

Merry Xmas?

Every Christmas Season we hear complaints from people who object to using Xmas for Christmas. "Xmas takes the Christ out of Christmas," so they say.

Well, your pastor uses Xmas for Christmas, Xns for Christians, and X for Christ. Before you call a meeting of the Elders, let me explain.

Our word Christ comes from the Greek *Christos* meaning "the anointed one." In Old Testament Hebrew, Messiah carries the same meaning.

In Greek, *Christos* looks like this: **Χριστός**. The first letter (**chi** in Greek - a "ku" sound) resembles our "X."

I completed my undergraduate work and a Master of Divinity before the advent of computers. "In my day," I took notes with pen and paper. As my professors would lecture without pause, I wrote furiously to try and capture their wisdom before it escaped the narrow resources of my mind. In these classrooms over the years, I adopted shortcuts in an attempt to keep pace with the flurry of information spewed at me.

One of my shortcuts: "X" for Christ. Another shortcut: the capital "I" for Jesus. Why? Note how Jesus looks in Greek: **Ἰησοῦς**. The first letter resembles our "I." So, in my student days, and to this day (even with the use of computers), I continue to abbreviate Jesus Christ as "IX."

In my mind and heart, these shortcuts take absolutely nothing away from the significance or the reverence found in the name of Jesus Christ. For me, they offer a reminder of Jesus in His first century setting.

Some people who use Xmas think they have removed Christ from Christmas. How foolish! When I see Xmas, however, I subconsciously translate it to the Christ who gave us our greatest gift while firmly believing no person or effort will ever take our Christ out of Christmas.

Terry Bovinet, Senior Minister (December 2018)



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DECEMBER 2018 Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 - Sheri Miller, Chris Spencer
- 3 - Emily Campbell
- 13 - Barbara Scheffer
- 14 - Susan Latchaw
- 16 - Vito DiBona
- 18 - Gordon Young
- 20 - David M. Gould
- 26 - Penny Buck, Jodi Shafer
- 30 - Justin Tubbs

Calendar

Sunday - December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

+ Life Groups (9:45 a.m.)

+ Praise and Worship (11:00 a.m.)

Tuesday - December 11

+ Prayer Night (7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday - December 18

+ Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.) and Elders Meeting (8:30 p.m.)

Wednesday - December 5, 12, 19, 26

+ Life Group (7:00 p.m.)

+ Worship Team Practice (8:00 p.m.)

+ AA (9:30 p.m.)

Thursday - December 6, 13, 20, 27

+ AA (8:00 p.m.)

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24 from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Family friendly service with the focus on children!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Sunday, December 30 — Testimony Sunday