**Grace & Truth Bible Church**

Virginia, Minnesota

December 2018

**The Promise of Christmas**

*For unto us a child is born…* Isaiah 9:6

There are many wonderful prophecies about the birth of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. For instance, in Isaiah 7:14, God told Isaiah that He would be born of a virgin. In Micah 5:2, it says that the Messiah would be born in the city of Bethlehem.

**Isaiah has two important prophecies related to Jesus coming.**

**Isaiah 9:1-2:** *Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed… The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali… By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.*

This passage predicts that Jesus would minister in the area of Zebulun, Naphtali - also known as Galilee. When Jesus came, He came to people who were depressed, distressed, and oppressed. They were also in darkness and under the sentence of death. That is also true of us today; we are under the oppression of sin and the condemnation of death.

**Isaiah 53:4-6** *Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

We see from this Scripture that Jesus came into the world to pay for our sins by laying down His life as a ransom. Jesus not only died for our sins but He also arose! He said in John 11:25, *I am the resurrection and the life…*

Today, He invites us to come to Him in faith for forgiveness and eternal life.This is the best Christmas gift you could ever receive!

*But to as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.* John 1:12

These fulfilled prophecies prove that Jesus was who He claimed to be and will do for us what He promised to do!

*The Dayspring from on high has visited us*; *to give light*

*to those who sit in darkness…* Luke 1:78-79

**December Evening Services**

December 2 Communion – Brackett Paine December 9 Program practice/Brian DeMarte

December 16 Christmas Program

December 19 Christmas program at Washington Manor 6 pm

December 23 Christmas Observance

December 30 Alex & Kaylee Wedding

December 31 New Years Eve Service

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**Our annual Christmas celebration is approaching quickly** and, depending upon your mood, you may be thinking, “What a wonderful time of the year!” or “Bah Humbug!”. Though the Christmas season may be a little hectic (a major understatement for some) it is a great time to share Christ with our friends and relatives. One way is to invite them to our Christmas program and then pray that our program will be effective in reaching them with the true message of Christmas.

**A full program practice will be held on December 9th at 6 pm.** All who is involved with the program should plan to attend this important practice. We will also have a service downstairs for those who are not part of the program.

**Our Christmas program, “What is Christmas?”** will be held at the church on December 16th at 6 pm and at Washington Manor December 19th at 6 pm.

**We will have a Christmas observance service** at the church on December 23rd at 6 p.m. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a good time to share a song, poem or thought about Christmas.

**We will also have a New Years Eve celebration at the church** beginning with a pot luck at 6 pm and followed by a program and movie. Come on out for blessed time of fellowship!

**Congratulations to Dustin & Calah Kunnari** on the birth of their foster son. Sage Joseph Hill was born on November 9, 2018, weighed 6# 7 oz and was 18 ½ inches long.

**You are welcome to attend the wedding of Alex Kunnari & Kaylee Mount** at the church on December 30th at 5 pm. They request that you let them know if you plan to attend by signing the sheet in the foyer.

**Cheryl Reindahl had heart bypass surgery** and is in the Virginia Hospital (Room 418). Please pray for her recovery, send a card or pay her a visit. She would appreciate company.

**Pray also for Lorraine DeMarte who is in the hospital** (St. Luke’s Room 706). She is doing better and may return home soon.

**November Offerings –** Not available.

**Memory Verses for November from Romans 8**

Vs. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Vs. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Vs. 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Vs. 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him,* that we may also be glorified together.

Vs. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.