

Missionary Messenger

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The Parable of the Doll House

But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"
~ Galatians 4:4-6 (BSB)

There once was a very large wooden dollhouse. It had a shingled roof, many rooms and it had one side cut out so that a person could play with it. Inside each room was well made furniture. There was a living room complete with a small replica television and carved sofa and chairs. The kitchen had appliances made to look exactly like the original appliances. There was a stove, a refrigerator, and even carefully crafted sinks. The whole house was furnished with items that made it a child's paradise to play with.

This house also came complete with a family of dolls. There was the mommy and daddy doll. There was also a brother and sister doll. The doll set was made complete with a dog and a cat. The whole set was finely crafted and well played with.

This dollhouse had been around for a long time. Many young girls had pretended with it. The little girl who currently owned this set would play with it every day. She would interact with the dolls as if she was one of them. She would take them to various rooms and pretend that they were really living in this wooden dollhouse. She and the pretenders before her had interacted with them so much that the dolls themselves developed personalities and even started to think of themselves as "real".

One day the sister doll was lying next to the mother doll after a long day of pretend with the little girl. The sister doll looked up at the mommy doll and asked, "Mommy, are we made?" The wise mommy doll responded, "Yes we are." "Who made us mommy?" Well, "I guess that the pretenders made us." "If that is so, then who made the pretenders?" "Well, I am not sure about that because it is beyond my ability to comprehend. What I do know is that the pretenders are different than us. We were made in a factory and some of our parts were stitched by the hands of the pretenders but who made them, I cannot fathom. They are just different than we are."

"When pondering God I can know for sure,
That I am created and flawed but that God is pure,
I may never understand how He could be,
I can just be satisfied that He is different than me."

We are celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ. The one time in History that God, the creator, entered into our reality and became one of us. I want you to keep this in mind during this season that we may never understand God but that because of Jesus Christ, He totally understands us!

In Christ, Pastor Ken



CONNECTION NOTES:

FTFY!

Have you ever seen those texting messages with acronyms? Recently I saw some "senior" acronyms and thought they made sense! For instance:

BFF=Best friend fell,
BTW=Bring the wheelchair,
BIMD=Back in my day,
FWIW=Forgot where I was!

Now those were good! But you know, if you don't know what the letters mean, it will just leave you puzzled (or worse).

SMH=shaking my head (and here I was slapping my head! Ouch!!!)

LMDO??? Laughing my dentures out. (If you have them, this one is for you.)

John 3:16. We all know the words. But do we know what it means as we live our daily lives? We go to church. We sing our worship songs. We even read our Bibles and pray. Yet does John 3:16 make a difference as we face our illnesses, financial burdens, stress, losses, cares and concerns?

God loved the world so much, he made a way of redemption and a way of connection for us. Is this for us and no one else? I think not! No way! Is it for those who walk into the church and seek answers? Yes, but more! For those who live in our neighborhoods? Yes! For those that we work with? Yes! For those that we see at the grocery store? Yes! For our hairdresser, barber, banker, insurance salesman??? Yes, yes, yes. Now we're getting it.

We celebrate Christmas because of God's love for us and His redemptive plan. Jesus fulfilled the plan. And because of that we have reason to celebrate! After all, Christ FTFY. (And me!) So let us be sure to live as if we understand the difference this verse means. Let's, also, live in the difference this verse makes. And let's share the message with those we know!

FTFY???: Fixed that for you. YES HE DID!

Merry Christmas, *Sue*

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Day Out to Wawasee Craft Fair: Saturday, December 2, 8:00 am

Meet at the Church. We will grab something to eat before coming home. Join us for a great time together.

Christmas Party:

Sunday, December 10, 5:30 pm

Join us for an enjoyable evening. Bring a snack to share. We will also be playing a white elephant game called Garbage Swap. Bring a couple wrapped gifts to play the game. They can even be items shopped from inside your very home. If you have any doubts about how fun this game is ask Caroline and Emerson! They had fun playing this game. (And we had a ball watching them play!) A fun time will be had by all. Plan to get your Christmas on!!!



Women keep this date open: Flannels, Friends and Flapjacks: Saturday, 1/6/2024, Noon

Share a flapjack bar and hot cocoa with friends-from both inside and out of the church. Ask your friends to join you.

We plan to have a bleached, painted flannel craft to follow the late brunch. For those who desire to join in, there are two ways to craft. You may craft a provided bleached flannel bag or craft a previously bleached flannel shirt. (You must bring a bleached, dried flannel shirt. If you have questions about these shirts please see Sheila or Sue.) We will have stencils and paints available.



Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:

Christian Ed: Amanda Burns

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

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Christmas Preparations

December brings about transitions. Autumn wanes and winter begins. Thanksgiving passes by and preparations for Christmas begin. Rakes for leaves are replaced with shovels for snow. Pumpkins and corn shocks are replaced with Christmas trees, ornaments, and lights.

The amount of preparation in this transition can be overwhelming and can easily distract us from the simple acknowledgement that a Savior has come to live among us and save us from our sin.

Our enemy wants us to be so busy in our "preparations" that we have no time for our hearts to be prepared to worship our Savior. The evil prince of this world desires our burdens to be great and our hearts to be discouraged. However, our Creator says, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth." Psalms 46:10. Satan tells you that you are not worthy of calling yourself a disciple of Christ if decorations, cards, invitations, celebrations, and meals are not prepared perfectly. Christ tells us in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Our preparations should be as we are reminded in 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as LORD. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

Advent prompts us to be prepared for Christ's second coming. His sacrifice and promises can prepare us to gently and respectfully share the reason for our hope, joy, and peace.

~ Jon, Elder & Worship Director

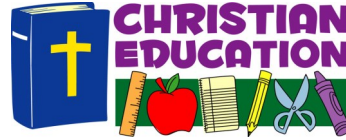
Memory Verse of the Month!

Isaiah 9:6 (BSB)



*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given, and
the government will be upon
His shoulders. And He will
be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Can you believe Christmas is here? This month is a great opportunity to show Christ's love to others. Happy Birthday Jesus!

Sunday school at 9am continues in the book of Revelation.

Worship with us at 10am. Children's church has a sign up station, do not forget to sign in!

Children will be celebrating Jesus' birth with all the bells and whistles and celebrating our Messiah's birthday in style on December 24!

Also on Dec 17th will be having a painting class so be aware of what to wear due to wet paint!

The children's memory verse books are available upon arrival and will be left in the classroom for each Sunday. Ask your child what they learned in class and help them out with the memory verse!

Merry Christmas and remember the dear Savior's birth.

Amanda, Education Director



**AFTER THANKSGIVING CARRY-IN
NOVEMBER 26, 2023**