



First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 208

December 17, 2019

What Manner of Love

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Mark Your Calendar

Friday, December 20th Youth Christmas Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24th Young @ Heart Meets @ 9:00 a.m. for coffee/tea, fellowship and prayer

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

Wednesday, December W.O.W. Is dismissed until January 8th

Saturday, December 28th Men's Gathering Supper will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31st New Year's Eve service from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. then, the party from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 2nd Elder's meet @ 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 2nd Ladies Morning meeting meets @ 10:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel

Sunday, January 5th Food Pantry Items Soup, Crackers, Cereal or your choice due in Beebe hall

Ponderings of the Preacher . . .

Besides the Christmas Story found in the Bible, two of my favorite Christmas stories are *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and *The Gift of the Magi* by O Henry. The story told by Dickens is quite familiar having been made into movies and used by countless TV programs so I really don't have to tell you anything about it. However *The Gift of the Magi* is less familiar, so let me tell you a little about it.

This short story is about two young people recently married. Their names are Della and Jim. Like many couples just starting out, they were strapped financially. Between the two of them, they had two things of value: Della's magnificent hair and Jim's gold watch. It is Christmas time and they have no money to buy one another gifts. Della had saved \$1.87 but that would buy virtually nothing worthy of her Jim. She decided to sell her hair and received \$20 from the transaction. She then searched through town looking for just the right gift for Jim and finally found it. It was a platinum chain to go with his gold watch. Della was so excited and couldn't wait to present the gift to Jim. When he came home and saw that she had cut her hair, a peculiar look came over his face. She didn't want him to be upset with her and explained that she had sold her hair to buy him a gift. Jim had also bought a gift for her and gave it to Della. That gift was a set of beautiful combs that she had longed for in order to adorn her magnificent hair. Now that the hair was gone the combs were of no use. Her disappointment didn't last long because she still had her gift to give to Jim. When she showed him the gift she had gotten for him, he simply smiled and suggested they put their gifts away for a while. He then told her that he had sold the watch in order to buy the set of combs. Both had sold their most valuable possession in order to buy a gift for the one they loved.

To many the actions of Jim and Della were foolish. However sacrificing your greatest treasures for someone you love is not foolish but actually wise. That kind of giving is in imitation of our God who gave what He treasured most – His Son. What will we give to Him in return? Can we give any less than our best?

Please join us for Sunday's service and then for the candlelight service on Christmas Eve as we continue to celebrate God's greatest gift.

C U N Church,
David



<i>Serving In December</i> <i>Elder:</i> December 22nd Don Thoele <i>Deacons:</i> Terry Harper, Kelvin Williams, George Shouse, Chris Hutcheson <i>Deaconesses:</i> Sandy Grimsley & Linda Packer	
<i>12/8/19 Attendance & Giving</i> <i>Total: \$ 3,016.31 includes Faith Promise Offering</i>	<i>12/15/19 Attendance & Giving</i> <i>Total: \$ 3,417.00 includes Faith Promise Offering</i>
Worship: 82 Sunday School: 18	Worship: 117 Sunday School: 27
<i>Faith Promise Missions: \$296.00</i> <i>Interest on CD: \$112.31</i>	<i>Faith Promise: \$476.00</i>
<i>Building: \$40.00</i> <i>Children's Ministry: \$2.00</i>	<i>Building: \$40.00</i> <i>Piece makers Sewing Group: \$140.00</i>
<i>Sunday School: \$11.00</i>	<i>Sunday School: \$13.00</i>
<i>Greeters for December 22nd: Jeff & Laurie Akeman</i>	<i>Home Communion for December 22nd: Dennis Bushue & Martin Zubiate</i>
<i>Greeters for December 29th: Kevin & Barb Jamison</i>	<i>Home Communion for December 29th : Jon Zerkel & George Shouse</i>

Youth Christmas Supper

Friday, December 20th

All youth invited to come at 5:30 p.m. for Christmas supper and fellowship



W.O.W.

Wednesday, December

W.O.W. Dismissed until January 8th

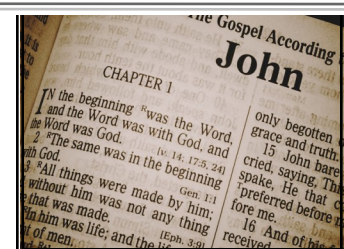
**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!!!**

December Book of the Month

A study guide is available on the foyer table for John.
Pastor David will be preaching from the book of John during the month of December

Goals:

Greater knowledge of the Bible





Prayer List



Cancer: Bobby Spracklen (Liver & Kidney Cancer), Vickie Spaulding (eye Cancer)

Special Needs: Robert Ballinger (Stroke), Sandy Grimsley (fall), Gen Byers (Surgery for pacemaker), Debbie Little (Elsie's daughter has sciatica nerve pain), Vernon Jamison (procedure on Dec. 10th & 18th for blocked arteries in thighs), Connie Wilhite (ill for weeks), Sylvia Northrup (pneumonia), Elsie Palmer's Sister, Roberta (lots of health issues), Sonya Davis Wed, Dec. 11th for wire put in her spine), John Weiffenbach (Knee Replacement),

Missions: Operation Christmas Child & The Salvation Army

Grieving Families: Tim Torbeck Family, Byron James Family

Homebound: Morris Sowers

Young @ Heart

Tuesday, December 24th

All 50 and over meet @ 9:00 a.m. for coffee/tea, fellowship and prayer.



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Men's Gathering

Saturday, December 28th

Meet @ 6:00 p.m. for supper with all men and boys. Prayer, devotional and fellowship



New Year's Eve Service


Tuesday, December 31st

New Year's Eve service from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Party from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.





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.”</p> <p>Matthew 5:16 (NIV)</p>			<p>1 W.O.W. Dismissed</p> <p><i>HAPPY</i></p>  <p><i>NEWYEAR</i></p>	<p>2 Elders meet @ 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ladies meet @ 10:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel</p>	3	4
5 Food Pan-try items are due in Beebe Hall	6	7	8 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13	<p>14 Mission's Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's meeting meets @ 6:30 p.m.</p>	15 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 W.O.W. meets @ 5:30 p.m.	30	31	



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

<i>1-Lois Ooton</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>1-Mark & Sharon Knaus</i>	<i>WA</i>
<i>3-June Ashley</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>4-Eden Griffin</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>
<i>22-Sharon Knaus</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>27-Jon Zerkel</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>30-Billy Fry</i>	<i>BD</i>
<i>31-Aaron Vonderheide</i>	<i>BD</i>



Elders' Meeting

Thursday, January 2nd

Elders will meet @ 9:00 a.m. at the church.





Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Thank You

Thanks to all the people who rang bells for the Salvation Army Effingham Unit during this season. Also, thanks to all who donated to the buckets at the locations in Effingham. Thank you for praying for a successful campaign to fund this year's budget for the people of Effingham County.



THE SALVATION ARMY
INTERNATIONAL

Ladies Morning Group

Thursday, January 2nd

Ladies will meet @ 10:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel



Old Country Store

Faith Promise Rally 2019/2020

Promises Made

\$53,492.00 for 2019/2020

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 So Far:

\$6,899.00



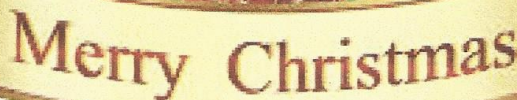
Take God At His Word

Food Pantry Items

Sunday, January 5th

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







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

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Tuesday, December 24th

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Come for worship and scripture reading to prepare you and your family for the celebration of Christ Jesus birth.

Directly after the service, you are invited to join us for caroling at the St. Anthony Hospital for patients that have to spend the holidays in the hospital.

