



First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 233

December 15, 2020

The Way, The Truth & The Life

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Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, December 19th Children's Christmas Program Practice 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 19th Open House for John & Cathy Weiffenbach's 50th anniversary from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20th The Children's Christmas Program, *Christmas Letter to the Son*, will be presented during worship service

Tuesday, December 22nd Young @ Heart meets @ 9:00 a.m.

Tuesdays Online Prayer Time Starts @ noon on the First Christian Church Effingham Facebook

Wednesday, December 23rd Due to the holidays, W.O.W. will not meet until January

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31st New Year's Eve worship service is @ 6:00 p.m. Due to Covid 19, there will not be a party after the worship service

Sunday, January 3rd Soup, Crackers, cereal or your choice is due in Beebe Hall for Calvary Baptist Church food pantry

Ponderings of the Preacher . . .

Christmas is coming and there isn't anything anyone or anything can do about it. The Grinch tried to steal Christmas from the "Who's" by stealing their presents, decorations and food. He failed. Christmas came anyway because Christmas is not dependent on the outward trappings of the holiday. There is a movement right now to change Christmas to December 24 to celebrate Shrek's birthday. There isn't much support for this, but even if they were successful in changing the day, Christmas would still come because the date of celebration doesn't affect the real truth and essence of that special day. December 25, April 30, September 14 – they are just dates; the important thing is that on an actual and real date in time, God sent His Son. Charley Brown said he was not going to allow "this commercial dog to ruin my Christmas" because thanks to Linus he had discovered the real meaning of Christmas. We don't have to allow a "commercial dog" or a "devastating disease" to ruin our Christmas. In our present time, there are many who think that Covid-19 will keep Christmas from coming. This disease may change the way we celebrate Christmas, but it will certainly not prevent us from celebrating the greatest gift ever given!

Remember the words the angel spoke to the shepherds in the midst of a very difficult time – Israel was under the domination of the pagan Roman Empire and was being ruled locally by a wicked king named Herod; times were hard and conditions were rough.

"Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

I encourage you to come share in the children's Christmas program this coming Sunday morning and then in the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24. If you can't be here in person, please watch online.

Finally, Irma and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

C U N Church,
David



<i>Serving In December</i> Communion Table : December 20th—Dennis Bushue; December 27th—Troy Bloemker	
12/6/2020 Attendance & Giving Total: \$4,911.00 <i>includes Faith Promise & Online Giving</i>	12/13/2020 Attendance & Giving Total: \$4,354.00 <i>includes Faith Promise & Online Giving</i>
Attendance: 52 Property Ministry (Building): \$40.00	Attendance: 53 Property Ministry (Building): \$40.00
Faith Promise: \$1,205.00	Faith Promise \$1,307.00 <i>In Memory of Marie Waddell: \$100.00</i>

Children's Program Practice

Saturday, December 19th

The practice will begin @ 10:00 a.m.

The program will be presented on Sunday, December 20th during worship service.

This year, the program is *Christmas Letter to the Son* by Tanis Harms



Open House

John & Cathy Weiffenbach

Come, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

Saturday, December 19th

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cake and punch will be served

Please, no gifts, your presence is present enough



Young @ Heart

Tuesday, December 22nd

All over 50 meet @ 9:00 a.m. Coffee will be available along with a snack cake. Come for the conversation and prayer time.





Prayer List



Cancer: Diane Slone (Chemo), Elizabeth Weidner

Special Needs: Sharon Caylor (health issues), U.S.A., Police, 1st Responders, Church, Vernon Jamison (COPD), Lisa Lipcamon (health Issues), Aaron Carroll (house burned), Koesters (garage fire damage), Ron Walls (hernia surgery 11/30/20), Cloe Spracklen (Tumor surgery), Scott Langford, Daniel Webster (Kidney Failure), Marty Pagel (Health Issues)

Covid 19: Pat Schlueter, Irma McConnell, Alexis Smith, Pat Schleuter, Debbie Little, Josh Wright & Family, Jack Zerrusen, Bob Stine, Dennis & Gloria Stucky, Tara, Stephen Fleener

Missions: Operation Christmas Child, Faith Promise 2020/2021, Salvation Army

Pray For These Families: Mila Leach Family, Darlene Zimdars Family, Alice Fennessey Family, Marie Waddell Family, Janice Pike Fam-

Decoration Helpers



Christmas decorations

The church looks so festive and beautiful in keeping with the celebration of Our Savior's birth. Thanks so much to all who helped. Your help and talent was tremendous.

Helpers were: Dennis & Mimi Bushue, Shari Long, June Ashley, Rosie Parkhurst, Cleone Bloemker, Reenie Miller, Chris & Sheila Hutcheson. Kay Wyckoff and Rosie Parkhurst provided the reindeer display in the hallway. Two of my best helpers were David & Joshua Reyes. They carried totes from upstairs and decorated the tree in the foyer.

Good job fellas! What a blessing you are!

Merry Christmas and may God bless everyone in 2021.

Cheryl Bloemker
Decorating Committee



OCC & Salvation Army

Thank You

You know who you are, and you know what you did:) You (my angels made this year so easy, I will be glad to do it again next year. We took in 78 boxes to operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who helped in the fun this year!




Pastor & I are also, so grateful to all who have or are planning to ring bells for the Salvation Army. We appreciate all your help.

Merry Christmas
Elaine Griffin





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NIV)</p>					<p>1 Happy New Year!</p>	2
3 Calvary Food Pantry items due	4	5 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.	6 W.O.W. meets @ 6:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10	11	12 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m. Women's Meeting @ 6:30 P.m.	13 W.O.W. meets @ 6:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17	18 	19 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.	20 W.O.W. meets @ 6:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26 Young @ Heart @ 9:00 a.m.	27 W.O.W. meets @ 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30
31	<p>“ . . and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” Isaiah 61:3b (NIV)</p>					

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



Effingham County Christmas Dinner

Effingham County FISH

The annual **Free** Effingham County Christmas Day dinner will be on Friday, December 25, 2020.

Your meals will be delivered or you can use curbside pickup.

Meal delivery is between 10:00 a.m. and Noon.

Curbside pickup is available at The Beecher City Kluthe Center @ Park Rd., Beecher City between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to Effingham County FISH, P.O. Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401.

To Reserve Home Delivered Meals and Curbside Pickup: Call Senior Center @ 217.347-5569 by December 22, 2020. (Have a cooler or space available for the volunteers to put the meals in.)

We need Volunteers:

2 Shifts: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

Each shift is limited to 40 people. Please sign up ahead of the event. Masks and gloves will be available. To volunteer **call Susan Elke @ 217.868-5913.**





December Events

December 25th

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service starts @ 5:00 p.m.

Due to Covid 19 and CDC guidelines we won't be caroling at the hospital afterwards



December 31st

New Year's Eve worship service starts @ 6:00 p.m.

There will not be a party after the service



No W.O.W.

Wednesday, December 23rd

Wednesday, December 30th



Food Pantry Items

Sunday, January 3th

Please bring Soup, Crackers, cereal or your choice for the Calvary Baptist Food Pantry.





Book Of The Month

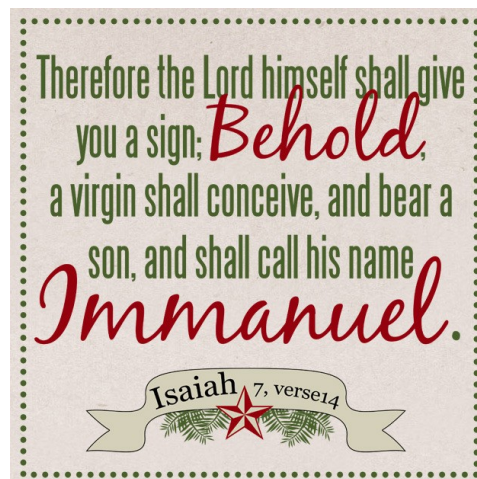
December Bible Study Book

The book of the month for December is Isaiah

Goals:

Greater knowledge of the Bible

Help one develop consistency in Bible reading.



Foyer Wall Photos

Thankful Pictures

Mimi Bushue asks that anyone who has pictures of Christmas or winter to share with her to possible use for the thankful pictures in the wall in the foyer that she exchanges as the seasons change. Please, e-mail the pictures to Mimi @ denmib@consolidated.net

Then, In January, send a picture of a thankful time during Christmas to be considered for the thankful pictures on the wall in the foyer.



Faith Promise 2020

Promises Made

\$39,449.00 for 2020/2021

Theme: Take God At His Word

Bible Verse: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Received—\$6,801.00





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

Worship Service

10:00 A.M.

We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing face masks

The 10:00 a.m. service will be streamed to FCC's You Tube Channel [https://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzvbjDnqiiSgRwsjlorIJhA)

www.youtube.com/channel/UCzvbjDnqiiSgRwsjlorIJhA

For technical difficulties call or text Pastor Martin @ (217) 317-3800.

