

“DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE

MARY AS YOUR WIFE, FOR THE

CHILD CONCEIVED IN HER IS

FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

The Herald

M A T T H E W 1 : 2 0 , N R S V

From the Pastor's Desk

“All I Want for Christmas...”

Many of you are already humming or even singing that simple song, and most of us don't even know all the words. But the thought, “What do you really want for Christmas”

When I talk with grandkids or other young people the list can be quite lengthy and expensive. When I listen to many adults the request is very much different. For many the desire would be for peaceful family time, for pleasant and encouraging conversations or a delightful Christmas dinner. What we deeply want are honest meaningful relationships.

Have you noticed this is why God brought Christmas? Oh, we've made so much of the day and season, but from the opening announcement to Mary the Angel said the child would be Immanuel, meaning “God with us”. Then at the birth special invitations went out to shepherds and magi to come see and connect with this Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

This wasn't anything new to our good God. Way back in Genesis God created Eve so there would be a relationships and Adam wouldn't be alone.(1:18) Even more than the human relations, God is seen as walking in the garden to talk and care for his friends.(2:8) Through the Old Testament we find the Psalms speaking of a close connection to the Father and the Shepherd. The prophets continue this thought as Jeremiah shares the Lord's heart, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness” (31:3)

Perhaps the start of having the pleasant relationships you desire for your Christmas season begins by refreshing your own connection to the Savior who came to be with us. Make room each day for resting with him, sharing your burdens, receiving His peace and welcoming Him to all your activities and gatherings. Jesus desires for you a joyous relational season.

Resting in Jesus,

Pastor Dennis

Greetings from MARS

I have officially been full-time for two months. People have asked if I have settled in with the new job and my response has been “not really.” Maybe it’s too new or maybe it’s because we have a record amount of youth coming on Wednesday’s and I haven’t had the time to ponder on things so far, but as I write this article, I feel that my answer is “I hope not.” I hope I never get settled in this position. I do not want to simply fall into a routine of doing things. Living a life for God is everything but routine. God is constantly stretching us and sanctifying us into a life that resembles Him. The only routine that I see from the Bible that Jesus had was His prayer life. That was something consistent in His life. My hope for our church and leadership is to be about our Father’s business and if we are listening, I doubt we would see a normal routine. God is ever at work putting people and circumstances in our lives for us to respond to.



Are you allowing your life to be directed away from routine? Does your walk with God allow for inconvenience and the chance for God to put people in your path for you to minister to? I have three kids in basketball all on different teams. I meet with people and youth throughout the week at all different times, so Steph and I have to have a schedule of sort’s to survive the week. It’s a balancing act that any disruption can collapse the entire schedule. Some of the best experiences that I have had in ministry started out as an inconvenience of my schedule. My encouragement to you during this hectic holiday season is to not only expect disruption, but to eagerly await it to see what God will do through you.

In Christ,

Ben Larsen, Family Life Pastor

Do You Need A Silent Night?

December...shopping, baking, school concerts, ice skating, wrapping gifts, Hallmark movies, caroling, sending cards, Sunday School programs, snow angels, and family gatherings.

If you tend to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, you will appreciate these lines from Amy Grant's song, "I Need A Silent Night".

*I need a silent night, a holy night
To hear an angel voice through the chaos and the noise
I need a midnight clear, a little peace right here
To end this crazy day with a silent night*

*And the angel said, "Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good news of a great joy that shall be for all people.
For unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, PRINCE OF PEACE.*

We hope you can take a moment or two this month to enjoy a "silent night" with one of our great Christmas reads. A good place to begin is with The Glory of Christmas, a delightful book of inspirational writings by Charles Swindol, Max Lucado and Charles Colson.

More...

Silent Star by Tracie Peterson

The Bridge by Karen Kingsbury

A Pioneer Christmas by a selection of authors

A Wreath of Christmas Legends by Phyllis McGinley

Jamaican Me Crazy/ A Christmas Escape by Debbie DiGiovanni

Home for Christmas by Coble, Cox, Fowler and Martin

The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem by Lori Copeland

And several Christmas DVDs along with lots of kids' books.

Wishing you a silent night, a holy night as you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Your LWC Librarians



Focus on Missions– Torchbearers

Dear Little White Church Family and Friends,

First of all, let us say that we miss visiting you this year! We always enjoy reconnecting with you and getting to share in the joy of Jesus' birth at Christmastime. We were needed here to take care of some responsibilities, but, Lord willing, we hope to come to South Dakota next year!



We have been enjoying the faithfulness of God and the ways that we see His promises at work. As many of you know, last fall we were in a leadership transition, with Andrew serving as the 'Interim Director' while we sought the Lord for whom He would bring in for the long-term. Well, as time went by, we realized the prayer for a Director seemed to disappear from our minds, and God has

made it clear over the past several months (both to us and the Canadian Torchbearers Board), that Andrew is the permanent one for the role!

With the Lord's leading and peace, we are excited to officially direct the centre for as long as God desires. At the same time, CQBC has reached another exciting juncture; through prayer and consideration, it has become clear that Capernwray Quebec has reached a point of maturity that allows us to start the process of legally separating from the Canadian centre in British Columbia (who started the centre in Quebec 25 years ago), in order to form and establish CQBC as its own entity. This is a fairly lengthy process that involves many steps and a lot of legal paperwork....many of which we have no idea about. The founding centre in BC has supported, loved, and guided CQBC all of these years, and will continue to do so. However, it is now time for us to seek the Lord afresh for the plans and purposes He has specifically for this centre in Quebec. We look forward to see all that God will do at CQBC through us and many others who will be involved in this process!

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Focus on Missions– Torchbearers-Continued

Throughout this year and the new things coming our way, our family continues to feel very blessed by the community around us. This summer, Isaiah played soccer on a French team from a nearby town. He is quick to make friends, and not intimidated by language differences; he had a great time and hopes to play again next summer! One of the new families on our staff team just adopted a little boy (5 years old) from the Dominican Republic, and Ezra and Judah have made fast friends with him and are enjoying having a little playmate on property. The little boy only speaks Spanish and French, so our boys have had a good reason to use their French vocabulary and keep learning it! Andrew and Lisa both have great friends within the staff team and local church who encourage us regularly in the Lord, and walk with us through the joys and challenges of life, parenting, and ministry.

Though the days and weeks often bring difficulties and struggles, the ministry here is so rewarding as we continue to see people's hearts changed and transformed by the power of Jesus! We praise the Lord for how He cares for us so deeply, and provides all that we need. Each of you, as the Little White Church, is a part of the way we feel the love of God upholding us. Thank you for your continued prayers on our behalf, for your generous gifts and encouraging words. We are so blessed by your support!

We want to share some specific ways you can pray for us in the upcoming months, as well as a verse that has been meaningful to us this fall:

“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!
Remember the wondrous works he has done! Psalm 105:4-5

Ways you can be praying:

- For wisdom and discernment for us as several steps toward the legal autonomy of CQBC begin in January 2020.
- That God would show us how to boldly preach the gospel in our community.
- For the Bible school class this year (12 students); that they would allow Christ to change and transform them, and that they would be obedient to His voice.
- That God would soften the hearts of the Quebecois people towards Jesus and the abundant life He offers them.
- For Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah, that they would grow in love and knowledge of Jesus.

From My Files: Echoes of God's Glory

Roseanne Hilton

Many of you this month will receive Christmas cards depicting angels as chubby toddlers with little wings on their shoulders. I don't find anything in the Bible that describes angels this way. Rather, they are awesome spiritual beings, "messengers swift as the wind, servants made of flaming fire." [Hebrews 1:7, NLT] No wonder their appearances are frequently alarming.



Angels worship God for His holiness. They call out, "Holy! Holy! Holy is the LORD Almighty! The whole earth is full of His glory!" [Isaiah 6:3, NLT] In the New King James version, Isaiah goes on

to say that the doorposts were shaken by the voice of the angel. That is a mighty powerful voice.

We might be tempted to worship angels. The apostle John was, but the angel said, "Stop at once! Don't do that! I serve God! I serve those who keep His word. Worship God!" [Revelation 22:9, My paraphrase]

The angels worship Jesus, recognizing Him as the unique Heir of the Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the One who has the Name above all names, is King above all kings and is Light of the world. "Life itself is in Him and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it." [John 1:4,5, NLT] Jesus said later in John's gospel, "I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." [Jn. 8:12, NLT]

The entire universe of rational creatures will one day bow before Messiah Jesus and make the declaration that He is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

So beware of what you imagine angels to be. Join them now in worshipping the LORD Jesus, "the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." He sent His angel to give John the message for the churches that He is "both the source of David and the Heir to his throne. He is the Bright Morning Star." [Revelation 22:13 & 16, NLT]

Announcements & Upcoming Events



Parents' Day Out – We will have **FREE** childcare at the church on **Saturday, December 14th** from **1-6 pm**, so parents can enjoy a few hours to shop, go on a date or relax!!

You **MUST RSVP** to Stephanie at office@thelittlewhitechurch.net by November 30th. Please include names & ages of kids & any allergies/special instructions. Supper will be provided.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you shop Amazon.com?? Now you can support the LWC when you do!

Amazon Smile will donate .5% of your purchase to the LWC. Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112412> to sign up today!

We are hoping to have a Baptismal Service soon! If you are interested or want more information, please see Pastor Dennis or Pastor Ben.



Christmas Upcoming Events





Online Giving Now Available!

You can now give to the LWC online!

Set up recurring donations or one time donations.

Go to www.thelittlewhitechurch.net—Support Tab & Online Giving to get started! It's easy and completely safe to use!

If you have questions please contact Stephanie at 605-574-2426.

OR use the Giving App

Give using

 **TITHE.LY**

AVAILABLE ON THE APPLE APP
STORE OR USE DIRECTLY AT
TITHE.LY/GIVE

more information @ tithe.ly

December Volunteers

Ushers: Alan Case, Keith Hayes, Larry Heddles, Jack Jewett, Mike Verchio

Sound System: Joey Fowler, Steph Larsen, Mary Jo Anderson, Mike Blount

Nursery Attendants:

12-1: Tom & Cindy Dusing

12-8: Mary Jo Anderson & Sherry Liddell

12-15: DuBois Family

12-22: Schroeder Family

12-29: Kathy Speirs & Jacque Pennel

Children's Church:

12-1: Jacque Pennel

12-8: Deb Marshall

12-15: Jacque Pennel/Christmas Program

12-22: Jacque Pennel

12-29: Eileen Hamm

Librarians: Pam Fowler & Bonnie McCaskell

Social Hour: (Treats)

12-1: Tom & Cindy Dusing

12-8: Ray & Bonnie Prince

12-15: Children's Program

12-22: Anniversary Celebration

12-29: *Volunteers Needed*

Cornerstone Rescue Mission: 12-7: See Brenda Conaway



Church Body Update

To our church family, and other family, we wish to thank you for your support, your prayers, and your relationship with us over the last 15 months. My love for my Bride Mary matured beyond any expectations I could have ever dreamed of. I now believe this was only because of God's Agape Love for Mary through me to her.

I know this from my experiences of....
Service to my Bride.

Grace to all others.

Acts of kindness to everyone and from you.

New medical relationships.

Awareness of limited time we all have in our lives here on this earth and blessings of eternal lives in the future forever.

Our struggles and difficulties here on Earth bring us to a point that we cannot do these things ourselves without you, Jesus!

Increased awareness of Mary's needs, physically and emotionally, she knows that I cannot fix many things. I just need to hold her, reassure her, and listen to her.

Increased awareness of how she completes me and what life might be like without her here with me.

We still request your prayers as we go forward on the journey. We pray that the cancer will not return in some other way or other part of her body. She will still be having 1 to 5 years of pills and shots. Her lymphedema in her left arm because of the loss of lymph nodes from the cancer surgery will remain the rest of her life. We are blessed that we have, thanks to Medicare, a pneumatic compression pump drainage system that gives her treatments 50 minutes every day and it minimizes and stabilizes fluid buildup in that arm.

Again we thank you so very much for all that you do for us!
Thankful Husband Jack

Newsletter Newsletter

Lullaby for the Christ-child

First published in 1539 in Germany, the Christmas hymn "From Heaven Above" recounts the angels' message to the shepherds and then the spiritual journey of the baptized Christian to Jesus' manger-bed.

Try singing verses 8, 9 and 13 (translated by Catherine Winkworth) as a tender lullaby of praise, a song of love and a prayer to the newborn Savior. If the original tune is unfamiliar, use "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" or "Just As I Am."

Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery;
What thanks shall I return to thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all,
How weak art thou, how poor and small,
That thou dost choose thine infant bed
Where humble cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

*"The root of Jesse will come ...
in him will the Gentiles*

Hope
Romans 15:12, ESV



Perfect as is

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

—Corrie ten Boom



Symbols of the *season*

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

☐ ☐ _ _ _ _ ☐

tree that keeps its leaves

_ _ _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way

_ _ _ ☐

green for eternal life,

☐ _ _ _ _ &

red for Jesus' blood

_ _ _ ☐ ☐ _ _

sounds to announce

☐ _ _ _

good news

has no beginning or end

_ _ _ _ ☐ _

Th ☐ ☐ ks b ☐ to ☐ od fo ☐ ☐ is
indesc ☐ ☐ ba ☐ le gif ☐ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

December

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Luke 1 & Jonah 4 • Jer. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Luke 17 & Dan. 3 • Jer. 23, 24
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Luke 2 & Mal. 1 • Jer. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Luke 18 & Dan. 4 • Jer. 25, 26
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Luke 3 & Mal. 2 • Jer. 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Luke 19 & Dan. 5 • Jer. 27, 28
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Luke 4 & Mal. 3 • Jer. 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Luke 20 & Dan. 6 • Jer. 29, 30
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Luke 5 & Mal. 4 • Jer. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Luke 21 & Dan. 7 • Jer. 31, 32
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Luke 6 & Ruth 1 • Jer. 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Luke 22 & Dan. 8 • Jer. 33, 34
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Luke 7 & Ruth 2 • Jer. 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Luke 23 & Dan. 9 • Jer. 35, 36
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Luke 8 & Ruth 3 • Jer. 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Luke 24 & Dan. 10 • Jer. 37, 38
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Luke 9 & Ruth 4 • Jer. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Ps. 137, 138 & Dan. 11 • Jer. 39, 40
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Luke 10 & Lam. 1 • Jer. 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Ps. 139, 140 & Dan. 12 • Jer. 41, 42
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Luke 11 & Lam. 2 • Jer. 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Prov. 31 & Ps. 141, 142 • Jer. 43, 44
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Luke 12 & Lam. 3 • Jer. 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Ps. 143, 144 • Jer. 45, 46
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Luke 13 & Lam. 4 • Jer. 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Ps. 145, 146 • Jer. 47, 48
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Luke 14 & Lam. 5 • Jer. 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Ps. 147, 148 • Jer. 49, 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Luke 15 & Dan. 1 • Jer. 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Ps. 149, 150 • Jer. 51, 52
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Luke 16 & Dan. 2 • Jer. 22		

Q: Why is it always cold at Christmas?

A: Because it's in Decembrrrrrr



Q: Which Christmas carol do parents like the most?

A: Silent Night

Q: Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters?

A: They both drop needles



Q: What do you get when you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A: A pineapple



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