

Born in the House of Bread

By Brian Atwood, *House to House, Heart to Heart*

Christ was born in Bethlehem. The literal meaning for the name Bethlehem is “The House of Bread.”

Jesus was not born in the house of royalty, or the house of riches, or the house of celebrity. Jesus was not born in Jerusalem, or in Rome, or in Athens or Alexandria. Jesus was not born in any political, commercial, cultural, educational, or socially significant city of the day.

When Micah, the Old Testament prophet, foretold the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, he emphasized its lack of significance to the world.

But thou, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2)

Bread is one of life’s most common things, and without it man would not survive. God wanted his Son to be “common” in the sense that He is available to all. Without Him, there is no life.—Brian Atwood

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.—John 6:35

Leavened Versus Unleavened Bread

The difference between leavened and unleavened bread is found in the word itself – leaven. Leaven is what is placed in bread dough to make the bread rise. It is placed in the dough and spreads throughout the entire lump.

We normally think of yeast as a leavening agent, but there are many such ingredients that can be used such as baking powder or baking soda.

A search on Wikipedia gave two lists of leavening agents. One was chemical and the other natural.

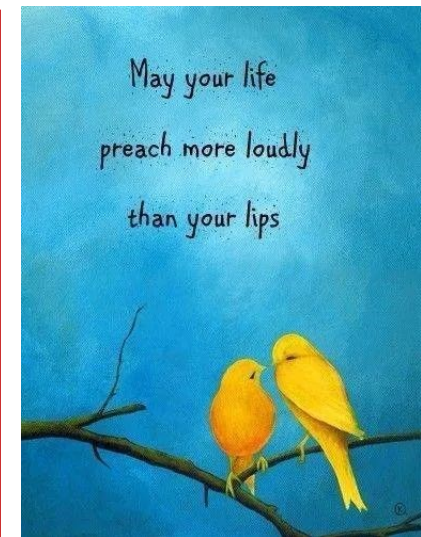
The list of chemical leavens contained baking soda, baking powder, horn salt (a.k.a. baker’s ammonia), potash, etc.

The list of natural leavens contained yeast, beer, yogurt and buttermilk.

The Jews were commanded to eat unleavened bread in the observation of the Passover and feast of unleavened bread (Exodus 12:1-15). In fact, no leavening agents were to be found anywhere in their houses during this time (Exodus 12:15).

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Brenda Strong is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- ◆ Dale Strong was hospitalized this past week and is now doing better. He didn’t really find out what was wrong.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dorlene Butler, Larry Butler, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Louise Patterson.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hamblen, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven, West Plains.



Jesus and the apostles described sin as leaven. This is because just a little sin into our lives or into the church allows it to spread throughout our whole life or the whole church (Mark 8:15; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
12-27	Granger Stevens	12-9	Bill and Lana Cockrum
1-4	Aleta Collins	12-31	Don and Karin Reynolds
1-7	Bill Collins	1-1	Spencer and Sandra Wade
1-9	Bonnie Luna	1-10	Matt and Rose Burton
1-10	Marty Jones	Birthdays	
1-11	Rose Burton	1-25	Melinda Walrath
1-12	Sue Hambelton	1-25	Jean Blisard
1-19	Brooke Hambelton	1-28	Sangchun Moyers
1-19	Laramie Pleasant	1-29	Sarah Hossman
1-24	Frances McGinnis	1-30	Waylon Strong

Nichole will be serving taco soup and dessert for fellowship supper Wednesday night before Bible classes. Why not start a new habit of attending on Wednesday night.

EVERYTHING HAS GONE UP IN PRICE EXCEPT SALVATION IT IS STILL A FREE GIFT PAID IN FULL BY JESUS

January Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Today David Stevens
1-5 Don Luna
1-12 John Abraham
1-19 Mark Lane
1-26 David Stevens

Communion & Closing Prayer

D. E. Pleasant
Don Reynolds
Tinker Langston
Paul Wade
Titus Smith

Song Leader: Titus Smith; John Abraham

Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp; John & Melinda Abraham

The Family News

December 29, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Jesus Is the Bread of Life***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#375, *Oh, the Depth and the Riches*

#324, *Alas and Did My Savior Bleed?*

#364, *Come Share the Lord*; Communion Service

#431, *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Sermon and Invitation

#381, *Years I Spent in Vanity*

#374, *He Paid a Debt*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880