

## December 2017

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December, it's the month that marks an end, the end of the year. I hope it has been a good year for you. I hope that it has been a year in which you have seen God's hand at work and found yourself marveling at His greatness. The transition from warm and sunny to cold and gray days has set in. The lush and green has given way to harvest, and now to brown and dying. And perhaps by the time you read this (said hopefully and not too loudly) the ground will be covered in a blanket of white snow.

But December also marks a beginning! It is the month we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His birth, the union of deity and humanity, provided the way to begin a new life, eternal life, for all who would turn to Him. Jesus established the New Covenant. "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear." (*Hebrews 8:13, NASB*) The Old Covenant revealed God's moral law and proved our inability to live according to the standard of God's holiness. It pointed to the need of sacrifice and thus to the day Jesus would come. The new began with Jesus.

I hope you are rejoicing in the new that Jesus provided for you! For the coming of Christ into your life has changed everything! *2 Corinthians 5:17* says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." Jesus is like the blanket of snow that covers the dead and dying sins that once grew in our lives. He died to take the penalty for all your sins and mine (*Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 28*). He broke the power of reigning sin in our lives (*Romans 6:6*). He went to the cross so that we could be clothed with His own perfect righteousness, and be received into God's heaven (*Galatians 3:27*). We celebrate the birth of Christ for His coming to earth marked something new.

December is often the busiest and most stressful month of the year. And all the going and doing can challenge living the new life we've received. Christmas shopping, special baking, family get-togethers, extra traveling, entertaining, and shoveling snow (hopefully), all make for a busy month. How easy it is for the busyness of December to choke out the newness of life we have in Christ. How easy it is for the noise and commotion to overshadow, even silence, conversation we could have about the One which the season celebrates!

Can I suggest that we look for slots of time, carve out blocks of time, this December to rest, to reflect, and to be renewed in the living Lord Jesus and the new life He has given us? Recently the Lord impressed on me the need to rest in and wait upon Him. For example, *Psalm 37:7* begins, "Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;" and three times in the first 8 verses says, "Do not fret." Perhaps if we do take this time, we might find December to be not so much the busiest month but the best month of the year!

This morning I wondered if those who've yet to believe are content with Christmas as just a holiday for food, fun, family, and gifts. Don't they have to wonder what the deeper meaning is? They could find out from us! And just maybe they might ask when they see "December" in us!




Thankful for New Life,

*Pastor Dan*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC  New Property Cleaning ~ 3 pm
3 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Fusion Leaders Mtg. - Noon @ Pastor Troy's home Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 7 pm, LL #106	4 Nehemiah Center Reserved Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	5  Ladies Christmas "Gathering of Friends" 7 pm—9 pm, NC/K	6 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr High/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	7 "Prayer" Ladies Study ~ 9:30 am, NC Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	8 <b>JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Christian Music Concert ~ 6 pm, BMO Harris Bank Center, Rockford, IL	9
10 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Guatemala 2018 Mtg. ~ 10:10 am, LL #106 Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 1 ~ 12 pm, NC Next Steps—Step 3 ~ 6:30 pm, NC Fusion ~ 7 pm	11 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	12	13 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Papa Murphy's Night ~ 10% proceeds to KATW Playground Awana STORE: 5:30 ~ Jr High/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	14 "Prayer" Ladies Study Concludes ~ 9:30 am, NC Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	15 Primetimers 11:15 am Pizza Hut lunch <b>Walk Through Nativity at our 1802 8th St. Property ~ 6:30—8 pm</b> 	16
17 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Ignite Christmas Party ~ 4 pm Fusion Christmas Party ~ 7 pm	18 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	19	20 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr High/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	21 Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	22	23
24 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite or Fusion <b>ONE Christmas Eve Service 4 pm</b>	25 <b>Church Office Closed</b> 	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b> Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106	27 <b>Church Office Closed</b> NO Awana	28 <b>Church Office Closed</b> NO Good News Club NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	29 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	30
31 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite or Fusion Guatemala 2018 App. Deadline						



- 9 Crystal Watson
- 10 Amelia Haworth
- 12 John Hudson  
Ralph Johnson  
Owen Kuenzi  
Rose Larson  
Jonathan Ragan
- 13 Bill LaFollette  
Betty Siedschlag
- 14 Shannon Allbaugh  
Jeff Italiano
- 15 Timothy Thoman
- 16 Kaya Holverson
- 17 Brian Thompson
- 19 Jonah Olhrich
- 21 John Bartelt
- 22 Jacob Brunner  
Dan Krahenbuhl  
Troy Watson
- 24 Joe Phillipps

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

- 25 Chris Faith
- 28 Jenny Turkelson
- 29 Eli Elgin  
Becky Troemel
- 31 Rylie Hartwig  
Barbara Thompson

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!**

- 2 Jennifer Boom  
Ruth Krahenbuhl
- 3 Dominic Klitzke  
Mike Klitzke
- 4 Gavin Eddy  
Lauren Erdmann
- 6 Jim Brown  
Michael Figi  
Cierra Larson
- 7 Evan Bartelt
- 8 Ann Italiano  
Shirley Pieper  
Ryan Proudfit



- 1 Roy & Karie Nafzger
- 7 Mark & Deb Setterstrom
- 13 Mike & Lynne Rhoe
- 20 Larry & Pam Young
- 22 Bernie & Beth Roidt



*Congratulations!*



*Erik & Amy Haworth  
welcomed their new daughter,  
Kate Isabelle Haworth  
Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.  
She was 8lbs 9oz., & 20" long.  
Kate joins siblings Eva,  
Brewer, & Amelia.*

**Ladies, you are invited!**

**Tuesday, December 5th**

**Christmas Gathering of Friends**

**7 — 9 pm in the Nehemiah Center.**

**The Krahenbuhl women are tying on their aprons once again to bring you warm fellowship and wonderful treats, and to share with you the best treat of all—the wonder of Christ's birth.**



## A Walk-Thru Nativity

Please Join Us:

Friday, December 15

6:30—8 pm

1802 8th St., Monroe



### The Privilege of Prayer

What does it take for you to enjoy the privilege of prayer? Daniel was a man of prayer. He prayed even while captive in Babylon. His praying landed him in the lion's den. Do you think he prayed there? Yes he did, and God spared his life. Do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego prayed in the fiery furnace? Yes they did, and God spared them.

God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want them answered. He does always answer prayer according to His will and what is best for us. Some people treat prayer like taking bad tasting medicine. Prayer can be difficult at times, but prayer is always profitable. God wants us to communicate with Him. He wants to provide for us. He commands and encourages us to pray. Make it a priority. It's exciting to see God answer prayer.

Remember Monday night prayer meeting, the email prayer chain, and prayer after each church service.

Dan Keen,  
Prayer Ministry Leader



We would like to extend our sympathy to Betty Siedschlag. Betty's sister, Carol, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 11th.

Our sympathies to the Lucy & Randy Whyte family, the Linda Shannon family at the sudden loss of their Mom, Virginia Lee "Gina" on Saturday, November 18th.

May God's strength and peace sustain you.

*Sunday School*   
*will be on Christmas*  
*break Sunday, December*  
*24th & 31st!*



**Beginning in January the Good News Club will have opportunities for you to supply treats. Please—nothing with peanuts due to peanut allergies for some children! Contact Kay Bloom or sign-up at the Welcome Center if you are willing to help.**

**MISSION:MONROE** contact  
Carol Larson at  
[larson8@gmail.com](mailto:larson8@gmail.com) or call 588-1475



**Habitat for Humanity** — Remember, you can sign up to volunteer in several different ways:  
Email: [Build@GreenCountyHabitat.org](mailto:Build@GreenCountyHabitat.org)

Sign up via the Green County Volunteer site  
<https://volunteergreencounty.galaxydigital.com>

Habitat is listed as an agency and if you search for Habitat under the "Agencies" section you can simply complete a short form and become a "fan" of our page and you'll dynamically receive all updates and additions to the schedule.

1. Facebook Page: Habitat New Glarus Build
2. Call Habitat at 608-329-4024
3. Text Leah Hanson at 608-347-8082

The address of the building is 200 1st Ave. New Glarus Wisconsin.

# NEXT STEPS

**Step 1—"Our Mission & Vision"** (1 session)  
Sunday, January 10th  
Noon, lunch provided, NC

**Step 3—"Our Commitments"** (1 session)  
Sunday, January 10th  
at 6:30 pm, NC

**Please sign-up at the  
Welcome Center!**

Pick up a brochure at the  
Welcome Center for a listing of the  
2017-2018 classes.



Awana Clubbers earn "shares" in order to make purchases at the Awana Store. You may have gift type items at home that you would be willing to donate. The Awana Store will be December 13th. Items to donate may be brought to the church from Sunday, December 3rd — Wednesday, December 13th. Please leave them in the Workroom, labeled for Awana Store.





ONE Christmas Eve Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm ONLY!

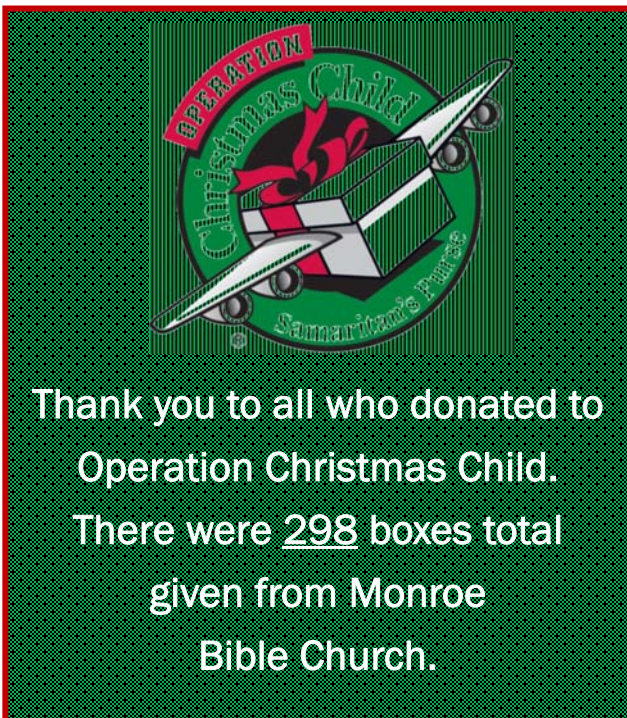
This year our Christmas Eve service will be simple & focused. There will be reading of the well-known Christmas Scripture passages, & each of our 6 worship leaders will lead a Christmas carol related to a passage.

There will not be an invitation to the congregation to contribute to the program.

Bring your family and simply focus on the promised  
One whose coming we celebrate!



Our comfortable Cry Room is located downstairs. The church service is live-streamed so you won't miss a thing while attending to your little ones.



*Merry Christmas!*

## New Building Update

Greetings Church Family!

We are excited to share with you just a bit of what the Lord is doing with the building our



While we all knew that there was a lot of work that went into a project of this nature, we weren't fully aware of just how many details there are to work out! Such as, a name - there is so much connected with a name! While it may seem a simple task to name a building, it has proven something of a blessed challenge. We collected suggestions for names and have prayerfully chosen four (out of 20+!) to submit to the Elder Board: "The Venue", the "Gathering Place", "The Oasis", and "Eighteen & Eighth" (after the intersection the building is located on). We are excited to hear which the Elders choose!

We have begun drafting the policies and procedures, and the mission statement. As we walked the building and the grounds, we realized that there is a fair bit of cleaning up to do, as it has been vacant for a time. Along with the Deacons, we have assessed the physical needs of the building and we have begun basic cleaning inside and landscaping maintenance outside. (Volunteers welcome!)

Our latest endeavor has been in continued community research. We have spoken with numerous organizations and prominent community members, and now we are reaching out to the community - and to each of you! We are looking for ideas and people willing to take action. A video has been posted to the church Facebook page asking for the communities' input. We would appreciate your help in spreading the video so you and your Facebook friends can contribute ideas as well. Simply go to the church Facebook page, leave your ideas in the comment section of the video, and then share the video to your timeline so your friends can comment too!

They say people read the first and last paragraph, so we end with this because we want you to read it. We envy your prayers. All our effort will be in vain if the Lord doesn't move in our church and community. Please, join us in praying for revival in Monroe and its surrounding communities, for effective ministry to our community, and for the Church to rise up and get involved in activities both at our church and in this new building. Unless the Lord moves, nothing moves - so please join us in the Throne Room of our Great King!

God Bless,  
The Advisory Committee

# Primetimers

The Pizza Hut Birthday Lunches will continue to meet the 3rd Friday of each month. This month, we'll meet at the Monroe Pizza Hut on Friday, December 15th at 11:15 AM.

We enjoy their buffet lunch and recognize everyone's birthdays for the month. No reservations necessary, just come and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Questions? Contact Carol Hasselmann, 815-505-3324

***\*Please Note:*** the Tuesday Lunch and Games has been discontinued for the foreseeable future.







## 2018 Guatemala Mission Trip

If you are interested in going to Guatemala July 7 -14, the LAST informational meetings are Nov. 26 @ noon & Dec. 10 @ 10:10 am, in a lower level classroom.

To be considered for the 2018 team, 4 requirements must be met:

- Currently in High School or older,
- Attend 1 of the 4 informational meetings,
- Submit a completed application to the church office no later than Dec. 31, 2017, and
- Attend Next Steps—Step 5 class “On Mission” which is 2 sessions in June



→ PLEASE NOTE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN DEC. 31, 2017. ←



Because of your generous giving to the Missions Harvest Weekend special offering, \$1,227.20 was collected. This allows us to provide our missionaries with a nice monetary Christmas gift. Thank you!



The November Pleasant View Birthday Party was another success. Thank you goes out to Elise Morris for managing the event, to all the people who helped in one way or another with the party, and for all the BINGO prize donations. Monroe Bible Church, you rock!



## PAPA MURPHYS NIGHT - Wednesday, Dec. 13!!

Papa Murphys in Monroe will donate 10% of purchases on Dec. 13 towards the Playground Fund & all you need to say is **PLAYGROUND** upon paying. Monroe Bible Church has a 5-year campaign to raise \$20,000 for a Kids Around The World (KATW) playground. KATW “harvests” unwanted commercial grade playgrounds in the US, refurbishes, and ships them to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries. It is a wonderful way to bring play into children’s lives, show them God’s love, and provide churches with ministering opportunities. Once funds are raised, we hope to send a team to install the playground, under the supervision of KATW staff. In our 1<sup>st</sup> year we raised \$4,305.41!

Thank you for your support!





# POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

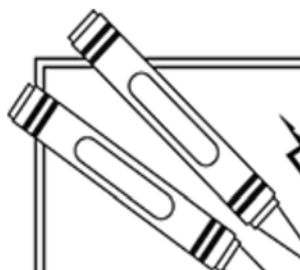
**What you need:**

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



**What you do:**

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

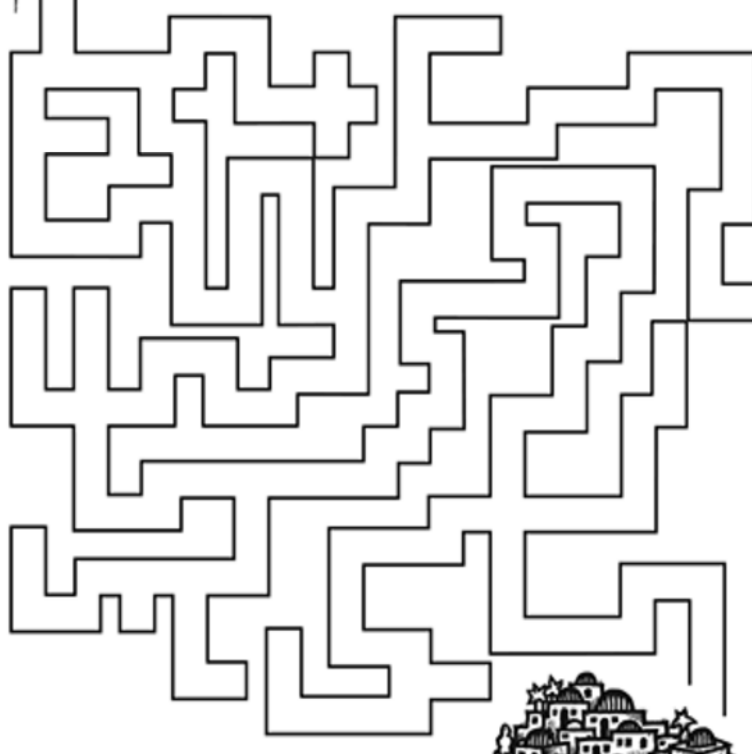


# PUZZLE

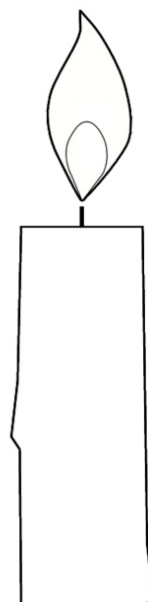
## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

★ **START**     *Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*



BETHLEHEM



COLOR ME!