LOVE EXCERPTED Gail Rodgers
thelife.com/advent-week-

The ring was special! It signified she belonged to the organization. As she wore it she was aware of all it represented and of who it said she

was. With it she was more conscious of how she acted. As a follower of Jesus you wear a distinguishing mark as well. Is it visible?

You wear His love.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

When Jesus came to this earth, He brought a special kind of love. This love is unselfish, compassionate, unconditional. He loves us just as we are. Our condition is irrelevant to His love. It is a love that picks us up just where we are in life and carries us further than we could ever go on our own.

He gives us His love so we can give it away in the same unselfish, compassionate, unconditional way He gave it to us. He tells us this love will be our trademark. It will distinguish us as followers of Jesus. Your actions reflect Jesus to the world around you. You can choose to offer love or to hold it back. In situations where it is hard to offer love, ask Him to give you an abundance of His own in your heart so you are able to give it away.

As you move into Christmas this week, be reminded of the distinguishing mark you carry as a follower of Jesus. Ask for His love to be evident in your words and actions as you interact with others. Seek to bring unity and balance into relationships or situations. Listen to people with sincerity and interest. Ask for a graciousness that comes from His Spirit as you mingle with those in your circle.

Wear the love of Jesus as your distinguishing mark as His follower.

"Dear God,
Help us to focus on the greatest gift of all this season, and the whole year through. Thank you for sending your one and only Son, that we might be saved through Him. In the powerful Name of Jesus, Amen." John 8:36