

Bring it Home

MONDAY: A New Year's Coming - - What are some ways you celebrate new beginnings? New babies? New homes? New friends? New accomplishments? As we prepare for the coming of a new year, let's look at one ritual in Jesus' day that symbolized a new beginning. Read Luke 2:21-24. Children were presented in the Temple and blessed. In your prayers, ask God to bless your new year by praying a blessing found in Numbers 6:23-27 that God gave to the Israelites.

TUESDAY: It's a New Year! - - Read Psalm 148. It's about praising God for the things He has done for us. What are some of the things you would like to celebrate today? People? Family? A life filled with meaning? Comforting those who are sad? Consider spending your day living based on how you'd like every day of this new year to be. Call a special friend; write someone a note; volunteer your time to help someone. Live your day to its fullest. Throughout the day, celebrate it with God.

WEDNESDAY: What's Right? - - As you look back over the past year, what are some things that are going right in your life? What are the most positive things you've done in 2018? What relationships are going well? Read Luke 2:25-33. Simeon was a faithful man. God gifted him with the opportunity to see the Savior of the world in person. Not only did Simeon recognize Jesus, he blessed Him. Today, start with prayer and then practice giving similar blessings to those important people in your life.

THURSDAY: What's Wrong? - - Looking back also brings back bad memories. When were some of those times in your life in 2018? Continue reading Luke 2:34-35. Simeon also knew that Jesus' presence in the world would stir up hardships as well as bless people. Today, name those tough times you've had in your life. What have you learned from them? Who helped you through them? In your prayers ask God to let you see how those tough times helped you and thank Him for being there with you.

FRIDAY: What Needs to Change - - Our traditions and our patterns in life give us a rhythm for life. Sometimes these rhythms can help us, other times they hold us back from growing. Read Luke 2:41-52. Jesus and His family were carrying out their religious traditions. Yet Jesus recognized something new...His calling to be in His Father's house. What are some of the patterns in your life that need to change? How are they keeping you from growing? If there was one thing in your life, that you are not doing now, that would transform your life, what would it be? Pray God will help you to change.

SATURDAY: Make a Plan - - Today, think through what you'd like this New Year to be like. Read Colossians 3:12-17 as a way to challenge your thinking. You are "chosen" and God has great plans for you. Do you have a plan for your life? What would God's expectations be for you in the next 6 months, year? Challenge yourself to write out some of those expectations and share them with a friend. Converse with God, asking Him to help you align your plan with His plan for you.

SUNDAY: Live It! - - What are some things that could keep you from living out the plan? How could you overcome those barriers? One key thing to remember is to invite God to be a part of your living it out! Read Psalm 16:7-8 and Matthew 28:20b. God promises always to be with you. He will forgive when you stray. He will encourage you, but you need to be open to God joining you in this journey into 2019. Pray for God's strength and let God bless your year as you live it day by day!

The Writer Evangelists

I don't know when this view started gaining acceptance, but there has long been a viewpoint out there that the gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were pretty much country bumpkins who had very little knowledge themselves about God. The view is that whatever is well put in the gospels was somehow put there by God without the gospel writers' intent.

This is a misunderstanding of how God works. At one point in his letter to the Philipians the Apostle Paul informed them that "it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) Paul is saying there that God, through His Holy Spirit, inspires us to will to do good, or, in the gospel writers' case, inspired their wills to "write what's good."

So when we view the gospel lesson for today (Luke 2:41-52) we notice certain phrases that seem almost coincidental in their meaningfulness, such as when Luke writes that Christ's parents finally found the "lost" 12-year-old Jesus back at the Jerusalem temple "after three days." After three days? That reminds us of Jesus rising from the dead on the third day. Does Luke intentionally include that fact in order for us to see the coincidence?

My guess is yes.

You see not just Luke but all the gospel writers and writers of the Bible were not robots but were individuals well-versed in Holy Scripture. I love the tradition which named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as "evangelists." Like evangelists who give sermons, these four not only told us WHAT happened in the life of Christ, they told us WHY it happened. Some examples:

- Since John the Baptist wore the same thing as the prophet Elijah, the gospel writers made sure to describe what John wore in such a way that readers would realize this.
- Since Jesus appeared transfigured on the mountain "eight days" after He predicted this, Luke made sure to tell us the exact amount of days in order to connect to the famous 8th day of RE-creation motif prophesied when Jesus comes again to usher in the new heavens and new earth.

Continued after Announcements



Calendar

- **Sunday, December 30**
9:00 am Worship
11:00 am Worship
1:00 pm ICCCI Dance
- **Monday, December 31**
Office Closed at Noon
6:30 pm Yoga
- **Tuesday, January 1**
New Year Blessings!
- **Friday, January 4**
1:00 pm Cardio Dance
7:30 pm ICCCI Dance
- **Saturday, January 5**
7:30 am Via DeCristo
5:01 pm Worship
- **Sunday, January 6**
Epiphany
9:00 am Worship
11:00 am Worship
5:15 pm Sr. High Youth



Council

Elders

- Dick DeLor (317-816-2230)
- Donna Frazier (371-896-5378)
- Paul Retzlaff (317-843-9068)
- Kevin Wachtel (317-727-9583)
- Deann Wimer (317-846-6822)
- Pastor Hewitt (317-846-1555)

Deacons

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Jeff Boldt | Brandon Hulse |
| Julie Hayden | Brad Johnson |
| Susan Kraabel | Carole Rahn |
| Ann Sullivan | Bob Tipsword |

Announcements

SPECIAL EPIPHANY SERVICE JANUARY 6 - - It is only once every 6 or 7 years that Sunday actually falls on one of the most important days of the Church year – Epiphany! You are invited to attend a special set of services that weekend. Epiphany Day announces something important – that the Christ was born for us Gentiles! So come to worship and actually SEE three of the Wise Men! Come see actual frankincense! Come see actual myrrh! Come see actual gold (well, we’re still working on that!). Please be there for that special “holy day” that ends the twelve days of Christmas!

OFFICE CLOSED - - The Office will be closed December 31 at noon and all day January 1 so our staff can enjoy time with their families.

WE’RE EXCITED! - - On January 6 between services, please join us for our First Sunday Fellowship time at an ‘Open House’ in Gloryland and Cross and Crown. Thanks to your gifts to the Renew KOG Fund, we have been able to renew the oldest area of our building and give our KOG kids nice, bright Sunday school rooms. Did you know that Gloryland is built into the original sanctuary for the church? Look for the original cross.

YEAR END GIVING - - We’re down to the wire! If you would like to make a contribution this year before the tax laws change, please make sure your check is in the office before noon on Monday.

WOW - - Women on Wednesday begins a new Bible Study on Wednesday January 9th from 9:15-11:00, meeting in the Parlor. We will start with “What Matters Most – a Study on Philippians” by Karen Ehman. The world has always been full of trials, disappointments, temptations, fractured friendships and financial hardships. Yet Paul’s letter to the Philippians claims we can discover contentment and joy in the midst of it all by prioritizing what matters most – Christ. Study the ever-relevant Letter of Philippians to deepen your relationship with Jesus, turn your worries into worship, and develop gospel-centered tools for navigating relational conflict. Friends and family are welcome – we love new faces. Cost will be \$15 for the book. Contact Donna Frazier (317-696-0236) or Becky Ellis (317-460-4319) if you have any questions.

Announcements

HVAC FUNDS NEEDED - - Thank you to all who have contributed! We have a start of \$4,520 toward our \$29,000 goal. As you may know, our Sanctuary air conditioning (the oldest HVAC unit in the building) failed this fall and is scheduled to be replaced the first week of April. Unfortunately we have nearly depleted our designated funds set aside for replacements of our aging HVAC units because of several other units that failed this year. We would like to raise the full \$29,000 by the end of March 2019. If you are looking at your itemized deductions for 2018 and want to give now for tax purposes, please mark your envelope “Sanctuary HVAC” next to the amount. Remember that you may be able to transfer funds directly from your IRA to KOG and have the amount of the transfer excluded from your taxable income. It is our understanding that you do not have to itemize to make this transfer. We encourage you to check with your tax adviser to be certain of any rules or limitations that may apply to your situation. Thank you for your support and may God bless you in the many ways you help build the kingdom of God!

Pastor’s Column Cont.

- The evangelists made sure to note any time that Jesus accepted and healed any Romans, Samaritans, and Gentiles of any kind in order that readers would understand why the Jewish Messiah would found a church dedicated to both Jews AND Gentiles.
- The gospel writers were especially good at showing how Jesus acted like the Son of God even when He would not admit that He WAS the Son of God. This helped readers understand that Jesus was not just a holy man or a prophet, but someone who so thoroughly took up divine authority into His daily life that everyone around Christ, even before that last week of His life, just HAD to decide if Christ was God’s Son or not. They didn’t need to debate Him; they saw from His actions what He was proclaiming.

We are thankful for God’s gift of these 4 evangelists. They knew how to guide us to the truth.

-- DLH --

Prayers

MEMBERS

- Terry Bowen** *health concerns*
- Joan Denney** *recovering*
- Becky DeWitt** *ongoing elbow recovery*
- Camilla London** *breast cancer*
- Lynette Gross** *upcoming brain surgery*
- Thomas Miller** *recurring hip infection*
- Tim Reeb** *upcoming back surgery*
- Connie Schmohe** *alzheimer’s disease*
- Matt Wallace** *broken leg*

FAMILY & FRIENDS

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|-----------------|------------------|
| Ina Carson | Jill Dietz |
| DJ Dillon | Marlene Eisen |
| Chris Excell | Karen Fethke |
| Kaijah Monson | Sonny Mowery |
| Donald Ruthsatz | Tony Sandleben |
| Pam Sandusky | Margie Stone |
| Ray Strohminger | Henry Tomascycki |
| Tyler Trent | Sarah Wassmuth |
| Bill Wehrman | Kerry White |
| Nancy Zachary | |



Team Leads

- Evangelism**, Jeff Boldt
- Fellowship**, Susan Kraabel
- Finance**, David Baugh
- Lifelong Learning**, Julie Hayden
- Ministry Development**, Brad Johnson
- Mission Support**, Carole Rahn
- Preschool**, Sherri Hunt
- Property**, Bob Tipsword
- Risk Management**, Marty Culver
- Stewardship**, Brandon Hulse
- Worship & Music**, Ann Sullivan

Making the CONNE~~X~~TIONS that make the difference