

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9

The sixth chapter of Hebrews begins with the all important "therefore." When trying to discern what the "therefore" was there for at Bible Study last Wednesday, we were taken back to the mention of Melchizedek, and how Jesus was designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The author realized that the mention of Melchizedek would puzzle his readers because they had become "dull of hearing", so before going on he stressed the need to go from milk to solid food, to leave the elementary teachings, and to press on to maturity. What he listed as elementary teachings, however, is surprising. He said we shouldn't keep "laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment." As a class, we were forced to sharpen our senses to hear what he was saying.

If the focus of our preaching and teaching isn't to be about repentance and works and faith and baptism and spiritual gifts and the second coming and judgment, what are we to talk about? If those things are elementary foundational teachings, what are the more advanced teachings we are to focus on?

We pondered that for quite a while, and someone suggested, tongue in cheek, that we could just talk about Melchizedek. We eventually came to realize this doesn't mean we never talk about these things, but that we must dig into the implications and application of these foundational truths, and then build upon them. Our conclusion was confirmed by Thursday's reading in *The Message*.

"Don't lose a minute building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus. Without these qualities you can't see what's right before you, oblivious that your old sinful life has been wiped off the books."

Let's not be afraid to think, to dig a little deeper, and to expand our spiritual diet.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

December 11, 2019

NUMBER 44



## Let's go caroling this Sunday night!

Everyone is invited to go caroling this Sunday night. We'll leave the church at 5:00 by van and vehicles to sing at several assisted-living facilities and homes before ending at the Sperry's, 319 Woodland, for fellowship and refreshments.

Those who simply want to join in the fellowship and refreshments are invited to head for the Sperry's any time after 6:00.

**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
9897 So. Main St., P.O. Box 527  
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Church Office 483-3987  
[www.chathamchristian.org](http://www.chathamchristian.org)

*Rick Werneborg, Minister*  
cell phone 836-4971  
[Rick@chathamchristian.org](mailto:Rick@chathamchristian.org)

*Mark Huber, Youth Minister*  
cell phone 971-3075  
[hubermark2@gmail.com](mailto:hubermark2@gmail.com)

**Sunday Worship Service** 9:15 AM  
**Bible School** 10:45 AM

## STATISTICS

Worship ..... 158  
Offering ..... \$8,410.00

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-12/15/19

Greeters ..... Will & Sara Bartels  
Visitors' Stand..... Gary & Lori Gredzieleski  
Communion Meditation..... Paul Hunley  
Jack Stucki  
Ushers ..... Bob Williamson  
Kent Ballard  
Jake Divjak  
Chris Luzio  
Rich Mann  
Will Bartels

### WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers..... Vicki Small  
Jake Divjak  
Infants..... Marilyn Wenneborg  
Karen & Kaelyn Mann  
Sunday School  
Infants.... Rhonda Luzio & Dixie Williamson

## The Hidden Word

II CORINTHIANS 5:20

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

## Let Us Pray For...

--Brad Reese beginning radiation for cancer that has returned after prostate removal surgery.

## FINANCIAL PROJECTION & ELDERS FOR 2020

This Sunday the financial projection for 2020 will be presented, and the men who have expressed a willingness to serve as elders will be introduced.

We are very pleased to announce that Casey Blakley and Jonathan Sperry have both agreed to serve with Paul Hunley and Chris Luzio as elders in 2020 if so affirmed by the congregation on December 22nd.

## Haitian Christian Ministries

After much prayer and consideration, we have officially expanded the number of HCM churches in Haiti to eight as Breda II and Longes are now HCM supported churches! This is such an exciting time for HCM as God continues to move in a mighty way in Northern Haiti.

Longes is a remote area about a 20 minute drive from Riviere Sable. There is no school or medical clinic there. There are about 100 families living there. The relationship began with Pastor Phida (Difou) and Pastor Jacquesene, both students who graduated from Emmaus University, being led by the Holy Spirit to visit this area. When they first went to the area, they discovered that there was no one there who knew Jesus. The people in the community did not want to hear about Jesus at all. Most of their time was spent practicing voodoo and cockfighting. This did not stop Phida and Jacquesene from continuing to visit the people in the community. After several weeks of visiting, some families were open to hearing the living word of God and the first person accepted Christ, with 3 others following soon after. It was not easy, but the Spirit of God encouraged them to keep evangelizing this poor community for Him. Within a few months, God worked on the hearts of those in the community and continued to bring more and more souls to Him. Praise God! Now there are more than 25 believers attending this church. This church which started with an official service on the 23rd of December 2018, is now a growing beacon of Hope.



### Jr. High and High School

The Amazing Race will be here soon. Start getting your winning team together for this prestigious event! We will start here at the church on Monday, December 29th at 3:00pm. This will kick off about 10 hours of nonstop activity as we race around Springfield, play broomball at the Nelson Center, invade Steak and Shake for some late night snacks and then play dodgeball at LSCA before heading back to the church around 1:00am for the final activity of the evening.

We do a lot of things throughout the year, but this is probably the best event to bring a friend and have them get to know others in our youth group. They will have a blast with you as you solve puzzles, perform eating challenges that would make the average man cry and use agility and coordination to be declared the winners of this year's Amazing Race!



### Kindergarten—5th grade

Last year over Christmas Break, we took a little trip over to Sky Zone for a couple hours of fun! You all had a blast climbing the wall, playing dodge ball, jumping on the trampolines, trying the ladder challenge, slamming basketballs and more.

If you would like to do it again, let's put Friday, January 3rd down in our calendars to return to Sky Zone. We can work on the details over the next few weeks, but we will probably meet for lunch then go JUMP, JUMP, JUMP!



### Jr. High and High School

Our traditional gift exchange will be on Sunday, December 22nd here at the church. Since we don't have any official activities at the church that evening, we will be meeting a little earlier at 5:00pm. Christmas music will fill the fellowship hall as we eat pizza, snacks and enjoy our time together.

Most of you know the rules, but in case you don't, they are very simple. Don't go out and buy anything! Look around your house or in your garage for that crazy item that has taken up space for years and wrap it up! Every year some junk is more appealing than other junk, so there will be a chance to steal gifts as the exchange progresses.

Then, we will have a group game to finish off the evening. It will be a challenge, but a few fortunate individuals will earn some prizes that will put a little gas in your car or help you purchase something to eat while you are running Christmas errands this year.



The play was absolutely fantastic this year! The Christmas message was clearly and beautifully presented by our kids. Thank you very much to Rhonda, Shannon and all the kids who worked so hard to bring us the Christmas musical this past Sunday. It was a wonderful morning of worship and fellowship.