

November 15th, 2017

Vol. 17 No. 11

Our Services

Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Evening 6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 6:30 PM

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Newsletter

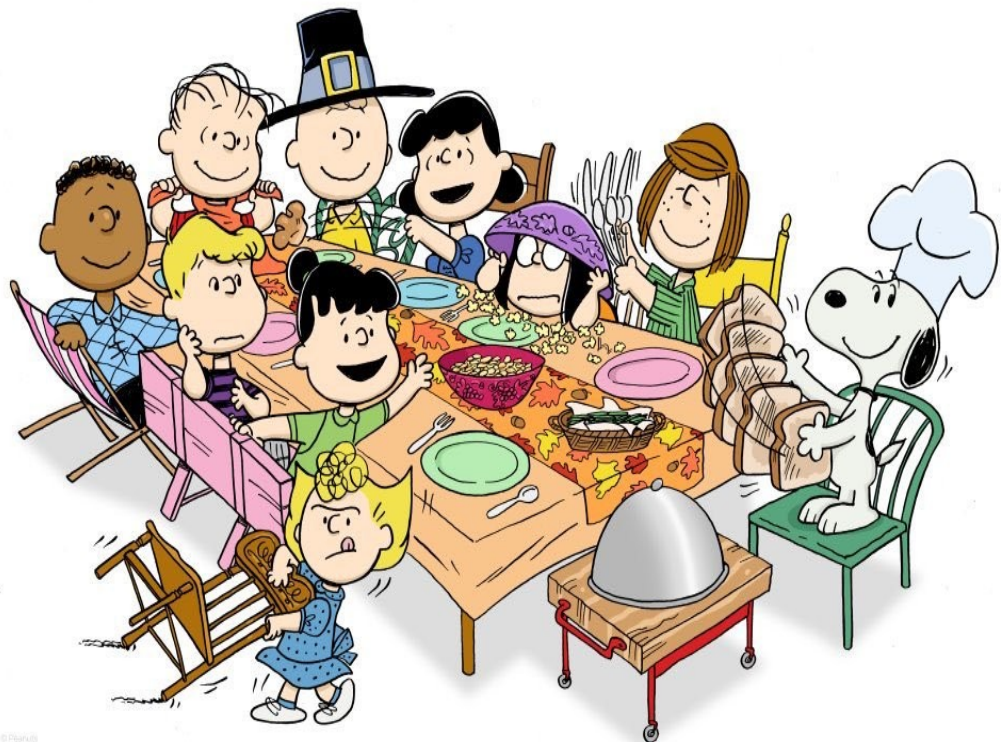
Jennifer Castillo
Annie Peek

Publishing

Jean Widmayer, Chrystle Henderson
Joy Winston, Louann Peery

"Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner"

*November 22nd
@ 5:45pm*



*(This dinner will be in place of Soul Café and
regular Evening Services.)*

Reflecting the Son

The Child of Bethlehem

I love singing the song “The Child of Bethlehem” at Christmas time. There are so many reasons that I love it, but one of the main reasons is because it puts the full gospel message together. During Christmas we typically focus exclusively on the birth of Jesus, which is entirely appropriate. At Easter we focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus, again appropriate. But sometimes we compartmentalize those two “events” and neglect their connection.

“The Child of Bethlehem walked the road to Calvary. The Child of Bethlehem bore the cross alone. The Lamb for sinners slain, bore the shame for all the world to see. The Child of Bethlehem died for me.” These are the lyrics of the song. Simple, yet powerful. Jesus gave up heaven to come to earth in the form of a baby. This wasn’t just a visitation from God, but a mission to destroy death, sin, and evil. It was a mission to reunite a helpless humanity with a perfect God. THAT is why we celebrate Christmas.

I’ve watched The Passion of the Christ a few times, and there is a scene in the movie that causes me to get a whole perspective of what is going on at the end of Jesus’ life. In the scene, Jesus is carrying His cross down the streets of Jerusalem after being beaten severely. His mother, Mary, is rushing through the crowd to find and get closer to Jesus. At one point she see Jesus, weak from the scourging, fall to the ground. As He falls, she flashes back to a memory of Him falling down as a baby learning to walk. POWERFUL...powerful! We get a whole perspective of Jesus’ humanity and innocence in that quick scene, just like in the song mentioned above.

So, let’s remember Who were are celebrating this Christmas and why He came. The baby in the feeding trough came to die on a cross for your sins. He did that to establish the church, His saints (that is, all believers). He desires that our buildings be places of worship where we can KNOW Him, GROW in Him, and GO make disciples in His name. All are welcome to come and meet our Savior. From the most righteous the worst of sinners, Jesus wants us to assemble in His name to remember His birth, His death, and His resurrection.

“For my eyes have seen Your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel.” Luke 2:30-32

In Christ,
-Adam

Encouragement Corner

Simple Obedience

While reading 1st Kings, I was reminded of a confrontation that took place between King Saul and Samuel in 1 Samuel 15. After defeating the Amalekites in battle, Saul returned from the front lines with both sheep and cattle in tow, as well as Agag the king of the Amalekites, despite the Lord’s commands to the contrary. In 1 Samuel 15:3 the Lord clearly instructed Saul (through Samuel)... “*Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.*”

So, why did Saul disobey? Well, we can read later, in verse 15, that he planned to sacrifice the animals to the Lord when he returned. Upon learning this, Samuel informs Saul in verse 22 that “*To obey is better than sacrifice*” and that because of his disobedience, the Lord had rejected him as king.

Now, there’s a part of me that feels bad for Saul here, because he paid an awful price for his disobedience. Yet, there’s another part of me that’s frustrated that he couldn’t obey such a simple command from the Lord. Yet, Saul wasn’t the only one who acted in such a foolish manner in the Old Testament.

Years earlier as the Israelites were about to cross into the promise land, God told them in Joshua 1:3-5...

³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Even though the Israelites knew God was on their side and that the land was there for the taking, we can read that they failed to obey even the simplest of commands. One of the best examples of this can be found in Joshua 2:19, where Joshua told the people as they were about to conquer Jericho...

¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.”

Yet, we can read in the very next chapter that “*the Israelite acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD’s anger burned against Israel.* (Joshua 7:1) Because of Achan’s sin, the Israelites were defeated in their very next battle, and 36 innocent men lost their lives. Once again, a high price was paid, that could’ve been avoided through simple obedience.

So, what’s the lesson to be learned here? It’s simple...listen to God and obey him! If you do, you’ll avoid an awful lot of unnecessary heartache in your life and the lives of others.

Because He’s the Truth,
Bryan

Mission Spotlight

The Top Ten KCC Supported Missions

1. **Expressions of Emmanuel** – Vonda and Steve Hamilton present a Christian Ministry to the deaf through live and video presentations of song, skits, and bible lessons.
2. **Trusty Family Church Planting in New Zealand** – establishing a new congregation in a largely unchurched 1st world country.
3. **Friendship Mission** – Located here in Kenai, Alaska. Skipper and MaryAnn Cowgill are providing a temporary home for displaced men. Meals and bible studies are included.
4. **International Disaster Emergency Services** – I.D.E.S. provides needed resources throughout the world, funneling the aid through local Christian Churches.
5. **Literature and Teaching Ministries** – LATM translates Christian literature into local languages throughout the world and prints the books in the home country.
6. **Living Water Christian Mission**– Educates and provides meals for hundreds of children in Haiti. Also, they are giving leadership training for the next generation.
7. **Niños de Mexico** – provides a Christian home environment and education for orphaned children in Mexico City.
8. **Polish Christian Mission** – Aids the Polish Christian Church in planting new churches throughout Poland
9. **TCM – International Institute**- TCM is Taking Christ to Millions as they are Training Christians for Ministry. Christian ministers are able to earn advanced degrees at Haus Edelwiess in Austria and other locations in Eastern Europe.
10. **Team Expansion** – There are many places in this world where to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to place your life, your family, your livelihood and your property in jeopardy. Talk to a Mission Team Member, an Elder, or a Minister to learn more about Team Expansion.



COOKIE THEATER REHEARSALS

“Candy Cane Lane” is a children’s musical that teaches us the truth that God alone can satisfy our hungry hearts.

Kenai Christian Church Children’s Ministry would like to let you know about a fun opportunity for your child. This year we will be preparing a Christmas musical for Cookie Theater. *Candy Cane Lane* is a musical open for any child in 1st-5th grade who would like to participate in this year’s Christmas program. Elizabeth Ross will be directing.

Important Dates

- **All Sunday Evenings Rehearsals from September 10 – December 10**
- **Saturday, December 9 Dress Rehearsal 10:00-12:00**
- **Sunday, December 10 Performance 6:30-7:30**

DECEMBER 2017

Ministers: Bryan Copenhaver 260-4771
Adam Meyers 953-0102

Youth Minister:



Women's Ministry: Leslie Daniel 283-4559

Elders: David Daniel 283-3990

Deacons: James Spinka

Adult Education: Dave Daniel 283-3990
Children's Ministry: Karlene Meyers 953-0101
Music Ministry: Elizabeth Ross 260-6939

<p>Sunday Services: 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Evening Services</p>	<p>Wednesday Events/Classes: 5:45 PM Soul Café Supper 6:30 PM Children's Program 6:30 PM Bible Study</p>
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Sunday Services	4	5	6	7	8 <i>CareShare</i>	9 1HR BEFORE BED
10 AM Sunday Services Cookie Theater 6:30-7:30 	11	12	13 Wednesday Classes	14 Men's Bible Study 12pm	15 <i>CareShare</i>	16
17 Sunday Services	18	19	20 Wednesday Classes	21 Men's Bible Study 12pm	22 <i>CareShare</i>	23
24 AM Sunday Services 5:30 PM Candlelight Services	26 Merry Christmas  <i>Jesus is The Reason for The Season</i>	27 Wednesday Services Dismissed	28	29	30	31



We are updating how we send our newsletters and we need your help!

BY MAIL— If you would like to continue getting the newsletter by mail, please update us by sending your name and address by December 1st.

EMAIL/ONLINE— If you would rather get the newsletter by email or view it online, let us know by sending your email or signing up at our website. (Current email/online subscribers will continue until they unsubscribe.)

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Thank you for helping us stay up-to-date!