

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 22, 2024



Today's Text: Matt 2:1-12



It's Beginning to
Look a Lot Like
Christmas

Please join us on Christmas Eve for an evening service celebrating the birth of King Jesus.

6:30 P.M.

(There will be no nursery, so plan for your kids to join you, or feel free to take them into the nursery yourself.)

THE TRUE MEANING

As we continue with these short articles on why Santa Claus shouldn't be a part of Christmas, today, we look at how it is the opposite of the real gospel. Santa, who doesn't hold to his word, claims to bless all the good people with gifts and punish all the bad people with coal. It's a works-based system whose message is that you have to be good enough to earn this gift. Morality equals reward is the message of false religion. It's the exact opposite of the gospel. It would be like saying, "All good people go to heaven." But the true gospel is not a works-based system. We spent a large portion of this year in Romans 1:18-3:20, which emphasized how no one is good. The good news of Christianity is not to be good and get rewarded with Heaven; it's that we aren't good and can't be good enough, yet God has graciously justified through the work of Jesus Christ. There is great confusion in telling our children that Santa "is making a list, and checking it twice, and he is going to find out who has been naughty and who has been nice." And based on how we have been or what we have done, he deals with us. Then, telling our children that God knows everything about us and what we have done, yet despite our bad behavior or sin, He justifies based on Himself and His grace! Christmas is the celebration of God coming to be with us to save bad people from their sins. So, at the core, the message of Santa Claus and the gospel of Jesus Christ are opposites. Please think twice before introducing this opposition to the gospel for the sake of what some call fun.

GOT SOME SPARE TIME?!

Looking for willing volunteers to help with some basic inside/outside maintenance here at the church. If that's you, please contact Bob Seaver at 724-282-7700/the church office.



Ladies Craft Night

When: Saturday January 18, 2025

What: basket making

Cost: \$35.00 Deposit of \$18.00 must be paid by January 8, 2025

Where: dining room of North Street

Maximum number in class: 10

If more than 10 people are interested, we will schedule another class.



Join us to learn how to make your own basket. All materials are provided. See or call Sue Wolski if interested.

Sun

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
5:30 Bible Study

Mon

6:30 Men's
Bible Study

Tues

6:30 Women's
Bible Study

Wed

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Thurs

7:00 20's & 30's
Bible Study

Fri

7:00
Friday
Bible Study

Sat

5:00 Community Meal
(2nd & 3rd
of every month)

If you are in need to be let into the church, please contact: Terry or Shannon Hartman, Pastor Jake, Dennis Muir or Tammy Parasida.