

# The Herald



UNTO US  
*a child is born.*

ISAIAH 9:6

## Thoughts from a Pastor...

I cherish the memories of waking up Christmas morning and finding presents under the tree. This is an exciting time for kids. I still get excited, but it's excitement as a parent who gets to bless my kids with gifts. I don't believe there is a house big enough to hold the gifts of God if He were to wrap them all up and set them under a Christmas tree. The truth is, God isn't a God who only gives gifts once or twice a year. He is a God who is daily presenting us with gifts and blessings. Our lives are full of moments that are gifts from God.

"Why did Jesus Come?" This is our theme during the Advent season. Luke 19:10 says, **"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."** John 3:16 says He came to give us eternal life. Hebrews 9:26 says He came to sacrifice Himself for our sins. John 10:10 says He came that we might have abundant life. We can go on and on with verses like these.

This Advent theme ties in with our Thanksgiving Eve service, where we are going to spend time giving thanks and praise to God. We are using a scene from the Chosen series where the disciples go around the table saying **"It would have been enough God if \_\_\_\_\_, but You also \_\_\_\_\_."** Let me give you an example... **"It would have been enough God if You came and died for our sins, but You also gave us abundant life."** We can see that God has blessed us with way more than we could ever ask for.

As we gather with family and friends this Christmas season, add this time of thanks and praise of God to your holiday traditions. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, light coming into the darkness. This would have been enough, but Jesus did so much more than was necessary. Beyond the payment of our sins and the gift of eternal life, He gave us Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control (Galatians 5:22-23). He gives us Wisdom, Purpose, Identity, and Hope. He is a personal God who desires a relationship with us. One who walks daily with us, desiring that we would be made more into His image every day.

Do we find joy in giving gifts to others because our Father in heaven enjoys giving gifts to us, those He has adopted and called His sons and daughters? I wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you will ponder the many gifts you have received from our Lord and Savior as you celebrate the birth of Jesus with friends and family.

In Christ, Pastor Ben Larsen

## Missions Moment— Torchbearers

Dear Little White Church,

As the holiday season quickly approaches, this fall remains without a Fraser, Colorado staple: SNOW! Our community of ski tourism relies heavily on the consistency of our annual snowfall, and yet here we are, nearing the end of November with only a dusting of snow on the ground and the mountains. The town remains quiet and empty as ‘mud’ season drags on and we collectively wait for the moisture that sustains the livelihoods of families and business in our area.

Meanwhile, life at Timberline has not been slow! We’ve been getting to know 41 students from the US, Canada, and Europe over the past 2 1/2 months, and the Bible school program is in full swing. So far the students have studied the books of Colossians, the Torah, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Timothy, Jeremiah, and Ecclesiastes, along with series on the Gospel & Evangelism, Biblical Worldview, the Upper Room in John, and the 10 Commandments. Each week a lecturer will teach through one book or series to the students. Some lecturers are on staff here at Timberline, while many fly in from around the country and work as pastors, professors, or staff at other Torchbearers centers. Guests can come stay at Timberline for a week during the Bible School program and sit under a week of Bible teaching - please know that is an option for you or your family!

Currently, students are preparing for their first semester mission trip, which will take place in New York City in early December. Timberline partners with several ministries in New York that we have built connections with over the years, and the students will be divided in groups throughout the city working in homeless shelters, jails, churches, and other street ministries. New York will be the first time many students will share their testimony or a devotional publicly, and it’s exciting to walk through their preparations with them.

As for our family, we continue to see God at work in, though, and around us. Andrew is in his second year serving as an elder in our local church, which has been growing exponentially and is facing the beautiful challenge of running out of room for the people! Lisa has been meeting with 3 younger staff women for intentional mentoring and discipleship, and has been blessed to see spiritual fruit come from their times together. Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah all had a tougher transition than usual into school due to changes in teachers, friends, and class dynamics, but God has faithfully been meeting each of them in their struggles.



## Missions Moment— Torchbearers

Each day, there are many opportunities to share Christ: with each other, with our children, with the students and staff, with friends and acquaintances in town, and in the interactions we have with strangers. More than ever, we see our need to abide in Christ and depend on Him for each part of our day, our job, and our lives.

And so, as we feel this need so strongly ourselves, may we encourage you to turn your face towards Jesus today? Let Him be the source of your strength, your joy, and your love - Christ has given Himself fully to us and we cannot live this Christian life apart from Him!

Little White Church, thank you for your generous hearts and desire to see the good news of Jesus spread throughout the world. We are so thankful for you and how God provides for His work in Fraser, CO through you!

Love in Christ,  
Andrew, Lisa, Isaiah, Ezra, and Judah

**[www.timberlinelodge.org](http://www.timberlinelodge.org)**





# PRAY 7:14

Pray 7:14 is a reminder for you to stop what you are doing at 7:14 am & 7:14 pm each day and pray! Our hope is that LWC body will be in prayer at the same time, lifting praises and requests before the throne of God.

## 12 Christmas PRAYERS

### 1. Expectation

Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. (See Isaiah 9:6-7.)

### 2. Wonder

Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. (See Luke 1:31-33.)

### 3. Humility

Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. (See Matthew 1:20-21.)

### 4. Obedience

On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. (See Luke 2:4-5.)

### 5. Provision

Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. (See Luke 2:6-7.)

### 6. Peace

Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:13-14.)

### 7. Praising

Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. (See Luke 2:16-18.)

### 8. Grateful

Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. (See Luke 2:19.)

### 9. Saved

May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. (See Matthew 1:21.)

### 10. Fulfilled

Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. (See Luke 2:28-32.)

### 11. Worshipful

Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. (See Matthew 2:10-11.)

### 12. Wisdom

Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. (See Luke 2:49-52.)



God works in mysterious ways. On a recent journey with friends to Gillette, WY, to bring home a recently purchased car, we met a delightful sister in Christ who is an award-winning children's author and illustrator. Her name is Sheri Schofield and she has a heart for native children, having lived and worked on reservations in Montana and seeing the need for a true understanding of Jesus and salvation.

When we told her of the desperate need for Jesus on the Pine Ridge Reservation, she joyfully asked if we could take the last couple boxes of her children's book, *The Prince and the Plan*, and somehow get them to the families on Pine Ridge. We assured her we knew a big-hearted, loving man (named Ron) who makes many trips to minister faithfully on the reservation. After 4 trips from her house to the pickup, with the children's book and another one - *God? Where Are You*, for teens and adults, she was beaming and we were blessed.

A copy of both of Sheri's books will be in our church library.  
Her website is <http://www.sherischofield.com>.

Don't miss out on Advent! You can read through the book of Luke in December - finishing on the 24th.

**Here are a couple on-line suggestions:**

[Adventconspiracy.org/devotionals](http://Adventconspiracy.org/devotionals)

[Katebowler.com/advent](http://Katebowler.com/advent)

**My favorite books are:** *Joy to the World* by John Piper,  
*Love Came Down at Christmas* by Sinclair Ferguson and  
*Repeat the Sounding Joy* by Christopher Ash.

Get ready  
Normal ain't coming back - Jesus is

**December Librarians:** Pam Fowler & Bonnie McCaskell

# Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

## A PERFECT DESIGN

I confess: one of my favorite things about this time of year is the food. Some of my favorite foods end up on the menu for Thanksgiving or Christmas! As I ponder that fact, I'm also aware of how very blessed I am. May I remember that fact with every mouthful.

Have you ever really thought about eating? About **HOW** we take in nourishment? If you do, you'll discover what I have . . . the process itself is a miracle.

**All** of God's creatures — Sealife, birds, animals — have some orifice through which they take in nourishment. Some are able to pick up their food with their feet and lift it **to** their mouths. Many must bend over and pick up the food **with** their mouths.

Humans were designed a little more intricately. Our hands can **prepare** the food we eat. Then, we use them to lift the food to our mouths. From there, it is moved through our body's digestive system. I know: it's all part of the design, and all creatures digest their food. It's just the way it all works. Still, I find it fascinating.

Then, I got to thinking about the world of plants. Raising my kids in rural Pennsylvania, I had the chance to learn some intriguing things about plants. About the way **THEY** take in nourishment. More than any other creature, plants are at the mercy of nature's whims.

If it's too hot, they dry up and die. If it's too cold, they freeze to death. Torrential rains can drown them. Ice can break their branches. Strong winds can uproot them or tear them down. It takes a perfect balance of sun, rain, and support from the soil-borne nutrients for a plant to flourish.

Then, there's the **method** of how they take in that nourishment. If it falls on them, in the form of moisture, it is absorbed by their leaves and transferred to their roots. If it's **in** the ground, the roots absorb it directly, and transfer it to the rest of the plant.

No hands, with which to pick it up. No mouth, through which to consume it. A very complex design makes sure they receive the nourishment they need. For a tree, that design includes a thin layer that transports nutrients up and down the height of the tree. I once learned just how complex that design is, after a Spring rain.



# Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

It was early enough in Spring that the trees were at that stage of waking up where you could see all the buds where leaves would soon develop. On this particular day, I decided to go for a walk after the rain stopped. I wanted to enjoy the fresh aroma of rain-soaked plants and air. Plus, I've always loved the way raindrops hang like diamonds on the tree branches!

Walking along, I became curious about those dangling water droplets. I wondered if there was any rhyme or reason to **where** they clung to the tree. As I stepped in, to take a closer look, I made the most amazing discovery. On **each** tree I examined . . . on **every** branch, the sparkling drops of water followed a very **specific** pattern. Realizing what I was seeing left me standing in awe-struck wonder, unable to move. I was totally captivated by the sheer perfection of it all . . .

You see, **each place** where a drop of water was clinging to a tree branch was a place where a **leaf-bud** was waiting to open up! As though the tree had reached out and grabbed the water, and then held it close to the **one** place that could transfer the precious moisture throughout the tree's intricate digestive system.

In the book of Matthew, in chapter six, we are told not to worry about how our needs will be provided for. We're told to consider how God cares for the birds, the plants, and all of Creation. As I remembered the wondrous thing I had once learned about the trees, that passage of Scripture made more sense than ever before.

Whether we're considering the nutritional needs of plants, or how animals and birds take in nourishment . . . or pondering how **our** bodies use the food we eat . . . there is absolutely NO question in my mind **Who** is responsible for such a perfect design.

As you gather with your loved ones, to celebrate this magnificent season of wonder, I urge you to take the time to **notice** — and **acknowledge** — all of the amazing blessings which God has bestowed upon your life. They're there, I promise. Take time to **LOOK** for them!

May we always live our lives . . .

To His Glory . . . BJ Reese

# Echoes of God's Glory in Creation

Roseanne Hilton

## Reflections from Psalm 57

King David was constantly harassed by enemies during his reign. In this psalm he again cries “out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill His purpose for me.” David compares his foes to “fierce lions who greedily devour human prey—whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and whose tongues cut like swords.” [all quotations from 1997 New Living Translation]

In Psalm 55, David wished that he had wings like a dove so that he could fly away and rest in the quiet of the wilderness. But in 57 he looks to God for rest and protection. “Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to You for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of Your wings until this violent storm is past.”

David offers to God what He has stated that He desires from His people, the gift of thanks-giving.

“I will thank You, Lord, in front of all the people.  
I will sing Your praises among the nations.  
For Your unfailing love is as high as the heavens,  
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.”



*This article is in response to Leslie Hladysz's opinion piece in the Prevailer two weeks ago. She feels that the invocation given before city council meetings goes against the separation of church and state. I intend this not only to enlighten her on our history but as information for our church family .*

In response to her opinion may I offer mine? I only wish to point out that our nations history is undeniably tied to religion and God. Hill City is part of this nation is it not? God is central to many of our lives; so was and is He central to our government and it's foundations. There is no attack more destructive or dishonest than the attempt to write God out of American history. Even though it failed, the activist courts tried to remove Under God from our pledge of allegiance and declare it unconstitutional. Even if taken literally, the phrase is merely descriptive and only identifies the U.S. as a nation subject to divine authority. The Supreme Court itself begins each day by proclaiming, "God save the U.S. and this honorable court." Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas wrote, "We are a religious people and our institutions presuppose a Supreme Being."

For most of Americans (91%) Gods blessings are the basis of our liberty, prosperity, and survival as a unique country. For most Americans, prayer is real, we call on God for wisdom, guidance, and salvation. Our media and academic elites find religion threatening, or old fashioned and unsophisticated. Our schools have been driving the mention of God out of our history. For two generations we have accepted the judiciary's assault on our religious values even while we believe that our fundamental rights come from God and therefore are unalienable. A solid commitment to religious freedom is the cornerstone of our history. The marching song of the Union Army included this line "as Christ died to make men holy let us die to make men free." In the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson wrote that all people, "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and John Dichenson, all signers of the Declaration of Independence all wrote that no man had the right to take away the rights that God gave us. Benjamin Franklin often regarded as the least religious of our Founding Fathers at age 81 wrote, "the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth is that God governs in the affairs of men." Note that our Founding Fathers did not write, "we the states, we the government nor we the lawyers and judges or we the media and academics, rather they wrote" we the people. " If schools don't teach about Lincoln, they don't have to deal with his 14 references to God and 4 Bible verses in his inaugural address. That speech is carved into a wall of the Lincoln Memorial. The ACLU, private citizens and the University of William and Mary in Virginia tried, unsuccessfully, to remove crosses from veteran memorials and campus chapels. George Washington publicly acknowledged God by placing his hand on a Bible during taking his oath of office and adding so help me God and kissing the Bible at the end of the oath. He began his Thanksgiving proclamation on October 3, 1789, by declaring, "It's the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protections and favor."



# Response to Hill City Council Prayer

Mike Verchio

Liberty is the purpose of government, for it to survive it requires our free people to be virtuous. This requires a "true religion that is cultivated among us." At the end of Washington's inaugural address he stated, "True religion affords to government its surest support. " The following quotes are profound.

George Washington: Of all dispositions the habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. John Adams: We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other. Sam Adams: Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness. Alexander Hamilton: The politician who loves liberty sees a gulph that may swallow up the liberty to which he is devoted. He knows that morality overthrown and morality must fall without religion. Charles Carroll: Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore, who are decrying the Christian religion undermine the duration of free governments. Elias Boudinot: Our country should be preserved from the dreadful evil of becoming enemies of the religion of the Gospel. John Adams: Religion and virtue are the only foundations of all free governments. Thomas Jefferson: The interests of society require the observation of those moral precepts in which all religions agree. Governor. Morris: Religion is the only solid base of morals that are the only possible support for free governments. Benjamin Rush: The only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in religion. Washington in his general orders wrote "the fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

What about our national monuments? National Archives : The Ten Commandments are engraved in bronze on the entry floor. The Bill of Rights begins : "if Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. "This protects the freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. The Washington Monument is filled with references to our creator and references to God. The Jefferson Memorial: A The panel begins with these words, " I have sworn upon the altar of God ". Lincoln's Gettysburg address is only 700 words long and mentions God 14 times and the Bible 4 times . Reagan's words when he dedicated the Vietnam Veterans Memorial " the Lord will bless and keep you". The FDR memorial inscription states that Americans must choose the path of faith ." The Capital Building is filled with religious imagery and inscriptions . The Supreme Court has the Ten Commandments prominently displayed. As you enter the! Library Congress the Gutenberg Bible is prominently displayed. In a 1983 speech Ronald Reagan said "with God's help the worlds nuclear Arsenals would be totally eliminated. Eisenhower "The real fire within the builders of America was faith... faith in the providence of God.

"Our rights that come from God are the surest foundation of our liberty and freedom." -Newt Gingrich .

I think it's ok to honor our Lord at Hill City Council meetings , how about you .Mike Verchio-605-391-5093.

# Newsletter Newsletter

## His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

**Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.

**Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.

**Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.

**Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

## Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



## See a Need—Fill a Need—Ministry for LWC Body

***See a Need—Fill a Need is a ministry to help the members of the LWC!***

Do you need help with mowing your lawn, shoveling snow, minor electrical repairs..... or??? ***The list could go on and on.***

If you do, please check out the **See a Need—Fill a Need Information Center** on the Bulletin Board.

Fill out an informational form (hanging on board)  
and stick it in a giving box in the sanctuary.

Forms will be processed by the office.

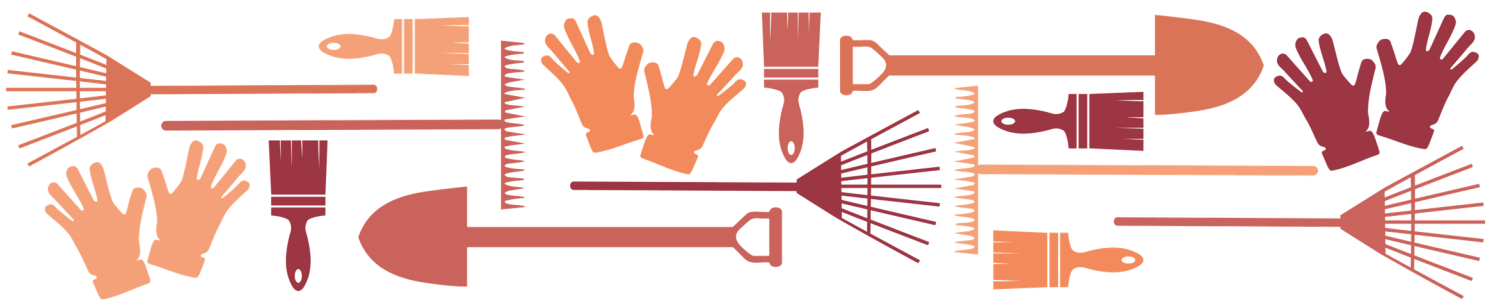
When approved they will be placed on the board for LWC members to review (names will be kept confidential).

Members can contact the office for details and once need is met, it will be removed from board!

Questions?? Talk to Stephanie in the office.

***“Contribute to the needs of the saints  
and seek to show hospitality.”***

Romans 12:13



***Want to help fulfill See A Need requests?  
Please contact Stephanie in the Office.***





Come and join us for a

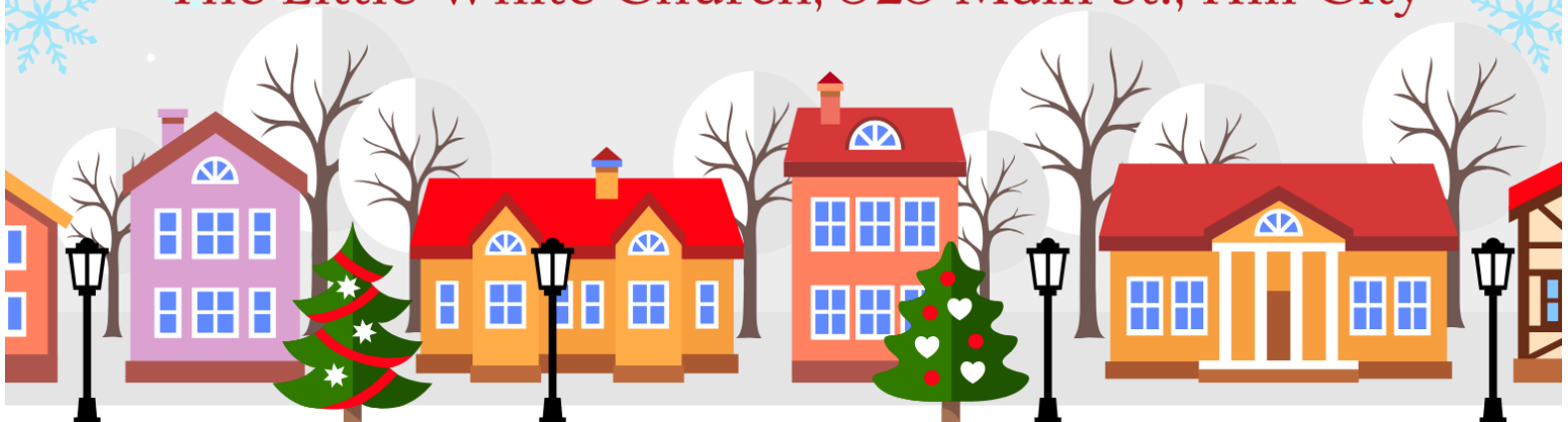
# ★ COMMUNITY ★ CHRISTMAS *Coffeehouse*

Come and hear Christmas music from some of the  
Hill City churches, enjoy Christmas goodies and  
warm Christmas drinks!

7 December, 2025

4:00 pm

The Little White Church, 525 Main St., Hill City



# PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

When: Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>  
5-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per child/ \$15 per family

Parents are invited to drop their kids off  
at the Little White Church for an  
evening of fun, crafts, and pizza!

Ideas for parents-  
Christmas shopping,  
Date Night,  
or Run Errands!





*Why Did Jesus Come?*

*Join us to celebrate*

**CHRISTMAS**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

*8:30 am & 10:15 am*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

*4 pm & 6 pm*

**ONE SERVICE DECEMBER 28TH**

*9 am Social Time & 10:15 am Service*

*The Little White Church*

*[www.thelittlewhitechurch.net](http://www.thelittlewhitechurch.net)*



## Announcements

### **Ladies – Mark Your Calendars – Secret Sister Gift Exchange**

December 6th at 10 am and this year we will exchange ornaments.

So, bring one wrapped and ready to trade!

**You are Invited to join the Wednesday Morning Life Group for Christmas Caroling!** December 10<sup>th</sup> – leave church at 10 am. Suggestions for caroling spots are welcome, please contact Denise Nay for more info!

**A Place at the Table (church) cookbooks are available for purchase, \$10 each.** Books can be purchased online through the church's website giving tab or by emailing [office@thelittlewhitechurch.net](mailto:office@thelittlewhitechurch.net).

***Christmas is coming – this would make a great gift!!***

### **Fellowship Time Snacks Needed!**

Please sign up on the sheet by the kitchen!

**Want to be added to our church directory?** Please send info & family picture to Stephanie at [office@thelittlewhitechurch.net](mailto:office@thelittlewhitechurch.net)!



**Check out our Church App!**



***Give Online!***



**Pray 7:14**

**Give back every time  
you shop at Christianbook!**



# Christianbook

## «GIVEBACK»

Christianbook Giveback is a simple and automatic way for you to support your local church or organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

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When you shop at [christianbook.com](https://christianbook.com), Christianbook will donate a portion of your merchandise total to your local church or organization.

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**GIVEBACK ID: QKWRLH**

## Nativity Word Scramble

STBALE \_\_\_\_\_  
 HEEPS \_\_\_\_\_  
 NLGEA \_\_\_\_\_  
 TSAR \_\_\_\_\_  
 GAMREN \_\_\_\_\_  
 JHPOES \_\_\_\_\_  
 OENYDK \_\_\_\_\_  
 EUSSJ \_\_\_\_\_  
 SKNGI \_\_\_\_\_  
 YMAR \_\_\_\_\_

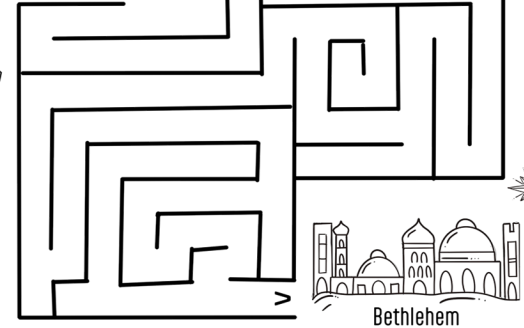


### Word Search

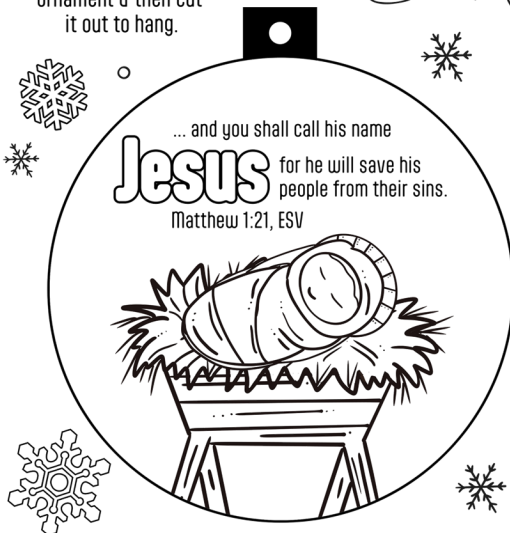
H	R	L	Y	V	E	L	A	B
O	B	L	E	S	S	O	A	R
L	R	G	I	F	T	V	S	A
Y	E	G	F	P	S	E	B	T
J	O	Y	A	T	A	E	B	S

JOY, LOVE, GIFT, HOLY, BLESS, STAR

Help Mary & Joseph  
find the way to Bethlehem.



Color the Christmas  
ornament & then cut  
it out to hang.



Merry  
Christmas

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LOVE GOD • WALK TOGETHER • CHANGE LIVES

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Sunday Service Times at 8:30 am & 10:15 am—Fellowship In-Between

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