

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Eastminster Messenger

Heads, Hearts & Hands for Christ in Service & Celebration

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“Supernatural”

My experience in preparing for this sermon has been a complete journey. This Sunday we will be looking at Mary’s encounter with Elizabeth, after both had become pregnant through some divine intervention. Upon seeing Mary it says “Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit.” That last part found in Luke 1:41 is where I turned my focus.

Elizabeth’s experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit inspired me to read even more Bible passages involving the Holy Spirit; however in doing this I did not come to a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit. Instead, I realized how much I have neglected the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has always been the prime mover in God’s plan, but I had never considered the supernatural power Christians possess through the Holy Spirit.

The presence of the Holy Spirit during this prophetic encounter of these unlikely mothers make this story so extraordinary. So, why does church feel so ordinary? Perhaps it is because we forget that there is a supernatural energy flowing through us, connecting us, and allowing us to achieve things far greater than we could ever think. Read Luke 1:39-56 and ask yourself the question, has the Holy Spirit become supernatural?

Trey

Thank you, ladies of EPW!

We courageously tried something different this year with our (Midwest) tea-style luncheon and “Christmas sweets project” and had a lot of fun in doing so. Thank you to each and every one who planned, prepared, filled our table of sweets, filled a tin for our Friends at Home, delivered those tins, cleaned up, and most of all filled a chair at a table and shared the blessing of fellowship with each other. It was a joyful day, made very special by each of you! Christmas blessings to all!



Don’t forget...this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. we will go caroling and visiting with our friends-at-home to spread some Christmas cheer.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Last week, the Personnel Committee voted to close the church office during the week of Christmas. With Christmas being on Monday, this means that Tuesday, December 26-Friday, December 29, the church office will not be open and staff will not necessarily be here during their normal working hours.

All staff members will take care of responsibilities that need to be specifically addressed during that week, but they will have the luxury of doing so on their own schedule. The church voicemail will be checked daily and in an emergency, contact Dennis Davenport (812-459-5716).

In the past, on occasion, the staff has received a minor financial bonus at the end of the year if our financial situation allowed it. Since that isn’t the case this year, the Personnel Committee thought this would be a good way of rewarding the staff for their faithful dedication throughout the entire year. We do not anticipate this becoming standard procedure and it will not be written into our Personnel Policy Manual. With Christmas falling on a Monday, it simply seemed to be a good idea this year.

Thank you & Merry Christmas to our dedicated, hard-working staff!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting this Sunday, December 17 following the 10:30 worship service for the purpose of electing new officers and amending our by-laws.

The recommended change would be in Article VII, Section 1. It currently reads - *MEMBERSHIP OF THE DEACONS - The Board of Deacons shall be composed of eighteen (18) members nominated in three classes of six (6) for three-year terms, with a fair representation of both the female and male members of the congregation.*

The recommendation from the Nominating Committee would change that to read *“The Board of Deacons shall be composed of fifteen (15) members nominated in three classes of five (5) for three-year terms....”*

Sunday, December 17, 2017

8:00 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **USHER**
Lannie Frasier Pam Stevens

ADVENT READERS

Suzanne Lokey & Tony McClees

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

LITURGIST **HEAD USHER**
Lannie Frasier Mel Ellsperman

USHERS & GREETERS

Pam Doerter & Team
Pat, Jayne & Tracey Manis

ACOLYTE

Jacob Irmscher

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP LEADER

Annie Engelbrecht

FLOWER DEACONS

Deveta Miller & Anne Stallings

Eastminster Staff

Ashley Barnas - Nursery Worker
Anna Cantrell - Housekeeper
Dennis R. Davenport - Pastor
Mary Fulkerson - Office Manager
Trey Fulkerson - Youth/Pastoral Assistant
Marian LaChance - Housekeeper
Dennis Malfatti - Director of Music
Erin Tipton - Christian Ed Director

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 –4:00 P.M.
Friday: 8:30 - Noon

Church Communication Lines

Phone#: 476-3355/Fax: 476-8755
Web: eastminsterchurch.com
Email: epc@epcevv.com
Sound Engineer: Ron Harper
Social Media Administrator: Tony McClees
Prayer Chain Captain: Leslie Webb

Jingle Bell Jam

The Children's Fellowship Committee's **Jingle Bell Jam** will be a semi-formal Christmas dance held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 22nd from 5-8 p.m., for all ages. There will be a slideshow, board games, crafts, snacks, and of course, music and dancing! Parents are invited to stay and socialize while children dance and play games.



There will be a Secret Santa gift exchange during the dance for children in kindergarten through high school. If you are signed up, please have your gift turned in to room 104, no later than Wednesday, December 20th! Children attending the dance are not required to participate in the gift exchange, and the dancing festivities will continue while it is taking place.

Thank you to all of the children, parents, and members who gave song suggestions! There is now a complete playlist of popular and classic songs, that have been carefully selected to ensure a clean environment. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, clean up, or bring a snack, please contact Annie at (812) 499-9887. We hope to see you there!

Search for Christmas set for December 17th!



There are many stories and legends of Christmas that tells of how animals, birds, bugs and other creatures welcomed the Baby Savior to Bethlehem. In a new Holiday tale from Miss Penelope titled, "Bella and the Search for Christmas, she tells the story of a little kit fox named Bella, along with her companion, a little bird named Joshua, upon hearing of a promised King coming to the world, searching from one end of Judea to the other, leading them to the stable and to the promised one that is the Baby Lord. This new Holiday story will be presented to our children on Sunday, December 17, and as always contact the church office to request your copy if you will not be here. This is the Holiest of all seasons, make way and prepare the way for the greatest of all Christmas treasures.

Christmas Wishes & Blessings,
Roland Small, Jr.
Coloring Bookmaster
Children's Ministry

Prayers & Concerns

Please pray for the following: Marian Bruggenschmidt, Marilois Barker, Austin Smith, Connie Nichols, Tracey Manis. If you have a prayer request, please contact Leslie Webb at epcprayers@gmail.com or contact the Church

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At our Congregational Meeting this Sunday, the Nominating Committee will present the following slate of candidates.

SESSION (3-year term)

Annie Engelbrecht
Allen Helmstetter
Carrie Mogavero
Corey Fritz
Pam Doerter
Marilyn Ellsperman

YOUTH ELDER (1-year term)

Daniel Holden
Meredith Garcia

DEACON (3-year term)

Leslie Webb
Diane Van Cleave
Peggy Pennington
Suzanne Lokey
Lannie Frasier

DEACON (1-year term to fill the vacancy in the class of 2018)

Mike Lee

TRUSTEES (3-year term)

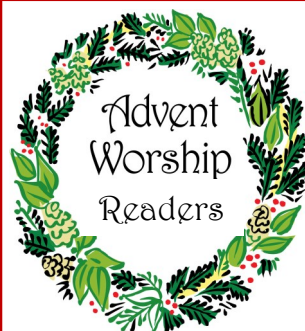
Sherie Hambidge
Al Grabhorn

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1-year term)

Corinne Smith
Mel Ellsperman
Linda Moore
Jane Williams
Mike Dahl

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (at large)

Corinne Smith (3-year term)
Mel Ellsperman (1-year term)



This Sunday
December 17

8:00 AM:
Suzanne Lokey &
Tony McCliges

10:30 AM:
Sara Ferguson & Family



Christian Education



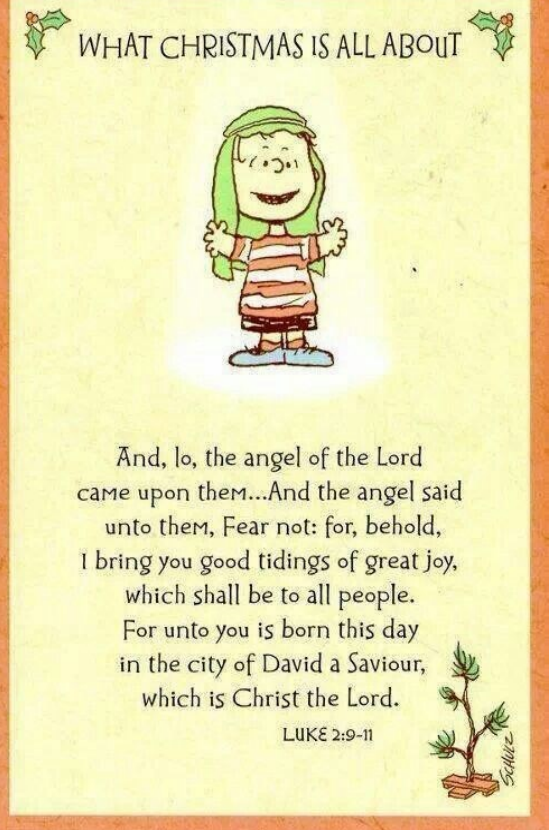
DO YOU HAVE A CHRISTMAS BUCKET LIST?

If you pay attention to social media at all, bucket lists are all the rage. They are no longer used as just a list of things to accomplish over a lifetime, but now are for short-term goals, as well. Families can make summer bucket lists of all the things they want to do in the summer to make their children's childhood magical (i.e. go out for ice cream, take a bike ride, go to a MLB baseball game).

Now people are talking about Christmas bucket lists of what activities they want to do throughout the Christmas Season. I will admit that I jumped on the bandwagon and started a list at the back of my calendar for things we want to do as a family this Christmas Season. I have 4 things on it and it is far from impressive. They are just the regular things we always do: attend Advent lunch, drive to Christmas Lake Village in Santa Claus to see the Christmas lights, read our Advent book, and get a picture with Santa. See. I told you they were just the ordinary things. Part of me wonders how we got to this point where bucket lists describe the everyday and not just the hopes and dreams for the future. The bigger things. Do they lose their special nature or true 'bucket list' status? Or, is that ok? Is it ok for the ordinary to be the extraordinary? Maybe?! So many questions...

So, what does bucket list look like in your spiritual life? I just thought of that, but I am guessing that if I Googled it someone else already has this spiritual bucket list completed. As we continue through the Advent Season, I wonder - does Jesus ask us to make these lists as people of faith? Do we approach faith with a list of things to accomplish and check them off when completed? Please don't be upset with me, but sometimes I think I do. Pray daily, attend church weekly, attend church events, be patient with those you love and everybody around you, give generously. My guess is we don't mean to, but sometimes we all do. And, we might utter in a silent prayer, "But I am doing all the things You ask of me. Why is this happening to me?" Sometimes I wonder when I will be able to turn off my internal chatter in my brain and just listen silently, expectantly, for my bucket list from God. But, I am not sure we get a list from God. What do you think? Things seem to be revealed slowly and carefully from God. But even still, I want some assurance that I am doing the things Our Creator has planned for me, but then isn't that what faith is? As we focus on peace this week in Advent, I hope you are able to rest in the peace of God, turn off the external and internal chatter and just "Let it be..." as Rev. Davenport preached this past summer. Bucket list or not for the Christmas Season activities, we have the hope, peace, love, and joy of the season while we wait for what our Creator has in store for us!

Peace be with you!



Be sure to attend the 10:30 am worship service on December 17, 2017 for the Christmas Pageant. Presented by the youth and children of Eastminster. Thanks to Chris and Jenny Kuhs for this marvelous idea! There will be a final rehearsal this Saturday, December, 16 at 10:00 a.m.

My office hours will be different this week.

Tuesday 8:30-12:30
Wednesday 8:45-11:45

OOPS!! I made a mistake. I forgot to thank Leslie and Chloe Webb (and baby Ava Kuhs) for their enormous help with the Advent craft!!!