

Welcome to the New Paris Church of the Brethren

December 17, 2017

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

What is Christ Doing with You? Who Have You Told?

GATHERING TIME: Peacefully prepare our hearts for Worship.

MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP: Please sign the attendance book.

Guests, please be sure to include your FULL address.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE/INVOCATION PRAYER

ADVENT READING Libby Clayton and Ramón Martinez

* HYMNS "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" #160
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #155

GIFT PRESENTATION Kay Method

CHILDREN'S STORY Sam Godfrey

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

* HYMNS "Away in a Manger" #129
"Child in the Manger" #127

MORNING PRAYER TIME

TIME OF PRAYER PREPARATION

MORNING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:16-21 Ramón Martinez

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR TODAY "Christ's First Witnesses"
Pastor Stan

* CLOSING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" #132

* BENEDICTION

PRAYER CONCERNS: Please give prayer concerns to Pastor Stan

Individuals Serving You Today

Pastor
Worship Leader
Chorister
Organist
Pianist
Head Usher
Acolytes
Greeters
Sound Board
Nursery during Worship
Nursery during Sunday School
Church Members

Stan Godfrey
Brett Freund
Cindy Clayton
Vera Everett
Teresa Smith
Lee Kurtz
CJ Drake and Gracie Zimmerman
Bob and Pam Reedy
Curtis Drake
Dan and Jenni Godfrey
Brett and Kayla Freund
"Minsters that Serve Others"

Today's Activities

9:00 AM Third Day of Advent
Morning Worship
9:20 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:15 AM Kid's bell choir practice

COFFEE KITCHEN: CLASS 15

Yes, joyful are those who live like this! Joyful indeed are
those whose God is the Lord.
~ Psalm 144:15



This Week

Wed. 5:30 PM No Awana
6:00 PM Youth Group Meets
6:30 PM No Adult Bible Study
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice
Fri. 6:00 PM Youth Group Lock-in
Sat. 4 - 8:00 PM Bud Myers 80th Birthday Celebration at the
Community Church of Waterford. See the bulletin board
outside of the nursery for details.

The Week of December 10, 2017

Attendance

Worship – 206 Sun. School – 0 Wed. Eve – 116

Offering

Gen Fund – \$5420.55 Needed – \$4,352.73 Given – \$4,490.21
 Heifer Project – \$140.00 Missionaries – \$50.00

Budget (per Sun)

Next Sunday - December 24 2017

9:00 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Message: Christmas Message from Len Smith
 Adult and Children’s Bell Choir Performances
 Organ and Piano Duet
 Communion

10:30 AM No Sunday School

Worship Leader
 Chorister
 Organist
 Pianist
 Children’s Storyteller
 Scripture Reader
 Acolytes
 Advent Readers
 Greeters
 Head Usher
 Sound Board
 Nursery during Worship
 Nursery during Sunday School

Worship Team
 Worship Team
 Vera Everett
 Teresa Smith
 Len Smith
 Recitation
 Natalia Freund and Katie Kuhn
 Len and Teresa Smith
 Leonard Jones and Don Parcell
 Lee Kurtz
 John Burger
 Sam and Nadine Godfrey
 There will be no Sunday School.

Large-Print Daily Bread

Devotionals are available on the table outside of the nursery.



For Your Notes on Today’s Message

“Christ’s First Witnesses” Luke 2:16-21

Scriptures referenced: Luke 2:1-15; Luke 1:32-33; Isaiah 43:7; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Hebrews 7:17; Matthew 16:16-17; John 1:41 & 4:25-26; John 14:6; Hebrews 13:8; Acts 4:8-12

1. Due to a _____ being taken, Joseph and Mary arrive in _____, betrothed and _____. While there, the baby is born and wrapped in cloth _____.
2. What do we _____ in our hearts? Imagine how _____ our lives could be if we spent more time pondering the Thoughts, _____ and _____ of Christ.
3. For people to hear of this _____, the Godhead uses shepherds to _____ the word. These shepherds are the first human New Testament _____ to share _____.
4. If we will _____ the example of these _____, two things happen. a. God’s Word will not grow stale if we continue to _____ into it and share it with _____.
5. b. We will be _____ to God’s Word by _____ and _____ Jesus Christ.
6. Look for _____ God sightings. _____ do you see Him? _____ is He teaching you?
7. Calling Christ _____ announces that He is the _____ One of and from God. The Anointed One is what Messiah is _____ in the _____ Testament.
8. In _____ times, when a king was _____, or a priest consecrated, he was _____ with oil as a sign of "sovereign _____" or "priesthood."
9. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, remember three things:
 a. He was born _____, b. He died after taking on our _____ so that we could be forgiven c. We must accept Him as _____ in order to _____ in His fellowship.
10. Have you _____ this tremendous gift of salvation from the _____? Have you _____ your _____ life over to Him?

Challenge Opportunities from Recent Messages

November 19: "Thankful in All Things?" *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* Does God view thankfulness as something all of us are born with? NO! God gives Israel daily portions of the food of Angels, enough for everyone in their family, AT NO COST! Yet all the people do is gripe. Israel has all they need but not what they want – like leeks, onions, garlic, fish; all the stuff that leads to bellyaches and bad breath! Israel tires of the free food! They have tables loaded down with free food; it's not enough? What a bunch of whiners! How does the Lord God deal with ungrateful people? He is KIND! The Lord God says: "My manna's not good enough for you? You are craving meat? I'll give you meat!" Be careful what you ask for; you may get too much. To offer thanks is to confess ones need; admitting that our lives are better because of another's efforts. The Lord God looses the east wind and it doesn't rain cats and dogs; it rains quail & quail and more quail! Somewhere in the wilderness beyond the Red Sea lies the graves of the ungrateful people of Israel. So I ask all of us, will we give thanks or not? Failing to be thankful may begin a series of painful consequences in our lives as well!

November 26: "Learning from Zechariah" *Luke 1:5-25* What is Advent? It is the "coming" or "arrival of something." Believers celebrate the truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ through whom all creation must go to be reunited to God. Good ole Zechariah has a problem in the area of faith. He questions the angel rather than just hearing God's Word and accepting it. Sometimes worship is more than what we expect. Leave room for the Holy Spirit; He may have a few more things planned for us than we expect. When the Lord God says He is going to do something, count on it. When He shows up, expect a mighty experience!! Zechariah knows God is faithful, so Zechariah better follow through. Our Spiritual maturing is hindered when we ask Him what to do and not follow His leading. While following the Lord be ready to tell what He is doing. Then the praise for the works He does through us belongs to Him, not to us! Will we be thankful to the Lord God for the gift of Christ? Will we take the time to praise the One who came for one purpose? Jesus Christ is God born on earth for the sole purpose of dying for you. What has the Lord God promised you that you have not yet received? Have you said yes to the finished work of the cross? Our only true responses to the Lord God are yes or no. Please say yes and let Him make the needed changes in our lives.

December 3: "Birth of Messiah Foretold" *Luke 1:26-38* The only way to reign on David's throne is to be in his family. Mary is from the tribe of Judah and the line of David. Why is Mary highly favored? Because the Lord is with her. Believers are highly favored because the Lord lives within us. Believers may approach God: Christ's precious blood and sacrifice makes us right with God. Because of the Godhead's work, we have found their favor. The response of Gabriel to Mary is one of comfort; Do not be afraid. How many times has God told persons in the Bible to not be afraid? The actual phrase is found in the NIV

Prayer Concerns



Experiencing Loss of Loved Ones: the Breniser family in their loss of Jim

Experiencing/recovering from health problems: Buck Barton; Phyllis Bosler; Evelyn & Wilbur Bowman; Stan Brown; Max Eisenhower; Randy Fudge; Dave Fuller; Chuck Hernley; Jane Holdeman; Don, Margaret & Shirley Juday; Ryan Judson; Kaydei & Mike Kurtz; Zach Lantz; Nadine Lengacher; Melissa Mason; Jason, Judy & Willy Miller; Brian, Cody, Jean, & Max Mishler; Tony Neff; Mike Reedy; Brad & Dorothy Rogers; Doris Runyan; Doug Thwaites; Joel Valencourt; Martha Weaver; DeeAnn, Doris & June Whitehead; Jackie Yoder; Zoe Zimmerman

Babies-Toddlers: Brice Barton; Bells Ministry; Bauer, Piper & Reed Gorshuch; Madilyn LaFollette; Josh Lambright; Manly Adoption; Leo Miller; Zachary Swald

Other Concerns: Jolene Bollinger; Clark family; Stacey Darr; McFarren Family; Jordan & Erin Smeltzer - 1 year in Guatemala; Ken & Wanda Weirich's move; Pregnancies: Katie Miller & Heather Steffen; Burundi; Kidnapped Nigerian girls; COB CHURCH in Nigeria; Our 2017-18 Youth & Leaders; world food crisis; unnamed requests; natural disasters

Those living with serious illness: **Alzheimer's:** Stan Godfrey, Sr; **Diabetes:** Luke Krafton; Vera Reynolds; Bob Waters; **Cancer:** Carol Alleshouse; Gary Huffman; Dave Fuller; Joan Gang; Elberta Landenberger; Nancy Leatherman; Rosetta Laudermilk; Dale Manges; Piper LeCount; John Martin; Bray McClain; JoLinda Petko; Kai Sanborn; Barbara Shrock; Dan Swartzell; Anna Schwalm; Lon Symensma; Glen Yoder; Virginia Wysong **Heart:** Bill & Ruth Alfrey; Ted Carroll; Susan Conrad; Bonnie Drake; Norma Hershberger **Liver:** Jerrold Kauffman; Kathy Scott; Ray Whitehead **Lungs:** Marilyn Hughes; Marge Neterer; Evelyn Nettrouer; Alberta Presley; Norm Reynolds; Phyllis Showalter; Opal Weaver; Wayne Whitehead; Bob York; Melissa Zimmerman; Simon Zook **Lupus:** Lillian Hughes **MS:** Barb Arbor; Fran Gingerich; Pat Hammond; Sandy Thurn **Parkinson's:** Jim Altizer; Dorrie Godfrey; Gerry Gooch; Mike Neff; Sandra Schrock

Our Shut-Ins: John Bollinger; Janice Lantz; John Loucks; Loyal Rogers; Marilyn Smith; Jack & Shirley Unley

Our Missionaries: The Bells (Kenya, Africa); Sharon Brubaker (Alabama); David & Veola Bucher (Alabama); Blaine & Sheila Copenhaver (Alabama); Daniel & Amber Hartman; Jason & Nicole Hoover; IU Christian Fellowship; Linc & Kay Myers (Budapest Hungary); Pat & Karen Myers (Philippines); Karen Neff (Taiwan); Zach & Monika Nolt (Maine); TNT China; Brandon Wenger; Ken & Janet Winebark (Texas).

Our Country, Government & the children of this community.

Those in Leadership: Pastor Stan and family, Deacons, Church Board & Commissions.

In the Armed Service: Pat O'Keefe, Chad Sechrist, Daniel Stech, Owen & Lindsey Stech

Announcements

GREETERS ARE NEEDED: for 2018. There is a signup sheet outside of the nursery. Please contact Betty Miller if you have any questions.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER? Some of you have reported you did not receive last month's newsletter. We are having issues with the record-keeping software. Please let Angie know if you did not receive the newsletter so she may make adjustments.

NEW ROOM FOR JEAN MISHLER: She is now in room 210-Bed 1 at the Courtyard.

DID YOU DONATE ITEMS FOR THE DISPLAY CASE? If you did and wish to have them back, please contact Wanda Weirich at 574-596-5383 or email her at weirichwk@gmail.com.

2018 CHURCH DIRECTORY: It is time to update the church directory for next year. Please make any corrections on your information. If everything is okay, please place a checkmark by your name. Please add your information if you are not in the directory on the notepad provided. You will find the papers on the table outside of the nursery.

CHECK THE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY LIST: to make sure your date(s) are correct for the 2018 church directory. Please add your information if your birthday or anniversary isn't on the list.

POINSETTIAS: will be here for next week's, December 24, worship service.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOX. Many of you have mail.

PLEASE HELP KEEP THE KITCHEN CLEAN. Many times the kitchen was found left uncleaned from prior use. Please be courteous of those who come behind you. They do not appreciate cleaning the kitchen before they use it.

DID YOU READ THE ELKHART TRUTH ARTICLE? Dani Messick wrote an article featuring our 100th celebration from last week. A copy of the article is on the bulletin board outside of the church office.

OFFERINGS: If you wish to have your offerings count for 2017, you will need to have them to the church by December 31st.

"A Christian's life is the window through which others can see Jesus."

~ The Daily Bread

Announcements Continued

EVERENCE IS HOSTING A WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE: between now and Friday, December 22 at the Everence Federal Credit Union office located at 1301 College Avenue in Goshen during normal business hours. Please donate new or gently-used coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves for adults or children who don't have adequate clothing to keep warm. Everence will deliver the clothing to The Window, a local nonprofit, faith-based organization that provides services to meet the essential needs of anyone with limited income.

The **100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** is grateful for the financial support that has been given to reach our goal of sending an ARK of animals to Heifer International. We will continue collecting money through the end of the year and see how many more animals we can send.

Save These Dates

12/25	All Day	Merry Christmas! The church office is closed.
12/27	All Evening	No Wednesday Night Activities
12/31	All Day	Food Pantry Sunday
01/01	All Day	Happy New Year. The church office is closed.
01/09	5:30 PM	Witness Commission meets
	6:00 PM	Nurture Commission meets
	6:30 PM	Stewards Commission meets
	7:00 PM	Worship and Ministry Commission meets
01/10	5:30 PM	Awana resumes and meets weekly
	6:00 PM	Youth resumes and meets weekly
	6:30 PM	Adult Bible Study resumes and meets weekly
01/18	3:00 PM	Greencroft Bible Study
01/19	10:30 AM	60+ Senior Citizens meets in the cabin
01/20	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at Angels House of Pancakes
01/21	9:20 AM	Children's Church
01/23	6:30 PM	Church Board Meeting
01/28	11:15 AM	All Church Carry-in
03/25	4:00 PM	Love Feast and Communion

The Unconquerable Gift of Joy

Happiness is an emotion that can disappear as quickly as it rises to the surface. Joy, however, is a choice.

God gives us a joy that is unconquerable. We can choose to live in an attitude of resentment, anger and fear or we can choose to pursue the joy of Christ.

God wants you to know that He's going to take care of you no matter what happens. One of the names that He was called long before he ever stepped on this world's stage was Immanuel meaning "God with us."

No matter what you go through you can whisper this simple truth: "Jesus is with me." Think about it. He is with you in your greatest victories and your most humiliating defeats. Jesus is with you at all times in all things.



How to Choose Joy

Share: Invite each family member to share one thing that they're trusting God to handle.

Encourage: Write a note to someone who is experiencing fear and worry. Let them know you're praying that God will give them the courage they need.

Evaluate: Make an inventory of the things that bring you joy.

Express: Make the time and space to share a meal and a fun experience. This is such a busy week! Don't miss the joy of sharing the experience of Christmas with each other.

Adapted from LifeWay - <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/devotions-christmas-advent-week-three-joy>

Challenge Opportunities from Recent Messages Continued

December 3 continued: 69 times. When the Lord God gives us His Word to take comfort in, grab it immediately and hang on to His Word for dear life. The Jews come from the House of Jacob, who is also called Israel. The promise of this child to be born to Mary is that He will reign over all Israel, forever. Mary is told who her son will be and she's worried about the mechanics. Big flashing lights: Mary is just an average person, totally human. Have we ever become so caught up in the details of life that we miss God's plan? When God reveals something to you and I, do we miss our chance for blessing? The Holy Spirit is an equal part of the triune Godhead and key to the worship and service of God that believers live out. The same Spirit Who gives Mary baby Jesus is calling out to use you for God's glory. As He calls to you today, will you answer His call?

Prayer-Line

Please call the church office (831-2434) if you have concerns to be put on the prayer-line. The Prayer-line can be called 24 hours a day at 831-5950.

How to Contact New the Paris Church of the Brethren

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 AM Worship
10:30 AM Sunday School
Email: npcob@bnin.net

Phone and Fax: 831-2434

Prayer-Line Church: 831-5950
Parsonage Phone: 831-2524
Web Site: www.npcob.com

OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 AM – 12 NOON
Monday – Friday



The New Paris Church of the Brethren Purpose and Vision Statement

New Paris Church of the Brethren



The New Paris Church of the Brethren PURPOSE STATEMENT, as adopted by the Church Board: The New Paris Church of the Brethren exists to proclaim God's Word, share God's love and acceptance, and encourage spiritual growth, for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

Vision Statement: Serve others