



Church Life

Fairfield First Baptist Church
 "A Faith Building Community"

Vol. XLIX No. 12

November 27, 2024



December Calendar

Sundays	9:00 AM	Adult Class
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	5:30 PM	Family Meal
	6-7:00 PM	KidZone/YouthZone
Monday, Dec. 2	5:30 PM	Deacons
Tuesday, Dec. 3	5:30 PM	Trustees
	6:30 PM	M & E Board/CE Board
Thursday, Dec. 5	9:00 AM	Christmas Store Setup
	5-7:00 PM	Christmas Store
Tuesday, Dec. 10		Come to Supper
	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 15	10:15 AM	Christmas Program
Tuesday, Dec. 17	1:00 PM	Circle
Wed. Dec. 18	NOON	SALT
Thursday, Dec. 19	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Tuesday, Dec. 24	6:00 PM	Candlelight Service

It's Still Christmas

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:21-23)

What makes Christmas, "Christmas", to you?

I think most of us remember back to our childhood traditions and we feel like Christmas should be like it was in "the olden days". (For some of us those days are more "olden" than others.) The sense of warmth and awe we felt was formed in us through those early traditions; the shopping, wrapping and anticipation of gifts, the feasting and family togetherness, the stories and songs of Christmas, and the events with our church family. At least those are the kinds of things that make it "Christmas," for me.

October Finances	
Giving:	\$18,575.30
Expenses:	\$22,294.63

I suppose the wonder of Christmas fades somewhat as we get older. This is especially true as the cultural trappings surrounding the holiday become more and more commercialized, and as the Biblical foundation of Christmas becomes unmoored from our cultural celebrations around the holiday.

What I want to leave with you in this article is the point that these general trends don't need to undermine our confidence in God's purposes continuing to be fulfilled, and Christmas will hold its depth of meaning!

Whatever trends dominate our culture, whatever fads come and go, whatever fashion is in vogue, it's still Christmas. Whether we think Christmas is feeling like it's supposed to feel, or not, it's still Christmas. It's still true that "the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us!" And human beings saw his glory; "glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth!"

What's more, the meaning of Christmas isn't only that it happened, that God became human in human history, but that God is still "with us"! Nothing ever can or will change that! That truth is what makes Christmas, Christmas!

With all the trappings of Christmas it might be easy to "through the Christmas baby out with the Christmas bath-water." We could become so jaded with what Christmas has become that we throw it all out. An even greater danger is in throwing the baby out and keeping the bath-water, (which is what many secularists have done in their Christmas celebrations.)

The antidote to a secularized and awe-less Christmas is to infuse our celebrations with the truth by revisiting the Biblical recordings of Jesus coming. No matter how awkward it might feel in the middle of your family gatherings, take some time to stop and read about Jesus. My reading suggestions: John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-4; Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 2:1-20.

No matter what happens, it's still Christmas!

Merry Christmas!
- John



PRAYER LIST: Martha Cathey, Deanna Wilson, Mary Godwin, family of Verda Baird, family of Harold Munson, family of Dan Symmonds, Cameron Symmonds, Sharie Leazer, Rod Ryan, David Wilson, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer, Ralph Paulding, Ray Woody, Dick and June Workman, Lisa Greenig's niece, Alyssa.

SALT Group (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) is now meeting on the third WEDNESDAY of each month. Please join us on December 18th when we will have a bagpipe performance by John Grunwald. Everyone 55 and over is welcome! Please bring a dish to pass. Welcome and thank you to John and Diane Yule who are now helping to lead this gathering!



Community Christmas Store. It's almost here!

Just a few more days to donate new, or gently used, items. This will provide a FREE "store" where children can shop for gifts to give to siblings, parents, and grandparents. Gift wrapping is available. Any donation is appreciated. (Please no clothing.) All leftover items will be donated to the Well in Fairfield. **Store set up: Dec. 5th 9 am.**

Store open: Dec. 6th, 5-7:00pm Contact Lisa

Greenig at 641-919-4343 or greeniglisa@gmail.com if you have questions or donations. Thank you so much for your help with this community outreach project.

Come to Supper, December 10. Our church is signed up to provide 12 casseroles. Casseroles can be any kind you like to prepare, baked in a 9 x 13 disposable pan and **delivered to the Lutheran Church** by 3pm on **Dec. 10**. If you are willing to prepare a casserole or two, please sign up by **Dec. 8**. If you need any help with pans, baking, or delivery please contact Erica Vories, 814-386-9025



Council Meeting – November 12, 2024

Present: John Rathbun, Ted Munson, JoDee Kyle, Jason Crandall, Virgil Symmonds, Bob Keller, Dick Hunt, Margaret Stephens & Pastor John Kermott.

Devotion by Jason Crandall was 2 John verse 7. Jason Crandall opened meeting with prayer. Motion made to approve previous month's council minutes by John Rathbun and seconded by Virgil Symmonds. So passed. Deacons will attend meeting when Gallaghers are here. Christmas decorating will take place on November 26 at 8:30 am. Christmas store will be December 6. Christmas Program is December 15 during morning service. Bob Keller said financial report for the month was decent. Rusty Muntz will put heaters in bathrooms this week. We need to elect two people for Pastoral Relations Committee to replace Lorri Deeke and Diane VanWinkle going off. From the Worship Board, there will be adjustments to the Constitution made in the new year. There was discussion on having the pews Scotch-guarded. Bob Keller will take care of this. On-line giving was also discussed. Motion to adjourn by Bob Keller. Seconded by JoDee Kyle. So passed. Respectfully submitted, Margaret Stephens



- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 2. Ray Woody | 8. Jason Baerg | 20. Diane VanWinkle |
| 2. Lisa Greenig | 12. Paul Greenig | 21. Ashlyn Worley |
| 3. Martha Cathey | 12. Jagger Reed-Foster | 23. David Wilson |
| 3. Mike Stiemsma | 13. Lorrie Deeke | 28. Clarence Baerg |
| 7. Ivan Baerg | 17. Jason Crandall | 29. Deb Hunt |

ANNIVERSARIES

20. Rod & Taryn Ryan

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is this month, but is not listed, please call the church office with that information.

HEAD USHERS		KIDZONE LEADERS	
1	Bob Keller	1	Erica Voreis & Kim Halvorson
8	Tom Baerg	8	Sarah Stiemsma & Amy Kermot
15	Ted Diers	15	Christmas Program (No KidZone)
22	Dave Bisgard	22	Betsie Wotherspoon & Julie Hanshaw
29	John Rathbun	29	

COMMUNION SERVERS December 1: Virgil Symmonds, Jan Baird, JoDee Kyle, John Rathbun, Darrel Bisgard

Christmas Program. December 15, during Worship, our KidZone and Youth will be leading us in worship and performing Christmas Songs from around the world. Jamaica, France, Sweden, Poland, The Netherlands, Africa, and more! Light refreshments will be served after. Cookie donations are needed. If you have a favorite treat from another country or from your family's heritage that you would like to share, please do!



Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24
6:00 PM



A 14-year-old wiser than his or her years wrote this poem (from an Operation Mobilization newsletter, 10/91):

It was spring, but it was summer I wanted—
The warm days and the great outdoors.
It was summer, but it was fall I wanted—
The colorful leaves and the cool, dry air.
It was fall, but it was winter I wanted—
The beautiful snow and the joy of the holiday season.
It was winter, but it was spring I wanted—
The warmth and the blossoming of nature.
I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted—
The freedom and the respect.
I was twenty, but it was thirty I wanted—
To be mature and sophisticated.
I was middle-aged, but it was twenty I wanted—
The youth and the free spirit.
I was retired, but it was middle-age I wanted—
The presence of mind without limitations.
My life was over—but I never got what I wanted!

Real contentment comes from experiencing all that the good Shepherd has provided for you. It's available in Christ, for every one of His sheep. Don't miss it!

