



First Church of Christ
206 W. Church Street, P.O. Box 301
Lynn, Indiana 47355

Sunday Worship and Study Times
Bible School.....9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship.....10:30 AM
Youth Groups and Adult Bible Study.....6:00 PM

Elders

Rex Ratcliffe.....765.584.3509
Philip Williams.....765.874.1614

Church Staff

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The Lynn Christian is:

Published by First Church of Christ in Lynn, Indiana on a bi-weekly basis for the distinct purpose of informing its members and friends of its ministry of “making disciples” to the glory and honor of Christ her Head!

DATES TO NOTE

December 23
CANCELED Walk Through

December 27
8:30AMWalk Through
... No Evening Activities ...

December 30
6:30 PM Walk Through
7PMJr/Sr High Lock-In

December 31
... Annual Reports Due ...

January 03
... No Evening Activities ...

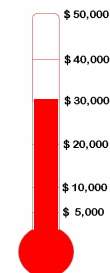
January 05
6:30PMYouth Ministry Meeting

January 06
6:30PMWalk Through

FACTS AND FIGURES

12-13-09	General Fund	\$2028.15
12-13-09	Missions	\$ 869.20
12-13-09	Roof	\$ 75.00

12-20-09	General Fund	\$ 1256.63
12-20-09	Roof	\$ 75.00
12-20-09	Missions	\$ 538.56



**FCC ROOF
PROJECT TOTAL
\$33,225.10**



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The Announcement to the Shepherds

The Christmas story, in the second chapter of Luke, describes how angels appeared to shepherds and announced the birth of Christ the Lord. The story of Christ's birth sometimes seems so familiar to us that we skip how unusual it was, but that wasn't the case over 2,000 years ago at the time of Christ's birth. Yes, the announcement that a Savior was born is an extraordinary event, but it should not have been totally unexpected to Jews living in the land of Israel. The Jewish people had been waiting for the prophesied Messiah for a long time.

There is something special about the Christmas story that should have made them take notice. The announcement of the Messiah's birth to shepherds would have been inconceivable to most people living at the time of Christ's birth. Ancient rabbinic sources show that Jewish religious leaders considered shepherds to be dishonest thieves. The Jewish society shared this attitude and did not allow a shepherd to fill a judicial office or testify in a court of law. In the mind of the people, shepherds would be the last people God would have given the announcement of the birth of the Messiah. With that mindset, shepherds would not have been included in the announcement of Christ's birth if there was any way to omit them, but the truth prevented it. So, the best explanation for the announcement of Christ's birth to shepherds is that it actually happened and was correctly reported.

The historic reliability of Luke's Christmas story is further strengthened by historic tradition. According to historical tradition, east of Bethlehem in the eastern part of Beit Sahour is the area where it is believed the angels made the announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds. While there are some who would argue if this is the "exact" spot, they unanimously agree that historical tradition places the angelic announcement to the shepherds within this same general area. Eusebius wrote of this tradition after visiting Bethlehem around the third century. After his visit, Eusebius wrote that "Tower Ader," a thousand paces from Bethlehem, marked the location where the shepherds received the angelic announcement of Christ's birth. Surely this tradition pre-existed Eusebius' visit and his writing evidences a long-standing belief held by the Bethlehem community that shepherds received the proclamation of Christ's birth just outside of Bethlehem. The population of the actual town of Bethlehem was around 300 to 1,000 people at the time of Christ's birth. Knowing how familiar people in a small town are with one another and their knowledge of what goes on, it is unlikely that such a tradition would have come about unless the Bethlehem people living at that time believed it to be true. If they didn't believe the report of the angelic announcement to the shepherds, they would have discredited it and stopped such a tradition before it took hold.

These proofs provide further evidence to support the angelic announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds and also serve to enhance the historic reliability of the gospel of Luke.

In His service,

Doug



LOCK-IN

The Jr/Sr High will be having a lock-in on December 30th from 7PM till 8AM. There will be laser tag in Indy to start the evening off, then back to the church for Pizza, Games, Wii competitions, and Movies. Please come and enjoy a night of great fun, food, and fellowship. Any questions contact the Good family (Kyle & Heather), or the Norris' (David & Katrina).

IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The church family extends condolences to the family of Dorothy Funk. She was a faithful member.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be January 17, 2010 immediately following the AM Worship service. Reports are due in the office no later than December 31st.



TEACHERS NEEDED

The Youth Ministry is in need of individuals to teach Sunday School for the 2's and 3's class, and also for the 4's and 5's class, beginning in January. Please pray for this need, and if you feel led to teach these children, please contact Cindy or Denise.

GET READY FOR "SUPERSTART"

SuperStart is a two-day event put on by "Christ In Youth" that is specifically for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. The event will be in Indianapolis on February 5th and 6th. We need to have an approximate count for registration. Please see Amy or Cindy for details. During the event, SuperStart wishes to provide avenues for age-appropriate worship, relevant teaching, drama, and fun. You can expect the weekend to be filled with Biblical teaching, worship, enthusiasm, small group opportunities and off-site recreation.



DINNER FOR FCC ADULTS

On January 23, 2010 the Jr/Sr High will be hosting a dinner at 6PM for all the adults of the church. Sign-up sheet at Welcome Center. Please sign up no later than January 16th. Come and be a part of the dinner and fellowship time. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle & Heather Good, or David & Katrina Norris.

Merry Christmas!

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

The church family would like to help the Newland family and provide them with one meal a day, Monday through Friday. If you are interested in helping, please see Esther Williams at church on Sundays. These meals do not have to be anything fancy, just something as simple as Soup, Sandwiches, and a Dessert. All help will be greatly appreciated!



PRAYER CONCERNS

Those Who Need to Become Christians

Home (Health Concerns):

Aaron Bruner;
Alice Hartley;
Karmen Kellams; Marshall Meyers; Joe, Eula, and Rochella Newland; Mary Norris; Melissa Roth, Myckala Meyers' mom

Our Missionaries including:

TCM International
Tim and Twyla Bright (Ghana, West Africa)

Those Serving in the Military

Home (Cancer):

Jerry Boyer, Jeff's dad; Joyce Breeding, Charlie Cole's niece; Carl Howard; Lonnie Moore

Assisted Living and/or Nursing home:

Arbor Trace: Frank Johnting
Randolph Nursing Home: Virginia Frazier, Bob Ratcliffe (Rex's father)
Summers Pointe: Beulah Kirk, Ruth Welch

These names and concerns have been reported or up-dated to the church in the last month. If you have a prayer request that the church family needs to be aware of, please contact the church office.

