

Heartbeat

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 13, 2015

Merry Christmas!

A cheery Christmas welcome to each one this December morning.

With our Christmas concert tonight and the children's Christmas program next Sunday, we are reminded how angels from the realms of glory proclaimed the Messiah's birth, and shepherds hurried to worship the newborn King. What an exciting and joyful season this is, as we celebrate God's unspeakable gift—the gift of our salvation.

We rejoice in God's great love for us. A love so great He sent His beloved son to earth, born in an obscure village in the Middle East, wrapped in swaddling clothes some 2000 years ago.

This Savior, who came to earth as a baby, grew in wisdom and stature and then gave the ultimate sacrifice to provide forgiveness for our sins.

Like the shepherds and wise men who sought Jesus at His birth, may we clear our minds of all earthly distractions and come humbly in worship and adoration of the ever-living Messiah, King Jesus.

Reason for the Season



With Christmas just 12 days away, many of us are busy shopping, cleaning and baking. While we are busy getting ready for gift-giving and family gatherings, we must not lose sight of the reason we are celebrating.

For many, Christmas is merely a sentimental holiday, but for men and women devoted to the one true God, Christmas is much more.

Christmas is a fresh, renewed awareness that a Deliverer was sent from the glories of heaven to become our redeemer. This realization compels us to share the good news with people who desperately need to know the Savior. All men must hear the message of the carols we sing, which so clearly proclaim, "Jesus is the Savior."

May this festive spirit endure throughout all our days, whatever circumstances God allows in our lives.

Virgin Birth Is Foundational

by Gil Rugh

The virgin birth of Christ is a foundational doctrine. If Jesus Christ is not the virgin-born Son of God, then no one can gain salvation through Him.

If Christ was not God, it would not matter how great a man He was or how tremendous His accomplishments were. If Christ was the greatest man who ever lived but nothing more, He could not pay the penalty for every man's sin by dying on the cross.

The virgin birth is God's statement that His Son is more than a man; He is God. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for the sins of the world. This enables God to offer salvation as a gift to anyone who will accept it. Whoever believes in Christ has eternal life.

Mary Married Joseph

When Joseph discovered that Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant, it would have been quite a shock. It wasn't until God sent an angel to him that he understood what had happened and what he was to do.

Matthew said Joseph was a righteous man, who believed and heeded the angels. "And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife" (Matt. 1:24).

Joseph's response indicates his

faith. After the angel explained to him that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit, he took Mary as his wife and, "kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus" (v. 25).

Mary and Joseph had no sexual relations until after Jesus was born. Perhaps this was to leave no doubt that Joseph was not the physical father of Jesus.

Jesus Is God and Man

John tells us that Jesus is God. "In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

It is remarkable that God should choose to become a man. "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Purpose in Becoming Man

The Word became flesh. The Word is not only God, the Word is also mankind—humanity, flesh—and we beheld His glory! "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" (Col. 2:9). Jesus is not only man—He's God.

Jesus had to be both man and God. It was necessary for Jesus to become man so that He could be an acceptable substitute for hu-

mans and pay their sin penalty.

It was also necessary that He be God so that He could offer forgiveness of sins to everyone.

It is crucial that we understand

the significance of the virgin birth. In that process, God became a man so that God Himself, in the person of Jesus, the God-Man, could become man's Savior by personally paying the penalty for man's sin.



“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).



Children's Christmas Program

Interpreted for the Deaf

Will Be Presented

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.

Bring the entire family

Christmas Eve
AT THE HILLS

*Come celebrate the
birth of the Savior with us!*

DECEMBER 24 · 6:00 P.M.

INTERPRETED FOR THE DEAF

More Tips From Our Treasurer Carroll Lavalleur



Carroll Lavalleur

At this time of year we are thinking about **End of Year Giving**. Please remember that all giving must

be received by December 31 to qualify as an income tax deduction for 2015.

Using the church's website (www.ihcc.org) is a convenient method of doing **last minute giving** toward General Offering, Sound Words, or Equip Project.

Next year's **offering envelopes** will be available for pick up on December 20. Please help the Church

save postage cost by picking up your envelopes by January 10. Offering envelopes provide an excellent method to instruct the church of your giving and you will also receive a year end statement to use for filing your tax return. If you don't have an offering envelope you can have one issued to you at Sound Words.

Non-cash gifts such as stocks, mutual funds, grain commodities, and IRA distributions provide excellent **tax saving methods**. Be sure to allow sufficient time to make the necessary transfer complete. Some of these types allow you to both avoid capital gain taxes and use the full value for a tax deduction. Contact me (Carroll Lavalleur) if you need assistance.

IHCC Choir
& Orchestra

*Christmas
Concert*

Interpreted for the Deaf

December 13 at 6 p.m.

Coming Soon for Ladies...

BFF

Biblical Friends Forever

2016 Women's Retreat

Lied Lodge

Nebraska City

February 26-27, 2016

Registration All Sundays in January!

4 people/room (quad) \$100.00 each

3 people/room (triple) 108.00 each

2 people/room (double) 122.00 each

Friday w/supper 36.00

Friday no meal 10.00

Saturday w/lunch 35.00

Team-taught by several Titus Tuesday teachers

Let us be good
stewards of the
Lord's blessings

No Food or Drink

in the Auditorium
or Chapel

Heartbeat

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Copies of previous editions may be found in the acrylic holders in the north and south lobbies.

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WINTER INSTRUCTIONS

As cold, snow and ice storms move in, Duane Nelsen and Kevin Wheat will try to keep abreast of the weather and road conditions.

Weather forecasting is tricky—even the professionals don't always get it right—but with the help of local meteorologists, Duane and Kevin will try their best to make sure we are not driving when it would be best to stay home.

Of course, each of us must use good judgment with the weather, drive safely, pray, and watch out for the other guy!

Church cancellations or delays will be posted on the church website: www.ihcc.org



Family News

Hospitalized. Dave Nicholson was a patient at Bryan East.

Hospitalized. Linda Cooley was a patient in Omaha.

Hospitalized. Dick Bergt was a patient at St. Elizabeth.

Thank You for your prayers, cards, gifts, and words of encouragement in the loss of my mother. God uses each member of His body in special ways to minister to others. I appreciate being part of the body of Christ at IHCC. — Marcia McClurg.

Children's Studies

Sunday School. The children studied Luke 19:11–27 and learned about the nobleman and ten slaves.

Children's Church. The children studied 2 Samuel 7 and learned about God's promise to David. The lesson goal is to rejoice in and trust God's gracious promises.

Information

Children's Christmas Concert. Today, Dec. 13, we will practice at 11:15 a.m. during Children's Church. On Dec. 20 we will rehearse from 10:35–11:30 a.m. Please make sure your child is there (including the sixth graders) as it is our last full rehearsal. We will meet again at 5 p.m. to line up and get set for a wonderful evening.

Sunday Morning Phone Receptionists are needed during the Sunday School hour at the north desk. As the receptionist for the Sunday School hour, workers should arrive between 8:30–8:45 a.m. and answer the church phone until 10 a.m. (when the worship hour receptionist takes over). We hope to have enough receptionists so each one will work on a rotation schedule. For more information, call Lori Meyer, 402-488-7015 and leave a message. She will call you back.

New Young Adult Bible Study. A new study for young adults is starting on Monday nights at the home of Rob and Lynne Jensen, 7943 Hunters Ridge Road at 7 p.m. Adam Flaugh will be teaching. Child care will not be provided. For more information contact Adam or Rob.

Lending Library. Be sure to check out the great resources for every age in the Lending Library. Many good study tools for every age.

Sonshine Kids (age 4-K) will be singing in the Children's Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. We have been busy preparing our songs every Sunday evening, and we have already measured the children for their costumes. Please meet in the Sonshine Kids room at 5 p.m. on Dec. 20 to dress before the final rehearsal in the auditorium. Parental assistance is welcome!

Learning New Songs. Would you like to learn the upcoming songs we sing each Sunday during the week? Visit our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Indian-HillsCommunityChurch) and see the corresponding post *or* write these links down and visit these pages each week. On each page, click on the “Youtube” button to hear the song.

Sunday Morning Services Page:
tiny.cc/sundayam

Sunday Evening Services Page:
tiny.cc/sundaypm

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth” (Ps 96:1).

JHAM Ski Trip will be Saturday, January 23.

High School Ski Trip will be March 5–9.

Several workers are needed to care for children in the beginning walker’s room during the second hour on Sunday mornings. Please contact Jennifer Lenzen at 402-435-0877 if you are interested in serving in this way.

Hospitalizations. Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and notify Pastor Aaron Nicholson for all hospitalizations and births.

Girls’ Choir (fourth–twelfth grade) meets every Wednesday from 5-6:15 p.m. in the choir room.

Nursing Home Door-to-Door Evangelism. If you’d like to help, call Adam Flaugh, 402-580-3014.

Forgotten Clothing. Coats, jean jackets, hats, gloves and more are waiting to be picked up by their owners. Stop by the south lobby and check the coat racks on the far end for your personal belongings.

Sonshine Kids (4s & Ks) meet every Sunday evening at 6:30 in the Sonshine Kids’ room.

Home Bible Studies. If you are looking for a Home Bible Study, or are interested in hosting a study in your home, contact Matt Sherman at 402-465-8030.

Parents. We have been practicing fire/tornado and lock-down drills in the children’s classes. We are thinking about safety for all ages and working hard to be prepared if an emergency should arise.

Weddings & Funerals. Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and ask for either Pastor Duane Nelsen or Pastor Aaron Nicholson for wedding and funeral arrangements.

Used Book section is available at Sound Words. You may contribute to or make purchases of discounted and hard-to-find books. Our shelves are growing and the stock is constantly changing in both the fiction and non-fiction categories.

Last Week’s Message

Dec. 6 AM. Gil Rugh. GR 1824.
Motives, Masquerades, and Ministry. 2 Corinthians 11:7-15

Dec. 6 PM. Gil Rugh. GR 1936.
Godliness In Marriage. 1 Peter 3:1-7

This Week's Events

Sunday

Adult Christmas Concert
Christmas Cookie Reception

Monday

Sisters
Young Adults Bible Study 7 p.m.

Tuesday

Church Closes at 3 p.m.

Wednesday

Girls' Choir 5–6:15 p.m.
Orchestra 6–7:30 p.m.
Awana 6:45 p.m.
Junior High 6:45 p.m.
Choir 7–8:30 p.m.

Thursday

Alpha Omega Study 7-8 p.m.

December 27

Church Closes at Noon
No Sunday Night Church

December 30

No Wednesday Night Programs

December 31

Church Closes at 3 p.m.

January 1

New Year's Day
Church Closed

January 3

Church Closes at Noon
No Sunday Night Church

January 6

Wednesday Night Classes Resume

January 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6

Boys of Faith Riflery Clinic

January 23

JHAM Ski Trip

January 29–30

Boys of Faith Lock-in

February 14

Baptism

February 19–20

Men's Retreat

February 28

Communion

February 26–27

Ladies' Retreat

March 19

Boys of Faith Pinewood Derby

March 5–9

High School Ski Trip

Future Events

December 20

Children's Christmas Concert
Christmas Cookie Reception

December 23

No Wednesday Night Programs

December 24

Christmas Eve Service
Communion

December 25

Christmas Day
Church Closed

December 26

Church Closed