

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Official Newsletter of
Stone Creek Fellowship Church



From the Pastor Jeremy Tennery

Hello Friends,

Hopefully your holiday season has been wonderful so far and let me wish you a very Merry Christmas. I pray that during this Christmas Season, you will have a chance to be surrounded by family and friends, share a laugh, or a memory, and enjoy a great meal together. Most of all, I pray that you will take a moment (or two) and truly remember

what this most wonderful time of the year is really about: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Stone Creek Fellowship family is celebrating the birth of Christ through our sermon series, Why the Nativity? This series helps us understand the circumstances surrounding the birth of Christ by answering the questions, Why was Jesus Born a Man?, Why Joseph?, Why Mary?, and finally Why Call Him Savior?. It has been a series that has opened my eyes to the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus and the obedience and faith that each of us should strive for in walk with Christ.

I pray that God’s love will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. During this time I am reminded just how grateful to God I am that each Christmas we can celebrate our “Immanuel” (God with us). Without Christ’s presence among us, we would be lost. Christ brings healing, transformation, and reconciles us to be made whole through the presence of God’s working within us and through us. I pray you all have a fantastic holiday season.



From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!
Pastor Jeremy

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Bible Verse of the Month

So my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do.
Isaiah 55:11 (CSB)

Christmas Traditions Around The World

- **El Salvador** - Celebration of Posadas - A 9 day festival from the 16th thru 24th symbolizing the journey to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph travel the streets of our city, looking for a place to rest for a night. The following day, they travel to another home and wait for the baby to be born.
- **Germany** - In German society, Christmas is above all a feast for the family and a feast of peace. It involves two holidays (the 25th and the 26th). The reason behind Christmas — that Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth — has largely been forgotten.
- **Hungary** - In Hungary “they celebrate Santa Claus on Dec. 6,” which includes children cleaning their boots to place in windows to get candy and small toys. Santa then goes away for the season.
- **India** - Celebrations begin church services on Christmas Eve night, followed by programs for the young people throughout villages with caroling and visiting homes to have tea and snacks. Christmas Day is spent in church with morning and evening services.
- **USA** - Exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

True or False

1. Prophet spoke of a measurement (Plumb Line) God would use on the nation?
2. Did the Torah and the Pentateuch have the same meaning for the first five books in the Old Testament.
3. Did the people during Jesus’ time have mirrors?
4. Millennium means 100 years.
5. Did Melchizedek bless Abraham?
6. Levi is another name for Matthew.
(Answers on page 4)

Birthdays & Anniversaries in December

Robert Myers Dec 5th Sharon Roberson Dec 18th
Wedding Anniversary COOK, Amber and Shane Dec 21st

SDV December Events

- Carols by Candlelight - Dec 17th @ 5:30 pm
- Christmas Party - Dec 17th after candlelight service
- Christmas Service - Sunday, Dec, 24th @ 10:00 am



Thoughts to Ponder

- "We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." - **Chuck Swindoll**

Adult Couples Sunday School



Adult couples Sunday school starts on December 5th in the sanctuary at 9:30 am. Suzie and Ritchie Carol will be the leaders of this new class. Adult couples of any age are invited to participate in this new class. Study materials will be provided.

Season of Advent - The Candles

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday in December until all four candles are lit.

Candle Name: the Prophecy Candle - Purple
The First Week of Advent Represents: Hope

Candle Name: the Bethlehem Candle - Purple
The Second Week of Advent Represents: Peace and Preparation

Candle Name: the Shepherd's Candle - Pink
The Third Week of Advent Represents: Joy

Candle Name: the Angel's Candle—Purple
The Fourth Week of Advent Represents: Love

Bible Trivia



1. What money was used to pay for the Potter's Field.
2. Does God know the faults of our minds and the secrets of our hearts?
3. What was the name of the Roman centurion assigned the responsibility of escorting Paul to Rome?
4. What was Joseph's mother's name?
5. What is the first mention of the Jordan river in the Old Testament?
6. Was Joses one of the brother of Jesus?

Visit The Stone Creek Website
www.stonecreekfellowship.org
Or scan the QR code below



"Christ Has Come" By Dr. B.L. Worsham

Christ has Come

"Joy to the world the Lord is come." (Baptist Hymnal page 65)

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) "God created man in His own image--male and female--God blessed them; He said--have dominion over every living thing--it was very good." (Genesis 1:26-31)

God who knows all things, saw that man would, by himself, fail! Therefore, God issued the first gospel promise to sustain men in their mortal journey: called, "The Protoevangelium." (Genesis 3:14-15) After long struggle this promise was fulfilled: "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son to redeem mankind--that we might receive the adoption of sons--into our hearts, crying, Abba Father--and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (Galatians 4:4-7) The Bible continues: "You also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, --you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance of His (Christ's) glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Beloved, this is what we celebrate at Christmas! Christ came incarnate from heaven--bringing us the opportunity to be saved, converted, forgiven, born again! He still offers this greatest of all blessing to whoever will pray and ask Him! Christ will hear your prayer of faith and redeem your eternal soul! Go before Him in prayer right now, and enjoy your happiest, most blessed Christmas! When you pray that prayer, you will surely sing-- "Joy to the world--the Lord is come."

"While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, To you, in David's town, this day is born, of David's line, the Savior who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign; all glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace: good will henceforth from heaven to men, begin and never cease."

God Bless You,



Christmas Scripture

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Homemade Peanut Butter Cups

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Chocolate Chips
- 1/4 cup Coconut Oil
- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar



Directions:

- In a microwave safe bowl, add 1 cup chocolate chips and 1/4 cup coconut oil. In 20 second increments, melt your chocolate.
- Once the chocolate is melted, fill the bottom layer of your muffin pan.
- Place in the freezer for 15 minutes.
- While those are in the freezer, make your peanut butter mixture. In a small bowl, add 1 cup peanut butter and 1/2 cup powdered sugar.
- Stir until you're able to form a ball. Remove your muffin pan from the freezer and place the peanut butter on top.
- Place in the freezer for another 15 minutes. After the 15 minutes, top with melted chocolate.
- Depending how big your peanut butter cups are, you may need to melt a little more chocolate.
- Place in the freezer for another 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, pop them out and enjoy. Store in either the freezer or fridge.

Candied Pecans

Ingredients:

- 2 cups shelled whole pecans
- 1/2 cup pure maple syrup

Directions:

- In a heavy bottomed skillet or pan, heat the pecans and maple syrup over low to medium-low heat, stirring continuously.
- The maple syrup will start to bubble and you'll see the extra moisture evaporating.
- Keep cooking and stirring until all of the extra moisture has evaporated and the maple sure starts to crystallize and stick to the nuts. This should take 5-8 minutes. Make sure you stir the whole time so that you don't burn the nuts.
- When the moisture is all gone turn the nuts out onto a baking mat or a piece of parchment (or waxed) paper and let the nuts cool.



Homemade Sausage Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Bulk Pork Sausage
- 3 teaspoons Minced Garlic
- 2-1/2 cups Shredded Monterey Jack Cheese, Divided
- 1-1/2 cup Milk
- 3 whole Eggs
- 3/4 cups Biscuit/baking Mix
- 3/4 teaspoons Rubbed Sage
- 1/4 teaspoons Pepper



- **Directions:** Cook the sausage in large pan on medium heat. Do not drain grease.
- Mix in 1/4 cup flour. Stir well until you cannot see white anymore.
- Then add 2 cups milk. Stir well again.
- Add salt & pepper and continue cooking on medium heat until bubbles appear. Then turn stove down to low and gravy will thicken. Then remove from heat.
- Biscuits are Pillsbury Grands FROZEN biscuits. Not canned biscuits. Never canned biscuits

Pioneer Woman Sausage Gravy

Ingredients:

- 1lb breakfast sausage
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups milk
- Salt & pepper to taste



Directions:

- Brown the sausage in large pan on medium heat. Do not drain grease. Mix in 1/4 cup flour. Stir well until you cannot see white anymore.
- Then add 2 cups milk. Stir well again. Add salt & pepper and continue cooking on medium heat until bubbles appear. Then turn stove down to low and gravy will thicken. Then remove from heat.
- Biscuits are Pillsbury Grands FROZEN biscuits. Not canned biscuits. Never canned biscuits

Baked Cajun Catfish

Ingredients

- 2 catfish fillets
- 1/2 t. garlic powder
- 1/2 t. onion powder
- 1/2 t. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. oregano
- 1/2 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 T. extra virgin olive oil
- salt & pepper to taste



Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- In a small bowl, combine spices, salt and pepper.
- Divide the spice mixture and sprinkle half on each catfish fillet.
- Place catfish in an oven safe glass dish. Bake at 350 F 25 minutes until fish is flaky.
- Serve immediately with steamed vegetables or a salad.

Homemade Whipped Honey

Ingredients:

- Light or dark, partially crystallized "natural" honey

Directions:

- Whipped honey is made by gently heating crystallized honey (if necessary) to dissolve larger crystals and then whipping it to incorporate air and create a creamy, spreadable texture.
- Generally, lighter-colored honeys with lower water content, such as clover or orange blossom honey, are better suited for whipping than darker honeys, which tend to crystallize more quickly.
- **Warm the honey:** You won't have to warm honey that is only slightly crystallized. just whip it. Gently warm the crystallized honey in a double boiler or a heatproof bowl set over a pot of simmering water until it becomes liquid again. Don't overheat the honey, as this can damage the natural enzymes and flavor of the honey.
- **Whip the honey:** Once the honey has become liquid, remove it from the heat and transfer it to a mixing bowl. Using an electric mixer or a stand mixer, whip the honey on medium speed for 5-10 minutes, or until it becomes light and fluffy (I whipped mine for 30 to get it how I liked it). Stop the mixer periodically to scrape down the sides of the bowl and make sure the honey is whipped evenly.
- Add any preferred flavorings or spices, such as vanilla or cinnamon, while the honey whips. Store in sealed glass jars.



EVENTS, NEWS & GENERAL NOTICES

Trivia Answers:

1. The field was bought with money paid for betraying Jesus Acts 1:18
2. Yes, God does Psalms 44:21 and 94:31
3. His name was Julius Acts 27:1
4. Rachel was Joseph's mother's name.
5. The story of Abram and Lot separation. Gen 13:11
6. Yes one of Jesus's brother Mark 6:3

True/False Answers:

1. True Isa. 28:17
2. True Both are used for first five books in OT Torah (law)
3. False mirrors were made of polished metal Job 37:18
4. False it means 1000 years and in Revelations it's used six times
5. True Mysterious priest and king of Salem who blessed Abraham in the name of "God Most High" Gen 14:20
6. True Levi was a tax collector in Capernaum.

Free Cybersecurity Awareness Training

We live in a world where everyone is online and uses the Internet on a daily basis for email, surfing the web, managed our prescriptions, bank accounts, order products online and much more. We are now offering **FREE Cybersecurity Awareness Training** to all SCF members. The training includes videos, newsletters and other features designed to improve your awareness and knowledge of cybersecurity threats. Contact Bill Parker by email at bparker@stonecreekfellowship.org or call 802-602-3551 for more information.

SCF Hosted Widow's Dinner

On Sunday, December 10th after the morning service the church hosted a special dinner for the widows who faithfully attend SCF. Scripture tells us to "Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need." (1 Timothy 5:3) The pastor, deacons and trustees and their wives took a number of honored widows to The Olive Garden restaurant for a nice dinner and social time.

Attendees included Sue Hughes, Barbara Lewis, Jo Ann Cole, Angel McPherson, Betty Stephens, Pastor Jeremy and wife Amanda, Emmett and Sylvia, Eddie and Audra McAdams, Paul and Andrea and other guests.



Children's Letters To God At Christmas

"Dear God: How are you doing? Is heaven OK? I just wanted you to know what Christmas means to me. "Christmas means a time of joy, peace on Earth and rejoicing the day your Son, Christ came down to Earth. That one night was the most holy night on Earth. The presents that I get every year are OK, but the greatest present you gave to the world was Jesus. Sincerely, Howard (age 10)."

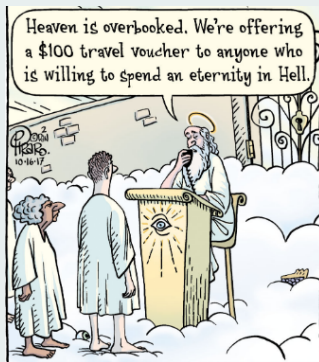
"Dear God: I love the smell of the house and the tree on Christmas morning. I love the feeling of Christmas on its way. Your friend, Jon (age 10)."

"Dear God: This time of the year where many give gifts to each other, I want to give my heart to Jesus. For me, this is the real meaning of Christmas, not giving among us, but to give your Son back what should be His. Jezrel."

"Dear God: I know it's more than just getting presents, but I'm just a kid right now. So, do you think I should ask for an angel or a game cube? Wait a minute. I'm going a little off the subject. Anyways, thanks for making Christmas. Sincerely yours, Chip (age unknown)."



HUMOR FOR THE SOUL



Hope Words

Faith is our positive response to what God has already provided.

"There is not a single thing that Jesus cannot change, control, and conquer because he is the living Lord." **Franklin Graham**

Stone Creek FELLOWSHIP

Stone Creek Fellowship Church

1251 FM 1696

Huntsville, TX 77320

936-213-2014

connect@stonecreekfellowship.org

www.stonecreekfellowship.org

[facebook.com/stonecreekfellowship](https://www.facebook.com/stonecreekfellowship)

Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Children's Church 11:00 AM

Thursday

Praise Team Practice 5:30 PM

Churchtrac—Your Web Window Into The Church

<https://elwsjw.churchtrac.com>



The second way to access the site is to open up you smartphone's camera and point it at the QR code shown to the left.

Your login name will be your email address. Click the "Forgot Your Password" to set your password. Contact Emmett Williams or Bill Parker for assistance

The Lord's Supper



The men's Sunday school class is now preparing the Lord's Supper which occurs on the first Sunday of each quarter. The group prepares unleavened bread and pure grape juice.

Dates for upcoming Lord's Supper events are shown below:

October 1, 2023

January 7, 2024

April 7, 2024

July 7, 2024

October 6, 2024