



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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AND THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "FEAR NOT, FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.

-LUKE 2:10-11 ESV

only inspired by God, but has been carefully preserved and overseen by God through the centuries so that the Bibles you and I have today can be relied upon as the messages God provided through his prophets and other biblical writers. In addition, we can learn not to be afraid of scrutiny of our Bibles nor the scientific and historical research about the times the Bible describes. Time and again, the Bible has proved itself true. One that was duplicated at the exhibit, which was found in Caesarea, Israel in 1961 that I was fortunate enough to see in Israel, was a stone that refers to Pontius Pilate. That may not sound like a big deal, except that until 1961, there was no contemporary evidence that Pilate was ever in Jerusalem! Once again, it turned out that the Bible proved true. Never underestimate this collection of writings that sits on your shelf, which we call The Word of God. And never neglect it. The more you know, the more blessed you will be!

1. Gift 2. Star 3. Christmas Carol



DECEMBER 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Fremont, Nebraska



Lead Pastor - Richard Crooks | Music Director - Sasha White | Youth Leader - Jesse Kracht

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:



"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises..."

-2 Peter 1:3-4a (esv)

In a world of digital communications, social media and virtual realities, there are few individuals who send greeting cards anymore, and fewer still individuals who sit down and handwrite a letter. The National Archives has a program inviting folks to help them make their records more available to the public by transcribing documents written in cursive script into digital format. This is being done because of a concern that cursive is at risk of being a lost art, as many in education recognize that it is rarely used. Therefore, they are seeking help of people who grew up learning cursive to help transcribe while there are still enough people around able to do so. I have gone in a few times myself, and I must say, when I see the beautiful handwriting of individuals back in the 1800's, it is so very impressive compared to the scrawl that even my best cursive writing is (not to mention the writing I refer to as printing!). All of this is to simply point out that letter writing is quickly becoming a lost art. And yet, I wonder....

Do you have any "love letters" that were written to you at some point in your life? I happen to have a few that my mother kept written (in cursive!) from my dad not long before they got married way back in 1946. As dad was working in an occupation that kept him on a road a lot back then, I suspect those letters were treasured by mom, read and reread many times over. Love letters are like that, are they not? Words that pierce your heart, that remind you of good times together, that help you remember why you fell in love with this person in the first place, and stir special fondness's of your own in response. Love letters are a unique category of communication. Did you know that it is believed that Martha Washington, a prolific letter-writer, instructed that her love letters to George were to be destroyed after his death, to keep their private life out of the public view? Because those letters were intended for one person: her beloved George. Loving relationships are like that. (She didn't quite succeed however...four letters to George survived. One from 1767 begins: My Dearest, It is with very great pleasure I see in your letter that you got safely down." When separated by necessity, such letters fanned the flame of their love.



Between the covers of the Bible on your shelf or table are the greatest love letters ever written, the love letters from God to his people, his children, to YOU! They contain a lot that is of interest to many people, but there are things in them that God wants you to know personally, intimately, assuredly as his chosen and beloved. In them, God shares with you what he desires for the relationship between the two of you. The verse above from Peter reminds us that these letters contain great and very precious promises for you... much as Martha was encouraged to know that George had made it safely to his destination, God wants you to know that Jesus arrived safely in glory and is

preparing a place for you so that you can do the same. God's love letters let us know that he is committed to you for all time, and will never leave your side. Much as Martha might have gotten word that after his term of military service, George would return to her, so God's love letter promises that our beloved Christ will also return for you one day. So many promises. So much to learn about your beloved. So much he wants you to know as your relationship together grows and matures and becomes more and more intimate and special.

How often do you pull out God's love letters and read them again? Surely there are favorites, but there are others that one day will become new favorites over time with regular reading. Are there letters and promises from the God who loves you that you have never read? Or maybe have read but have never understood what he was trying to tell you? I wonder what George would have thought if he had gotten home and all of the letters he had written to Martha were sitting on a shelf, unopened and unread. After all, what's the point in writing a love letter if your beloved doesn't ever take the time to read it? This time of the year, is especially a reminder of the love God has for you.

After all, the best love letter of all was this one:

"The Word became flesh"



MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we wrap up the year, it's time to submit your Annual Report. This is a chance to celebrate what we've accomplished, share ministry progress, and show how we've impacted our community. Please include your ministry's activities, achievements, and any prayer requests or goals for the coming year. Your input helps us tell the story of how God is working through our church. Thank you for your dedication, and feel free to reach out with any questions.

With gratitude, Amity



Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



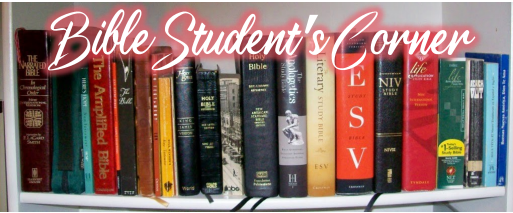
December Bible Puzzle

How many times did people hear God speak from heaven declaring Jesus his son, and what were the occasions?

November Bible Puzzles Answers

There are only a few of the OT Jewish kings whose anointing is described:

- * Saul by Samuel in 1 Samuel 10:1
- * David by Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:13 and by the Elders of Israel in 1 Chronicles 11:3
- * Solomon by Zadok in 1 Kings 1:39 and 1 Chronicles 29:22
- * Jehu by Elisha in 2 Kings 9:6
- * Joash by Priest Jehoida in 2 Kings 11:12 and 2 Chronicles 23:11
- * Jehoahaz by "the people of the land" in 2 Kings 23:30





Those of us who attended the "Inspired" display had the opportunity to see displays evidencing ways we can know the Bibles we have today have been carefully preserved and transmitted and the texts are reliable. We were shown primarily two different kinds of supporting evidence related to the Bible.

The first included a number of archaeological artifacts that have been discovered over the years that make reference to some of the individuals and events mentioned in the Bible, some of which are from foreign rather than Israelite cultures. For example, there is an inscription (the Deir Alla Inscription) originally written in wall plaster found in the Jordan (where ancient Moab was located) from about 800 BC that mentions by name Balaam the son of Peor, the individual Numbers 22 describes as being hired by the King of Moab to curse Israel. Another from Assyrian records and wall reliefs describe and picture Sennacherib's siege on the Jewish city of Lachish in 701 B.C. that is told in the Bible in 2 Kings 18 and 2 Chronicles 32. We saw a number of signet seals (bullae) and rings used by individuals to authenticate documents, some of which mention by name biblical individuals. Two individuals evidenced in that way are Shema and Nathan, mentioned 2 Kings 13:13 and 23:11 respectively.



The other kind of items included in the display were various kinds of documents that demonstrate the historical transmission of the biblical texts and the methods used. Included were some early New Testament texts called "papyri" because of the material they were written upon, some of which were all in capital letters (called Uncials) written between 300-800 A.D. and some in small letters (called miniscules) that date from 600-700 A.D. as examples of the kinds of texts modern translators and biblical scholars access for an accurate modern translation of the texts. Included was a replica of a very famous and important Uncial known as Codex (book) Sinaiticus that was written in the 300's and contains most of the New Testament in Greek that was only found in 1844 at the St. Catherine's monastery in the Sinai peninsula. It is one of the documents that is used to compare the modern text to one only a couple of centuries after the New Testament was written, and by which we are able to prove that the New Testament texts have been carefully and faithfully preserved and passed down through the years. A similar experience is to be found in the various scrolls of Old Testament texts, especially those known as the "Dead Sea Scrolls," (found primarily in the 1940's-1950's) which demonstrate that those biblical books have also been carefully copied through the years. Many of those texts are from the century before Christ was born, so the fact that they match so closely what we have today is nothing less than a miracle....a miracle of God. When I say match closely, that suggests there are some differences, and there are indeed some variations....almost all of which are simply spelling differences, and none of which are doctrinally significant. These evidences were unknown when the early English translations were done...the Wycliffe Bible, the Tyndale Bible, the King James Bible...all of which had originals included in the display we saw.

There are two important things to learn from these things. First is that the Bible is, not

BIRTHDAYS	PHONE	DATE	ANNIVERSARY	PHONE
Kathy Mackey	402-727-4367	1		
Tom Peterson	402-719-5408	2		
Larry Hill	402-727-5171	4		
David Lickteig		8		
Emily Schollmeyer	402-677-2933	9		
		10	Mike & Lynda Raasch	402-727-6854
Shirley Angermund	402-727-1937	12		
Nick Raasch		12		
Jerry Adams	402-720-4269	13		
		20	Bryan & Kelly Regier	308-458-7907
Vicki Anderson	402-727-0740	22		
Marcia Hill	402-727-5171	23		
Kelly Adams	402-720-4269	24		
Ethan Peterson		25		
		29	Don & Dorothy Charleston	402-657-0171

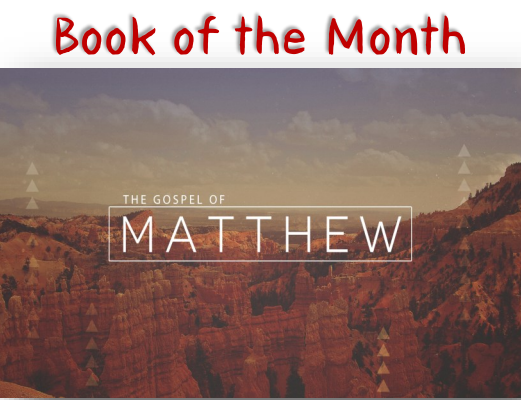


Food Drive Success!

Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase \$1,000 worth of food at cost to help support local families. Your kindness truly made a difference!



DECEMBER 4TH
1:30P



Monthly Meetings

December 8 - Esther Circle - 11am

December 9 - Hannah Circle - 11:30am

December 11 - Naomi Circle - 12p - Fremont Golf Club

December Christian History Puzzle

When was the Nativity first celebrated as Christmas, and how did that come to be?

November Christian History Puzzle Answer:

The very first Baptist church in the United States was formed in 1638 when Roger Williams was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony and began the colony of Rhode Island and the First Baptist Church of Providence, with the intention of being a colony free from religious persecution. Following that, other Baptist churches formed in various places and were loosely associated in their areas. However, the impetus to associate together nationally in 1814 and form the General Convention of the Baptist denomination was the result of Adoniram and Anne Judson with Luther Rice going to India as foreign missionaries and were convinced through scripture study on the way that believer's baptism as practiced by Baptists was the biblical method, and so aligned themselves with Baptists upon arrival in India. The Judsons went on to Burma to continue the work, and Rice returned to the U.S. to organize and raise support, which let to the 1814 Convention. However, as the U.S. wrestled with the issue of slavery, in 1845 the denomination split as the pro-slavery Southern Baptist Convention formed in Atlanta, while the anti-slavery churches remained in the North, officially named the Northern Baptists in 1907, then renamed our American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. in 1950. The key point is that, from the very beginning, our association with other churches together as a denomination is for the purpose of more effectively doing mission work together.



Nola and I greatly appreciated all your kindness for Pastor Appreciation. With all the hectic activities for us, we are just now getting our thank you notes out, but I am concerned we may miss someone as our lists got separated. So, if you don't receive a note for your gift, we beg your forgiveness....everything was appreciated, but some records got mislaid. Pastor Richard

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS?

VISION TEAM MEETING: NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Present were Mike Raasch, Alan Holzerland, Vicki Anderson, Mary Weldon, Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman and Pastor Richard.

Mike opened with prayer.

Alan gave an update on a number of projects in process right now:

- Completion of ductwork to bring the heat/ac to the front entryway and the area outside the nursery and the nursery itself.
- The last boiler inspection for the one still in use required some minor repairs.
- Replacing non-functioning sound system in Family Center
- This Wednesday a new company will come to assess and assemble a proposal to complete the protection of the stained glass windows, focusing on the sanctuary south windows. There is a fee to have them do this, which is applied to the work when they are hired.
- Signage outdoors.....the two big outdoor banners are to be replaced and updated, and the Office Awning needs to have new materials and clearer signage. We have just received a bid, but will need to determine where to get funding for the awning costs, as it is more than we want to put into the sign project just now...perhaps private donations or memorial funds could cover that cost.
- Options and costs for outdoor lighting of the north side and beside the elevator entrance are being explored so as to further protect against vandalism to the outdoor units.

Trustees approved using Endowment funds to cover most of this expense, and Endowment Team approved it, choosing to withdraw \$20,000 to be sure there is plenty, and that any not used at this time to be set aside for when the window project costs come.

Mary raised that the Family Center north door weather stripping between the door may still need repair. Alan will follow up. Property Team will also follow up on finding someone who can do the complete clean and fresh finish for the Family Center flooring.

Joel reported that the ABMen sent \$200.00 to MMCCC to help with the costs of the new well. He also indicated that the Halloween Hysteria booth went very well this year, serving 1,000 hot dogs and candy, with several individuals assisting for the first time.

Mary Weldon thanks everyone who helped make Pastor and Nola Appreciation Month with the closing dinner go so well. She and Joel shared that we had 18 in total go to Omaha last night to view the "Inspired Exhibit" about the history of the Bible. It was an exceptional opportunity!

The Harvest Dinner this year is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 23rd after a combined service. We will have the director of Rainbow Acres in Arizona here as our mission focus speaker, along with some possible other recorded or zoom presentations. He will be here Saturday as well, with a brown bag supper that evening for any able to attend.

Betty Laughlin updated about the ongoing card ministries, no cards need to be purchased at this time.



December THE BIRTH OF OUR KING

Day 1	Isaiah 9:6-7	Day 17	Matthew 1:18-25
Day 2	John 1:9-14	Day 18	John 3:16
Day 3	Luke 1:26-38	Day 19	Isaiah 7:14
Day 4	Micah 5:2-4	Day 20	Jeremiah 23:5
Day 5	Isaiah 11:1-2	Day 21	Matthew 2:1-12
Day 6	Matthew 1:1	Day 22	Galatians 4:4-5
Day 7	Luke 2:1-7	Day 23	Zechariah 9:9
Day 8	Psalms 72:10-11	Day 24	Matthew 2:13-15
Day 9	Jeremiah 23:5	Day 25	Isaiah 61:1
Day 10	Luke 2:8-15	Day 26	Hosea 11:1
Day 11	Malachi 4:2	Day 27	1 John 4:14
Day 12	Luke 2:16-20	Day 28	Philippians 2:8-10
Day 13	Isaiah 49:5-6	Day 29	Matthew 2:19-23
Day 14	Numbers 24:17	Day 30	Isaiah 60:3
Day 15	Luke 2:21-24	Day 31	Luke 1:78
Day 16	Haggai 2:7		





FBKids / FBYouth




Christmas PUPPET SHOW

First Baptist, Fremont * 402-721-1265 * 505 N C Street

DECEMBER 10TH
6:15PM – 8:00PM

FREE EVENT: Enjoy a Taco Meal, create a Christmas Craft, watch FBYouth put on a Puppet Show and support our local mission, The Bridge, by helping fill Christmas stockings.

Let us Celebrate Together!

Hey First Baptist and FBKids families!

We're excited to invite you to our **FBKids** Wednesday Night Christmas Party!

Join us for a fun and festive night filled with games, treats, mission help and Christmas cheer!

FBYouth will be putting on a Christmas Puppet Show! You won't want to miss their creative, hilarious, and heartwarming performance.

Bring a friend, wear your favorite Christmas attire, and come ready to celebrate the season together. We can't wait to see you there!

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
- Matthew 1:21 ESV

THE GREAT HOLIDAY DEBATE...WHAT TEAM ARE YOU ON?

Team Traditional (After Thanksgiving)

- * Thinks Christmas deserves its own season
- * Avoids holiday burnout
- * Believes the turkey should have its moment
- * Usually puts the tree up sometime during Thanksgiving weekend

Team Early Tree (Before Thanksgiving)

- * Loves the cozy vibes ASAP
- * Thinks "Nov. 1st = Christmas mode"
- * Believes joy should not be delayed
- * Has probably already listened to Mariah Carey three times today

There is *no wrong answer*.

It's all about what brings you joy—your house, your rules, your vibe.

Pastor asked Vision Team for input about the possibility of having Avi from Jews for Jesus come back again in 2026, and it was agreed we should extend that invitation. Pastor then shared that this Advent, we will be having another Advent Devotional put together, we will be focusing on God's love and the Nativity as evidence of that love. Pastor and Nola will be gone the last Sunday of November as they plan to celebrate Thanksgiving with Nola's mother.

Pastor also shared that we are planning to provide Hy-Vee Thanksgiving meals for the client families of the Bridge again this year, but we don't yet know how many. He also shared that in Personnel, there had been discussion of ways to make the handling of the Good Samaritan Fund more manageable, and to have available a resource sheet that can be handed out for those needing assistance in the community. Pastor also indicated that our two students will be joined by our youth minister, Jesse Kracht, as participants sponsored by International Ministries to Urbana Mission Conference in Phoenix at the end of December.

Vicki told of the great success of the October voucher partnership with Hy-Vee to raise money for our food assistance with Washington, Linden and Grant. A total of \$885.00 was raised, and Hy-Vee added another \$115 to bring the total to \$1,000.00. The Andersons and the Petersons spent time at the store making a list of items to include for purchase, which the Hy-Vee staff will assemble and give a reduced cost. Both Hy-Vee and Baker's are willing to support the project again, so our Team is working to develop a rotation of sponsors.

Vicki also shared that now is the time to gather items for the Santa's Workshop at Grant Elementary, as they will be taken to the school right after Thanksgiving. In addition, there will be another round of texting snacks for our schools in December.

There was no Treasurer's report, as Randy is still assisting Eileen's recovery, and the bank statements did not arrive in time to have a report ready for this meeting. The Vision Team then went over budget proposals for next year's budget.

Meeting Adjourned.

Mary Weldon/Pastor Richard

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel –Isaiah 7:14 esv

- 1) I'm something that is given before I'm received, and opened before I'm used. What am I?
- 2) I come out at night without being called. I'm lost in the day without being stolen. What am I?
- 3) I arrive only when the year is nearly over, yet I am gone before the year begins. I'm heard more than I'm seen, and I can fill a room without entering it. What am I?

ANSWERS ON BACK

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Look at the Candy Cane What do you see? Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me. White is for my Savior Who's sinless and pure! "J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure! Turn it around and a staff you will see - Jesus, my shepherd is coming for Me!



December 2025

It's always a good idea to verify times and places, Thanks!


Cookies & Coffee

7 - Hannah
14 - Esther
21 - Naomi
28 - ABM

FBYouth Snack

7 - Thompson Family
14 - Rowena

Dear Lord, On this blessed Christmas, we thank You for the gift of **love** that entered the world through the birth of Jesus. Fill our hearts with peace, our homes with joy, and our lives with compassion. Help us to see the light of hope even in difficult days, to share kindness with those who feel alone, and to remember that the greatest gifts are not wrapped, but lived - faith, love, generosity, and grace. Bless our family and friends near and far. Guide us into the new year with courage, gratitude, and renewed purpose. Amen.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	2 7p - AA Meeting	3 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6th 7p - Bible Study	4 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom 1:30p - ABWM Quarterly Meeting	5 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study	6 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship
7 COMMUNION 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	8 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle	9 11:30a - Hannah Circle 7p - AA Meeting	10 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Christmas Puppet Show 7p - Bible Study	11 12p - Naomi Circle @ Fremont Golf Club 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	12 9a - Men's Coffee Last Day to Order Poinsettias	13 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 12p - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag Fellowship followed by MOVIE NIGHT 6p - FBYouth Snack 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	15 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	16 7p - AA Meeting	17 9:30a - Women's Coffee No FBKids - Winter Break 7p - Bible Study	18 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study to include Zoom	19 9a - Men's Coffee	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 12p - Bible Study NO FBYouth	22 9a - Men's Coffee	23 7p - AA Meeting	24 Christmas Eve No FBKids - Winter Break 6p - Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed Christmas Day 	26 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study	27
28 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 12p - Bible Study NO FBYouth	29 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers	30 7p - AA Meeting	31 9:30a - Women's Coffee No FBKids - Winter Break 7p - Bible Study			

