

EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Carol Sing

Sunday, December 10
6:00pm

Community Event!

Merry Christmas

Monday, December 25





A Note from Pastor Seth

One of the most famous stories in the Bible is Noah's flood. Many people today ask the question did the flood really happen? Most of our culture knows that the Bible tells of a flood that destroyed the entire earth long ago. But many write it off as one of many myths in the ancient world. People who believe this are not intellectually superior to Bible believers like they might think, but there is a deeper issue going on here. That issue is unbelief. When an unbeliever reads the Bible they see it as solely a human book, and not divine. They do not realize that what they are reading is an inerrant account of world history right before their eyes. They do not realize that the account has a meaning that is extremely important to be understood. The message to be understood is that God's judgment once came on the world in the form of floodwaters. His judgment will once again come on this world (Matthew 24:37-39). The question is who will be safe? Only Noah and his family were safe from the floodwaters. Only those who find refuge in Christ will be safe from God's condemnation for their sins. Jesus refers to himself as the door that people must enter to be saved (John 10:9). As many in church history have said, Jesus is the ark. He is the only refuge for the world. What people must understand is the flood really did happen. What is incredible is that there are two hundred accounts of the flood in different cultures all over the earth, and these stories have a man who builds a boat to protect himself from a coming flood. Each of these writes of an account to fit their culture. If the flood is actual history we would expect to see evidence of a flood all over the earth. That is precisely what we see.

Here are a few pieces of evidence in addition to what I have already said. There are six continents on planet earth. Scientists believe that there used to be one land mass known as Pangaea.

So how do you explain how it broke apart? A global flood explains that the tremendous pressure of water below the ground broke apart the one large land mass to make many continents. Another piece of evidence is that there are billions of dead things below the ground. These are known as fossils. Everywhere you go on planet earth there are fossils. A global flood adequately explains why this is. Still another piece of evidence is the existence of canyons and divisions in rock formations all over the world. If you go outside during heavy rainfall, and you look at the dirt on the ground, you will notice that there are mini-canyons. Now an enormous amount of water cuts large divisions in the land. The best example is the Grand Canyon. Without the flood there is no Grand Canyon. Nor is there the splitting of the rocks at Inter-state Park. Right in our backyard we see evidence of the flood. The last reason I will give is the ice age. Everyone agrees there was once an ice age. That is why we have all these lakes. In order for there to be an ice age that covered much of the planet you would need a global disaster. The flood adequately explains why there was an ice age. So why do people refuse to believe in the global flood? It is not because it is not believable. Rather, people are spiritually blind to the truth. This is frightening because God's judgment awaits the ungodly as it did in Noah's day (2 Peter 3:3-8). But I urge you to understand the importance of our refuge in Jesus. Let us thank God that he brings us to safety as we enter this Door never to face condemnation.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Seth



Thank you to Alethia for lending her Noah's Ark toys for the Sunday Sermon!

Eureka Baptist Church

2393 210th Avenue
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

715-483-9464

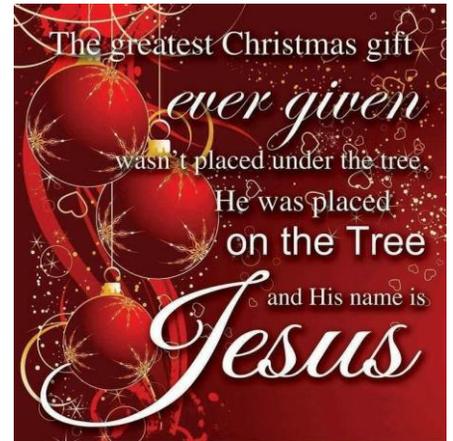
www.eurekabaptchurch.com

Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am

*Kid's Church during Service

Adult Sunday School: 9:00am

Bible Study Wednesdays: 6:30pm



Good News of Great Joy...

...for all people – Christmas is a time of unusual openness to spiritual things. Jesus is on everyone's lips, whether they know Him or not. There is no greater gift you can give those who have not yet met the Lord than to share with them the good news of the **real** Christmas.

Invite your loved ones to church – churches go to great lengths when they plan Christmas services, to reach those who do not yet know Christ. Perhaps there is a musical or play that dramatizes Christ's birth and the meaning of His coming, or a special Christmas carol service. These are not only a great way to spend time celebrating God's grace with the people you care about during the holidays, but a wonderful beginning for a conversation about their spiritual beliefs.

Harvest Festival

People around the world celebrate the harvest during harvest festivals. During these festivals they eat good food. But they also give thanks for the great harvest. It has a special place in the hearts of most farming families. It's a time for farmers to give thanks for the literal fruits of their labors at the end of harvest season.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce." Proverbs 3:9





Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24th
Church Social 9:15am
Christmas Service 10:00am

Would you like to contribute a poem, song, reading or special to the Christmas Service?
Please talk with Pastor Seth by December 10th.

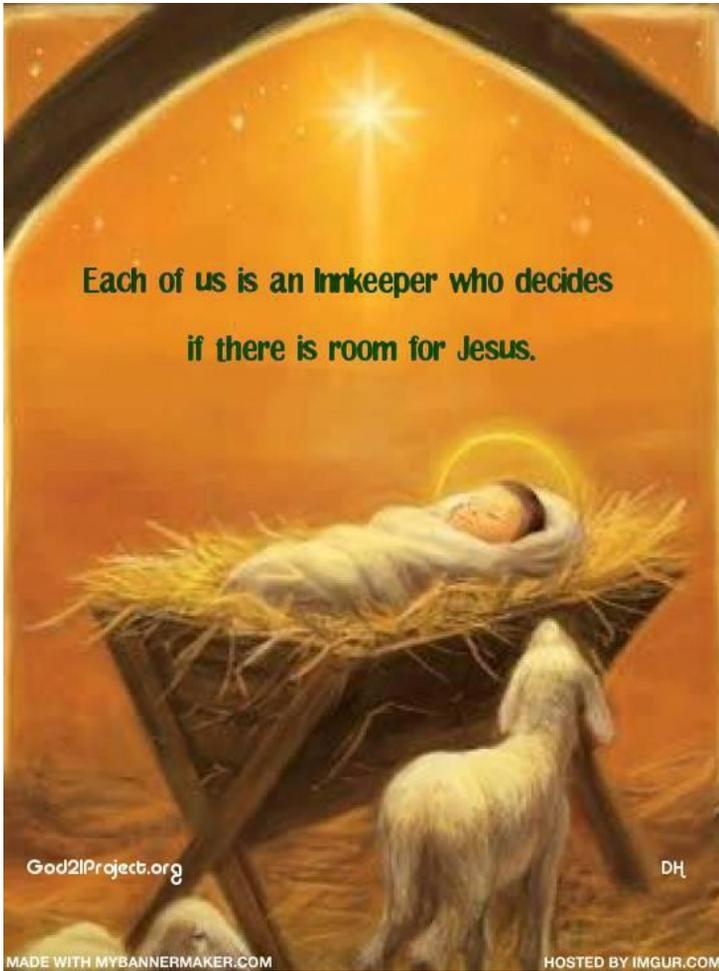
Gingerbread Houses



The entire church is welcome to help children decorate Gingerbread Houses!

December 17th

After Morning Service



Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides
if there is room for Jesus.

God21Project.org DH

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Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 3rd
After Morning Service
Lunch Provided
Questions? Please see Shaila



There was an article in the USA TODAY about people still paying off Christmas debt from 2016. Did you know that the very first Christmas was actually about debt relief? Have you ever thought about the debt of sin that was paid in full 2000 years ago? The Bible says that all of us are guilty of breaking God's laws and standards. If you've broken just one, you're guilty, and there's not one of us who is able to pay the penalty. The Bible tells us that "the wages of sin is death;" yet God sent His Son to pay the debt in full for all of us. That's the Good News. When Jesus Christ went to the cross, He took our sins, died and was buried, and God raised Him to life. All we have to do is be willing to tell God that we want to turn from our sin (it's called repentance) and by faith trust in Christ as our Savior. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Talk about debt relief! That's what Jesus Christ did for all nations, all mankind.

-Franklin Graham

**Community
Carol Sing
at
Eureka Baptist Church**

**Sunday, December 10th
6:00pm**

**Join us for our
Annual Christmas Event!**

**Refreshments & treats
will also be served.**

Families and all ages are welcome!

"Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!"



Happy Birthday!!

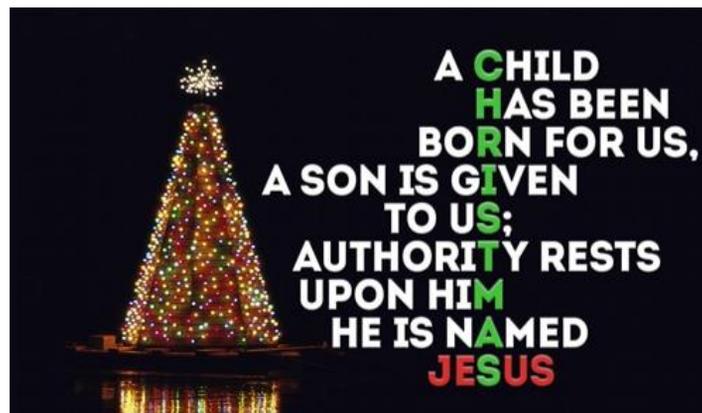
Pastor Seth Brickley 12/3

Jeff Lindo 12/7

Shaila Johnson 12/11

Brianna Brickley 12/14

Shaun Anderson 12/20



**Women's Bible Study Group
Saturday, December 2nd
9:00am**



**Men's Bible Study Group
Saturday, December 9th
8:00am**



**Leadership Meeting
Sunday, December 17th
After Morning Service**

Missing Baby Jesus



About a week before Christmas the family bought a new nativity scene. When they unpacked it they found 2 figures of the Baby Jesus. "Someone must have packed this wrong," mother said to father. "Oh, dear! I suppose some set down at the store is missing a Baby Jesus because we have 2. You two run back down to the store and tell the manager that we have an extra Jesus. Tell him to put a sign on the remaining boxes saying that if a set is missing a Baby Jesus, call 7126. Put on your warm coats, it's freezing cold out there."

The manager of the store copied down mother's message "If you're missing Baby Jesus, call 7126." All week long we waited for someone to call. Surely someone was missing that important figurine. Each time the phone rang mother would say, "I'll bet that's about Jesus," but it never was.

Father tried to explain there are thousands of these scattered over the country. Those packing mistakes happen all the time. He suggested just put the extra Jesus back in the box and forget about it.

"Put Baby Jesus back in the box! What a terrible thing to do! Surely someone will call," mother said. "We'll just keep the two of them together in the manger until someone calls."

When no call had come by 5:00 on Christmas Eve, mother insisted that father to see if there were any sets left at the store. "You can see them right through the window, over on the counter," she said. "If they are all gone, I'll know someone is bound to call tonight."

"Run down to the store?" father thundered. "It's 15 below zero out there!"

"Oh, Daddy, we'll go with you," we said. Father gave a long sigh and headed for the front closet. "I can't believe I'm doing this," he muttered. We ran ahead as father reluctantly walked out in the cold. I got to the store first and pressed my nose up to the store window. "They're all gone, Daddy. Every set must be sold."

Father heard the news still a half block away and immediately turned on his heel and headed back home. When they got back into the house they noticed that mother was gone and so was the extra Baby Jesus figurine. "Someone must have called and she went out to deliver the figurine," my father reasoned, pulling off his boots. "You kids get ready for bed while I wrap mother's present."

Then the phone rang. Father yelled "answer the phone and tell 'em we found a home for Jesus." But it was mother calling with instructions for us to come to 205 Chestnut Street immediately, and bring three blankets, a box of cookies and some milk. "Now what has she gotten us into?" my father groaned as we bundled up again. "205 Chestnut. Why that's across town. Wrap that milk up good in the blankets or it will turn to ice before we get there. Why can't we all just get on with Christmas? It's probably 20 below out there now. And the wind is picking up. Of all the crazy things to do on a night like this."

When they got to the house at 205 Chestnut Street it was the darkest one on the block. Only one tiny light burned in the living room. The moment we set foot on the porch steps, my mother opened the door and shouted, "They're here, Oh thank God you got here! You kids take those blankets into the living room and wrap up the little ones on the couch. I'll take the milk and cookies."

"Would you mind telling me what is going on?" my father asked. "We have just walked through below zero weather with the wind in our faces all the way."

"Never mind all that now," my mother interrupted. "There isn't any heat in this house and this young mother is so upset she doesn't know what to do. Her husband walked out on her and those poor little children will have a very bleak Christmas, so don't you complain. I told her you could fix that oil furnace in a jiffy."

My mother strode off to the kitchen to warm the milk while my brother and I wrapped up the five little children who were huddled together on the couch. The children's mother explained to my father that her husband had run off, taking bedding, clothing, and almost every piece of furniture, but she had been doing all right until the furnace broke down.

"I been doin' washin' and ironin' for people and cleanin' the five and dime," she said. "I saw your number every day there, on those boxes on the counter. When the furnace went out, that number kept going' through my mind. 7162 7162. Said on the box that if a person was missin' Jesus, they should call you. That's how I knew you were good Christian people, willin' to help folks. I figured that maybe you would help me, too. So I stopped at the grocery store tonight and I called your misses. I'm not missin' Jesus, mister, because I sure love the Lord. But I am missin' heat. I have no money to fix that furnace."

"Okay, Okay," said father. "You've come to the right place. Now let's see. You've got a little oil burner over there in the dining room. Shouldn't be too hard to fix. Probably just a clogged flue. I'll look it over, see what it needs."

Mother came into the living room carrying a plate of cookies and warm milk. As she set the cups down on the coffee table, I noticed the figure of Baby Jesus lying in the center of the table. It was the only sign of Christmas in the house. The children stared wide-eyed with wonder at the plate of cookies my mother set before them.

Father finally got the oil burner working but said, "You need more oil. I'll make a few calls tonight and get some oil." father grinned.

On the way home father did not complain about the cold weather and had barely set foot inside the door when he was on the phone. "Ed, hey, how are ya, Ed? ... Yes, Merry Christmas to you, too. Say Ed, we have kind of an unusual situation here. I know you've got that pick-up truck. Do you still have some oil in that barrel on your truck? You do?"

By this time the rest of the family were pulling clothes out of their closets and toys off of their shelves. It was long after their bedtime when they were wrapping gifts. The pickup came. On it were chairs, three lamps, blankets and gifts. Even though it was 30 below, father let them ride along in the back of the truck. No one ever did call about the missing figure in the nativity set, but as I grow older I realize that it wasn't a packing mistake at all.

Jesus saves, that's what He does.



Twas the morning of Christmas, when all through the house
 All the family was frantic, including my spouse;
 For each one of them had one thing only in mind,
 To examine the presents St. Nick left behind.

The boxes and wrapping and ribbons and toys
 Were strewn on the floor, and the volume of noise
 Increased as our children began a big fight
 Over who got the video games, who got the bike.

I looked at my watch and I said, slightly nervous,
 "Let's get ready for church, so we won't miss the service."
 The children protested, "We don't want to pray:
 We've just got our presents, and we want to play!"

It dawned on me then that we had gone astray,
 In confusing the purpose of this special day;
 Our presents were many and very high-priced
 But something was missing -- that something was Christ!
 I said, "Put the gifts down and let's gather together,
 And I'll tell you a tale of the greatest gift ever.

"A savior was promised when Adam first sinned,
 And the hopes of the world upon Jesus were pinned.
 Abraham begat Isaac, who Jacob begat,
 And through David the line went to Joseph, whereat
 This carpenter married a maiden with child,
 Who yet was a virgin, in no way defiled.

"Saying 'Hail, full of Grace,' an archangel appeared
 To Mary the Blessed, among women revered:
 The Lord willed she would bear -- through the Spirit -- a son.
 Said Mary to Gabriel, 'God's will be done.'

"Now Caesar commanded a tax would be paid,
 And all would go home while the census was made;
 Thus Joseph and Mary did leave Galilee
 For the city of David to pay this new fee.

"Mary's time had arrived, but the inn had no room,
 So she laid in a manger the fruit of her womb;
 And both Joseph and Mary admired as He napped
 The Light of the World in his swaddling clothes wrapped.

"Three wise men from the East had come looking for news
 Of the birth of the Savior, the King of the Jews;
 They carried great gifts as they followed a star --
 Gold, frankincense, myrrh, which they'd brought from afar.

"As the shepherds watched over their flocks on that night,
 The glory of God shone upon them quite bright,
 And an angel explained the intent of the birth,
 Saying, 'Glory to God and His peace to the earth.'

"For this was the Messiah whom prophets foretold,
 A good shepherd to bring his sheep back to the fold;
 He was God become man, He would die on the cross,
 He would rise from the dead to restore Adam's loss.

"Santa Claus, Christmas presents, a brightly lit pine,
 Candy canes and spiked eggnog are all very fine;
 Let's have fun celebrating, but leave not a doubt
 That Christ is what Christmas is really about!"

TEN WAYS TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

collected by Barbara Trombley

1) GIVE GOD ONE VERY SPECIAL GIFT JUST FROM YOU TO HIM.

Let this gift be something personal that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. David said in 2 Samuel 24 that he would not offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing.

Perhaps your gift will be to commit to spending time with God daily. Or maybe there is something God has asked you to give up. Make this your most important gift of the season.

2) SET ASIDE A SPECIAL TIME TO READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN LUKE 1:5-56 THROUGH 2:1-20.

3) SET UP A NATIVITY SCENE IN YOUR HOME.

4) PLAN A PROJECT OF GOOD WILL THIS CHRISTMAS.

Do you have an elderly neighbor in need of home repairs or yard work? Find someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family, and see how happy you can make him or her this Christmas.

5) GIVE A SURPRISE GIFT OF SERVICE TO EACH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY.

Jesus taught us to serve by washing the disciples feet. He also taught us that it is *"more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35 (NIV) Giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family demonstrates Christ-like love and service. You might consider giving a back rub to your spouse, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful and watch the blessings multiply.

6) SET ASIDE A TIME OF FAMILY DEVOTIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Before opening the gifts, take a few minutes to gather together as a family in prayer and devotions. Read a few Bible verses and discuss as a family the true meaning of Christmas.

7) ATTEND A CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE TOGETHER WITH YOUR FAMILY.

If you are alone this Christmas or don't have family living near you, invite a friend or a neighbor to join you.

8) SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS THAT CONVEY A SPIRITUAL MESSAGE.

This is an easy way to share your faith at Christmastime. If you've already bought the reindeer cards—no problem! Just write a Bible verse and include a personal message with each card.

9) WRITE A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO A MISSIONARY.

Many missionaries are unable to travel home for the holidays, so Christmas can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special letter to a missionary of your choice and thank them for giving their life in service to the Lord. It will mean more than you can imagine.

10) LISTEN TO HOLY CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Attending the Eureka Community Carol Sing here at Eureka Baptist Church on December 10th would be an excellent way to do this!



Eureka Baptist Church
2393 210th Avenue
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024



