

TLC CONNECT

Merry Christmas!

UNWRAPPING THE GIFTS FROM THE CHRIST CHILD

This special Christmas devotion was written by Sarah Dawdy

I love hearing the scripture passages of the events surrounding the birth of Christ, especially when the Wise Men arrived bearing special gifts for the baby. But after hearing the beautiful song "Mary Did You Know", the lyrics stirred my heart and I began thinking that GOD gave the perfect gift to all of mankind when He sent his only son to be born in a stable in Bethlehem. The Christ Child brought forever gifts to us that will change your world. Let's unwrap some of these gifts that are for you to celebrate His birth and accepting Him as your personal savior:

1. It does not matter what you have done or how people have treated you, you are totally loved and accepted by God. (John 17:23; Eph. 2:8-9)
2. No matter if your parents were good or bad, absent or unknown, you have been fully adopted by God as His beloved child and now you too have the perfect loving Father. (Eph. 1:5)
3. You have direct access to the presence of God at all times because of the birth of His Son. (Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16)
4. You have been redeemed and forgiven of all your sins because of the cross and resurrection. (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
5. You have been given everything you need in Christ for everything you will face in life because of the birth of the Christ Child. (2 Peter 1:2-3)
6. God promises you to work all things that happen, good or bad, together for good. (Rom. 2:28)



7. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit of God, and He lives in you wherever you go because of the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20)
8. You are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome sin and to obey what God says. (Rom. 6:14; Acts 1:8)

9. You are a servant of God, created by Him and you are useful and valuable to Him. (Eph. 2:10; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 4:10)

10. You can do all things through the life of Christ who strengthens you! (Phil. 4:13)

Open these gifts from the Christ Child and they will remain with you from the "Manger to Paradise." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (NIV). Amen.

Christmas Eve Worship **Saturday, Dec. 24th**

3:00 PM - Kid Friendly Service
4:30 PM - Candlelight Service

There will be no Sunday Service on Christmas Day. However, there will be a special devotion from Pastor Troy and will be available on our Crosslake Worship YouTube channel.

— NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE —

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIVE

No Wednesday Night Activities
Scheduled for Dec. 28th

KIDS Club

will resume Wed., Jan. 11th.

CHRISTIAN PARENTING

A new Sunday School class on Christian Parenting will begin on January 8th, following worship service at 10:45 AM. This class will be taught by Bill Nersesian, MD, a retired pediatrician. The class will run for 8-12 weeks in the Jordan Rm. Each session will have a 20 minute presentation, followed by Q&A and discussion.

Topics will include discipling children to love Christ, child discipline, building Christian character, building courage to stand up for Christian values, role of grandparents/extended family, governing exposure to the media, and other topics as desired by attendees. Suggested reading materials and resources will be available. *If childcare is required, please contact the church office with the kids names & ages.*

TUESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Join us for a new Bible Study beginning January 3rd.

The 8-week study is titled "The Acts of the Apostles." The focus is on finding the truth and purpose that God has for the world and for our lives through His power given to us to accomplish His mission. We will use a video and study provided by Pastor Louis Giglio. We meet at 6:30 AM each Tuesday for a hearty breakfast followed by a time of study and fellowship. We conclude by 8:00 AM! See you bright and early!"

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering will be going to our Mission Partners in Austria. Dave & Cathrin Ousterhus, lost the lease on their teen center this past year. The landlord would not renew with them.

This is where we step in. Our Christmas Eve offering will go to help secure a new teen center with half the offering and the other half will go to help with the Ousterhus' operating expenses. Let's be a huge blessing to these wonderful mission partners!



RE-ENGAGE

is a marriage enrichment program that can

benefit any marriage. Whether your marriage needs to be refreshed, reignited, or completely resurrected, re-engage is a safe place for you and your spouse to reconnect.

The next session will begin Wed., Jan. 11th. If you are interested, please email: marriage@crosslakeefc.org

MEN'S STUDY GROUP "NOT A FAN"

Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 11th at 6:00 PM we will begin studying the book "not a fan" by Kyle Idelman.



This group will be lead by Tim Prem. You will learn the difference from being a fan of Jesus versus being a follower of Jesus. This study will continue for 7 weeks. You can register for this group by contacting Sarah in the church office at sarah@crosslakeefc.org or by calling 218-692-4141.



BUDGET REPORT as of Dec. 21, 2022

YTD Giving	\$523,516.88
Under Budget	\$19,159.19

MEN'S RETREAT 2023 FRI.-SUN., FEB. 10-12 CAMP SHAMINEAU

We are extremely excited to have Wade Mchargue speaking again this year. Wad's passion for Christ is extremely contagious, and we can't wait to learn from him again.

The retreat begins Friday at 7:00 PM and will be done by Noon on Sunday. Even if you can't come all weekend, we encourage you to come when you can. Invite a friend. You won't regret it.

Cost is \$99 and includes:

- Entire weekend at Camp Shamineau
- Food & Lodging

What to Bring:

- Pillow & Sleeping Bag
- Bible
- Toiletries (showers available)

To register, contact Chad Erickson at 612-242-1892.

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EPIC

A FELLOWSHIP & MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPTY NESTERS

- **Thurs., Jan. 5 - 6:00 PM**
Fellowship Dinner
Fellowship Room
- **Thurs., Feb. 2 - 6:00 PM**
Fellowship Dinner
Fellowship Room