

with us like a child pulling the wings from a fly. Good, the beauty of a newborn evidences that. Evil, there is as much evidence in plague and famine to say perhaps the being enjoys our suffering. We cannot know his character by looking at what is created.

But then information was imparted. In bits and pieces as Scripture is written. Dreams, voices, visions and angels have spoken to the events of the hour. A correction of an evil, the adjustment of a world gone wrong... something communicated about God's interest, his concern, and his morality.

But one night, stargazers not unlike a little boy looking into the heavens, saw something different. A bright star in the east, out of place burning with an intensity unnoticed in the past. This star was the beginning of new communication, a revealing of God come down to show exactly how he cared. That night, the answer to the questions that had swirled through the minds of the curious throughout history was finally allowed to unfold.

Jesus, the Godman entered our world to announce God was on our side and to demonstrate it in a manner unheard of. It all began, as people were lying on their backs gazing at the stars.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

December 25, 2016

As a small boy I would lie in the grass looking to the stars and wonder... How did this happen? Who made this? And when?

You don't have to be very big to gaze at the stars, overwhelmed by the wonder of it all. *The heavens declare the glory of God...* I am sure I had never heard that verse at that point in my life, but I had the experience. Like countless others since the beginning of time, we peer and wonder.

If heaven remained mute, we would not know. We would know some things. However it happened, it would have taken incredible power. Whoever fashioned the heavens had to be timeless, in existence before time was counted.

But those who remained on their backs and speculated couldn't know the character of this creative force. Famines, birth defects, natural disasters and pervasive misery throughout the world could be the active handiwork of this mysterious being, toying

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breising, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breising

WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 25, 2016

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon

GATHERING SONGS:

No. 1012—Go Tell It on the Mountain (vs 1)

No. 264—O Come, Let Us Adore Him (vs 1, 2)

WELCOME: Tom Turner

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-24 (Steve Potter)

SONGS: No. 997—O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1, 3)

No. 995—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs 1)

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:1-20 (Darrell Bauer)

SONGS: No. 1018—Joy to the World

No. 995—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs 1)

No. 1003—Silent Night! Holy Night!

PRAYER: Stan Aldrich

SONG: No. 359—I Love the Lord

COMMUNION: Tom Turner

Stan Aldrich

Fred Johnson

Joe Cornwell

SONGS: No. 999—The First Noel (vs 1)

No. 1001—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs 1)

LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)

SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)

PRAYER: Richard Breising

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today.

NO POTLUCK DINNER TODAY

Please note that there will be NO potluck dinner today. We will resume our normal schedule next week, please plan to stay!

WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

- Adult Bible Class at 7:30 pm
- NO Youth Group this week.

NEWS FROM MEXICO

Rick Owens recently sent a note thanking all those who have helped support the various works he has been involved with over the last year. See the note posted.

BABY GIFT FOR SIZEMORES

Ben & Baylee are expecting a baby right away; if you would like to contribute to a group gift for them, please contact Janet.

SYMPATHY

We received word last week that Carol Gingrich's nephew, Kelly Turner, was killed in an accident on the interstate near Salina. We extend our sympathy to this family.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Carl & Janet Feril—Dec 28

George & Shirley Shelton—Dec 29



PRAYER REQUESTS

Victor & Cinthya Garcia family who worships with the Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson: their young son Fernando still in the hospital in Denver, being evaluated for possible rejection of his heart transplant
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - more cancer
Landon Neidig (Teddy & Carol's great grandson)
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - as Cris is treated for her cancer
Jonathan Batten—ongoing cancer treatment
Greg Barlage (Baylee Sizemore's cousin, who lives in Wellesley, MA) diagnosed with Leukemia
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - improving health
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - leukemia
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rugan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Breising (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead
Laura Wyatt—on Hospice Care at Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub—Kenwood Plaza
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org