

Calendar of Events:

- * 5—W@C Christmas Party, 6:30pm
- * 10—Church Reserved - Church of God
- * 12—Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- * 17—Work Day, 8:30am
- * 24—Candlelight Service
- * 25—Christmas Day
- * 26—Elders Meeting, 6:30pm
- * 31—New York, New Year's Eve Party

Adopt a Grandparent 2016

Merry Christmas

We are on a mission to team up with YOU and our local retirement homes in Salinas to make a difference in a senior's life this Christmas.

Each adoption is \$25 and provides a gift bag of goodies hand delivered in YOUR NAME. Our goal is to adopt 100 grandparents this Christmas.

Please consider helping by adopting a grandparent (or two or more), helping with the packaging of the gifts, or by volunteering to deliver the gifts and spend time with the grandparents.

We have participated in this event for several years now and everyone is equally blessed by taking part.

Feel free to contact **Alecia Hernandez** with any questions.

alecia_hernandez@yahoo.com
or 831-594-5039





Bah! Humbug!

“Bah! Humbug!” We’ve all heard the phrase. Ebenezer Scrooge, the epic character brought to life by Charles Dickens in his famous work *A Christmas Carol*, utters this remark in response to all those who wish him a Merry Christmas. This lonely, old miser is the quintessential example of those who are having a difficult time around the holidays. I have to admit to having voiced this expression from time-to-time when things get overwhelming or problematic in December. It is easy to get bogged down with the many stresses that come with the holidays: shopping and gift giving leads to money problems, family conflicts can become magnified, depression can set in if people feel lonely and many people (especially women) feel pressure to put on the “perfect” holiday experience for their loved ones... e.g. “Are the decorations right? Did I buy pretty enough wrapping supplies? What will I cook for Christmas dinner?”

When I catch myself stressing and complaining about inconveniences or worries, I try and stop to remind myself how very blessed I am. I find my thoughts turning to the reason for the season and Mary and Joseph themselves. And let’s face it, their story does not center on Christmas cookies and spiced apple cider. In his article for *Renewal Ministries*, author Ralph Wilson describes the couple’s experiences the following way:

Joseph was off work for weeks because the government made him travel to a distant town to fill out some silly registration papers.

You can bet the Nazareth biddies hounded Mary about her pregnancy. Can you imagine the names they called her?

Can you visualize taking a four-day donkey ride to Bethlehem during the end term of pregnancy? Of course, if Mary didn't want to ride, she could always walk ... or waddle.

Have you ever experienced a camping trip during winter with cold winds whistling through your tent? Did they even have a tent?

How about going through a grueling labor in a dirty cattle barn?

Okay, maybe we don’t have it so bad.

Nonetheless, the holiday season does have its downside; irritants and annoyances. Where is God when we stress and find ourselves in despair? Just as he was with Mary and Joseph during every moment, working out His plan, He is with us. And we are so blessed. We need to be thankful for the many ways the Lord takes care of us, not just at the holidays but during all the days of the year. One of the things I am most thankful for is that I am a part of a loving church family with whom to celebrate special times (speaking of celebrating, all ladies are invited to attend the annual Women @ Crossroads Christmas Party on Monday, 12/5, 6:30 pm at the Vargas Home... it is a special evening that is *always* enjoyed by all who attend).

This Christmas, I encourage you to look beyond the inconveniences and stressors. I hope you will stop and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of this splendid time of year. Look for the good in the midst of the bad; the clean in the middle of mess. Most of all, I encourage you to call on Jesus when you need help to spot the sparkling Christmas Star in the inky blackness of night.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for sending us your son. Thank you for the glorious gift of your grace and eternal life. We love you.

I will close with another quote from *A Christmas Carol*...this one from Tiny Tim: “God bless us, every one!”

Merry Christmas!

Diane Lawson

Women at Crossroads (W@C) Article Contributor





Look at a
CANDY CANE
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
Stripes that are Red
LIKE THE BLOOD SHED FOR ME!
White for my Savior,
WHO'S SINLESS AND PURE!
"J" is for Jesus,
MY LORD THAT'S FOR SURE!
TURN IT AROUND
and a staff you will see
Jesus, MY SHEPHERD,
is coming for me!

FALALA♥DESIGNS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

TRICIA KAISER	12/01
CYDNEY MC COY	12/02
JERRY LEMMON	12/05
KATY LEMMON	12/06
DEBBIE LEMMON	12/08
LORRAINE MC COY	12/14
STEVIE IRACHETT	12/17
JEANNE BROWN	12/19
JONATHAN CLARK	12/21
JOYCE STINE	12/24
BRANDY STARK	12/26
STEVE IRACHETT	12/27
EMMA MADRUGA	12/30



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 2016
During Service



Christ the Lord

By Greg Laurie

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:10-11

The angel began that wonderful announcement to the shepherds with, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. . . ." Maybe you are suffering today. You might find yourself wondering, *Where is the joy?* But what is the joy about? Is it about an opportunity to go shopping? Is the message of Christmas "Let it snow?" No, it is, "Let us worship."

The angels' visit to the shepherds became the first Christmas celebration. It's as though heaven and earth were celebrating it together, as though a portal to glory had been opened up. These shepherds saw the supernatural world, the heavenly world. On that first Christmas, there was a big celebration in heaven and on earth over the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a *Savior*: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). That is the most important thing. We have a Savior who came to save us from the power and penalty of sin. Whatever you are going through in life, remember this: you have a Savior. He has put your sins as far away from you as the east is from the west.

Christ means "anointed one." Another word for that is *Messiah*. Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to send His Son as the Messiah. This is a simple reminder that God keeps His promises. God said that He would send a Messiah, and the Messiah came.

Lord means that we have a sovereign God who is in control of our lives.

So set aside the things you have become preoccupied with and remember that you have a Savior. You have a Lord. You have a Christ. And you have His promises.



Love In the Name of Christ Adopt A Family Project



Be the Difference this Christmas

Crossroads has adopted two families this year for Christmas. We are working with Cheryl Camany, the Homeless Liaison for the Salinas City Elementary School District. If you picked an ornament from the tree, please have your items here by December 11, 2016.

We are also gathering nonperishable food items for Cheryl to distribute to the families. Please also have those items here by December 11 so that the families/kids will receive both the gifts and food items before leaving on winter break.

If you have any questions, please see Susan Vargas

Thank You!

Prayer Chain

Contact:

Debbie Lemmon

Email: deblemmon@sbcglobal.net

Home phone: 831-449-0964

Text: 831-594-7093

Crossroads Christian Church Office

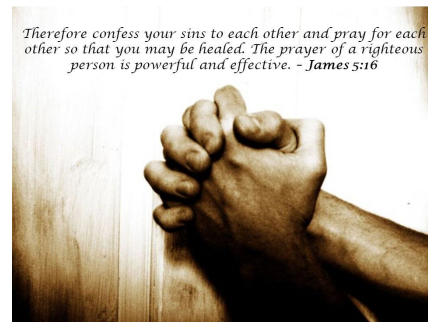
Brandy Stark – Church Secretary

Email: crossroadschurch@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 831-444-9104

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am -2:00pm

- * Make sure we have a current email address. All members of Crossroads are on the prayer chain email distribution list.
- * We will make every effort to get your request out as soon as possible. Please feel free to leave a message with Debbie Lemmon.
- * If you do not have email and would like a text and/or phone call, please let Debbie know.



Service Opportunity

Thursday, December 29 , 2016



Crossroads Christian Church will be providing a meal at the Winter Warming Shelter on Market Street. We need several volunteers in multiple areas. We will be providing stew, salad, bread, drinks and all the paper products etc. needed. See the sign up in the foyer at church. The meal is brought to the shelter ready to go. We arrive at 6:45pm to set-up and prepare to serve the meal. Please consider helping with this event. If you have any questions see Deniece.

Crossroads Christian Church

Church Secretary: Brandy Stark

Phone: 831 444 9104

Office Hours: 9am-2pm, Monday - Friday

crossroadchurch@sbcglobal.net

Like us on  Crossroads Christian Church Salinas

Elders:

Jerry Lemmon

Alan Stark

Lyn White

Current Groups/Classes

Sunday Morning

Please join us for one of our Bible studies.

Plan to arrive early and join us for coffee and pastries.

9am

Nursery thru Adult

Kids Korner (Ages 4 years thru 5th grade) - see schedule

Class - Leader

Adult - Jerry Lemmon

Men - Perry Vargas

Women - Ginger Stark (12 Women of the Bible)

Pre/Early Teen - Alan Stark

10:30am - See schedules

Nursery/Toddlers

Pre-K

K-5th grades

Sunday Evening - 5:30pm @ CCC

Alan Stark

Wednesday Morning - 9:30am @ CCC

Women's Bible Study

Chronological Walk through the Bible

See Susan Vargas or Tonna Henson with any questions

Wednesday Evening - 6:30pm in Gonzales

Taking a break

Thursday Evening - 6:00pm @ CCC

Women's Bible Study

12 Women of the Bible

Becky Cromer

Our Vision

GLORIFY GOD

Our Mission

Grow in Christ

Serve in Love

Bring others to Jesus