



**The Baptist Beacon**  
 P.O. Box 7  
 Cordova, IL 61242

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# THE BEACON

First Baptist Church  
 602 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South  
 Cordova, Illinois 61242  
 309-654-2501

Sunday School ~ 8:30 A.M.  
 Worship ~ 9:30 A.M.  
 fbccordova@mediacombb.net  
 www.cordovaabc.com

December 2017

*We serve God, teach God's Word and demonstrate Christ's love.*

# DECEMBER

Blessings on:

Dear church family,

Even though Advent does not officially start until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I have already started our Advent sermon series—“The Women of Jesus’ Family Tree.” This is not your traditional Advent study where we focus on love, hope, joy, and peace. Instead, we are looking at 5 women who somehow got listed on Jesus’ family tree despite being women in a male-dominated society. On top of it, some, if not all of these women have a sketchy past. At the close of November, we have already discussed Tamar and her deception in getting children. We still have to talk about the prostitute Rahab, the foreigner Ruth, the adulteress/rape victim Bathsheba, and Mary the mother of Jesus. Yes, Mary is questionable. You may believe in a virgin birth, but how do you think her family and neighbors saw this pregnancy. It was very questionable in their minds. Yet the gospel writer Matthew specifically identifies these 5 women. He did not just randomly throw in their names. There was a purpose. Join me in delving into their stories, learn from them, and then be changed by their stories. Every life is a testimony. Do you desire to hear and be changed? I hope so. Hope to see you at worship with us.

*Pastor John Kress*

**PUZZLE**  
 JOURNEY TO  
**BETHLEHEM**

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

START *Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*

BETHLEHEM

**Morning Prayer Meetings:**  
 Every Thursday at 8 AM!

- DECEMBER**
- 9- CROSSMEN CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL, 3 PM
  - 10- “A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN” CROSSMEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 9:30 AM
  - 10- NEWSBOYS CONCERT @ TAXSLAYER, MOLINE, 7 PM
  - 15- CORDOVA CHRISTMAS BASKET ASSEMBLY, 8 AM
  - 15- CORDOVA CHRISTMAS BASKET DISTRIBUTION, 12 PM

- DECEMBER (CONT.)**
- 16- BLOOD DRIVE @ CORDOVA LIBRARY, 8:00-10:30 AM
  - 24- CHILDRENS’ CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, 9:30 AM
  - 24- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE, 7 PM
  - 25- MERRY CHRISTMAS!
  - 26-28- PASTOR ON VACATION
  - 31 - BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 10:30 AM

- WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS**
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY, 8:30 AM
  - SUNDAY WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY, 9:30 AM

- WEEKLY & MONTHLY MEETINGS (CONT.)**
- BREAKFAST @ CAFÉ EVERY TUESDAY, 8 AM
  - CROSSMEN (YOUTH GROUP) EVERY TUESDAY, 5:30 PM
  - MORNING PRAYER EVERY THURSDAY, 8 AM
  - EVENING PRAYER/STUDY EVERY FRIDAY, 8:30 PM
  - ADVISORY/BUSINESS MTG. 1ST WEDNESDAY, 6 PM
  - TRUSTEES 1ST THURSDAY, 6 PM
  - GLEANERS 2ND WEDNESDAY, 7 PM
  - DIACONATE 3RD MONDAY, 3 PM



**Please continue to pray for our men and women in the military service:**  
 Jesse Chavez, David Christopher, John Filbert, Zach Fontenoy, Joe Hester,  
 Kelby Kindelsperger, Elizabeth Kindelsperger, Ashley Kline, Anthony Lester,  
 Chris McMillin, Ryan Peterson, Brett Saathoff, Jes Sasko, Chase Young

**New Concerns:**

Pat Boggs  
 Jim Gregory  
 Sue King  
 Deb Shearer

**Ongoing Concerns:**

Charlene Agnew  
 Phillip Armstrong  
 Deanna Arnold  
 Lynda Beard  
 Gerri Bruckman  
 Nick Craigmiles  
 Verna Downey  
 Doug Farren  
 Chad Hannaberger  
 Landon Heppner  
 Charles Hergert  
 Janice Johnson

**Ongoing Concerns (Cont.):**

Rochelle Kindelsperger  
 Judy Locey  
 Ron & Pam Lohman  
 Dan Michaels  
 Allie Morgan  
 Vanetta Nelson  
 Jason Pershy  
 Eleanor Pettit  
 Hannah Pettit  
 Bruce Ragar  
 John Roegiers  
 Emma Jean Russell  
 Joanne Senko  
 Ray Shackelford  
 Judy Simpson  
 Sharon Sparks  
 Linda Stoermer  
 Katie Talbot

**Ongoing Concerns (Cont.):**

Donna Thornbloom  
 Bill Tiernan  
 Robert Verhaeghe  
 Joyce Winger  
**Each other**

**Praise Report:**

Morgan Geiger  
 Pat Geiger  
 Ocean Safoglu  
 Caleb Talbot  
 Deanna Talbot  
 Khloe Talbot  
 Scarlett White

**Our God is pure, the reason for  
 hope, our safe place, takes  
 away the sins of the world**



Our deepest thanks to our Church Family in the loss of our son, David. Thank you for the prayers, phone calls, flowers, and memorials. Thank you for the luncheon and those who prepared it. Your love and friendship helped ease our sorrow.  
 Thank you from the Bennett Family,  
*Ashley and Justin, Joel and Florence, and Paul and Neil*



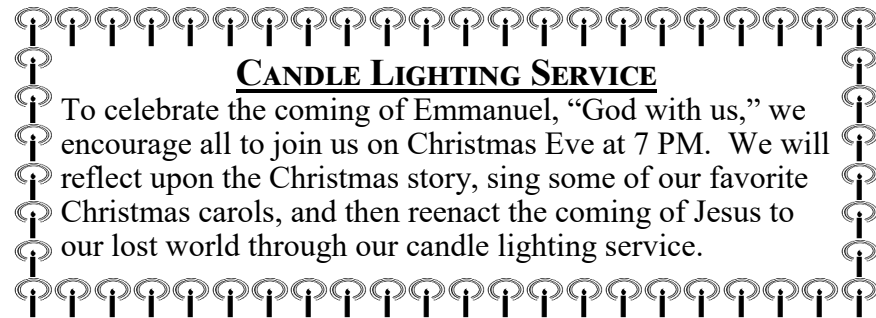
**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES**

Our hearts grieve along side the families and friends of:  
 Marjorie Mullery  
 David Bennett  
 Noni Krukow



NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT	
WEEK	ATTENDANCE
5	30
12	34
19	31
26	36
TOTAL:	131
AVERAGE:	32

NOVEMBER CROSSMEN ATTENDANCE REPORT			
WORSHIP		CROSSMEN	
WEEK	PRESENT	WEEK	PRESENT
5	1	7	8
12	1	8	9
19	1	14	9
26	0	15	9
		21	4
		28	??
		29	??
TOTAL:	3	TOTAL:	39
		AVERAGE:	7



**CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE**

To celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us," we encourage all to join us on Christmas Eve at 7 PM. We will reflect upon the Christmas story, sing some of our favorite Christmas carols, and then reenact the coming of Jesus to our lost world through our candle lighting service.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE**

While the adults are always encouraged to give to help a world in need, Pastor John has issued a challenge to the kids who attend our Sunday morning Children's Church. From Nov. 26th—Jan. 6th, the kids are encouraged to collect money to be raised to purchase animals or other items families might need around the world. The funds the kids raise will go to Samaritan's Purse.  
 To encourage their giving, Pastor John has stated that for every \$20 collected an additional snowball by each kid can be thrown at him following worship on a day we have snow after Jan.13th. So, if the kids raise \$86. Each of the kids present will get to throw 4 snowballs at the pastor.



**Christmas Food Baskets**

The Cordova Christmas Food Baskets will begin being assembled at 8:00 AM on Friday December 15th. For those individuals and families receiving a basket, you can pick them up between 12 noon and 2 PM at the church. If this is not a good time for you to pick it up, please notify the church office at (309) 654-2501 to see how we can either set up a different time for pick-up or even deliver it to you.



**Looking for Candidates**

The nominating committee is looking for individuals to be candidates for some open positions for 2018. We are looking for a church clerk, a deacon, and two members for our Missions committee. If you are interested or know someone in the church who might do a great job in one of these positions, please speak to Susan Vincent, LaVonne Latham, Fred Genung, or Pastor John.



Nominating Committee

**Sunshine Seniors**



The "Sunshine Seniors" will be taking a holiday during the month of December. They will reconvene on Tuesday January 9th, 2018.

**EXERCISE CLASS**

Our exercise class which is led by Sue King has not met for most of November and December. The class is planning to resume on Monday December 18th. From there it will resume its normal schedule of meeting at 8:30 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Come and join us for fellowship and coffee before church each Sunday. Coffee is ready by 8:15 am. Come and socialize before church begins.





**MITTEN TREE AND SOCK BOX**

Traditionally each year we set up a tree for individuals to contribute mittens, gloves, scarfs, and caps. These items are displayed on the tree as ornaments. Once the tree is full, we take all the items to Ann's Helping Hands so that individuals of all ages who live in Upper Rock Island County can have access to warm winter clothing.

This year we have learned from Ann's that two other items that are in much need. They are socks and underwear. Therefore, beside our "mitten tree," you will find a brightly decorated "sock box" for you to donate too as well.

Both the tree and the box are found at the base of our ramp at the back of the church.



**BREAKFAST AT THE CAFE**



Every Tuesday at 8 AM, several of us gather at Cordova's own Happy Tummy Café for a time to sit back, enjoy a nice meal, and converse over the events of the day.

We would love for you to join us!

**RIVERDALE ABC PROJECT**

The Riverdale Middle School students are looking for help from the public. The students are collecting hard plastic caps for the ABC Project. This project is designed by school children, for school children, to encourage caring for the earth. ABC stands for "A Bench for Caps." They are hoping to reach a goal of 400-800 lbs. of plastic lids. After the first 400, they are eligible to receive a bench which will be placed wherever the students want on the school grounds. All are asked to help. We will have a collection box at the base of our church ramp for your donations. Some of the acceptable lids and caps are: **medicine caps, milk jug caps, detergent caps, hair spray caps, flip top caps, spout caps, spay paint caps, ointment caps, cottage cheese lids, yogurt lids, peanut butter lids, cool whip container lids, coffee can lids, and butter container lids** to name a few.

**PORT BYRON PANTRY COLLECTION NEEDS**

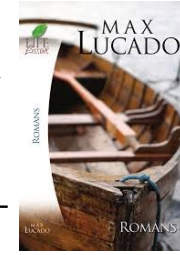
As the holidays quickly envelope us, we do not want to forget those who may not be as fortunate as ourselves. So as you go and purchase items for your own holiday meal, we encourage you to buy an additional food item that can be used as part of someone else's holiday meal. Some ideas might include canned green beans, boxed mashed potatoes, canned corn, canned cranberries, etc.

If you can assist with any of these items (or any other you may think of), please bring them by the church and place in one of our drop boxes. The drop off boxes can be located by each of the three church doorways.



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School is in the process of going through a study by Max Lucado on the book of Romans. Once this is completed, they will start a new study with Max on the book of 1st Corinthians. Come and join us in the Judson classroom on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM!



**FRIDAY EVENING STUDY & PRAYER**

We are starting a new prayer and Bible study time. On Fridays at 8:30 PM, we will meet at Happy Tummy Café to pray and do a study on "Heaven and Earth." Join us!

**"CROSSMEN" ASSEMBLE!**

"Crossmen" is our Middle School youth group, for those youth who are in grades 4th and older. We encourage all the kids to come out and join us.

The Crossmen have begun preparing themselves for their Christmas program on December 10th during our normal worship hour. To get enough practice time in, they are rehearsing during their normal youth group time on Tuesdays, as well as coming back at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays. Pray as they prepare to present you "*A Christmas to Believe In.*"

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH PROGRAM**

While the Crossmen have been looking to the Christmas season, the kids in Children's Church are not slacking. On Sunday Morning Dec. 24th at 9:30 AM, the children's church kids will give us their rendition of the first Christmas! Come and support our kids.

**PASTOR ON VACATION**

Pastor John will be on a vacation holiday from December 25th —28th.



**MESSAGES FOR DECEMBER**

**December 3, 2017**

**"Rahab: Breaking Walls with a Cord"**

Matthew 1:3-5 & Joshua 2:8-14

**December 10, 2017**

**"A Christmas to Believe In"**

Crossmen Youth Group Christmas Program

**December 17, 2017**

**"Ruth: Redemption by Boundary Pushing"**

Matthew 1:4-5 & Ruth 4:13-17

**December 24, 2017**

**"The Christmas Story"**

Children's Church Christmas Program

**December 24, 2017 (Eve)**

**Candle Lighting Service**

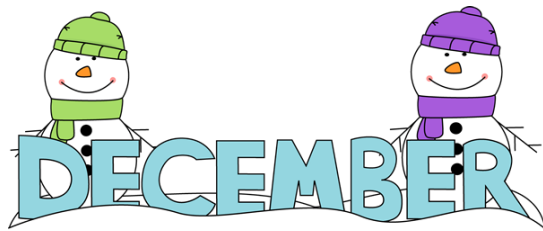
**December 31, 2017**

**"Bathsheba: The Victim Who Regained Her Voice"**

Matthew 1:5-6 & 2 Samuel 11:1-5

**Newsletter Deadline**

All articles for the January 2018 BEACON should reach the church office by Saturday December 23, 2017.



# DECEMBER 2017

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Shane Gregory
- Jill Smalley
- 3 Tristin Jacobs
- Tom Ray
- 5 Myrtle Willis
- 8 Cindy Barber
- 9 Eleanor Pettit
- 10 Mark Barnes
- Thad Jacobs
- Joel Versypt
- 13 Chris Gillman
- 16 Chuck & Jill Smalley
- Linda VanHooreweghe
- 17 Chris Filbert
- Aly Carpenter
- 18 Cathy Chavez
- 19 Lindsey Leighty
- 20 Mike and Kris Kerr
- 23 Mike Seevers
- 26 Michael Kerr, Jr.
- 27 Todd & Laura Allen
- Julie Ray
- 29 Crystal Allen Christopher
- Pat Fenno
- Jon & Cheryl Lennox
- Tom & Julie Ray
- 30 Mark & Becky Barnes
- Randy & Rose Huizenga
- Tim & Collette Saathoff
- Leanne Peterson
- 31 John & Melissa Hager
- Quinn Rozek

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Even. Prayer Mtg. @ Happy Tummy—8:30 PM	2
3 Sunday School –8:30 AM <b>Worship —9:30 AM</b>	4	5 Breakfast @ Cafe—8 AM Crossmen—5:30 PM	6 Advisory Board—6 PM	7 Prayer Meeting—8 AM Trustees—6 PM	8 Even. Prayer Mtg. @ Happy Tummy—8:30 PM	9 Crossmen Rehearsal—3 PM
10 Sunday School –8:30 AM <b>Worship —9:30 AM</b> Punch & Cookies—10:30 AM	11	12 Breakfast @ Cafe—8 AM East Moline Meal Site—5 PM	13 Gleaners –7 PM	14 Prayer Meeting—8 AM	15 Christmas Basket Assembly—8 AM Christmas Basket Dist.—12 PM –2 PM Even. Prayer Mtg. @ Happy Tummy—8:30 PM	16 Blood Drive at Library—8:00—10:30 AM
17 Sunday School –8:30 AM <b>Worship —9:30 AM</b>	18 Exercise Class—8:30 AM Deacons– 3PM	19 Breakfast @ Cafe—8 AM Crossmen—5:30 PM	20 Exercise Class—8:30 AM	21 Prayer Meeting—8 AM	22 Exercise Class—8:30 AM Even. Prayer Mtg. @ Happy Tummy—8:30 PM	23
24 Sunday School –8:30 AM <b>Worship - 9:30 AM</b> <b>Candle Lighting Service –7 pm</b>	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>	26 Breakfast @ Cafe—8 AM	27 Exercise Class—8:30 AM	28	29 Exercise Class—8:30 AM Even. Prayer Mtg. @ Happy Tummy—8:30 PM	30
	<b>PASTOR ON HOLIDAY</b>					
31 Sunday School –8:30 AM <b>Worship - 9:30 AM</b> Birthdays/Anniversary Celebration—10:30 AM	<b>East Moline Meal Site Prepared by: Julie Hager and Family</b>					
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>December birthdays and anniversaries are provided by: ???</b> </div>					