

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

The Witness

DECEMBER 2020 | VOL 106 #12

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Pastor's Corner - We are almost there...the end of 2020! It has been a year we will never forget! We have thirty-seven days (888 hours or 53,280 minutes) left from the day this article is published (Wed., Nov. 25). Lots of people have shared how they will celebrate the New Year - hopefully with a joyous gathering of family and friends...and an end to the pandemic. We live in hopeful anticipation that 2021 will be better than this year!

The Old Testament reading for the Sundays of Advent and Christmastide remind us of the message of hope our spiritual ancestors heard in Babylon. The people of God waited with hopeful expectation for the return of the Lord, the declaration of release, and restoration of their homes and families.

The captives did not wait for the Lord a few days, hours or minutes, but some waited a lifetime (70 years - 608-538 BC). Despite the long wait, the people trusted God's promise: The Messiah would "proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Isaiah 61:2). The rabbis taught the year of favor would be "a year of appeasement and good will....a year of blessing."

Jesus read the Isaiah 61 passage in the synagogue of Nazareth. He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

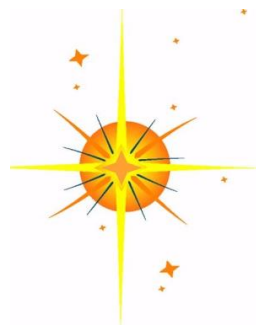
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:16-22).

As we come to the end of our liturgical year (November 28) and the civic calendar (December 31), let us pray with hopeful expectation that 2021 to be a year of favor and blessings!

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Ivan



יובל

Jubilee: A Year of Favor

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

♦ **NOVEMBER 29**
FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT, HYMN SING
"HOPE"
Isaiah 64:1-9

♦ **DECEMBER 6**
SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT "PEACE"
Isaiah 40:1-11

♦ **DECEMBER 13**
THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT "LOVE"
Isaiah 61:1-, 8-11

♦ **DECEMBER 20**
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT "JOY"
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

♦ **DECEMBER 24**
7:00 pm CHRISTMAS
EVE CANDLE LIGHT
SERVICE

♦ **DECEMBER 27**
FIRST SUNDAY OF
CHRISTMASTIDE
Isaiah 61:10-62:3

WORSHIP WITH US
AT 10:30 AM





A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER - Our income for October was \$37,051.54 and our income total to date is \$186,883.51. October budget percentage is at 78.76%. Included in the income this month was the transfer of \$25,564.00 from our Wells Fargo Investments. This is the amount the church budgeted for 2020 to balance our budget. The figure was based on the interest earned in 2019 and we didn't have to use any of the principle.

Our expenses for October totaled \$17,729.59 and total for the year is \$197,804.38. October budget percentage for expenses is at 75.17%.

Our net income for the year is -\$10,920.87. I'd say we've been very good in our managing of the church finances in this unusual year of the pandemic.

At the end of October our checking account total was \$54,070.76. We currently have \$34,409.26 in our checking account designated for the building fund. Other funds in the checking account include \$4,730.87 – Youth fund; \$3,100 – Outreach fund; and \$2,179.48 – Baby Closet. I plan to transfer the gifts designated for building fund into the Capital Campaign checking account later this month. The building funds have helped us with our cash flow until the investment dollars were transferred earlier this month.

Many of you have turned in your 2021 pledge forms. It's not too late to turn those in. Although this information is a guesstimate on our finances, it helps us plan for the coming year. Thanks for your continued and generous support of our church.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



YOUTH FUNDRAISERS -

West Side Baptist Church Youth are planning to hold two new and unique fundraisers in December. They will be creating a beautiful one of a kind Christmas ornament available for purchase. A suggested cost for the ornament is \$10.00.



Tired of cooking or going out for dinner? On Sunday, December 13, the youth will have a home cooked meal of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and a pumpkin bar ready to go after church. Preorders are appreciated so they know how much food to prepare. Donations appreciated for this meal and it can be picked up in Holmer Hall immediately after church.

We are also able to deliver to your home if you won't be at church.

Order forms for both fundraisers will be on the bulletin board outside the office.

You can also contact Colleen Smith at 785-213-1062 or colleen.cksmith1@gmail.com with orders or questions.

Thanks in advance for your support!

West Side Baptist Church Youth

NO COOKIE PARTY – The Greuters are saddened to share the family **Cookie Party is cancelled** for this year because of COVID 19.



2020 GIVING STATEMENTS - IRS regulations require all donations for 2020 to be received or postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be included on your charitable giving statement. See Nancy Lindberg if you have any questions. 2020 Statements will be mailed before Jan. 31, 2021.



BABY CLOSET – The **Baby Closet is CLOSED** to the public and will operate in **MOBILE DISTRIBUTION**

ONLY until further notice. Families may pick-up **diapers, formula ointments, and wipes on WEDNESDAYS from 3:30-5:30 pm at the North Door.**



Parents may leave a message on the Baby Closet voice mail for supplies. A volunteer will return the message within 48 hours.

EMERGENCIES & HOSPITAL COVID

UPDATE – If you or a loved one go to the hospital for an emergency or surgery, the hospital will NOT allow visitors - including clergy - at this time unless it is a life-and-death situation. The 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 call the Pastor at Home (785) 267-0936. The Pastor is willing to visit the hospital and pray before surgeries



ONLINE WORSHIP - Stay Safe at Home but Pray with the Church! Join us

WORSHIP WITH US

ONLINE for WORSHIP on Sundays at 10:30 am. The service bulletin with songs is on our website under downloads. All services will be broadcast LIVE on **FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE.**

HOPE

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

AGAPE BENEVOLENCE FUND – We receive a benevolence offering for persons in need the **first Sunday of each month after the Lord's Supper.** These funds are shared with members and neighborhood people in need. Please see the Pastor, Church Office, or the Moderator to complete an Application for Assistance.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

The Church Office will be **CLOSED on Thursday and Friday, December 24-25** in observance of the Christmas holiday. The Office will be closed on **Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1** in observance of the New Year holiday. Call the Pastor at home if you have an emergency.



FOOD PANTRY - Free Fruit and Vegetable Food Pantry on **Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, while supplies last. MOBILE SITE:** enter western PARKING LOT from 4th and CLAY Streets; do not park or exit your vehicle. Equal Opportunity. *All food is available at no cost. **Please wear a mask or face covering to protect the health and safety of our volunteers. Volunteers are needed to serve.**

Jack Janway, Outreach



CHRISTMAS OFFERING – “Home for the Holidays!”- We will receive a special Christmas Offering for families in the neighborhood. Please give generously to help. You can give online, mail your donation to the church, or use the envelopes available in the pews.

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 by Tuesday, January 12 The **Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31 at 12:00 pm, downstairs.**



Mission Moments



World Mission Offering follow-up - Thank you!!! As of November 8th, we have exceeded our goal and collected \$1,838 for the World Mission Offering. Thank you for your generous contributions that help fulfill the command of Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering - We will be collecting the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in December. Our goal is \$1,500. Please give generously to these servants who have been faithful in their ministry for our Lord and His Kingdom.



Thank You For...



As the end of the year approaches many of you are asking about how you can help during the Christmas season. In

this age of needing to maintain social distancing and to keep everyone safe, TRM along with organizations across the community will be helping to bless others in a different way. We believe the best way for you to help this year will be to donate financially rather than to provide material gifts for those in need. This way we can provide gift cards for every individual and family member along with a food basket and reduce the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus. In addition to serving our TRM guests, we will again be adopting families through United Way's Christmas Bureau. Thank you for helping TRM to help many individuals and families in need this Christmas season by giving financially to TRM.

Items Needed for Christmas Food Bags:

- Whole Turkeys/Chickens (Frozen)
- Green Beans
- Stuffing Mix
- Mashed Potatoes (instant)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Fried Onions
- Cake Mix and Icing
- Brownie Mix

Bring donations of food to our Distribution Center located at 401 NW Norris St.
Monday - Friday, 8am-4pm



2020 Doorstep Christmas Adoption Wish List



As with everything else in this year of COVID, Doorstep's Christmas adoption will not be a "Store" this year.

We are still adopting 260 Households from the Christmas Bureau which includes 800+ individuals for Christmas, and **we greatly need your help with a few select donations!**

This year we are all trying to work together as a community and provide for Christmas. The Christmas Bureau and adopting agencies have agreed to provide each household at least a food order and \$15 Visa gift card (no activation fee) for each household member.

This year each household will receive from Doorstep:

- Christmas Food Order
- \$15 Visa gift card for each household member listed on their intake
- Blanket
- Health Kit



We will not have the volunteer opportunities we have had in the past. In an effort to be safe, we are keeping our circle of volunteers small, and using our regular volunteers to help with Christmas Adoption this year.

How You Can Help...

This year we only need a few things, but we need larger numbers of each.

Money - Our Biggest Need -

To purchase the food, gift cards for 800+ people, and other items we don't receive in donations.

Blankets - Twin (40), Full/Queen & King sized (165)

Towel Sets - Bath & Hand (130 each)

Health Kit Items - Full Size

Shampoo & Conditioner (200 each), Toothpaste (75), Deodorant (250) & Combs (200)

Please Bring Donations to Doorstep at 10th & Buchanan, Mon - Fri from 9am - 2pm (South Door) By Monday, Dec 7th.

Send your monetary donation to Doorstep, 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Ks 66604 or visit www.DoorstepTopeka.org - Donate.

Merry Christmas!

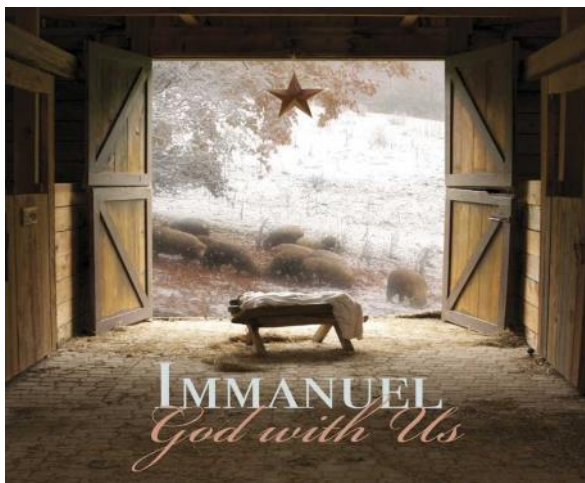
Winter Word Search



Boots
Coat
Freezing
Gloves
Hat
Ice
Ice Fishing

Ice Skating
Mittens
Scarf
Skiing
Sledding
Snow
Snow Ball

Snow Ball Fight
Snow Flake
Snowboarding
Snowman
Toboggan
Winter



12th Doug & Jan Mauck
27th Tony & Pat Carreno



5th Bob Roesler
9th Pat Carreno
14th Jim Lagerberg
18th Janet Nyfeler
22nd Nancy May
23rd Jack Janway



“BLESS US LORD, THIS CHRISTMAS,
WITH QUIETNESS OF MIND;
TEACH US TO BE PATIENT
AND ALWAYS TO BE KIND.”

- Helen Steiner Rice

CHRIST



DECEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 No Ladies or Men's Night Out 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's Baby Closet	3 No Baby Closet	4	5 1:30 pm Worship Team
6 9:00 am Budget Breakfast No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	7 No Baby Closet	8 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Members Mtg	9 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's Baby Closet	10 No Baby Closet	11	12 1:30 pm Worship Team
13 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	14 9:00 am Baby Closet	15 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study No Christian Ed	16 10:30 am Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	17 1:00 pm Baby Closet	18	19 10:00 am Worship Committee 1:30 pm Worship Team
20 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	21 9:00 am Baby Closet	22 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Outreach Mtg	23 NO Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	24 Closed 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 Closed 	26
27 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	28 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	29 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	30 NO Bible Study 3:30 pm Harvester's 5:00 pm Baby Closet	31 		

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED
www.wsbctopeka.org
Topeka, KS 66606
1008 SW Fourth Street
West Side Baptist Church

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. 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 – Shelby Hersh, Nathen Poe

Scripture Readers – Matt Smith

Technology Team – Brice Smith, and Bruno Sprengs

Usher's - Harry Carpenter, Chuck Cozad, Dick May, Steve May, Aaron Poe