

# The Witness

DECEMBER 2019  
VOL 105 #12

## ***"IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER"***

**Pastor's Corner** - The well-known Anglo-Italian writer, Christina Rossetti, did not intend her poem, "A Christmas Carol," to become the famous Christmas hymn, "In the Bleak Mid-Winter." Originally written for publication in her book of poetry, the text gained greatest notoriety when it was published in *The English Hymnal* (1906) with church musician, Gustav Holst (1874-1934), unique tune composed specifically for the text.

Historians generally agree Rossetti most likely wrote the words to express her melancholy one dark, cold night:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

However, if one reads past the first stanza, the song reveals a deep faith and knowledge of God. She describes Christ's incarnation (i.e., nativity), the Second Coming, and more importantly of all, Christ's Lordship over all humankind. What started as a groan from a downcast spirit deep in darkness moves to wonderful expression of faith and assurance of God's presence.

The final verses express her reaction to Jesus's coming:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

This Advent and Christmas season, we will sing many of our favorites (and less favorite) carols. Most of our holiday hymns were written first as poems which were set to music during a dark time of year: *winter*. These songs reinforce our faith that Christmas is about **God coming in Jesus!** What can you give him?  
Give him your heart!

Christmas blessings,  
Pastor Ivan



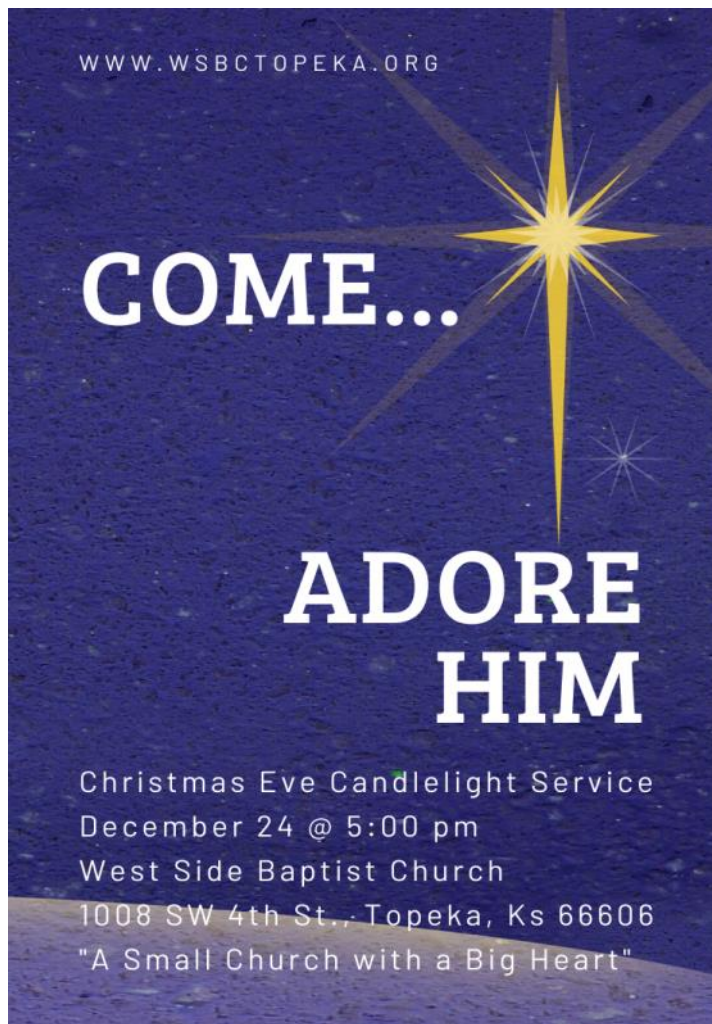
*Merry Christmas*

## **WORSHIP WITH US!**

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM**

**"Come Adore Him"**  
Get Ready for Worship by  
reading these texts:

- ♦ **Dec. 1 - Advent 1**  
Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44
- ♦ **Dec. 8 - Advent 2**  
Isaiah 11:1-1  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12
- ♦ **Dec. 15 - Advent 3**  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11
- ♦ **Dec. 22 - Advent 4**  
Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25
- ♦ **Dec. 28 - Fifth Sunday**  
Carol Sing



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** - Come...Adore Jesus at our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service on December 24 at 5:00 pm. We will enjoy a spirited time of carol singing and hot beverages (decaf coffee and cocoa) starting at 4:30 pm.

**POINSETTIA** - Please take your flowers home after the Christmas Eve services. Thank you!!

**FIFTH SUNDAY CAROLING & UGLY SWEATER SUNDAY** - To make sure we sing your favorite song during the holidays, we will have a Fifth Sunday Caroling on , **December 29. Wear Your Ugliest Christmas Sweater** (prizes may be awarded). There will be no sermon only the Gospel message in song! Tell Jan Mauck your favorite Christmas carol so we can sing it.

**EPIPHANY** - The Christmas season will conclude on **Sunday, January 5** with the celebration of the **Visit of the Magi (Epiphany)**. We will undecorate the Sanctuary after worship. Stay for a ham-n-bean luncheon served with cornbread.

**FINANCIAL GIVING** – Thank you for the generous support of the work of God in and through West Side Baptist Church:

**Y-T-D (11-17-2019)**

General Fund	\$ 187,017.08
Building Main	\$ 9,256.00
Sunday School	\$ 441.56
Fellowship/Benevolence	\$ 1,976.22
American Baptist Women	\$ 640.00
America for Christ	\$ 1,542.00
Baby Closet	\$ 1,550.00
One Great Hour Sharing	\$ 2,245.93
World Mission Offering	\$ 1,763.09

**INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES** - Pastor Ivan will be attending **International Ministries** (aka American Baptist Foreign Mission Society) Board of Directors meetings in 2020:

- March 23-25 - Orlando, Florida
  - June 16-17 - Chicago, Illinois
  - September 18-19 - San Francisco, Cal.
- Pastor's denominational work is approved by the Council and Pastoral Relations Committee.





## OUR CHURCH FINANCES – October 2019

- We are at 83.3 % of our budget year.
- The income for October was \$23,000.90 and to date totals \$233,086.34 or 87.03% of the year. This income includes a recent transfer of \$5,000 from our Wells Fargo investments. The total from these investments this year is \$25,000. Out of this \$25,000 there was \$11,050 in interest and the remainder from principle. This amount does not include the annual distribution from the Topeka Community Foundation.
- Our expenses for October totaled \$19,598.83 and to date totals \$244,194.09 or 91.18%. The main reason the expenses are so great is due to major building repairs. Our newest building expense is replacing the stool in the family restroom. The new long-range capital campaign committee will be holding its first meeting soon to discuss plans for 2020 and beyond so we can handle future major repairs for our church facility.
- Our net income for the year is \$-11,107.74 compared to -25,764.30 last month. Our checking account at the end of October was \$8,893.91. This includes \$3,502.31 – Youth Fund, \$1,000 – Outreach grant, \$1,500 – Baby Closet grant, \$3,100 – Major Building Repairs gifts, \$500 – WWW grant and \$100 – Capital Funds Campaign.

By the time you read this newsletter the 2020 Proposed Budget will have been presented at the Stewardship luncheon. The new budget includes a request from the Pastor Relations Committee on the pastor's salary package as well as a 2% salary increase for staff recommended by the Personnel Committee and approved by the Church Council.

Let me know if you have any questions on the budget or on this month's finance report. Thanks. ~ Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer

**2019 GIVING STATEMENTS** - IRS regulations require all donations for 2019 to be received or postmarked by December 31, 2019 to be included on your charitable giving statement. See Bill Merrifield if you have any questions. 2019 Statements will be mailed before Jan. 31, 2020.

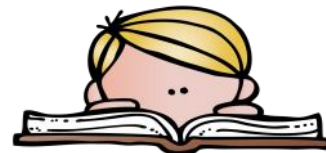
## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to all of you that helped with our Thanksgiving Feast. It's an activity that takes many hands to accomplish, but it's also very heart-warming as we are able to share our bountiful gifts with others. To God be the glory for all the things He has done with us and through us!



Our semester of WWW ends **December 11**. We will celebrate with a dinner and Christmas Pageant. You are all invited to attend. Dinner will be @ 5:30 and the program will be in the sanctuary from 6:00-7:00. We hope you will come and be a part of this special evening. Many of the children that attend WWW have little knowledge about the true gift of Christmas. What is such a familiar story to us is new for them. Even as teachers, we are always amazed when a child asks, "Who is Joseph?" or "What's a shepherd?" Come participate and enjoy the Christmas story as if you were hearing it for the very first time.

~ Alice Payne, C.E. Coordinator



teach me, teach me  
to walk in His light

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Maryanne Spano, Nancy Cottril, Dick May, Jr., Ernie Longstaff and Sonia Roling submitted the following:

- **Moderator** - Pat Carpenter
- **Treasurer** - Nancy Lindberg
- **Church Clerk** - Fran Seymour Hunter
- **Christian Education** -
- **Missions** - Jim Goodnow
- **Worship** - Brice Smith

The Church Council voted to accept the report and present it to the congregation.

Thank you.

~ Pat Carpenter, Moderator



**YOU'RE INVITED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Be kind to yourself and join a class! It's an opportunity to learn more about the Bible, our faith, ourselves, our past, present, & future, and our Savior. We are offering four different class opportunities for adults.



- **"The Apostles Creed: Together We Believe"** by Matt Chandler taught by Jack Janway upstairs in the first room off the elevator. It is a new 12-week, video-based study. Each session is based on a part of the Apostles Creed and how it applies to living as Christians.
- **"The Basics of Christian Faith"** taught by Pastor Ivan. It meets downstairs in the Youth Room.
- **"Outlive Your Life" by Max Lucado.** Rexanne Greuter is leading a women's class discussing ideas and spending meaningful time in prayer support. This class is upstairs in the first room off the South stairway.
- **"Reading the Bible as Literature"** a video series taught by Doug Mauck in Holmer Hall. These videos help bring the Bible to life and increase our understanding.

You would be welcomed at any of these classes. They are open to all. It's a great chance to fellowship with other believers and to enhance your spiritual growth. Classes begin @ 9:15 every Sunday morning.

**BABY CLOSET** - As we begin to prepare for Christmas, the Baby Closet is asking for help to fill 50 personal care bags for families that visit the Baby Closet during December. Items needed for the bags include deodorant, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, band aids and lotion. We thank each of you for helping us out with this project. The families are happy to receive these bags.



**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FOR WWW KIDS** – Donate a new or gently used Christmas Ornament for the WWW Kids Bible Club students. Each child will receive a small gift of candy, fruit, and an ornament. Place your donation in the box inside the Sanctuary **before Tuesday, December 10.** Thank you! ~ Alice Payne, Coordinator



**OUTREACH** - West Side is having Free Movie Nights in December at 6:00 pm:

- ♦ **December 6: The Grinch**
- ♦ **December 20: The Star**  
Come and enjoy!



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

**HOSPITAL & EMERGENCIES** – If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, **the hospital staff and chaplains' office will NOT contact the Church Office or the Pastor.** You or a family member must call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 or Pastor's home at (785) 267-0936. The pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries. Pastor will not be able to visit when his children or he is sick.



#### **ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY CARDS -**

Pastor sends lots of cards each month. If you have not received an anniversary or birthday card, then please call the Office with your date. Please donate anniversary and birthday cards to the Church.



**CORNERSTONE** - Cornerstone is having their Christmas dinner for families again on Monday, December 9 @ 5:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help please let the office know.



**MISSIONS COMMITTEE** - Jesus calls 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 \$1,000.00.

We here at West Side Baptist need to plan our mission outreach for 2020. The mission committee will meet on January 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm in Holmer Hall. We will plan the programing for the year 2020.

Some of the topics we will be looking at:

- Mission trip to Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma.
- Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City

**Thank you for \$1,763.09 received for the World Mission Offering towards our goal of \$1,500.00.** ~ Don Johnson, Missions

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

**HOLIDAY** – The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday and Wednesday,**

**December 24-25** in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Office will be closed on **Tuesday and Wednesday, 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**



**FOOD PANTRY** - The Free Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry is open most **Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.** Call the Church Office at (785) 233-4241 for more information. **BRING a government-issued PHOTO ID and a piece US Mail with the client's NAME and CURRENT ADDRESS as proof-of-residency every visit.**

**OCTOBER REPORT:** 1,146 individuals (593 adults, 431 children, plus 122 senior citizens) in 331 families were able to receive 4,360 pounds of free fresh bread, eggs, fruit, vegetables, and other items from the Fruit & Vegetable Food Pantry on Wednesday nights.

Equal Opportunity. \*All food is available at no cost. **We need empty egg cartons and REUSABLE BAGS.** Please bring them to the Office.



**WWW FREE SUPPERS** - Thank you to Alice, Clarence and their many kitchen helpers for serving over 750 meals so far in 2019. The Thanksgiving Supper on Wed., Nov. 20 was incredible. ***We thank God for you, Alice and Clarence!*** Well done, good and faithful ones!

### GREUTER FAMILY OPEN HOUSE COOKIE



**PARTY** – Come to the Greuter Open House Cookie Party on **Saturday, December 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at 2211 SW 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Topeka 66611.** We make a couple of thousand cookies, so you will not need to bring cookies, gifts, or

anything but an appetite. Enjoy the many tasty treats we make to share during the holidays. We will serve coffee and punch. It is a "come and go" event. No reservations needed. Kids welcome!

**DOORSTEP** - This year has presented many challenges for Doorstep, and thankfully many blessings. As you have heard, with the sewer issue in our basement in late August we lost at least 1/3 of the Christmas items we had stored. We have cleaned up and organized the donations and have a good idea what we really need for the Christmas Store, which isn't far away now! The Christmas Store is the week of December 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>!

**Items we really need are:**

New, winter clothing youth, boys & girls, sizes 6-16, teens, 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.

We need volunteers to work each day starting on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 2pm- 5pm to help move all collected items to First Nazarene Church across the street. Monday volunteers are needed to help sort and organize donations. Then on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> we need volunteers to escort the families around as they shop. Flyers have been distributed with the dates and times. We schedule 19 households per hour during distribution, so we need plenty of volunteer escorts!

You can bring donations for the Doorstep Christmas Store, Monday – Friday from 8am – 3pm. We are located at 1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (10<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan), or to your congregation. Donated items for the Store are needed by Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the very latest!

You can also donate online at:

[www.doorstoptopeka.org](http://www.doorstoptopeka.org)

The staff at Doorstep wishes each of you Happy Holidays and a Blessed 2019



**24,000 Meals Per Month:**

**TRM Ministries Food Services** is responsible for the planning, preparing and serving on average 24,000 meals per month in our dining room 7 days a week. The food served consists primarily of food donations from the community. Because of the generosity of the friends of TRM, this is accomplished for a cost of only 14 cents per meal. Anyone who is hungry is welcome to eat at TRM.

**2019 Christmas Needs List FOR TRM**

- 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- 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)

**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 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.



**ANNUAL REPORTS** – It is that time again for all the Council members to start thinking of what you want in your report. Please submit your report to Lynda in the Church Office [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org) by Friday, January 17, 2020. The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 26 at 12:00 pm, downstairs.**



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – “Home for the Holidays!”- We will receive a special Christmas Offering for families in the neighborhood with children that do not have water in their homes. Please give generously to help. You can give online, mail your donation to the church, or use the envelopes available in the pews.



Merry Christmas from the  
staff at West Side Baptist  
Church

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas isn't showy gifts  
Or glittering decoration;  
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ  
In humble adoration.

It's taking what we would have spent  
On things that no one needs,  
And using it to help someone  
With service and good deeds.

So let's remember Christmas is  
About our Savior's birth;  
That's the way to happiness,  
The way to peace on earth.

~Joanna Fuchs



MyMerryChristmasWishes.com



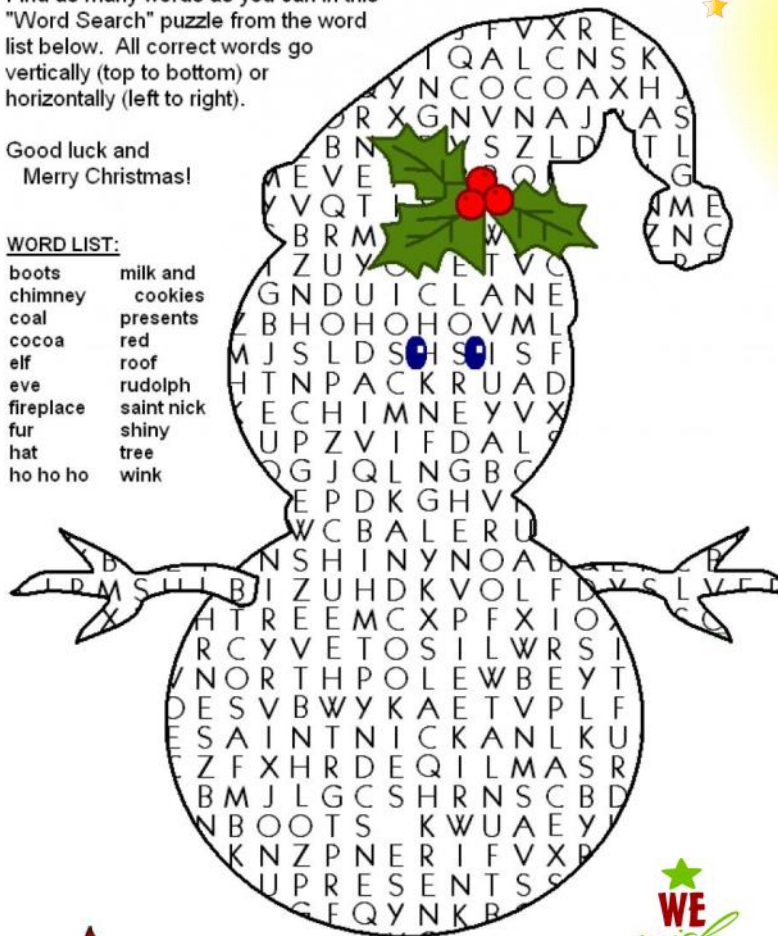
The words in this snowman puzzle describe someone who is loved by children the world over. Who is he?

Find as many words as you can in this "Word Search" puzzle from the word list below. All correct words go vertically (top to bottom) or horizontally (left to right).

Good luck and Merry Christmas!

**WORD LIST:**

boots	milk and
chimney	cookies
coal	presents
cocoa	red
elf	roof
eve	rudolph
fireplace	saint nick
fur	shiny
hat	tree
ho ho ho	wink



Joy  
Love  
Peace  
Believe  
Christmas

**CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH**

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

CHRISTMAS  
COOKIES  
FAMILY  
HOLIDAY

MISTLETOE  
NUTCRACKER  
ORNAMENTS  
PRESENTS

REINDEER  
SANTA  
STOCKING  
TREE



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**Snowman Word Search**

COAL SNOW  
CARROT STICKS  
SCARF TOP HAT

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



Chicken Scratch NY







**Sun**

**Mon**








**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<b>1</b> COMMUNION 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>3</b> 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out @ Chez Yasu 5:30 pm Men's Night Out Chez Yasu	<b>4</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet  6:00 pm NIA Meeting	<b>6</b>  6:00 pm Movie Night (The Grinch)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet  5:00 pm Cornerstone Dinner	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting  6:00 pm Men's Chorus	<b>11</b> 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet 5:30 pm WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Mission Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting  6:00 pm Men's	<b>18</b> 10:30 am Bible Study No Harvester's 4:30 pm Youth Christmas Party 5:00 pm Baby Closet No WWW 7:00 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>20</b>  6:00 pm Movie Night (The Star)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet  6:00 pm DAR	<b>24</b> 4:30 pm Carols & Cocoa <b>5:00 pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>25</b> CLOSED 	<b>26</b> CLOSED	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Baby Closet	<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b>	<b>See you in</b>	   		

Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
New Year!



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

West Side Baptist Church  
1008 SW Fourth Street  
Topeka, KS 66606  
[www.wsbctopeka.org](http://www.wsbctopeka.org)



**The Witness** is published monthly *free of charge* at 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka Kansas, 66606. Submission deadlines is the third Tuesday of each month to [office@wsbctopeka.org](mailto:office@wsbctopeka.org). The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister. Lynda Cokeley, Secretary and Editor, reserves the right to edit submissions for content and publication spacing. Send address corrections and subscription requests to West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, KS 66606. Phone: (785) 233-4241. Fax: (785) 233-1988 Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

**RIDE TO CHURCH** - If you or your children would like a ride to/from a worship call **Harry Carpenter, Bus Driver at (785) 608-3937 [no text messages] on Saturday**. The van leaves at 8:15 AM on Sunday mornings for Sunday School. Volunteers are needed to ride along with our driver to transport children on Sundays and Wednesdays. See Harry Carpenter for more information or to volunteer.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS: DECEMBER**

**Acolytes** – Sage Poe and Lonna Hersh

**Communion Servers in Service** – Doug and Jan Mauck, Jim Goodnow, and Nancy Lindberg

**Communion Homebound Ministers** - Pastor Ivan

**Scripture Readers** – Jan Mauck

**Technology Team** – Tom Mansfield, Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

**Ushers** – Harry Carpenter, Chuck Cozad, Dick May, Steve May and Aaron Poe