

WELCOME TO MT. ZION!

We rejoice in having you here today. If you're a guest, please complete the guest information on your worship guide and place it in the offering plate. If you'd like to request prayer or visit with someone about spiritual decisions or the opportunities here, please mark the space provided and either put the card in the offering plate or hand it to a staff member upon leaving. *Have a great day with us at Mt. Zion!*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND SERVICE THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 16

- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.
- Hand Bell Practice 5:00 p.m.
- Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19

- "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party in Awana..... 6:25 p.m.
- ~~2-4:5~~ Christmas Party @ Boys & Girls Club..... 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Bible Study Dismissed

Thursday, December 20

- Youth Ministry Christmas Lights Tour 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.
- Church Christmas Fellowship.....after a.m. service
- Evening Worship Dismissed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We will receive a **love offering** after morning worship service for Alex Lindsey's upcoming mission trip to Mexico.
2. The Youth Ministry will be going on a **Christmas Lights tour** Thursday, December 20. They will leave the church at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to participate sign the list in the foyer or at the Youth House by Wednesday, December 19.
3. If you would like to **host a S.N.A.C.** for the Youth Ministry in **2019**, please sign the list in the foyer. It is recommended that multiple families get together to do this to cut down on expense. Also, please remember it is a snack / fellowship time, not a feast or even a full course meal.

THANK YOU!

We would like to **thank all** of those who helped with the Missionary Angel tree. With your help, the Youth Ministry was able to provide gifts and encouragement for Bro. Brett Bell, wife Amanda, and their 5 children, Alexz, Kaley, Kevin, Autumn, and Joseph.

THIS MORNING IN WORSHIP

- Awana Presentation.....T&T
- Special MusicSanctuary Choir
"Glory To You In The Highest"
- Fellowship Hymn Congregation
"Joy To The World"
- Welcome and PrayerMike Clayton
- Offertory.....Suzy Draper
- Special MusicSanctuary Choir
"Messiah"
- Hymn..... Congregation
"Go, Tell It On The Mountain"
- Hymn..... Congregation
"What Child Is This?"
- Special Music Bro. Paul Buck
- Worship Chorus..... Congregation
"A Christmas Alleluia"
- Message from God's WordBro. Donis Smead
"Good Tidings Of Comfort"
Luke 1:5-13
- Time of Reflection and Response Congregation
"Come To Jesus"
- Dismissal Prayer..... Fellowship

THIS EVENING IN WORSHIP

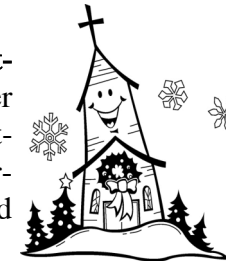
- Fellowship Hymn Congregation
"I Love To Tell The Story"
- Welcome and Prayer Bro. Donis
- Special MusicTim Swayze & Bro. Paul
"What Child Is This?"
- Hymn..... Congregation
"Tell Me The Story Of Jesus"
- Message From God's WordBro. Donis Smead
"Salvation"
I Timothy 2:3-6
- Time of Reflection and Response Congregation
"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
- Dismissal Prayer..... Fellowship

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER ADDITIONS

Prayer was requested for Dick Wiebe; Tommy Ball; Rickey Hughes; Robert Turner & family; the families of Jack Smith, Roger Siratt, Dean Cundy, Marshall Tolleson & Mitchell Burris; James & Jeanie Clifton; Kenneth Prince; Harper Maranto; Pat Simms; Michael Clayton & Youth Group; Harold Rucker; Dave Cundy; Julie Montague; Taylor, Randi Beard and their newborn baby, ; Braedon Kenny; Marsha Rogers; Michelle Alexander; Marietta Blasingame.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

Mt. Zion will have a **Church Family Christmas Lunch Fellowship** Sunday, December 23 after the morning worship service. We will have a potluck lunch (the Church will provide ham and turkey), Plan now to come and enjoy the great food and wonderful fellowship!



YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth Ministry will have their **Christmas Party** Wednesday, December 19 at the Malvern Boys and Girls Club. Students will need to be dropped off at the Boys and Girls Club at 6:30 and picked up at 8:30. A van will leave the church at 6:15, if that would be more convenient, and will return around 8:45.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- December**
- 19 -- Awana & Teens Christmas Parties
 - 23 -- Church Christmas Fellowship; after a.m. service.
 - 26 -- Midweek Services; Dismissed
 - 24-28 -- Church Offices Closed
 - 30 -- Candlelight Service; 6:00 p.m.
 - 31 -- Church Offices Closed
- January**
- 1 -- Church Offices Closed
 - 2 -- Midweek Services; Dismissed

GUEST INFORMATION—DECEMBER 16, 2018

Mr./ Mrs./ Miss (circle) _____ () Married () Single

Age (circle) 0-21 22-40 41-60 61-up

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Best Phone #: _____ (Circle) Work Home Cell

E-mail address: _____

Church Member? Yes ___ No ___ What church? _____

Where? _____

How did you learn of our church? _____

I am a guest of _____

Name & ages of children at home: _____

CHRIST CAN'T BE STOLEN FROM CHRISTMAS!

Bill Gaultiere, Ph.D.

A few days ago I was walking up our brick sidewalk under the twinkling of white Christmas lights strung up on our trees and house and I looked over at our brightly lit nativity scene: there were Mary and Joseph with the wise men, shepherds, and animals all huddled around and looking at... Baby Jesus was gone! In the place where he lay in the manger there was nothing but a brown spot of grass. I looked all around our front yard and the houses next door but to no avail.

Who would do such a thing? What kind of person would steal a Christ child figurine from a nativity set? A punk teenager pulling a prank? Someone who didn't like us? An atheist or someone else who hated Jesus? I think it's most likely the latter.

I felt that we had been persecuted for loving Jesus. No doubt it is a very small example of suffering for being a Christian to have a \$900 nativity set ruined the week before Christmas, but I was saddened and so were Kristi and our children. Our hearts hurt because there was someone in our neighborhood who mistreated the Jesus we adore.

We're not alone. Many churches, organizations, and individuals across America have had the baby Jesus stolen from their nativity set. Some have put out signs saying things like, "Christ has been stolen from Christmas." I thought about how we should respond. Maybe we could buy a replacement baby Jesus and then put the set it in a more secure place like on our roof! Or we could buy dozens of baby Jesus figurines and then put out a sign, "Free baby Jesus to anyone who needs him!" But these ideas wouldn't help our situation this Christmas.

So we prayed. Then I remembered that earlier that day I had read in my Bible how Peter and the apostles had been whipped for telling people about Jesus and yet they "... departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). So I prayed that God would help me to rejoice in being dishonored for Jesus. After all, the reason why I had bought the nativity set in the first place was to share the true meaning of Christmas with people who visit our home or just drive by to look at the lights.

Then it occurred to me – surely it was an inspiration of the Spirit – to put out a small sign right in the middle of the lighted nativity set where the baby Jesus had been: "Jesus has risen and now lives in the hearts of those who trust him." So that's what we did. Maybe this positive message made the nativity scene an even better witness for Christ?

The next day when I told a friend about what happened she was empathizing with me and she said, "I'd be angry! You were violated! Let's pray, 'Lord, you get this thief! Convict him with guilt and make him miserable. Get him good Lord!'" I replied to her, "I might pray like that if I was angry and needed to. I know there were times that David prayed that way in the Psalms. But this isn't about me and my nativity set. This is about Jesus being mistreated! What I'd like us to pray is that God would use this situation as a witness to others."

The Lord is forgiving and kind toward us even though we don't deserve it. He loves us and blesses us even when we offend him. Appreciating God's mercy and grace strengthens us to put into practice Jesus' teaching:

"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:27-28).

PRAYER REQUESTS

We will be glad to join with you in praying for your specific needs. Please write your request here and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Please pray for:

() Private Prayer Request () Public Prayer Request

Requested by: _____ Telephone _____

LOOKING AHEAD

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- Dec. 19 -- "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party in Awana; 6:25 p.m.
26 -- Awana Dismissed; Christmas Break
January 2 -- Awana Dismissed; Christmas Break
9 -- "Cereal" bowl Night in Awana; 6:25 p.m.
-- Incentive Night (Silly String War) in Awana; 6:25 p.m.
16 -- "B.A.R.F." night in Awana
20 -- Awana Sparks Presentation; 10:00 a.m.
27 -- Angel Choir; 10:00 a.m.
Feb. 6 -- "Soup"er Bowl night in Awana; 6:25 p.m.
13 -- "Inside Out" Night in Awana; 6:25 p.m.
23 -- Awana Grand Prix
27 -- "Fire Walk" night with Adam Cordell in Awana; 6:25 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Dec. 19 -- Christmas Party; Boys & Girls Club, 6:30 p.m.
20 -- Christmas Lights Tour; 6:00 p.m.
26 -- ~~2:4-5~~ Dismissed; Christmas Break
January 2 -- ~~2:4-5~~ Dismissed; Christmas Break
9 -- ~~2:4-5~~ Resumes; 6:30 p.m.
20 -- Youth J.A.M.; 6:00 p.m.
-- S.N.A.C.; after p.m. service
Feb. 2 -- NEXT Conference; Sharon MBC, 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.
17 -- Youth J.A.M.; 6:00 p.m.
-- S.N.A.C.; after p.m. service
27 -- ~~2-4:5~~ Small Group Outing; 6:30 p.m.

OTHER Mt. ZION ACTIVITIES

- Dec. 23 -- Church Christmas Fellowship Lunch; after a.m. service
25 -- Happy Birthday Jesus!
26 -- Adult Bible Study Dismissed
30 -- Candlelight Service; p.m. service
31 -- Prime Timers Game Night; 6:00 p.m.
January 6 -- Nursing Home Service (Encore); 2:00 p.m.
8 -- Ladies Auxiliary Meeting; 6:00 p.m.

NURSERY WORKERS

This Week

SS Sara W.

MW (Infant) Sara W.

MW (Toddler) Heather F.; Stephanie D.

EW Casey O.; Wanda B.

Next Week

SS Sara W.

MW (Infant) Sara W.

MW (Toddler) Amy M.; Jeanie T.

EW Service Dismissed

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL WORKERS

December

Lamonica Swayze

Gina Jackson

Sarah Hardage

January

Paulette Hathcock

Teresa Gregory

Preston Looney

SPECIAL MUSIC

December 23

a.m. Missy & Bro. Donis

a.m. Angel Choir

p.m. Service Dismissed

December 30

a.m. Kristie Buck

p.m. Candle Light Service

LAST WEEK'S RECORD

Sunday School Attendance—107; Morning Worship Attendance—128

We had 125 children, teens, and adults here Wednesday night!

Actual Year-to-Date Offerings: \$302,929.18

Budgeted Year-to-Date Offerings: \$307,667.00



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www.mtzionmalvern.org

Donis Smead, Pastor

Paul Buck, Music and Youth Minister

Cheryl Finley, Secretary

December 23, 2018