

December 2022



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER



## Ladies' Christmas Dinner

Saturday  
December 3  
5:00pm

## Children's Nativity Program

Sunday  
December 18



## Christmas Service

Sunday  
December 25



## ***A Note from Pastor Seth***

This is a great time of year to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the true meaning of Christmas centers on the man, Jesus Christ. Everyone, everywhere must recognize the important place that Jesus holds in world history. Any impartial survey of history will conclude that Jesus is the most important human who ever lived. He lived on this earth for thirty plus years and changed it forever. Christianity has shaped the world in ways that no other movement has over the last two thousand years. I was a history minor in college, and I took several church history courses in seminary. As I have studied history, I have been struck by the fact that largely speaking, the study of western civilization is essentially a study of the history of the church. The last two thousand years has been shaped more by Jesus of Nazareth than anyone else. Let me give you a few examples of this.

In the first century a movement that started out as a small Jewish sect (later called Christians) outlasted the powerful Roman Empire that crumbled several centuries later.

Secondly, the calendar that most people use in the world uses, as its starting point, the life of Christ. Each year before the life of Christ are the letters, B.C. and this stands for "Before Christ." Every year after Christ's birth, are followed by the letters, AD, and these two letters mean Anno Domini. In Latin this means, "The Year of our Lord." Every time we say what year we are living in or mention some time from the past Christ's life is the reference point. Thirdly, it is important to note that the two most prominent worldwide holidays,

Christmas and Easter, focus on the life of Christ. One holiday commemorates the day that he came to this earth and the other commemorates his resurrection. Lastly, the book that describes the life of Christ, the Bible, is far and away the most sold book in the world. Many, many people are drawn to Jesus unlike anyone else. So as one ponders these truths concerning Jesus, no secular person can escape the reality that Jesus is the most influential person in the history of the world. So the question that any honest person needs to ask is why is this man's influence on the world far more significant than anyone else's? There is something different about Him.

It is vital that everyone in the world listens to what Jesus said concerning himself in the gospels. He makes the claim, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father (God) but through Me" (John 14:6). He also says, "Whoever believes in the Son (Jesus) has eternal life but whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God remains on him" (John 3:36). This most significant man makes major statements about reality. To understand the meaning of life is to understand who Jesus is and what he has done. Jesus is the only person in world history that one cannot be indifferent toward? Understanding the true meaning of Christmas has eternal implications. As we enter December, we enter a very special month. It is the time of year when Christians all over the world celebrate the incarnation. The incarnation is a fancy word to say that God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. It is hard to wrap our minds around this, and frankly we never fully will.

## **Eureka Baptist Church**

2393 210th Avenue

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

715-483-9464

[www.eurekabapchurch.com](http://www.eurekabapchurch.com)

Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am

\*Kid's Church during Service

Sunday School: 9:00am

Wed Night Bible Study: 6:30pm

Women's Friday Group: 9:30am

Think about this, the same One who created trillions of galaxies; and the same One who created you and me, became flesh and blood as we are. God never had a beginning, the Father, Son, and Spirit have forever existed in an eternal fellowship (John 17:5). The second person of that Trinity, the Son, is the One who took on flesh (John 1:14). When Jesus came to this earth, he came on a rescue mission to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). After living a perfect life (1 Peter 2:22), he died on the cross to pay the penalty for sins and rose from the dead (1 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:20), and anyone who believes in him will be freed from the punishment one deserves (hell) and will receive eternal life (John 3:16). To have eternal life means that you will live with the One you were created for, Jesus (Colossians 1:15), and live in fullness of joy with Him and His Father forever (Psalm 16:11). History shows that Jesus is the most influential person who has ever lived, and the Bible tells us why. He is the God-man, the Savior of the world, and the forever king (Revelation 19:16; 22:1). It is of highest importance that everyone on earth allies oneself with Him while there is still time.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Seth



### **Marriage Bible Study**

Monday, December 5

7:00pm

Topic: The Need for Romance in our Marriages

# MissionReach

## LLAPUSHI FAMILY: Albania

### MY DAD HEALTH UPDATE!

Many people have been praying for my father and some people also gave financially to help us support my dad overcome the addiction of alcohol.

For me and Ida have been very hard and a challenge helping my dad during this time, but seeing the result we are very encouraged with the progress he is doing. He is out of the rehabilitation center now he is not drinking and he is doing good healthy.

### MY VISIT TO EL SALVADOR!

The second week of October I travel to us to meet with my dear brother, friend and mentor Jeff Walchshouser, he is the pastor of "Fellowship Bible Church" in Russellville Arkansa. Together we flew from the US to El Salvador where we stayed one week.

The purpose of my visit to El Salvador was to meet Steve Kern and Julio Contreras the leaders of a church-planting network and learn from their experience. They have been serving and planting church for 37 years now, they lead a network of 65 churches. From the conversation with them I heard so many things that will help me lead "Impact Movement" better.

Every afternoon we went out in different neighborhoods and shared the gospel since the "Vida Nueva Church" had organized an big outreach.

It was such a blessing for me to be able to meet Steve and Julio, and to also be able to share the gospel in another country.

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Last year for Christmas we helped provide food boxes for 100 family in our neighborhood. We prepare 50shoe boxes. Starting next week we are going to meet with our team and start preparing for Christmas Outreach and Projects. We will continue to do the same projects we have done in the past years for Christmas.

Please start praying and planning to help financially toward Christmas Outreach and Projects. We send our love and greetings!

Tony, Ida, Holta and Hosea



Top Row Left to Right: Roger & Levi Swanson, Brickley Family, Eli & Graham Anderson, Lindo Family  
Bottom Row Left: Caroline & Annabelle Hall  
Bottom Row Right: Jaxon & Mason Stridde



# The First Christmas Was Far from Perfect

By Cheri Stutzman, The Billy Graham Association

From the perfect Christmas cards to the perfect tree, décor and gifts, Christmas often seems, well ... perfect.

But if you've had a hard year, all those happy Christmas cards and joyful carols might seem insignificant. How can you have hope when you lost someone you love? Or lost your job? Or struggle with depression?

If you just can't seem to find the joy everyone talks about this season, that's OK. The first Christmas wasn't perfect, either. In fact, the birth of Jesus Christ was full of imperfect situations and imperfect people.

*But Jesus still came. And that's why you can have hope this Christmas.*

## 1. An Imperfect Genealogy

The book of Matthew begins with Jesus' genealogy. From the first name on the list, the genealogy is full of broken people—people who are sinful and in need of redemption.

Abraham gave his wife to the Pharaoh of Egypt. Tamar posed as a prostitute. David was an adulterer and a murderer. Solomon had hundreds of wives. King after king listed turned away from God and believed in pagan gods instead of the true God.

But it was into that lineage that Jesus was born.

The point? God can use broken and messed up people to carry out His plan. No matter your past, if you have put your trust in Jesus Christ, He has redeemed you (Romans 8:1), and He has a purpose for you (Ephesians 2:10).

## 2. An Imperfect Situation

In the same way, the situations surrounding Jesus' birth were less than ideal.

As a young girl, Mary came to be with child through the mysterious act of God. This put her in a difficult situation. As an unwed virgin, her pregnancy would've raised some eyebrows, especially in a day and culture where adultery often merited death. It was hard, and she might have faced ridicule from her family and friends who didn't believe her story.

It didn't stop there. Jesus was born in a stable. His first cradle was a manger.

Even Joseph's story wasn't perfect. The woman he was supposed to marry got pregnant before marriage. He, "being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame," decided to divorce her (Matthew 1:19)—until an angel came to him in a dream and advised against it.

It was messy and far from perfect, but it was into that mess the Son of God, the Creator of the world, chose to be born.

## 3. An Imperfect World

At the time of Jesus' birth, Israel was under Roman rule with King Herod on the throne. The Israelites were heavily taxed, and many lived in poverty.

"The world into which Jesus was born 2,000 years ago was a troubled one." —Franklin Graham

But Jesus didn't wait for the world to be perfect; He came in the midst of suffering. He is "Immanuel," God with us, as the prophet Isaiah declared in Isaiah 7:14. He came into the darkness, walked among us, was hungry, tired and didn't have a place to call His own. He "in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

This Christmas, if you find yourself in an imperfect situation, remember, the Christmas story isn't perfect and nostalgic. It's messy, full of broken people and broken situations.

*But Jesus still came. For you.*



## Monthly Events



Ladies' Christmas Dinner  
Saturday, December 3  
5:00pm



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, December 10  
8:00am



Marriage Bible Study  
Monday, December 5  
7:00pm



## A Christian Christmas Tree

By Courtney Whiting

When you think of Christmas Day, one of the first images that comes to mind is the Christmas tree. But what is the religious significance? While there is no overt reference to an evergreen tree in relation to the actual birth story of Christ, believers have attached religious meaning to the once pagan symbol.

### The Choice of the Evergreen

The evergreen tree is a tree that maintains its color throughout the year. Even in the depths of winter, the evergreen tree shows its life. This characteristic of everlasting life represents the life we have in Christ (John 3:16).

### The Shape of the tree

The triangular shape of the Christmas tree has often been used to reference the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:18-19). The upward pointing branches often symbolize our praise to God.

### The Lights on the tree

For many Christians, candles or lights on the tree signify how Jesus came as the light into the world. The star placed atop the tree represents the star the wise men followed to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9).

### Presents Under the tree

For some, presents under the tree represent the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus (Matthew 2:11). For others, the presents represent the gift of salvation we have through Jesus (Romans 3:21-22).

### The Cutting of the Tree

When the evergreen tree is cut, it is struck down to its death, only to be raised to glory in splendor as a decorated Christmas tree. This transformation of the tree symbolizes how Jesus died on a tree and was raised to new life on the third day.

Ultimately, the choice to celebrate with a Christmas tree during the holidays is a personal one. While many people do focus more on the dazzling aspects of the celebration, there can be beauty in the symbolism. First Corinthians 10:31 states, "So, whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

## Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; but our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

Each of us is an  
*Innkeeper*  
who decides if there is  
room for *Jesus*  
-Neal A Maxwell

## Some Christmas Reminders

- \* 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!

## Weekly Events



Sunday School  
Sunday Mornings  
9:00am



Morning Service  
Sunday Mornings  
10:00am



Fridays  
Matson Building  
9:30am  
(Will resume in January)



Kids Church  
Sunday mornings during  
Morning Service

## 2022 Board Members

### Deacons

Shaun Anderson  
Gordon Trombley

### Elders

Mark Brooks  
Keith Johnson

### Trustees

Eric McKinley  
Shaun Anderson

### Deaconess

Barbara Trombley  
Lori Brooks  
Hansi Fox  
Abby Swanson

### Secretary

Amber Lindo

### Treasurers

Hansi Fox  
Abby Swanson

## Church Announcements

- The **Friday Women's Group** will resume meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you'd like to do a special during any **December morning service**, please talk with Pastor Seth soon.
  - If you are able to help with **church cleaning** or **snow shoveling**, please sign up on the back bulletin board at church.
  - There will be a **movie showing** on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. More information coming soon!
  - We have a new and improved **weekly email update system**. If you do not receive weekly updates and would like to, please let Amber know. [jeffamberlindo@gmail.com](mailto:jeffamberlindo@gmail.com)
  - **2023 Annual Meeting** will be Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have potluck following morning service and start the meeting shortly after.
  - There will now be **Communion Kits** in the balcony for those that would like to participate.
  - **Wednesday Night Bible Study** will NOT be meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be a **missionary visit** on Sunday, December 11.
  - All **receipts for reimbursement** need to be turned in to treasurer, Hansi Fox, by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Leadership Team Meeting** on December 4<sup>th</sup> after morning service.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Pastor Seth Brickley 12/3, Jeff Lindo 12/7, Shaila Johnson 12/11, Zariah Braund 12/11, Brianna Brickley 12/14, Keith Johnson 12/15, Shaun Anderson 12/20, Levi Tomlinson 12/27, Patsy Anderson 12/30
- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Brand & Anne Miklya 12/31

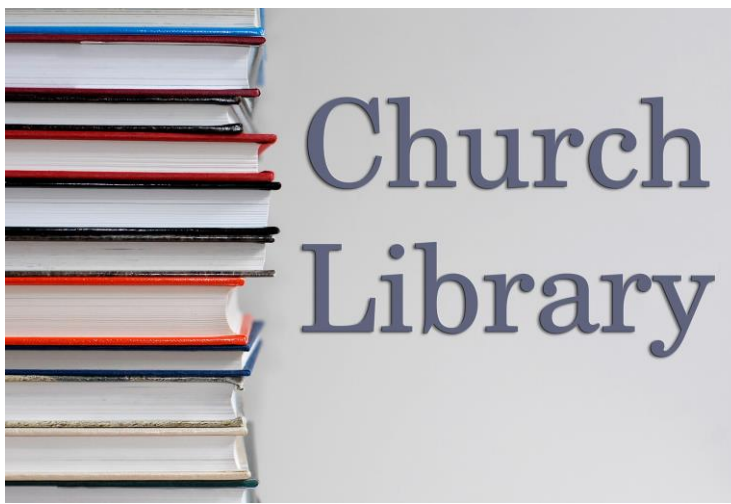


# Light OF THE WORLD

December 1	John 1:1-5
December 2	Isaiah 9:2-7
December 3	Isaiah 11:1-10
December 4	Jeremiah 33:14-16
December 5	Luke 1:5-10
December 6	Luke 1:11-17
December 7	Luke 1:18-25
December 8	Luke 1:26-38
December 9	Matthew 1:18-21
December 10	Matthew 1:22-26
December 11	Luke 1:39-45
December 12	Luke 1:46-56
December 13	Luke 2:1-5
December 14	Luke 2:6-7
December 15	Luke 2:8-12
December 16	Luke 2:13-14
December 17	Luke 2:15-18
December 18	Luke 2:19-20
December 19	Micah 5:2-5
December 20	Matthew 2:1-2
December 21	Matthew 2:3-6
December 22	Matthew 2:7-8
December 23	Matthew 2:9-12
December 24	John 1:14

## Harvest Service





Our featured book of the month is

**"When God Weeps, Why our Sufferings  
Matter to the Almighty"**

In the midst of suffering, we often question the very foundation of our faith—our belief in the God who says He loves us. Since our trust and obedience rest on God's character, the questions that life's tragedies force us to face are difficult, even frightening.

Joni Eareckson Tada, a woman who has lived in a wheelchair for more than thirty years, and Steve Estes, a pastor and one of Joni's closest friends, explore the answers. When God Weeps is not so much a book about suffering as it is about God. It tackles tough questions about heaven and hell, horrors and hardships, and why God allows suffering in this life.

Through a panoramic overview of what the Bible says about suffering, the authors make clear who God is, why He permits so much heartache and pain, and how it is we can trust Him. With both a practical edge and heartfelt warmth, When God Weeps offers dependence on His love and mercy in spite of our doubts, fears, longings, and questions.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed books to the library! If you have any questions about the Church Library, please see church librarian, Julie Johnson



**Sunday, December 18**

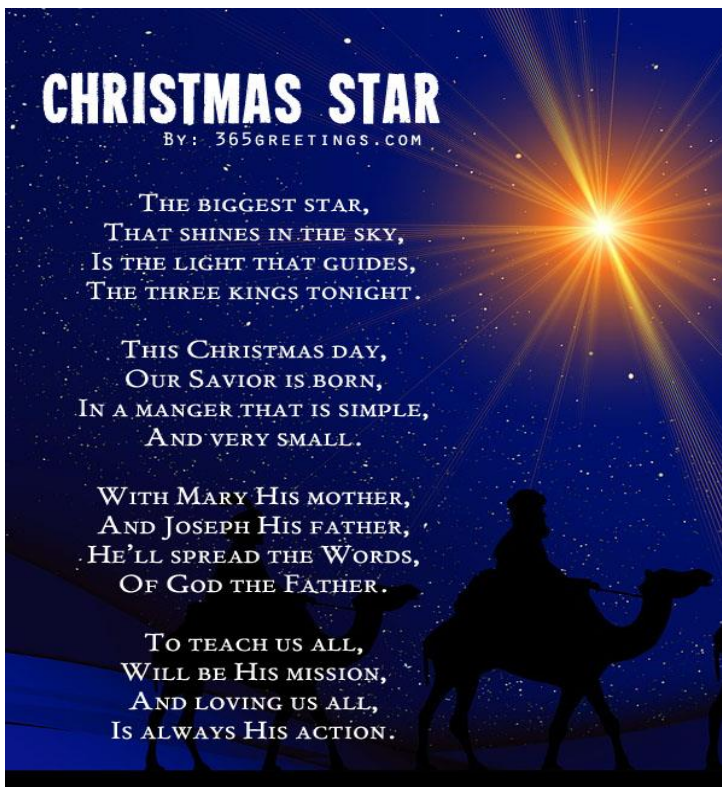
Because Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, we are moving the Children's Nativity program a week prior to Christmas. The program will be during morning service.

**Sunday, December 25**

Christmas Service at 10:00am. If you want to contribute a special of any kind to either of the Christmas Services, please talk with Pastor Seth by December 4th. Christmas treats/refreshments will be served at both services.



Our monthly Women's Bible Study meetings have been re-imagined— still on the first Saturdays of the month, still at nine a.m., BUT the discussions will center on practical topics from a Biblical point of view. Come and see for yourselves! Teens are welcome, too! *How to Protect Yourself: Safety Tips for Women and Girls* will be the topic of our **Saturday, January 7th meeting. Please come if you can and learn about this valuable subject. Sharlene Prinsen will be leading us.**



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







