



Volume 2020 Issue 12

Living Word Lutheran Church
Worship address: 2570 Northern Avenue
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Kingman, Arizona

December Devotion- Christmas was God's idea

Only God could have thought of Christmas.

Christmas turns our attention from the usual to the unusual, from the ordinary to the extraordinary, from the holiday to the Holy Day. ***"Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour, which is Christ the Lord"***

Only God could have thought of Christmas.

Think of what happened on Christmas: Majesty came to a manger. The King came to a crèche. The Creator became a creature. The Omnipotent came among the impotent. The God who gave us everything ***"made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."***

Only God could have thought of Christmas.

Think of His timing. We would have said: *"sooner rather than later."* But God

was in no hurry. At just the right time He sent His own Son into this world to be its Savior: ***"When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. That we might receive the full rights of sons."***

Only God could have thought of Christmas.

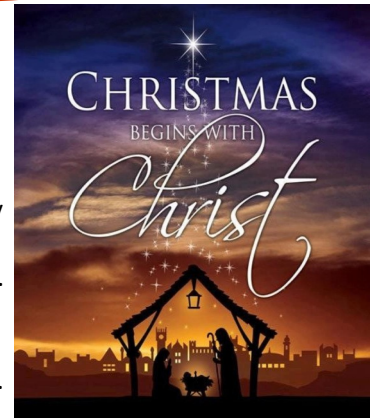
Think of how it happened! Had Hollywood choreographed Christmas it would have been filled with pomp and pageantry. There would have been official proclamations and mass celebrations. There would have been trumpeting troubadours and parading politicians.

That may be the world's way, but that's not God's way. God made His own arrangements. Only heaven seemed to be aware of or interested in the events that unfolded on Christmas

Evening. Suddenly on a lonely hillside an angelic choir was heard by snoozing shepherds. And just like that the mystery of the ages was revealed: Immanuel -- God was with us. Divinity combined with humanity. Through this tiny Baby God had come. Not in might and majesty, but in humanity and in humility: ***"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."***

So what is it all about? What is the message of Christmas? The heart of the mystery goes to the heart of God, a heart that loved us when we were unlovable: ***"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."***

Only God could have thought of Christmas.



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Dear Lord, Christmas was Your idea. We never would have thought of it. You came here... among us. And You didn't just come for a visit. You came to live and then to die. You came among us as a Baby and did what babies do. Then You grew to be a child and did what children do. As an adult You did what adults do. All the while You did what we couldn't do – You obeyed Your Father. You walked a perfect path. Then You did another thing that we couldn't do – You chose sin, our sin, took it on Your shoulders, and paid a horrible price for it. You paved a path to heaven for us. And it all started one chilly evening in an innkeeper's stable in Bethlehem. Bless this Christmas, Lord, as we celebrate Your birth. Remind us that You did it Your way and as a result became the only Way to heaven. Keep us walking Your way always. Thank You, Lord, for thinking of Christmas. Amen.



December Scriptures

12/6 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Psalm 85:1-2
8-13, Mark 1:1-8

12/13 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,
Psalm 126, John 1: 6-8 19-28

12/20 Romans 16:25-27, Psalm
89:1-4, 19-26, Luke 1:26-38

12/24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** Titus 2:
11-14, Psalm 96, Luke 2: 1-20

12/27 Galatians 4:4-7, Psalm 148,
Luke 2:22-40

Prayer Requests

For continuing comfort and healing

Carolyn Krick, Lelanie Exbom, Donna
Kowalske, Pat Bingham, Vern Parsons,
Char and Dale Matheny, Barbara McCord,
Floyd Morris, Carol Wostal, Lula Stroud,
Andrew Johnson, Mary Geihlsler



If you know of someone who should
be included in the monthly ongoing prayer
list, or you yourself would like to be includ-
ed, please contact Pastor Michael (509-710-
3283).



Prepare Ye!

Advent celebrates the coming of the Savior...and anticipates his return

Advent is a time of hopeful longing, a time to reflect on our need for a Savior, to celebrate his coming, and to watch for his return. Against the busy Christmas season, Advent is the perfect time to draw near to God.

As we worship together these weeks leading to Christmas, we will ponder the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas by taking cues from the psalms of old and also from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord's birth.

12/2 Week 1: Ponder (Psalm 48:9): We consider ways in which we can think about the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this thinking in the Announcement.

12/9 Week 2: Pray (Psalm 69:13): We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an

example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

12/16 Week 3: Praise (Psalm 30:4): We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

12/23 Week 4: Proclaim (Psalm 145:6): We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLET "PREPARE YE"

Explore Christmas hymns and carols alongside Israel's hymnbook, the book of Psalms, in an enlightening, spiritual Advent journey through song and scripture.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! Ooops, did I get my holiday dates mixed up?? **Absolutely NOT** - this Sunday, Nov. 29 is the **New Years Day of the Church** and it is actually more important than the worldly one on January 1. Why? Because the beginning of Advent marks the beginning of our celebration of our life **WITH THE LORD -- EVERY DAY**. It's a new beginning for us to recommit ourselves to living for and serving Him more. Remember my sermon story about the nurse who told me that what I was doing in visiting the sick was more important than the med stuff because I was giving the patients "forever stuff"? **THAT'S** why the Church New Year is more important than Jan 1 --it's all about "forever stuff!". It's a great time for New Years (Advent) resolutions -- setting some new goals of spiritual growth for the year to come. Let's all start by prioritizing our lives in these busy times to gather together **every** Wednesday evening, starting Wednesday 12/2, at 6 PM for soup, song, fellowship and informal worship -- learning how to live our next year more and more for Him -- **our Advent King!** *Pastor Michael*

WOW IN ACTION!



The November meeting of **W.O.W.** was at the church on November 21. Members enjoyed a pot luck brunch together while viewing a Women of Faith video by Patsy Claremont. We also worked on Thanksgiving notes to be included in our Food boxes. All women who attend Living Word Lutheran Church are members of **W.O.W.** Join us in support of our church activities and events. Bring a neighbor or friend!

W.O.W. Christmas Party
Living Word Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 12th,
11am-1pm

White Elephant Gift Exchange



**Games &
Potluck Lunch**

**Don't miss the
fun!!**



Thank you for your generous donations for Thanksgiving food boxes. We filled and distributed 8 boxes that contained a complete Thanksgiving dinner! We will be doing Christmas boxes again also.



"Blessed and Unstoppable"

The "Blessed and Unstoppable" Small Group has moved its meeting to iHop. The group meets the first and third Thursday of every month beginning at 5:30 PM.

To celebrate the Christmas holiday, they are making six small bundles to give to the homeless. Each bundle will include a blanket, socks, and a \$5 food gift card. Their next meeting will be December 3. If interested in joining this women's Small Group, contact Beverly Valentine at 928-377-2577.

"Band of Brothers"

The men's group, "Band of Brothers," met for the first time Saturday, November 14th. In addition to the Bible study, they decided to meet at church instead of a restaurant. They also decided to meet at 9 AM every Saturday. They're considering taking turns cooking breakfast for each other once a month. For their Bible Study, they're using the book "Ten Men of the Bible." Their next three Bible Study lessons will be:

- Pages 12-15 "The Gift of Hope"
- Pages 15-19 "Hidden in Christ"
- Pages 191-192 "Peter, the Gospel of the Second Chance"

All Kingman area men are welcome. Feel free to bring a neighbor, member of your family, or a friend. The book, "Ten Men of the Bible" can be purchased for only \$10. As an alternative, handouts will be available.

For questions or more information, call Pastor Michael at 509-710-3283 or text Blues Reyes at 928-715-9519.

WOW Hosting a Women's Small Group

During February's WOW meeting, we'll be trying something new. We'll start an hour earlier than usual with a Women's Small Group Bible study led by Pat Toth, using handouts from the book "Ten Women of the Bible." At the end of the Small Group, we'll take a minute to discuss if we'd like to meet every Saturday morning, or at some other day or time. February's Small Group study will be followed by our usual WOW meeting. Everyone in WOW, along with their female neighbors and friends, are welcome to attend this Small Group. Call Pat at 928-565-1024 if you would like more information.

December Celebrations

Dec. 1 Caroline Prather
 Dec. 6 Donna Ferguson
 Dec. 10 Caroline Krick
 Dec. 18 Pat Bingham



Dec. 3 Glen and Sharon Peterson
 Dec. 6 Brian and Pam Burgett
 Dec, 30 Dale and Charlotte Matheny

Living Word Council Minutes-Meeting Summary 10/8/20

Pastor Michael Birnbaum, Pastor Assistant Eileen Pressler, President Ken Bourlier, Vice-President Bob Pressler, Mission Coordinator Rosie Freeman & Secretary Sharon Peterson.

Meeting opened with prayer. September minutes approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Michael Birnbaum There is a possibility of pastor being off on Sunday Oct. 18. Suggest having the men talk about their retreat or hymn service. The men's retreat went well. Suggestion for the women, Max Lucado has a '10 Women of the Bible' that should be considered using for a retreat. Nov. 1st plan on dedication of small group leaders. Orosco Baptism went well. Early communion training is scheduled for Oct 24th. Oct 25th being 1st communion. Living Word needs to become its own 501c3. Eileen is checking on a lead. Received email from Brandon Scroggins. He is planning a visit to Kingman and possibility of a preaching date/visit during his time here. Would suggest a committee to study options for denominational affiliation. Need to budget for a compensated position for administration, help for Eileen.

Pastor Assistant: Eileen Pressler Compensated Pastors Sundays off: 1/19/20, 2/16/20, 6/14/20, 7/26/20, 9/27/20. Eileen suggested 9/27 be considered worked since he was at the men's retreat.

Council Approved. Worship services are gradually returning to pre-Covid pattern. Suggest that we begin using pre-packaged snacks for after service. Council Approved. The Return (Sept 26,2020): We had a small attendance but it was well received. Internet dropped on Saturday during the live stream, unable to complete viewing. We normally issue statements of giving once a year. Eileen suggested that statements be given out quarterly. Council Approved. Should numbered envelopes be passed out at the beginning of Advent? Council Approved.

President Report: Ken Bourlier The men's retreat was very inspiring. Great time was had by all who attended.

Vice President-Financial Report: Bob Pressler Bob had scheduled for Sudenlink and phone to be installed. Discussed how long it takes to upload the video to YouTube. We need to find a way so that we no longer need to do live stream on facebook. Pastor asked if doing another meeting with Andy Poole would be helpful? Sharon said that since we now have a camera a meeting would be helpful. Pastor said he would talk to Andy. Yard sale money was deposited on 10/5/20, \$2462.73. WOW money was used for cashier, (\$115) and deposited to their account. The Net Yard sale was \$2347.73. Council reviewed and approved all reports.

Mission Coordinator: Rosie Freeman Sandy from Root has not gotten back with Rosie. We are not doing any donations at this time.

New Business: Affiliation Committee formation. Eileen will head this. She will reach out to a small group to be formed. Council gave some name suggestions. This group will be small, 3 or 4 at the maximum.

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Yard Sale final report:

Yard Sale: \$1,931.73

Bake Sale: 416.00

Total \$2,347.73

Expenses were covered by Thrivent Action Team Project. Proceeds of \$2,347.73 goes to Living Word General operating fund.

Next meeting November 4, 2020 at 1:30 pm Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Peterson, Secretary



UGLY SWEATER, CRAZY GIFT PARTY and POTLUCK

12/6/20 4 PM

Join us at the church for a fun adult party! Wear your ugliest Christmas outfit! Bring a wrapped gift for a silly gift exchange. The gift can be a White Elephant gift suitable for either male or female or other crazy gift! Bring a potluck dish to share! This crazy party has become an eagerly anticipated event each Christmas Season. Save this early Sunday afternoon date on your busy December calendars for a fun evening filled with laughter!



DECEMBER SPECIAL WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 8 AM Men's Bible Study and Fellowship

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 6 PM Mid-week Advent Soup supper, *Prepare Ye Devotions*

Dec. 3, 17 Blessed and Unstoppable Women's Group, 5:30

Dec. 5, 12, 19 Band of Brothers, Men's Group 9 AM church

Dec. 6, 13, 20 Sundays of Advent Worship 10 AM

Dec. 6 Annual Christmas Party, Pot Luck and Crazy Gift Exchange 4 PM

Dec. 12 WOW Christmas Party and Gift Exchange 11 AM

Dec. 13 AFLC President Rev. Lyndon Korhonen worships with us

Dec. 13 God's Healing Meal Small Group,

Rosie Freeman's home, 3007 Van Meter, 2 PM



Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT WORSHIP 6:30

Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY



First Communion 10/25/20

TIDBITS IN PICTURES!



Commissioning of Small Group Leaders 11/1/20



Blessing Mary Ann before she moves!



New Flags for Altar area 11/1/20



Blessings of the Crosses

Living Word Lutheran Church



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We're on the web!

www.livingwordkingman.com

Facebook Living Word

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a welcoming, scripturally based community intentionally serving Christ through missions.

Mission Statement

Living and growing in faith together as a spirit filled church with the

Word of God as our foundation and reaching out through missions showing the

Love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to

Create a hunger in others to embrace the Word of God, salvation through Jesus Christ and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Quotes

"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – *Bob Hope*

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." -*C.S. Lewis*

"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 very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas." -*Rev. Billy Graham*

"May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve." *Unknown*

Christmas, my child, is love in action. ~ *Dale Evans*

