



## Christ ambassador or tag-a-long?

The holiday season is a special time for so many reasons. As followers of Christ, it takes on an even deeper meaning as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. He is God's great gift to humankind. He is our redemption, salvation, and eternal hope.

One of the things I really look forward to and appreciate about the holiday season is the opportunity to return together to where it all began. On some level, this is our pilgrimage. We return, year after year back to the manger. We gaze upon our newborn King and thank Him again for coming to be with us. We let Him know how difficult and/or amazing the year has been and we pray for His continued mercy and grace to lead us through another year.

But let's reason together, what are we doing to share the gift this year? What opportunities are we taking or creating to bring others along with us on the journey? Who are you inviting to come with you on the pilgrimage back to the manger?

As ambassadors of the Kingdom, I would argue that it's our responsibility to accurately share with others the realities of redemption, reconciliation, salvation, and love.

God has completely wiped our sin away; He has made us white as snow. He sent His son to be with us, to bring redemption through His life, death, and resurrection.

And now it's our turn to bring the gift of Jesus to others.

So, this coming week, month, and year, consider who you interact with the most. Try to make a habit of returning to the same coffee bar, grocery store, gym, etc... Get to know the people there and pray for opportunities to share the Kingdom of light with them. I promise you God will hear your prayer and answer in some way... It may not, actually it probably won't, look exactly like you thought it should or turn out exactly how you'd hoped for, but God will use your availability and willingness for His glory.

This is the perfect time of year to offer the greatest gift of all time to those around you.

Much Love and Merry Christmas,

Troy and Mindy Drayer



Look deeper this holiday season. Jesus is God's great gift to humankind. Join us for the last two weeks of our sermon series and explore the reality of sin and redemption through the life of Christ.





Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>! Santa will arrive at the church following service. Stay after church Sunday and come down to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and pictures with Santa.





Join us ~ Sunday, December 25 Fellowship Hall, 10am Light brunch will be served.







### **SEASON OF GIVING**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Toy Drive and Angel Tree. You helped make it another successful year! The Remnant house has scheduled a wrapping party in our fellowship hall on the December 13<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't brought your gifts back in yet, please drop them off this week in the office. Thank you again for your support!

# Christmas for Crossroads



Sisters in Faith are again sponsoring a UCC gift tree for the Crossroads Children. The tree will be in the sanctuary and gifts can be placed

under the tree through December 11, 2022. We would like to deliver the gifts so the children can enjoy a gift for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact me, Linda Hammel, or Sarah.

The items requested for the children this year: pajamas (all sizes of men's and women's and larger sizes of boys' and girls'), art kits, paint and canvas, Lego sets, sketch pads, and colored pencils. Just a suggestion for the pajamas could be comfy lounge pants with elastic waist and t-shirts.

In the spirit of God's love - Suellen Jones, Sisters in Faith

# Christmas Word Find

K N0 C HE G ΧU X S ZΕ E N S M E Ε R EK G Ν F N A S R DKQY S

**JESUS** HAY MARY ANGEL **JOSEPH** FAITH WISEMEN HOPE MANGER FRANK INCENSE NATIVITY MYRRH BETHLEHEM SILENT NIGHT CAMEL LORD DONKEY SAVIOR CHRISTMAS STAR





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## The Nativity Story



#### JOSEPH & MARRY

A long time ago, a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph were going to be married. Mary and Joseph were good people who did what God wanted them to do.

#### ANGEL

One day an angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby! The angel said she should name the baby Jesus. The baby would be the Son of God, the Savior.

#### DONKEY

Mary and Joseph had to travel to a town called Bethlehem to pay taxes.

#### JESUS & ANIMAL

The town was very crowded. So Mary and Joseph spent the night in a place where animals were kept. That night baby Jesus was born!

#### HEPHERD

Shepherds were taking care of sheep in nearby fields
Angels came and told the shepherds that the Savior
had been born. The shepherds went to find and worship
the baby.

#### WISE MEN

Far away Wise Men saw the new star. They knew it was a sign that the Savior had been born. They followed the star until they found Jesus. They gave Him presents and worshipped Him

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We can be like Mary and Joseph by doing what God wants us to do. We can be like the shepherds and Wise Men by following Jesus Christ. We can be like the angels by telling others the real story of Christmas. And we can be like Jesus by following His example!

