



*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - John 1:1*

*Christmas is a wonderful and crazy time. It's certainly wonderful in that it's an opportunity for family and friends to gather together to celebrate Good News. And, it can be a little crazy too, in those gatherings.*

But there's also a little crazy mixed up when we truly reflect on the implications of "God becoming flesh". This is known as the Incarnation. An infinite God becomes close and personal in the particularity of a certain Jewish carpenter. And there is the invitation for us to enter into a personal relationship with that Mystery we call God.

Once we make the leap into Jesus' arms, we begin to realize that everything changes! God becomes "enfleshed" in the most ordinary encounters of my day to day activities. The Word is born anew in the asundry doings of my seemingly ordinary schedule. So the Christmas invitation unfolds for me every day of the year: *Will I have the courage to embrace the Christ Child in His most surprising appearances?*

Merry Christmas to you!

*Scott*



### KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **Festival of Carols and Candles!** Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 7 pm. Invite a friend to share the joy!
- **SOUP SUPPER!** Join the party at the Steve and Jenny's house on Friday, **Dec. 13**, 6 pm (35663 E. Johnswood Rd. Big boulder at the end of driveway. Jenny cell: 941-661-2285). Bring a friend and a soup to share!
- **WINTER FUNDS APPEAL** ❤️: *Please prayerfully consider a special donation*

*to help us through the financially lean winter months. Your Special Gift is very much appreciated! THANK YOU for investing in Jesus' GOOD NEWS!*

- **STAY CONNECTED** during our long winter season by clicking on the "Connect" tab of our [webpage!](#)



Our **fourth quarter** missions focus is centered around reaching out **internationally** and we'll be emphasizing

our outreach to the rural poor in **Romania**. This is a multi-faceted ministry that is best described recently by Shirley and Gerry Hollister, Sunday, Nov. 17. They were there in October 3 - 17, sharing Jesus' love in some marvelous and creative ways (You can still catch their excellent presentation on our Facebook or YouTube channels). Collection Sunday is **Dec. 29**.

Additionally, this time of year, we support Operation Christmas Child, that outstanding ministry that brings shoeboxes full of gifts and hope to needy children all over the planet. This year **30 shoeboxes** from LCC and the community are carrying the love of Jesus worldwide!

*Do you know someone who may be struggling during the winter months with buying food or with their utilities bill? Lighthouse and the Community Food Bank can help! Have them call the Church or, if it's only a food pantry need, call Michelle Wallace, Food Pantry Coordinator, @ 312-285-4505.*



*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

— Luke 2:10

(Over)



For the shepherds watching over their sheep, it started off as a quiet night. Then suddenly an angel was standing in front of them! Of course they were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid." Then the angel announced that he was bringing good news that would give all the people great joy.

This was not just good news; it was life-changing good news. The Savior had been born, and he was going to deliver us out of all the trouble we were in. And how could the shepherds know who he was? The angel said, "You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Next, without any notice, an entire army of angels appeared, not coming to terrify the world but to surround them with praise about God's plan for a peace-filled world. That's the promise of Christmas: God's peace, God's invitation to the world to start over again.

The invitation still stands: Come to Bethlehem. Come and be a part of something new: a new king, a new kingdom, a new way of life.

And how do we become part of this new kingdom? By faith. By believing this story about this good news. For when we believe this story, we start over. In the words of Jesus, "You must be born again" ([John 3:7](#)). Come, Jesus says; you can have new life and become the children of God ([John 1:12](#))!

***Lord Jesus, show us the way to your manger so that in seeing you, we may believe—and in believing have eternal life. Amen.***

(From: <https://todaydevotional.com/devotions/terrified-shepherds>)

**Pearls of Wisdom**      "Who I am in Christ"

I have abundant life!  
See: *John 10:10*      ♥ Ruth Wise

## December Birthdays

- 3. Carol Webber
- 24. Angela Danforth
- 25. JESUS ♥
- 30. Kirk Tyler

## December Anniversaries

- 29. Scott & Angela Danforth

*(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)*



ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY: **TUESDAY, DEC. 17** (Email, if possible.)



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