

Faith news fbc

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO—DECEMBER 2016

Pastor Luke's Perspective

Finding Peace at Christmas

Christmas is almost here again. Every year it seems to come quicker and quicker. And every year we are reminded to keep Christ at the center of the season. It's funny that we should need to be reminded. Maybe what we need more is to be aware of what prevents us from keeping Christ at the center, and some practical tips to help us avoid those inevitable pitfalls. We often talk about the commercialism of Christmas robbing us of the worship of Christ, but I



suggest that it's the busy-ness and the people-pleasing that are the biggest detractors of Christ during His birthday month. We concern ourselves so much with all that we need to get done, and all the people we need to make happy that we neglect to actually enjoy Christmas. Many people feel overwhelmed at Christmas. That sense of being overwhelmed causes stress and creates anxiety. Many people seem to be relieved when Christmas is over so they can slow the pace down to a reasonable level. But, Christ's arrival to earth sparked some of the most awe inspiring worshipful events recorded in Scripture, from an angelic choir, to shepherds rejoicing that they saw a Baby in a manger, to wise Persians traveling thousands of miles to present gifts to the King of the Jews.

Worship is the opposite of worry, and pleasing people will prevent us from pleasing God. So, what do we do? Make space in your December calendar for rest. That might mean saying "no" to some things. I suggest "scheduling" at least one night each week in December to do nothing. For some people it might feel strange to have one or two evenings each week where nothing is scheduled. That's #me we need to stay home, enjoy the family, rest and relax. We also might need to schedule Christmas shopping and try to make it enjoyable. If we don't schedule it, we might rob our free nights. Also, extra planning might need to be done to make it more enjoyable, like making a date out of it with your spouse or meeting a friend for coffee. The point is that we are intentionally trying to be unhurried. Another aspect of this unhurried time is to make sure we're carving out time for the Lord. When we neglect our quiet #me with God in order to get things done, we feel it twice. Not only do we miss out on the peace that God grants us when we seek Him first, but we replace it with busy tasks that add stress and anxiety. Christmas will be on Sunday this year. Many people will likely be "too busy" to go to church. It would be a shame to miss out on gathering with God's people, in His house, on His Son's birthday. What a wonderful opportunity for young parents to teach our kids what Christmas is really all about. When we look back on Christmas 2016, I know we won't remember the parties we attended or the gifts we received, but worshiping our Savior will be etched in our minds. May the peace and the joy of Christmas be yours this year in Christ, Pastor Luke

Church Events

- Dec. 3rd –Men's Min. Council
- Dec .4th –Communion Sunday
-Nursing Home Service
- Dec. 6th– Deacon Meeting
- Dec. 11th -Baptism Sunday
-Trustee Meeting
- Dec. 17th-Ladies Meet & Mingle
- Dec. 18th– Kids Christmas Program
- Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 7pm
- Dec. 25th-Merry Christmas!
Worship Service at 9am ONLY
No Sunday School
No 8am or 10:15am service
- Dec. 26th-Church Office Closed



A couple of weeks ago I took a homeschool student with me to the intermediate school to have lunch with some 6th graders. After lunch the students enjoy a short recess before they have to go back to class. Students kept saying to me, "Heather, we started a prayer group during recess, you've got to come join us!" I followed some students outside and what followed upon my arrival at recess left me in a bit of shock and amazement. Students began shouting to the rest of the kids at recess, "hey, it's prayer time," then, many students came bolting towards the prayer circle, knowing it was time for prayer. There had to have been at least 40 students in that circle.



Collide Youth News

We joined hands and prayed together. Nearly half of the students prayed. They were truly a visible witness to the rest of their classmates.

This is something they do everyday. God is moving in our youth. Pray for the harvest to continue in their hearts, continued boldness and courage as they step out in faith to be known witnesses for Christ and may we, as adults, be encouraged to do the same.

Pray also for the Post-Fall Retreat Feast and Baptism Celebration on Dec. 11th.

We will be baptizing a number of students who came to faith in Christ at Fall Retreat and then are inviting families of all the fall retreat attendees to join us for lunch afterwards. Our prayer is that many families who are not connected to the church will come that day.

One last thing to celebrate is the bus ministry. Last week we picked up 27 students for Wednesday night programming.

Students gathering for prayer at MCIS



Of course, we can't shove 27 students into a 15-passenger bus, so many faithful followers stepped up to pick up students. Ask God to provide for us, we want to reach more and more students and our true desire is to bring the gospel to every student in the Mercer County area. There are more out there to reach. Ask God to provide for our needs so we can reach more students for His namesake!

In Christ's Love,
Heather Q.

Upcoming Events!

Baptism Sunday - Sunday, Dec. 11th! Several of the Youth who attended Fall Retreat will be baptized this day! Come join us in this celebration!

Post Fall Retreat Feast and Baptism Celebration- Sunday, Dec. 11th, all families of students who attended Fall Retreat are invited for a delicious lunch after church to celebrate the students being baptized. Please RSVP to Heather by Sunday, Dec. 4th

Before School Prayer Time! - High School – Radical Disciples- 7:30am Mondays & Wednesdays- Room 214, Jr. High – 7:45am Thursdays in the Chorus Room, MC Intermediate – 7:40am Tuesdays in the library.

Announcements

Date	Nursery	Kids Club	Greeters
Dec. 4	Betty Williams, Marcy & Rusty Smet	Felicia Bonynge, Cimion Norwick, Todd Baldwin & Mollie Dunn	Linus & Cathy Griswold Paul & Cara Svoboda
Dec. 11	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt, Veronica Moffitt & Emily Baldwin	Denise Bowker, Brooke, Joe & Caleb Loving, & Mollie Dunn	Lonnie & Cindy Maynard Shay Litwiler
Dec. 18	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt, Crystal Clark & Bryce Moffitt	Kelly Higgins, Denise, Jack & Eli Kelly, Brian Rind & Mollie Dunn	Don & Vickie Korns Anita & Halie Parkinson
Dec. 25	Betty Williams, Dianne Hessman, Jan Crutcher & Maddie Dunn	Nadine Coulter, Alison Lafever, Jason & Brady Connell & Mollie Dunn	Mike & Kathy Sponsler Paul & Kay Hedrick

If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator**, for all concerns on her Cell:(309) 371-3021. Thank you!
Kids Club Worship—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **10:00am** so you can help & prep. *Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship, call –309-371-6962.

Finance Board Member of the Month for December – Rotation Trustee of the Month for December: - JP Kelly

Prayer Team Assignments:

- December 4 – Kay Hedrick, MaryLee Finch, Peggy Johnson, Vickie Korns & Laurie Louck
- December 11 – Jeanne Barber, Barb Bryant, Lonnie Maynard & Sherry Huffstutler
- December 18 – Deb & Dave VanderHeyden, Troy Riddell, Vickie Korns & Laurie Louck
- December 25 – Tina McCaw, Jason & Shelly Snyder, Elden Cirks & Lonnie Maynard

Weekly Attendance & Offering

DATE	10/30/16	11/6/16	11/13/16	11/20/16	11/28/16
8 AM	50	104	84	89	73
10 AM	225	268	287	273	258
TOTAL	275	372	371	362	331

Date	10/30/16	11/6/16	11/13/16	11/20/16	11/28/16
Current Expense	\$5,491.00	\$13,804.01	\$7,630.00	\$7,827.01	\$7,554.50
Designated Giving	\$1,959.66	\$4,465.75	\$1,679.00	\$487.00	\$6,154.90
Total	\$7,450.66	\$18,269.76	\$9,309.00	\$8,314.01	\$13,709.40

****Weekly Current Expense offering needed to meet 2016 budget - \$8,467.11**



Kids Club Ministry

It's Christmas season again; the time of year where we celebrate Jesus' birth, the gift of family & friends, and when we have lots of opportunities to bless others. I'm sure most of us can think of a time when we needed a helping hand. Maybe it was fairly minor in the big scheme of things, or maybe it was major and your appreciation just can't be put into words. Whenever someone blesses me with an act of service, a special gift of thanks, or reaches down & helps me up when I can't do it myself, it's a reminder to me that there is good in the world. It reminds me that there is hope and that I'm not alone.

Our church has lots of ways to be that reminder for others this month. One in particular is a project I'm working on with the kids during December in Kids Worship. Kids Worship is children's church for kids ages 3-4th grade during the 10:15am service. You don't need to sign-up! Just come downstairs after the offertory. Kids especially don't want to miss out this advent because we're going on an adventure with Billy the goat to learn more about the biggest gift of all, Jesus. We'll be following God's example of blessing others by raising money to give goats to children in need through World Vision (www.worldvision.org).

Our goal in Kids Worship is to raise \$150 to buy two goats! You'd be surprised that one goat can change everything! Her milk provides great protein to help children grow. The family can also sell any extra to earn money for medicines and other necessities. A healthy dairy goat can give up to 16 cups of milk a day. Goat's milk is easier to digest than cow's milk and is an excellent source of calcium, protein, and other essential nutrients that growing children need. Goats are practical animals-flourishing in harsh climates while producing valuable manure to fertilize gardens.

The whole church is invited to join us in this project as families will be leading us in our Advent celebration each Sunday. You'll get a sneak peek into World Vision and how we can bless others with gifts of goats this season. If you'd like to donate, just drop your donation in the offering plate this month. If you're donating cash, please place it in one of the pew envelopes and put "Goats" on the outside of it. If you're writing out a check, write it out to "FBC" with "Goats" in memo. Thank you for helping our kids with this project and the families who will be receiving a goat this season. Merry Christmas! ~Mollie



Family Night in January

The Men's Ministry invites you to mark your calendar for Sunday, January 8th. We are planning a church wide family night. Details are still unfolding so stay tuned!

Upcoming Events

Dec. 18th - Sunday School Christmas Parties: Kids in the Pre-K-6th grade Sunday School classes will celebrate Christmas in their classes on this Sunday. Please plan on bringing a small card or gift for your teacher(s).

Dec. 18th - Kids Christmas Performance: Kids in the Pre-K-4th grade Sunday School classes will be performing in the 10:15 service on this Sunday. Please dress them in their Christmas clothes. Teachers will bring them to the sanctuary after class this Sunday.

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day Worship Service@ 9am
The whole family is invited to join us on Christmas Day to worship at 9am. This is the only service provided on this day and there will not be Sunday School. A shortened Kids Worship will be provided during the sermon time for kids ages 3-4th grade. * Nursery will be provided for infants-2 year olds during the entire service.

Women's Ministry & General Announcements



Women's Ministry think Tank—There will be no Think Tank in the month of December.

Single Sisters—No Single

Sisters outing is scheduled for December. Merry Christmas! See you in 2017!

Ladies Meet & Mingle—The December gathering will be Sat., Dec. 17th from 1-4pm. We will have lunch, make a snowman craft and hear testimonies. All ladies are welcome to attend. Cost for lunch and craft supplies is \$20. RSVP by **Dec. 12th** on Sunday's Connection Card.

Annual Business Meeting—Sunday, Jan 22nd, 2017. ATTN: Committee Chairs - Please have your committee reports for the Annual Report to the church office by Friday, Jan. 6th. Financial reports are due by Jan. 10th.

Church Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 7pm.

Christmas Poinsettia



Christmas Poinsettia- We will once again place Poinsettias in the church "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" loved ones. Please contact the office at 582-7812 by Dec. 11th with the name of the person being remembered as well as your name. The cost for a Poinsettia is \$10.

Nursing Home Project

It is now time to begin bringing gifts for the residents of Genesis Senior Living & Aledo Health and Rehab Care Center. Your unwrapped gift may be placed in the box marked NURSING HOME GIFTS in the church lobby from now until 10am on Dec. 8th. Both nursing homes were so appreciative of all the gifts given last year! The residents especially loved the small fleece blankets, dressy scarves and costume jewelry. Other suggestions include: lotion, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, aftershave, stamps, stationary, diabetic

socks, slipper socks with grips, chocolate candy, cube box kleenex, Christmas wrapping paper, tape and tags. Please DO NOT give powder or open back slippers. Cathy Griswold is coordinating this effort and would love to have anyone interested in helping sort and pack the gifts come to the church lobby on Thursday, Dec. 8th at 10am. Any questions, call Cathy Griswold at 582-2838 or the church office at 582-7812. Thank you for your help with this project.

180 Zone Christmas Project

The Women's Ministry team is collecting items for the 180 Zone. Please bring new Twin Size sheet sets, Twin size blankets, Bath towels and detergent. Please bring items by Dec. 18th and leave them in the designated box in the lobby.

Christmas Service Times

We will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm on Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24th. Christmas day falls on a Sunday this year. With that in mind, the following changes will be made to worship services. On Sunday, Dec. 25th we will not have an 8am or 10:15am service. Instead we will have 1 combined service at 9am. We will not have Sunday School on Dec. 25th.



Happy Birthday

Vicki Reid	December 1
Amber Shook	December 2
Brandon Hedrick	
Alexandra Ricke	December 4
Jason Andress	December 5
Dale Franks	December 6
Holly Brown	
Gracie Milburn	
Carl Dennison	
Mick Louck	December 7
Tristen Finch	
Star Melvin	December 8
Elden Cirks	December 9
Charlie Douglas	
Sarah Brown	
Wayne Schweningen	December 10
Payton Sedam	December 11
Robbie Kernan	December 15
Amber Adams	
Merle Bodeen	December 17
Bill Anderson	
Cara Svoboda	
Sherry Huffstutler	December 21
Benjamin Dowd	December 22
Karole Franks	December 24
	December 26
Peggy Johnson	December 30
Crystal Clark	
Ed Schrock	
Charlie Schultz	
Danika Higgins	December 31

Happy Anniversary

Dean & Sharon McCormick



Steve & Adell Struble



Dear FBC, Thank you for the scholarship you gave me as well as the money from the Deacon Fund for my August rent. I don't know where I would be today if not for that incredible gift. This semester has not been easy financially, but your gift greatly contributed to my well being. God has provided in amazing ways this semester and continues to work in my life. I am truly blessed to have such a great church supporting me in my college education. Thank you again for the blessings you have bestowed to me. In Christ, Marty Rind

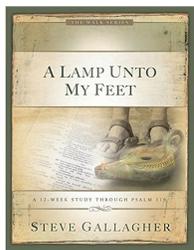
New Wednesday Night Live Studies!

Studies run Jan. 4th-April 5th, 2017

Each Wednesday—6:30pm-8pm @ FBC

All studies are free! Call the office to sign up!

A Lamp Unto My Feet



“A Lamp Unto My Feet”—an in-depth study of the 119th Psalm—Taught by Pastor Seth and open to everyone—Every

true believer is daily moving toward his eternal destination. However, before that final crossing into the land of immortality, the Christian pilgrim must first travel through a hostile empire, fraught with "dangers, toils and snares." How will he find his way through this land of shadows? Fortunately, the "Father of lights" has not left us to fend for ourselves; but rather, He has provided a roadmap, the Word of God.

A sequel to Gallagher's *The Walk of Repentance*, this is a 12-week journey through the beautiful Psalm 119. This practical, personal study is a great resource for any individual seeking guidance in the midst of life's struggles. Through daily meditation readings and questions for reflection, believers will be asked to consider the truths of Scripture. At each week's end, they will also read about the life of David, a man after God's own heart and author of this epic psalm. Every reader will be brought into a deeper love, respect and appreciation for God's Word.

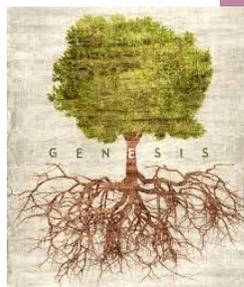
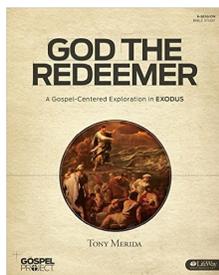
God the Redeemer

A study of Exodus

Home study at Jordan & Crystal Clarks & Kevin & Pam Ricke's Home

Facilitated by Jordan Clark and Kevin Ricke at their homes. Open to all. Sign up and you will be given a home address for the Clarks or the Rickses. According to the plan of God, demonstrated in the life of Joseph, God's people left the promised land for Egypt to find relief from a famine. There they prospered until a new Pharaoh rose up and enslaved them. Their cries were heard by their covenant-making God, who began His glorious work of redemption of His people through a mediator, Moses. Through many miraculous displays of His power, God redeemed His people and led them out of slavery, a foreshadow of the greater redemption from sin that comes through the greater mediator, Jesus Christ.

Session titles: The Redeemer Responds, The Redeemer Reveals His Glory, The Redeemer Judges and Saves, Worthy of Praise, The Wilderness Test, & Rebellion Against the Redeemer
Features: Biblically rooted and gospel-centered content. Application of key theological tenets -Historical background that creates greater context for spiritual growth -Biblical truth that's reliable -Provocative questions, scriptural support and text, application, and preparation
Come to know Jesus more intimately as your redeemer. -See first-hand how God's revelatory power through Moses looks forward to the gospel story.

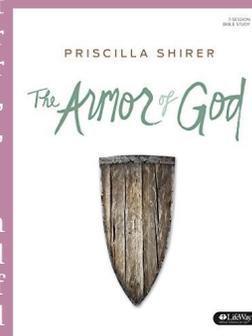


Women's
Genesis Study
Tuesdays @ 1:30pm
or Wednesday Nights

There will be a verse by verse study in the book of Genesis by the Women's Ministry Team. This study will be held at the church and is open to all women who are interested in digging deep into the first book of the Bible. You may attend the study either on Tuesdays at 1:30 or during Wednesday Night Live from 6:30-8pm. Sign up today!

Armor of God by Priscilla Shirer

Jeanne Barber will host this women's only study in her home-806 NE 3rd Ave., Aledo. All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny.



But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you. The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. *The Armor of God*, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

Prayer Group

Join an in home prayer group during WNL. Mick & Laurie Louck along with Jason & Shelly Snyder will host a prayer group at their homes. The first week will be at the Loucks and then it will alternate back and forth. This is not a study on prayer, it is praying. Open to men and women of all ages who desire to seek God together in prayer for our church, our community, our youth, our nation, revival. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them. Matthew 18:20. The Louck's address is: 612 NE 2nd Ave., Aledo & the Snyder's address is: 409 NW 8th Ave., Aledo.



A Note From Pastor Seth

The birth of Jesus

As I find myself in full swing of Christmas celebration, decorating the house and putting up the tree, my mind quickly goes to thoughts of the perfect gift to give. I watch for the best deals as I get my black Friday game face on. I usually chicken out on black Friday and go for Cyber Monday instead. I rapidly fall into this trap every year. I can forget the purpose of this great Christmas Season and celebration because of all the marketing and hub bub. Don't fall into the trap. Remember it really is being like God and giving. The truth is that God loved the world so much He gave His only begotten Son. BEST GIFT EVER! Giving the world a gift and blessing believers for eternity.

God Bless Your Giving ~ Seth

Thanksgiving Dinner 2016 Update!

Thanks to all who served at the 2nd annual First Baptist Church Thanksgiving Dinner!

Here's the update:

- A total of 116 meals were served
- 57 People Volunteered
- 36 Meals were eaten at the Senior Center
- 35 Meals were delivered
- 12 Meals were delivered to first responders
- 33 Meals were eaten by volunteers



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HEALTH & WELL BEING

Sandi Williams, Paige Johnson, Scott Yager, Maddie Wells, Family of Micaela Brunson, Family of Charlotte Harmon, Family of Lyle Brown, Family of John Downey, Family of Pat Hardin, Martha Bernridge, Marsha Loving, Yvonne Roos, Bud Schaefer, Family of Carolyn Hanson, Family of John-Michael Perry, Aiyle Edwards, Dayna Leichty, Donna Fisk, Family of Robert McCrae, Family of Rich Lower, Betty Adams, Mary Rillie, Dennis Carlson, Matt Martin, Allen & Mary Jo Retherford, Donna & Brian Bushnell, Bill Bewley, Ryan McNall Thomas, Tiffany Lloyd, Cathy Griswold, Howard Andress, AJ Artus, Mason Vestal, The youth of our church & community, Vickie Korn, Shirley McCormick, Larry Bull, Gary Schrock, Charlotte Thompson, William Little & family, Marc, Doris, Elizabeth and Alicia Dewey, Brenda Leng, Deb Corson, Karen Burnham, Connie Decounter, Susie Hall, Henry Leichty, Mercer County Jail Ministry, Jim Eager, Noah Muske, Mark Muske, John Atkinson, Merrick LeClere, Stew Klink, Vickie Anderson, Sutton Finch, Sharon McCormick, Judy Leighty, Jeannene McNall, Marilyn Staley, Gay Youngblood, Joe, Amanda & Abrial Norwick, Marilyn Heine, Bob Sell, Dave Olson, Bill McNamara, Colette Hawkins, Gerald Mitchell, Lauryn Russell, Chad Peterson, Connie Freeman, Alec Bowen, Jo Kernan, Matt & Lisa Hammill, Carol Schaefer, Elaine & Cliff, Anna, Jack, Alex, Ellen Heder, Buck Hedger, Julie, Honor, Justin Amber Smock, Jennifer Franks, Shelly Upson & Tim Snyder

NURSING HOME

Bob Sell & Kathryn Baugher

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Danika Higgins & Rigoberto Cruz

John Klink, Jackson McKay, Joe Elliott, Spencer Zielke, Jon Szalonek, Christopher Schultz, Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Terry Schaefer & Matt VanderHeyden

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions