

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS

- ❖ Threshold (Evangelism/Outreach service): First Sunday of each month, 6:30pm at the 1912 Center, 206 East 3rd St.
- ❖ Monthly Heads of Households parish meetings TBA.
- ❖ Family Psalm Sing: Third Sunday, 6:00-7:00 pm, Logos Auditorium, unless otherwise announced.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ❖ Catechism Class for ages 4-6: 8:45 am, Logos sixth grade classroom. Contact Isaac Grauke at isaac.grauke@gmail.com.

NURSERY

- ❖ Dad's room: Room 1. Mom's nursing room: Room 2. Both are wired for sound.
- ❖ A manned nursery is available for our Christ Church visitors every Sunday in the Logos Library.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Prayer requests: Email the church office or contact Wes Struble (310-3414) or Ed Iverson (882-4848).
- ❖ Visitor cards are available on the back table.
- ❖ Contact the church office to schedule a visit with a church elder.
- ❖ Remember the Deacons' Fund for needy families in the church.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 11

Tuesday, December 13

- ❖ Monthly Heads of Households parish meetings: See email for times and locations.

Wednesday, December 14

- ❖ Parish Bible Studies are cancelled until after the holidays. They will start back up in January.

Thursday, December 15

- ❖ Elders meeting: Anselm House, 6:00 am.

Friday, December 16

- ❖ Men's prayer meeting for reformation and revival: Anselm House, 6:30-7:30 am.

Saturday, December 17

- ❖ Advent Celebration: 4:00pm at the home of Brendon & Julie Hill, 804 Nickel Street, Kamiah, ID. Please bring a Mexican side dish and your favorite drink.

NEW NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ The Christ Church office will be closed Monday, December 19th, through Friday, December 30th.
- ❖ Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, December 24, 5:00 pm, Logos Fieldhouse.
- ❖ Christmas Day Sunday Service: 11:00-12:00 pm.
- ❖ Potluck & Bible Study: Saturday, December 31, 5:30 pm at the Rosales' home, 305 4th Street, Lewiston. Please bring one entree of your choice.

COLLEGE MINISTRIES NEWS & EVENTS

Contact Matt Gray- 883-7903 (o), 596-9787 (c),
crfmatt@christkirk.com

- ❖ CRF's weekly meetings are finished for the semester.
- ❖ See website (www.christkirk.com/crf) for Bible study locations.

CHRIST CHURCH

Lord's Day Service - 3rd Sunday of Advent - December 11, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

★ ADORATION

Minister: The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who are in awe of Him.

Congregation: **He will hear their cry and save them. Amen.**

“O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth” (Isaiah 25:1).

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

Congregation: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

★ PRAYER

★ *Magnificat*.....416-419

CONFESSION

EXHORTATION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Congregation is invited to kneel if able

“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light?” (Isaiah 50:10).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:19).

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

★ CONFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES CREED

Minister: Christian, what do you believe?

Congregation: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hades. On the third day He rose again from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

★ HEIDELBERG CATECHISM - Q. 70

Minister: What does it mean to be washed with the blood and Spirit of Christ?

Congregation: **It means to have the forgiveness of sins from God, through grace, for the sake of Christ's blood which he shed for us in his sacrifice on the cross, and also to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and sanctified as members of Christ, so that we may more and more die unto sin and live in a consecrated and blameless way.**

★ *Rejoice, All Ye Believers*.....**Handout**

CONSECRATION

★ SCRIPTURE READING

This week: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Romans 15:4-13

Next week: Psalm 80:1-19 & Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Christ Church - 205 E. 5th St, Moscow, ID - 208.882.2034 - office@christkirk.com

Elders: Bill Church Dale Courtney John Grauke Matt Gray	Ed Iverson Mike Lawyer Csaba Leidenfrost Ben Merkle	Jim Nance John Sawyer Wes Struble Matt Whitling Douglas Wilson	Gordon Wilson Fred Kohl Deacons: John Carnahan	Andrew Crapuchettes Jim Crapuchettes Tom Garfield	Joe Myers Rusty Olps Marc Rust Marc Wintz
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ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS - Caleb & Katie Bouma

*Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come.....***240 sung to DESERT**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Opening:

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Thanksgiving:

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Petitions:

“For You have been a strength to the poor, A strength to the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, A shade from the heat; For the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall” (Isaiah 25:4).

★ *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....***227**

SERMON

Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

Message: A Brief History of Christmas

Concluding prayer, ending with the Lord’s Prayer **411**

*Offertory - What Child Is This v. 3.....***250 v. 3**

★ *Hark! the Herald Angels Sings.....***236-37**

COMMUNION

THE BREAD & WINE

*Silent Night, Holy Night.....***245**

*Of the Father’s Love Begotten.....***246-247**

COMMISSIONING

The congregation may raise hands

★ *Savior of the Nations, Come v. 6.....***225 v. 6**

CHARGE & BEDICTION

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).

NEXT WEEK’S MUSIC SELECTIONS

Initial Doxology: 416-419
Anthem: CS 4-5
Psalm: 243
Before sermon: 225
Offertory: 250 v. 3
After sermon: 230
Bread: 241
Wine: While Shepherds (Handout)
Gloria Patri: 225 v. 6

★ *Indicates congregation please stand.*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

THANKSGIVING FOR...

- ❖ Our ability to work and our provision through it.
- ❖ The ministry of Christ Covenant Church in Enterprise, OR and Terry Tollefson.
- ❖ The birth of David Tokpa Leidenfrost to Hans and Justine.

NEW REQUESTS — PRAY FOR...

- ❖ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in Pakistan.
- ❖ The United States Congress.
- ❖ Recovery for Mark LaMoreaux following a heart attack and surgery.

REQUESTS FROM DECEMBER 4, 2011

- ❖ Christians who are persecuted in other countries, especially in Indonesia.
- ❖ The United States Supreme Court.

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS

- ❖ Complete healing for Billy Amos, Fran Atwood, Katie Bouma, Alexander Breese, Lindi Burgess, Dan Castle, Bob Dahlin, Chad Daniels, Arie DeWinkle, Julie Garfield, Emaline Handel, Bill Jackson, Lizzie Klier, Fred Kohl, Chris LaMoreaux, Noai Leidenfrost, Brian Nuttbrock, Beza Qualls, Kalkidan Qualls, Don Quist, Cecily Rathbun, Daniel Rosendahl, Nancy Rust, Morgan Schlect, Nesradine Schumaker, Layla Shaw.
- ❖ Colleen McGarry, who is working with Servant Group, Int’l. in northern Iraq.
- ❖ The Christ Church and Trinity Reformed Church expectant mothers: December-Alyssa Will, Cat Sentz, Paige Shaw, Kelly Zakariasen; January-Megan Fields, Julie Paul, Jenny Story, Katie Grauke; February-Bess Blakey; April-Betsy Becker, Abra Carnahan, Emily Wells, Beth Peterson, Katie Hathaway, Lydia Nicholas; May-Kara Isker, Chelsey Hoeft, Michelle Anderson.
- ❖ Other expectant mothers who don’t attend either church or have moved but are connected to the churches in some way

through family members, etc.: November-Carrie Dunn; January-Nellie Dimeler; February-Hannah Griffith; March-Kate Henreckson; April-Katie Miltenberger.

- ❖ The Lewiston church plant under the direction of Joe Rosales. Pray that a meeting place could be found and that the church would grow and flourish.
- ❖ Ian Bloomsburg, as he serves in the U.S. Army in New York; Mike Fenimore as he serves in Germany, Sam Kimmell in the U.S. Navy; Daniel Klier in the Marines; Nate Atwood; Chilton Williams in the Navy on the USS Enterprise; Drew Hicks in the Marines in San Diego; Scotty Oplinger in the Army in Ft. Benning, GA; Tim Barnum (Cat Sentz’s brother) in the Marines in Afghanistan.
- ❖ CRF, Credenda, Canon Press, and the church mission plants.
- ❖ Education: NSA, Logos School, Montrose Academy, ACCS, Pullman Christian School, UI, WSU, LCSC, Homeschooling.
- ❖ Eddie Gray, Jr., James Denham, Heather Casebolt Teston, Neil (Ray) Crawford, Jerry Langreder, Andrea Nunez, Adrian Nunez.
- ❖ Repentance of sin and salvation for Jon LaMoreaux, Daniel Miller, and Matthew Cernik.
- ❖ Pray for Douglas Wilson and the Christ Church elders as they seek to serve God in leading the church.
- ❖ Parents as they educate their children.
- ❖ Upcoming marriages of Samuel Dickison to Rosalie Comer (12/30/11), George Harrell to Emily Shearouse (12/31/11), Andy Sumpter to Emily Bradley (1/14/12), Jonathan Erber to Allie Bradley (1/14/12), Marty Becktell to Brooke Moody, Simon Esmond to Becca Hurt, Marc Shaw to Kelly Trovato (3/17/12).
- ❖ Pray for the Greyfriars Hall students.

STANDING PRAYER REQUESTS — PRAY FOR...

- ❖ Cultural stability, that we might live quiet and peaceable lives.
- ❖ State and local authorities as well as UI/WSU/NSA Presidents.
- ❖ The Bakwe’ in the Ivory Coast and for stability and peace in the country.
- ❖ Reformation and revival in the church.

“MAY I COME TO THE LORD’S TABLE?”

The Lord’s Supper is observed every Lord’s Day at Christ Church. We warmly invite to the Lord’s table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. You also acknowledge to the elders of this congregation that you are in covenant with God, being active in a congregation which is covenantally bound to the triune God through Word and sacrament. If you have any doubt about your participation, please speak to the elders before or after the service.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 9:6-7

INTRODUCTION:

We celebrate the birth of Christ, and we are able to do this because we have seen what His rule has accomplished in the world. Jesus told Thomas once that there was a blessing for those who would believe without having seen the risen Christ, as Thomas had (John 20:29). On this principle, our place in history gives us access to a greater blessing because we have not seen Christ with our eyes. But it goes the other way also. Those at the time of Christ had not yet seen what His rule would do in history (as we have). And so they are more greatly blessed looking toward the future—the same way that we will be blessed by looking forward to what Christ has yet to do (1 Cor. 2:9).

THE TEXT:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Is. 9:6-7)

SUMMARY OF THE TEXT:

There are many lessons that can be drawn from a rich text like this, but our task this morning will be to consider just two of them. The first is the Christmas element—the fact that a child is born unto us, and that a son is given unto us (v. 6). The second has to do with this child’s relationship to what is here called “government.” We are told that this child was born in order to rule, for the government will be upon his shoulder. And the second thing we are told about His government is that it will continually increase (v. 7). He will bear the government upon His shoulder, and it will be a continually increasing government. This increase—unlike the growth of secular governments—will be a blessing, and not a pestilence.

TERRITORY AND TIME

The fact that Jesus was born into this world (unto us, it says) tells us that He is Lord of all things. He is the Lord of the earth. Further than this, after He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, He was given rule and authority over all things in Heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18-20). And the fact that we are told that His government will steadily increase, without ever stopping, tells us that He is the Lord of time, the Lord of all history. He is Lord of the entire process. This includes those earlier times in the process when “the increase of His government” was not yet as obvious as it is now. This means that celebrations of His rule will contain corruptions that need to be weeded out. The kingdom grows gradually, and problems are addressed gradually. But patience is a virtue. Jesus is the Lord of it all.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS:

The early church celebrated what we call Easter (and others, Pascha) right away. This included the weekly “Easter” of the Lord’s Day (Heb. 4:10; Rev. 1:10). One of the biggest controversies of the second century concerned how the date of this annual Easter was to be calculated. So the early church celebrated the Lord’s resurrection (His being firstborn from the dead) from the very beginning. They

were a bit slower with celebrating His birth. But given the amount of space the gospel writers gave to accounts of His birth, it is not surprising that this celebration came eventually.

- The birth of the Lord began to be commemorated (on an annual basis) somewhere in the third or fourth centuries, A.D.
- It is commonly argued that this was a “takeover” of a pagan holiday, celebrating the winter solstice. But it just as likely, in my view, that this was actually the other way around. Sol Invictus was established as a holiday by Aurelian in 274 A.D., when the Christians were already a major force. So who was copying whom? And Saturnalia, another popular candidate for being an “ancestor” of Christmas, actually occurred on December 17.
- St. Nicolas, who was later morphed into Santa Claus, was a godly man, known for his generosity to children. He attended the Council of Nicea (325 A.D.), and at least one urban legend has him punching out Arius the heretic. Let us hope so.
- In the medieval period, the holiday became known by its current name (Christmas) in the 11th century. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle gives us the first use, recording something that happened in 1038. A.D. An archbishop died, “and a little after, Ethelric, bishop in Sussex, and then before Christmas, Briteagus. Bishop in Worcestshire.” Some may object to the fact that the suffix -mass is still in the name. But the objectionable doctrine of transubstantiation was not codified by the Roman church until the 13th century (1215) at the Fourth Lateran Council. The word mass originally came from the fact that in the ancient church catechumens were dismissed from the service before the Lord’s Supper was observed. “Ite, missa est,” which roughly translated means that “you may go now.” We see it still in our word dismissed. The vestigial reference to the Mass in this name should not be a trouble; Jehovah’s Witnesses refuse to celebrate Christmas at all, and they deny the deity of Christ.
- By the time of the Reformation, the ship of the church was absolutely covered with barnacles—saints’ days and whatnot. The Reformers scraped virtually all of them off, keeping only what they called the “five evangelical feast days”—Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. All five are related to things that Jesus did, and we are not distracted by the Feast of St. Bartholomew’s Finger Bone.
- Much of what we identify as “Christmas-y” is no more than a century or two old—our idea of a “traditional” Christmas is basically Victorian. This is not bad, although it can be bad if you are not paying attention to your heart, and wind up judging your neighbor. I refer to Christmas cards, snow, silver bells, electric lights for your house, and a Saturday Evening Post Santa with a Coke.

LOOKING FORWARD:

We expect the government of the Lord Jesus to grow, and this means that what we do will look quite different from what was done 500 or 1,000 years ago. We may hope that 500 years from now, it will be even more mature. In the meantime, we walk by faith in the one who is carrying all of human history on His shoulders—taking us home like an errant lamb.