

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

"Digital giving is making the church—and software companies—more money" was the caption of an article entitled "Rising Tithes" I read in CT several weeks ago. At the time, I decided I would use it as the basis of a column when we were considering our financial projection for the new year. What I failed to realize was that it would appear in the last church paper before Christmas. I'm not sure I can make a Christmas message out of it, but I'm going to try.

The article noted that tech companies like Pushpay, Tithe.ly, and easyTithe let church members tap their way to a tithe through smartphone apps, websites, and text messages. Pushpay processed a record \$4.2 billion in giving last year, making them \$98.4 million. Digital tithing companies boast that churches that use their services have seen giving go up 30%, 50%, and even more than double. They claim the reason they work so well is that they avoid the summer slump since recurring transfers continue to process even when people aren't in worship, and even average churchgoing families aren't likely to be there every week.

As you may have noticed, we never resort to fund-raising campaigns, nor do we hire experts to help us raise money. Many years ago we did have stewardship emphasis months when teaching was needed to establish an understanding of what good stewardship entails, but now we only preach about giving when it comes up in the text we are studying. And there is no need to do more.

The projected financial need for 2020 was presented last Sunday, and there is little doubt that it will be met. Our giving exceeded last year's projection by over \$300 a week, leaving us a bank account that will hopefully enable us to do something about the parking lot next year.

Now on to Christmas. If the magi from the east had used Pushpay, they wouldn't have had to travel so far. They could have just stayed home on Christmas, and Mary's account would have shown gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Minus fees of course. And minus the worship.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

December 18, 2019

NUMBER 45

# 49th Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service



7:00



All are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas Eve by singing carols, enjoying specials, sharing the Lord's Supper, and lighting candles.

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

Church Office 483-3987  
www.chathamchristian.org

Rick Werneborg, Minister  
cell phone 836-4971  
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister  
cell phone 971-3075  
hubermark2@gmail.com

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

## STATISTICS

Worship ..... 118  
Offering ..... \$5,152.64

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-12/22/19

Greeters ..... Duane Carrell  
Visitors' Stand..... Chris & Rhonda Luzio  
Communion Meditation..... Paul Hunley  
Jack Stucki  
Ushers ..... Bob Williamson  
Kent Ballard  
Jake Divjak  
Chris Luzio  
Rich Mann  
Will Bartels

### WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers..... Nikki & Anna Hunley  
Infants..... Janet Polley  
Shannon Higgins  
Courtney Bales  
Sunday School  
Infants..... Rebecca Smith  
Kileen Huber

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY-12/29/19

Greeters ..... Rhonda Luzio  
Visitors' Stand..... Rick & Janet Polley  
Communion Meditation..... Paul Hunley  
Jonathan Sperry  
Ushers..... Bob Williamson  
Kent Ballard  
Jake Divjak  
Chris Luzio  
Rich Mann  
Will Bartels

### WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers..... Rhonda Luzio  
Cooper Formea  
Infants..... Erica Blakley  
Kelly Donaldson  
Kate Sperry  
Sunday School  
Infants..... Karen Mann & Kristin Polley

## NO PAPER NEXT WEEK



Merry Christmas

## AFFIRMATION OF ELDERS & FINANCIAL PROJECTION

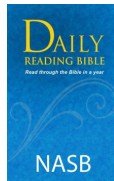
This Sunday during the worship service everyone will be given the opportunity to affirm that Casey Blakley, Paul Hunley, Chris Luzio, and Jonathan Sperry are biblically qualified to serve as elders of Chatham Christian Church, and that the financial projection is in keeping with good stewardship.

This year's projection calls for \$291,550, which is slightly above last year's projection, and will require a weekly offering of \$5,607.

## The Hidden Word

### GALATIANS 3:28-29

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."



Those who would like to read through the Bible in 2020 with Rick can purchase the *Daily Reading Bible NASB* for \$4.99 through the Amazon website, but it's not available through the Amazon app. If you need help getting it on your phone, ask Chris Luzio for help, not Rick :)



The CCC mailbox is overflowing! Be sure to check it regularly to see if any Christmas cards have arrived for you.



We were all blessed to see Micaiah Blakley baptized into Christ this past Sunday morning by her father Casey. It was beautiful to see such support shown to Micaiah by her extended family who fully realize the significance of her commitment. As a church family, let us pledge to always encourage and strengthen Micaiah as she matures into a woman of God.



Everyone is invited to ring in the new year at LSCA this New Year's Eve. We are heading back to the Lakeview Lodge for this year's celebration starting at 6:30pm. Please bring a side dish or a desert to share as we eat, fellowship and play games all the way through the end of 2019. Around midnight we will break out the sparkling grape juice, take our traditional photo and ring in 2020 with our loved ones!



### Adults

It looks like we will have 8-10 teams of Jr High and High School students competing in the Amazing Race this year. Each team needs an adult driver to transport them around the area as they complete the challenges. If you could assist, I would be most grateful and so would our kids. Your commitment would be from 2:30-9:00 on Monday, December 30th. Please let me know if you can help with this event!



### Jr. High and High School

There has been a location change for this year's Christmas Party. Instead of meeting at the church, we will be gathering at the Blakley house beginning at 5:00 this Sunday evening. Be sure to bring your gift for the White Elephant Exchange! It is always fun to see what everyone has found laying around their house. If something "decent" is uncovered, you might have the opportunity to steal it throughout the night.

After our party which will include pizza, snacks and our big saranwrap ball filled with prizes, feel free to hang around for awhile to play games since there will be no school on the following Monday!



### Kindergarten—5th grade

Let's plan a fun afternoon together over Christmas break! Trampolines are fun, so let's go to Sky Zone. I'm looking forward to seeing Levi slam dunk those basketballs again.

We will be gathering at the church on Friday, January 3rd at 11:30am to pile in the church van and head into town. Our first stop will be somewhere 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. Please put your name down on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board if you are planning to go!