

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

The Witness

DECEMBER 2018
VOL 104 #12

"Joy to the World!"

Pastor's Corner - Have you ever gone home to complain:



"The singing this Sunday was awful"? If you have, you would not be alone! As a teen, a young man named Isaac was very dissatisfied with the deplorable dirges his church sang in worship. They sang only the Old Testament Psalms using traditional tunes. The story goes, "One Sunday after returning from a service of this type of Psalm singing and being deeply concerned and critical of

congregational singing, young Isaac was challenged by his father with these words, "Well then, young man, why don't you give us something better to sing?"

"Watts, then eighteen years of age, accepted his father's challenge. The next Sunday he produced his first hymn, to which the congregational response was enthusiastic. For the next two years, young Watts wrote a new hymn text for his people every Sunday."¹ Isaac Watts would write more than 600 hymns.

One of his beloved hymns is "Joy to the World!" based on Psalm 98, "make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a louse noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Watts would combine the Old Testament command with the Good News of the Gospel in his 1719 hymnal, *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*. For many of us in the modern era, it would not be Christmas without singing this song!

This Advent/Christmas season, we will look at some of our favorite Christmas carols and hymns. There are currently more than 250 English songs for worship during Christmas and Epiphany (January 6). I promise we will not sing all of them, but we will look at some of our favorites: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," "Joy to the World," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Away in a Manger," "I Saw Three

WORSHIP WITH US!

Worship God with us on the Christian Sabbath: Sunday!

- ♦ **Dec. 2 - Advent #1**
Jeremiah 33:14-16 -
The Prophets: "Good Christian, Men Rejoice"
- ♦ **Dec. 9 - Advent #2**
Malachi 3:1-4 - The
People of Israel: "Joy to the World"
- ♦ **Dec. 16 - Advent #3**
Zephaniah 3:14-20 -
The Daughters of Zion:
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
- ♦ **Dec. 23 - Advent #4**
Micah 5:2-5a - Mary,
Theotokos: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- ♦ **Christmas Eve Candle-**
light Communion @
4:30 pm
- ♦ **Dec. 30 - Fifth Sunday**
Carol Sing

SUNDAY WORSHIP
@ 10:30 AM

VISIT US ONLINE wsbctopeka.org

Ships,” and “We Three Kings.” We will hopefully discover that the angels sang and the people rejoiced because God came to us in Jesus Christ, and he has made a difference!

To make sure we sing your favorite song during the holidays, we will have a **Fifth Sunday Carol Sing** on **Sunday, December 30**. There will be no sermon as our family will be vacationing. Tell Janet your favorite Christmas carol so we can sing it on December 30.

The Christmas season will conclude on Sunday, January 6 with the celebration of the Visit of the Magi (Epiphany). I hope you can join us!

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Ivan

¹(Kenneth Osbeck, 101 More Hymn Stories, (Kregel Publications, 1985), p. 167f)

GREUTER FAMILY COOKIE PARTY OPEN

HOUSE - You are invited to our **Greuter Family Cookie Party Open House** on **Sat., December 1** from **1:00 to 4:00 pm** at **:2211 SW 33rd St., 66611**

No cookies or gifts needed. Come enjoy the many tasty treats we make for the holidays. Coffee and punch will be served. This is an annual “come and go” event. Kids welcome!

~ Ivan, Rexanne, Jessa, Macy, and David

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY – The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday and Tuesday, December 24-25** in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Office will be closed on **Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1** in observance of the New Year holiday. Call the Pastor at home if you have an emergency.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS



OUR CHURCH FINANCES -

- The budget year is 5/6's or 83.3% over. Our income for October is \$23,841.52 and to date totals \$225,811.83 or 82.75%% of our annual budget. The total income includes \$24,196.07 in our fundraising efforts for boiler repair, \$1,100 in memorial gifts, \$1,620 in insurance income, \$3,519.65 in the youth fund and \$600 for pastor appreciation (\$25 added in early November) among other smaller income items.
- With the \$24,196.07 in our fundraising efforts for the boiler repair, we have collected 56% of our goal of \$42,915. We will continue our fundraising efforts through to the end of the year. The bill from McElroy's for the boiler should be arriving any time. Before the check is written money will be transferred from our investment account to pay for the amount collected for the boiler and the remainder will be paid from the Capital Campaign Money Market fund. This will leave very little left in the Money Market fund.
- Our expenses for October total \$23,388.90 and total for the year \$232,197.19 or 85.09% of our budget. The expenses include the van repair at \$2,120, the new sign at \$4,650, and other planned expenses in our budget.
- We have \$14,109.73 in our checking account at the end of October. This includes the monies in the Youth Fund and Baby Closet with the remainder the money collected for the boiler replacement/ repairs. Our checking account without these three funds would be - \$13,222.45.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following nominations to be voted on at the November Business Meeting. These positions are for a 3 year term, 2019 through 2021.

- **Vice-Moderator- Clarence Payne**
- **Treasurer- Nancy Lindberg**
- **Coordinator of Outreach and Evangelism- Jack Janway**

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor provided the person being nominated has agreed to serve.

Nominating Committee: Marianne Spano, Harry Carpenter, Ernie Longstaff, Nancy Cottril, Dick May, Jr. and Clarence Payne.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE FOOD PANTRY –

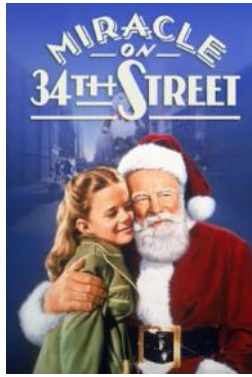
Free bread, fruits, and vegetables on **Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm**, while supplies last. - All food is available at no cost.

~ Pastor Ivan, Coordinator

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE -

The Outreach Committee will host a free **Movie Night on Saturday, December 8 at 6:30 pm**. We will watch the 1947 classic, “**Miracle on 34th Street**.” The online IMBD database writes: In this Christmas classic, an old man going by the name of Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) fills in for an intoxicated Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade. Kringle proves to be such a hit that he is soon appearing regularly at the chain's main store in midtown Manhattan. When Kringle surprises customers and employees alike by claiming that he really is Santa Claus, it leads to a court case to determine his mental health and, more importantly, his authenticity. Come join us for this festival film!

~ Mark Calloway Coordinator of Outreach



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - As we wrap up the year, we will wrap up our semester for WWW on December 12. We will have a Christmas Dinner that evening that everyone in the church is invited to attend. We will then go to our classrooms to celebrate the season with lessons about the Christmas Story. Each child will receive a small gift sack from the church. Dinner is from 5:30 to 6:00, if you'd like to join us. Merry Christmas!

~Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator



CORNERSTONE - They will be having their Christmas dinner for families again on Monday, December 3 @ 5:30 pm.



4th Bill Merrifield

5th Bob Roesler

9th Pat Carreno

14th Jim Lagerberg

18th Janet Nyfeler

22nd Nancy May

23rd Jack Janway



12th Doug & Jan Mauck

27th Tony & Pat Carreno



Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, December 4
McAlister's at 5:30 pm at

Men's Night Out

Food, Fellowship & Faith

Men's Night Out on Tuesday, December 4 at 5:30 pm at Freddy's

XYZer's BREAKFAST – The “Extra Years of Zest” (XYZers) small group will stop meeting once a month until April 2019.

~ John Swain, Coordinator

Matthew 2:10 *When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*



Missions Committee

Jesus called all of us to “Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you”.

(Matthew 28: 19 – 20)

We will be receiving the **Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO)** in December. Why give to RMMO because retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited resources to adequately plan for the future. RMMO recipients have used their funds to pay for unexpected expenses or medical costs. Many times, it is the RMMO gift that allows them to obtain a hearing aid, eyeglasses, replace an appliance, or just purchase a new outfit.

Please help us reach this year’s goal of \$1,700.00.

We here at West Side Baptist need to plan our mission outreach for 2019. The mission committee will meet on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2:30pm in Holmer Hall. We will be planning the programing for the year. Some of the topics we will be looking at:

- Mission trip to Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee
- Mission trip to Cross Wind conference center, Hesston, Kan.
- Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City
- Pick a Missionary to support
- Other???

The missions committee will meet on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30pm in Holmer hall.

~ Don Johnson, Missions



It’s that time of year again!! As we make plans for Christmas-season activities at the Topeka Rescue Mission, we need your help with donations of new Christmas items for our guests and for community distribution. It would be helpful to receive Christmas gift donations by **December 5th.** 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.

Kitchen Small Appliances (Examples- Crockpots, Coffee Makers, Electric Griddles)

Household Items (Examples- Pots & Pans, Dishes, Cooking Utensils, Bakeware)

Men’s Gifts

(Examples- Wallets, Sports Attire, Tools, Toiletry Gift Sets, Thick gloves, Nice Razors)

Teen Gifts

(Examples- Ear Buds, Bath Bombs, Teen Games, Make-up Sets, Art Sets, Sports Balls)

Women’s Gifts

(Examples- Bath Sets, Hair Styling Tools, Make-up Sets, Perfume, Wax Warmers)

Bedding Sets

(Examples- Twin, Full, Queen, King Sheet Sets & Blankets)

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

Doorstep -

This year has presented many challenges for Doorstep, and thankfully many blessings. Since we ended 2017 with fewer financial gifts than in the past, we have struggled with agency expenses, and grant funds that work on reimbursement throughout the year. And, now here we are back at December and working on our annual Christmas Store. We have requested 260 households from the Christmas Bureau Sign-up this year. There will be 800+ individuals in these households, and we are committed to helping them with Christmas gifts and food.

To do this, we need your help! We collect clothing, household items, blankets, school supplies, hygiene items, decorations, and more throughout the year. We did not have the funds to do clearance shopping for winter clothing in the first quarter of this year. Therefore, we have less clothing for all ages saved for the Store.

We are greatly in need of new, winter clothing for infants & toddlers, youth, boys & girls, sizes 6-16, women and men. Women like the sweat sets, pajama pants & tops & long nightgowns. The men can use sweat sets, long sleeved shirts & boxer briefs (all sizes). All children receive an outfit and a set of pajamas. The youth section, sizes 6-16, is the largest age range we help, and we always have to buy clothing in these sizes to cover the children we have adopted.

We also need toys for all children, and gifts for teenagers. And, monetary gifts to help cover the food expenses of the Christmas Store, which is the largest expense.

The Christmas Store is the week of December 9th – 13th. We need volunteers each day. Flyers have been distributed with the dates and times. Each adopted family goes around the Store with an escort. We schedule 19 households per hour during distribution, so we need volunteer escorts!

You can bring donations for the Doorstep Christmas Store, Monday – Friday from 8am – 3pm. We are located at 1119 SW 10th Avenue (10th and Buchanan), or to your congregation. Donated items for the Store are needed by Monday, December 10th!

You can also donate online at: www.doorsteptopeka.org

The staff at Doorstep wishes each of you Happy Holidays and a Blessed 2018!





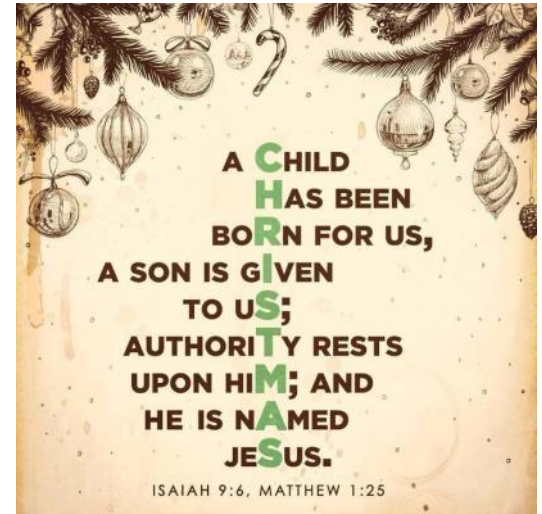
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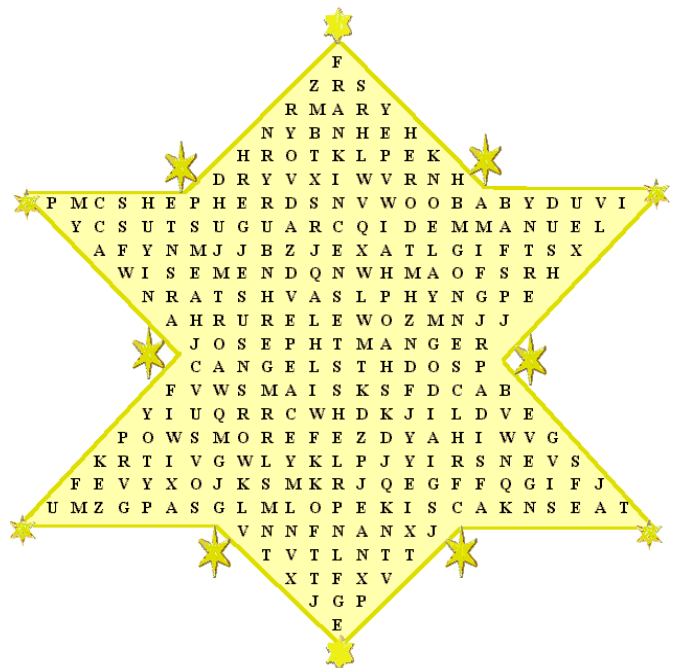
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TOBOGGAN
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MITTENS

JESUS
is the reason for the season!
Merry Christmas!



His Birth



Gold
Herod
Inn
Jesus
Joseph
Manger
Mary
Myrrh

Nativity
Noel
Peace
Promise
Savior
Shepherds
Star
Swaddling

Taxes
Virgin
Wisemen

December 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 1 pm Worship Team
2 8:30 am Breakfast 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 4 pm Pathfinders	3 9 am Baby Closet 9 am Music Mtg 5:30 pm Cornerstone Dinner	4 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out @ McAlister's 5:30 pm Men's Night Out @ Freddy's 6 pm Men's Chorus	5 10:30am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7 pm Choir Practice	6 1 pm Baby Closet	7	8 1 pm Worship Team 1 pm Greuter's Open House
9 8:30 am Breakfast 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 4 pm Pathfinders	10 9 am Baby Closet 9 am Music Mtg	11 6 pm Council Meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	12 10:30am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:30 pm WWW 7 pm Choir Practice	13 1 pm Baby Closet	14	15 1 pm Worship Team
16 8:30 am Breakfast 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship 2:30 pm Missions	17 9 am Baby Closet 9 am Music Mtg	18 No Christian Ed 7:15 pm Outreach meeting 6 pm Men's Chorus	19 10:30am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's No WWW 7 pm Choir	20 1 pm Baby Closet	21	22 1 pm Worship Team
23 8:30 am Breakfast 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship	24 No Baby Closet No Music Mtg 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 10:30am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's No WWW 7 pm Choir Practice	27 1 pm Baby Closet 6:30 pm NIA	28	29 1 pm Worship Team
30 8:30 am Breakfast 9:15 am S. School 10:30 am Worship	31 9 am Baby Closet 9 am Music Mtg					