

# Baptist Bugle



January 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 ~ Morris, Illinois

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## Pastor's Ponderings –

**The true meaning of Christmas is that Jesus Christ, God's Son, came to this earth to be born into the human race.** As we gathered together on Christmas Eve, we considered the question, "Why did He come?" It's a valid question, and it's one we as Christians ought to have a ready answer for. Why would God want to come to this earth? Why would Jesus want to take on human flesh and become fully man while yet still being fully God? Well, there is a good answer for it, and I'm very thankful that there is. But as we look at that answer, let's consider two questions. First of all, do we know the answer to that question? And second, do we know how to give the answer, and explain it to someone were they to ask us, "Why did Jesus come to earth?"

Well, first of all let's answer the question: **Jesus Christ came to earth to save sinners.** It's as simple and clear as that. I Timothy 1:15 says, "*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.*" Paul knew exactly why Jesus had come into this world. There was no doubt or question or hesitation in his mind. Jesus Himself declares in Luke 19:10, "*The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*" John writes in his Gospel in John 1:14, "*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*"

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Isaiah 53:6 reminds, "*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – everyone – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*" If Jesus had not come to earth, we would all be without hope. And we would be lost for eternity. We would be condemned to an eternity separated from God. Romans 3:23 tell us, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*" But thankfully there is hope. We are not without hope. I Peter 3:18 reminds us, "*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit.*" And He rose from the dead. Jesus didn't stay in the grave, **He rose again! He is risen! Praise the Lord!** Acts 10:43 tells us, "*To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.*" And Romans 6:23 tells us, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.*" And finally Romans 10:13 states, "*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*"

So we have answered the question of why Jesus came to earth, and what it means to be saved. Could you explain it to someone else if they were to ask you what it meant to be saved, or why Jesus came to earth? Could you lead someone else to Christ? As we enter a new year, I am amazed by how fast time is flying by and thus fleeting away. In 2018 it felt like every week I was flipping the calendar to another new month. What should we be about if not pointing people to Christ as we see the Day approaching? As we enter 2019 let's give up our "small ambitions" and focus more on what's really important -

**Know the Message, Believe the Message, Preach the Message, Live the Message**

Blessings to each one as we enter this New Year, looking to Christ, and living for Him,

*Pastor Steve*

*Thank you!*

Kristi and I would just like to say how much we appreciate you, and to say thank you for all of the Christmas cards and gifts this past Christmas season. We are so thankful for each of you, and happy to celebrate together the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

Kristi and I wish you all a very joy-filled New Year as we look forward to what the Lord has for us in the year ahead.

Thank you for your friendship and your fellowship.

God Bless you,

*Pastor Steve and Kristi*





*We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the following family –*

The family of Bob Griffith, who passed away at Christmastime. Our prayers go out to his family and loved ones.

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*The following notes were received -*

To my family in Christ,  
Thank you all so much for the cards and gifts you gave me at Christmas. I feel so blessed! I truly love you all!  
In Christ Jesus,  
Chris Phillips

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Dear First Baptist Church,  
Thank you for the package and the prayers. I appreciate them both very much, especially as I head into finals week!  
Love,  
Meghan Bonomo

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Christmas Blessings to all at First Baptist Church,  
Thanks for your generous support of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, of which we are grateful recipients.  
Gratefully,  
Ken and Genevieve Peterson

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Dear Pastor Steve,  
The Home for the Holidays committee would like to thank you and First Baptist Church for hosting this year's tea! The church was beautiful, the cookies were delicious and the entertainment was wonderful. On behalf of our entire committee, please accept my sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas! Thank you for your commitment to our community.  
Sincerely,  
Julie Applegate, Home for The Holidays Chair



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



**Women of Prayer**  
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

### **Men of Action**

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm  
Meet again on January 8<sup>th</sup>  
All men are invited to come



### **Women's Afternoon Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
Meet again on January 8<sup>th</sup>

New Study - *"Living in God's Will"*  
*Book of Ruth*

All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm  
815-942-6625



### **Women's Evening Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Meet again on January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Study - *"Psalm 23-The Shepherd With Me"*  
By Jennifer Rothschild

All women are invited to come  
Please contact Colette Kirby  
815-942-9527



### **Single Moms' Group**

Every Other Wednesday Evening at 5:30 pm

If you are a single mom or know of one who would  
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!



# Congregational Prayer

Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm



*Come gather together for prayer and praise!*

## SOWL Food

Looking for a volunteer willing to fill the need of organizing people and food for those that require a few meals brought to them while recovering from surgery or illness.

Please call the church office if you are interested, 815-942-0812.

## Good News Club

Good News Club began Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and will finish Thursday, April 25, 2019. Club will be held every Thursday 2:45-4:00pm, at Saratoga School, during this time period that school is in session a full day.



We are excited to see what God has planned for this new school year and appreciate the prayers of our "Family of Faith" as God brings the kids!

It's our fervent hope and prayer that many will come to know

Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior

and that they will be little missionaries in their homes, neighborhoods and school.

Staff for the 2018-2019 school year –

Carol Adair, Kara Paulson, Kristi Larson, Helen Brehm and Kay Hemmersbach



## Awana Club

Registration February 3 @ 6 – 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Ages 4 yrs. to 8<sup>th</sup> grade

We are very excited to be starting up an Awana Club here at First Baptist Church!

Awana Club will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in the evening

Youth Group will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month in the evening

You can also pre-register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812

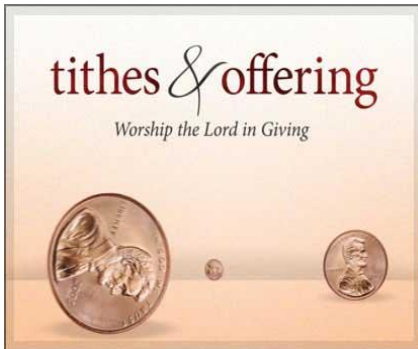
Registration is required so we can order the materials needed

# UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
December	\$25,720.00	\$23,640.02

Church Mortgage Balance as of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 \$197,952.92

*Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!*



This past year \$16,215.00 has been given to be applied to the 'principal only'! Anyone wishing to contribute toward lowering the principal should write 'apply to principal only' on their check. For accounting purposes, it would be appreciated if you would write a separate check if giving for 'principal only', rather than including it in your regular giving check. Thank you!



## JEWEL-OSCO FRESH DONATION

Jewel-Osco continues to donate fresh food each Sunday morning. The donated fresh food is that which is dated and must be used.

We have a great need for volunteers to go to Jewel at 11am on Sunday mornings to pick up the food and bring it back to the church. If you are able to serve in this capacity once a month or so, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the library. If you have any questions, please see Deb Ritke, our coordinator!



Blame keeps wounds open....forgiveness heals

“...become kind to one another...freely forgiving one another just as God, also by Christ, freely forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32



**Annual Church Business Meeting  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm**

Please save the date for the Church's Annual Business Meeting.  
The report of the Nominating Committee and the  
Proposed 2019 Budget have been posted on the bulletin board  
near the Library

**All Boards will meet for their  
first organizational meeting  
Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**



**New Boards to Meet on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

6:30 pm – Board of Diaconates

***Senior Luncheon - Nancy McKinney's Fudge***

Lightly butter a 9-inch square pan

- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 3 cups sugar (oh my!)
- 1 5-ounce can evaporated milk (2/3 cup)
- 1 12-ounce package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 7-ounce jar Kraft marshmallow cream
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



Mix butter, sugar, and milk in heavy 2-1/2 or 3 quart saucepan. Bring to full rolling boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 5 minutes on medium heat until candy thermometer reaches 234 degrees, stirring constantly to prevent scorching.

Remove from heat. Gradually stir in chocolate chips until melted. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.

Pour into prepared pan. Cool at room temperature and cut into squares.

**Notes:**

You may use other flavors of chips, such as 12 ounces of vanilla or 1 ounce of peanut butter instead of chocolate.

Do **not** substitute sweetened condensed milk for evaporated milk.

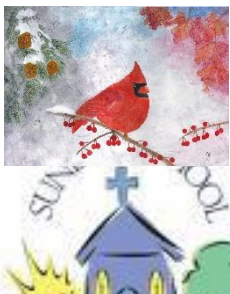
## January Birthdays

1 Harrison Wilkinson  
4 Garret Johnson, Leslie Meloun  
5 Keith Hiney  
6 Jim Walcott  
7 Annette Allen  
8 Jaden Gonnam  
10 Bob Edwards, Drew Hamilton  
11 Gary Bounds  
12 Richard Allen, Sophia Day, Stephen Motter  
14 Juanita Malone  
15 Teresa Chapman, Debbie Doyle  
18 Cathy Godke, Walt Mayden  
20 Ondine Allen  
23 Kim Bricker, Sandi Hawk  
24 Julia Hiney, Parker Rieland, Mark Vaksdal  
26 David Ritke, Helen Ritke, Avery Walker  
27 Samantha Welch  
30 Ella Walker  
31 Erin Burch, Marie Taylor



## January Anniversaries

2 Lance and Doreen Taylor  
8 Jim and Amanda Hitchcock  
28 Bob and Virginia Edmundson



**Do not let kindness & truth leave you."**

Proverbs 3:3

**Join Us For Sunday School**



**Sunday mornings**  
**9:30 am – 10:30 am**

**Nursery – 3 years and under**  
**Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Teacher Lisa Vaksdal**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Teacher Kayla Hamilton**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Teacher Diane Gagliardo**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Teacher Mary Motter**  
**Adults – Teachers, Jeff and Claudette Swiggett**



### **Christmas Brunch**

We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Brunch held at Tim and Julie Applegate's home in December! Thank you Julie for sharing your beautiful home with us, as well as all the women that furnished the delicious food! The gift exchange, as expected, brought out the (little stinker) in all of us and there was lots of laughter!



### ***Food for Thought -***

“The dictionary defines *wonderful* as anything that is so unusual or magnificent that it causes wonder and amazement.

Jesus was wonderful in His life. He mingled with sinners, yet His enemies could find not one single flaw in His character. His miracles and His teaching both testified to His divine authority.

Christ was also wonderful in His death. He died for others just as He had lived for others: To make our salvation possible. And His death led to the wonderful, glorious Resurrection, opening for us the door to Heaven and eternal life.



**Jesus is wonderful indeed!**

***“He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”***

***Isaiah 9:6***

# Winter Wonderland

