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«City», «State», «ZIP Code»



Our Mission:
To relate to
God more
intimately,
to evidence the
fruit of the
Spirit, and to
bring Jesus
into all our
relationships.

Hunters Ridge
Community Church
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Issue 21.11

December 2022

HRCC News

From the Pastor's Pen...

December is here and that means that we get to celebrate Christmas. During this time of year we often hear songs like, "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," or "All I Want For Christmas is My Two Front Teeth." It is really easy to tame and subdue Christmas and we miss the radical and revolutionary nature of Christmas. Yes Christmas is easily reduced to things like trees, wreaths, and gifts. Those are fun and it is okay. Yet the radical nature of Christmas is Jesus, the King, has come.



Read **Luke 1: 26 - 33** for a moment: "**Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."** But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.**" And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." This is the account of Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.

What do you notice about Mary?

Well she was from **Nazareth**. Nazareth was a tiny, "off the beaten path" town and had a reputation that only the "riff-raff" and the poor lived there. One of the disciples Jesus called to follow Him was named Nathanael. Prior to following Jesus, Nathanael was skeptical and said, "**Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?**" He was skeptical because **Nazareth** was just an obscure little town on a hill.

Mary was also a **virgin**.

Mary was also **engaged to be married**. To be married was a two-step process. The first step was betrothal. Betrothal was more of a business transaction between two families than a personal, romantic choice. A dowry or "bride price" agreement was included and if the betrothal was broken, repayment of the dowry was required. After the betrothal period then there would be the wedding celebration, the bride's move into the groom's house, and the consummation of the marriage. Mary was betrothed or **engaged** and was willing to be in a lifelong committed marriage. And we also see that...

Mary was engaged to **Joseph** a descendant of King **David**, and he was likely a **poor fellow**. And...

Mary was **favored by God** and **God was with her** – God, through the angel, declared and regarded Mary to be a special object of His favor. God has chosen her in His mercy and special favor to bring forth Jesus. And...

Mary was told she would conceive a child named **Jesus**. The whole gospel is wrapped up in the name of Jesus. His name means "Yahweh saves" or "Yahweh is salvation." Transliterated from Hebrew and Aramaic, the name is Yeshua, and

Continued...

it means, “rescue,” “deliver,” or “save.” His name means, “The Lord is salvation.” In every way, **Jesus** lives up to His **name**. The name *Jesus* reminds us of the power, presence, and purpose of the risen Christ. It assures us that God’s gracious intention is to save us. Our Lord Jesus brought God to humanity and now brings humans to God through the salvation of Jesus. And the angel says:

Mary’s son would be **great** and called the **Son of the Most high**, and He would reign on **the throne of David** and would have a **Kingdom without end**.

Christmas is a lot more than dreams of a white Christmas or two front teeth missing. It is about the King that has come to rescue us from our sin. Jesus is our only hope of abundant life now and eternal life forever.

I pray you will have a wonderful CHRISTmas.

Pastor Howard

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who brought in an Operation Christmas Child box. We collected a total of 48 boxes - just shy of our goal! Please continue to pray for the children who will be receiving these boxes.



★
 and
 suddenly
 there was with
 the angel
 a multitude of
 the heavenly host
 praising God
 and saying
Glory to God
 in the highest, and on earth
 peace, goodwill towards
 men
 Luke 2
 13-14

Christmas Schedule

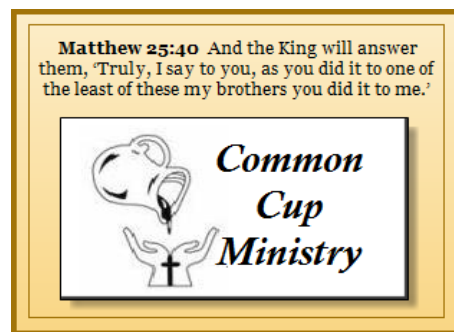
December is a busy month for many of us. Here is a list of what is taking place here at Hunters Ridge this month.

Friday, December 2 – 5:30 PM Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 18 - 9:00 AM – Sunday School Christmas Program
 2:30 – 5:00 PM – Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 24 - 6:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25 - 10:00 AM – Christmas Morning Service



Please keep pudding cups for the Week-end Backpack feeding program on your grocery list. Each church in the area has 1 item that they are asked to provide., so we are the only church providing pudding cups. Common Cup is currently serving 402 McLeod County students in Pre-K through 8th Grade in Glencoe and Hutchinson Schools. Lester Prairie will soon be added to the numbers. That's a lot of pudding cups, so please keep pudding cups coming.

Membership Class

Pastor Howard will be offering a **MEMBERSHIP CLASS** for those interested in finding out more about the church and membership in the church. It will be offered on Saturday, December 3rd, 8:30 – 11:30 AM. Please let Pastor Howard know or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to be a part of the class.



Everyone is invited to help decorate the church for Christmas on Friday, December 2nd starting at 5:30 p.m. Supper will be provided.



Spiritual gifts can be a confusing subject, but there are many good books on the subject. Check out our library this month where we are featuring books on spiritual gifts and talents.

Happy Anniversary

Happy 70th Anniversary to Walter and Kathryn Froemming! While their anniversary was November 21, we were able to celebrate with them during coffee time on the 20th.



1 Peter

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L	E	E	U	G	N	O	T	I	M	E	C	I	R	S
I	L	E	D	R	O	L	U	C	R	E	N	G	F	S
M	B	D	M	R	R	R	O	R	R	E	T	N	E	E
A	M	M	R	S	I	E	L	E	C	T	A	O	R	L
S	U	E	U	P	O	G	C	L	U	O	S	R	V	B
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R	T	C	V	R	E	M	A	L	I	C	E	N	N	N
A	E	Y	E	I	G	U	I	L	E	O	D	C	T	I
Y	D	R	D	T	L	E	P	S	O	G	N	E	L	M
E	I	E	F	A	T	H	E	R	U	D	N	E	Y	O
B	B	I	S	H	O	P	S	R	E	T	S	A	M	B
O	A	F	T	I	R	E	H	N	I	A	T	S	B	A

ABIDETH	FATHER	KISS	REFRAIN	TIME
ABOMINABLE	FERVENTLY	LORD	RESURRECTION	TONGUE
ABSTAIN	FIERY	LUCRE	RIOT	TREE
AMEN	GIRD	MALICE	SEED	TROUBLED
ANGEL	GOSPEL	MASTERS	SINCERE	TRUTH
ASTRAY	GUILE	MEEK	SOUL	VAIN
BISHOP	HUMBLE	MERCY	SPIRIT	VESSEL
DEVOUR	IGNORANCE	MILK	TASTED	VIGILANT
ELECT	INHERIT	OBEDIENCE	TEMPTATIONS	WINE
ENDURE		OBEY	TERROR	WITNESS

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<http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html>

Read Through the Bible

This year we will be doing a Chronological Reading Plan. This Bible reading plan will take you through the entire Bible in an historical linear timeline order with the first events first to the last.

1: 1 Corinthians 9-11	9: Romans 8-10	17: Philippians	25: 2 Peter; Jude
2: 1 Corinthians 12-14	10: Romans 11-13	18: 1 Timothy	26: 1 John
3: 1 Corinthians 15-16	11: Romans 14-16	19: Titus	27: 2 & 3 John
4: 2 Corinthians 1-4	12: Actos 20:4-23:35	20: 1 Peter	28: Revelation 1-5
5: 2 Corinthians 5-9	13: Acts 24-26	21: Hebrews 1-6	29: Revelation 6-11
6: 2 Corinthians 10-13	14: Acts 27-28	22: Hebrews 7-10	30: Revelation 12-18
7: Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	15: Colossians; Philemon	23: Hebrews 11-13	31: Revelation 19-22
8: Romans 4-7	16: Ephesians	24: 2 Timothy	