

THE WITNESS

The Newsletter of West Side Baptist Church

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DECEMBER 2017

RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL

Veni, veni Emmanuel! Captivum solve Israel!



Can you believe it: a radio station is already playing Christmas carols in mid-November? Stores are advertising “Black Friday” sales starting the Friday before Thanksgiving. What happened to waiting until after Thanksgiving to begin the “holidays”? I am afraid we have now merged Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas into one holiday season my friends call: “Hallowthankmas.”

Advent has arrived for me when the church starts singing some of my favorite carols, such as “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” This song, along with many of the other “O Antiphons,” helps me connect to the wider Church’s story as we remember and rehearse the good news of Christ’s birth: *God with us*. Each Christmas inspires me with new hope: Since Christ came at Christmas, as God promised, Christ will come again!

It’s easy to get caught in the repetition of the seasons: celebrating winter, spring, summer and autumn; and then repeating it again. The ancient Romans practiced this type of pagan religion: an unending cycle repeating of the past. We fall into this pattern when we try to recreate our favorite Christmas memories. However, Christians must remember that Advent/Christmas is not about trying to reclaim a glorious past but living into the bright future: Christ will come again! We will celebrate Christmas someday at Christ’s throne.

The plea of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is not a call by ancient Israel to return to that first Christmas in the manger. Instead, it is a contemporary cry for our Heavenly Father to send Christ into our world now! It is a call of hope for the eschaton: when Christ will come—not as a newborn baby but as Christ the King. The hope is Christ will “rescue captive Israel” (the Church) — caught between the world that is now, and the world we want to come: the Kingdom of God.

Dear Pat and WSBC,

My family and I consider it pure joy to serve the Lord Jesus among you. Thank you for the wonderful surprise— and the many cards— expressing your appreciation for our ministry. We are sincerely grateful! We plan to use your gift to fund a short trip as a family to spend quality time together.

Thank you!
Pastor Ivan



As you plan your Advent / Christmas celebrations, I invite you to focus your attention on Christ’s second-coming. How would life be different if Christ came this Christmas? What would you say or do to prepare for his arrival? Then, live into that reality because someday: He will come again!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ivan

PS. You are invited to our **Christmas Open House Cookie Party** on **Saturday, December 2** from **1:00 to 4:00 pm** at 2211 SW 33rd St. (near corner of 33rd and McVicar). This is a come-and-go event. Our family will bake hundreds of cookies to share with our guests. You do not need to bring cookies, cards, or gifts. Come for this joyful time of festive holiday cheer.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

December Birthdays

4th Bill Merrifield

5th Bob Roesler

9th Pat Carreno

14th Jim Lagerberg

18th Janet Nyfeler

22nd Nancy May

23rd Jack Janway

December Anniversaries

12th Doug & Jan Mauck

27th Tony & Pat Carreno

LADIES AND MEN'S NIGHT OUT

- Tuesday, December 5th will be at Doug and Jan Mauck's 421 SW Woodlawn. Everyone should bring a finger food (savory or sweet) to share. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

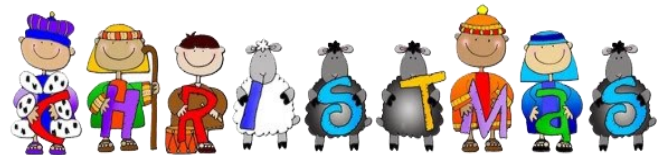


NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

-On November 15th we were excited to share a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner with our WWW family and the Church. Thanks to all who contributed and joined us. **We fed 96 people.** We are truly blessed and thankful for our Wednesday night program and participants.

On December 13th we will celebrate Christmas at WWW with a dinner, of course, and a Christmas Pageant. Please plan to join us that Wednesday evening at 5:30. Watch for more details soon.

Alice Payne, Coordinator of Christian Education



BABY CLOSET CHRISTMAS BAGS - The colder weather has brought many families into the Baby Closet for warm clothing and diapers. We served 52 families with 95 children in October; this included 6 new families. We are again filling bags for Christmas for each family that comes in during December. We are asking for donations of **deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo and body lotion.** There will be a box in the front of the sanctuary for these items. Thanks to all for opening your hearts at this special time of year. You all are wonderful!



Pat Carreno, Coordinator

XYZer's

BREAKFAST

- Join a group of Seniors who enjoy

having fun and making real friendships. The "Extra Years of Zest" small group will meet on Saturday, December 9 @ HyVee at 9:00 am for anyone the age of 55 or older.



BREAKFAST ON SUNDAYS

- Register your attendance on the pew pads at the end of each pew. Sign-up if you plan to attend the free breakfasts on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30 am. All ages are welcome to eat for free.





CHURCH MEMBERS AND FAMILIES AND FRIENDS - We need your help with a youth fundraiser . We want to have a silent auction at the

December 3 Breakfast

8:30 am. We would like to

request donations of items to auction off. Any items with value of \$5.00 or more. Gift items, wearable accessories would be great. Please include the base value of the donated item to enable us to have a price to begin the auction with.

Your donations can be left at the church office or contact Becky Poe at 215-2333. Please come and bid on the items. All proceeds will assist the youth in their future activities. The bidding will go throughout the breakfast time and items will need to be claimed before church is over that day. We appreciate your dedication in assisting with the fundraiser for the youth at West Side Baptist Church. Thank you and God Bless.

MOVIE NIGHT

– The Outreach and Evangelism Committee invites everyone to a Movie Night with popcorn on

Saturday, December 9 at 6:30 pm. We will watch the 1946 classic, "It's A Wonderful Life," starting James Stewart as "George Bailey" and Henry Travers as an "Angel." No cost! Rating: PG.



OUR CHURCH FINANCES - This is a general overview of our church finances through the first ten months of the year. We are at 83.3% of our budget year.

Income to date is \$227,550.47 or 86.39%. Expenses to date total \$263,414.00 or 88.92%

In October we transferred another \$12,000 from our investments for cash flow and to pay back the loan from the capital campaign making the total transferred for this year \$28,000. This is what we estimated as the amount of interest we would make in our investments this year. Our interest to date on investments is approximately \$28,433.71

An additional \$160.00 was given this month for the additional building repairs not budgeted. Our total raised to date is: \$15,677.17. Our repairs totaled \$18,915.33. This was for boiler, roof and masonry repairs. Additional gifts for these projects are still needed. Thanks.

Council members have been working on a proposed 2018 budget for the congregation to consider. The proposed budget includes the transfer of the estimated annual interest on our investment funds at Wells Fargo of \$28,000. It also includes using about \$10,000 of the principle unless some expenditures are cut or additional revenue received. The final budget will be voted on at the all church breakfast in December.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION -

WOMEN/TEEN GIRLS: Jeans, shirts or hoodies (Jr. 0 – 17, Misses 2 – 18, Plus 2 – 5x)

MEN/TEEN BOYS: Jeans (size 30 -50) (especially sizes 30-38), shirts, hoodies, socks, boxers, stocking caps and gloves, plus size clothing (2 – 5X) and sports team logo items

BOYS AND GIRLS: Educational or toys/games for ages 8-17, jeans, shirts, hoodies (5 – 20), boxers

INFANT & TODDLER: Shirts, tops, jeans, winter clothing (Newborn – 4), onesies and diapers sizes 2 – 6, pull-ups all sizes

MISCELLANEOUS GIFT ITEMS NEEDED: Bath gift sets, cologne gift sets, twin XL blankets, F, Q & K sheet sets, twin flat sheets, pots and pans, small appliances, coffee makers, toasters, 4-5 qt. crock pots, small adult gifts, bath towels, cooking utensils, tool sets, wallets, shaving bags, teen gifts, men's gifts, hair brushes, mini flashlights, sports team logo items (Hats, duffle bags, etc.), art sets, sports balls, nice razors, any teen gifts, gift certificates for local stores

DONATION INFORMATION: As we make plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission, we are happy to receive donations of new Christmas items for our guests and for community distribution. **It would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by December 7th.** This allows time for us to get the gift area set-up. However, we will gladly receive donations beyond this date as well. We ask that, for Christmas, gifts be new items and unwrapped. Please also consider a year-end gift to Topeka Rescue Mission.

Please bring donations to:

Distribution Center, 401 NW Norris:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00AM – 3:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM – 1:00PM

Questions? Please call 785-357-4285

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION!



TOYS - Puzzles 100-500 pcs Back Packs Color Books/Crayons School Supplies Toys for Ages 2-12 No Stuffed Animals Please

Girls Jewelry Games - All Ages Baby Dolls ,Balls - Football, Soccer, Basketball Teenage Girls Gifts

Women & Teens

Larger Sized Bras Underwear S-XL Cosmetics Jewelry & Socks Jeans, Sweats & PJ's Teen Sized Clothing

Health Kit Items

Towels, Washcloths, Combs, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste/brushes, Shampoo/Conditioner

Household Gifts

Quilts, Blankets & Sheet Sets (Full/Queen/King), Dish Sets, Toasters, Hand Mixers, Glass Sets, Pots/Pans, Etc.



Bring Donations to Doorstep at 10th & Buchanan

Mon - Fri from 8am - 3pm Or

To Your Congregation for Delivery to Doorstep.

Christmas Store – We Need Volunteers!

If you can volunteer, call the Doorstep office, 357-5341



HAPPY HOLIDAYS WORD SEARCH



Created by
Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald
2011

P	O	J	A	H	S	E	N	A	C	Y	D	N	A	C
R	S	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	M	F	K	A	S
E	E	H	W	L	J	B	L	X	M	A	F	L	H	O
S	I	I	E	I	K	C	F	N	M	D	F	F	G	S
E	V	R	R	D	L	P	O	I	M	A	P	O	S	N
N	O	T	T	A	M	O	L	I	W	L	O	N	X	O
T	M	U	Y	Y	N	Y	U	K	E	O	O	U	A	I
S	O	L	U	S	B	L	W	H	T	I	L	N	T	T
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	I	O	S	N	A
M	P	J	O	W	V	K	A	A	T	U	J	A	A	R
J	A	N	P	Q	L	Q	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	O
B	G	G	Z	I	C	A	O	L	A	T	A	O	P	C
S	X	N	M	S	V	Z	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	E
L	U	D	J	D	Z	M	P	H	O	W	M	P	M	D
F	M	S	K	Y	P	P	A	H	I	E	N	D	S	W

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1. Happy | 5. Family | 9. Shopping | 13. Santa |
| 2. Holidays | 6. Friends | 10. Candy canes | 14. Songs |
| 3. Christmas | 7. Presents | 11. Cookies | 15. Movies |
| 4. Vacation | 8. Decorations | 12. Milk | 16. Fun |