



# First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 161

December 19, 2017

*Under His Wings*

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Sunday, December 24th** Christmas  
Eve Candle Light Service starts @  
5:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 26th** Young @  
Heart meet at 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 27th &  
Wednesday, January 3rd** No WOW

**Saturday, December 30th Is 5th  
Saturday Men's Group Event**

**6:00 pm**—Men of \*all ages\* are invited to this church family soup supper event. Please bring a pot of your favorite soup and/or light sandwiches. Drinks will be provided. Also, please bring your favorite card game or board game to join in some fellowship afterwards.

**Sunday, December 31st** New Year's Eve Party begins at 6:00 p.m. with worship service, then, party begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 2nd** Elders meet @ 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 7th** Canned soup, crackers or your choice due in Beebe Hall for Calvary Baptist Food Pantry

**Wednesday, January 10th** W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.

## **Ponderings of the Preacher . . .**

Irma and I would like to wish all of our church family a very Merry Christmas and a joy-filled New Year. We are thankful to be a part of First Christian Church and to be able to serve our Lord alongside of you.

Wasn't Sunday's worship service a great time of praise and fellowship! If you weren't here Sunday, you missed out on a real blessing! You never know exactly what God has got in mind for our worship services each Sunday. Do your best to not miss any of our services so that you might receive the blessings God has in store for you.

I hope that each of you will be able to be present for both of our services this coming Sunday. We have our regular Sunday morning service and then don't forget the special candle light Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m.

As a reminder of what the season is all about, let me share the words of a song

C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

When I was but a youngster, Christmas meant one thing  
That I'd be getting lots of toys that day.  
But I learned a whole lot different, when Mother set me down  
And taught me to spell Christmas this way.  
C is for the Christ child born upon this day  
H is for herald angels in the night  
R means Our Redeemer  
I means Israel  
S is for the star that shone so bright  
T is for three wise men, they who traveled far  
M is for the manger where He lay  
A is for all He stands for  
S means shepherds came

And that's why there's a Christmas Day  
May each of us remember that God gave to us Jesus, "His indescribable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15).

C U N Church,  
David



***Serving In December******Elder:*** Dennis Bushue & Jon Zerkel alternating***Deacons:*** George Shouse, Martin Zubiata, Toby Wolke***Deaconesses:*** Bev Thoele & Mimi Bushue

<b><i>12-10-17 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b> <b><i>Total: \$5,284.00 includes Faith Promise Offering</i></b>	<b><i>12-17-17 Attendance &amp; Giving</i></b> <b><i>Total: \$3,559.50 includes Faith Promise</i></b>
Worship: 111                      Sunday School: 28	Worship: 115                      Sunday School: 26
<b><i>Faith Promise Missions: \$2,800.00</i></b>	<b><i>Faith Promise Offering: \$260.00</i></b>
Building: \$	Building: \$80.00
Sunday School: \$15.00	Sunday School: \$19.00

***December 24th Greeters:*** Jeff & Laurie Akeman ***December 24th Home Communion:*** Open***December 31st Greeters:*** Dallas & Hazel Kingery ***December 31st Home Communion:*** David McConnell

## *Thank You Church Family*

### **Décor Is Beautiful**

Thanks to June Ashley, Don & Bev Thoele, Nancy Harper, Elsie Palmer, Richard Raber & Art, Pastor David & Irma & Cleone Bloemker for helping decorate the church. Special thanks to Jack Bloemker for putting up the tree and the star in the church.

~ Cheryl Bloemker & Decoration Committee



Here to help

## *Thanksgiving/Christmas Dinner*

### **Thanks For Helpers**

Reenie Miller coordinated the dinner with helpers Cheryl Bloemker, Shari Long, Cleone Bloemker, Elsie Palmer & Sharon Caylor. Thanks to all who brought food and helped clean up and in all other ways to make it such a success.

### **Christmas Program**

Thanks to April Moeller for the beautiful Children's Christmas Program. Thanks to all who helped and assisted her as well.



## *Young @ Heart*

### **Tuesday, December 26th**

Come @ 9:00 a.m. to share in coffee/tea,  
fellowship and prayer in Beebe Hall

All 50 and over are invited to come and be with us on Tuesday mornings



# Prayer Requests



**Homebound and Nursing Home:** Marie Waddell, Bonnie Koester, Wanda Morgan, Holly Arney, Cecil "Paul" Richey, Wilma Sherrick, Marie Fulk, Don VanDeveer, Oneida Lewis, Elinor Wolford, Elfrieda Zerkel, Eldon Ooton, Darlene Zimdars, Elbert Carnes



**Cancer:** Laura Knierim, Sharon Douglas, Shirley Strickland, Ron Anderson, Tatum, Ashley Judd, Linda Smith, Paul Dempsey, Barb Eaton, Patty Willis, Alayna Plank, Renae Metke, Andy, Mike Page, Tom Koester, Brett Walker, Gary Lewis, Brandy Harper, Tiffany Dunaway, Brad Arney's Great Grandson Parker Burns, Susie Mast, Nancy Koester, Patrice Runyon, John Arnold, Carley Tull, Robert Barkauska, Jessica Baker, Nikki Szyonik, Katie Krueger, Misty Ulmer, Lanny Grove, Joshua McConnell, Rosemary Niemerg, Paula Jones, Ruth, Barb Gaddis, Elizabeth Weidner, Wyatt Smith, Dallas Parkhurst, Ray Bushue, Bill Dentln, Jane Ann's Friend, Joy Gamber, Gene Moeller, Ellen Walk, Sue Heth, Ken Gilbert, Arlene Mullen, Cheryl Woodard, Joe Stoops, Jill Fiddler, Scott Chavant, Dallas Hurst, Caleb, Tammy Zuber, Sandy Brockett, Travis Stine, Diane Slone, Elizabeth-7year old, Candy Walden, Ken Roley, Lois Bartels, Aretha Young & her husband, Cindy Meitzner, Leroy Lester, Mat Reed, Adam Stoops, Allen Griffin, Kathy Schroeder



**Special Needs:** Darlene & Gary Elliott, Elaine Griffin, Mary Muntean, Rodney Raber, LeAnn Spruell, David Shouse, Brad Donaldson, Callista Denoyer, Sarah Gremo & baby Cal, John Weiffenbach, Ron Thomason, Lolita, Lydie Anderson, Holly-Justine's Friend, Dale Loy, Ken Thomason, Glen Anderson, Amy Sidwell, Larry Harvey, Nancy Miller—(Gen Byers' Daughter), Gary Berlin, Jim Jones, Lucas McCarty, Sara Grubb & Zoe, Carolyn—(Judy Gregory's Sister-in-law), Velma Thomason, Cheryl Fagg, Olivia Adams, Dorothy Locke, Josh & Rochelle Duncel, Van Bogan, Shawn Bogan, Scott Figueroa, Lynn Weddle, Sandy Grimsley, Sally Ooton, Bob Reardon, Craig Lattig, Hazel Wyckoff, Rob Thomason, Joyce Jordon, Ethel Lash, Grandma Lucille, Brad Arney, Wanda McCoy, Klent Scoggins, Sue Thomason, Irma McConnell, Phyllis & Russ Mitchell, Bonnie Thomas, Jody Scribner, Mitchell Coffin

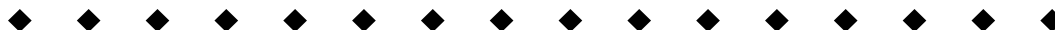
(These names will remain on the prayer list for one month. Then, we need an update to put their names back on this Special Needs list.)



**Missions:** Salvation Army & Operation Christmas Child



**Military:** J.R. Trueblood, Troops in harms way, Tyler Cross in the Air Force



**Grieving Families:** Tom Welp Family, Genevieve York Family, Agnes Simpson Family, Dan Richey Family, Savannah Allen Family

# Faith Promise

**2017-2018 Faith Promise Giving**

**Promised**

\$30,220.00

**Given**

\$4,050.00



# January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Elder's meeting @ 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Calvary Baptist Food Pantry items due (Canned Soup, Crackers, Cereal or your choice)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.</b>  <b>Women's Ministry @ 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>10 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 	<b>16 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>17 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 Children's Event—Play Bingo @ 10am Evergreen Nursing &amp; Rehab</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>24 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>31 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.</b>	<p>“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10</p>		

## *January B-Days & Anniversaries*



<i>1-Lois Ooton</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>16-Laurie Akeman</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>1-Mark &amp; Sharon Knaus</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>21-Ruby Tabor</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>3-June Ashley</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>22-Sharon Knaus</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>4-Eden Griffin</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>27-Jon Zerkel</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>8-Loretta Miller</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>28-Brent Vonderheide</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>10-Gary Elliott</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>30-Billy Fry</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>10-Roger Friese</i>	<i>BD</i>	<i>31-Aaron Vonderheide</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>11-Alexis Smith</i>	<i>BD</i>		
<i>12-Linda Packer</i>	<i>BD</i>		
<i>16-Larry &amp; Sue Thomason</i>	<i>WA</i>		



## *Calvary Baptist Food Pantry*



### **5th Saturday Men's Gathering**

**Saturday, December 30th Come @ 6:00 pm**

Men of \*all ages\* are invited to this church family soup supper event

Please bring a pot of your favorite soup and/or light sandwiches

Drinks will be provided

Also, please bring your favorite card game or board game to join in some fellowship afterwards.







June Ashley  
 Kelda Cunningham  
 Merry Christmas  
 Happy Holidays  
 Elise & Emily  
 Gary + Darlene  
 Kacey Scoggins  
 Gary + Helen Thompson  
 Debbie Williams  
 J.T. + Cheryl  
 Vernon + Shirley Jamison  
 Don + Beverly  
 Kevin + Barb Jarvin  
 Judy Gregory  
 Kieland Spruiell  
 Claudine Bush  
 David + Anna McConnell  
 George + Marcia Shuman  
 Sharon Caylor  
 Shari Long  
 Barbara Reynolds  
 Jon & Jane Ann Zerkel  
 Katie Reist Shuman  
 Richard + Rita  
 Merry Christmas  
 Happy New Year!  
 Cynthia + Don (2017)



# *New Year's Eve Party*

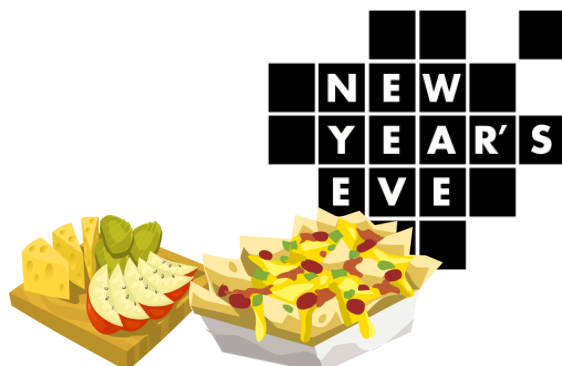
**Sunday, December 31st**

6:00 p.m.—Worship service



7:00 p.m.—Party Begins

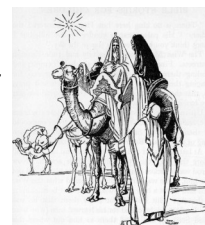
Bring your friends, favorite snacks and games



## *December Challenge*

### **Eliminating Biblical Illiteracy**

Biblical illiteracy has increased dramatically in recent years. People including Christians know less and less about the Bible. If we claim to be a people of the Book, we should have a working knowledge of the Bible. During the next several months, we as a congregation will be working toward eliminating Biblical illiteracy by increasing our knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Each month we will be focusing on a different part of the Bible and attempting to increase our knowledge of that part of Scripture. **In December**, our challenge is to become more familiar with basic facts about the birth of Christ. Won't you join us in this worthwhile endeavor?



## *Calvary Baptist Food Pantry*

**Sunday, January 7th**

Canned Soup, Dry Soup, Crackers & Cereal are due in Beebe Hall



## *W.O.W. Adult Bible Study*

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

W.O.W. begins @ 5:30 p.m. with supper, then worship in song and Bible study to follow.

**Wednesdays, December 27th & January 3rd—No W.O.W.**





First Christian church  
901 N. Henrietta  
Effingham, IL 62401  
SERVICE REQUESTED

**First Christian Church  
Saturday, December 24th  
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service  
5:00 P.M.**

**Come Caroling At St. Anthony Hospital  
Directly After The Service**

