

“For my eyes have
seen your salvation
that you have
prepared
in the presence
of all peoples.”

LUKE 2:30-31

The Herald

From the Pastor's Desk

Season of HOPE

As we move into December many people might comment we are on the verge of surviving 2020. Isn't that a sad commentary on how we have been viewing life. Oh, for sure, 2020 has been a year of difficulties but recently I sat with some friends as they began to recount what they saw as blessings from this year. That was fun! Indeed we found dozens of things to thank God for from this challenging year.

As we head into December and the Advent season we are declaring this a Season of Hope! As you look at your year wouldn't you agree that many of the good experiences have come out of your connection with Jesus, whose birth we celebrate. He alone is the source of our Hope. Just this morning I read in Ps. 20:7 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." We don't have chariots and horses but we do have paychecks, business plans, presidential elections and other leaders but JESUS is our reason for Hope.

Many of us have discovered that we have counted on other things to be our hope. We all should make plans, and pray for our leaders yet we have learned these are inadequate and we need Jesus as our foundation and hope.

Perhaps some words from Romans 5, well not being Christmas verse speak to our year and our reason to call this a Season of Hope.

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident HOPE of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit." Romans 5:3-5

This month we are purposefully looking to Jesus as our source of Hope which does not disappoint, does not fail, does not come up short in the face of difficult circumstances. Jesus has given us the hope of eternal life, the promise of his presence and the continual enabling to be victorious every day.

With HOPE,



Our Family Tree

I just had the privilege this morning to sit down with a young man and hear his story. This story started with hope, but soon went into a time of darkness. There was then a dream and a vision that was sought after only to end in what at the time could only be understood as a tragedy. It was through this tragedy that brought back the hope of the Truth of God's word.

This story is quite incredible, yet it is not my story to share. I do know of another story that I can share that parallels to the story of this young man. "In the beginning, God created the heaven's and the earth." The Bible starts off with hope, but it didn't take long for this new creation to fall into a time of darkness. There was then a vision of how this world would be restored, only to end in a tragedy of one man hanging on a cross. When all seemed lost, hope was re-born out of this tragedy and God's truth was revealed to all nations.

I am very excited for the future of this young man. I cannot wait to see what God does in his life and the adventures God will make him apart of, but this great adventure is not just for this young man. We have all been called to be a part of this great story. The Bible is not complete. We have the beginning and the end, but what happens in between is still being written. We are living out the unwritten pages of the Word of God. What does our story look like? Our we living as if our life matters being a part of bringing in the new kingdom or are we living as if everything is complete and there is nothing for us to do?

My hope for myself, you and our church is to allow God to use us to the very end of our strength, abilities and failures to proclaim His truth. Let Jesus write our story and watch what He will do. I promise it won't be boring and it won't go unnoticed. The angels are watching and cheering us on.



Between the BookENDS

Nothing

Try as I might, I seemed to be having a difficult time writing this article this month. I had many ideas but no focus and no progress. *Nothing* was getting accomplished. God is so humorous and directed me to this little article by David Jeremiah hidden amongst the papers I was sorting through!

“You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from You.”

Psalms 16:2

If you think you have nothing to offer the Lord, consider the early Freewill Baptist evangelist, David Marks. One day he rode his horse into Ancaster, Ontario, announcing he would preach. A crowd gathered, and Marks asked if anyone had a topic to suggest. A man mockingly said, “Nothing!”

Marks began preaching on “nothing.” God created the world from *nothing*, he said. He gave us laws in which there is *nothing* unjust. There is *nothing* in us to justify us. There will *nothing* to comfort sinners in death. But while Christians have *nothing* of which to boast, we have Christ. And in Him, we have *nothing* to cause us grief, *nothing* to disturb our peace, and *nothing* to fear in eternity. Finishing his sermon, Marks mounted his horse and left.

Sometimes when we’re low in spirits, we feel we’re nothing that we’re nothing that really matters, that our lives amount to nothing at all. But when we feel our weakest, the Lord works the strongest. Even a sermon on nothing can save our souls – for *nothing* is impossible with God.

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Between the BookENDS

I looked up **nothing** in the concordance and found 224 occurrences!
Here are a few:

*"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do **nothing**." John 15:5*

*"For **nothing** is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light." Mark 4:22*

*"For we have brought **nothing** into this world, so we cannot take anything out of it either." 1 Timothy 6:7*

*"Be anxious for **nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6*

Christmas is nothing without Christ. I thank God for his miraculous gift of His Son, Jesus, and pray that Christ is in your Christmas, too.

December Librarians: Pam Fowler and Bonnie McCaskell



Focus on Missions– SIM

Hi Little White Church with a big heart!

We are so grateful for your support and prayers, especially through this last year of unexpected surprises.

Many of our hopes and plans this year have gone completely haywire, as I'm sure many of yours have too. Before COVID and Mary Beth's medical emergency, we had planned on spending 2020 going on scouting trips to the coast with potential teammates to find God's will for where to plant a future church. We hoped to have everything planned out by December, when we were going to go to North America and inform supporters. Since the borders were closed to return to Peru after MB's surgery, we decided to stay in North America and visit supporters as well as we could in the midst of the Pandemic, taking into account our need to move slowly so MB could properly recover.

During the last few months we've watched COVID numbers continue to rise around North America and have been wondering how we can visit supporters and churches as things shut down again. Simultaneously, we've been watching Peru numbers continually decrease as the country reaches herd immunity. The borders opened near the end of October and friends began to tell us about how everything had gone back to normal. With this in mind, we've prayerfully decided to go back to Peru and try to accomplish our original, pre-home assignment goal of finding a location and team for church planting. Our current idea (we no longer make plans!) is to leave for Peru on Saturday Nov. 28th. We hope to come back to North America in July for home assignment.

Currently, Sarah and Zach are in medical school in Chicago, attending virtually. It's not ideal, but they really are learning a lot. Ben is a senior in textile sciences at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Mia is in her sophomore year in pre-physical therapy at Pacific Azusa University and Paul is working at his aunt's veterinary clinic in Michigan.

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

- Prov. 19:21

Thanks for praying!
Allen & Mary Beth



From My Files: Echoes of God's Glory

Roseanne Hilton

Christmas Card Joy

You may be receiving cards this time of the year that mention JOY. You might even get one that has the word JOY spread over the entire cover.

The Bible has a lot to say about joy, but it is not joy manufactured by us, or produced by our surroundings. It is supernatural joy!

Psalm 90 "Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our lives."

How can we be glad, sing for joy, rejoice always, when the darkness of our circumstances is smothering us?

We can, because we worship the Joy-Giver. It is His supernatural joy that we possess, based on Him and Who He is, not based on our circumstances. The LORD, the Joy-Giver, specializes in giving beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, praise instead of despair.



Three Scriptures demonstrate:

Psalm 126 Restore our fortunes, LORD, as streams renew the desert. Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. When the LORD restored His exiles to Jerusalem...we were filled with laughter and we sang for joy.

Hebrews 12 Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death because of the joy He knew would be His afterward.

John 15 & 16 If we stay attached to Jesus as a grape branch is attached to the vine, if we hang on to His love and if we hold fast to His word, just as He did with the Father, we will be filled with His abundant joy.

When you sing the Christmas carol Joy To the World, think to yourself, "This is not about joy over my circumstances, but it is about Jesus and His supernatural joy."

Church Body Updates



Birthdays

1st Ty Marshall
2nd Darlene Kvanvig
7th Lisa Schroeder
10th Sidney Brown
11th Dennis Siebert
12th Alaina Dean
12th Richard Linstrom
13th Jeremy Dean
13th Betty Lou Kessler
14th Doug Hamm
15th Julia DuBois
15th Gail Crane
17th Carol Wiederhold
20th Deb Marshall
20th Ken Smith
21st Mike Blount
21st Gini Pennel
27th Roxann DuBois
30th Barb Dickson



Anniversaries

6th Larry & Darlene Kvanvig
(34 years)
15th Dennis & Tanya Siebert
(41 years)
17th Owen & Carol Wiederhold
(55 years)
18th Lonnie & Patty Feddersen
(44 years)
27th Neal & Shelby Svenson
(3 years)
29th Garold & Pam Fowler
(23 years)
30th Steve & Joelle Flick
(13 years)



Christmas

HAPPENINGS



You are invited to a Christmas Open House at Pastor Ben and Stephanie's home on Sunday, December 6th from 2-6 pm. They are located at 118 Ponderosa Ave—HC. Please stop by when you can!!



**SHE-Brews (Women's Coffee & Fellowship)
Christmas Party!**

Saturday, December 19th at 10 am.

This will be our "Secret Sister" Gift Exchange Party!! If you filled out an ornament, please take an ornament off the tree!



The Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 20th at 9 am. Come and support our kids!



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held
Thursday, December 24th at 6:00 pm.
Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

Announcements

Women's Prayer Gathering will meet the first and third Saturdays of each month at 9 am. Join us December 5th and 19th for prayer!

Comfort Quilters: Women's Quilting Group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 3-5 pm at Deb Auch's Home! They are currently making baby quilts for BH Pregnancy Center. If you would like to join or have more questions, please see Deb Auch.

The Sunday Evening Bible Study group will be starting a new study of First and Second Peter, using a Max Lucado study guide. This study will begin December 6th, at 6:00 pm, at the church. We welcome new attendees. If you are interested, please talk to Dick Kessler.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child program! We packed 165 boxes!! Way to go and thank you!! Please pray for the children/families receiving those boxes.

Online Giving Available!

Go to www.thelittlewhitechurch.net and find the "Donate" button to get started! It's easy and secure to use!

*Visit www.thelittlewhitechurch.net
to get updates and information
& Check us out on Facebook!!*

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When you shop Amazon, this Christmas season,
you can help support the LWC!! Amazon Smile will donate .5%
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Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112412>
to sign up today!

Newsletter Newsletter

Preparation for worship

In this Advent time of waiting, I wait now to hear a word from you, dear Lord.

* * *

As John the Baptist bore witness to you, Jesus, may my actions and words proclaim that you are the Light of the world.

* * *

God, I pray for all who are lonely in this season, or exhausted, or grieving. Give them courage as you fill them with the Holy Spirit.

* * *

“How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.” (Phillips Brooks)

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“Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given!” (John F. Wade)

* * *

Jesus, help us continue to celebrate your birth among us all year.



The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer

“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

“The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas.” —Bill Crowder

“If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God’s word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared.” —Nancy Guthrie



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Week 21 □ 2 Sam 13-14; Acts 28 □ 2 Sam 15-17; Psalms 3, 63; Romans 1
□ 2 Sam 18-20; Psalm 34; Romans 2 □ 2 Sam 21-23; Psalm 18; Romans 3
□ 2 Sam 24; 1 Chr 21; Romans 4

Week 22 □ 1 Chr 22-25; Psalm 78; Romans 5 □ 1 Kings 1; 1 Chr 26-28; Ro-
mans 6 □ 1 Kings 2; 1 Chr 29; Romans 7 □ 1 Kings 3; 2 Chr 1; Ps 42; Ro-
mans 8 □ 1 Kings 4; Prov 1-2; Psalm 43; Romans 9

Week 23 □ Proverbs 3-5; Romans 10 □ Proverbs 6-7; Psalm 7; Romans 11
□ Proverbs 8-10; Psalm 144; Romans 12 □ Proverbs 11-13; Ps 8; Romans
13 □ Proverbs 14-15; Romans 14

Week 24 □ Proverbs 16-18; Romans 15 □ Proverbs 19-21; Ps 40; Romans
16 □ Proverbs 22-23; Ps 117; 1 Thess 1 □ Proverbs 24-25; Ps 41; 1 Thess 2
□ Proverbs 26-28; 1 Thess 3

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- What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? *Orna-mints!*
 - Why are Christmas trees so fond of the past? *Because the present's beneath them.*
 - What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? *The Christmas alphabet has noel.*
 - What's the absolute best Christmas present? *A broken drum — you can't beat it!*
 - What did one Christmas tree say to another? *Lighten up!*
 - What happened to the thief who stole a Christmas calendar? *He got 12 months.*

Holiday
Humor



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