

“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isalah 43:19

ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 2017

ISSUE #47

Worship & Praise

SUNDAY

8:00-9:00 - Coffee & Fellowship
8:30-9:00- Prayer Walk & Morning Prayer

9:00-9:45-Adult & Children's Sunday Bible Lesson

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 - 11:30

Children's Church

2nd Sunday: Communion

11:30-12:30 SOUP

December 3rd NO POTLUCK

Christmas Program

Sunday Service

December 17th

Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve, Sunday

December 24th at 6pm.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY

Prayer @ 9:45am

Worship Dance Class

2:00pm Call Lin @ 935.6245

Prayer & Praise Service

December 13 @ 6:30pm

SATURDAY

Men's Breakfast

December 2nd @ 8am

SUNDAY

Priority One Volley Ball

December 17th @ 5:30

Christmas Activities

Chewelah Arts Guild

Christmas Concert

December 3rd at 2:00pm in the Church Sanctuary. Tickets are available at Akers or Valley Drug Store.

Christmas Sock Exchange Party

December 16th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Fill your gift bag with a pair of Christmas Socks (maybe other yummy goodies too?), bring a finger food snack to share and join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Got talent? Share song's, skits, recitations?? It's all fun! Call Leanne at 936.4305

Chewelah Brass Quintet

Christmas Concert & Sing-a-Long

December 22 at 6:30 in the Church Sanctuary. A \$5 donation will be taken at the door for the Chewelah Food Bank. Our own Pastor John and Dave Johnstone are part of this ensemble!

Annual Pie & Cheese Cake Auction

December 10th after Sunday service in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch is being provided with soup, home-made bread and salad. Please contact Linda (936-0031) if you would like donate pie, cheese-cake or dessert to this major fundraiser. It's also just a lot of fun!!!!!!



small groups



Join Greg and Joan Scott as they study "Follow", with Andy Stanley's DVD/workbook Tuesday's at 7pm. Call 935-6730.



Round out your Sabbath Day at Kerry and Loretta Burkey's home with the study of Judah Smith's, "How's Your Soul", on Sunday night at 6pm. Call 680-1870 for details.



The book of James is being studied with "Mercy Triumph's" by Beth Moore on Tuesday's at 10am in the ALF Fellowship Hall with Linda Norris. For more info call Linda at 936-0031.



Please come early to the ALF fellowship hall with your potluck dish to visit!!!!

The Crisis Prepared Group focus in December is collecting small cans of propane, sleeping bags and wool, fleece or quilt blankets. If you would like to donate or have questions for either events, call Judy @ 509.979.6733 .



November started with snow, which seemed like an ominous beginning to a swing month, weather-wise. Thankfully things have not been white since.

This has been a busy month in the life of our church, as we ramped up the Care Group ministries and just received our new “pew” Bibles. Also, we had a surprise (even to me) visit by the Bishop, who shared a tremendous message. This was coupled with the surprising development that I will be working with the Free Methodist Bishops in the coming year. My title, as it were, will be Consultant for Mission Assessment. I will be using some of the skills I used in my previous denominational work. As such my time will be cut back to four fifths and Pastor Brenda Nagunst will assume pastoral responsibilities for the remaining one fifth time. While I realize this raises concerns for some, I believe that as we live into this, most will find it to be not only viable, but that this will actually strengthen the pastoral role in our congregation. Furthermore, this will provide Abundant Life with a unique input into the life of our entire denomination.

~Warmest prayers for a blessed Christmas Season, Pastor John Southwick



Verse of the Month

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name “Immanuel” (which means God with us).”

JESUS
EMMANUEL
god with us

With Christmas being the central focus of December in the life of the church, it seemed reasonable to have the verse of the month be about the birth of our Lord. This month’s verse is a message from an angel to Joseph, the man betrothed to Mary. (Betrothal was an arrangement which essentially meant a couple was locked into marrying each other.) This carried the weight of actually being married, though the ceremony had yet to take place.

He was justifiably concerned when he found out she was pregnant since this was more than scandalous in those days and had severe consequences. The angel brought him mind boggling news to trust God in the situation, which is still mind boggling to us all these years later. Not only is the pregnancy a galaxy class miracle, the meaning of the name the angel shared presents us with the incarnation. God is with us, up close and personal. As we go through Advent this month, leading up to Christmas, let’s meditate on the depth and implications of this verse.



Sunday School is from
9:00 - 9:45 for all ages.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH VAL MESSERALL: Last year on Christmas, I realized that I had been so busy over the holiday season that I hadn't taken the time to really contemplate the wonder of the birth of the God-man, Jesus. So I determined that in 2017, I would not let the busyness of the season mask the true meaning of Christmas.

Join me for a four-week reflection on the coming of Emmanuel (Nov. 16 through Dec. 17). In week one, we considered what it means to anticipate a big event—be it a wedding, or the birth of a child. We looked at some prophecy about the Messiah, and began to prepare our hearts for His coming.

In week two, we will consider the angelic message to two women, Elizabeth and Mary, and how their stories are intertwined, as are the lives of their promised sons. In week three, we will take a look at the shepherds, and how our every-day lives are disrupted (in a good way) by Jesus. And in week four, we will contemplate the wise men, and the necessity to watch, *and* to act. Thank you, Val

All the classes are centering their studies for December on the events pertaining to the birth of our precious Savior.



Children's Church is focusing this month on preparing for their program for the Sunday Christmas Service on December 17th.

Lin Ortega is practicing each week on a variety of Christmas songs with the kids. They have made hand drums to go along with The Little Drummer Boy and Pat-a-Pan. They will also be performing Away in a Manger, Silent Night, and We Wish you a Merry Christmas.

The 4th grade and up Children's Church class is also learning about Communion and will be staying upstairs for Communion for Sunday, December 10th .



Summary: YOU ACQUIRE THE RADIANCE OF CHRIST BY THE WORD OF GOD.

INTRODUCTION: Exodus 34 details the events Moses encountered upon the second return to Mt. Sinai. The first set of Tablets had been destroyed. Moses returned with an unusual glow on his face. His proximity to God changed his physical appearance. He spoke to the children of Israel with an unveiled face and covered his face upon completing his address.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT: Read Exodus 34:29-35. Surely, the Lord's presence was upon Moses. However, that splendor was transitory; it did not last.



YOU BELIEVER are governed under a new covenant instigated by Christ. Hebrews 8:13: By Calling this covenant "new," He has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

So how can you receive the radiance of Christ in the New Covenant?

Study carefully the following remarks by Author Warren Wiersbe: *"When a child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God, he or she is transformed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the Glory of God."*



**DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU
KNOW NEED PRAYER?
CALL THE PRAYER CHAIN:
LOLITA LYON 935-8244
OR
MARY KNAPP 936-0319**

APPLICATION: *If you desire the radiance of the Lord upon you as did Moses, you must spend time in the W-O-R-D.
The radiance of Christ in you will be apparent!*

*Grow
in Christ*

Abundant Life Fellowship

LOVE GOD.

LOVE PEOPLE.

MAKE DISCIPLES.



**Pastor John Southwick: Office and Community
Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm**

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