

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM



The headline read "Bethlehem Cancels Christmas." But try as they may, no one can cancel Christmas. Herod tried to do so by killing all the boys in Bethlehem under two years of age, but even that couldn't stop the good news of Christ's birth from spreading throughout the world.

Death that recently came at the hands of terrorists, and continues to come from the resulting war, have brought weeping and great mourning in Ramah, much like that which Jeremiah foretold. And I understand the hesitancy to celebrate in the midst of war. But if there is anything to celebrate, it's the birth of the only one who can bring life out of death.

Christians now comprise only 10 percent of Bethlehem's population, but it is still the birthplace of Jesus. To cancel all Christmas celebrations and replace them with protest activities, as the mayor has announced, is to simply let the darkness of sin and death hide the light and joy of Christmas.

When we were in Bethlehem it was easy to see it was a divided city. There are walls and barbed wire that keep Jews out, and Palestinian Christians in. Muslims make up the majority in Bethlehem today, but even they recognize, and profit from, the sacred sites in the city.

When we placed our hands on the star marking where Jesus was born it was a heart-warming experience. How I wish all who are in Bethlehem and throughout all of Israel could place their hands together on that sacred spot and find the peace that Jesus came to bring. God Bless, Rick



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**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service
7:00 p.m.**

STATISTICS		
	11/5	
Worship		114
Offering		\$15,720.38
	11/12	
Worship		119
Offering		\$4,742.50
	11/19	
Worship		109
Offering		\$5,775.36
	11/26	
Worship		120
Offering		\$4,482.00

AFFIRMATION OF ELDERS & FINANCIAL PROJECTION

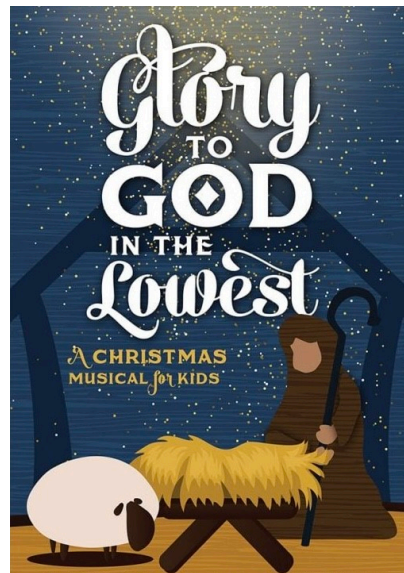
The elders will introduce themselves for the sake of our newer members and present the financial projection for 2024 during the worship service on December 2nd. Everyone will then be given the opportunity to affirm them and the projection of \$347,360, requiring an average weekly offering of \$6,680, on the 17th.

Christmas Eve Program

Our Christmas Eve service this year will include a brief video in addition to musical presentations, communion, and the lighting of candles. The music is dependent upon those willing to sing, play an instrument, or form an ensemble. Anyone willing do so is encouraged to let Rick know ASAP so he can put the program together.



The mail box in the hallway is ready for congregational Christmas greetings.



Children's Christmas

Musical

December 10th, 9:15



Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to meet at the church at 5:30, December 17th, to go Christmas caroling. We will be singing at a couple of senior facilities and several homes before returning to the church for goodies.



Junior High/High School

We have a great group going this Saturday to play Paintball at the Wildcat Paintball Park in Staunton. I would like to leave the church at noon and we should be returning no later than 6pm that evening. Feel free to invite your friends because the bigger the group the better when it comes to paintball matches. Adults in the congregation are also welcome to come join me in pulling some muscles. If I didn't get a firm commitment from you on Sunday, please let me know if you are planning to attend so I can manage the necessary transportation.

The cost for 2 hours of paintball will be \$25 per person. That will cover everything you will need at the park (equipment, paint, etc.) The group has made it a tradition to stop at Dairy Queen on the way home to reminisce about the matches, so bring a little extra money if you plan on grabbing something to eat there.



LSCA

If you like a big breakfast, then consider heading out to LSCA on Saturday, December 16th for an all you can eat pancake breakfast available for a donation of \$12.00 per person. There is also an ugly Christmas sweater component to the morning, so you might want to check that out as well. Details and times can be found on the camp website.



Junior High/High School

Our traditional Christmas get together will be on Sunday, December 10th starting at 5:30pm. This year, we will be meeting in the fellowship hall at church so we can spread out and have plenty of room. We will be done by 7:30pm which is perfect timing to catch a ride home with your parents if needed.

As a reminder, for the gift exchange, don't feel the need to go out and buy anything! If you have too, please don't spend a lot of money on your item. Instead, look around your house for that old lava lamp or other random item that isn't being used anymore. Wrap it up and bring it! Some junk is more valuable than other junk so as the evening progresses, you might have the chance to steal a gift or two as they are revealed.

We will fill up the evening with other games and activities including the big ball of fun filled with prizes and gift cards. And, of course, we will have plenty of food to munch on throughout the night. Should be a great time! See you there!



Junior High/High School

Sometime over Christmas break, I would like to schedule a night to go play some broomball followed by milkshakes and then a good competitive game of dodgeball at LSCA. There is a lot going on that time of year, so during our upcoming Christmas party, we can look at a few dates and determine as a group the best day to plan this outing.