

The Witness

THE NEWSLETTER OF WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH OF TOPEKA, KS

SCRIPTURE TEXTS IN DECEMBER

- ♦ **DECEMBER 5 - 10:30 AM**
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
- ♦ **DECEMBER 12 - 10:30 AM**
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
- ♦ **DECEMBER 19 - 10:30 AM**
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55
- ♦ **DECEMBER 24 @ 7:00 PM**
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14
- ♦ **DECEMBER 26 - 10:30 AM**
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

THE RETURN OF THE JOYFUL LIGHT

Pastor's Corner - John 8:12: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

O, ashen, barren tree,
Split with summer's heat,
Wounded by rapid growth,
Drought, wind, and winter freeze.

Branches broken high above,
Hanging barely by the bark.
Dangling, lifeless leaves,
Providing sustenance no more.

Birds abandoned your canopy,
Head for warmer winters south.
Anticipating spring's return,
The song silence drowns out.

What will you do to endure,
The grey clouded skies above?
Dormant and decaying inside,
Like the soul filled with doubts.

Do not fret, O friend of mine,
Thou the darkness linger on.
Brighter days will come again,
In the joyful array of Light.

May God come in the dark days of winter as the Light of Life to shine the Holy Spirit upon all who dwell in darkness of sin, sadness, and the shadow of death, in the name of Jesus. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Ivan





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT– Come enjoy the **Children's Christmas Pageant Program** on **Wed., December 8 at 6:00 pm.** Kids, camels, angels, and JESUS! We want everyone to know Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. Join us for a free supper for the whole family at 5:30 pm. RSVP on your Connection Card or Call the Church Office for a van ride.



CHRISTMAS

INVITATIONS – Invite your family or friends to our **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

Communion Service on **December 24 at 7:00 pm** simply by

sharing their contact information with the Church Office – on a

Connection Card, email or scan the

Christmas Invite QR Code. The Church will send a postcard invitation to Christmas Eve, along with an email. We will use the information only for this purpose. Questions? See Pastor.



Advent - a four week season of waiting and watching for the coming of the Lord - begins on Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. Join us as we light candles, read scripture, and sing your favorite Christmas hymns. Let Matthew Smith or Brice Smith know which Christmas carols you would like to sing on Christmas Eve. We want the service to be meaningful and special. The Ministry of Worship is seeking volunteers to serve Holy Communion in 2022. See Brice to sign-up or sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com>



REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD)

In talking about your giving to the church, you have heard me mention RMDs, required minimum distribution. This is an IRS-mandated amount of money that investors starting at age 72 must withdraw every year from their retirement savings accounts, including traditional IRAs, and employer-sponsored 401(k) and 403(b) plans.

There is a tax advantage to you if you wish to make your tithe to the church from your RMD. Your tithe can be transferred directly from your IRA and is not considered federally taxable income for you. It's like getting a deduction because while the distribution counts towards your RMD, it is not included in your gross income. The key is asking for the amount of the transfer to go directly to West Side Baptist Church and not to you as the "middle man".

You should talk with your financial advisor if you are qualified for an RMD. Let me know if you have any



OUR CHURCH FINANCES

As you read this newsletter article, most of you have completed your pledge forms – one pledge for the annual stewardship campaign and a second pledge for the 3-year **Fortifying our Foundation for the Future Capital Campaign**. **Those in church on Sunday, November 21st, had their pledges dedicated and enjoyed our Stewardship Dinner.** If you haven't turned in your pledges, please feel free to drop one or both of them in the offering plate before the end of the year or leave them in the church office. Thank you.

With great appreciation for their time and work on the Long-Range Planning Committee, I want to thank the committee members: Harry Carpenter, Pastor Ivan Greuter, Tom Mansfield, Clarence Payne and Nathan Poe who worked with me for months planning our **Fortifying our Foundation for the Future** building and grounds capital campaign. As we begin the new year you will see us begin working on the projects you identified.

The 2022 church program budget will be presented for your approval at our December 5 Stewardship Breakfast. I hope you will plan to join us (see enclosed budget).

Our income for October was \$12,844.00. Our total income for the year to date is \$237,306.31. Our budget percentage of income through October is 111.05%. Our budget year for the first 10 months is 83.3%.

Our expenses for October total \$21,769.09. Our expense total for the year is \$198,268.90 which is 81.33% of our budget. The difference of income to expenses for the year shown on the finance reports is \$30,090.00.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, Nancy Lindberg, Treasurer



NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

God has answered our prayers for a new Middle/High School Sunday School Teacher. Ernie Reed has agreed to take on that task beginning December 12. Thank you, Ernie, for your willingness to serve and to share your love of God with our youth.

The Adult Sunday School Class is continuing to watch "The Chosen." Anyone is welcome to join us @ 9:15 am on Sunday mornings. The film usually begins about 9:30 with a short discussion time afterward.

WWW Kids Club will celebrate Christmas on December 8 with a dinner from 5:30-6:00 and then an interactive program in the Sanctuary about the Christmas story, led by Pastor Ivan. We will conclude the evening with a sing-a-long and have gifts for the kids. We will finish by 7:00 pm. Everyone in the church is invited for dinner and the program. We hope you will come and help us celebrate the birth of our Savior with these neighborhood children.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you from your Christian Education Committee. Alice Payne, CE Coordinator

MISSION MOMENTS - RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

We will be collecting the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) in December. This year's theme is "Transformed by Generosity". "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." - 2 Corinthians 3:18

The RMMO acknowledges and shares our collective appreciation for the extraordinary commitment of those who serve God's people. By participating in the RMMO, all congregants can celebrate the strength and perseverance of ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses by contributing to provide emergency assistance and "Thank You" checks. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to support those who have been faithful in following God's call through the years. Our goal is \$1500.

GLOBAL SERVANT SPOTLIGHT

Deliris & Moise Carrión-Joseph - DELIRIS and MOISE are starting a new ministry among Haitian, Central



American, and African migrants that have made their new home in Tijuana, Mexico. Moise is a business entrepreneur, and Deliris is a pastor and occupational therapist. They have been invited by the

Baja Regional Baptist Convention "Dios con nosotros" and "Vision de migrantes," an organization formed by Haitians and Baptist Churches interested in helping migrants. Moise will be using his skills and four different languages to help migrants and migrant communities to achieve their new beginnings. Deliris will continue supporting "Deborah's House" a ministry for women victims of domestic violence and their children. Moise and Deliris strongly believe that God uses us all wherever we live, and new opportunities are open for those who trust in the Lord.: <https://www.internationalministries.org/author/d-carrion-joseph/>

BABY CLOSET -

The volunteers in the Baby Closet are busy putting out the winter clothing for the children and packing away summer clothes.



It is time to prepare for the personal care Christmas bag given out to Baby Closet families in December. We are asking for donations from our church to help fill these bags. These bags are filled with personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, lotion, body wash, razors, Band-Aids and miscellaneous items. There will be a Christmas box in the sanctuary during November for donations.

Thanks to all for your support of the Baby Closet.

DOORSTEP - Our focus the rest of this year is Doorstep's Christmas Project. Earlier in the year we thought we may be able to have the actual Christmas Store... until the Delta variant arrived! So, for the safety of everyone, and the fact that we might not have enough volunteers to pull off the full Christmas Store, we are doing something similar to last year.

We have started early in organizing, arranging, and promoting needed items. Our dedicated volunteers have been going through the basement and pulling out all of the previously donated items that we can use for 2021. But, we will still need more blankets, household items, and games/puzzles.

Doorstep will adopt the 260 households and 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau like before. However, this year we are adding to what the families will receive. We will provide our regular Christmas food package, a \$20 gift card for each family member, a health kit, blanket or quilt, a household item such as coffee pot, crockpot, sheet set, school supplies, and a family pack of games, puzzles and toys.

What we need for Christmas at this time is:

Full/Queen and King Blankets (new)
Coffee pots, Crockpots, Toasters, Skillet Sets and Electric Skillets (new)
Board games and puzzles (new)
Monetary Donations

Proceeding with the Christmas Project this way does increase our costs overall with the gift cards (\$16,000) and the regular food order (\$12,000), but it is the safest way to proceed for 2021.

We need your monetary donations to purchase the gift cards, the food, and any of the above items not donated. You can mail your tax deductible donations to: Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th, Topeka, Ks 66604 or go to our website (www.doorstopepeka.org) to donate by credit card.



SQUARE STORE – Donate safely online to the general fund and designated funds through the Church's Store at <https://squareup.com/store/west-side-baptist-church>



VENMO – Give to God using VENMO – a phone app. Search for the church **@wsbctopeka** or scan the QR code.



WORSHIP ONLINE – The Church is committed to the continual praise and worship of Almighty God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Church leaders and our clergy hold services regularly in the Sanctuary in compliance with all published federal, state, and local government health orders. Services are broadcast LIVE (as internet is available) and RECORDED. WATCH the service online at:

- Facebook LIVE – <https://www.facebook.com/wsbctopeka>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/WSBC>
- Order a free copy of the service on DVD by contacting the Church Office.

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 (office@wsbctopeka.org) by Tuesday, January 18. The **Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon** will be held on **Sunday, January 30 at 12:00 pm**, downstairs in Fellowship Hall. See Pat Carpenter for more information and agenda items. Annual reports will be distributed prior to the meeting.

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS - The Stewardship Secretary will mail annual giving statements to our members before January 31, 2022. In the United States, donors cannot claim a tax deduction without a written receipt from the Church. Contact Nancy Lindberg if you have any questions or needs assistance.



A Stocking for Jesus

We celebrate each Christmas
Jesus Christ's great birth,
We remember the gift He is to us
and that our souls have worth.
Let us watch all through the season
for gifts to Jesus we would give;
we'll put them in His stocking
and know that He still lives.



Christmas WORD SEARCH

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

BOW
CANDY CANES
CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
DECORATIONS
ELVES
FROSTY
GARLAND
GIFTS
HOLLY
JINGLE
MISTLETOE
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
RIBBON

SANTA
SLEIGH
SNOW
TREE
WREATH



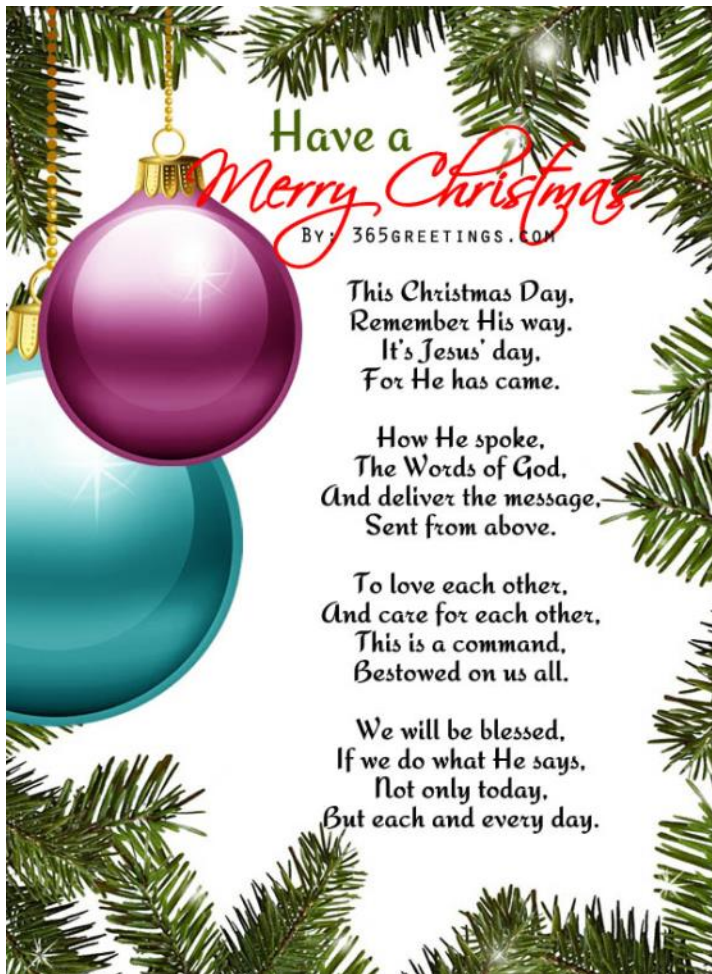
Central Alabama Aging Consortium
Birmingham | Florence | Montgomery

Dementia Friendly
ALABAMA



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



Have a
Merry Christmas
BY: 365GREETINGS.COM

This Christmas Day,
Remember His way.
It's Jesus' day,
For He has come.

How He spoke,
The Words of God,
And deliver the message,
Sent from above.

To love each other,
And care for each other,
This is a command,
Bestowed on us all.

We will be blessed,
If we do what He says,
Not only today,
But each and every day.



Merry
Christmas

UWELKNI WTSIFSI
RATSKFMERRYACR
YKGM AHOLLYDNACF
LPADDHOLI DAYDFZ
LES MCKSXRI BBONI
OELFFSSAMTSI RHC
JNFGI NGERBREADT
RUDSTOCKI NGADNY
ZBSAKWI REI NDEER
PETNZFDRACI MHRT
ZDHTVLEGEFABOXO
FNGACARWENVNBBY
MWI KI KQPRESENTS
QML KWEBOTVZWCVV
ENACYDNACUEOXCL

CHRISTMAS
SANTA
HOLIDAY
TREE
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
HOLLY
SNOWFLAKE
RIBBON
CANDY
GINGERBREAD
CARD
JOLLY
MERRY
ELF
TOYS
CANDYCANE
STAR
STOCKING
LIGHTS
TWINKLE
REINDEER



**PICK UP & READ YOUR FREE
COPY OF THE SECRET PLACE
DEVOTIONAL FOR WINTER 2022.**

the
secret place
DEVOTIONS FOR DAILY WORSHIP
WINTER 2021-2022
December, January, February

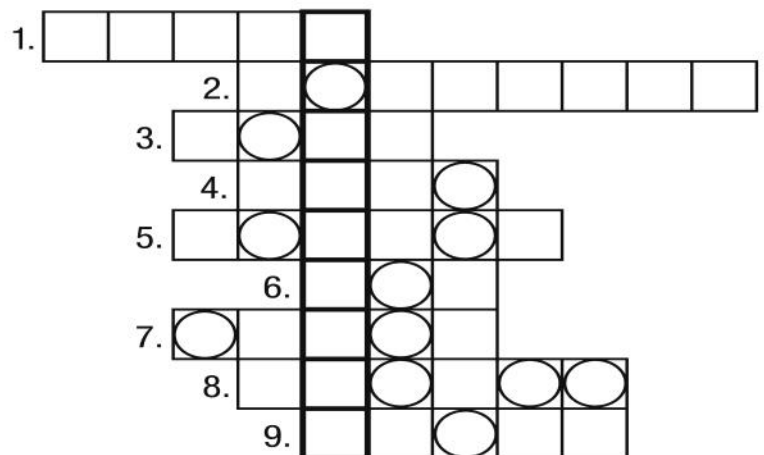


WARM THANK YOU!

The Tree is almost tipping over with all of the love knitted and given by our Church family! Thank you for donating warm clothes for kids at Meadows Elementary school. We have at least 75 coats, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, undergarments, and other winter items. Deadline to donate: Wed., Dec. 8, 2021. Donate online at <https://west-side-baptist-church.square.site>, Venmo, or mail your donation to West Side Baptist Church, 1008 SW 4th St., Topeka, Kansas 66606. www.wsbctopeka.org

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth

DECEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry 5:30 pm WWW Kids Club	2 1:00 pm Baby Closet 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	4 1:00 pm Quilling Arts & Crafts 1:30 pm Worship Team
5 9:00 Budget Breakfast & Elections NO S. School 10:30 am Worship	6 9:00 am Baby Closet 5:00 pm Cornerstone Dinner	7	8 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry 5:30 pm Kids Christmas Pageant	9 1:00 pm Baby Closet 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 3:00-5:00 PM Pastor @ IM Executive Com Meeting (Zoom)	11 1:00 pm Quilling Arts & Crafts 1:30 pm Worship Team
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	13 9:00 am Baby Closet	14 6:00 pm Council Meeting	15 10:30 am Bible Study (HH) 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry NO WWW Kids Club	16 1:00 pm Baby Closet 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18 1:00 pm Quilling Arts & Crafts 1:30 pm Worship Team
19 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	20 9:00 am Baby Closet	21	22 NO Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry NO WWW Kids Club	23 1:00 pm Baby Closet 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 	25  No Worship Team
26 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 9:00 am Baby Closet 6:00 pm DAR	28 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	29 NO Bible Study 3:30 pm Baby Closet 3:30 pm Harvesters Food Pantry NO WWW Kids Club	30 1:00 pm Baby Closet 4:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 	

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

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Email: office@wsbctopeka.org Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm , Tuesday – Friday.

Merry
Christmas