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Remember the perfect attendance pins that were worn with pride many years ago? The first year you had perfect attendance at Sunday School you were awarded a nice little pin to wear on your lapel, and every year thereafter you were awarded a banner that was attached to it. I think I did win a pin, but I know I didn't have one with ten or twenty banners hanging on it, as did some of the adults who had come faithfully to Sunday School since childhood.

I'm not advocating a return to the pins, but I do think it would do us all good to give prayerful consideration to our attendance in worship, if not Sunday School, as we begin a new year.

It's been well reported in the media that church attendance in the US has been declining for several years. That's old news. What was new news to me is that what is considered to be "regular" attendance has also been changing.

I recently read that while attending three Sunday's a month was considered to be "regular" a few years ago, now attending just once a month is considered to be "regular." I don't know whether to laugh or cry at that.

Unless failing health or extenuating circumstances are a play, I can't believe anyone would think their attendance in worship is "regular" if they only made it once a month. Do you?

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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### PAUL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POEM

I was a simple man from Nazareth who made a living with his hands.  
But God spoke to me in a dream and showed me other plans.

I was betrothed to Mary, she would be my wife.  
But behold she was pregnant and that would cause a lot of strife.

I had an idea that I would hide her some place.  
Then an angel of the Lord appeared, and said the child would give a gift of grace.

Can you imagine how I felt when I learned the origin of this boy?  
He said it was the Holy Spirit, at which my heart leaped with joy.

A long trip that ended in a stable one night,  
Was home to a birth; humble, yet just right.

Visitors from close, visitors from afar.  
Some heard from angels, and some followed a star.

Then for a second time in a dream, an angel would appear.  
You would think I would get used to this, but it still caused some fear.

This time the angel said, it is time to depart.  
Herod is looking for your son, and he has a very evil heart.

He thinks you're a threat, coming for his throne.  
He is just like the Jews, thinking of an earthly not heavenly home.

Then for the third time an angel would come in a dream.  
The prophecies would be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazarene.

I tried to prepare Him as best I knew how.  
But ultimately it would be to Him that I would bow.

As you gather around this table, you hold emblems representing my son.  
But it's only through God our Father whom the victory is won.

He gave up His boy and placed Him in my care.  
He ended up on a cross which seemed so unfair.

But if not for the cross and the price that He paid.  
There is no forgiveness, and no way to be saved.

## STATISTICS

	12/22	
Worship		118
Offering		\$5,152.64
	12/29	
Worship		112
Offering		\$4817.00

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/5/20

Greeters .....	Beryl & Jamella Reese
Visitors' Stand .....	Chuck & Jan McLaughlin
Communion Meditation .....	Chris Luzio
	Paul Hunley
Ushers .....	Mike Donaldson
	Kirk Polley
	Scott Bales
	Duane Carrell
	Chad Formea
	Otto Huber
<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>	
Toddlers.....	Rhonda Luzio
	Jake Divjak
Infants.....	Janet Polley
	Sara & Regan Bartels
	Sunday School
Toddlers.....	Julie Divjak
Infants.....	Jonathan Sperry
	Rebecca Smith

## The Hidden Word

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

"I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity...I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

## Let Us Pray For...

--Jim Higgins with pneumonia, Shannon with the flu, and her dad with MRSA.

--Judy Marlow having knee replacement in St. Louis.

## THE HAND OF GOD

The adult study on the life of Joseph will resume this Sunday at 6:30 in *The Hand of God*, chapter 7, "A Game Plan for Suffering."



### JANUARY SERVERS

1/12: Paul Hunley, Chris Luzio  
1/19 & 1/26: Rick Polley, Chris Luzio

### JANUARY PROJECTIONIST

Chris Luzio

### JANUARY GREETERS

1/12 Bonnie Ruebush  
1/19 Will & Sara Bartels  
1/26 Duane Carrell

### JANUARY VISITORS' STAND

1/12 Rich & Karen Mann  
1/19 Gary & Lori Gredzieleski  
1/26 Chris & Rhonda Luzio

### JANUARY NURSERY

#### Worship - 1/12

Toddlers: Erica Blakley  
Reagan Formea  
Infants: Nikki & Carter Hunley  
Nicole Moore  
Sunday School

Infants: Kristin Polley  
Elizabeth Wright

#### Worship - 1/19

Toddlers: Janice McLaughlin  
Madison Bales  
Infants: Marilyn Wenneborg  
Stacey Cantrell  
Anna Hunley  
Sunday School

Infants: Karen Mann  
Adora Burdinsky

#### Worship - 1/26

Toddlers: Shannon Higgins  
Abbie Divjak  
Infants: Karen & Kaelyn Mann  
Elizabeth Wright  
Sunday School

Infants: Kelly Donaldson  
Rhonda Luzio



The CCC mailbox will be going back into storage soon, so be sure to check for cards that were sent to you this Sunday.



Congratulations to Emme and the entire Divjak family as she was baptized into Christ this past Sunday morning! Emme was eager to be obedient to Christ through baptism, yet was also patient as she wanted to share this beautiful morning with her extended family over the holidays. God bless you Emme and we love you!



### Kindergarten—5th grade

We have a fun group signed up to go to Sky Zone this Friday! There is still plenty of room for any child or adult if you missed the sign up sheet. Just send me a quick text to let me know you are coming.

To review the details, we will be meeting here at the church on Friday at 11:30 to head out for lunch then onward to Sky Zone. For two hours of jumping and climbing, the cost is \$22 per person. We should be returning to the church by 3:30 that afternoon. See you soon!



It's not too late to register for the High School Midwinter Retreat at LSCA on January 17-19. There will be plenty of fun mixed in with awesome teaching throughout the whole weekend. Please see the LSCA website for registration and more information.



### Jr & Sr High Youth Groups

Last Sunday in our separate classes for Sunday School, we brainstormed ways to spread the great news if cancer was cured. Then, realizing that sin is even worse than cancer, we transitioned into the need to spread the good news that the cure for sin is available to all through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

For Youth Groups in January, we are going to focus on the concept of being an influencer to those around us in regards to spreading the good news. Everyday we are surrounded by "influencers." Most are trivial like convincing us we need a gadget or a specific weight loss product, but wouldn't it be great if these influencers used their actions to spread a message that really matters? Since we know Jesus, we have the message that really matters for others to hear, the message of Jesus!

But sometimes, even though we all have this great message to share, it is outshined by the message we are sending with our speech and conduct. To start this series, we will be looking at matching our faith to our actions as talked about in the book of James. One way to do this is to think of ourselves less, and others more. We will discuss that to be an influencer, we should be humble, not arrogant.

Looking forward, we will also be examining what Scripture says about wisdom in regards to our ability to be an influencer. We are to chase good, not evil. Also, we will be talking about social media and the "influencers" there as opposed to those we see in Scripture. Finally, we will focus on sharing God's story, not our own. It will be a great month of discussions and a perfect way to start off the new year. Hope to see you there!